



# Turkey Takes Time

IT CAN TAKE A WEEK TO THAW A TURKEY IN THE FRIDGE;  
NEVER THAW IT AT ROOM TEMPERATURE ..... 4

Text

WEEKEND WEATHER

Cloudy

Partly Cloudy thru Sun

HIGHS: 61-62

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

LOWS: 40-46

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



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

VOL. 34 • NO. 46 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

The Girl Scouts, Dos Pueblos Service Unit sang the Star Spangled Banner at the Veterans Day Ceremony at the San Leandro Senior Center on Monday, Below, members of American Legion Post 117 raise the American Flag as Mayor Juan Gonzalez, veterans and the public look on.



## San Leandro Salutes Our Veterans

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Everybody from old veterans to the Girl Scouts came to the Senior Center on Monday for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

The day honored all veterans of the armed forces, and in particular Ron Galvan of American Legion Post 117 which hosted the ceremony, along with the City of San Leandro. Galvan was in the Air Force in the Vietnam War.

"If I could pick one word it would be honor," said Mayor Juan Gonzalez in his remarks at the ceremony.

People join the service for a variety of reasons, some as a duty, some were forced (the draft), and some didn't know what they wanted to do, the mayor said.

see VETERANS, page 2

## Censure Hearing Set for Simon And Aguilar

City Council to decide on finding that they interfered with city manager's job

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro City Council will hold a censure hearing on Monday, Nov. 18, to determine what discipline should be imposed on council members Fred Simon and Victor Aguilar for their role in a complaint filed by former City Manager Fran Robustelli.

The city hired a law firm to investigate the accusations. The investigation concluded that the two council members violated the city's internal discipline policy and administrative code by interfering with Robustelli's administrative responsibilities, saying both men were found to have threatened Robustelli's employment and performance evaluation if she fired former San Leandro Police Chief Abdul Pridgen in 2023.

City Council members are not allowed to interfere with the city manager's decisions to hire or fire city staff, under the City Charter. This includes interference with hiring appointments or terminations of City staff.

Simon, Aguilar, and Robustelli were found to have violated the city's internal discipline policy and administrative code by interfering with Robustelli's administrative responsibilities, saying both men were found to have threatened Robustelli's employment and performance evaluation if she fired former San Leandro Police Chief Abdul Pridgen in 2023.

see HEARING, page 11

## More Votes Left to Count In City Council Race

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

San Leandro City Council candidates Bryan Azevedo, in District 2, and Dylan Boldt, in District 6, continued to lead in their respective races as votes from the November 5 election continue to be tallied.

About one-third of the votes cast remained to be counted as of Wednesday.

In District 2, incumbent Azevedo was slightly ahead, by some 354 votes, over challenger and former Councilmember Ed Hernandez. Azevedo had 10,237 votes (51 percent) while Hernandez had 9,883 votes (49 percent). Azevedo's lead had shrunk by about a hundred votes since last Friday's vote update.

see VOTES, page 11

## Voters Return Benny Lee to Oro Loma Board

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

Benny Lee is expected to return to Oro Loma Sanitary District for another four years, according to the latest election returns.

Lee's and Director Paul Stelzman's seats were up for renewal this year, but Stelzman decided not to seek re-election. Thus, voters had two choices for representing them on the Sanitary District Board.

Updated ballot count results on Monday by county election officials show Lee received 13,163, or 32.44 percent of the vote. The second-place vote-getter is Damaris Villalobos-Galindo—a civil engineer—with 10,014 votes.

see LEE, page 12

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

BOOKS

Local author inspired by where he grew up. Page 2

NEWS

Car flips during police chase Page 3

HEALTH

Engage and get the most out of your workout. Page 5

38,500 EVERY THURSDAY

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Calendar..... 3

Classified Ads ..... 8

Crossword ..... 9

Food ..... 4

Health & Fitness ..... 5

Homes ..... 6

Home Services ..... 8

Letters..... 10

Obituaries..... 11



## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 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 Zaira Duncan at 667-3522.



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

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## Latina Girls to Read Their Creative Writing At the Main Library

An evening featuring the creative writing of Latina girls – through a groundbreaking program – will be held at the program's closing reception at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m.

This special evening will highlight our Latina girls' remarkable creativity and increased self-confidence, who will share their powerful written works and showcase their artistic talents.

Over eight weeks, a series of creative writing workshops for Latina middle-school girls – called Liberando Nuestras Voces.

Latinas make up 17 percent of all adult women in the U.S., yet they account for only 3 percent of the workforce in the publishing industry and are significantly underrepresented as writers and main characters, said Liberando Nuestras Voces program director Vianney Gavilanes.

In the San Leandro Unified School District, Latina girls comprise nearly half (49.84 percent) of the total female student population. However, these students face considerable barriers to accessing creative writing programs that are culturally responsive and linguistically inclusive.

Our program addresses this gap by creating innovative, culturally relevant creative writing spaces free of charge, Gavilanes said. Liberando Nuestras Voces offers Latina girls a unique opportunity to develop their cultural and linguistic identities in a supportive and engaging environment through pláticas (community conversations), writing exercises, and interactive activities.

The sense of community and cultural pride fostered by programs like this demonstrates the urgent need for continued investment in such opportunities for our young people.

## Hayward Author's Protagonist Has Sacred Calling Put to Test

Manuel Magaña now lives in Hayward, but he grew up on a farm in the Sacramento River Delta, which inspired the setting of his novel.

Magaña is the eldest of six siblings, born to hard-working, Mexican immigrant parents. They learned to overcome hardship and pursue excellence. Manuel went on to earn his BA in English at Stanford University.

He later graduated from Berkeley's Graduate Theolog-

“A fugitive struggles between identity and purpose.

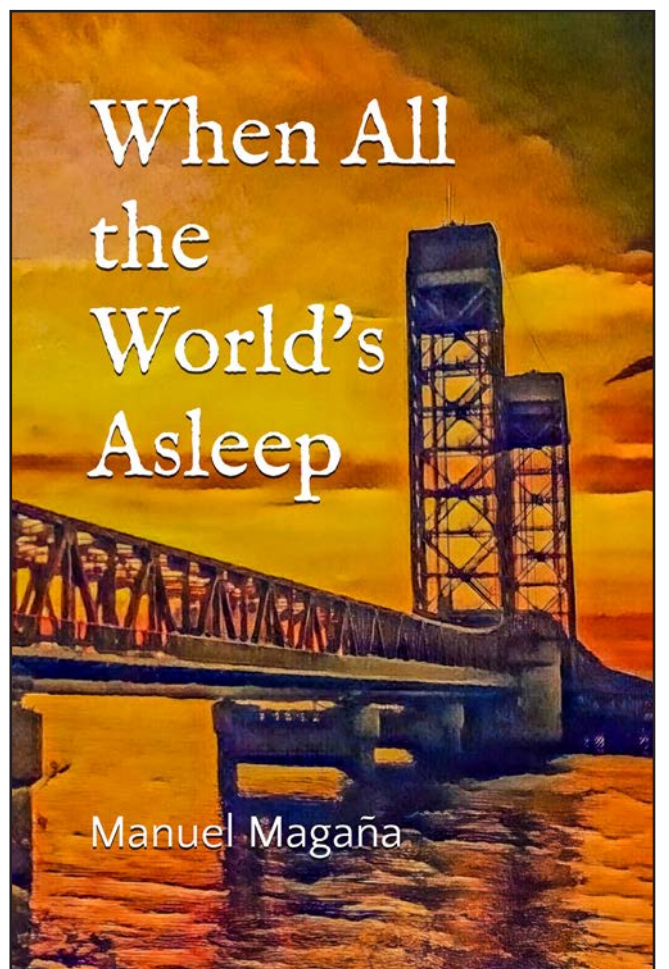
ical Union and has pastored at Community Church of Hayward since 2003, where his passion for learning and storytelling continues.

Magaña's novel, *When All the World's Asleep*, is now available on Amazon. Find it at this link: <https://a.co/d/aclUvz9>

In the novel, Antonio Quintero, a former Special Forces operative, turned seminarian, and now a fugitive, struggles between identity and purpose. As he grapples with his tumultuous past and uncertain future, Antonio's sacred calling is put to the test by a re-encounter with former sweetheart, Stacey, who is divorcing his old nemesis.

In this high-stakes game of life, will clear heads prevail or passions dominate?

Manuel Magaña (top photo) grew up on the Delta and later graduated from Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union.



## ST. LEANDER SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT



If you have thought about sending your child to St. Leander, now is the time!

