



What about Cauliflower?
CAULIFLOWER DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BORING;
THESE RECIPES GIVE IT SOME PIZZAZZ..... 4

WEEKEND WEATHER

CLEAR

Partly cloudy Friday
Rain thru Sunday

HIGHS: 58-65

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

LOWS: 54-59

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 34 • NO. 7 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



Cars lined up at the starting line at the 2024 Pinewood Derby held by Cub Scout Pack 506 at Roosevelt Elementary School on Saturday, February 10. Below, Some of the entries in this year's Pack 506 Pinewood Derby. The scouts make the model cars out of blocks of pine.

PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Pinewood Derby Held at Roosevelt

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Dozens of Cub Scouts and their families gathered at Roosevelt School on Dowling Boulevard in San Leandro last Saturday for Pack 506's annual Pinewood Derby model car races. The scouts design, build and decorate small wooden cars that are then raced down a ramp, to the cheers of the audience. Prizes are awarded for speed, design and handiwork.

see PINWOOD, page 11



Council Narrows Field to Fill District 1 Seat

18 candidates now down to five; decision needed by Feb. 29

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

On Tuesday, the San Leandro City Council could not reach a consensus on five applicants to fill its District 1 vacancy.

The council will reconvene on the matter on February 27. The council seat must be filled by the end of February.

A total of 18 people applied to be considered for the District 1 seat. Before this week's meeting, a council ad hoc committee narrowed the field down to a half dozen.

The ad hoc committee, comprised of Mayor Juan

Gonzalez and council members Victor Aguilar, Jr. and Xouhoa Bowen, reviewed all 18 applications and met for three hours to determine who shall move forward to be interviewed by the full council.

The remaining field of candidates included David Anderson, Sr. (retired sheet metal foreman), Sulema Hernandez (real estate agent), Kenneth Pon (retired CPA), Pcyeta Stroud (director of business development for an education consultancy), Sbey-see COUNCIL, page 5

Woman Dead, Man Wounded in Shooting

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Detectives are investigating a homicide after a shooting of a 40-year-old woman on East 14th Street and 151st Avenue on Saturday.

San Leandro police, Alameda County Sheriff's Office deputies, and emergency medical services responded last Friday around 9:47 p.m. in the unincorporated part of

San Leandro after reports of a person lying on the road.

They found a 47-year-old man and the woman suffering from gunshot wounds. Both victims received emergency medical services at the scene before being transported to a local hospital.

The woman, who had a walking disability, did not survive, said detectives from the see SHOOTING, page 12

Alameda County Grand Jury Association Gives Ballot Question Low Marks on Impartiality

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro Unified School District and the chair of the Yes On Measure M campaign were quick to defend its ballot wording after a watchdog group gave a low rating on the ballot measure's question for clarity and im-

partiality.

Measure M, if passed on the March 5 ballot, would build new school facilities, modernize others and build housing affordable to district faculty and staff to help attract and retain them.

The Alameda County Civil Grand Jury Association

(ACCGA) rated the 75-word questions on the nine ballot measures in the county on a scale of 0 to 5, that included measures in Oakland, Alameda, Piedmont and San Leandro.

The Alameda County Civil Grand Jury Association is composed of grand jurors

from throughout the county to promote local government accountability.

State law requires the 75-word ballot labels to be "a true and impartial synopsis of the purpose of the proposed measure, and shall be in language that is neither argumentative see BALLOT, page 11

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School district presents plans if bond measure passes. Page 5

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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 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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Pets of the Week



Guinea Pigs

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are guinea pigs and a German shepherd mix.

Come down to Hayward Animal Shelter and check out a variety of cute, scruffy, young guinea pigs looking for a good home.

Dewey is a 7-month-old German shepherd mix. Dewey



Dewey

is a pup who wants to just be the center of attention in your home. He would do best in a home with teens and adults.

To adopt or meet Dewey or the guinea pigs, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

American Legion Post 117 Sunday Pancake Breakfast

San Leandro American Legion Post 117 will serve its monthly Sunday breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, tea and juice. Donation is \$7 for veterans and \$8 for non-veterans.

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PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

'Tis the Season

We have the summer, fall and the Christmas seasons, now we're in the season everyone looks forward to — Tax Season.

Lunar New Year at the SL Library

Teens in grades 6-12 are all invited to enjoy and honor the

Lunar New Year with games and crafts at the Teen Lounge on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

No registration is needed for this very fun, informal after-school event.

Lunar New Year Celebration at the

Manor Library

Join the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro, and celebrate the Year of the Dragon on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m.

Festivities include Lion Dancing, Traditional Dancing, Crafts by the Asian Community Cultural Association of San Leandro, and Storytime. Free admission for all.

Judge Candidates to Speak on Webinar

The Alameda County Bar Association and the League of Women Voters of Alameda County are co-sponsoring a free webinar for the Superior Court Judge Office 12 candidates on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m.

The candidates for the Superior Court Judge Office 12 are Mark Fickes and Michael Johnson. Advance registration is required.

Register at <https://bit.ly/SuperiorCourtJudgeOffice12> to receive Zoom link.

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Community Calendar

The Alta Mira Club Mystery Writers' Luncheon

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host a Mystery Authors Scholarship Luncheon on Monday, Feb. 19, at noon. Award-winning mystery writers James L'Etoile, Camille Minichino, Ann Parker and Simon Wood will speak after a salad buffet luncheon. The lunch and program is \$25 per person. For reservations, email nancyfong@aol.com or call 510-483-1018.

Origami Workshop

Ring in the Year of the Dragon with award-winning origami artist and Paper Tree Japantown proprietor Linda Tomoko Mihara on Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. Learn the history of the intricate paper folding-art and create your own origami dragon. This program is open to adults, ages 18 and over. No registration required.

Washington Home Owners Association Meeting

The Washington Home Owners Association will host its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. Guest speaker Sheila Marquises, director of the San Leandro Public Works Department, will discuss our streets, traffic improvements and other plans in San Leandro. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Bob Glaze at 510-352-2058.

CV Women's Club Talk on Isadora Duncan

The Castro Valley Women's Club, 18330 Redwood Road in Castro Valley, invites the community to hear Lois Ann Flood, classically trained dancer, present a free program on Isadora Duncan on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. Ms. Duncan (1877-1927), born in San Francisco, famously performed and choreographed modern contemporary dance throughout Europe and the United States. Light refreshments will be served.

Family Fun Night: African Music with Baba Shibambo.

Come to a Family Fun Night of African Music & Art Village on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Explore the rhythm and cultures of Africa with Baba Shibambo, a South African master drummer and multi-instrumentalist. All ages welcome.

African Americans in the Arts

The Hayward Area Historical Society will host a panel of Black artists who will discuss how their art represents their experiences as African Americans on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 10 a.m. at the Downtown Hayward Library, 888 C St. in Hayward. The artists will share their thoughts on the preservation of Black history, and how art is a form of empowerment. No charge for admission. Registration is requested and available at www.haywardareahistory.org

SL High United Parents Crab Feed

The San Leandro High School United Parents will host a crab feed on Friday, March 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 2200 San Leandro Blvd. Tickets are \$70. Order by March 1. (www.32auctions.com/SLHSUPCrabFeed2024) Pre-sold tickets only. No-host bar and dessert bar, raffle, auction items. All proceeds fund programs directly supporting students. For more information or if you need to pay by check, email slhsunitedparents@parentspirates@gmail.com.

