



Wildlife Crossings
CROSSINGS PLANNED ACROSS EAST BAY HIGHWAYS
SO WILDLIFE CAN MOVE ABOUT SAFELY..... **12**

WEEKEND WEATHER
Partly cloudy Friday thru Sunday
HIGHS: 64-67
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 46-49

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 33 • NO. 48 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



EBMUD PHOTO

Salmon from the ocean fight their way back upstream to spawn in the Mokelumne River.

Salmon Return to Mokelumne

A record number of salmon are returning this fall to the Mokelumne River, source of the East Bay's tap water

The fall run of Chinook salmon on the Mokelumne River is the most successful return in more than 80 years, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) said last week.

The Mokelumne, which flows down from the Sierra Nevada, is the main source of water for the 1.4 million EBMUD customers in Alameda and Contra

Costa counties.

More than 20,000 fish – and counting – have returned from the Pacific Ocean to spawn in the river, the most since record keeping began in 1940, according to EBMUD.

The Mokelumne River contributes only about 3 percent of the freshwater flow into the Sacramento-San Joa-

quin Delta, yet its salmon population makes up as much as 50 percent of the commercial catch off the coast of California.

Salmon returns are counted every year during the spawning season, which runs from August through January. These Chinook return to their home

see SALMON, page 11

New Warehouse Approved on Washington Ave.

Councilman Ballew says it's an upgrade to the area

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

An El Segundo-based commercial real estate developer got the green light from the San Leandro City Council last week to start constructing a new warehouse on a vacant lot on Washington Avenue across the street from Larsen Lumber.

The Council voted 6-0, with Councilmember Xouhoa Bowen absent, to approve the construction and operation and introduce an ordinance to rezone the site from "commercial community" to "industrial general." The ordinance includes an administrative exception to allow a 47-foot-high structure in the area.

The lot at 14143 Washington Avenue was formerly the home of the Apollo RV Sales Center but was vacant for years. More recently, the empty buildings had been the scene of a few garbage fires. Not much more than the foundations remain.

First Industrial Realty Trust, which owns the property, asked the San Leandro Planning Commission for permission to create a one-story, 47-foot tall, approximately 52,269 square-foot warehouse

that includes up to 5,000 square feet of office space. The plan was approved on November 2.

The initial design includes 15 truck bays, 64 vehicle
see WAREHOUSE, page 10

Downtown Holiday Festival Set For Friday

Downtown San Leandro invites you to the 26th Annual "It's a Wonderful Night" holiday celebration on Friday, Dec. 1, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Ring in the holidays with the annual tree lighting, performances, photos with Santa, holiday train rides, crafts for kids, and holiday market.

The family-friendly event begins with the holiday tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. at Estudillo Ave and East 14th Street, and the main event will be centered around West Juana Avenue between East 14th St. and Washington Avenue.

City Council Updated on Top 3 Priorities

Council looks at housing, public safety, infrastructure

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

San Leandro City Council received updates from the various departments earlier this month, including interim Police Chief Kevin Hart, about how the city is managing its top three priorities: housing and homelessness, public

safety, and infrastructure and beautification.

Those three issues were identified and ranked with public comment during the council's budget meetings in February. The Nov. 13 work meeting gave the council its first real look at how the city is tackling each priority.

Helping the Homeless

San Leandro, like other cities in the Bay Area, has a large number of unhoused. The two shelters in town include the San Leandro Shelter and Sister Me Home, both operated by Building Futures.

City of San Leandro Human Services Director Jessica

Lobedan noted that the total cost of scaling up the shelter and housing inventory in Alameda County over the coming five years is an estimated \$2.5 billion for ongoing operations of programs and buildings and the services and subsidies to help people rent.

see PRIORITIES, page 11

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

PETS

Dewey is a German shepherd mix.

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RELIGION

Everyone welcome at the menorah lighting.

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Wildlife crossings planned for East Bay highways.

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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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California
Newspaper
Publishers
Association
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Pets of the Week



Dewey



Junior

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

Dewey is a 4-month-old German shepherd mix. He's a pup that wants to just be the center of attention in your home. Dewey would do best in a home with teens and adults.

Junior is an 11-month-old Doberman mix. He's a high flying, fun loving dog. Junior is looking for a home that can set him up for success with training, love and kindness.

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



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

All Lined Up

The Oro Loma Sanitary District is replacing some of its underground lines, including the one on Rose Avenue near San Leandro Hospital.

Bay-O-Vista

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510-357-8366 • email: swim@bovswim.com

District Attorney Says Prosecution Underway in Kevin Nishita Killing

It's been two years since the killing of Keven Nishita in Oakland, a security guard who worked for KRON TV protecting journalists.

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price reminded the public last week that her office is prosecuting the two suspects the DA's office believes killed Nishita. They are both charged with murder, including enhancements in connection with Mr. Nishita's death. They are scheduled to go on trial early next month.

"The murder of Kevin Nishita is a heartbreaking tragedy for this community," said Price. "Our victim advocates have been in contact with Mr. Nishita's family and the other

persons injured in this incident, keeping them apprised of the case every step of the way. While nothing can bring him back, our hope and intent are that justice will be served, and that will afford the family some closure."

If they are found guilty, we fully expect they will be held accountable for their crimes and serve long sentences in prison, Price said.

Price has been accused by critics of being too soft on crime. A petition to recall her from office is currently gathering signatures.

But a statement from the district attorney's office said that Price is committed to ending violent crime in our community, wherever it occurs.

Give back this season, one meal at a time

The holidays can be especially lonesome for homebound seniors in Castro Valley and San Leandro.

Bring a senior a meal, a smile, and joy this holiday season.

Get involved today: sosmow.org

510-244-0165 John@sosmow.org



Community Calendar

Friends of San Leandro Library Cookbook Sale

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will host a Cookbook Sale on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Trustees Room of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. Hundreds of beautiful books featuring cuisines from around the world will be featured. From the basic how-to to elegant dining recipes, these books originally sold for as much as \$50 but will be sale priced at \$4 or less. This sale is cash only. It's a great time to start your holiday shopping with quality cookbooks at bargain prices. All proceeds benefit the San Leandro Library's programs and services.

Books Inc. Holiday Warehouse Sale

Books Inc., 2483 Washington Ave. in San Leandro, will host its annual Holiday Warehouse Sale on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. New quality books, gifts, and games for sale at half price or less.