St. Leander School is having an information night, and we would like for you to join us! We are committed to making it possible for all families to receive a Catholic education. We invite you to come visit and meet our teachers!



Following our meeting, we will host a free movie night for families! Current school families can bring a friend or family member interested in coming to St. Leander and enjoy a fun movie night together.

Please contact us to RSVP so that we can save you a seat for our movie!  
Phone: 510-351-4144  
Email: [across@csdo.org](mailto:across@csdo.org)

When: Tuesday, November 19th 6:00PM-7:00PM  
Movie Begins at 7:00PM in the Auditorium  
Where: 451 Davis Street (Main School Building)

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ON NOVEMBER 19TH!  
Ms. Cross, Principal

## Veterans: 'Serving others'

continued from front page

"I've seen people in the service develop with a sense of duty, responsibility, sacrifice and a sense of service," Gonzalez said. "It's the importance of serving others and not just ourselves."

Luis Diaz of Post 117 spoke about the day being about the remembrance of those who made freedom possible. He also pointed out that it's not just active service members who contribute – military reserve units were

called in for rescue efforts after recent Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Diaz brought up a statistic that reflects how today's society doesn't have as much connection with the military: In 1980, 18 percent of the population were veterans. Today it's 5 percent.

The Girl Scouts Dos Pueblos Service Unit brightened up the room as they led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem. Members of each branch of the

service were called on to stand as the Montecito Brass played the songs of each branch.

In addition to Juan and Evelyn Gonzalez in attendance were school board member Diana Paola and her husband Jim Paola, a former City Councilman and Marine Corps veteran.

The ceremony moved outside for the culmination of the ceremony as a Post 117 member raised the flag to the sound of a lone bugle played by Post 117 Bugler Alan Osofsky.



## Community Calendar

### Downtown San Leandro MexiPino Fiesta

The Downtown San Leandro Community Benefit District and West Coast Makers will host the MexiPino Fiesta on Saturday, Nov. 16, from noon to 6 p.m. at 222 Davis Street in San Leandro. Enjoy a fusion of Mexican and Filipino cultures and cuisines, music, art, vendors, a beer garden, family activities, and more.

### Books Inc. Warehouse Sale

Books Inc., 2483 Washington Ave. in San Leandro, will hold a Warehouse Sale on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Holiday-ready deals on books from \$5 to \$10, plus big discounts on gifts and games.

### Presentation on Senior Activities in Cantonese

The City of San Leandro will host a presentation in Cantonese highlighting the city's Human Services Department's activities and classes offered for adults 50+ at the Senior Community Center and Marina Community Center. The presentation will be held at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in Room C on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m.

### Eden Garden Club Holiday Bazaar

Eden Garden Club is having a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road in Castro Valley, featuring succulents, trees, pottery, holiday gift baskets, handicrafts, homemade treats, collectibles, gift certificates, books, jewelry, and housewares. All proceeds benefit CVUSD and HUSD schools that are awarded school garden grants. Quality donations are accepted on Nov 9, from 9 am to noon. Please, no furniture, clothing or car seats accepted. For more information, call Pat Payne at 510-427-5261.

### Sign Up for Davis Street Holiday Basket Giveaway

Davis Street will hold its Annual Holiday Food and Toy Basket Giveaway on Dec. 23. Registration for families, seniors, and singles in need is now underway. If you or someone you know is need – head over to [www.davisstreet.org](http://www.davisstreet.org) or call 510-347-4620 to see if you qualify. In-person sign-up hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m.

### CHP to Speak to Washington Manor Home Owners

The Washington Home Owners Association will host its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd., Room C. A member of the California Highway Patrol will be the guest speaker. Ask questions and find out the latest plans to improve safety on our freeways and the efforts the CHP is making to assist local police departments. Washington Manor residents and the general public are welcome. For more information, call Bob Glaze at 510-352-2058.

### Mission Chronos SL Twilight Concert

Music at the Mission Chronos San Leandro Twilight Concert will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro. Tickets online at [tinyurl.com/ChronosSL](http://tinyurl.com/ChronosSL)

### Committee on Special Education to Meet on Zoom

The Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC) will have a Zoom meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 5 to 6 p.m. Contact the Castro Valley Unified School District at 510-537-3000 ext.1267 and ask for the Zoom invite for the Nov. 21 CAC meeting. All are welcome to see how you can help with Special Education Districts in San Leandro, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, and Hayward. CAC encourages community involvement in the development and review of the local plan.

### Christmas Concert at Calvary Lutheran

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the Community Christmas Concert on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, 17200 Via Magdalena in San Lorenzo. \$10 suggested donation taken at the door. All proceeds go to the San Lorenzo Family Help Center. More information will be available at [www.CalvarySanLorenzo.com/concert](http://www.CalvarySanLorenzo.com/concert).

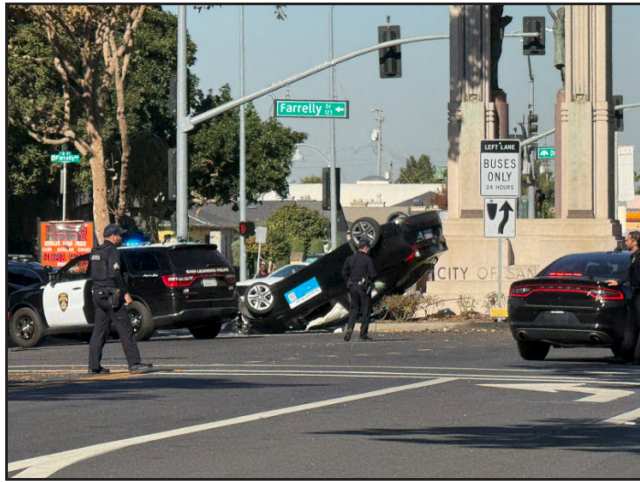


PHOTO BY TIM HOLMES

**A speeding car wound up flipped upside-down against the arch that marks the city line on East 14th Street near Farrelly Drive.**

## Car Chased by Sheriff's Deputies Flips on East 14th

A car being pursued by sheriff's deputies flipped over last Friday at Broadmoor Boulevard and East 14th Street, right in front of the arch marking the city line.

The deputies were pursuing a stolen vehicle west on Broadmoor and the car crashed as it tried to turn onto East 14th Street.

The suspect fled from the vehicle into a nearby neighborhood and was not found, according to Lt. Abe Tang of the San Leandro police. The SLPD assisted the sheriff's department at the scene. The sheriff's department didn't return calls seeking more information.

— By Jim Knowles

### Holiday Boutique for Scholarships

Nine Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) chapters from the East Bay will host a huge Holiday Boutique on Sat., Nov. 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New Bridges Presbyterian Church, 26236 Adrian Ave. in Hayward, near Chabot College.

Proceeds go to educational grants, scholarships, awards and loans for women. Free parking, and items for sale include jewelry, cards, baked goods, jams, nuts, holiday decor, handcrafted items and more.

The P.E.O. has been help-

ing women reach their potential for over 155 years, distributing over \$432 million as of April 2024, helping over 125,000 women pursue their educational goals. Last year in California alone, 274 recipients received over \$1.24 million in scholarships and loans.

What started in 1869 with a group of seven women friends in Iowa has grown into 5,500 North American chapters. To learn more about P.E.O. and its philanthropies, visit [peointernational.org](http://peointernational.org), or stop by the Boutique on Nov. 16.

## Art Reception and Sale at Castro Valley Center For the Arts of the Work of Betty Loeffler

The public is invited to an Art Reception and Sale for the extensive works of Castro Valley's Betty Loeffler, Sunday, Dec. 1, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road. Betty's work which includes handmade paper, prints, and monotypes spans almost 100 years.

Betty and her husband, Dr. Robert Allen Loeffler, moved to Castro Valley in 1960.

They raised their five daughters in Castro Valley and Bob opened his plastic surgery practice there. Both

Loefflers were very involved in the Bay Area art community, garnering awards along the way.

Betty was influenced and studied under Lundy Seaquist and took workshops from Mel Ramos and Wayne Thiebaud. Betty died in 2022.

"This is an opportunity to have an original piece of art at a very reasonable price," said Betty's daughter Pam Holloway. Most important to the family is that mom's work be out in the world bringing joy to people."

There are framed and un-

framed offerings. Refreshments will be served. Artist and curator Susan Sarti will play piano and photographer

Bruce Cassaday will accompany on trumpet.

For more information, call 808-754-0393.

