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WEEKEND WEATHER
SUNNY No rain expected in the near future
HIGHS: 65-70
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 42-47

FRIDAY **SATURDAY** **SUNDAY**

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 28 • NO. 6

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Construction of lifting the modular units in place for the senior apartment building at San Leandro Boulevard and Parrott Street was finished last week. Now 4-hour parking will return to the area, but two parking structures are available for BART commuters.

4-Hour Parking to Return Near BART

A 4-hour parking limit will return to several streets close to the San Leandro BART station in order to increase parking availability for nearby residents, businesses and short-term commuters.

All-day parking had been temporarily allowed in these areas due to nearby construction projects that reduced the availability of commuter parking. But now that

the construction is done, the time limit on parking will return.

The changes will affect Callan Avenue, Thorton Street, Parrott Street, and the 1500-1600 blocks of San Leandro Boulevard, said city officials. The changes, including new parking signs, will be completed during the month of March.

With the completion of the first phase

of the San Leandro Tech Campus and the Marea Alta affordable housing development, downtown San Leandro now has two additional parking garages for BART commuters.

The underground parking lot at the Marea Alta apartments at 1400 San Leandro Boulevard, managed by Douglas Parking,

see *PARKING*, page 5

Rebel Name Change Runs Into Snafu

Even the mythological Phoenix ruffles some feathers

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The San Lorenzo school board was all set to vote on a new mascot Tuesday night to get rid of the name Rebels.

But the new pick, the Phoenix, ran into a roadblock, too. So the board postponed the decision.

In Greek mythology, a phoenix is a long-lived bird that is born again out of the ashes of its own funeral pyre.

At the end of the last school year, the school board decided to do away with the Rebel name. Surveys were sent out this year to students, parents, and the community to find a new mascot.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the school board was about to change the mascot to the Phoenix.

But speaker Jack Tharp, a San Lorenzo High alumnus, pointed out that some white supremacist groups use the Phoenix as a symbol.

"It has got just as many issues if not more," said Tharp.

Tharp has been leading an alumni group called the "Rebel Coalition" that initially opposed changing the Rebel name because of decades of tradition. The group has since said they accept that the name will change, but don't like the Phoenix.

When Tharp told the board that the phoenix could be a white supremacist symbol, many in

attendance got out their phones and Googled it. It turns out it is in the Anti-Defamation League's glossary of hate symbols.

see *REBELS*, page 5

Speakers Call for Firing of Zapata

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Supporters of Davis Street Family Resource Center CEO Rose Johnson called on the City Council to fire City Manager Chris Zapata, even before the investigation into his alleged sexual harassment of Johnson has been completed.

Around 10 speakers, who said they were friends or work colleagues of Johnson's, addressed the City Council at its Monday night meeting and many said that the council had failed to adequately deal with the scandal.

Johnson alleges that Zapata acted inappropriately towards

see *SPEAKERS*, page 14

Bancroft Apartment Hubbub Reveals 'Inconsistencies' in City Zoning Laws

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

There will be changes and "clarifications" coming to the city's zoning code, a move that was prompted by the controversial proposed development of a large apartment complex on the corner of Bancroft and Estudillo avenues.

The city says that clarifying the zoning code is overdue, but developer Tom Silva says the zoning changes are the result of

the city bowing to pressure from the "not in my back yard" (NIM-BY) brigade and it will prevent people from building apartments next to single-family homes.

The city just updated its zoning code in the fall of 2016, but city staff says that further clarification is needed in some areas, particularly the "P" professional zone. P zoning districts allows businesses, retail, restaurants, and apartments.

Zone P includes 1388 Ban-

croft Avenue where developer Silva has made two failed attempts at creating an apartment building after neighbors protested.

Under the current zoning code, city staff says there are some inconsistencies as to whether buildings can be up to 50 feet or up to 30 feet. The new zoning would make a determination on the height limit and clarify it.

Silva says he'll be submitting a new proposal for his property to

the city "very soon."

According to Andrew Mogensen, San Leandro's planning manager, city staff usually amends parts of the zoning code a couple of times per year and, over time, these multiple small changes have made the code more difficult to understand and caused inconsistencies.

"It's matter of housekeeping," said Mogensen. "We have to do it, but it doesn't necessarily see *ZONING*, page 15

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

THEATER

Brian Copeland to perform at the library. **Page 2**

NEWS

Deputy on motorcycle hit by SUV, fires back. **Page 3**

NEIGHBORS

Koller and Richards met at Washington School. **Page 4**

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Auto	6
Calendar	4
Classified Ads	12
Crime	3
Crossword	14
Homes	10
Home Services	12
Inquiring Reporter ...	15
Letters	15
Lifestyle	8
Obituaries	14
Seniors	7

MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



San Leandro Times

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

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San Leandro Players To Hold Auditions For Comedy Mystery

The San Leandro Players will hold auditions for *Death by Design* on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Museum Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave.

The show is a delightful and mysterious mash-up of Noel Coward and Agatha Christie genres, a comedy mystery with surprising twists. Check out the play at <http://www.samuelfrench.com/p/9802/death-by-design>.

Ensemble cast, read from script. No pay, non-Equity. Male

and female all ages and ethnicities encouraged. Rehearsals begin Feb. 19, Monday through Thursday evenings.

Performances will be Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. from April 7 to May 5, plus two Fridays, at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave.

Open call, appointments possible. Contact Sage Hindley at bhindley11@gmail.com, or call 895-2573 and leave a message.

For more information, visit www.slplayers.org.

Copeland to Bring Stories and Laughs to Show at the Library

The San Leandro Public Library and Project Literacy invites everyone to an unforgettable and intimate night – “An Evening of Stories and Laughter with Brian Copeland” on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

A dessert buffet will begin at 7 p.m., followed by the show at 7:30 p.m. featuring the long-time stand-up comic and television host. Copeland will be available for book sales and book signings after the show.

Tickets are \$30 and available at the Main Library circulation desk. All proceeds go to the Project Literacy Adult Reading Program.

Project Literacy provides free tutoring, instructional materials, and support services for English-speaking adults who are assessed at 8th grade or below in reading level and want to improve reading, writing, and life skills. Trained community volunteers are matched with learners as one-on-one tutors.

Tutors also assist in small



Brian Copeland will perform at the San Leandro Main Library's theater on Feb. 17.

group instruction or conduct family literacy story times at outreach sites. Project Literacy has been serving the community for 27 years and this literacy re-

source serves over 200 learners yearly.

For more information, call the Library's information desk at 577-3971.

News Briefs

Table Tennis for Players 50 and Over

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District has table tennis for players 50 and older on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon at the San Lorenzo Community Center, 1970 Via Buena Vista in San Lorenzo. All levels welcome. Drop-in fee \$2 per player. For more information, call 881-6766.

Basketball Tryouts for 6th, 7th and 8th Graders

East Bay SWAG basketball will hold tryouts for sixth, seventh and eighth grade boys on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Bancroft Middle School gym, 1150 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The tryout fee is \$10. For more information, email joseph@ebswag.com or dina@ebswag.com.

Mystery Writers Luncheon at Alta Mira

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, presents a mystery tea luncheon with prominent mystery writers on Monday, Feb. 19, at 11:30 a.m. Have lunch and meet authors Cara Black, Janet Dawson and Cindy Sample. Tickets are \$15. Limited seating. Call 483-1018 or email Nancyfong@aol.com.

Hayward Area Demo Club Workshop

The Hayward Area Democratic Club will host a workshop on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carpenter's Union Local 713 Hall, 1050 Mattox Road in Hayward, by The Incorruptibles on how to make change in the Hayward, San Leandro, Castro Valley area by forming stronger coalitions, engagement and leadership. For more information on the meeting, email Fred Morrison at grmfred@me.com.

Happy Stampers Club

If you like crafts, join the Happy Stampers who use rubber stamps to make greeting cards. The club meets on the second Monday of each month at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. For more information, call Janie at 483-0389.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIGITTE LUNA

Royal Sunset's Career Day

Royal Sunset High School hosted its third annual career day last week. Royal Sunset is the continuation high school in San Lorenzo Unified School District. Students got a chance to talk with representatives from Chabot College, Laney College, Merritt College, the Eden Area Regional Occupational Program, the Alameda County Workforce Development Board, the City of Hayward, East Bay MUD, the military and more. Pictured above are Demetrius Simmons, Rolando Viveros, Elizabeth Anguiano, Xavier Snowden, and Ulises Huerta, who were checking out the job readiness workshop.

Not Guilty Pleas in Shooting Death of San Leandro Man

Two men have pled not guilty in the shooting death of a San Leandro man in East Oakland last September.