Friends of Castro Valley Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave. in Castro Valley, will hold an indoor book sale Friday through Sunday, Dec. 1 to Dec. 3, featuring fiction and mystery books, all categories of nonfiction books, children's books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs, and miscellaneous items such as puzzles and games. Member Preview is Friday night from 6 to 8 p.m. Memberships may be purchased or renewed at the door. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday (\$5 bag day) hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Gerard Ladies Annual Holiday Bake Sale

Saint John's Church will host the St. Gerard Ladies Annual Holiday Bake Sale in the Community Meeting Room, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo, on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3. Saturday from 3 to 7:30 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be an assortment of baked goods, a raffle with prizes, trinkets and a treasure sale. A Continental Breakfast will be available on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Workshop to Learn about Cybercrime

Learn about cyber crime trends and prevention at a workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Cherryland Community Center, 278 Hampton Road in Hayward. The FBI will conduct this workshop that provides an overview of the top cybercrimes facing our communities and offer practical tips to safeguard your household and businesses. This event is co-sponsored by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, League of Women Voters of the Eden Area and SF Cause.

SL Church of Christ Blood Drive

The San Leandro Church of Christ, 601 MacArthur Blvd., will host a blood drive on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 1-800-733-2767 for an appointment, or sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: SAN LEANDRO.

Copeland to Perform Christmas Story, The Jewelry Box

Playwright and actor Brian Copeland will present his critically acclaimed Christmas story, The Jewelry Box, on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. in the theater of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Tickets are \$35 in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com or \$40 at the door.

Arts & Crafts Swap Meet

California BrainWaves hosts an Arts & Crafts Swap on the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Trustees Room of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Free, all ages and skill levels welcome. Neurodivergent-friendly. Donate, craft, grab goodies.

American Legion Post 649 to Meet

American Legion Post 649 in Castro Valley meets on the last Monday of every month at 1800 (6 p.m.) for dinner, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20385 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. For more information, call Jim Smith at 510-305-2280.

Chabad of San Leandro to Hold Public Menorah Lighting on Dec. 11

Chabad of San Leandro invites all to participate in a joyous celebration in honor of Chanukah on Monday, Dec. 11, at 5:30 p.m. in front of the San Leandro Police Department, 901 East 14th St. This community event is free and open to the public.

Chabad calls to add in light by doing acts of goodness and kindness as they will be lighting the 7-foot Menorah. Back by popular demand there will be live music by the "Ferris Wheels Band" who will uplift the crowd with traditional Chanukah songs.

A buffet will include traditional foods as donuts, latkes, apple crumble and this year a special cotton candy booth. A fire juggler will wow the crowd. There will also be children's Chanukah crafts, prizes, balloon artist, and more. Every participant will receive free Chanukah swag. Security will be present by the event.

If you have any questions or if you need anything for



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHABAD OF SAN LEANDRO

The annual menorah lighting will be held this year along with doughnuts, latkes, apple crumble and entertainment by the Ferris Wheels Band.

Chanukah, whether it's Menorahs, candles or anything else to help your celebration, email chabadsleandro@gmail.com

and someone will be happy to assist you.

"We are so grateful to be able to gather and celebrate Chanukah together as a community," said Rabbi Shmaya Shusterman, director of Chabad San Leandro.

Announcements and Briefs

Adult School Technical Education Open House

San Leandro Adult & Career Education Center, 1448 Williams St., will host a Career Technical Education Open House on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Explore the many certificated training classes and programs: Accounting 2 & 3, Administrative Assistant, Barber & Cosmetology, Business & Financial Literacy, Clinical Medical Assistant, Computer Classes, Homecare Worker, Intro to Early Childhood Development, Medical Billing & Coding, Medical Terminology 2, Medical Front Office Assistant, Paraeducator Test Prep, Payroll Technician, Pharmacy Tech, Pre-Apprenticeship Test Prep, Veterinary Assistant, Vocational Nursing Program, and Workforce Communication. For more information, call 510-667-6250 or visit www.sanleandroadultschool.org.

Tasting History: Ghirardelli

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., presents an afternoon of tasty facts and treats, learning all about the history of chocolate and the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company, on Saturday, Dec. 2, from noon to 2 p.m. You'll also be making your very own "No Bake Chocolate Power Bites," a recipe from Ghirardelli. All equipment, ingredients, and supplies are included in your registration. If you have multiple family members, please know that you will be baking together _ please register only once. If you have any questions, email the Museum Curator,

Dylainie Nathlich at dnathlich@sanleandro.org Registration is required. visit: <https://tinyurl.com/decemberprogram> to register.

Chorus to Sing Winter Songs from Around the World

Join Chorus Eclectic for a wintery tour around the world on Monday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Church of Christ, 601 MacArthur Blvd. The chorus will sing winter-themed songs in Estonian, English, Hebrew, Native American languages, Spanish, and Tagalog. The concert is presented by the San Leandro Church of Christ/Lewis Avenue Resilience Hub to provide an experience of community connection at a time of increasing polarization throughout the world. Adults \$10, Children \$5 (5 and under are free) when tickets are purchased ahead of time at <https://bit.ly/winterwonderlandsconcert>. Desserts and raffle tickets available for purchase during intermission.

Grant Avenue Foundation Food Drive

The Grant Avenue Foundation will hold a food drive on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Elio's Family Restaurant, 260 Floresta Blvd. in San Leandro. Bring non-perishable, unopened food items, such as canned goods, dry Pasta, and Beans, to Elios Family Restaurant parking lot. It's a Drive Through - Drop off event, rain or shine. All food donations will go to the San Leandro Food Pantry at Bethel Community Church.

Spiritual, but not religious?

Watch 11:11am Live-stream at

- unitysanleandro.org or on Facebook Live
- We emphasize spirituality more than religion.
- We believe there are many paths to God.
- We show you how to transform your life through practical spiritual principles.
- Everyone is welcome.

www.unitysanleandro.org

SUNDAY 11:11 A.M.

Unity Church of San Leandro
P.O. Box 2018, San Leandro, 94577

A Special Thank You to the San Leandro Community!



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East Bay Living



Short Ribs with Root Vegetables

Symbolic Holiday Menu Calls for Potato Latkes

When the first Hanukkah candle is lit next Thursday evening, the glow will remind those of the Jewish faith of a miracle with oil that took place more than 2,000 years ago when the Jews drove a foreign army out of Jerusalem and rekindled the eternal light in the Temple with pure oil.

Legend relates that only enough oil for one day could be found, but it miraculously lasted for eight days. To commemorate this event, colorful candles are lighted each

night of the holiday.

The custom of serving fried foods, particularly potato pancakes (latkes), grew out of the miracle of the oil, and have become the symbol of the holiday.

Latkes are usually served with sour cream and applesauce.