## More Events

### Silver Screen Features

#### *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*

Seniors are invited to enjoy an entertaining movie at the Marina Community Center's Thunderbolt Room, 15301 Wicks Blvd., on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 1:30 p.m., hosted by the City of San Leandro Human Services Department's Senior Services. This month's movie is *My Big Fat Greek wedding* (2002, PG-13). No registration needed. Tickets \$2. Popcorn included.

### SL Players Present

#### *The Madwoman of Chaillot*

The San Leandro Players are performing *The Madwoman of Chaillot* at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. The comic fantasy centers around a plot to dig up the streets of Paris and pump oil. Performance Times: Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Nov. 24, plus two Friday shows at 8 p.m. on Nov. 15 and Nov. 22. Tickets: \$25 general, \$20 seniors and under 12. For information and tickets, go to [www.slplayers.org](http://www.slplayers.org) or call 510-895-2573.

### Free Wheelchair Marking and Tether Strap Support for Seniors

AC Transit will provide a free service for marking and installing tether straps on mobility device on Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. To have your mobility aid marked or tethered, call 510-891-7113.

### Soroptimist Club's

#### 19th Annual Holiday Boutique

Soroptimist of the East Bay will hold its 19th Annual Holiday Boutique on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hill and Valley Women's Club, 1808 B St. in Hayward. Hand-crafted gift items, holiday decor, jewelry, wardrobe accessories, handcrafted cards, woodworking, pottery, knitted and crocheted items, raffle prizes, and more. Refreshments will be available. All proceeds benefit the goals of Soroptimist International by providing educational scholarships and supporting local charities that serve our women and girls.

### Lucille Kline Holiday Tea At the Alta Mira Club

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette St. in San Leandro, invites everyone to the Lucille Kline Holiday Tea on Saturday, Dec. 14, at noon. Tickets are \$30 per person. For reservations, call Linda Klass at 510-914-5684 or Isabel Polvorosa at 510-955-7155.

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Just 14 Days to Go Before Turkey (and We) Get Stuffed

If you're cooking a frozen turkey this year and you haven't bought it yet, you should do that first thing. It takes about a week to thaw a turkey in the refrigerator (never thaw in room temperature). When buying, a good rule of thumb is to figure on 1 to 1-1/2 pounds of uncooked turkey per guest.

There are, of course, many ways to cook the bird, but whichever system you use, the results will be pretty much the same. In the end, it will just taste like roast turkey.

You don't need any special equipment other than a roasting pan and a good thermometer. And cooking a turkey is simplicity itself.

If you are going to stuff the turkey, you will need about a cup of prepared stuffing for each pound of bird. Do not stuff the turkey ahead of time. The stuffing goes in just before you put the bird in the oven. Leave some room for the stuffing to expand as it cooks and absorbs juices.

Preparing the Turkey

After thawing, remove neck and giblets, and wash the turkey inside and out with cold water. Drain well and pat dry. Brush the skin with olive oil. Mix about 2-1/2 teaspoons of salt with about 1-1/2 teaspoons of black pepper and sprinkle it evenly in turkey cavities and all over the skin. Heat oven to 450°F. If you are going to stuff your turkey, do it

now. Skewer cavity openings to secure stuffing. Tie legs together and twist wing tips under the back to hold neck skin in place. If untucked, return legs to tucked position or tie together. Place turkey, breast side up, on rack in open pan about 2 inches deep.

Place turkey in oven and reduce heat to 325°-350°. Roast according to your meat thermometer. Roasting times can vary, depending on a number of things. Use a meat thermometer inserted at the thickest part of the thigh, but not touching the bone. It should register 180°F. The stuffing should register 165°F. The chart below is just a guideline. (Don't depend on a pop-out indicator.)

After the first hour of roasting, baste the turkey every 30 minutes or so with drippings (add a little chicken stock, water or wine to the drippings if they evaporate too quickly). When skin is golden brown, shield breast loosely with light foil to prevent overbrowning.

When the turkey is done, allow it to rest for at least 20-30 minutes before carving.

SAVORY STUFFING

1-1/2 pound loaf day-old bread



3 cups chopped onion  
2-1/2 cups chopped celery  
1/2 cup butter or margarine  
1-1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning  
1 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup chopped parsley  
Tear bread into 1/2-inch pieces, or use 3 quarts plain dry stuffing; set aside.  
Sauté onion and celery in butter just until tender. Add to bread

along with salt, seasoning, and parsley. Toss lightly until well mixed. Place in two buttered, covered casserole dishes or stuff loosely into neck and body cavities of turkey.

TURKEY GRAVY

Turkey drippings  
Giblet broth  
Cooked giblets, chopped  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
Salt to taste

Cover giblets and neck with 3 cups water in a small saucepan. Bring to boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer for an hour or until giblets are tender. Drain, reserving broth and discarding neck. Chop giblets. Pour turkey drippings from roasting pan into 4-cup measure. Remove 1/4 cup fat from the drippings and place in a pan. Skim off and discard remaining fat from drippings. Add giblet broth to drippings to make 4 cups.

Blend flour into the pan with the fat until smooth, then add drippings and broth mixture. Cook and stir over medium heat until gravy comes to a boil and thickens. Stir in salt and pepper to taste and add giblets.

ROASTING FRESH OR THAWED TURKEY (AT 325°-350°F)

Weight	Unstuffed	Stuffed
4 to 6 lbs.	1-1/2 to 2-1/4 hrs.	NA.
6 to 8 lbs.	2-1/4 to 3-1/4 hrs.	3 to 3-1/2 hrs.
8 to 12 lbs.	3-1/4 to 4 hrs.	3-1/2 to 4-1/2 hrs.
12 to 16 lbs.	4 to 4-1/2 hrs.	4-1/2 to 5-1/2 hrs.
16 to 20 lbs.	4-1/2 to 5 hrs.	5-1/2 to 6-1/2 hrs.
20 to 24 lbs.	5 to 5-1/2 hrs.	6-1/2 to 7 hrs.
24 to 28 lbs.	5-1/2 to 6 hrs.	7 to 8-1/2 hrs.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A long-sought workplace change could be happening soon. Consider reworking your ideas and preparing a presentation just in case. Meanwhile, a personal relationship takes a new turn.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Your persuasiveness doesn't really start to kick in until midweek. By then, you can count on having more supporters in your camp, including some who you doubted would ever join you.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your workload is still high, but good news! You should start to see the daylight by the week's end. Reserve the weekend for fun and games with friends and loved ones. You deserve it!



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Regardless of how frustrating things are, keep that "Crab" under control. A cutting comment you might think is apt right now will leave others hurting for a long time to come.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Be more sensitive to the emotions of loved ones who might feel left out while you're stalking a new opportunity. Be sure to make it up to them this weekend. A nice surprise could be waiting.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): The gregarious Virgo rarely has a problem making new friends. But repairing frayed relationships doesn't come easily. Still, if it's what you want to do, you'll find a way. Good luck!



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A misunderstanding with a partner or spouse needs to be worked out before it turns into something really nasty. Forget about your pride for now and make the first healing move.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Communication dominates the week. Work out any misunderstandings with co-workers. Also, get back in touch with old friends and those family members you rarely see.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): As busy as your week is, make time for someone who feels shut out of your life. Your act of kindness could later prove to be more significant than you might have realized.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Congratulations! Your busy workweek leads to some very satisfying results. Sports and sporting events are high on your weekend activities aspect. Enjoy them with family and friends.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Your generosity of spirit reaches out once again to someone who needs reassurance. There might be problems, but keeping this line of communication open eventually pays off.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): You are among the truth-seekers in the universe, so don't be surprised to find yourself caught up in a new pursuit of facts to counter what you believe is an insidious exercise in lying.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

D	I	S	C	S		P	A	L	M	E	D
A	S	H	O	W		A	C	E	A	N	A
M	E	A	D	E		S	H	A	T	N	E
		P	A	P	A	C	Y		O	G	R
A	N	I		T	S	A		S	T	O	O
B	A	R	S		F	L	O	R	A		
U	T	O	P	I	A		S	A	L	S	A
		A	O	R	T	A		S	H	I	P
A	C	O	R	N		U	K	E		A	R
R	O	V	E		E	R	A	S	E	R	
S	H	A	D	I	N	G		T	A	P	A
O	A	T		F	Y	I		E	V	E	N
S	N	E		S	A	D		S	E	N	D

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PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The downtown Safeway might be sold but it will still remain a supermarket.

## Downtown Safeway Might Be Sold to C&S Grocers

Deal depends on pending merger between Albertson's and Kroger

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

The Safeway in Washington Plaza could be sold to another large grocer, but it depends on whether the proposed merger of Kroger and Albertson's goes through.