You Can Text 911

Text 911 has been launched by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. This new feature allows people to text in emergencies when they can't talk on the phone. It will also provides greater access to 911 for citizens who have disabilities that make it hard for them to use the voice 911 system, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly. To use this system all you have to do is type the numbers 911 into the recipient text field.

A dispatcher on the other end will begin a text conversation to get the pertinent and real time information. The sheriff's office says "Call If You Can- Text If You Can't."

Chris Yen, 36, of Oakland and Jose Alas, 37, of San Leandro are accused of killing Jesus Martinez, 38, last fall.

Martinez was driven to the area of Davenport Avenue and Daisy Street, near Mills College and shot multiple times, according to Oakland police.

Police said Martinez, Yen and Alas arrived together at the scene in a Jeep that was registered to Alas and after the shooting, Yen and Alas fled in the Jeep, which was later recovered about a half a mile away.

The gun that was used to shoot Martinez found by police at the location where they recovered the Jeep, police said.

Prosecutors said that video surveillance footage also links Yen and Alas to the shooting.

In addition to murder, Yen and Alas are charged with carrying a loaded firearm in a city and possession of a short-barreled

rifle or shotgun.

Yen also is charged with possession of an assault weapon and Alas is charged with being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm.

The men are next scheduled to appear in Alameda County Superior Court on Feb. 20 for a pre-trial hearing.

Deputy on Motorcycle Hit by Suspect in SUV, Shots Fired

An Alameda County sheriff's deputy working speed enforcement on his motorcycle was intentionally hit by a driver last week and the deputy fired at the driver.

The deputy tried to pull over a driver in an SUV for a traffic violation in the area of Hathaway Avenue in Cherryland on Feb. 1 at around 9:40 a.m.

The driver slowed and turned down a side street and eventually on to Arbor Avenue where he stopped about mid-block, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the San Leandro police.

The deputy was stopped, sitting on his motorcycle, when the suspect put his vehicle in reverse and ran into the deputy. The deputy and motorcycle were stuck to the rear bumper of the SUV as the suspect dragged them backwards in an attempt to run the deputy over, Kelly said.

The deputy was able to get off of his motorcycle and avoid being crushed and run over. After dragging the motorcycle backward the suspect was able to disconnect his bumper from the attached motorcycle.

The suspect then put the SUV back in drive and drove at the deputy in a second attempt to run him over, Kelly said.

The cop pulled his gun and shot several rounds into the windshield of the SUV.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACSO

An Alameda County Sheriff's deputy was hit by a driver while attempting a traffic stop. The deputy fired at the driver, but the suspect got away.

The suspect was able to flee in the SUV, westbound onto A Street. A few blocks away on Royal Avenue, the suspect jumped out of the SUV and fled on foot into the surrounding area.

Deputies located the SUV and determined it was stolen.

A large perimeter was established and schools in the area were put on lock-down. Officers from the Hayward police and California Highway Patrol responded to assist in the search. Dogs, helicopters and drones were also

used, Kelly said.

After a three and half hour search, officers were unable to locate the suspect and the perimeter was lifted.

It is unknown if the suspect was struck by the gunfire but evidence in the SUV does not show signs of a gunshot injury, Kelly said.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic man in his 20s.

Anyone with information is asked to call the sheriff's office at 667-7721.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

T	A	U	I	C	B	M	C	H	A	D
A	S	S	P	A	R	A	H	U	G	O
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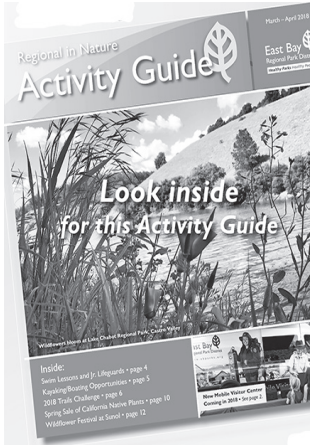
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This issue of the San Leandro Times contains the East Bay Regional Park District March-April 2018 Activity Guide.

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



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NEIGHBORS

Koller and Richards Return to School

Karen Anne Koller and Christopher Grant Richards met in kindergarten at Washington Elementary School in 1978, beginning a journey that would lead them full circle some 40 years later.

In the first grade, Karen asked Chris to be her boyfriend. He didn't say yes, but he also didn't say no. Instead, Chris ran off not giving Karen an answer.

After graduating from high school, they both attended the same college for a time before they went their separate ways. But about two years ago, an online dating site matched them together.

Shortly after that, Facebook prompted Chris with Karen's profile asking him if he knew her. After sending Karen a friend request, he asked her out.

And after dating for about six



Karen Koller and Christopher Richards are headed back to Washington Elementary School...to get married.

months, Chris proposed to Karen on Friday, October 13, 2017.

The wedding is to be held this month, back where their story

began at Washington Elementary School in San Leandro, followed by a reception to celebrate with their closest families and friends.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ **Chanticleers Theatre**
Dial M for Murder
Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley, proudly presents *Dial M for Murder*, through Feb. 25. This thriller by Frederick Knott and directed by

Katina Letheule is about Tony Wendice and his wife, Margot, and how he plans to murder her for her money. He blackmails a scoundrel he used to know into strangling her for a fee of one thousand pounds, and arrang-

es a brilliant alibi for himself. Unfortunately the murderer gets murdered and the victim survives. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors over 60. For more information, call 733-5483.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You might feel bolder as each new success falls into place. But caution is still advised through the end of the week. Until then, a step-by-step approach is best.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): That cooperation you request could come at too high a price. Since few can beat the Bovine at being clever and resourceful, why not see what you can do on your own?

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Aspects favor a quieter time spent getting closer to the people who are especially important to you. There's always much more to learn and appreciate about each other.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): The concerned Crab will act to resolve workplace misunderstandings before they get out of hand and cause more-serious problems. Co-workers rally to support your efforts.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): What the Big Cat might see as a disturbing act of disloyalty might just be a failure of communication on both sides. Take time for mediation rather than confrontation.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Be more patient with those who seem unwilling to accept your version of what's right. The fact is, there's a lot more to learn on all sides of this issue.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): It should be easier to assess the facts you'll need to make an important decision. But don't commit if you still have doubts. There could be more you need to know.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your excitement level remains high as you continue working on that new project. Expect some setbacks. But on the whole, all will move pretty much on schedule.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): It might be wise to be more prudent with expenses right now. But your financial situation should soon clear up, and you could be back shopping, happily as ever.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You might prefer sticking with your current schedule. But some newly emerging information could persuade you to consider a change. Keep an open mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): You might want to reject a suggested change. But it could be wise to go with the flow, at least for a while. You can always return to your first plan if you like.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): You're bolstered by both the practical and poetic sides of your nature as you maneuver through some unsettled emotional situations. Things ease up by week's end.

Buon Tempo Italian Club

The Buon Tempo Italian Club is having an All-You-Can-Eat Gourmet Soup/Salad/Bread Fundraiser on behalf of the San Leandro Relay for Life on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Transfiguration Church, in Mt. Tabor Hall, at 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd in Castro Valley.

Everyone is invited, and no advance reservations are required. All Proceeds go to the Relay for Life.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ **Hearing Loss Association Meeting**
The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Refreshments are at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m. Dr. Karina Canadas will be the speaker who is a very experienced, highly qualified pediatric physician from the east coast currently on a sabbatical in San Francisco. The title of her presentation is "Pediatric vs. Adult Hearing Loss." Parking is free in the old garage across from Howe Street. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.

❖ **Hayward Area Democratic Club**
The Hayward Area Democratic Club will host a workshop on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carpenter's Union Local 713 Hall, 1050 Mattox Road in Hayward, by The Incorruptibles on how to make change in the Hayward, San Leandro, Castro Valley area by forming stronger coalitions, engagement and leadership. For more information on the meeting, email Fred Morrison at grmfred@me.com.

❖ **D.I.Y. Valentine's Gift Making**
Come to the Manor Branch Library on Saturday Feb. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. for an afternoon of crafting. Choose from four different Valentine's Day projects and create a gift for that special someone. This event is for adults and teens in high school and advance registration is required. Supplies and instruction provided. Light refreshments served. To register or for more information, call the Manor Branch Information Desk at 577-7971.

❖ **All Saints Annual Valentines Crab Feed**
All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd, is hosting its 45th annual crab feed on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. Early ticket purchase guarantees a place at the crab feed, which sells out every year. Tickets include all-you-can-eat crab, vegetarian pasta, salad, and bread with a dessert. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$35 for youths (9-14 years), \$10 for children (8+under). Buy tickets online at tinyurl.com/2018CrabFeed.