Arroyo Athletic Boosters Crab Feed

Arroyo Athletic Boosters will hold their Crab Feed Fund-raiser on Saturday, March 16, from 4:30 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$50 for kids 6 to 12. All you can eat cold crab, salad, pasta, bread. Raffle Prizes, DJ, No-Host Bar. Tickets: <https://ahs.slzsd.org/apps/pages/arroyocrabfeed>

The Joy of Textile Art

Textile art by members of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland is on display through April 9 at the Hayward Area Historical Society Museum, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. The display showcases a collection of 40 quilts by East Bay artists, as well as the culture, heritage, and traditions of African American quilting.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Former Macy's employees at the lunch last week at Harry's Hofbrau are (standing) Carmen Quintana, Marilyn Briones, Edna Roxas, Chris Kotter, Esther Miu, Carol Fitzpatrick, Maureen Barbano, Lucy Wong, Paula Smith, Annie and Paul Bradshaw. (Seated at the table) Maria Boukis, Carmen Bryant, and Marilyn Holt. Missing from photo - Joan White.

Macy's Employees Meet for Lunch

A group of former employees of the Macy's at Bayfair at Bayfair.

has always kept in touch, going on trips or just having lunch.

They met last Thursday at Harry's Hofbrau on East 14th Street, not far from the store

“We’re all longtimers and became friends,” said Carol Fitzpatrick who worked in the women’s clothing department at Macy’s. “We’re not just fellow employees, we’re all

friends, and we had a good rapport with a lot of our customers, too.”

Fitzpatrick said they’re sad that the store is closing but their friendships remain.

SL Scholarship Foundation Dinner

The San Leandro Scholarship Foundation is hosting its annual Scholarship Dinner and Silent Auction to benefit graduating seniors on Thursday, March 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. in San Leandro.

A social time and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by students from the San Leandro High School

Orchestra, Jazz Band, and performers from Mamma Mia, and the keynote speaker will be Carolina Ixta, SLUSD teacher and award-winning author.

To donate or purchase tickets visit <https://www.sanleandrosf.com> or for more information, contact Chad Pennebaker at sanleandrosf@gmail.com, or 510-289-9225. The scholarships go to local graduating seniors who are going to college or trade school.

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Case No. RP23143941

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(PROBATE CODE
SECTION 19003 et seq)**

Attorney for Successor Trustee,
BETTY WONG

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
PROBATE DIVISION - BERKELEY COURTHOUSE**

In re the **POLLY F. WONG and SHU K. WONG
REVOCABLE TRUST** (the "Trust") created
September 21, 2001 as amended by Polly F. Wong
and Shu K. Wong as Settlers/Trustees,
Decedents.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named Decedents, that all persons having claims against the Decedents are required to file them with the Superior Court located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, California 94704 and mail or deliver a copy to Betty Wong as Successor Trustee of the Trust dated September 21, 2001 as amended wherein the Decedents were the Settlers in care of Law Office of Kristina E. Rubio, 1177 Branham Lane, #408, San Jose, California 95118 within the later of four (4) months after the date of the first publication of the notice to creditors or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, sixty (60) days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

LAW OFFICE OF KRISTINA E. RUBIO

Dated: May 17, 2023

By: Kristina E. Rubio, Esq.
Title: Attorney for Successor Trustee, Betty Wong

- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

Preheat the oven to 400°F and lightly grease a small baking sheet with vegetable oil. Set aside.

Trim the base of the cauliflower to remove any green leaves and the woody stem.

In a medium bowl, combine the yogurt with the lime zest and juice, chile powder, cumin, garlic powder, curry powder, salt and pepper.

Dunk the cauliflower into the bowl and use a brush or your hands to smear the marinade evenly over its surface.

Place the cauliflower on the prepared baking sheet and roast until the surface is dry and lightly browned, 30 to 40 minutes. The marinade will make a crust on the surface of the cauliflower.

Let the cauliflower cool for 10 minutes before cutting it into wedges and serving alongside a big green salad. Serves 6.

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER STEAKS

- 1 head cauliflower
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 tablespoons parsley, finely chopped, for serving

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Combine lemon juice and garlic in a small bowl. Cut center of head of cauliflower lengthwise into 3/4-inch-thick slices. Arrange on the prepared baking sheet in a single layer. Cut remaining cauliflower into 1-inch-thick pieces and scatter around cauliflower steaks.

Brush cauliflower with lemon juice mixture. Roast 40 minutes or until golden and tender. Serves 4.

CAULIFLOWER SALAD

- 1-1/2 pounds cauliflower, trimmed and cut into florets
- 3/4 cup chopped bottled roasted red bell peppers
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped green olives
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 large celery rib, sliced crosswise
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon sea salt
- 1-1/2 ounces provolone piccante, cut into small pieces
- Celery leaves (optional)

Set a steamer basket in a large saucepan; fill pan with water up to but not touching the bottom of basket. Bring water to a boil over high heat. Add the cauliflower florets; cover and steam 5 minutes or just until tender.

Transfer cauliflower to a large bowl. Add bell peppers, red onion, parsley, chopped olives, crushed red pepper, and celery; toss gently to combine.

Combine oil, juice, vinegar, black pepper, and salt, stirring with a whisk. Pour dressing over vegetables; toss gently. Sprinkle with cheese; toss gently to combine.

Cover and let stand at room temperature 30 minutes to 1 hour. (To serve chilled, refrigerate up to 4 hours.) Sprinkle with celery leaves, if desired. Yields 10 one-cup servings.

CAULIFLOWER SOUFFLE WITH ONIONS

- 1/2 pound cauliflower, separated into florets
- 2 turnips, peeled, quartered
- 1 medium potato, peeled, quartered
- 4 medium onions, peeled and left whole
- 1 large egg, separated



Buy cauliflower heads that are clean and compact.

- 1/3 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 cup vegetable broth

Fit a large pot with a steamer basket. Add enough water to come up to the base of the steamer. Place cauliflower, turnips and potato in the steamer. Cover and bring the water to a simmer over medium-high heat. Turn the heat down to medium-low and steam until the vegetables are soft enough to puree, about 20 minutes.

Fill a large pot with water and bring to a boil. Boil the onions until the layer separate easily, but don't fall apart, about 5 minutes. Drain and cool in a colander.

Heat the oven to 375°F. In a food processor or blender, puree the cauliflower, turnips and potato with the egg yolk, cheese and ginger. Beat the egg white until stiff and fold into the cauliflower mixture.

Scoop out enough of each onion so that they can be filled with an equal portion of cauliflower. Lightly rub the inside of each onion with olive oil and fill with the cauliflower puree. Place the filled onions in a baking dish large enough to hold them and add enough vegetable broth to come up 1 inch on the sides. Bake for 30 minutes. Serves 4.