Even if the downtown Safeway is sold, it would stay in business as a super-market, though it would be owned by C&S Wholesale Grocers, according to Safeway management.

The merger between Kroger and Albertson's, which owns Safeway, would form

a grocery chain of more than 4,000 stores.

Kroger and Albertson's plan to sell off several hundred stores to C&S to make the deal more likely to be approved by federal regulators to comply with antitrust laws.

The Federal Trade Commission filed a federal lawsuit to block Albertson's proposed \$25 billion merger with Kroger, which would be the largest supermarket merger in American history.

A C&S spokeswoman said the sale depends on how Kroger and Albertson's fare in the

lawsuit.

"The transaction is not final and C&S's agreement is subject to Kroger and Albertson's resolving the pending cases in court," said Lauren La Bruno, C&S Wholesale Grocers vice president for communications. "At that time more information will be available."

The stores bought by C&S would be operated by 1918 Winter Street Partners, a subsidiary of C&S Wholesale Grocers, La Bruno said.

C&S was founded in 1918 and has its headquarters in Keene, New Hampshire.

## HEALTH & FITNESS

### Engage – to Get More Out of Your Workout

By Mitch Rothbardt  
San Leandro Times

What's the one thing you can do to get a better workout? More squats? Push-ups? The thigh innie-outie machine?

It's hard to give people absolute answers to questions like this, but there is one thing everyone can do, no matter what, to get more out of their workouts: Engage.

So many people just go through the motions. A workout isn't a race to see who can get done the fastest. It's supposed to be when you get better – when you improve your movement, conditioning, and strength. The old saying is "practice makes perfect," but what if you're practicing it wrong?

Here are 3 ways you can engage to get more out of your workouts.

1.) Shoulder position. By far, the winner of the "Most Used Cue at My

Gym" award is "Relax Your Shoulders." Doesn't that feel better? Don't you feel stressed and annoyed when your shoulders are up by your ears? Engage.

Take your time – feel each rep and ensure things are where they should be. And more importantly, take this outside the gym. What did you really accomplish if you get it right for your three sets of 10 in the gym but get it wrong for your 1 million sets of 1 million outside the gym?

2.) Stand tall. This goes along with number 1, but so many people just don't stand up. That hunched position finds its way into everything we do, and it's not good.

3.) Hip movement. Stand with your back against a wall. Take a step forward. Now push your butt back to the wall. Did you fall back into the wall? Are your knees bent more than a few degrees? If you answered

yes to either of those questions, you need to work on your hip hinge to protect your back and knees.

When you have a good hip hinge, you move your hips smoothly and keep your back and core stable and engaged. These are good things, especially if you have back pain.

It's not uncommon for people to be able to move only 2 to 3 inches or even less at first, but with practice, they can usually get a pretty good range of motion within a few weeks. I find that when clients get this along with their shoulder position, so many good things happen.

Overall, engaging in what you're doing may not be easy, but it's worth it, and it'll get easier as you go.

Mitch Rothbardt is the owner and head trainer at Castro Valley Fitness. He can be reached at Mitch@CastroValleyFitness.com.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## In the Trenches

Washington Avenue near Parrott Street was blocked off on Tuesday afternoon as a work crew filled in a trench. Work has been needed on this block after the pavement was sinking and an old, abandoned pipe had to be removed.

### Community Assistance Program Notice of Funding Announcement

Are you a nonprofit agency providing services to help improve the lives of San Leandro residents?

If so, you may be eligible for grant funding to support your efforts!

Eligible Activities include:

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- Job Development, Income Support and Employment Services
- Homelessness and housing insecurity support
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- Rental assistance
- Health Care with wrap-around support
- Childcare programs and services
- Food services

For more details on eligibility and to be notified when applications become available, please visit our website: <https://www.sanleandro.org/CAP>





# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

### GUEST COMMENTARY



## 12 Cities Offering Affordable Housing


By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

As living costs in the Bay Area constantly increase, many are feeling the pinch. Not only are home prices inching upwards, food, utilities and basic necessities are also soaring. While those who purchased properties years ago are benefitting from steady increases in their equity, others are finding the door to the American Dream of home ownership firmly shut.

To purchase a home locally, you will need a substantial downpayment and be able to cover the monthly expenses, including mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, utilities and maintenance. These expenses can easily consume a significant portion of an owner's income, resulting in a shortfall when it comes to other expenses like food, vehicles and so on.

In some cases, lenders might allow up to 45-50%\* of a borrower's income to service their debt. Unfortunately, in addition to rising property values, utilities, insurance and maintenance costs are also increasing, meaning that while a person might qualify financially when they buy their home, in many cases the ever-increasing costs are outpacing income increases, putting considerable financial pressure on some homeowners.

For those who are not firmly tied to the Bay Area, there are more cost-effective options across the US. An article dated 10/30/24 by Susan Kelleher for Zillow.com showcases cities across the nation where the entire cost of housing consumes less than 30% of the household's income. In some cases, that percentage is significantly lower. The article explains, "The rankings are based on a Zillow analysis of metros across the country that takes into account the value of a



### The Garden Bug

#### Growing garlic

The best time to plant garlic is in the fall. Plant the individual garlic cloves with the peels intact, pointy ends up, 2 inches deep and 6 inches apart, in very well-draining soil. The cloves will form roots, but little top growth, before the ground freezes solid. Sprinkle seedless straw 5 to 8 inches deep over the planted cloves. It will pack down over the winter to about 2 inches, and will help to keep the weeds down during the growing season. Early next spring, your garlic will be ready to send up tiny green shoots as the ground thaws. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



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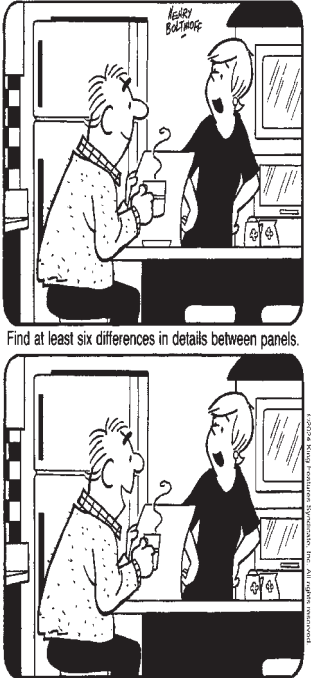
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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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C	1-4	1-4	22411 Moyers St	\$-----	3/2	Berkshire Hathway	Cathy Brent Team	510-381-1065

### CITY GUIDE

A = SAN LEANDRO • B = BRENTWOOD • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DUBLIN • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD  
K = KENSINGTON • L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • SLZ = SAN LORENZO • W = WALNUT CREEK • Z = ALAMEDA

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typical home along with the median household income. Also considered is the monthly mortgage payment needed to buy a typical home if the buyer pays current interest rates and puts 20% down toward the purchase."

With average home prices in Alameda county exceeding \$1,000,000, it is hard to imagine affordable prices. Yet they exist. Zillow identifies the following 12 cities as the most affordable places to live based on housing costs.

Pittsburgh, PA - \$215,661. St. Louis, MO - \$251,256. Buffalo, NY - \$265,157. Detroit, MI - \$253,314. Indianapolis, IN - \$278,883. Baltimore, MD - \$385,414. Cleveland, OH - \$229,993. Birmingham, AL - \$249,614. Cincinnati, OH - \$284,440. Philadelphia, PA - \$363,119. Kansas City, MO - \$310,108. Minneapolis, MN - \$371,247.

If you are shut out of homeownership locally and do not mind relocating, one of these cities might be your ticket to financial freedom.

\*Depending on the loan program and rates

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.

## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

5939 East Castro Valley Boulevard 94552: \$350,000 [3 BD - 1,390 SF - 1900  
21100 Gary Drive #307 94546: \$558,000 [2 BD - 1,056 SF - 1981  
21103 Gary Drive #202a 94546: \$580,000 [2 BD - 1,100 SF - 1993  
5349 San Simeon Place 94552: \$790,000 [2 BD - 1,322 SF - 1981  
5072 Seaview Avenue 94546: \$940,000 [3 BD - 1,326 SF - 1962  
4633 Lawrence Drive 94546: \$1,065,000 [3 BD - 1,320 SF - 1963  
20031 Gem Court 94546: \$1,100,000 [4 BD - 2,032 SF - 1950  
2615 Somerset Avenue 94546: \$1,160,000 [3 BD - 1,584 SF - 1965  
19939 Josh Place 94546: \$1,349,000 [3 BD - 1,754 SF - 1999  
19257 James Place 94546: \$1,380,000 [3 BD - 1,972 SF - 1979  
18757 Crane Avenue 94546: \$1,400,000 [4 BD - 1,970 SF - 1957  
4511 Hillsborough Drive 94546: \$1,430,000 [3 BD - 2,211 SF - 1970  
19099 Helton Street 94546: \$1,450,000 [4 BD - 2,121 SF - 1976

TOTAL SALES:	13		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$350,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,100,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,450,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,042,461

### SAN LEANDRO

3840 Yorkshire Street 94578: \$485,000 [2 BD - 918 SF - 1987  
14861 Midland Road 94578: \$780,000 [2 BD - 1,052 SF - 1947  
1754 Wayne Avenue 94577: \$843,000 [4 BD - 1,364 SF - 1951  
1225 Butler Avenue 94579: \$860,000 [3 BD - 1,081 SF - 1951  
14844 Crosby Street 94579: \$860,000 [3 BD - 1,148 SF - 1956  
15127 Chapel Court 94579: \$875,000 [3 BD - 1,114 SF - 1950  
344 Anza Way 94578: \$900,000 [3 BD - 1,078 SF - 1954  
1277 Margery Avenue 94578: \$938,000 [2 BD - 1,274 SF - 1947  
3956 Carmel Way 94578: \$940,000 [5 BD - 2,096 SF - 1954  
1500 Willow Avenue 94579: \$1,050,000 [4 BD - 1,851 SF - 1953  
783 Rodney Drive 94577: \$1,060,000 [2 BD - 1,731 SF - 1940

TOTAL SALES:	11		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$485,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$875,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,060,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$871,909

### SAN LORENZO

526 Drew Street 94580: \$700,000 [3 BD - 1,014 SF - 1950  
15880 Via Media 94580: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1944  
17004 Via Andeta 94580: \$825,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1944  
477 East Lewelling Boulevard 94580: \$1,075,000 [2 BD - 1,400 SF - 1954

TOTAL SALES:	4		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$700,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$812,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,075,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$850,000

### HAYWARD

357 Laurel Avenue #7 94541: \$250,000 [2 BD - 882 SF - 1974  
325 Valle Vista Avenue #110 94544: \$375,000 [1 BD - 614 SF - 1984  
25930 Kay Avenue #101 94545: \$390,000 [1 BD - 982 SF - 1982  
1510 E Street #20 94541: \$400,000 [1 BD - 708 SF - 1974  
25181 Copa Del Oro Drive #123 94545: \$470,000 [2 BD - 865 SF - 1991



# Peach Leaf Curl Caused by Fungus

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** Last year, my nectarine tree had a big problem with Peach Leaf Curl. I've been spraying it in January with a Copper Spray after pruning. What else do I need to do to prevent this?

**A** Peach Leaf Curl is a water-activated fungal disease that affects the leaves and shoots of peaches and nectarine trees. Curly leaves on any other fruit tree type is another problem with a different solution. To control Peach Leaf Curl, you need to apply the right product at the right time and then need some help from Mother Nature. The fungal spores overwinter on the bark and in the cracks and crevices of the tree. The tree bark constricts with cold weather, so getting that first application on is critical while the daytime temperatures are above sixty degrees and dry. A Copper Fungicide is the recommended control, and it's organic. Apply your first application in the late fall, around Thanksgiving, or when fifty percent of the leaves have dropped off. This is a change in conventional thinking. The second application is made in February when the peach and nectarine buds are about to open. This is called the 'Pink Bud' or 'Popcorn Stage.' This is

when the emerging leaves are the most susceptible to the fungus. Wet, damp weather triggers the infection as the spores wash into the open or opening buds. The fungus grows between the leaf cells, stimulating them to divide and grow larger than normal, causing swelling and distortion. The puckering is reddish as the red plant pigments accumulate in the distorted cells. The thickened areas then turn yellowish and then grayish-white as the fungus produces spores on the leaf surface. Usually, the diseased leaves fall off within a few weeks and are replaced by new, healthy ones. However, if it's rainy, a second infestation can occur. If we have dry weather during flowering, then there is an excellent chance that Peach Leaf Curl will be minor or none at all. The development of Peach Leaf Curl ceases when young tissue is no longer developing, or the weather turns dry and warmer. It was quite wet last year. Hence, the problem was widespread, but we needed water.

**Q** I installed a new lawn four months ago. Is it too late to feed it?

**A** No. It's not too late to feed turf. Lawns are fed once between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. Fall is a

crucial time of the year to feed grass, as it is at this time that the new grass plants form. Another benefit is that the grass remains green during cold temperatures and doesn't turn that ugly yellow/brown color. From January through June, I'd feed it twice, every six to eight weeks, depending on



the fertilfredz@ebpublishing.comizer, and skip the months of July and August. Your grass

will respond by staying green year-round.

Buzz Bertolero is an Ad-

vanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com), and questions can be sent by email to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com).

## Mortgage Rates Continue To Rise

Mortgage rates continued to inch up this week, reaching 6.79 percent. It is clear purchase demand is very sensitive to mortgage rates in the current market environment. As soon as rates began to rise in early October, purchase applications fell and over the last month have declined 10 percent.

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SAN LEANDRO TIMES:	11/28	12/5	12/12	12/19

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Revised 10/04/24

## WEEKEND GARDENER

### Vegetables

For a bumper harvest of broccoli, pinch out the main shoot a month after planting. This will result in fewer—but larger—side shoots and the biggest overall yield. Cutting the main shoot after the head has already formed will result in more side shoots, but they will be smaller in size.

Set out garlic, onions and shallots from sets, planting them where they can dry out for the month before harvest next June or July.

### Roses

Stop watering and feeding roses. Prune lightly to remove long, bloomed-out canes, but hold off hard pruning until January when the bushes are fully dormant.

### Trees

Prepare the vegetable plot and get ready for winter gardening. You can plant radishes, spinach, cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, carrot, beat and much more.

### Prevent Erosion

Now that shade and ornamental trees have shed their leaves, their need for pruning to correct any problems is readily apparent by their fully exposed branches. Though pruning can be done any time in fall and winter, there are good reasons for doing it now to eliminate potential hazards of weak, broken or diseased limbs crashing down in the storms that will be coming in the next few weeks. Major problems with trees should be left to professional arborists.



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**GARAGE SALE** 11/16, 10am-4pm. Baby/ toddler accessories, sport and stereo equipment and more. 18973 Marciel Court, Castro Valley.

**YARD SALE** 11/16, 8am-1pm. Tools, designer purses, housewares, tumblers, clothes, etc. 1458 & 1467 Linton Street, San Leandro.

**VINYL RECORDS BLOWOUT SALE** Fri. 11/15, noon-5pm & Sat. 11/16, 8am-5pm. No record album over \$20. 3965 Lindsay Lane, Castro Valley.

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55					56			57				

ACROSS

DOWN

1 Platters

6 Chum

9 Club --

12 Put on -- (act)

13 Expert serve

14 Navarro of "The View"

15 Gettysburg general

16 William on "Star Trek"

18 Vatican term

20 Folklore monster

21 Blackbird

23 Airport screening org.

24 Offered one's seat

25 Taverns

27 Plant life

29 Perfect place

31 Zesty dips

35 Blood line?

37 Model in a bottle

38 Future oak

41 Luau instrument

43 Canine greeting

44 Wander

45 Pencil end

47 Subtle variation of color

49 Spanish snacks

52 Feedbag morsel

53 Memo letters

54 Levels

55 SSW opposite

56 Feeling down

57 Transmits

1 River blocker

2 British verb ending

3 NPR's Ari

4 Musical finale

5 Used a broom

6 Computer language

7 Needing a massage

8 Tony winner Salonga

9 Chutney fruit

10 January, to Juan

11 Challenged

17 Sums

19 Equally distant

21 Dhahi preceder

22 Rebel Turner

24 Madrid Mrs.

26 Went easy on

28 Japanese seaport

30 Bit of physics

32 Hone

33 Football filler

34 Suntan lotion letters

36 Overblown

38 Incendiary crime

39 "Over There" composer

40 Egg-shaped

42 -- Park, Colorado

45 "May It Be" singer

46 Roof edge

48 Conditions

50 Moreover

51 Snake's sound

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
September 26, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 609553  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Star Transit, located at 16859 Train  
Station CT., Lathrop CA 95330 / P.O.  
Box 1248 Lathrop CA 95330 Alameda  
County, is hereby registered by the  
following owner(s): Goswami Son's  
INC, located at 16859 Train Station CT.,  
Lathrop CA 95330. This business is con-  
ducted by a Corporation. This business  
commenced 25/2/2019  
/s/Pardeep Goswami  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date in-  
dicated by file stamp above.  
Expires October 25, 2029  
OCT 31, NOV 07, 17, 24, 024  
1779 -SLT