❖ **Crusaders Football Team Fundraiser**
The Crusaders youth football team will have a crab feed fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club, 401 Marina Blvd. Doors open at 5:30, dinner served at 7 p.m. with crab, pasta, salad and garlic bread. Raffle prizes throughout the evening, no host bar. Tickets are \$55. For more information, call Brandy Baker-Lynch at 517-1078, or Sam Ballance at 593-9188.

❖ **East Bay SWAG Basketball Tryouts**
East Bay SWAG basketball will hold tryouts for sixth, seventh and eighth grade boys on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Bancroft Middle School gym, 1150 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The tryout fee is \$10. For more information, email joseph@ebswag.com or dina@ebswag.com.

❖ **The Eagles Bingo Luncheon**
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Eden Auxiliary 1139 will host their charity bingo luncheon on Monday, Feb. 12, at noon at the Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. The fare will include beef stew, salad, French bread, dessert, coffee and tea. A donation of \$8 will include one bingo card. Bring a couple friends for a fun

afternoon. For more information, call Glenda at 584-1568.

❖ **San Leandro Art Association**
The San Leandro Art Association will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The evening includes professional networking, membership discussion, and an artist demonstration with watercolorist Shannon Whitney.

❖ **Sons In Retirement Meetings**
Sons In Retirement (SIRs), an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Wedgewood Center at Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr. in Oakland. Happy Hour starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Great guest speakers. Guests are welcome. Come and meet new friends. For more information, call Mel at 357-0601.

❖ **Mystery Tea Luncheon at Alta Mira Club**
The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, presents a mystery tea luncheon with prominent mystery writers on Monday, Feb. 19, at 11:30 a.m. Have lunch and meet authors Cara Black, Janet Dawson and Cindy Sample. Tickets are \$15. Limited seating. Call 483-1018 or email Nancyfong@aol.com.

❖ **St. Felicitas Valentine Luncheon**
Tickets are now on sale for the St. Felicitas Parish monthly Young at Heart Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Spaghetti and Meatballs with all the fixings plus dessert and a beverage will be served. Tickets are \$7. Entertainment and door prizes at the luncheon. Tickets must be purchased no later than Thursday, Feb. 15 before the luncheon. Tickets available at the parish office Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

❖ **SL Democratic Club Meeting**
The San Leandro Democratic Club will host a forum for candidates running this year for the San Leandro City Council and San Leandro school board and the Alameda County district attorney on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

❖ **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.

❖ **Kiwanis Club of San Leandro**
Join the Kiwanis Club of San Leandro for weekly meetings. The first Tuesday is for socializing. Dinner is open menu and starts at 5:30 p.m. The following Tuesdays, second through the fourth or fifth, are luncheons and are from 12:10 to 1:30 p.m. and will have a speaker. All meetings are held at The Englander, 101 Parrett Street in San Leandro.

❖ **Table Tennis for Seniors**
The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District has table tennis for players 50 and older on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon at the San Lorenzo Community Center, 1970 Via Buena Vista in San Lorenzo. All levels welcome. Drop-in fee \$2 per player. For more information, call 881-6766.

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.

Parking: It's tough to find a parking space around the BART station

continued from front page

replaced the former BART parking lot at that location. And a new parking structure at the San Leandro Tech Campus, 600 Parrott St., managed by ParkJockey, is also available.

These changes are part of the Downtown Parking Management Plan, which was adopted by the City Council last year to guide policies and regulations for parking in downtown San Leandro.

The plan analyzed parking inventory, utilization, and turnover in the core downtown and periphery areas, and was developed following four public meetings that gathered comments and data from BART riders, employees of downtown businesses, shoppers, and residents who use parking either for short durations or all-day.

Thanks to a better understanding of parking patterns, the Parking Management Plan is also designed to aid future land-use and economic development decisions, and increase the sustainability of Downtown San Leandro.

Additional details on these proposed changes and others stemming from the Downtown Parking Management Plan will be presented at the City Council



meeting at City Hall on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

Other related improvements that are expected to be implemented in the next few months include: providing a Parkmobile mobile payment option on all on-street meters, updating fee and permit structures, revising policies to aid enforcement of 2-hour off-street parking lots, and providing residential permit

options for neighborhoods near the downtown San Leandro BART station.

The public is invited to attend the Feb. 20 City Council meeting to learn more about these proposals.

For more information, contact Economic Development Specialist Mariana Garcia, by email at mgarcia@sanleandro.org or by phone at 577-3323.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

A 4-hour parking limit will return to the area around the San Leandro BART Station.

Rebels: How about Yankees?

continued from front page

Tharp also pointed out that Farmington High in Utah has the Phoenix as a mascot but that school might change the name because the plural "phoenixes" sounds like penises – or at least it did to the parent who started the petition to ban the name.

"You'll spend \$200,000 to change (the logos on the campus) and six months later someone will

“Six months later someone will challenge that name and you'll have to spend another \$200,000.”

— Jack Tharp

challenge that so you'll have to spend another \$200,000," said Tharp.

Back in 2016, San Lorenzo school board members unanimously voted to get rid of the old "Rebel Guy" mascot. He was a cartoon frontiersman-type in a cowboy hat who was created in the 1990s to replace "Colonel Reb," a Civil War colonel who sometimes carried a confederate flag.

Students and parents said the Rebel Guy had to go because he was a racist symbol, but the Rebel name could stay. People said there were many rebels through-



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

"Home of the Who?" The scoreboard at the San Lorenzo High football field doesn't know who the home team is these days.

out history that they'd be proud to see San Lorenzo students emulating, from the founding fathers to Rosa Parks.

But the school board eventually decided to nix the Rebel name.

Last month, the Phoenix was selected because students said they wanted something that was unique. The mascot was going to be put up to a vote Tuesday night, but when the racist connotations were discovered, the board put off the vote.

The Aryan Renaissance Society, a white supremacist group that the Anti-Defamation League describes as "small but long-lived," has a symbol of a Phoenix superimposed with a lightning bolt.

The eagle was a symbol used by the nazis – but the eagle is

also the mascot of the team that just won the Super Bowl, as well as the symbol the United States.

It may be difficult for San Lorenzo High to find a mascot that doesn't have some sort of connotation. According to the Anti-Defamation League's glossary there is a wide variety of mascot imagery by hate groups including bears, dogs, panthers, horses, and even feathers. Yet sports teams that have those mascots don't seem to have any problem.

But board member Penny Peck says they'll get back to work finding an appropriate mascot, hopefully by the end of the year.

Student school board member James Aguilar said he will lead a student group over the next few weeks to come up with some possible replacement candidates.

All Fur Love Pet Adoption in Hayward

The Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, will have its annual "All Fur Love" pet adoption on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with cats, kittens, dogs, puppies, bunnies, Guinea pigs, and a rooster.

Adoptions are \$14 to all



qualified homes, which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations and microchip.

Photos are \$10 at the Valentine's Day Pet Booth from noon to 3 p.m. Proceeds benefit the animals. For more information, go to: www.haywardanimals.org/events.

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CITY CORNER

CURRENT ISSUES AND INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF SAN LEANDRO

Community Broadband Workshops

Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 p.m.

Marina Community Center, Room B, 15301 Wicks Blvd.

Wednesday, February 14, 6:00 p.m.

Main Library Lecture Hall, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The public is invited to attend one of two upcoming workshops to help the City prioritize broadband expansion opportunities for local residents. Attendees will learn more about expanding technologies available through broadband at home, and will be able to share their priorities and feedback that will help inform the City's Fiber Optic Master Plan. For more information, please visit www.sanleandronext.com or contact Debbie Acosta at dacosta@sanleandro.org or 577-3353.

AUTOMOTIVE

Highlander Hybrid Powers Up

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

The Highlander Hybrid adds two electric motors to the up-graded 3.5-liter V6 engine to make a powerful, roomy, and slightly cleaner version of Toyota's family crossover.

For 2017, you can drive home more affordable LE and XLE versions, matching more closely with the gasoline-only lineup. Formerly, the Hybrid was available only in a premium form with the Limited and Platinum models.

The Highlander is one of eight hybrids Toyota sells, as the company known for its hybrid expertise.

The Highlander blends a new, more powerful 3.5-liter V6 engine with a set of electric motors, positioned in the front and rear of the car. The larger motor in front, with 167 horsepower and 247 lb.-ft. of torque, shares front axle driving chores with the engine. The smaller rear motor, with 68 horsepower and 103 lb.-ft. of torque, helps

drive the rear wheels as part of the standard Electric On-Demand all-wheel-drive system.

Hybrid vehicles use electric motors to run the gasoline engine less, reducing fuel consumption. The Highlander Hybrid ends up being more powerful than the gasoline version, with total system horsepower of 306.