TRADITIONAL POTATO LATKES

1 pound potatoes
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1 large egg, lightly beaten

1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 to 3/4 cup olive oil
Sour cream and applesauce for accompaniments

Peel potatoes and coarsely grate by hand, transferring to a large bowl of cold water as grated. Allow potatoes to soak for another 2 minutes after last batch is added to water, then drain well in a colander.

Spread grated potatoes and onion on a kitchen towel and roll up jelly-roll style. Twist towel tightly to wring out as much liquid as possible. Transfer potato mixture to a bowl and stir in egg and salt.

Heat 1/4 cup oil in a 12-inch nonstick skillet over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking. Working in batches of 4 latkes, spoon 2 tablespoons potato mixture per latke into skillet, spreading into 3-inch rounds with a fork. Reduce heat to moderate and cook until undersides are browned, about 5 minutes. Turn latkes over and cook until undersides are browned, about 5 minutes more. Transfer to paper towels to drain and season with salt. Add more oil to skillet as needed. Keep latkes warm on a wire rack set in a shallow baking pan in oven. Yields 12 to 16 latkes

SHORT RIBS WITH ROOT VEGETABLES

6 pounds boneless beef short ribs, trimmed
Salt and pepper
1/4 cup olive oil
3 large onions, halved lengthwise, cut crosswise into 1/4-inch slices
6 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1/3 cup packed dark-brown sugar
2-1/2 cups apple cider
1-1/2 cups chicken stock
1 tablespoon each, finely chopped fresh thyme and fresh rosemary
1/3 cup fresh parsley, finely chopped, plus extra
1 pound parsnips, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch slices
1-3/4 pounds carrots, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces
1-1/2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place a wire rack over a rimmed baking sheet; set aside.

Season beef with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a 9-quart Dutch oven over high heat until hot but not smoking. Working in batches, cook the beef, flipping once, until browned, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer beef to the wire rack. Reduce heat to medium-low.

Add onions to pot; cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent, about 10 minutes. Raise heat to medium. Add garlic; cook 3 min-

utes, stirring occasionally. Stir in brown sugar, cider, stock, and 1/2 cup water. Add thyme, rosemary, and parsley. Return beef to pot. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat.

Cover; transfer to oven. Cook until almost fork tender, about 1-1/2 hours. Remove pot from oven. Stir in parsnips, carrots, and potatoes. Return to oven; cook until fork-tender, 1 hour 10 minutes more. Gently transfer beef and vegetables to a baking sheet or a plate.

Skim fat from cooking liquid. Simmer over medium heat until reduced by about half, about 7 minutes.

Return beef and vegetables to pot. Season with salt and pepper; toss gently. Transfer to serving platter. Sprinkle with parsley. Serves 8.

APPLE CIDER DOUGHNUTS

2 red apples
2-1/2 cups apple cider
3-1/2 cups flour, plus more
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
3-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1-2/3 cups sugar
3 tablespoons shortening
1 large egg plus 1 egg yolk
1/4 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/4 cup confectioners' sugar
Vegetable oil, for frying

Core and coarsely chop the apples (do not peel). Combine with 1-1/2 cups cider in a medium saucepan over medium heat; cover and cook until softened, about 8 minutes. Uncover and continue cooking until the apples are tender and the cider is almost completely reduced, about 5 minutes. Puree with an immersion blender or in a food processor until smooth. Measure the sauce; you should have 1 cup. (Boil to reduce further, if necessary.) Let cool slightly.

Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon, salt and nutmeg in a medium bowl.

Beat 2/3 cup granulated sugar and the shortening in another bowl with a mixer on medium speed until sandy. Beat in the egg and yolk, then gradually mix in the applesauce, scraping the bowl. Beat in half of the flour mixture, then the buttermilk and vanilla, and then the remaining flour mixture. Mix to make a sticky dough; do not overmix.

Scrape the dough onto a lightly floured sheet of parchment paper and pat into a 7-by-11-inch rectangle, about 1/2 inch thick. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Meanwhile, make the glaze: Simmer the remaining 1 cup cider in a small saucepan over medium heat until reduced to 1/4 cup. Whisk in the confectioners' sugar until smooth and glossy, then set aside. Mix the remaining 1 cup granulated sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon in a shallow bowl; set aside for the topping.

Heat 2 inches of vegetable oil in a large heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat until a deep-fry thermometer registers 350°F. Line a baking sheet with paper towels.

Cut the chilled dough into 12 rounds, using a floured 2 1/2- or 3-inch biscuit cutter, then cut out the middles with a 1-inch cutter (or use a doughnut cutter).

Slip 2 or 3 doughnuts at a time into the hot oil and fry until golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes per side, adjusting the heat as needed. Transfer to the paper towels to drain.

Dip one side of each doughnut in the cider glaze, letting the excess drip off; dip just the glazed side in the cinnamon-sugar. Serve warm.



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HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A project benefits from your organizational skills, which get it up and running. Your success leaves a favorable impression. Don't be surprised if you get some positive feedback soon.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Spend time on practical matters until the end of the month. Then begin shifting your focus to more artistic pursuits. Resist being overly self-critical. Just allow yourself to feel free to create.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Restarting those creative projects that you had set aside for a while will help provide a much-needed soothing balance to your hectic life. Besides, it will be like meeting with old friends again.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): A change in plans could make it tough to keep a commitment. But stay with it. You'll get an A-plus for making the effort to do what's right and not taking the easy way out by running off.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): The Lion's enthusiasm for a workplace policy review is admirable. But be sure you know who is really behind the resistance to change before pointing your finger at the wrong person.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): You can expect to have a lot of work through the end of the month. Devote the rest of the week to checking your plans in case some need to be adjusted to accommodate changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Try to avoid signing on the dotted line in the early part of the week. You need time to study issues that weren't fully explored. The first week of next month might be more favorable for decision-making.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A new development could snarl travel schedules or other holiday projects. Some flexibility might be called for to deal with problems before they get too far out of hand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Relatives seek your advice on a matter that you'd rather not be involved in. If so, use your sage Sagittarian tact to decline the "offer" so that no one's feelings are needlessly hurt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): A shift in planning direction might help you speed up your progress toward achieving that long-planned goal. Trusted colleagues are ready to offer some valuable support.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): An unexpected demand for the settlement of an old loan could create some holiday anxiety. But you might not really owe it. Check your records thoroughly before remitting payment.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): An unexpected demand for the settlement of an old loan could create some holiday anxiety. But you might not really owe it. Check your records thoroughly before remitting payment.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

Z	A	P		G	L	E	E		N	A	P	E
I	M	A		L	E	N	D		I	M	A	X
P	A	R	F	A	I	T	S		C	I	T	E
				M	A	D	S	E	C	E	D	E
S	W	E	D	E	N		L	B	J			
L	I	S		S	A	W		S	O	F	A	S
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P	E	T	S		A	P	P	S		R	A	M

How to Keep Food Safe After a Disaster or Emergency

California Poison Control tips on keeping food safe

California Poison Control System (CPCS) reminds California residents that earthquakes, fires, floods, and high winds causing power outages can happen at any time. Without electricity, foodborne illness is more likely.