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
October 16, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 609984  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
HappyFrame Productions, located at  
14999 Crosby Street. San Leandro, CA  
94579-1461 Alameda County, is hereby  
registered by the following owner(s):  
Harrison Luu, located at 14999 Crosby  
Street. San Leandro, CA 94579. This  
business is conducted by An Individual.  
This business commenced 5/10/2024  
/s/Harrison Luu  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date in-  
dicated by file stamp above.  
Expires October 15, 2029  
NOV 14, 21, 28, DEC 05, 2024  
1781 -SLT


FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
October 30, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 610344  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Tattoo Journalist, located at 15851  
Corte Mariana, San Lorenzo CA 94580  
Alameda County, is hereby registered  
by the following owner(s): Adriana  
Aleixo Pereira de Barros, located at  
15851 Corte Mariana, San Lorenzo  
CA 94580. This business is conducted  
by An individual. This business com-  
menced 09/02/2024  
/s/Aleixo Pereira de Barros  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date in-  
dicated by file stamp above.  
Expires October 3, 2029  
NOV 14, 21, 28, DEC 05, 2024  
1791 -SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
October 14, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 609908  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Bob's Pro Auto Service, located at  
1693 Washington Ave. San Leandro,  
CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby  
registered by the following owner(s):  
Johanna Contreras, located at 1693  
Washington Ave. / Edwin Melendez  
1693 Washington Ave. San Leandro,  
CA 94577. This business is conducted  
by Co-partners. This business com-  
menced N/A  
/s/Johanna Contreras  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date in-  
dicated by file stamp above.  
Expires October 13, 2029  
OCT 24, 31, NOV 07, 17, 2024  
1771 -SLT

FILED  
2024 MELISSA WILK  
October 21,  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 610084  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Queen's Nails Studio, located at 1605 K  
St., Livermore, CA 94531 / 4800 Snow-  
mass Peak Ct., Antioch CA 94531 Ala-  
ameda County, is hereby registered by  
the following owner(s): Hien Van Ngu-  
yen, located at 4800 Snowmass Peak Ct.,  
Antioch CA 94531. This business is con-  
ducted by An Individual. This business  
commenced 10/01/2024  
/s/ Hien Van Nguyen  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date in-  
dicated by file stamp above.  
Expires October 20, 2029  
OCT NOV 07, 14, 21, 28, 2024  
1782 -SLT

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
October 4, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 609752  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Amerifloors, located at 551 Grove Way,  
Hayward, CA 94541 Alameda County,  
is hereby registered by the following  
owner(s): Mumin Pajalic, located at 551  
Grove Way, Hayward, CA 94541. This  
business is conducted by An Individual.  
This business commenced N/A  
/s/Mumin Pajalic  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date in-  
dicated by file stamp above.  
Expires October 3, 2029  
NOV 14, 21, 28, DEC 05, 2024  
1790 -SLT



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# Lee: Planned ‘sewer service charge’ Espana Wins East Bay Parks Board Seat in Ward 4

*continued from front page*

ballots or 24.68 percent of the overall vote.

However, longtime teacher and environmental activist Moira ‘Mimi’ Dean is close behind with 9,976 ballots or 24.58 percent of the vote. Luis Reynoso (3,761 votes) and Bob Glaze (3,664 votes) round out the ballot counts.

Oro Loma collects sewage from approximately 46,000 households and 1,000 businesses. The district maintains approximately 273 miles of

sewer lines. Its 13 sewage lift stations help sewage flow through the lines to the treatment plant.

In July 2024, Oro Loma launched a five-year plan to upgrade and repair its treatment plant and accelerate the pace of repairing and replacing its 271 miles of underground pipes, many of which are over 70 years old.

To pay for the plan, Oro Loma proposed a sewer service charge for commercial and industrial users at \$7.19

per hundred cubic feet (ccf) of water used, with an annual minimum of \$395.46, in 2025. For single-family homeowners, the yearly charge will jump from this year’s minimum sewer service charge of 423.12 to \$486.59 starting July 1, 2025.

That will be followed by an increase to \$559.58 in 2026, \$643.52 in 2027, and \$740.05 in 2028. The charges would appear as a fee on their property tax bill.

With all precincts reporting and more than two-thirds of ballots counted by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, Luana España is expected to fill Ellen Corbett’s former seat in Ward 4 on the East Bay Regional Park district board of directors.

España received 37,292 votes (48.66 percent) as of Wednesday. Her next potential challenger, Taryn Edwards, received 15,305 votes, or

19.97 percent of the overall count. Susan Gonzales (12,798 votes) and Tim McMahon (11,250) rounded out the ballots received.

España has a Bachelor of Arts in Politics from Occidental College and a Master of Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. She ran on a platform of climate resilience, sustainability and youth engagement.

Ward 4 covers the city of

Alameda, including Crown Beach, the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline in Oakland, and the Oyster Bay Shoreline in San Leandro. It also covers Lake Chabot in Castro Valley.

EBRPD’s proposed budget for the 2025 fiscal year is \$466.5 million, a 23.3 percent increase from its 2024 budget. This budget will fund administration, parks, and recreation.

– By Michael Singer

## OPINION

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer’s name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: [letters@ebpublishing.com](mailto:letters@ebpublishing.com) or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

#### Vote Tally Taking Way Too Long

David Wolf  
San Leandro

Editor,  
I’m writing to state my dissatisfaction with the rate at which the Alameda County Registrar of Voters is processing ballots in the recent election. It should not take weeks to have clear results for local races such as the strongly contested City Council race or the county DA recall.

As of Sunday, fewer than half of the ballots in the county had been counted. Based on information available on the California Secretary of State’s website, this rate is among the lowest for any county in the state. For comparison, the county of San Francisco had processed more than 75% of their ballots by Sunday.

So this doesn’t seem to be an issue of postmark dates, or curing ballots or the deadline for certification. And this is not a new issue. In the 2020 election, the winner of the mayor’s race was not clear until almost a month after election day.

Regardless of party or political orientation, there is a strong public interest in having timely election results. We currently face a reality in which a sizable part of the electorate has become suspicious of election procedures and there are many public voices willing to exploit those suspicions. The seemingly lackadaisical process of vote counting in this county is unacceptable and should be addressed by elected officials and improved for future elections.

#### Simon Genuine and Respectful

Editor,  
I am writing to express my support for Councilmember Fred Simon of the San Leandro City Council. Since joining the Oro Loma Sanitary District in 2018, as a board member, he has made significant contributions and has been a dedicated leader committed to serving the residents who live in the unincorporated communities of Alameda County (Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo) as well as portions of San Leandro and Castro Valley.

As a colleague who has served with Hon. Simon, I have observed him to be genuine, caring and respectful of all individuals. His commitment and passion for working for the betterment of the underserved is to be commended. As an elected official he has shared that he believes in accountability and public officials should be held to a standard of excellence.

During the past 6 years which I have served with Hon. Fred Simon, he has treated me with respect and is open to our difference of opinions. I’ve found him to be straight forward in his communication and an invaluable member of Oro Loma’s board of directors.

I reiterate my support and look forward to continuing to serve with him.

Rita Duncan  
Hayward

Rita Duncan is on the board of directors of the Oro Loma Sanitary District

#### Can’t Disagree with City Manager?

Editor,

I was present at the last city council meeting. There is apparently a divide within the council. As a council member, when is it a crime to disagree with the city manager?

Why is sending emails to the city manager ensuring that concerns of the residents are met or expressing concerns with his or her job performance considered harassment or gender bias? That is part of doing the job for your constituents.

It is apparent the problem appears to be against three council members. They have been progressive in what they believe in and have voiced their concerns in the work they do the good of all SanLeandro.

Addie Kitchen  
Fairfield

#### Complaint Made by a Disgruntled City Manager

Editor,

This letter is written in defense of the integrity and outstanding character of the dedicated civil servant of our city, the Honorable Vice Mayor, Fred Simon.

We have known and worked with Fred Simon in a variety of his public services and community functions for over a decade. During this time, Fred has always exemplified the utmost respect, integrity, and professionalism with us, and with everyone, both men and women. He cares deeply about the welfare of every single San Leandro resident.