My Celestial Silver Metallic XLE test car earns fuel economy EPA ratings of 29 City, 27 Highway, and 28 Combined. Compare that with 20 City and 27 Highway for the gasoline version, and you can see that the improvement happens in town. A Start and Stop function turns the engine off when stopped, which helps reduce consumption.

I averaged 25.0 miles per gallon over a week of mixed driving — a bit below the EPA's estimates. The EPA Green figures of 8 for Smog and 6 for Greenhouse Gas are better than average.

The Highlander, now well into its third generation, provides a comfortable ride for a family

of up to eight in the lower models, and 7 in the higher models, which swap the middle bench for two comfy captain's chairs. The 4,464-pound crossover excels at mass transit, with easy-to-slide second-row seats for convenient third-row access.

The second- and third-row seats fold down to open up a big, long load floor. Even with the third row up, you still have 13.8 cubic feet of space behind it. Drop the 60/40 split second row and you've got a commodious 42.3 cubic feet.

The body is a little bit updated front and rear for 2017, but Highlander design remains standard Toyota truck fare, with a large, double-stack grille and slim, pulled-back headlamp pods up front. Bold cutouts along the lower doors and fender accents convey the right "macho" feel while still making the Highlander look right pulling up at the Opera.

Inside, this SUV has some chunky truck aesthetics, with its dash shelf under sections of black and silver that flow into different masses. The traditional two-gauge instrument panel is flanked by a large rectangular air vent on the left. On the right, the 4.2-inch info screen sits between two tall vents. Below lives a set of traditional climate controls.

My tester had a drop-down glasses holder in the ceiling that doubled as a wide-angle mirror for checking out the second- and third-row seat activity. The Driver Easy Speak feature uses a microphone up front to broadcast parental instruction to the rear speakers. This is the first I've ever heard of such a thing. There are five USB



The Toyota Highlander Hybrid comes in the choice of LE, XLE, Limited and Limited Platinum grades.

ports, assuming everybody needs a charge or connection.

The Highlander starts with a well-equipped LE base model and adds some worthwhile upgrades to each level. On the outside, selected LE highlights include LED taillights and stoplights, heated power outside mirrors, and 18-inch alloy wheels. The XLE adds a power moonroof, a wheel upgrade, roof rails, and a rear hatch window.

The upper models bump the wheel size to 19 inches and add projector-beam headlamps and puddle lamps on the Limited and a panoramic moonroof and rain-sensing wipers on the Platinum.

Inside, the XLE upgrades to three-zone automatic climate control, an overhead console, second-row window shades, leather seats and steering wheel, and more. The Limited adds a backup camera, ventilation for the front seats, and auto up and down on



The Highlander Platinum model features 19-inch wheels.

the power windows. The Platinum brings in a Bird's Eye View Camera, and even more configurable power seats and steering wheel controls.

Prices start at \$37,210 for the LE model. My XLE base-priced at \$42,270. The Limited checks in at \$45,700, with the Limited Platinum topping out at \$48,820. All prices include the \$940 destination charge. My car had an optional Rear Seat BluRay DVD entertainment system (\$1,810) so it listed for \$44,080.

The Highlander fills a popular spot in the Toyota lineup. The Hybrid powertrain increases fuel economy numbers for this commodious family hauler to figures that used to be expected from compact sedans.

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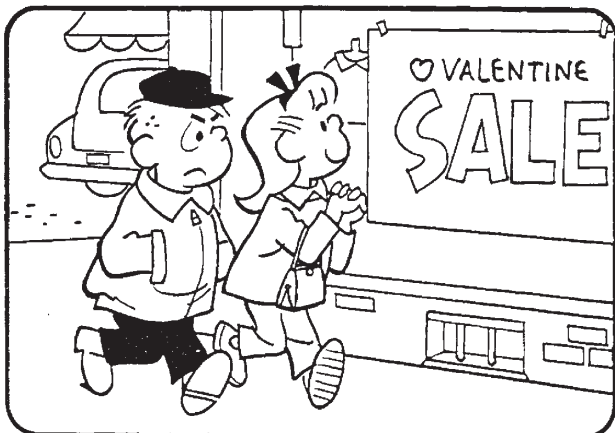


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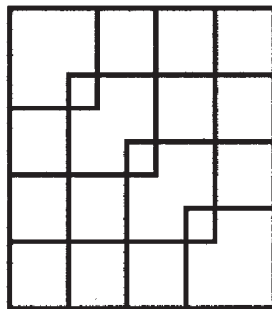


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Car is different. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Hair is different. 4. Pocketbook is missing. 5. Sign is different. 6. Basement window. 7. Baseboard is missing.

Puzzle Card



HOW MANY different-size "squares" are in the above drawing?

Answer: 27.

AN ODD CHALLENGE! Challenge your friends to devise a way for a farmer to put 21 pigs in four pens and still have an odd number of pigs in each pen. Our drawing shows how this is done with the fourth, larger pen surrounding the other three pens. In this way, each pen contains an odd number of pigs.



PAR HERE IS FOUR! At the right is a Word Square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same across and down.

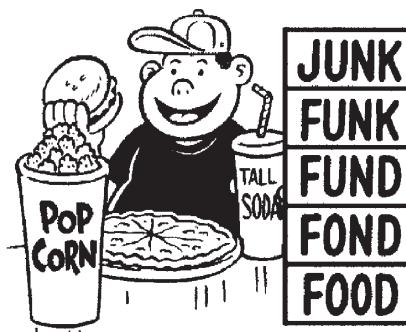
1. Carries the clubs (in place).
2. An eagle's nest.
3. A serious play.
4. A famous march.
5. Causes dough to rise.

1	C	2	A	3	D	4	D	5	Y
2	A								
3	D								
4	D								
5	Y								

Answers: 1. Caddy. 2. Caddy. 3. Aerie. 4. Drama. 5. Yeast.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



SOME SALTY PROBLEMS!

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed JUNK to FOOD in four moves. See if you can change each of the following words in four moves — and in less than five minutes.

1. FORE to HAND
2. POND to LAKE
3. MAIM to WELL
4. RATS to PEST
5. SCOW to BOAT

Answers:
1. FORE, FARE, HARE, HARD, HAND.
2. POND, PONE, PANE, LANE, LAKE.
3. MAIM, MAIL, MALL, WELL.
4. RATS, PATS, PASS, PAST, PEST.
5. SCOW, SCOT, SOOT, BOOT, BOAT.

Illustrated by David Coulson

SENIORS

Amending a Trust Isn't Always a Simple Task

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

Q My late wife and I set up a trust about 10 years ago, and now I want to change the Successor Trustee and remove a beneficiary. Is that a simple thing to do?

A. Like so many things in life, it depends. Here are some of the considerations:

Is It Amendable? Is It Amendable? Not all trusts can be amended, which often comes as a surprise to clients. If your trust was set up years ago, it is likely that it included tax-saving provisions requiring that, upon your wife's demise, her share be allocated to an irrevocable sub-trust (often called a "By-Pass," Exemption, Credit Shelter, or just plain "B" Sub-Trust).

By design, and in order to achieve tax-saving objectives under then existing tax law, those sub-trusts could not be amended by the survivor, and could usually be changed only by court order. However, your own share, typically called the "Survivor's Trust", could be amended.

Are There Other Provisions That Require Change? When we review older trusts, we often discover other provisions that should also be changed.

Examples: adding provisions to coordinate the trust with a Power of Attorney so as to permit further changes, in the event of your later incapacity, as need requires and/or to facilitate Medi-Cal long term care planning; including HIPAA Privacy Waiver provisions to facilitate assumption of responsibility by the named Successor Trustee in the event that the prior trustee becomes incapacitated; adding Special Needs provisions to protect the inheritance of beneficiaries receiving public benefits, such as SSI or Medi-Cal.

To be sure, the same issue presents as to whether we can amend the trust without a court order.

Amendment vs. Restatement? If a change can be made, the next consideration is whether to do so by Amendment or by a complete Restatement.

A Restatement is often preferred: upon your later demise, when it comes time to send out the statutory notices to beneficiaries and heirs in connection with formal trust administration, a Restatement often turns out to have

been the better choice.

Reason: Unlike an Amendment, a Restatement does not require that the prior version of the trust go out with the notices. You can imagine the benefit to family harmony to avoid having to reveal that an originally named trustee or beneficiary was later replaced.

Professional Responsibility: An analogy from the medical field may be helpful: imagine calling a new physician seeking only a prescription for a persistent stomach ache. It is doubtful that any doctor

would accommodate your request without a physical exam and appropriate lab work.

The situation is much the same for members of my profession. When an attorney reviews an existing trust with an eye toward making even the simplest change, he or she then becomes responsible for the entire trust. Most attorneys take this responsibility very seriously.