"If you are in a disaster or lose electricity to your refrigerator and freezer, it's important that you take steps to prevent illness from unsafe food," says Cyrus Rangan, M.D., a pediatrician and medical toxicologist with California Poison Control System. "You can't always tell by how food looks or smells, so when in doubt, toss it out!"

Throw away any foods that:

- Are perishable and have not been refrigerated or frozen
- Perishable foods include meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers, as well as food from

the freezer that thawed

- Canned foods that are bulging, open, or damaged
- And throw away any home-canned foods, as they can't be disinfected

- Have an unusual odor, color, or texture

- Any food containers, including cans, that spurt liquid or foam when opened or contain food that is discolored, moldy, or smells bad

Food can last longer during and after a power outage if refrigerator and freezer doors are kept closed. Full freezers will keep food safe for 48 hours; 24 hours if half full. If the freezer isn't full, move the items close together—it will help keep food cold longer. Refrigerators will keep food safe for up to 4 hours.

After a disaster or emergency, if any food in the freezer still contains ice crystals

and feels as cold as if it were refrigerated, it can safely be refrozen or cooked.

About CPCS

Call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 (number is the same in all states) for questions about poison encounters. Trained pharmacists, nurses and other providers are available to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The service is free, confidential and interpreters are available. Get weekly tips about safety by texting TIPS to 20121 for English or texting PUNTOS to 20121 for Spanish. Follow CPCS on Facebook and on Twitter @poisoninfo. CPCS is part of the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy and is responsible to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority.



AC Transit Debuts New Buses for Transbay Routes

AC Transit recently introduced a new generation of Transbay service with new, redesigned MCI commuter coaches.

The new coaches are being deployed on select Transbay and supplemental school service (600-series) lines.

Key features of the new

coaches are:

- Better accessibility: a low-floor area at a second door has room for two mobility devices or seating for passengers who have difficulty using stairs; the second door uses a simpler and faster ramp compared to the old MCI coaches' lift.

Additionally, the front stairs are easier to use.

- Rider improvements: brighter LED lighting, airline-style overhead rack space, rider-controlled overhead air vents, and grab bars for stability.

• Bicycle racks on front: three-position bicycle racks are installed on the front of these coaches like all non-Tempo buses.

- Operational improvements: the new coaches feature faster boarding, a tighter turn radius, and compliance with California clean-air regulations.

More information can be found on AC Transit's website: www.actransit.org/mci-d45.

Announcements and Briefs

Assumption Tree Lighting

Church of the Assumption, 1100 Fulton Ave. in San Leandro, will hold its Fifth Annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 5 p.m. All are welcome for a festive eve-

ning, lighting the Christmas tree, singing Christmas carols while sipping hot chocolate and nibbling on Christmas cookies. This family friendly gathering is sure to get us in the Christmas spirit. Come see the beautiful lights that

decorate the grounds.

Fall Safety Prevention

Calling All Seniors: Fall into safety with Spectrum's Fall Prevention Program

Spectrum's Community Services Fall Prevention Pro-

gram is accepting registration for its winter classes. The EnhanceFitness classes offer exercises addressing strength, balance, and flexibility. The Walk With Ease classes focus on self-motivated walking to boost strength and ease arthri-

tis symptoms. Classes run from Jan. 2 to March 22 at the Cherryland Community Center, San Leandro Senior Center, or virtually via Zoom. Call 510-881-0300 (Option 6) or register online at www.SpectrumCS.org.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Be Prepared for Winter

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

Watching football games from across the country this past week was a reality check: in addition to classic pigskin rivalries, some matches included inclement weather and even snow. We are so fortunate in the Bay Area with our temperate climate. Even then, it is important to take care as the weather can have dire consequences for the unprepared.

Here is our Top Six Fall Prep List:

Check your furnace BEFORE it gets cold. Fire it up to make sure everything is working. Remember that furnaces sitting idle have accumulated dust that is burned off during the first run, resulting in that classic "ionization" smell. Considering installing a new thermostat

such as a NEST? Do it now. An HVAC technician can check your furnace and install a new thermostat to make sure everything works as it should. Change your furnace filter. Sealing furnace ducting will also save energy.

Replace drafty windows. When cold weather comes, old windows reward you with drafts and heat loss. Eliminate drafts and lower heating costs by replacing your old windows with new thermally efficient dual-pane products. Check for available discounts for installing new windows out of the peak season. Use window shades to keep in heat, especially at night. Check your roof and gutters.

A roof inspection is relatively inexpensive, yet can prevent hundreds of dollars in potential damage. It's always best to catch potential issues BEFORE they cause harm.

For an extra fee, some roof inspection companies will also clean your gutters. If you need new gutters, beat the rush and do it now. Make sure your downspouts have diverters which carry water away from your home and ensure nothing on the ground traps water or directs it towards your dwelling.

Trim vegetation away from the house.

If you have tree branches, bushes or shrubs touching your home, trim them back before the storms come. Tree branches can do extensive damage, especially to roofs, and vegetation close to the walls will trap moisture.

Check weather seals. Make sure your doors have adequate weather seals and door sweeps to close off all gaps. Caulk all gaps around windows. Close the fireplace damper.

Keep flashlights handy. You never know when weather might knock out local power – keep charged flashlights handy in case.

Beat the season and while others are panicking, you will be snug and warm in your fully prepared home.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Advisors and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association.

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Mortgage Rates Continue to Slide Down

Mortgage rates continued to decrease heading into the Thanksgiving holiday. In recent weeks, rates have dropped by half a percent, but potential homebuyers continue to hold out for lower rates and more inventory. This dynamic is reflected in the latest data showing that existing home sales have fallen to a thirteen-year low.

The Proper Care for a Live Christmas Tree

Decorating a living Christmas tree not only perks up the season but provides a tree for your yard if you have the space.

That planted tree not only can add esthetic value to your landscape, it can also keep soil from eroding and buffer a house from winter winds and summer sun. But you'll need to do more than shake the tinsel off the branches and stick it in the soil.

For the best choice of tree, you might want to check the Sunset Western Garden Book for details on how fast—and how big—a tree gets. Some that are suited to Bay Area climates, include Monterey pine, Sequoia redwood, the slow-growing Italian stone pine and the deodar cedar.