As such, he demonstrates a contagious passion to advocate with boundless energy for what he believes is in the best interest of all San Leandrans. Fred Simon’s sterling service to our community is exemplary. He holds himself to the highest standards of excellence not only because it’s the right thing

to do, but as a model for his two accomplished sons, and in honor of his father’s stellar civil servant’s legacy.

After review of the documents provided on the city clerk’s website, we believe the cause of accusations against Vice Mayor Fred Simon stem from a disgruntled City Manager, Fran Robustelli, as she filed her complaint just 2 days after a special council meeting to review her performance. It is also noteworthy in the documents that allegations were brought against City Manager Robustelli by the city clerk.

Fred Simon reportedly read the associated investigation report and had concerns for the need of a more thorough investigation. This is the fair and straightforward Fred Simon that we have come to know and appreciate in our innumerable interactions with him for over a decade. We are fortunate to have such an admirable human being and leader dedicated to serving our city.

Dr. Chris and Stephanie Smith  
San Leandro

#### Election Observations

Editor,

From a normal opinionated mind may I share with you three conversational observations I noted from the 2024 political election cycles, aka musical chairs:

1.) Familiarity breeds contempt. 2.) Voting and not voting has consequences. 3.) A repeated quote from Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell “There is no education in the second kick if a mule”.

The honorable Addison Mitchell McConnell III, Senator of Kentucky, uttered this phrase at least three times after evaluating legislative hearings and showing his sage political knowledge warned his lessor year colleagues it’s wiser to retreat than to publicly show ignorance. I admire his thought process and the timely manner it was delivered.

In my hard cycle of learning I too garnered a phrase in the same train of thought; “All that you can’t stand up to lay down to it.” Just like a bus, there will always be another day and voting cycle.

Wenonah Allen  
San Leandro

#### Building Setback Law Lacks Enforcement

Editor,

People considering moving to San Leandro should know that the City Building Code concerning mandatory building setback from the property line is not enforced by the Building Department. Even if you have your property professionally surveyed, the staff will issue a permit to a trespassing neighbor to erect a structure and a fence on your property over your objections and the professional survey.

You will be informed there is nothing they can do, unlike many cities in the state that do enforce boundary lines such as Oakland and San Francisco. (I used to live in Oakland and had to get a permit to add stairs and a rear deck.)

You will be told by the City to file a civil suit in court and secure legal representation that currently incur initial fees of \$450 per hour that will increase to \$650 per hour once the case is filed.

Be prepared to spend at lot to try to reclaim your property. I’m approaching \$40,000, with no end in sight and no guarantee I will be able to reclaim this strip of land in spite of it being designated as a rear setback to my property when the garage was permitted and built in 1926.

Sell the property? You will be told that you can disclose the “boundary dispute” when you sell your property, at a discount, if you can find a buyer who wants a property that is water damaged, that neither you, nor the new owner, will be able to repair.

Susan Patrick  
San Leandro



# Hearing: Investigator hired by Cameron supports Robustelli's claims

*continued from front page*  
Robustelli have yet to reply to requests for comment from this newspaper.

At the censure hearing on Monday, Simon and Aguilar will each be given 10 minutes to make opening and closing statements and call witnesses.

If a majority of the council finds Simon and Aguilar violated the city's internal rules, they would be removed from any future committee appointments, required to pay for and take management training, and see their travel and training budget cut in half for at least six months. Simon would also be stripped of his Vice Mayor title and prevented from hold-

ing that title again.

## Robustelli Files Complaint

In early May 2024, just days before she left her post, then-City Manager Fran Robustelli filed a complaint against Simon, alleging he interfered with her responsibilities as city manager. Current City Attorney Janelle Cameron hired Botterud Law Workplace Investigations of Pasadena to investigate the allegations at a cost of between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

During the inquiry, it was determined that the investigation should be expanded to include Councilmember Aguilar. On October 30, 2024,

the city received the final investigative report, which substantiated most of Robustelli's allegations.

The 40-page report included interviews with 14 witnesses, including Mayor Juan González, all current San Leandro council members, former Mayor Pauline Cutter, and former council members Deborah Cox and Corina Lopez. The report redacted all mentions of Chief Pridgen and a former City Clerk.

Botterud's report details several instances of interference and misconduct, including Simon's attempts to meet directly with staff and increased demands on Robus-

telli following her decision to fire Chief Pridgen. Aguilar was found to have implied that Robustelli's decision would negatively impact her performance evaluation.

In the report, Robustelli characterized Simon as "horrible towards women" and "setting her up to fail."

The investigation included evidence of more than 40 emails and a dozen or so texts about city business that Simon sent to Robustelli between February and April 2024. The investigator agreed with Robustelli, noting that while they were about city business, the emails and texts were designed to overwhelm the City

Manager.

Both Simon and Aguilar wanted to keep Chief Pridgen and avoid public criticism for firing the city's first black police chief.

The report concludes that Simon and Aguilar's actions were against city policy and created a challenging work environment for Robustelli, leading to her resignation. But there was insufficient evidence to show that Simon's actions were motivated by gender bias, the report said.

Former San Leandro Mayor Pauline Cutter told the Times she hoped the issue would be resolved soon so that the council could focus on taking care of the city.

"When situations like this arise, and there is mistrust among the people at City Hall, the public senses it too, and it's hard for meaningful work to get done," Cutter said.

The report is available online at <https://www.san-leandro.org/175/Public-Records-Online>

# Votes: Boldt likely winner in District 6

*continued from front page*

In District 6, the city's other contested council race, Dylan Boldt led Robert Bulatao by some 4,700 votes, with 11,861 for Boldt (63 percent) and 7,108 for Bulatao (37 percent). Both are newcomers to council contention, running for a seat to be vacated by Pete Ballew due to term limits.

Running unopposed were incumbents Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton in District 1 and Fred Simon in District 4. Simon won a full four-year term, while Viveros-Walton won a two-year term, to finish the original term of resigned councilmember Celina Reynes. Voters will choose a councilmember in District 1 for a full four-year term in 2026.

## Price Recalled

Voters also appear to have recalled Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price, by a 64 to 36 percent margin, as of Monday's county vote update. In Oakland, Mayor Shen Thao also appears to have been recalled, by a margin of 62 to 38 percent.

Tim Grayson led Marisol Rubio in the 9th State Senate District, which covers San Leandro and Castro Valley as

well as Contra Costa County communities. Grayson had 163,547 votes (53.5 percent) to Rubio's 142,293 (47 percent), with about 2/3 of votes counted in Alameda County but 84 percent counted in Contra Costa County.

The race was not close for Democratic incumbent Liz Ortega in the 20th Assembly District, which includes communities from San Leandro south to Union City, as well as Castro Valley. Ortega had 88,007 votes (71 percent) against Republican challenger Sangeetha Shanbhogue's 35,085 votes (29 percent).

## School Board Members All Run Unopposed

In the San Leandro Unified School District, all four candidates for board seats ran unopposed, and did not appear on the ballot, as allowed by state education law. Incumbents Peter Oshinski, at-large, and Diana Prola, in Area 5, return to the board. Zachary Borja in Area 1 and Cindy Rocha in Area 3 will join the board as new members.

San Lorenzo Unified School District voters seem to have passed Bond Measure Q, which was ahead with 10,621 yes votes (64 percent), versus 5,872 no votes (36 percent).

The measure requires 55 percent of the votes to pass.

San Lorenzo School District Area 5 incumbent Alicia Gonzalez was leading in San Lorenzo's one contested school board race, with 1,477 votes (63 percent) over fellow incumbent Penny Peck with 859 votes (37 percent).

A switch to voting by areas rather than district-wide had forced the two incumbents into running against each other.

Running unopposed in San Lorenzo were board candidates Kyla Sinegal, incumbent from Area 3, and Dorothy Lee, a newcomer in Area 2.

## East Bay Parks Board

Luana España led by a wide margin in the East Bay Regional Parks District election in Ward 4. She had 37,292 votes (49 percent) to Taryn Edwards' 15,305 (20 percent), Susan Gonzales' 12,798 votes (17 percent) and Tim McMahon's 11,250 votes (15 percent).

Ward 4 covers San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Alameda, Ashland, Cherryland and parts of Castro Valley, Hayward and Oakland. This was the parks district seat formerly held by the late San Leandro mayor and state sen-

ator Ellen Corbett.

## EBMUD Board

In the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Ward 5 vote, Jim Oddie led with 20,274 votes (44 percent), ahead of John E. Lewis with 14,987 (32 percent) and Alex Spehr, with 11,206 votes (24 percent). Ward 5 represents residents of San Leandro and San Lorenzo west of Interstate 880. The rest of San Leandro's residents are in Ward 7 where incumbent April Chan's term runs to 2026.