CAULIFLOWER SOUP

- 1 medium head cauliflower, broken into florets
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 2-1/2 cups water
- 1 vegetable bouillon cube
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups 2% milk
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce, optional

In a large bowl, combine cauliflower, carrot, celery, water and bouillon. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 12-15 minutes or until vegetables are tender (do not drain).

In another large saucepan, melt butter. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Reduce heat. Stir in the cheese until melted. Add hot pepper sauce if desired. Stir into the cauliflower mixture. Serves 8.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might feel bolder as each new success falls into place. However, caution is still advised throughout the end of the week. Taking it step-by-step is the best approach.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): The cooperation that you request could come at too high of 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 to June 20): Aspects favor a quieter time to get 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 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 for you to assess the facts and 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 a 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 as 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 some unsettled emotional situations. Things ease up by week's end.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

B	A	M	G	A	S	P	R	Y	A	N
O	L	E	A	B	E	L	H	O	L	A
R	A	T	T	H	R	U	I	G	E	T
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School District Hosts Measure J Information Session

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro Unified School district held an information session January 31, about Measure J on the March ballot.

The \$174 million bond issue would upgrade facilities, build some new buildings and also construct housing for district faculty and staff.

About 30 people attended the meeting, held on a rainy night at the Barbara Lee Center for Health and Wellness at 2251 Bancroft Ave., across the street from San Leandro High School.

The information session was a bit unusual, though. Rather than giving information to the community as the district normally would, Superintendent Mike McLaughlin and other leaders were seeking it from the community, in particular parents of students at each school.

The district had invited parent leaders of each school's site council, English learners advisory committee, and PTA/

PTO and other parent advocate groups to tell the district what they might have missed in putting together a tentative list of projects for the bond measure. The meeting was also open to anyone else who wished to attend.

McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Collins, community engagement director Keziah Moss and others did have a short presentation on that tentative project list, should the bond measure pass.

Around the room were site map displays with the proposed projects shown for each school. There was also a supply of Post-its people could use to make suggestions on the district's plans.

Moss told the audience that they were the ones seeing the school every day, and might know of things the district staff could have overlooked.

Some notes were posted on the school site maps suggesting changes. One on the district-wide display board of the proposed teacher/staff housing read, "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

Often, though, the parents told the district leaders face-to-face how the projects list could be improved.

The initial project list contained new classrooms for added transitional kindergarten students at the elementary schools, an entire new grade created by recent state mandate. San Leandro High School would get a new library, student commons and music building.

The district, like several others in the Bay Area, would build housing for teachers and staff, who it says are hard to attract and retain because housing costs are so high.

Former San Leandro mayor Stephen Cassidy told the audience that state funds pay many of the costs of running the schools, but do not cover buildings when they are needed. Districts typically build those through bond measures, he said.

Superintendent McLaughlin said that building new classrooms and buildings is a highly visible use of bond money, but



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

At left, parents talk near the project board for Jefferson Elementary School. At right, district community engagement director Keziah Moss (in blue jacket) talks with two meeting participants.

less visible is the inside work that makes that classroom or building usable. There is flooring, equipment, furniture, and sometimes roofs need replacement as well, he said.

All of those "inside" things, plus some roofs, are part of the bond measure, McLaughlin said.

Assistant Superintendent Kevin Collins said some of the funds from previous bond measure N remain and will be spent on such inside items.

If any of those smaller projects do not get finished when the Measure N funds run out, they can be finished using Measure J money if it passes,

school board member Evelyn Gonzalez said.

Measure J will be on the ballot at the March 5 California Primary Election. The district's suggested list of projects is posted along with general information on the measure on its website at www.slusd.us/measurej/

Council: Contenders: Anderson, Hernandez, Pon, Stroud, Viveros-Walton

continued from front page

deh Viveros-Walton (director of higher education at a law firm), and Jessie Rubin (senior manager with BART).

Most of the candidates pointed out their years of experience on San Leandro boards and commissions or volunteering time to community-based organizations.

Mayor Gonzalez said that

“What’s your plan to represent all 90,000 residents and not be influenced by a small number of activists?”

— City Councilman
Pete Ballew

the ad hoc committee's decisions were based on how well the candidates' experience and education would complement the rest of the council, any special skills the appointees could bring to the city, and a desire to maintain a diversity of demographics and a diversity of thought.

At the last minute, Rubin

removed herself from consideration, saying that her work schedule would continually conflict with a council member's schedule.

During Tuesday's meeting, each City Council member asked two questions of each of the five remaining applicants. Many wanted to know about the person's motives for representing District 1, their priorities, and various hypothetical scenarios.

“What is your plan to represent all 90,000 plus residents of San Leandro conscientious-

ly and not be unduly influenced by a small number of activists?” asked Pete Ballew.

“Seniors in San Leandro make up 39 percent of our population,” Vice Mayor Fred Simon said. “What specific measures will you take to cater to the growing senior community?”

“What do you think will be the first issue in our city that you would want to start to work on and tackle,” asked Bryan Azevedo.

“The city has over \$300 million dollars in unfunded

capital improvement projects,” asked Victor Aguilar. “How would you try to solve this issue?”

“Can you tell me about a time when you’ve had to make a difficult decision?” asked Xouhoa Bowen.

“Talk about how we get more money into this city and ultimately into the city coffers so that we can address all these issues we’ve been discussing,” asked Mayor González.

A candidate needs a four votes from the six council

members. After two rounds of voting, none of the candidates got four votes.

Despite a willingness to conduct a third vote, the meeting ended after five hours. The council will return on February 27 for a special meeting, tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m., to consider the final five applicants.

Under the City Charter, the council has 60 days, until February 29, to fill the District 1 seat. If the council cannot agree on an applicant, the

city would be required by law to call a special election and leave the choice up to the voters at a cost of \$990,000 to the city.

The appointed council member's term expires on December 31. However, that person would be able to run for the same seat in November, extending that council member's term to the end of 2026.

District 1 includes San Leandro's Downtown, Estudillo Estates, and the Bay-O-Vista neighborhoods.

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6pm | February 26th
Redwood Chapel | Castro Valley



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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Won't You Be My Valentine?

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

Statistics reveal that online dating app activity increases. First appearing in 1995, online dating apps have soared in popularity from “cheesy” to “essential.” In fact, latest figures reveal that over 30% of couples get started on a dating app and of those who connect, close to 70% end up in a relationship. While Match.com produced the first dating app, in 2012 Tinder changed the game by adding the “swipe left – swipe right” feature that has not only become mainstream on dating apps but has become part of our vernacular.

Ironically, selling a home is very similar to online dating. Just like dating apps, online real estate portals also see an increase in traffic heading into February. Just like dating apps,

many real estate apps also have the ability to like properties that fit your criteria and dismiss those that do not.