That said, much good often comes from requests like yours: if the trust is amendable, we can often amend the trust to make it

more suitable to the client's present circumstances and current tax law.

Alternatively, if it is only amendable by court order, we can evaluate the option of petitioning the court for authority to reform the trust. Indeed, these client requests for changes often end up rescuing what might otherwise be a document badly in need of reform.

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



Medicare allows patients the ability to exercising your right to appeal a hospital's discharge decision.

Here's Three Ways to Cut Hearing Aid Costs

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Unfortunately, for many years the high cost of hearing aids has kept millions of Americans with hearing loss from getting hearing aids because they can't afford them.

Hearing aids – typically sold through audiologists' offices – are expensive, usually ranging between \$1,000 and \$4,000 per ear, and are not typically covered by private insurance or traditional Medicare.

But there's good news on the horizon. Last summer President Trump signed the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 into law. This will allow people with mild to moderate hearing loss to buy hearing aids without consulting an audiologist, and the devices could sell for between \$250 and \$300 at drugstores and other retailers.

The only problem is that it will be a couple more years before these OTC hearing aids are available to consumers. So in the

meantime, here are some tips that can help you find some affordable options.

• Check Your Insurance

While most private health insurance companies do not cover hearing aids, there are some that do.

For example, Aetna members can purchase aids at a discount through certain suppliers, and United Healthcare offers hearing aids to their beneficiaries through HealthInnovations for \$799 to \$999 each.

You should also know that some federal workers can get their hearing aids covered by health insurance, as can eligible veterans through the Department of Veter-

ans Affairs.

Or, if you are a Medicare recipient, about half of all Medicare Advantage plans offer at least partial coverage or discounts on hearing exams and devices. So, be sure you check your insurance coverage to see if it offers any type of hearing aid benefit.

• Shop Around

To help you save money, consider shopping at Costco, which offers no-cost screenings at certain locations, as well as very competitive prices. Hearing aids there range between \$500 and \$1,500 each.

You can also shop online at websites like EmbraceHearing.com and Audicus.com, which can

save you up to \$2,000 per pair. Then visit a local specialist to make any necessary adjustments.

Another option worth a look is over-the-counter personal sound amplification products (or PSAPs). Unlike hearing aids, the Food and Drug Administration does not regulate PSAPs. And PSAP manufacturers are not allowed to call these products hearing aids or claim that they help hearing.

But these devices are very effective for people with mild to moderate hearing impairment, and typically cost between \$350 and \$450 each. To find a wide variety of PSAPs see assistive listening sites like Harris Communications

(HarrisComm.com, or call 866-476-9579).

• Look For Assistance

If your income is low, there is a number of national, state and independent groups that can help you pay for hearing aids or offer discounts. To find them, visit the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association website at ASHA.org/public/coverage/audfundingresources. Or, call the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at 800-241-1044, and ask them to mail you their list of financial resources for hearing aids.

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

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Bad Crab Legs Cost Couple \$36,000

A couple purchasing a home were counting the days to closing. With two days to go, their lender called. "We can't pull your credit scores for final verification," she said. "Your accounts are frozen."

The wife went online, unfroze the accounts, and received another call. "I've got your reports now but your scores aren't there. If we can't fix this, we'll have to go with a conventional loan using your earlier scores. You'll lose your rate lock," she clarified. "The new rate is .03 higher."

The wife ran some calculations with an online calculator and discovered the increased interest rate would cost \$100/month — \$36,000 over the life of the loan.

In a panic, she called the credit reporting companies. On the phone she was told, "It seems that you have a transaction in dispute, and when something is in dispute, it doesn't get reported to us."

In a flash, the wife realized what was happening. A few months prior, they had visited a

restaurant for lunch. It was awful. The husband's order of crab legs came out and, before tasting them, he realized they were bad. The wife confirmed. He called the waiter and ordered a lobster tail instead.

The wife started eating her entrée and quickly discovered there were issues with it as well. Time was an issue so she kept eating, but her husband's order did not come until she was almost completely done. When it finally arrived, it had the wrong sides.

Once on the road, they discovered that not only had the restaurant not comped them anything, they'd been charged the higher price for the husband's reordered entrée. The wife went online and disputed the charge.

The credit card company called a couple of weeks later asking for more information, and then sent another request the following week for more information. Life had been busy, so the wife had not completed the paperwork.

In the wife's words, "I called and stopped the dispute, then called the credit bureaus, but it

was too late. This crummy meal is the reason that we lost our rate lock and will pay thousands more for our house.

Eighteen years of excellent credit, a mortgage paid in full, zero debt... none of it mattered. Only the last six months on one revolving credit line that temporarily disappeared — thanks to a bad batch of crab legs — which were not worth \$36,000.

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.



2096 Hillside Cir., San Leandro • Open Sunday 1-4

This updated single-level home is located in the North San Leandro neighborhood of Bay-O-Vista. Some of the many amenities include approx. 2,089 square feet of living space, 3+ bedrooms, 2 full baths, family room with fireplace and back yard access, chef's kitchen with breakfast nook and remodeled master bathroom. The expanded master suite has lots of closet space and a bonus area. Other features include attached 2 car garage with interior access. Offered at \$849,000. For more information, contact Michelle R. Miller, Associate Broker, of Pacific Union at 510-701-3442. BRE# 01012751



Vegetables

February is the month to start planting gladioluses. Select bulbs now and follow up with additional plantings at three-week intervals to extend the blooming season. Other bulbs for spring and early summer bloom that can be planted now include achimenes, agapanthus, amaryllis, tuberous begonias, calla lilies, canna lilies, dahlias, daylilies and irises.

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro

202 Cherrywood Avenue	94577: \$730,000	2 BD - 1,308 SF - 1937
687 Dolores Avenue	94577: \$716,000	2 BD - 1,794 SF - 1948
651 Durant Avenue	94577: \$850,000	3 BD - 1,855 SF - 1925
1785 Hays Street	94577: \$660,000	3 BD - 1,262 SF - 1929
2471 Limehouse Lane	94577: \$599,000	4 BD - 1,858 SF - 1978
949 Melcher Street	94577: \$551,000	3 BD - 1,164 SF - 1944
1374 Pacific Avenue	94577: \$538,000	3 BD - 1,011 SF - 1943
1129 Tulip Lane	94577: \$695,000	4 BD - 1,742 SF - 1994
789 Wrin Avenue	94577: \$810,000	5 BD - 3,161 SF - 1951
364 Anza Way	94578: \$670,000	3 BD - 1,384 SF - 1954
286 Caliente Drive	94578: \$405,000	2 BD - 1,060 SF - 1980
15991 Cambrian Drive	94578: \$705,000	3 BD - 1,170 SF - 1952
1930 Howe Drive	94578: \$612,500	4 BD - 1,922 SF - 1956
1944 Howe Drive	94578: \$612,500	6 BD - 2,262 SF - 1942
14777 Lark Street	94578: \$569,000	2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1945
14974 Patton Avenue	94578: \$643,000	3 BD - 1,452 SF - 1945
16703 Rolando Avenue	94578: \$750,000	4 BD - 2,691 SF - 2002
14715 Van Avenue	94578: \$253,000	N/A BD - 720 SF - 1940
1165 Burkhardt Avenue	94579: \$522,500	2 BD - 842 SF - 1950
1570 Burkhardt Avenue	94579: \$585,000	3 BD - 1,332 SF - 1957
1026 Manor Boulevard	94579: \$600,000	3 BD - 1,020 SF - 1949
14966 Swenson Street	94579: \$618,000	3 BD - 1,073 SF - 1952
14499 Wiley Street	94579: \$450,000	3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1952

TOTAL SALES: 23
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$253,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$612,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$850,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$614,978

Castro Valley

20401 Alameda Street	94546: \$708,000	3 BD - 1,747 SF - 1960
20957 Ashfield Avenue	94546: \$975,000	4 BD - 2,910 SF - 1956
3284 Dominic Drive	94546: \$670,000	3 BD - 1,064 SF - 1955
3481 Middleton Avenue	94546: \$795,000	3 BD - 1,627 SF - 1955
2505 Miramar Avenue	94546: \$462,500	2 BD - 918 SF - 1988
18295 Pepper Street	94546: \$1,045,000	3 BD - 2,239 SF - 1959
21342 Rizzo Avenue	94546: \$558,000	2 BD - 1,100 SF - 1947
3848 Somerset Avenue	94546: \$1,000,000	8 BD - 5,856 SF - 1994
2322 Vestal Avenue	94546: \$600,000	2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1948
20111 West Ridge Court	94546: \$570,000	2 BD - 1,440 SF - 1977
25552 Crestfield Circle	94552: \$1,210,000	4 BD - 2,334 SF - 1998
25568 Crestfield Circle	94552: \$1,150,000	4 BD - 2,605 SF - 1998
24543 Palomares Road	94552: \$796,500	N/A BD - N/A SF - N/A

TOTAL SALES: 13
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$462,500 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$795,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,210,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$810,769

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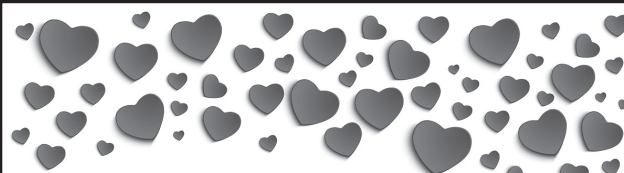
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Give Asparagus Plenty of Room to Grow

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q Can a novice like myself be successful growing asparagus or should I stick to the more traditional vegetables for my first vegetable garden?