In votes on statewide propositions, Californians appear to have voted to toughen penalties on retail and drug crime, put marriage equality in the state constitution, and build more schools and parks as well as fight climate change.

With nearly 85 percent of the state's vote counted, as of Monday, voters also voted against making it easier to pass bonds for affordable housing and infrastructure, against ending forced work for prison inmates, against raising the minimum wage and against letting cities enact more rent control if they chose.

While votes are still being counted, only the minimum wage (Prop 32) and Prop 34,

see VOTES, page 12

## Obituaries

### Susan Harriot Reisz

October 17, 1945 ~ November 7, 2024

Susan worked for Dr. Chaplin Liu for over 34 years as a Medical Office Manager & became one of the first Women to join Kiwanis Club of San Leandro in 1985. Preceded in death by her husband Robert Reisz, survived by 4 Brothers, 2 Sisters & multiple nieces and nephews. Susawas known for her Community Support but most of all her infectious laughter. Susan's favorite flower was Daisy.

Services to be held at Santos Robinson Mortuary 160 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro CA 94577  
Viewing: November 19, 2024 12:00pm - 8:00pm at Santos-Robinson Mortuary. 160 Estudillo Ave. San Leandro Chapel Service: November 20, 2024 10:30am at Santos-Robinson Mortuary.

Graveside to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward, ca. Arrangements made with Santos-Robinson Mortuary. 510-483-0123

### Florence J. Gurrieri-Pardini

September 12, 1939 ~ November 5, 2024

Florence was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, mother-in-law, aunt, cousin and friend. Florence passed peacefully at home on November 5, 2024, with her son-in-law Earl by her side.

Florence was born in Oakland to Anthony and Elsie Vassallo. Florence attended Castlemont High School in Oakland where she was a yell leader and an avid tennis player and graduated in 1957.

Florence worked at her father's produce business, Sun Valley Produce in Oakland as the bookkeeper for many years. She did various bookkeeping jobs over the years and then worked at the Hayward-Castro Valley Moose Lodge for 20 plus years as the Secretary. Florence and Joseph were married for 26 years and resided in Castro Valley. They shared many adventures and had a great love for their family and enjoyed being active members of the Moose Organization. After the passing of her husband Joseph, she was lucky enough to find love again and married Carlo Pardini and they resided in San Leandro until his passing in 2010.

Florence remained in San Leandro until moving back to Castro Valley to her home with her daughter Dina, son-in-law Earl and grandson Jason to get extra care.

Florence is survived by her daughter, Dina (Earl), Grandchildren JT (Danika) Lada, Alexis Lada (Jose Rincon) and Jason Lada. She has three great Grandchildren Bailey, Kendall and JT. She is also survived by her brother Tony Vassallo and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents Anthony and Elsie and her sister Diane Martin.

Visitation will be held at Santos Robinson Mortuary on Monday November 18th from noon to 8pm.

Funeral Services will be held at Assumption Church in San Leandro on November 19th at 10:30am. Followed by a gravesite service at Holy Sepulcher in Hayward at 12:30pm. Reception to follow.



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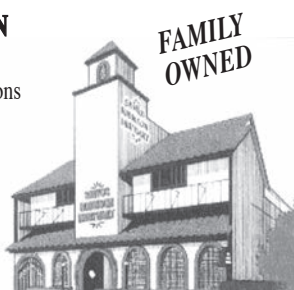
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# Voters Pass San Lorenzo School District Measure Q

By Scott Faust  
Special to the Times

Voters in the San Lorenzo Unified School District have approved a \$195 million bond measure for school modernization and improvement by a two-thirds margin and reelected Board of Education member Alicia Gonzalez in the district's only contested trustee-area election.

Previously, SLZUSD trustees, or board members, were elected at large. Gonzalez was elected in new Area 5, defeating fellow member Penny Peck, who sought her fourth four-year term. Two board candidates ran unopposed: newcomer Dorothy Lee in Area 2 and incumbent Kyla Sinegal in Area 3.

Bond Measure Q received 66.3% of 7,556 district votes cast in the Nov. 5 election, well above the 55% threshold required in California school district bond elections.

Specific projects will

be determined with citizen oversight, but the district has pledged to spend the funds on six areas of need: health, safety and security; repair of aging schools, all more than 60 years old; career technology in classrooms, heating, cooling and ventilation; and new and improved classrooms and other student facilities.

"I want to thank our San Lorenzo Unified Community for supporting our schools," Superintendent Daryl Camp said. "These additional dollars will allow us to improve learning conditions for our students."

Measure Q's annual impact on property owners within SLZUSD is estimated at \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed property value, the taxable value placed by Alameda County. By law, bond funds must be spent on schools and cannot be taken by the state. An independent citizens' oversight committee will be established

to ensure that bond funds are spent as intended.

Following the board election, the newly composed board will have its first meeting on Dec. 17, when incoming members will be sworn in.

Gonzalez and Peck had to face off because both reside in the newly created Area 5, which spans the southern end of the school district. The unopposed newcomer, Lee, a Hayward teacher with a child at Hesperian Elementary School, was automatically elected in Area 2, which covers the Manor neighborhood of south San Leandro.

Said Lee, "I'm looking forward to working collaboratively with the community, district staff and my fellow board members in transforming San Lorenzo Unified into a top-notch, destination school district."

Incumbent Trustee Sinegal was also elected by default in the new Area 3, which

includes the Ashland community. She will serve her third term.

The board's remaining incumbents are current board president Samuel Medina and Juan Campos. Both live in new Area 4, which will be up for election in November 2026. The new Area 1, which includes the south end of Castro Valley, will be open for new candidates in 2026.

The move to trustee-area elections was made in alignment with the California Voting Rights Act, effective last year, which prohibits at-large election to help ensure fair representation of minority voters from racial and ethnic groups, who often are clustered in larger numbers within a given geographic area. The law directs that trustee areas be drawn to give appropriate influence to these groups while maintaining roughly equal population across all trustee areas.

The SLZUSD board adopted the new trustee-area districts on April 16 following multiple public hearings and lengthy discussion of possible configurations and their impact. The district's total population is 83,160, and each trustee area includes approximately 16,600 people. Of that total population, approximately 39% of residents are Hispanic/Latino, 31% are Asian/Pacific Islander, 17% are White and 10% are Black.

Gonzalez, who received 63.9% of the 1,150 votes cast in Area 5, said she is humbled that voters elected her to continue serving SLZUSD. She expressed great respect for Peck.

"To every parent, teacher, staff member and community member: thank you for your support and for trusting me to champion the values we all hold dear," Gonzalez said in a statement. "This is only the beginning of a journey to create

lasting, impactful change in our schools. Let's continue to work together to build a school district that reflects the best of San Lorenzo."

Camp offered his congratulations to Gonzalez, adding, "I thank Trustee Peck for her many years of service."

Scott Faust is the director of communications for the San Lorenzo school district.

## Votes: Prop. 34 leading

continued from page 11

about prescription drug revenues but mostly affecting a single nonprofit in Southern California, were close contests. Prop 32 was trailing with 51 percent of the vote against, while Prop 34 was leading, with 51 percent of the vote in favor.



## Alameda County Industries

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### NOVEMBER 25 - 30, 2024

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Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 25	Tue. 26	Wed. 27	Fri. 29	Sat. 30

If your regular collection day is Thursday or Friday, your containers will be serviced one day later. For more info, scan the QR code or visit [AlamedaCountyIndustries.com/sanleandro/holiday](https://AlamedaCountyIndustries.com/sanleandro/holiday)



### Contact us:

[AlamedaCountyIndustries.com](https://AlamedaCountyIndustries.com)  
Phone: 510-357-7282

Office Hours & Address: M-F, 7am-5pm  
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Use it for the collection of food waste and food-soiled paper, too!

When your holiday party is over, and you have unusable leftovers put them in your **organics** cart. All food scraps and food-soiled paper belong in the green containers, along with decorations such as pumpkins, poinsettias, garlands, and wreaths. **Be sure all material is free of paint, glue, excess soil, plastic, or metal.**

For a full list of what belongs in your **organics** cart, visit: [SanLeandroSorts.com](https://SanLeandroSorts.com).

### ORGANICS CART TIPS

- Layer/cover food waste with yard waste.
- Freeze or refrigerate wrapped food scraps before placing them in the cart.
- Keep the lid closed.
- Put the cart out weekly for service (even if it isn't full).
- When the cart is empty, rinse it out over a landscaped area using only water.



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