Gradually introduce your living tree from outside to inside over three or four days by putting it in the garage or an enclosed porch.

At a nursery or garden supply store, purchase a spray with an antidesiccant or antiwilt product to minimize needle loss and reduce loss of moisture once inside the home.

Locate the tree in the coolest part of the room, away from heating ducts.

The tree should not remain in the house for longer than seven to 10 days. Water the tree as often as necessary to moisten the roots. Slowly trickle about two quarts of cold water around the trunk every three to four days for trees 4 feet or taller. But don't let the soil become soggy and never add nutrients or fertilizers as that could initiate growth which shouldn't occur in a dormant tree.

Decorate the tree with mini-lights and small ornaments, but don't use any flocking or other decorative spray.

When it's time to remove the decorations and plant the tree outdoors, choose a spot away from buildings and other trees. (Pines grow to 50 feet and redwoods two or three times that height.)

Dig the hole three times the width of the root ball, but less than a foot deep. The hole should not be deeper than the rootball.

Make four shallow cuts on the rootball with a sharp knife, place the tree in the hole and spread out the cut roots.

As you fill in the soil, keep the crown (where roots and stem meet) one to two inches above the soil line. Add soil until the hole is two-third full, tamping the soil gently.

Water around the roots, then fill the hole completely and tamp the soil again. Be sure the crown remains above the soil line or the tree will die.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A1_Christmas_Tree_photo.jpg#/media/File:A1_Christmas_Tree_photo.jpg

RECENT HOME SALES

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

Castro Valley

9969 Lorena Circle 94546: \$932,500 [3 BD - 1,660 SF - 1995 YRBLT]
5315 Willow Glen Place 94546: \$2,050,000 [4 BD - 2,880 SF - 1993 YRBLT]

TOTAL SALES:	2
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$932,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,050,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,491,250
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,491,250

Hayward

20875 Agnes Lane 94541: \$550,000 [2 BD - 702 SF - 1947 YRBLT]
2038 Duval Lane 94545: \$750,000 [3 BD - 1,119 SF - 1956 YRBLT]
526 Jilliene Way 94544: \$900,000 [3 BD - 1,184 SF - 1955 YRBLT]
24709 Brentwood Court 94545: \$920,000 [3 BD - 1,587 SF - 1954 YRBLT]
27401 Palmwood Avenue 94545: \$925,000 [3 BD - 1,421 SF - 1956 YRBLT]

TOTAL SALES:	5
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$550,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$925,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$900,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$809,000

San Leandro

14942 Portofino Circle 94578: \$410,000 [3 BD - 1,582 SF - 1982 YRBLT]

TOTAL SALES:	1
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$410,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$410,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$410,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$410,000

San Lorenzo

426 Crespi Place 94580: \$710,000 [3 BD - 1,370 SF - 2004 YRBLT]
1406 Via Buena Vista 94580: \$847,000 [3 BD - 1,325 SF - 1951 YRBLT]
732 Via Pacheco 94580: \$860,000 [3 BD - 1,032 SF - 1944 YRBLT]

TOTAL SALES:	3
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$710,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$860,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$847,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$805,666

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A Naturally Clean Home

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Times

While you might not be able to replace every cleaning product in your home, there are alternatives to commercial products ... and they're probably in your cupboard right now. Here are five you should have on hand at all times:

- **Lemon:** A natural disinfectant that also imparts a pleasant scent. It's no coincidence that many commercial products are lemon-scented.

- **Vinegar:** More than just a good disinfectant, vinegar is effective against mold. It breaks up grease, and can be effective against some stains.

- **Baking soda:** In addition to being a good deodorant for the fridge, baking soda can be used to gently scour surfaces without scratching.

- **Cornstarch:** A gentle cleaning product that can be used to polish some furni-

ture, clean windows, and even shampoo carpets.

- **Salt:** When you need more scrubbing power than soda or starch, and surface scratches aren't a concern, salt is an excellent substitute for scouring powders.

In addition to these fairly benign cleaners, there are a few products that you should have that boost cleaning options while having a limited impact on the environment. These should be stored out of the reach of children and pets, and you should follow package instructions:

- **Soap:** Look for unscented soap that doesn't contain petroleum distillates. Soap also demolishes grease, and creates a slick surface that makes it easier to wash food particles and bacteria from dishes.

- **Borax:** The commercial name for sodium borate, this chemical cleans and disin-

fects surfaces, including wallpaper and painted walls. It's even used to attract and poison pests like roaches.

- **Washing soda:** Also known as SAL soda, this is a mineral called sodium carbonate. It's used for household cleaning and is often an ingredient in laundry detergents and coffee pot descaling formulas.

- **Citrus solvent:** A more powerful cleaning solution, it can clean paintbrushes and help dissolve oil and grease.

- **Isopropyl alcohol:** Another common and affordable disinfectant straight out of your first-aid kit.

How do you safely use these ingredients? There are more ways than I have room to describe. The back of the packages for many of these products — like Borax, washing soda, citrus solvent and baking soda — contain tips and instructions on safe use. Additionally, you can find a trove of information on

the Web.

Eartheasy has a page dedicated to nontoxic cleaning along with ways to use the above ingredients. Real Sim-

ple's website has a page with 66 different cleaning tips.

Home Tip: Clean and deodorize your garbage disposal by throwing in a few ice cubes

and lemon or lime rinds, and running the disposal until clear.

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WEEKEND GARDENER

Frost Protection

Freezing nighttime temperatures have already hit most parts of the East Bay. The coldest time is from 4 a.m. to sun-up. If you haven't already done so, here's what to do right away:

Move tender container plants under the eaves of a roof, on the porch, or even in the house if necessary.

Cover anything you can't move with an old sheet, a tarp or cardboard boxes. The covering should be anchored by stakes above the plant so there is an air gap between the plant and the covering. Cloth gives more protection than plastic. Remove the covering in the morning.

Mist garden plant foliage at night and again in the morning. The thin layer of water on the foliage helps to insulate the leaves. The morning sprinkling washes away the frost before the sun hits it when most of the actual damage is done.

Keep garden soil moist. Dry plants are easy victims of frost.

If a plant is damaged by frost, don't prune away the damage. Wait until the plant begins its spring growing cycle, then prune off any dead parts.

Temperatures have to drop below 26°F to damage hardy, mature plants.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

It is important to remember that at no time can a real Christmas tree start a fire. It can however be ignited by an external source.

According to National Fire Prevention Association, electrical causes and lamps were responsible for starting almost half (47%) of structure fires involving Christmas trees.