A Asparagus isn't that difficult to grow, but it does need a dedicated area.

Unlike tomatoes and lettuce, asparagus is a long-term perennial vegetable, producing for 15 years or longer. You'll need to select a location that will not interfere with your other seasonal crops.

Asparagus is grown in a trench that is 12 inches wide and deep or a raised bed that's 18 inches deep and 3 feet across at any length.

Asparagus plants or crowns are centered in the trench and spaced a foot apart. However, in a raised bed, you will want to plant in a diamond pattern. Use compost, to amend the native soil and add vegetable food.

Two-year-old asparagus plants are available now, and they will start producing next year.

Spears are harvested when they get to about six or seven inches tall. They can be cut at an angle

or snapped off just above the soil level.

The harvesting period is about two to three weeks after the spears start to show. So, keep a close eye out, they grow fast!

After harvesting, allow the fern growth to grow; this replenishes the nutrients for next year's production.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers (www.dirtgardener.com). Email dirtgarden@aol.com.



BUZZ BERTOLERO
THE DIRT GARDENER

OPEN HOMES SATURDAY & SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10TH & 11TH



CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
H	—	1-4	96 Mero Street	\$485,000	3/1	Re/Max Accord	Lovewell Team	351-5555
A	—	1-4	868 Linwood Way	\$639,000	3/1	Berkshire/Hathaway	Brent team	381-1065
A	—	1-4	2096 Hillside Circle	\$849,000	3+2	Pacific Union	Michelle Miller	701-3442
O	2-4	2-4	4405 Carson Street	\$999,000	4/2.5	Wells & Bennett	Tess Blengino	485-7249
F	12:30-3:30	12:30-3:30	1313 Grosventres Court	\$1,518,500	3/2.5	Re/Max Accord	Lovewell Team	351-5555

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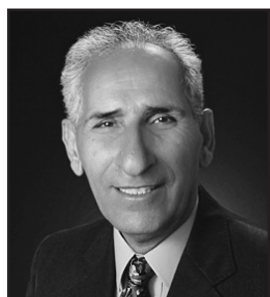
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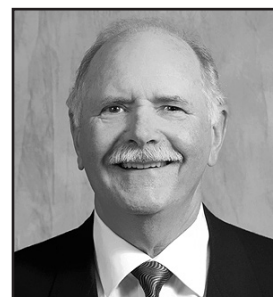
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HOME SERVICES GUIDE
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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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Speakers: Mayor says council will wait to see results of investigation

continued from front page

her during a series of meetings the pair had alone together over a four-year period in a parked car in the Foster's Freeze parking lot.

Before Johnson's accusations were made public last month, Zapata sent out a 23-page letter from his city email account preemptively denying wrongdoing and saying Johnson was retaliating against him for demanding Davis Street repay an overdue loan of public money owned to the city.

"When allegations are made, a fundamental question is what motives are related," wrote Zapata.

The speakers at the City Council meeting were promoted by public relations guru Sam Singer, who was hired by Johnson to handle her publicity after she made her allegations.

Adrian Williams, Johnson's former administrative assistant, said she witnessed Johnson and Zapata's professional relations degrade and saw Johnson return from meetings with Zapata look-

"I remember when she would come back from meetings visibly shaken."

— Rose Johnson's assistant
Adrian Williams

ing upset.

"I managed her calendar for three years," said Williams. "I remember when he stopped taking her calls. I remember when she would come back from meetings visibly shaken."

On Dec. 8, Johnson's attorney sent a letter to the City Attorney and City Council saying that Zapata tried to coerce her into a romantic relationship in exchange for help in funding her charity organization.

The City Council held four closed-session (private) meetings on the city manager. On Dec. 22,

the City Council hired attorney Karen Kramer, who specializes in workplace law, to handle the investigation. Kramer charges \$295 per hour.

On Jan. 23, the City Council put Zapata on paid administrative leave. The City Council did not announce that it had hired Kramer until after the allegations were made public in Zapata's letter. The hiring of Kramer is not subject to the Brown Act (a state law requiring meetings to be public), according to interim city manager Jeff Kay.

Many of the speakers Monday night questioned why the investigator was not hired immediately after Johnson made her accusation and why Zapata was not placed on leave as soon as the investigation began.

"You failed her," said speaker Amy Chappelle, a Davis Street employee.

Susan Cota, vice president of the Davis Street board of directors, told the council that Zapata should have been placed on leave before he had the chance

"I am highly suspicious of the timing... the billions of dollars involved in cannabis..."

— City Manager Chris Zapata

to release his letter via his work email account.

"We are deeply disappointed in the council's handling of this issue," said Cota. "By your inaction, you allowed the city manager to continue to defame Ms. Johnson."

Speaker Victor Aguilar (who is on the San Leandro school board) said that by Zapata's own admission in his letter, at least two City Council members confronted him about his behavior toward Johnson months before Johnson filed her complaint. (In

the letter, Zapata also says he told the council members that nothing untoward happened between him and Johnson.)

"The City Council has treated Ms. Johnson with skepticism and dismissal," said Aguilar. This city must hold Zapata responsible for his actions and terminate his contract."

Mayor Pauline Cutter has said the city believes in due process, so the council will wait for the results of the investigation.

In his letter, Zapata questioned the timing of Johnson's allegations, especially given the current political and social climate.

"I am highly suspicious of the timing of this new allegation: the white hot movement sweeping the world involving men sexually harassing women, the upcoming San Leandro Mayor and City Council elections, and the many stories about the billions of dollars involved in the cannabis movement are three reasons," Zapata wrote.

And not every speaker called

for Zapata's dismissal. Speaker Darlene Evans said she believes Zapata's assessment that financial pressure stemming from Davis Street's involvement in medical marijuana was the reason for the accusation. She also said that Johnson should not have met with Zapata alone a dozen times if she was feeling harassed.

"It may be that financial constraints are the backing for these accusations," said Evans. "Harassment can't start if you aren't near the person. You have feet, you can walk away."

Because the group of speakers were there to talk about a matter that was not on the City Council's agenda, the council could not comment on the statements. And Mayor Cutter has said the city will not be commenting on the matter until Kramer's investigation is complete.

"The City of San Leandro does not tolerate nor condone harassment of any type," said Cutter in a written statement at the time of Zapata's suspension.

"It also believes in due process."

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LOCAL DEATHS


PETERSON, Charlie J.

■ **Peterson, Charlie J.,** Charlie J. Peterson passed away peacefully on January 30, 2018 at the age of 71. A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held on Thursday February 8, 2018 at Santos-Robinson Mortuary 160 Estudillo Ave. San Leandro, CA beginning at 11:00AM Interment to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in

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Charles F. Bumcrot



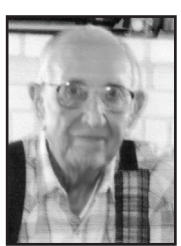
It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Charles F. Bumcrot, 92 of San Leandro, Calif. on Friday, January 26, 2018. He is survived by his loving wife of over 72 years, Dorothea (Dot) Bumcrot, wonderful father of Doral Main (Daryl), San Leandro, Calif. and Charles Bumcrot Jr (Holly) of Millburn, New Jersey. Loving grandfather to Jodi Cumming (Andrew), Trevor Main (Stacey), Kevin and Hailey Bumcrot. Great Grandfather to Brenden, Austin, AJ and Brody.

Chuck was a US Navy Veteran serving from 1943-46 stationed at Alameda NAS. He worked as a truck driver for Mobil Oil Corporation for over 32 years. After retiring, he was an active member of SIR Branch #26 for 30 years holding various offices, traveling extensively, golfing and making many life-long friends. Chuck along with his wife, were active members of San Leandro Senior Center taking classes and traveling for several years. He was an active member of the San Lorenzo First Christian Church until its closure and then attended the San Lorenzo Community Church until recently where he loved his church family. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends for his kindness, deep devotion to his family and wonderful sense of humor. Our lives have been forever changed by his presence.