Buyer habits have changed considerably with the advent of online real estate portals like Realtor.com, Homes.com and Zillow. Instead of getting in their cars and heading out looking for open homes, buyers now sit on their sofas with their mobile devices, put their criteria into the apps and begin looking at the homes that appear. If they like what they see in any specific profile, they will then make plans to visit in person by either contacting their real estate agent or showing up at an open house. It is important to understand that they will never visit homes they do not like.

Research shows that sellers have between 7-10 seconds on online portals to make a

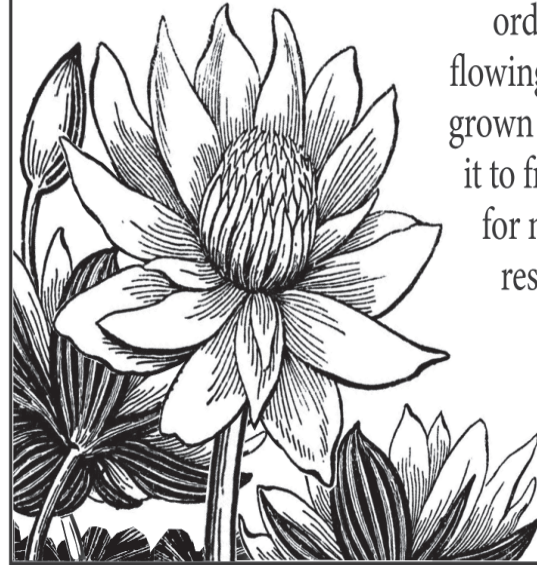
positive impression. If a buyer likes what they see in those initial moments, they will stay focused on your property and spend more time looking at the pictures, reading the property characteristics and, hopefully, set an appointment to view the home in person.

With this in mind, it is important for sellers to understand the importance of maximizing their properties to get the best possible results online. In the same way a dating profile should have a good picture and detailed information, homes that make an impression online are those that have been upgraded and then marketed with staging, professional pictures, 3D tours, comprehensive, well-written comments and more.

Looking for a “sweetheart buyer” to make an offer? Take the time to set the stage for success and you could end up in a winning relationship!

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.

The Garden Bug



The lotus flower

The lotus plant can grow as tall as 6 feet in lakes and large ponds, while miniature varieties grow happily in a free-standing bowl on your patio. It needs 6 hours of direct sunlight each day in order to flower. Do not place it in flowing water or in a fountain; if it is grown in a pot or bowl, do not allow it to freeze. The lotus has been used for millennia as a symbol of beauty, resilience, and transformation in architectural motifs, artwork, textiles and religious settings.

— Brenda Weaver

Sources: bloomnation.com,
bluelotusfarm.com

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Mortgage Rates Show Little Movement

Mortgage rates remain stagnant, hovering in the mid-six percent range over the past several weeks. The economy and labor market remain strong with wage growth outpacing inflation, which is keeping consumer spending robust. Meanwhile, affordability in the housing market is an ongoing issue due to continued high home prices, elevated mortgage rates and low supply of homes on the market, particularly for first-time and low-income homebuyers.



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RECENT HOME SALES

Home sales information is compiled and provided by CalREsource and includes Bedrooms, Square Feet and Year Built when available

Castro Valley

2690 Watson Street 94546: \$820,000 [3 BD - 1,104 SF - 1948
21270 Sweet Lane 94546: \$837,000 [3 BD - 1,015 SF - 1954
4175 Berdina Road 94546: \$881,000 [2 BD - 902 SF - 1940
6445 Boone Drive 94552: \$1,250,000 [3 BD - 1,852 SF - 1986
2491 Irma Way 94546: \$1,300,000 [3 BD - 1,996 SF - 1952
7522 Denison Place 94552: \$1,750,000 [4 BD - 2,690 SF - 1999]
TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$820,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,065,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,750,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$1,139,666

Hayward

26088 Kay Avenue #211 94545: \$425,000 [2 BD - 840 SF - 1985
797 Sageleaf Court 94544: \$565,000 [4 BD - 1,312 SF - 1980
421 Bartlett Avenue 94541: \$600,000 [2 BD - 1,423 SF - 1947
164 Newton Street 94544: \$620,000 [3 BD - 1,070 SF - 1952
682 Bluefield Lane 94541: \$650,000 [3 BD - 1,150 SF - 1957
2705 Arf Avenue 94545: \$657,500 [3 BD - 1,254 SF - 1971
25889 Bryn Mawr Avenue 94542: \$685,000 [2 BD - 888 SF - 1951
2195 Oak Creek Place 94541: \$700,000 [2 BD - 1,488 SF - 1978
22877 Arnold Court 94541: \$745,000 [3 BD - 1,023 SF - 1949
22828 Optimist Street 94541: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,587 SF - 1950
27936 Candlewood Place 94545: \$819,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1955
24836 Oneil Avenue 94544: \$860,000 [5 BD - 2,062 SF - 1920
108 Sunswapt Court 94544: \$880,000 [4 BD - 1,855 SF - 2019
22635 Myrtle Circle 94541: \$1,052,000 [4 BD - 1,607 SF - 2016
30559 Vanderbilt Street 94544: \$1,085,000 [3 BD - 1,392 SF - 1958
3161 Bridle Drive 94541: \$1,400,000 [4 BD - 2,684 SF - 1959
25199 Campus Drive 94542: \$1,450,000 [3 BD - 2,031 SF - 1977
2764 Shellgate Circle 94545: \$1,487,500 [4 BD - 2,452 SF - 2003
29953 Sugar Maple Court 94544: \$1,650,000 [4 BD - 2,785 SF - 1998
2724 Spindrift Court 94545: \$1,850,000 [3,651 SF - 2005]

TOTAL SALES: 20
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$425,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$809,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,850,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$949,050

San Leandro

13840 Samoa Road 94577: \$860,000 [4 BD - 1,493 SF - 1961
2069 Vestal Court 94577: \$950,000 [5 BD - 1,825 SF - 1945
821 Crocus Drive 94578: \$1,168,000 [2,741 SF - 1979]

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$860,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$950,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,168,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$992,666

Fruit Trees Shouldn't be Planted Where There's Grass – They'll Get Too Much Water

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Q We had a problem with fruit tree borers. They've killed a cherry and a nectarine tree. How can I prevent the borers from returning as we plan to plant new ones?

A Borers on deciduous fruit trees, such as plums, cherries, apricots, peaches, and nectarines, occur when they come under stress. Healthy trees will successfully fight them off. The key to preventing borers is good cultural practices that minimize tree stress. Fruit tree stress is caused by drought and cultural issues such as excessive summer watering or being planted

too deep.

Signs of the problem are excessive amounts of sap on the trunk and major branches, dieback in the canopy, and a decreasing amount of new growth each spring. When planting bare-root fruit trees, the final soil line should be at the top of the first root. So, here is how you'll get it right every time. Once the hole is dug, center a 3/4" by 3/4" by 4' stake in the hole. Lay the handle of your shovel across the hole and make a mark with a Sharpie on the stake. This is the grade level. The tree is attached to the stake so the top of the first root is at the mark, and then fill in the hole with the amended backfill. Next year, remove the stake as it has done its

job. The new root ball prevents the tree from sinking and being buried too deep.

