



Parents' Guide

TIME TOGETHER AND READING
GO HAND IN HAND

4

WEEKEND WEATHER

SUNNY

Sunny thru Sunday

HIGHS: 61-62

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

LOWS: 41-43

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 35 • NO. 3

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO COURTESY PG&E

Two Blackhawk helicopters, including this one shown in a practice exercise, were sent to fight the fires in Los Angeles by PG&E.

PG&E Choppers, Alameda County Fire Fighters Battling L.A. Fires

PG&E sent crews and equipment to aid firefighting agencies and utilities in Southern California battle the devastating wildfires.

The utility dispatched two Blackhawk helicopters to Los Angeles to support Cal Fire's firefighting efforts. Those helicopters arrived on Jan. 8.

PG&E also mobilized 25 Safety and

Infrastructure Protection Team (SIPT) crews to Southern California to provide mutual assistance at the request of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

In 2024, PG&E's fleet of four Blackhawk helicopters were used extensively in firefighting efforts across California, logging more than 300 flight hours –

many in support of CAL FIRE's efforts to extinguish the Park Fire in Butte County. All four helicopters can be configured with 1,100-gallon belly tanks and snorkels for initial attack in urban areas or 900-gallon long line buckets for tall, heavy timber forest fires.

Those crews assisted LADWP with

see FIRES, page 11

School Playground Closed to Public After School Hours

Roosevelt playground can no longer be used by neighbors because of a dog bite

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

The public has been barred from Roosevelt School's playground and outdoor sports area after school hours and on weekends after an incident just before winter break where a student was bitten by an unleashed dog at an evening outdoor event.

San Leandro Unified School District spokesperson Keziah Moss said the closing at the school at 951 Dowling Blvd. was indefinite and would apply to people with or without dogs. She said that

while signs clearly ban unleashed dogs on school property, the rule was been widely violated and the school district lacks staffing to enforce it effectively

Playgrounds and sports areas at other schools generally remain open to the public, she said.

The elementary school girl, attending an evening stargazing event at the school, was bitten by one of two dogs that had charged the crowd. A

see CLOSED, page 12

Mayor Assigns Council Members to Committees

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

The City Council approved Mayor Juan González's appointments to committees and intergovernmental agencies for 2025 by a vote of 4-1-2 on Monday, with Councilmember Fred Simon voting no and council members Victor Aguilar and Bryan Azevedo abstaining.

While most appointments were expected, Mayor Juan González assigned Xouhoa Bowen to the Alameda County Waste Management Authority Board instead of Fred Simon, who had been on the Waste Board for several years and is currently the president of the Oro Loma Sanitary District Board of Directors.

see MAYOR, page 10

San Lorenzo Schools Test Scores Show Slight Improvements in Some Subjects

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

San Lorenzo Unified School District (SLZUSD) students did a bit better in science and more English Language learners progressed well in this year's results from the state education department's California School Dashboard,

designed to let parents compare school district outcomes.

Fewer students were suspended, and more students scored as prepared for college or careers. But graduation rates dropped, and test scores dropped slightly in mathematics and English.

The San Lorenzo school

district enrolls 8,123 students, including about a third of all students who live in the San Leandro city limits, as well as all the students in San Lorenzo and Ashland. Some 78 percent of the students are considered economically disadvantaged, and 32 percent are English language learners.

"The success of our students – in college, career and life – is our major objective as a school district, and we are proud to see San Lorenzo graduates thrive at the nation's most prestigious universities," said SLZUSD superintendent Dr. Daryl Camp.

see SCORES, page 11

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

OUTDOORS

Try a walk in nature for a stress reducer.

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COMMUNITY

MLK oratory contest coming up on Saturday.

Page 3

SENIORS

Protect seniors from financial scams.

Page 11

38,500 EVERY THURSDAY
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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 Zaira Duncan at 667-3522.



San Leandro Times

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

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Take a Walk in Nature for a Stress Reducer

By Melinda Myers
Special to the Times

Holidays are filled with lots of food, presents, and busy schedules. A walk in nature is a great way to burn calories, combat stress, and improve your health and well-being.

Getting everyone excited about going outside and moving can be a challenge. Adding some activities to the walk is a way to encourage the whole family to get outside and enjoy the beauty of the season.