Another quarter of the fires were caused by various open flames, sparks and embers. The remaining fires were started by a variety of ignition sources, including gas-fueled equipment and cigarettes.

Keeping the holiday safe from fire is an important re-

sponsibility for every family. According to the California Christmas Tree Association, these simple steps can help guard against the rare, but serious, event of a holiday fire:

- **Select the freshest-looking tree available.** Make a fresh cut across the tree's base and immediately place in water. Keep the tree's water container full at all times, checking the water level daily.

- **Be extra careful with electricity,** all open flames and other heat sources during the holidays.

- **Check all Christmas tree lights,** other electric decorations and electrical appliances

with worn electrical cords. Use only UL approved electrical decorations and extension cords.

- **Place the Christmas tree well away from heat registers, space heaters, fire places and wood stoves.** Keep it well clear of doors. Keep the emergency escape route clear of trees, packages and furniture.

- **Unplug tree lights and other decorations when out of the room or sleeping.**

Don't let the very slim chance of a fire involving your Christmas tree keep you from enjoying the life, fragrance and tradition that real trees bring to your holiday celebration.

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Sources: www.medicalnewstoday.com, thetruthaboutcancer.com, wikipedia

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By-----, Deputy
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NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Aweetumns Art, located at 70 Harlan
Street APT 203, San Leandro, CA 94577.
Alameda County, is hereby registered
by the following owner(s): Autumn
Askew, located at 70 Harlan Street APT
203, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business
is conducted by An Individual. This
business commenced 02/28/2019
/s/Autumn Askew
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Expires October 22, 2028
NOV 16, 23, 30, DEC 7, 2023
1004- SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
November 06, 2023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 601884
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Crawl Space Champions Panda Heating & Cooling, located at 10121 Denny
Street, Oakland, CA 94603. / 718 Douglas
Ave, Oakland CA 94603. Alameda
County, is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Attic Pros Inc., located at
718 Douglas Ave, Oakland CA 94603.
This business is conducted by a Corporation.
This business commenced N/A
/s/Leonid Molchanov
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Expires November 05, 2028
NOV, 23, 30, DEC 7, 14, 2023
1015- SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
October 20, 2 023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 601534
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Yummy Halal Grill, located at 4300 International Blvd #B, Oakland Ca 94601./
2029 Mayflower Place, San Leandro Ca
94579. in Alameda County, is hereby
registered by the following owner(s):
Afghan & Mediterranean Cuisine,
2029 Mayflower Place, San Leandro
Ca 94579. This business is conducted,
by a Corporation. This business commenced
08/00/21
/s/ Faridahmad Bakhtary
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Expires October 19, 2028
NOV 23, 30, JAN 06, 13, 2022

FILED
MELISSA WILK
November 18, 2023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 60148
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Inkbold Tattoo Studio, located at 2350
Saratoga Street Unit 149, Alameda, CA
94501. Alameda County, is hereby registered
by the following owner(s): Bayarjargal Enkhbold, located at 2000 Ardent Way Apt 106, Alameda, CA 94501.
This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced
12/01/2022
/s/Bayarjargal Enkhbold
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Expires November 17, 2028
NOV 30, DEC 07, 14, 21, 2023
1017- SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
November 09, 2023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 602002
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Adjie Rita, located at 13475 Bancroft
Ave, San Leandro, CA 94578. Alameda
County, is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Rita Gyamfi, located at
13475 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro,
CA 94578. This business is conducted
by An Individual. This business commenced
03/02/2016
/s/Rita Gyamfi
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Expires November 08, 2028
NOV, 23, 30, DEC 7, 14, 2023
1015- SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
November 15, 2023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 602097
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Ashland Art Studios, located at 1577
152nd Ave, San Leandro, CA 94578. Alameda
County, is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Carolyn Weatherbee, located at 1577 152nd Ave, San
Leandro, CA 94578. This business is
conducted by An Individual. This business
commenced N/A
/s/Carolyn Weatherbee
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Expires November 14, 2028
NOV, 23, 30, DEC 7, 14, 2023
1016- SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
November 1, 2023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 601809
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
(1) Mendoza Real Estate, (2) Mendoza
Insurance Service (3) Mendoza TC
located at 16280 Deanne Court, San
Lorenzo, CA 94580. Alameda County,
is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Yuobela LLC, located at 16280
Deanne Court, San Lorenzo, CA 94580.
This business is conducted by a Limited
Liability Company. This business commenced
N/A
/s/Carlos Mendoza Torres
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Expires October 31, 2028
NOV 16, 23, 30, DEC 7, 2023

FILED
MELISSA WILK
November 15, 2023
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 602099
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Thee Elegant Place, located at 1478 B
Street, Hayward, CA 94541. Alameda
County, is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Lorraine Joseph, located at 1509 B Street, Hayward,
CA 94541. This business is conducted
by An Individual. This business commenced
11/15/23
/s/Lorraine Joseph
This statement was filed with the County
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

Warehouse: City Council recommends solar panels on the roof

continued from front page

parking spaces, and 14 bicycle parking spaces peppered around the building. Several of the parking spaces would be charging stations for electric passenger vehicles. About 15 percent of the site would be landscaped.

“It’s important to note that loading docks are located

“This can actually be a pivotal building, a pivotal development.

— City Councilman
Pete Ballew

on the opposite side of the building from Washington Avenue,” said Adam Peterson, a contractor working with the city.

Currently, the project does not have a specific tenant in mind (known in the industry as a speculative development), but the area along mid-Washington Avenue could really use

“a little bit of touching up,” according to City Councilman Pete Ballew.

“This can actually be a pivotal building, a pivotal development,” Ballew said.

The City Council also recommended the inclusion of solar power units on the roof to promote alternative energy and be in compliance with current building codes. Council members also required that the developer maximize union labor to improve the property.

Other Council News – Fiber Optics Cable

In other Council news, the city manager was given permission to work with Sunnyvale-based Bandwidth IG to install fiber optic cable running from South San Francisco and into San Leandro to provide faster and more broadband internet to the city and cities to the south. The agreement required an easement of San Leandro-owned properties before proceeding.

Shoreline Development

The City Council unanimously voted to increase its Monarch Bay Shoreline Development Project budget by \$19,272 to pay for three additional services from BKF Engineers, overseeing part of the \$40 million restoration of the San Leandro Marina.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The empty lot at 14143 Washington Avenue is ripe for development.

BKF said it will use the funds to collaborate with another company developing land north of the marina. The engineering firm said it will also use the money to acquire approval from the Bay Conservation and Development

Commission (BCDC) for engineering and environmental reporting.