For those trees in containers, the top of the root ball should be a half-inch above the grade to allow for sinkage. You could add a stake to anchor the tree. Mulching later will cover any exposed roots along with the tree's canopy. Deciduous fruit trees should never be planted in turf areas. The constant summer water necessary for grass is very problematic. They should be planted in open areas with nothing growing under their canopies. For the first growing season, fruit trees should be watered weekly with temperatures above eighty degrees. During the second growing

season, it is twice a month and monthly from the third season on. Large watering basins should be constructed so a sufficient amount of water is applied to each tree every time you water. Except for those trees with late-ripening crops, you stop watering deciduous fruit trees at the end of September.

Q While thinning out my carrots, I noticed white/grayish

bugs on the tiny developing seedlings. What are they, and what can I do "organically" to eliminate them?

A The whitish/gray bugs are Aphids. Aphids are a sucking insect that attacks a wide variety of plants and comes in a variety of colors, such as green, black, grayish-white, and yellow. To control the problem, I would drench the area with Insecticidal Soap. Insecticidal Soap is

a non-toxic remedy used on edibles for sucking insects like Aphids, Scale, and Mites. You should make a repeat application in a week and then as needed.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com, and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.

OPEN HOMES

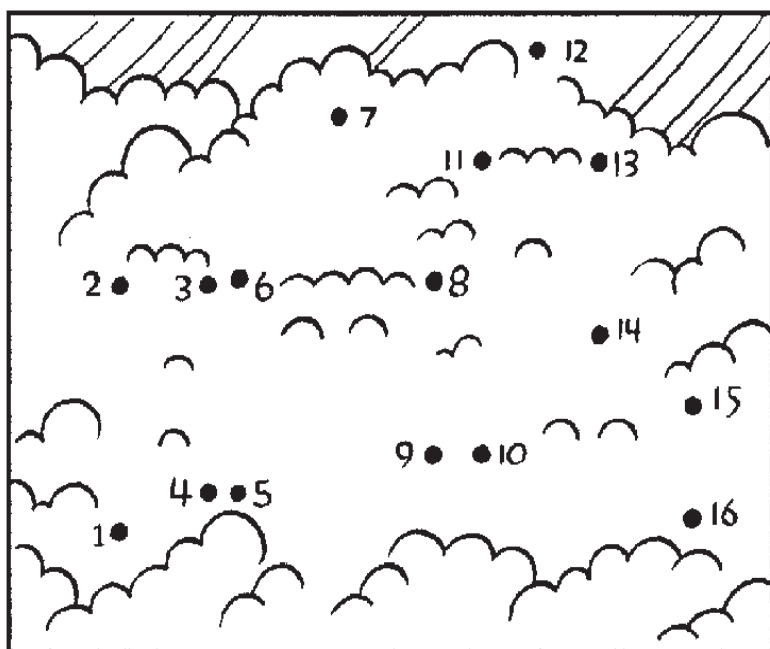
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RIDDLE-DOTS! Connect the dots and find out what the most beautiful things ever built are.

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Answer:



by Charles Barry Townsend

1. _URN
2. _ _URN
3. _ _ _URN
4. _ _ _ _URN
5. _ _ _ _ _URN
6. _ _ _ _ _ _URN

IT'S TEATIME!

SEE IF you can "urn" an "A" on this vocabulary quiz by finding the letters that are missing from the six words pictured here. They all end with the word URN.

DEFINITIONS:

1. To plow the soil.
2. To stir up vigorously.
3. A color.
4. A temporary stay.
5. Habitually untalkative.
6. Result of overeating.

Illustrated by David Coulson

A CORNY PROBLEM! A squirrel found nine ears of corn in Farmer Brown's barn. Every day, for nine days, he carried three ears away. Why did it take him so long to empty the barn?

Answer: Every day he removed one ear of corn and his own two ears.



FINGER FLICKIN' FUN! Balance a card, with a quarter on top, on the tip of your middle finger. Bet that you can remove the card and leave the coin balanced on your finger, without touching the coin.

SECRET: With your other hand, snap a finger against the card edge, sending it spinning. The coin will remain on your finger.



Answers: 1. Turn, 2. Churn, 3. Auburn, 4. Sojourn, 5. Taciturn, 6. Heartburn.

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MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603585

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NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Jaroche Esthetics, located at 14895 E 14th Street Suite 420, San Leandro, CA 94578 / 16675 Rolando Ave., San Leandro CA 94578. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mayram Arias De La Cruz, located at 16675 Rolando Ave., San Leandro CA 94578. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A
/s/ Mayram Arias De La Cruz
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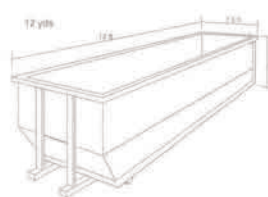
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FILED January 18, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603448

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Terencia Antonio Insurance Agency, located at 1403 Kelley Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria Terencia E. Antonio, located at 1403 Kelley Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 02/01/22

/s/ Maria Terencia E. Antonio
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 17, 2029
JAN 25, FEB 01, 08, 15, 2024

FILED January 18, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603436

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Happy House Daycare, located at 33841 11th Street, Union City, CA 94587. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria Salgado, located at 33841 11th Street, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 01/18/24

/s/ Maria Salgado
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 17, 2029
JAN 25, FEB 01, 08, 15, 2024

FILED January 18, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 602487

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Sorrento Auto Sales Inc., located at 22268 Mission Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sorrento Auto Sales Inc, located at 22268 Mission Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced N/A

/s/ Karina Suse Bibiano Nunez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 17, 2029
FEB 01, 08, 15, 22, 2024
1050-SLT

FILED January 18, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603461

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Ten Ton Consulting, located at 659 Broadmoor Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ten Ton Consulting Inc, located at 659 Broadmoor Blvd. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced 02/25/14

/s/ Michelle Huitema
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 17, 2029
FEB 01, 08, 15, 22, 2024
1050-SLT

FILED January 10, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603289

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Crafty Hanako, located at 1008 Cumberland Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94579, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Justine Dalipe, located at 1008 Cumberland Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 01/10/24

/s/ Justine Dalipe
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 09, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024
1082-SLT

FILED February 02, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603796

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Gms Cleaning Services, located at 1664 Maubert CT #10, San Leandro, CA 94578, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gabriela Mondragon Soto, located at 1664 Maubert CT #10, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A

/s/ Gabriela Mondragon Soto
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires February 01, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024
1085-SLT

FILED February 02, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603789

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Rocky's Charcoal Drill, located at 300 W Estudillo Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Demetrio Martinez, located at 1990 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A

/s/ Demetrio Martinez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires February 01, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024
1091-SLT

FILED January 16, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603364

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Adepa's Kitchen, located at 21070 Royal Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Josephine Adutwum-waah, located at 21070 Royal Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541. / Jennifer Asumatse Ampomg located at 2153 Alameda Ave Apt B Alameda, CA 94501 This business is conducted by Co-partners. This business commenced 01/16/2024

/s/ Jennifer Asumatse Ampomg
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 15, 2029
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024