Grab some paper and crayons and create bark rubbings of your favorite trees. Select a variety of trees with smooth, rough, or peeling bark. Use these as a backdrop for a favorite photo or homemade thank-you notes.

Bingo hiking is a fun way to help everyone enjoy the outdoors. Have each person draw a picture of something they think they'll find on the hike. Draw one picture per square just like bingo. The first

one to fill a row up and down, across, or diagonally wins a warm beverage.

You have probably played "Eye Spy" while on long road trips. The next game is a variation of the latter and uses a camera and closeup images of items found along the trail.

Send someone ahead of the group to capture a closeup of a leaf, rock, log, mushroom, or other item. It should be super close so the others will have difficulty identifying it.

Once the group reaches the photographer, have them identify the area where the item can be found. It will keep people involved and encourage everyone to take a closer look at the beauty of their surroundings. Plus, you might just end up with some beautiful pictures to share or frame.

Consider sending everyone on a search for certain items. Perhaps it's various items of a certain color. Or use the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELINDAMYERS.COM

A walk in nature has many benefits including, combating stress, burning calories, and improving overall health and well-being.

alphabet as a guide.

First, have them find something that starts with an A, then a B, and so on. See if you can

repeat all the items from A to Z once you find all 26. It's a great way to help youngsters learn the alphabet and an excellent memory exercise for any age.

Winter Outdoor Art

Create a little winter outdoor art. Use sidewalk chalk to dress up your snow-free walks and drives. Add a few drops of food coloring to a bottle of water and paint the snow. You'll enjoy the changes in your artwork as the rain and snow morph the design over time.

Learn more about the trees in your community. Have one person call out the name and a description of a tree to find. Once they provide this information the others need to locate a specimen and if possible, give it a hug. You will be amazed at the impact felt when embracing a tree.

This might be a fun way to find trees to use for your bark rubs or create a list of all the trees and clues learned along the way.

You might find everyone is more willing to venture on a walk outside when adding these and other activities. After becoming more aware of their surroundings they may even opt for a quiet walk in the woods.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised Edition*, and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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This New Year

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JAN. 25, FEB. 1, & FEB. 8

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sanleandro.org/literacy
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projectliteracy@sanleandro.org | 510-577-3944

Community Calendar

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

The Special Education Community Advisory Committee Zoom meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting. The committee represents San Leandro, Castro Valley, Hayward, and San Lorenzo public schools. Call the Castro Valley Special Education Dept. at 510-537-3000 ext. 1220 for the Zoom invitation if you wish to attend the meeting.

Become a Bicycle and Pedestrian Commissioner

Help make San Leandro a community where walking and biking are safe, equitable, and enjoyable for all ages and abilities. Become a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. As a commissioner, you'll advise on biking and walking conditions and help create a more accessible San Leandro. Apply now: SanLeandro.org/Boards

Free Yoga Class

Come to the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd., for a free yoga class on Saturday Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. Instructor Dallis Wright-Morash is passionate about yoga and has many years of experience in teaching it. She is a fitness instructor at Bay-O-Vista Club in San Leandro. Come join the fun and give your body a good stretch to get off on the right track for the New Year.

Resolve to Lose Weight By Joining TOPS

Resolve to lose weight in 2025. Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) for the support you need to start your weight loss journey. TOPS is a non-profit weight loss support group that meets on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria Street in Castro Valley. For more information, call Sandy Montero at 510-299-7312. Join for fellowship and support. What do you have to lose?

Financial Wellness Workshops

Take steps toward your financial wellness and join us for a free 6-part series on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., beginning with "Building Savings & Wealth on Jan. 16, "Increasing Cash Flow & Managing Debt" on Jan. 23. Learn planning and savings tools from Youngky Hermanto, CLTC, a registered financial advisor. Register for any or all sessions by calling 510-577-3971 or visiting the library's website at www.sanleandrolibrary.org

Applications for the 2025 Cherry Festival & Parade

Last year, over 20,000 people enjoyed the parade and festival. The festival is seeking vendors with high-quality products, unique experiences, professional attitudes, community non-profits, and performers to help make this the best Cherry Festival yet. If you're interested in applying, visit sanleandrocherryfest.com for more information. The 2025 Cherry Festival and Parade will be on Saturday, June 7.