It will also use the funds to address rampant vandalism at buildings set for demolition at the San Leandro Marina, which has been closed since

January 2023.

Homeless Prevention

The San Leandro City Council also unanimously voted to extend its agreement with Alameda County to address homeless and housing, apply \$1,024,091 in Alameda

County Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) Funds to help those programs, and work with Building Futures and HHAP to fund the city’s shelter and winter warming services.

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.

Not Enough Police

Editor,

In a recent letter to the editor, a concerned citizen was worried about the city spending monies for additional flock cameras. I am here to recommend that we indeed continue to purchase and install additional cameras, as well as hire additional police officers. I have first hand knowledge of their effectiveness.

On Monday October 2, we hand contractors beginning work on our home. At about 10:15 a.m. while I was consulting the job forman, we both heard a tremendous crash just

in front of our home, followed by moaning of someone injured.

A white Lexus had struck the left rear corner of the contractors truck shoving it about three feet forward. One of the workers was leaning on the hood at the time. He was thrown approximately ten feet into our driveway, where I found him face down complaining of back pain. I called 911, did a physical exam. In the mean time a grey Jaguar SUV pulled slowly up on the opposite side of the street and the woman driver exchanged words with the driver of the Lexus.

I stood and went to check on the

driver who was exiting the Lexus. He removed a small shoulder satchel from the car and began walking away. I asked if he was OK, as his windshield was broken from him not wearing a seat belt. He continued to walk away, and I asked him to stop. I got up next to him and told him to stop. He turned looked at me and said he would shoot me if I laid a hand on him.

He continued to walk calmly away to the next block where he got into the Jaguar and was driven away. I got the license number, and the flock cameras confirmed the license as well as tracked the vehicle until it exited the city. Our worker was transported to the hospital and later released without serious injury.

The police were unable to respond quickly enough to intervene due to there having been an altercation across town. We have a skeleton police force. There are not enough officers to do what is asked of them safely. I was told that there was five officers on duty for the whole city that day. Two responded to this call. That was 40 percent of

the entire personal on duty at one call.

We need to make this tremendously dangerous job safer for those who take the oath to protect us. Average staffing levels used to be fifteen to twenty officers per shift.

John Carlson
San Leandro

Making a Buck

Editor,

In response to Bill Rodenburg (Letters to the Editor, “Unlicensed Food Vendors,” Nov. 23 2023). You’re not looking at the bigger picture. Sure these people don’t have permits. But this is their way to make a buck. I would rather have them trying to hustle and make money than those people downtown constantly begging and or shoplifting. Shoplifting used to be illegal.

Go downtown and count who the beggars are. And who are laying all over the sidewalks making a mess in our city. Maybe you should be asking the mayor these questions. Last time I remember, San

Leandro is a Sanctuary City. So we should be welcoming bus loads of migrants into our city. As

long as we have our wonderful Gov. Gavin Newsom and the best president in the world. That we keep voting for. Joe Biden. We should be doing very well. Just think if we had that other womanizer for president.

Erlich Smithman
San Leandro

Business Dispute Resolved

Editor,

Recently I had a financial dispute with a Bay Area business. I contacted the Better Business Bureau, which is located here in San Leandro (510-844-2000).

Within 2 weeks, the dispute was resolved to my satisfaction. BBB was efficient and their Disputes Resolution Specialist was knowledgeable and fair. At a time when the consumer is experiencing difficulties in the marketplace, I recommend BBB to all San Leandro residents.

George Z. Banks
San Leandro

Salmon: Work to restore salmon paying off, says EBMUD

continued from front page

waters in the Mokelumne to reproduce and die after spending two to five years maturing in the Pacific Ocean.

The pattern is a significant stage in the salmon life cycle and a strong indicator of the habitat's ecological health and the population's survival rate. On October 29, 2023, EBMUD biologists tallied the largest one-day salmon count in 30 years: 1,941 fish.

"This year's historic return highlights EBMUD's long-standing collaboration in the region and our deep commitment to sustaining this vital fish hatchery and protecting the river's habitat," said EBMUD board President Andy Katz. "We are proud to celebrate this achievement with our local, state and federal partners, as well as the broader community, which has entrusted us with safeguarding this precious natural resource."

The water agency said it balances customers' water needs with environmental protection and river stewardship.

To mitigate for habitat losses that resulted from damming the river, EBMUD manages river flows, enhances habitat, and funds the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery, which is operated in partnership with the California Department of

Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The hatchery management program by EBMUD and CDFW includes operations that support ocean fisheries and natural spawning on the river. When the season is complete and full data is available, experts will determine which strategies contributed most to the success on the Mokelumne, given some rivers are experiencing low returns, as has the Mokelumne in previous years.

Long-term strategies include:

- Habitat enhancement to improve natural river spawning and rearing, in partnership with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Anadromous Fish Restoration Program and the CDFW.

- Flow management, including pulse flows from EBMUD's Camanche Reservoir into the river to attract returning fish; coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to close the Delta Cross Channel to reduce straying; and management of the Camanche cold water pool to support spawning, incubation, and rearing.

- Hatchery management, including investments in chillers and ultraviolet filters to improve egg survival; collaboration on the release of juvenile fish; and management



EBMUD PHOTO

Fish hatcheries and flow management have helped bring more salmon to the Mokelumne River.

of the fish ladder leading into the hatchery.

- Statewide closure of California's 2023 commercial and recreational salmon fishing season to protect the Central Valley fall-run Chinook population; the commercial and recreational salmon fishing

fleet, which funds the production of ocean enhancement fish at the hatchery, forewent the season and contributed to this year's success.

"The Mokelumne faces many challenges," said EBMUD Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife Michelle Work-

man. "It is a small river that can be overwhelmed by flows from larger Central Valley rivers when attracting salmon back from the ocean. But through collaborations with our agency partners, we have found winning strategies.

This year's large run al-

lows us to meet our hatchery goals as well as improve natural production numbers in the river by maximizing the use of the available spawning habitat we worked so hard to build. Decades of work to improve the natural habitat are paying off."

Priorities: Interim police chief Hart announces three new hires

continued from front page

"The homeless population is getting older, sicker, and more disproportionately people of color," Lobedan said. She said that more than a third of those experiencing homelessness can be supported to end their homelessness with local resources or are able to find housing on their own."

According to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count, the city saw a 275 percent increase in homelessness between 2017 and 2022 (from 109 people to 409 people), according to Lobedan. Of the 409 people, 312 lived in tents, cars, RVs or in makeshift camps.

With a majority of the homeless population in San Leandro being unsheltered, Lobedan said it is not possible to address the number of homeless encampment concerns reported to the city.