FILED December 27, 2023
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603028

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
H & L Home Decor, located at 14315 Washington Ave, San Leandro, CA 94578, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pro Kitchen & Bath Supplies LLC, located at 14315 Washington Ave, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced N/A

/s/ Bing Jian Zhang
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires December 26, 2028
FEB 08, 15, 22, 29 2024
1090-SLT

FILED January 04, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 603173

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Supreme Cleaning Service, located at 545 Medford Ave, Hayward, CA 94541. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emanuela Garcia Trejo, located at 545 Medford Ave, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A

/s/ Emanuela Garcia Trejo
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 03, 2029
JAN 25, FEB 01, 08, 15, 2024
1041-SLT

ABANDONMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NUMBER: 559072
The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:
Gms Cleaning & Landscaping Services
at 1664 Maubert CT #10, San Leandro, CA 94578.
Full name of registrant is:
Gabriela Mondragon Soto
at 1664 Maubert CT #10, San Leandro, CA 94578.
The Fictitious Business Name Statement
Gms Cleaning & Landscaping Services
was filed on 05/13/2019 in the county of Alameda.
Original File Number 559072.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime).
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on: top right stamp date. **NOTICE** - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14400, et seq., B&P Code.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 02/02/2024
JAN 08, FEB 15, 22, 29, 2024
1087-SLT

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OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. 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 or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Public Needs to See the Report Editor,

It seems one of the things that unites people on the political left and right nowadays is a general distrust in government. The situation regarding Chief Pridgen is unfortunate no matter how you look at it.

Unless there are direct immediate legal implications against doing so, San Leandro should release the unabridged report compiled by Kramer investigators. They claim they are being silent to protect his liberties.

I find it unlikely that Robustelli would hire Pridgen, and talk about equity and inclusion in that process, just to put him on leave shortly after. If there really is a conspiracy here to fire him because of his race, why bother hiring him in the first place? If Robustelli planned this lie and charade all along, that would suggest she is extremely psychopathic.

No, the most likely explanation is that something did happen on the job. That is why the city hired a third party investigator to be as objective as possible. I am inclined to believe the city is acting carefully to avoid legal ramifications, or perhaps out of a misguided sense of decency. Release the investigative report, then we can decide for ourselves whether this was overblown, justified, or outright conspiratorial.

Aaron Baldwin
San Leandro

Welcome to the 21st Century Editor,

In response to Kathy Starzenski's letter about bicyclists negligence, on Feb 8.

Kathy you are absolutely correct about the rules, the "laws" that are in place. However I think you're forgetting a few important parts. One, the time we live in is the 21st century where the police departments and the government are complacent and apathetic. You hear the government constantly telling people that if you see someone shoplifting or stealing something don't confront them don't do anything. We're just going to encourage the behavior.

On top of that, the general population's attitude is, no matter what I do I'm right and everyone else is

in my way. Never take responsibility for your actions and whenever possible try to sue.

The only saving grace is that I'm old and will not be around much longer. It would be interesting to see what type of society we live in when your grandchildren are seniors in their seventies and eighties. Since very few civilizations ever make to 1,000 years, I'm curious, is this how the Roman Empire started its decline?

Jon Lilley
San Leandro

Measure J Will Bring Essential Improvements to Schools Editor,

The San Leandro School Board thanks the community for its longstanding support of quality education in our schools. We ask for your continued support by voting Yes on Measure J on the March 5, 2024 election ballot.

Measure J will fund essential improvements and renovations in our schools. We wish to highlight two projects: 1) at the elementary schools, we will build new classrooms to provide access for all San Leandro four-year-old children to attend public school; and 2) at the high school, we will replace worn and outdated classrooms for band and orchestra with new classrooms for choir and instrumental music as part of a beautiful, new building that will also include a new school library, maker lab and student center. Please visit <https://www.slusd.us/measurej> for a list of all projects planned under Measure J.

Measure J will also build affordable rental housing for teachers and school staff. Each year, the district loses quality teachers who move to teach in communities where housing is less expensive. By building affordable rental housing, Measure J will help the district attract and retain outstanding teachers and support staff.

An important feature of Measure J is that it raises millions for our schools without increasing tax rates households pay. Measure J simply extends current tax rates previously approved by voters for an additional period to make priority repairs and improvements to our schools.

Again, the school board thanks

the voters of San Leandro for their support of our schools. We respectfully ask for your continued support of quality education in San Leandro schools by voting Yes on Measure J.

Evelyn Gonzalez
President, San Leandro School Board
Leo Sheridan,
Vice President, San Leandro School Board

Vote No on Measure J Editor,

Two years after we gave them \$198 million (plus interest) in bond money, the school board is asking San Leandro residents to authorize another \$174 million at even higher interest rates. They're backed by construction firms, educational IT companies, and unions who fund the "San Leandrans for Great Schools" ads you're seeing. You'll undoubtedly see a letter in these pages from former Mayor Stephen Cassidy backing Measure J as well. He's not just doing that out of the goodness of his heart – the school board is paying him \$25,000 in public money to ask for more.

Look at the school board's own website and you'll see that this new tax on housing will mostly go to another round of unnecessary projects like the \$800,000 in illuminated signs, \$23 million of parking lots and landscaping, and \$67 million for an enormous gym that they wasted Measure N money on. Only a small portion will actually go toward classroom renovation.

While publicly funded housing for teachers sounds good, the details are lacking. How many teachers will this house? On what land? At what cost per unit? How much of the district's regular budget will be needed to maintain those facilities over time?

Not a dime of Measure J will go toward what really matters: improving the quality of public instruction. It's time for voters to force the school board to live within the ample means we already provide through the highest sales taxes in the state and the huge bond measures we previously authorized. Send them a clear message. Vote no on Measure J.

Ben Ball
San Leandro

School District Should Be Building a New High School Editor,

I'm voting no on the upcoming school bond Measure J and here's why. We are being asked to pass a \$174 million dollar bond to build a new library and student union at the high school when we enlarged the library less than a decade ago. We now have the largest high school gym in the state to be able



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to house all of the students in one place and so the question I have is, when are we going to build another high school?

It seems the current plan is that we are going to supersize an already overcrowded school with even more kids. When you drive down Bancroft during school hours you see thousands of kids in the street transferring between the instantly obsolete 9th grade campus and the main school. Is the goal to have 5,000 kids on one campus wandering in the street?

In addition to campus improvements the bond will authorize the construction of rental teachers' housing. With no actual plan in place, we can be assured the school district will construct the most expensive housing possible with no accountability.

In the last bond issue we were told the money was to be used to "modernize heating and air conditioning and fix broken electrical systems" and instead we got LED signs on the schools. To be clear, signage has zero to do with education and so our school district now prioritizes decorating the outside of the buildings rather than the education within? I think that's a very sad statement about the adults in charge.

It's time to build a new high school and it's time to get back to worrying about the education of our students and not the vanity project the school districts desire like a new entrance and sign for the high school. Totally and completely unnecessary. It's time to vote no and send a message to the school district that their priorities need to be refocused back to actual education and not just building stuff.