Join the "Book It 2025 Reading Challenge"

Push the boundaries of your reading by joining the San Leandro Library's "Book It 2025 Reading Challenge," open to teens and adults, starting Jan. 10. Stop by any branch library to pick up a gameboard, or join online at sanleandrolibrary.beanstack.org

Family Fun Night: Professor Smart's Science Show

Professor Smart brings science to life with an interactive performance of science demonstrations, of storytelling, and juggling on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. All ages welcome. For more information, call 510-577-3960

Homework Center At the Manor Branch Library

Need help with your homework? Come to the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd., for after-school homework help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. This is for students in grades 1 through 5. Registration needed at bit.ly/4fD096R or call 510-577-7971.

Student Oratory Contest On Saturday Highlights MLK Day Celebration

Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honor his lifelong work toward equality and peace on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 10:30 to noon at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. The celebration includes live entertainment, student oratorical contest, crafts for kids, and light refreshments. Students attending San Leandro schools between the 3rd and 12th grades are encouraged to participate in the Oratorical Festival and Poetry Slam.

The event is free of charge and open to the public.

San Leandro Players To Hold Auditions For *Count Dracula*

San Leandro Players will hold auditions for its Spring 2025 production of *Count Dracula* by Ted Tiller, directed by Dana Fry, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 21 and 22, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium 320 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro (next to the historic Casa Peralta).

No appointment necessary. Email Dana Fry at danabe-good@yahoo.com with your questions. Non-AEA, no pay; all ethnicities and ages encouraged. Rehearsals will run from January 27 through March 14, Monday through Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. Performances will run from March 15 through April 13. For more information visit our website www.slplayers.org.

Spectrum Community Services Fall Prevention Classes

Spectrum Community Services will hold its Winter 2025 fall prevention programs: A Matter of Balance and Walk with Ease, hosted at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St. in San Leandro. These classes are designed to help older adults improve their strength, mobility, and confidence, enabling them to maintain their independence. To register or learn more, visit SpectrumCS.org or call 510-876-8809.

No one will be turned away for inability to pay, ensuring these life-changing programs remain accessible to all. A Matter of Balance: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. January 14 – March 4 (8 weeks). Through group discussions, practical exercises, and expert tips, participants will learn to overcome the fear of falling, strengthen their balance, and enhance home safety. Each session includes a nutritious hot lunch, fostering camaraderie among classmates.

Walk with Ease: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. and from 1 to 2 p.m. January 3 – March 21, 2025 (12 weeks). This one-hour program combines guided walking sessions with fall prevention education. Participants will build stamina, improve balance, and loosen stiff muscles and joints through practical, self-motivating techniques.

San Leandro Garden Club to Meet

The San Leandro Garden Club will meet on Tuesday Jan. 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. The speaker this month is Martine La Belle, a member of the East Bay Rose Society. Everyone is welcome to attend.

More Events

Become a Project Literacy Volunteer

Project Literacy, the library's free adult literacy and ESL program, is training new volunteer tutors. You can help adult students improve their basic reading, writing, and English language skills so they can meet their goals and live more fulfilling lives.

The four-part training consists of an online orientation and three workshops held on Saturdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on January 25, February 1, and February 8. To access the orientation or to register, visit www.sanleandro.org/literacy and click on "Be a Tutor," or call Project Literacy at 510-577-3944.

Family Math Festival

Have fun with math at the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Explore a variety of hands-on math puzzles and games that are great for grades K to 8. This math party is an afternoon of fun for the whole family.

Family Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Learn ways to prepare your family for earthquakes, wildfires, flooding and extreme heat at the Family Emergency Preparedness Workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The presentation is designed for adults, but children welcome to attend, too. There will be craft tables and a play space in the room. Light refreshments served.

Bringing Nature Home – Reimagining The Places Where We Live

Watch Doug Tallamy's talk, "Nature's Best Hope," followed by a discussion about what we would like to do to make the places we live and work welcome for birds, butterflies and bees, and how we can move forward to carry out our ideas on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library's Chabot Canyon Room, 3600 Norbridge Ave. in Castro Valley. Native wildflower seeds will be available, plus a native plant cutting and seed swap. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. This free talk will be moderated by Kathy Kramer, founder of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

Meditation Mondays

Relax at a free drop-in relaxation practice on the first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Calm your stress with meditation, gentle stretching, breath work, and poetry. For age 18 and older. Call 510-577-3971 to reserve a spot of just drop in. Future Meditation Mondays will be on Feb. 3 and March 3.