Memorial Service will be held on February 18, 2018 at 2 p.m., at Grissom's Chapel and Mortuary, 267 E. Lewelling Blvd., San Lorenzo Calif. In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated."

Robert Matthew Imwalle

March 14, 1921 - January 21, 2018



Bob, as he was known, loved his life of family, camping, fishing, working for Breuners and was an adamant reader. He loved going to Oregon for 4 months each summer for many years with his wife Betty. His one greatest joy was his great-grandson Manny. They were close buddies and were always excited to see each other. Manny promised him someday to do his 100th birthday. That just may happen with them together now!

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 74 years, Betty. His daughters Norma and Janice. His parents Matthew and Evelyn Imwalle, sister Lucille Jeans and brothers Raymond and James and his great-grandson Manny all predeceased him. He is survived by lots of nephews and nieces. He is also survived by his son-in-law Ron, 3 granddaughters, 4 great-grandkids, camping friends and friends in the neighborhood.

Bob worked for Breuners Furniture for many, many years until his retirement, and was a member of Teamsters Local 70 and Local 853.

His life was full and even though we certainly miss him, he had a wonderful life and now at true peace.

Funeral service took place on February 1, 2018 at Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward. The family requests donations to be made to Dementia Society of America or to The American Heart Association.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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ACROSS

- Greek consonant
- Cold War weapon
- 2000 election scrap
- Fool
- Law office worker, for short
- "Les Miserables" author
- Accelerator
- Quite excited
- Tidy (up)
- Altar affirmative
- Vanna's cohort
- Flame from a burner
- Impersonator
- Whatever amount
- Timetable abbr.
- "American ___"
- Golfer Ernie
- Bivouac structure
- Fresh
- Individual
- Emanations
- Big talker
- Morsel
- Playwright Levin
- Strong points
- Not up and about
- 1944 Boyer/Bergman film
- Burden
- Otherwise
- Exist
- Wrong
- God, in Guadalajara
- Doo-wop syllable

DOWN

- Labels
- Pronto
- Beatles' "Back in the ___"
- Poison antidote, maybe
- West Point newbie
- Top supporter
- Slanders
- Utter disorder
- Embrace
- Past
- Pooch
- Student
- Rotation duration
- Scoff
- Sicilian spouter
- Makes lace
- Chinese dynasty
- Notion
- Neatens the lawn
- Microbrewery product
- Betrothed
- Rwandan tribe
- Scul tool
- Grocery areas
- Hen
- ___ profundo
- "Zounds!"
- From one end to t'other
- Branch
- Carte lead-in
- Acknowledge applause
- Listener
- Foreman foe

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

Zoning: Homeowners oppose apartment plan on Bancroft Avenue

continued from front page
have to be done today.”

City staff estimated that a complete overhaul of the zoning code would require hiring an outside agency and could cost \$200,000. The City Council proved a smaller, in-house \$15,000 effort

focused on the “P” zone.

At a meeting Monday night, the council voted 4-3 to make the zoning amendments, with councilmen Lee Thomas, Benny Lee, and Ed Hernandez dissenting.

The dissenting staff members said

that the project was not a priority for them and should perhaps be considered for 2019. They also said they did not want to create the impression that the city was spot zoning to kill a specific project.

Silva and his supporters said that the city would be doing just that.

“I’m the target of the proceedings before you,” Silva told the council. “This is politically motivated spot zoning at its worst.”

Bill Mulgrew of the Rental Housing Association said the changes to zoning could make it more difficult to provide housing during a housing shortage. He said the city has better things to do and the council was being pressured by neighbors to change the zoning.

“Put an end to the unnecessary use of staff time on housecleaning,” said Mulgrew. “Now we are hearing the strident voice of NIMBYism. We are in a housing crisis, every unit counts.”

But several Estudillo Estates homeowners were also at the meeting, urging

the city to make the zoning changes.

Speaker Rose Riskind asked the city to let community members be a part of the decision making process when zoning changes are made.

“Instead of going to an outside source, return to local residents and the business community,” said Riskind. “Put residents and local business knowledge to use so we aren’t here fighting you.”

Mayor Pauline Cutter said that it was apparent that the zoning code is confusing to the public and denied that the city was targeting Silva.

“I do believe we need this cleaned up,” said Cutter. “I don’t believe in spot zoning. I understand the angst, but we also want to see growth in our town.”

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer’s name, address and phone number, and **must be under 300 words**. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

‘To Make a Difference in Someone’s Life, Write a Check to Davis Street’

Editor:

This is in response to Diana Souza’s letter “Questions how Davis Street Intends to Repay \$325,000 Loan To the City,” (Letters, Feb. 1).

Over 25-plus years of service to those of lesser means, wow.

Now having been involved with Davis Street for a number of years, setting up the health fair, I’ve watched this woman react to people always wanting, needing, in dire straits. Not a job for the faint of heart.

It takes one thing to do it that long, not money, not time, but the one thing you rarely see today in any nonprofit, that is commitment.

Don’t be fooled by that background noise. Visit Davis Street, sit in the lobby for an hour.

If you’ve been lucky enough to be born under a lucky star, beautiful, good for you. If you want to make a difference in someone’s life, write a check to Davis Street. Your money is safe.

—Larry Arnold
San Leandro

Calls for Termination of City Manager Zapata’s Contract

Editor:

My name is Victor Aguilar. While I am a San Leandro Unified School District Board Trustee, I am writing on behalf of myself; not the school board.

Too often complaints of sexual harassment are met with skepticism and dismissal. When a well-respected man is accused by a woman of sexual harassment, the first response traditionally has been to question the women’s character and truth. But society is changing for the better and San Leandro needs to keep up with the times.

In Mr. Zapata’s 23-page memorandum, he says that in early 2017 Council members Pete Ballew and Ed Hernandez told the Mayor that they had heard allegations that Mr. Zapata engaged in inappropriate behavior towards Rose Johnson.

In response to Council member Ballew’s information, the Mayor and City Attorney met privately with Mr. Zapata. He denied the allegation. The Mayor and City Attorney believed Mr. Zapata. Nothing was done.

In response to Council member Hernandez’s information, Mr. Zapata was asked to address the City Council in closed session. He did and denied the allegation. The City Council believed Mr. Zapata. Again, nothing was done.

Ms. Johnson is a pillar of the community. She has twenty-six years as a leader of one of the city’s premier non-profit organizations. Yet, the City Council treat-

ed the possibility that Mr. Zapata sexually harassed Ms. Johnson with skepticism and dismissal.

Ms. Johnson submitted her formal complaint last December. In response, the City Council should have placed Mr. Zapata on a leave of absence while an investigation was conducted. It did not.

Only after Mr. Zapata attacked Ms. Johnson and the others in his memorandum did the City Council place Mr. Zapata on a leave of absence. But, it is a *paid* leave of absence. According to Transparent California, Chris Zapata received a total annual compensation of \$340,653.

The taxpayers of San Leandro should not be paying tens of thousands of dollars a month for Mr. Zapata to stay away from City Hall. He retaliated against Ms. Johnson for her making a claim of sexual harassment. Mr. Zapata sought to and did tarnish her reputation in the community.

This is unjust! This is an abuse of power! The City of San Leandro needs to right this wrong. The City must hold Mr. Zapata accountable for his actions and terminate his contract.

—Victor Aguilar, Jr.
San Leandro

Says ‘Mean-Spirited’ NIMBYs will Stop Growth, Raise Taxes

Editor:

Rose Riskind, Stephen Cassidy and the rest of the North Area NIMBYs want to raise your taxes. As they continue to do everything possible to limit our growth in San Leandro through rezoning, the results of their actions speak loud and clear: Our budget is now projected to be in the red once again.

No one is flocking to San Leandro on the business front and so new property taxes at 2018 assessments is about the only solution to solve our financial problems as we continue to watch our retail base shrink. Stephen Cassidy proclaimed recently on social media that San Leandro’s 90,000 people are too much as it is with traffic congestion, so it appears to me that he and his NIMBY minions are going to stop growth at any cost.

Let’s become the tony exclusive enclave they all want. What will be the first to go with a shrinking city budget though – decreased police coverage since the paper reported one police officer now cost the city \$270,000 per year. Or maybe we should reduce library hours and staff. Or better yet, let’s continue to drive on potholed filled roads.

Our city’s only hope to balance the budget going forward now that Rose Riskind, Stephen Cassidy and the other North Area NIMBYs have done such a good job of showing the entire region just how nasty and truly mean spirited San

Leandro NIMBYs can be is to raise the sales tax on all of us. We were the first in Alameda County to have a sales tax over 10%, can a 12.5 or 15% sales tax be far off?