Gary Langbehn
San Leandro

Measure J for the Same Things As the Last Bond Measure Editor,

The San Leandro letter to the public pertaining to Measure J is most disingenuous. The proponents state that despite the fact their children no longer attend, they still support San Leandro Schools; everybody living in San Leandro supports the schools whether they wish to or not, period.

Stating it is a \$174 million bond measure, they carefully avoid the

matter of the estimated cost, \$343 million. Facetiously, they query whether Measure J will raise tax rates; bond measures have nothing to do with tax rates; upon passage they inflict a parcel tax on every property within the municipality. The charge to your parcel is printed smack dab on the front of the proposal which in this case is \$37.28 per \$100,000 of assessment. So, if your house is assessed at \$600,000 then this bond measure will put a parcel tax of 6 times that amount or \$223.68 on your property.

School bond measures come out in March when interest rates and the stock market is high while the bond market is low. This allows the bond houses to charge the city a premium which when added to the coupon, a 5% tax, renders an exceptionally high cost for the bond. Even our City Council, whose signatory is not among the letter's endorsements, may have posited that this was highly egregious.

What are the Measure J funds for? Looking back on some of the other bond measures, Measure J compares fairly closely to the previous Measure N. And Measure N was intended, as I understood it, to do essential repairs, improvements and renovations. We're doing them again? The face value of measure N was \$195 million and we ended up with, among other things, a \$67 million basketball court.

Measure J is much greater both in scope and ambition than Measure N. There was no proposal in Measure N to build affordable housing for the teachers or anything like that. So obviously, \$174 M < \$195M, Measure J is going to leave our City with a whole lot of unfinished work hanging around. Totalling our School bond measures going back to Measure A of 1997 came to around \$649.8 million. Considering that Measure B at \$39 million, cost us double the face value of the bond or \$78 Million, using Measure J as our cost basis for figuring the total cost of our debt renders us a very conservative estimate of about \$1.28 billion. This ruinous taxation policy begun under the previous regime now asking your approval will surely render the expected result...a ghost town.

David F. Sigel
San Leandro

Pinewood: Cub Scouts make their vehicles ready to compete

continued from front page

Pack Committee Chair Heather DeQuincy said the Pinewood Derby is a core event for Cub Scouts, and it goes back decades with the national organization.

"The kids are involved with inventing, designing, cutting and decorating," she said.

Cubmaster Matt Bigler-Uhl said, "It's all about creativity and craftsmanship, and about being a good sport."

In 2018, girls could become members of the previously all-male Cub Scouts, and on Saturday female Cub Scouts won several of the top prizes.

In the speed awards, First Place went to Alice Latham, a second-grader at Washington Elementary. Her proud mother, Lia Tealdi, teaches there and also painted the murals at Washington that depict four

young female heroes.

Second Place went to Eva Ryan, a kindergartener at Washington, and Third Place went to Booker Bynum, a fourth grader, also at Washington Elementary.

Among the creative awards, which went to two winners in each category, Edith Rutherford-Thompson and Alex Rose Heystek won for Most Stylish. The Most Creative prizes went to Owen Bradley and Atticus Alvarez, while Best Handiwork was won by Asher Valdivia and Ollie Nguyen.

Committee Chair DeQuincy said there are 39 Cub Scouts in Pack 506, about one-third of them girls. As children in the lower school grades enter Cub Scouts, though, DeQuincy said the gap between boys and girls is shrinking. Most of

the members of Pack 506 are from Roosevelt and Washington elementary schools, with some from McKinley and a few from Oakland.

The Cub Scouts are organized by grades in school, from kindergarten to fifth grade, after which children regardless of gender are welcome in Scouts BSA, known until 2019 as the Boy Scouts.

Membership had taken a hit with the pandemic and its initial ban on group meetings indoors, which hit not long after girls were first welcomed in. Membership has recovered since for both genders, after a time of outdoor gatherings and even one Pinewood Derby broadcast online from a family's driveway.

This year's Pinewood Derby was the first one held indoors since the pandemic hit,



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Cub Scouts and their families gather around the track at the 2024 Pinewood Derby held by Cub Scout Pack 506 at Roosevelt Elementary School.

DeQuincy said.

Pack 506 meets every other Wednesday, outdoors in good weather, at Roosevelt School. The scouts have ac-

tivities throughout the school year, including three camping trips a year, and carry out service events as well, according to DeQuincy.

Their website is <https://pack506.org>. All children of any gender, from transitional kindergarten to fifth grade, are welcome to join.

Ballot: Questions on ballot measures rated on a scale of zero to five

continued from front page

nor likely to create prejudice for or against the measure". Unfortunately, said the ACCGA, many jurisdictions exaggerate the benefits and gloss over costs, as well as adding extraneous verbiage designed to favor passage. This bias is not surprising since no one, other than the agency promoting the measure, is required to approve the agency's language.

The ACCGA said the Measure J ballot question fails to indicate what existing bonds these new bonds were being added to, not indicating the term of the bonds, or whether they will be CAB bonds or regular bonds. The ACCGA said the worst misleading statement in the ballot question is: "With no increase in estimated tax rates," because it implies there would be no tax costs to the voters.

The bonds with interest will have to be repaid by higher taxes, the ACCGA said. The 'tax rate' may not go up, but the additional cost to repay the bonds is still to be repaid by taxpayers."

School district spokesperson Keziah Moss and Yes on J chair Stephen Cassidy both said in emails that the ballot measure summary fairly gave voters the information they needed to make an informed decision.

Moss said, "The district worked very hard to craft a statement of a maximum of 75 words that meets all legal requirements, clearly states the anticipated tax rate, and gives an overview of the types of projects the bond would be

used to construct within the district."

The ACCGA had looked at how clearly the ballot measures described what they intended to do, why they wanted to do it, and how much they would cost taxpayers, compared to the taxes being paid now. The ACCGA pointed out "extraneous" language that could push voters toward a yes vote.

The ACCGA said the extraneous language in Measure J is: "funds that cannot be taken away by the state." The ACCGA said that almost never happens. The state gives money to the school districts, not vice versa.

Schools spokesperson Moss said the 75-word ballot question wasn't the only information voters would be working from. She noted that each voter is also sent a voter's guide containing detailed information on measures, as well as arguments for and against.

Cassidy is a former San Leandro mayor who has led successful efforts to pass several previous bond measures.

He said in an email, "Measure J does not increase tax rates. It functions as an extension of previously issued bonds. The Association does not disagree. This unofficial group, however, wants added to the ballot proposition, which by law is limited to 75 words, that Measure J will cost taxpayers money. The criticism is off target. The ballot proposition states the cost of Measure J to each property owner. Further, detailed information on the cost of Measure

J has been mailed to voters in the voter guide."

Cassidy continued, "School bonds issued in past years are being paid off. This allows the district to issue the Measure J bond without adding to the tax rate homeowners pay today."

Moss said it would be hard to fit all the information the ACCGA would like to see into a summary whose length is limited by law.