"Staff have been using encampment condition guidelines to really encourage a baseline health and safety standard for individuals and camps to be practicing as well as articulating violations that will likely result in enforce-

ment," Lobedan said.

As a temporary help to those still on the street, the city opened its annual winter shelter warming program this month. City staff also reported that the Nimitz Motel shelter should be running in 2025. Staff also recommended expanding its Safety Ambassador Program to more morning hours and for Districts 4 and/or District 2 to provide services and outreach in heavily impacted business corridors.

Safety, Crime Prevention

Interim Police Chief Kevin Hart reported to the City Council that some of the potential crime preventions are the ones that the department has used for several years and acknowledged that the police need to expand some of them but explore fresh ideas as well.

Starting with staffing, Hart outlined the department's efforts to increase the staffing of officers and dispatchers. He announced three new hires and about a dozen other candidates at various stages in the hiring process. This past summer, the San Leandro Police Depart-

"The homeless population is getting older, sicker and more disproportionately people of color."

— Jessica Lobedan

ment said it needed 28 more sworn officers and seven new dispatchers to fill its staffing requirements.

Other potential crime prevention enhancements included hiring part-time crime prevention assistants, replacing old signs and expanding the "Neighborhood Watch" program, and striving for more active public awareness with a "See Something, Say Something" marketing campaign.

Hart also reported to the City Council that community safety grants were available to associations and neighborhoods to purchase things like security lighting, security fences, doorbell cameras, unarmed uniformed security guards, and vehicle security cameras like the ones the police department currently

uses from Flock Safety, an automated license-plater reader company.

"Some people may not realize that an individual or an association could apply for a grant for a Flock camera and have it strategically located on their street. And then, of course, the police would get hits on the vehicles coming through, and if they are reported stolen, we would get a vehicle system hit as they occur in real-time," Hart said.

The police are also pursuing other small, individualized grants totaling up to \$85,000 that about 20 San Leandro businesses could receive to help small businesses improve safety measures with crime prevention, Hart said.

Beautify San Leandro

Under the banner of addressing infrastructure needs, City Manager Fran Robustelli laid out the city's plans to improve the look of the city by reallocating about \$1.6 million San Leandro received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, also called the COVID-19

Stimulus Package.

In July, the council approved the reallocation of \$800,000 of funding that was originally for the Clean Streets Team. Robustelli said she would ask the City Council to move an additional \$800,000 earmarked for the city's Enhanced Street Cleanliness funds and apply it to six ongoing projects.

"We really wanted to see what would be the largest and quickest impact we could have," Robustelli said. "We also had to balance it with a lot of new things we want to do, but there are existing programs that either haven't been funded at all, or we have programs that are funded, but

they're only partially funded, so we can't really do the best job that we would like to."

The projects included picking up illegal dumping, startup costs for the Volunteer San Leandro program, improving breezeways and landscaping around town, additional maintenance for the median strips in the middle of San Leandro streets, three years' worth of watering new trees planted in town, and funding for one additional mural.

Robustelli said that fixing the medians and picking up after illegal dumping would take up the majority (\$992,000 or 62 percent) of the potential \$1.6 million of reallocated ARPA money.

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Agency to Install Highway Crossings for Wildlife

County resource conservation district receives \$7 million to aid wildlife in crossing highways

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) recently announced that the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board approved their grant application to develop wildlife crossing structures and barrier fencing in Alameda County.

The ACRCD board of directors said it's pleased with the award since it will help with building wildlife crossings and barrier fencing. This will both help wildlife and enhance public safety by reducing wildlife/vehicle collisions. It will also restore habitat connectivity for the movement of wild species.

Portions of I-680, I-580, and State Highway 84 in Alameda County have been identified by California Department of Fish & Wildlife as Priority Barriers to wildlife movement.

The initial phase of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) funded project will study the region to identify three viable locations for the construction of over- or under-crossing structures. Later phases will involve environmental documentation and engineering design for the

structures.

The East Bay Wildlife Crossings project will dramatically benefit both public safety and California's native species, including the iconic mountain lion, bobcat, and

“The UC Davis Road Ecology Center has been studying effects of highways on wildlife since 2014.

tule elk, and the locally endangered California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and Alameda whipsnake.

This wildlife crossing project maximizes efficiency by not just providing a single crossing structure, but a network of three-crossing structures that will have an even greater cumulative impact on animal movement



Mother and juvenile mountain lion in an East Bay hills protected area. Below, a red fox carries a freshly killed gopher snake.

and resilience across the East Bay, according to the Alameda County Resource Conservation District.

Additionally, completing all designs simultaneously provides significant overall cost savings. The duration of the planning phase of the project is 3 and a half years.

The UC Davis Road Ecology Center has been studying potential effects of East Bay Area highways on wildlife since 2014 with support from the Federal Highways Admin-

istration and National Center for Sustainable Transportation.

Over the past five years, the ACRCD and the UC Davis Road Ecology Center (spearheaded by ACRCD CEO Katherine Boxer and Dr. Fraser Shilling), with support from the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee, have collaborated closely to document wildlife occurrences along Alameda County highways.

The data obtained through their wildlife 'camera-trapping' program was vital in supporting the ACRCD's grant application to the WCB.

The Wildlife Crossings Project Implementation Team also includes ACRCD Biologists Dr. Courtney Coon and Dr. Farley Connelly, ACRCD CFO Marilyn Harvey, and experts from Mark Thomas (engineering consulting) and Dudek (environmental consulting).

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District is a special district in California whose mission is to provide leadership in the county and region to enhance natural resources conservation, preserve wildlife and habitat, improve rangelands and agricultural management best practices through partnerships, collaborative planning, education, outreach and technical support resources.



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Resident on Juana Avenue Victim of Home Invasion Robbery

A home invasion robbery occurred at a residence in the 900 block of Joaquin Avenue on Nov. 13.

A resident told police he saw three suspects enter his home through the rear sliding glass door, according to San Leandro police. One of the suspects made the victim lay face down, possibly at gunpoint, the other two ransacked the home, police said.

The suspects then fled the home with stolen items in a silver sedan, police said. The victim was not physically harmed during the robbery.

The police department said the case is an active investigation, so no further details are being released at this time.

“The brazen nature of this crime is particularly concerning,” said Lt. Abe Teng. “We are committing our investiga-

tive resources to ensure that those responsible will be brought to justice.”

SLPD urges anyone with relevant information or surveillance footage to contact them via any of the following methods: Detective C. Pricco at 510-577-3244, anonymous tip line at 510-577-3278, or text-to-tip at 888777 (keyword: TipSLP-Police).