—Gary Langbehn
San Leandro

Accuses GOP and Democrats of Supporting Cheap Immigrant Labor

Editor:

Here comes Bruce Joffe (“Proud of Dems Who are Standing Firm to Renew DACA Program,” Letters, Feb. 1) writing behind his blinders again: “Eight hundred thousand Americans trusted our government when they registered to become ‘legal’ under the DACA program.”

If they were “Americans,” why did they need a special program? Joffe pretends to ignore that it was a unilateral decision by a crooked president who decided to bypass the Congress and thus, it has rightly been rescinded.

Joffe also resorts to the fraudulent figure of a 70% support for illegal scabs. He still doesn’t understand why Hillary Clinton lost and he’s not going to learn anything by reading “What Happened.”

“Fake news, folks; fake news.” Donald J. Trump won the election because of his promise that “They’ll all have to go,” referring to illegals.

However, strangely enough, Joffe finds himself now in the same camp with Donald Trump, who’s offered to legalize 1,800,000 of the illegal scabs. Joffe’s blinders don’t allow him to remember that it was a Republican president, Ronald Reagan, who gave an amnesty to illegal scabs in order to encourage millions more to cross the border to usurp U.S. workers’ jobs; displacing them from meat packing plants, construction jobs, sections of auto plants outsourced to machine shops with illegal scabs. Even cities’ maintenance departments’ jobs have been outsourced to contractors who employ illegal scabs, with the consequence of U.S. workers unions’ membership falling to a mere 10% in the country, with the collateral attack on wages and working conditions.

I’d bet that Bruce Joffe’s never held a job in the areas affected by illegal immigration.

Democrats and Republicans love cheap scab labor, they’re the representatives of the corporations that benefit from it, hence the original opposition from many Republicans to the Trump’s campaign slogan, and it also explains the gradual turn into an “amnesty Don.”

In addition, we’re also asked to believe that these illegals are all “good, hard working people with business building spirit” creating businesses like “Acapulco Liquors,” the marijuana stores, the “Mara Salvatrucha,” “Familia Mejicana” or “Mexican Mafia.”

If you’re already tired of this, you can always tune in the Padilla-Zapata “novela” and the “Me Too” movement of recovered memory.

—Leo T. West
San Leandro

INQUIRING REPORTER

If you could be any age?

— Asked around town

I’ll say about 25. That’s when I started working for PG&E and I was young and healthy.

Al Weinberger
San Leandro



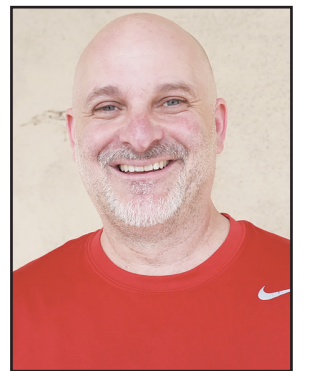
A senior in high school, 18. I was grown but didn’t have all the responsibility of a full-fledged adult. At 18 you can vote and you can stay out later and have more freedom.

Pierre Harper
Sheffield Village



I would be 99. To see my kids and grandkids grow up and to grow old with my wife.

James LaRossa
San Leandro



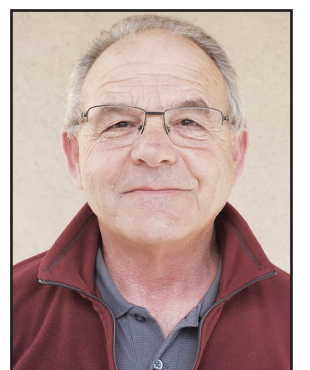
I would like to be 29 again. I was all done having kids then – three, to be exact – and I had the best husband in the whole world. So why not?

Shirley Rocha
San Leandro



I would be 40. If I had the benefit of knowing what I know now, I would have done some things differently. The benefit of wisdom.

Alan Osofsky
Castro Valley,
works in San Leandro



Arroyo Pulls Out Win in 4th Period at San Lorenzo, 68-60

By Andrew Joseph
San Leandro Times

Arroyo High pulled ahead in the fourth quarter to come away with a 68-60 win on the road against crosstown rival San Lorenzo on Friday night.

Arroyo star point guard Nikko Echalas led the Dons offense throughout the game. The game went through multiple lead changes until the closing minutes of the final quarter, when Arroyo

because San Lorenzo shot 23 free throws by halftime and we only shot one," said Echalas.

San Lorenzo opened the second half with a defensive rebound by Campbell which led to a layup by sophomore power forward Aaron Jacobs to give the Rebels a 30-29 lead. Sophomore power forward Aaron Jacobs led all Rebels' scorers with 27 points, Campbell finished with 14 points, and senior point guard Elmor Arciaga added 11 points.

"I give him one name - Superman - because he does everything."

— Arroyo head coach Mike Budge about Dons guard Nikko Echalas

finally pulled away with their amazing defense.

"Nikko is the heart and soul of our team and he was huge for us tonight," said Dons' Head Coach Mike Budge. "I give him one name - that's 'Superman' - because he does everything, he rebounds, he defends, he gets steals, he scores, and he makes free-throws."

San Lorenzo won the tipoff and it was a one-possession game most of the first half. Rebels' forward Saveon Campbell came to the free throw line at the end of the second quarter after a San Lorenzo steal to close the gap to a 29-28 Arroyo lead at halftime.

The Dons realized by halftime that they were giving San Lorenzo too many shots from the free throw line.

"Coach told our guys at halftime to clean up our defense

Rebels Mascot to Change

San Lorenzo's mascot might soon be changed by the school board from the Rebels with its Confederate connotation, to Phoenix, the bird in classical mythology that lived in the Arabian desert, burned itself in a funeral pyre and rose from the ashes with renewed youth.

The game was tied at 33 with 5:30 left in the third period, but it was the fourth quarter when Arroyo fans erupted after a huge 3-pointer by sophomore Dons guard Rylan Murray to give the Dons a 59-53 lead.

The Dons also changed from a 2-3 defense to a man-to-man defense that proved more effective. Echalas sealed the victory with two minutes left in the game when he made a critical layup to give Arroyo a five-point lead.

"The defense was everything tonight," said Coach Budge. "We threw four different defenses at San Lorenzo tonight, a couple we saved just for this game."

Echalas led all Arroyo scorers with 37 points, sophomore forward Rylan Murray finished with nine, senior guard Jeremy Bills also finished with nine, and junior forward James Huang-Wilson added seven.

"Tonight's game was such a big game for us to win because of the rivalry between the two



PHOTO BY ANDREW JOSEPH

Arroyo guard Nikko Echalas (No. 2) drives in the paint against San Lorenzo defenders in the second quarter in the San Lorenzo gym on Friday night.

schools and also our race to make NCS," said Murray. "To win against Tennyson we have to keep the same tempo going that we had for this game."

The Dons' victory moves them to 10-12 overall looking to reach the .500 mark before the regular season ends, and 4-3 in league play needing to win three

of their remaining four games to make the NCS playoffs. San Lorenzo is still on pace to make the NCS playoffs at 4-2 in league play and 13-9 overall.

This Friday, Arroyo travels to Tennyson in Hayward for a game at 7 p.m. San Lorenzo also will travel to Hayward on Friday to play Hayward High at 7:30 p.m.

SL Demo Club to Host Candidate Forum

The San Leandro Democratic Club will host a forum for candidates running this year for the San Leandro City Council and San Leandro school board and the Alameda County district attorney

on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The candidates who plan to attend include District Attorney

Nancy O'Malley and district attorney candidate Pamela Price, a civil rights attorney; City Councilman Lee Thomas, candidate Victor Aguilar, Jr.; City Councilwoman

Deborah Cox, candidate Kenneth Pon; City Councilwoman Corina Lopez; school board member Leo Sheridan, and school board candidate Christian Rodriguez.

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New Playground at Warden Park

Warden Park in the Davis West neighborhood will soon be the recipient of a brand new playground, the City of San Leandro announced last week.

The park will be closed for a few months while the work is

underway. The park improvements will include two new play structures. The amenities were selected by students at Wilson Elementary School along with advice from the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Davis

West neighborhood.

The playground will include separate play structures for preschoolers and school-aged children. The footprint of the existing playground will also be expanded, and will include the addition of a spinner, a modern-day merry-go-round, new swings, a see-saw and diggers.

In order to begin preparations for the new installations, the park closed on Feb. 1. The installation is expected to take several months, and the new playground will be unveiled in the late spring or early summer.

"I am so excited to announce this exciting project at Warden Park," said Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter. "This new playground is part of a broader effort by the City to upgrade various local parks all across San Leandro to improve the quality of life for our residents and their families, making it easier to get out and get moving."

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