"All voters receive a voter guide that includes additional information about the bond measure, including county counsel analysis, arguments regarding the measure, additional accountability requirements and prohibitions,

a more comprehensive bond project list, and additional information regarding tax rate estimates," she wrote in an email.

Moss continued, "There is no possible way for the 75-word statement to cover all of the items called out by the Alameda County Grand Jury Association that would be accepted by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters."

You can get more information about the Alameda County Grand Jury Association and why it thinks most ballot measure summaries need to be improved at <https://acgrandjuryassn.org/>. The San Leandro Unified School District site, which contains

information on Measure J as well as past bond measures, is at www.slusd.us.

The ACCGA's highest rating, 4.2, went to the City of Piedmont's Measure F, which would extend a current parcel tax to pay for various city services. The group said its language was relatively straightforward and factual, but failed to explain the amount of a tax rise from the old tax to the new

tax, which lowered the score from a perfect 5.0.

That was the only rating above 4.0 that the group gave out. The rest of the ratings were in the 2s and 3s. One measure, Alameda County Measure A, was praised for its straightforwardness and clarity of wording, but according to the group never said why it was needed in the first place. They gave it a 3.8.

Obituaries

Barbara Maloon

June 25, 1923 ~ January 26, 2024

Barbara entered peacefully into rest in Dayton, NV, at the home she shared with her daughter-in-law, Theresa, and Theresa's husband, Tom. She was born in Oakland, CA, and spent 68 years in San Leandro, CA, where she enjoyed time with family, tending to her orchids, and any excuse for a board game or hand of cards. Barbara was active in the St. Felicitas Bowlers, the tap dance group Golden Follies, and loved the 16 years spent in the square-dancing group Skirts & Flirts.

Barbara was blessed with a very large, blended family. She is survived by her daughter-in-law and husband, Theresa & Tom; grandchildren Christey, David, and Jason; 3 great-grandchildren; 7 great-great grandchildren; 3 stepchildren Dennis, Steve (Lorraine), and Matt; step son-in-law Al; 5 step grandchildren Amy (Phillip), Daniel (Deanna), Katherine (Matt), Natalie (David), and David; 10 step great-grandchildren.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Linda & David; her son Ronnie Barbano in 1977; her husband of 38 years, Orville; stepdaughter Mary; and step daughter-in-law Teresa.

Friends and family are invited to attend services on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Visitation is from 9-11am, and Memorial Service from 11am-noon at Grissom's Mortuary, 267 E. Lewelling Blvd, San Lorenzo, CA.



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Copeland’s Solo Series Starts on February 24

Award-winning comedian, playwright, author, actor, broadcaster and producer Brian Copeland returns for a 9th season with his “Best of San Francisco Solo Series” at the Carnegie Lecture Hall at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue in San Leandro.

The subscriber series consists of seven one-person plays on select dates between February and December 2024. Shows are Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

The top solo performance artists have worked at the

Marsh, ACT, Berkeley Rep, San Francisco Playhouse, The San Francisco Fringe Festival and more.

Go to www.BestOfSfSolo.com for tickets and show details. Season Tickets \$300. Save 25% with the code SanLeandroTheater.

Performers in this year’s series include Josh Kornbluth, Don Reed, Adam Strauss, Brian Copeland, Kathryn Keats, and Teresa Donahue.

The first show of the series will be Josh Kornbluth’s “Citizen Brain, on Feb. 24 and 25.

San Leandro Scholarship Foundation Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction

The San Leandro Scholarship Foundation is hosting its annual Scholarship Dinner and Silent Auction to benefit graduating seniors on Thursday, March 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. in San Leandro.

A social time and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by students from the San Leandro High School Orchestra, Jazz Band, and performers from Mamma Mia, and the keynote speaker will be Carolina Ixta, SLUSD teacher and award-winning author.

To donate or purchase tickets visit <https://www.sanleandrosf.com> or for

more information, contact Chad Pennebaker at sanleandrosf@gmail.com, or 510-289-9225.

The scholarships go to local graduating seniors who are going to college or trade school.

Information on Voters Choice Act on Zoom

The Voter’s Choice Act allows voters more flexibility when casting their ballot. Voters have more days and more ways to vote.

Alameda County Registrar of Voters will host a virtual Voter’s Choice Act (VCA) Workshop on Zoom at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 16.

Learn about the Voter’s Choice Act in Alameda County. The virtual VCA workshop will include:

- Election Worker Recruitment and Training Information
- Voter Education & Outreach (More Days, More Ways under VCA); and
- Voting Demonstrations on Voting Equipment

For more information, visit the website at <https://www.acvote.org/vca>, email the Registrar of Voters at vca@acgov.org, or call us toll free 1(800) 834-6454, if you have any questions.

SLHS United Parents Crab Feed

The San Leandro High School United Parents will host a crab feed on Friday, March 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 2200 San Leandro Blvd.

Tickets are \$70. Order by March 1. (www.32auctions.com/SLHSUPCrabFeed2024)

Pre-sold tickets only. No host bar and dessert bar, raffle, auction items.

All proceeds fund programs directly supporting students. For more information or if you need to pay by check, email [slhsunitedparents@gmail.com](mailto:slhsunitedparents@slhsunitedparents@gmail.com).

Shooting: Woman killed by gunfire

continued from front page

sheriff’s office. They didn’t disclose the man’s condition.

The names of the victims have not yet been released.

“Based on the information we know at this time, it appears the shooting occurred during a verbal dispute between the suspect and the victims,” said sheriff’s department Captain Ty Modeste said in a statement. “We do not believe there is an ongoing threat to public safety.”

The sheriff’s department ask anyone with information regarding the incident to contact investigators at 510-667-3636 or the anonymous tip line at 510-667-3622.

Support Quality Education In San Leandro

VOTE MARCH 5TH

Measure J is a \$174 million bond measure that will make **essential improvements and renovations** to our public schools and build **affordable rental housing** for teachers and staff **without raising tax rates** homeowners currently pay.

MEASURE J FUNDS WILL GO TO:

- REPAIR deteriorating roofs**, plumbing, and electrical systems;
- PURCHASE up-to-date technology** for high-quality instruction in math, science, engineering, and career technical education;
- BUILD new classrooms** at our elementary schools for all San Leandro four-year-old children to attend public school;
- REPLACE worn and outdated classrooms** for band and orchestra with new classrooms for choir and instrumental music and build a new library and student center at San Leandro High School; and
- CONSTRUCT affordable housing** for teachers and school staff. The Bay Area housing crisis makes it very difficult for the District to hire and keep talented teachers. By building affordable rental housing, **Measure J will help the District attract and retain outstanding teachers and school staff** who will live and work in San Leandro.

FOR SAN LEANDRO SCHOOLS

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING MEASURE J

Assemblymember
Liz Ortega

Mayor
Juan Gonzalez, III

Ellen Corbett,
Former Mayor & State Senator

And All San Leandro City Council members and School Board Trustees

SAN LEANDRO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

San Leandro Education Foundation
www.sledfund.org

Learn more at www.facebook.com/MeasureJforSanLeandro

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