Adults learn to read free!



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- We believe there are many paths to God.
- We show you how to transform your life through practical spiritual principles.
- Everyone is welcome.

SUNDAY 12:12 P.M.

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Reading Can Be Fun When It's Not on a Screen

We all know reading is vital for a child's development. But let's be honest, in a world brimming with screens and instant entertainment, getting kids excited about turning the

pages of a book can feel like a Herculean task.

Don't worry, you're not alone. The good news is, that fostering a love for reading isn't about forcing them to sit still for hours – it's about creating a positive and engaging experience. Let's explore some fun and practical ways to get your kids more interested in reading, turning those reluctant readers into bookworms in no time.

Foster Reading By Example

First and foremost, make reading a family affair. Kids, especially younger ones, often mimic what they see their parents doing. If they see you enjoying a book, they're far more likely to want to join in.

Set aside some time each week where everyone, even teenagers (yes, even them), reads alongside each other. It doesn't have to be a silent affair. Discuss what you're reading, share funny moments, or recommend books to each other.

Create a cozy reading nook in your home with comfortable seating, good lighting, and maybe even a fun blanket. The idea is to make it a place that feels inviting and special, not a punishment zone.

Let Kids Find What They Want to Read

Secondly, let choice be your guide. Don't force your child to read books you think they should be reading. Instead, let them explore different



Encourage them to read menus in restaurants, road signs on car journeys, or even the instructions on a board game. Making reading relevant to everyday activities shows its importance and helps them understand that literacy is a skill needed in many aspects of life.

Keep It Positive, Let them Learn at their Own Pace

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, remain patient and positive. Don't pressure your child if they are facing difficulties in reading, or feel they are not reading at the same pace as their friends. Each child develops at their own speed, and negative experiences can easily deter them further.

Celebrate Small Steps

Focus on celebrating their efforts, no matter how small. Praise their accomplishments and be their biggest cheerleader. The goal is to foster a lifelong love of reading, so try to make it a positive and enjoyable experience, focusing on the fun rather than the pressure.

Ultimately, instilling a love for reading is a marathon, not a sprint. It takes time, patience, and a willingness to embrace different approaches. By creating a supportive and engaging environment, you can help your children discover the joy and wonders that books hold.

So, grab a book, snuggle up, and prepare for a fantastic literary adventure together.

Baby Story Time at The Manor Branch Library

Baby storytime is a great way for parents/caregivers to interact and develop a bond with their baby – held every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro.

Babies will be in a social setting with other babies where they will sing and develop pre-language skills as well as play with toys in an environment with others their age. Adults can use this time to meet with other parents in a supportive setting. This storytime is for pre-walking babies only. Experience lots of songs and movement. For parents who have a baby and a toddler, please attend the toddler storytime.



Saint Leander School



Join us for Open House

Sunday, January 26th 12:00PM - 2:00PM



If you are unable to attend Open House we will have a Parent Information Night on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:00PM. For more information call the school office or visit our school website.

Call: (510) 351-4144 www.stleanderschool.org

ent genres and authors.

Go to the Library

Take them to the library, encourage them to browse the shelves, and let them pick what sparks their interest. Graphic novels, comics, and magazines are all great options for reluctant readers. They can be less daunting and can often bridge the gap to traditional novels.

Don't dismiss these formats as "not real reading." They are still encouraging literacy and building a foundation

for deeper reading in the future. Think of it as the stepping stones towards more complex texts. The main thing is that they are enjoying the actual act of reading and building this habit.

More to Reading than Just Books

It's also important to remember that reading doesn't only have to take place from a traditional bound book. There are many ways to get kids engaged with the written word in daily life.

EXPLORE

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6-8pm | January 27th
19300 Redwood Road | Castro Valley


Please RSVP



See how RCS is
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ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

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Scan to RSVP

January 28th, 2025
Kindergarten 6:15PM

January 29th, 2025
First Grade 6:15PM
2nd-5th Grade 7:00PM

Elementary Program Schedule Options:
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Something to Cheer About

Redwood Christian High School Cheerleaders were recently honored by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Coach Emily Driggers' Eagle Cheerleaders have been selected as the Fall 2024 Varsity Spirit Cheer Team of the Season. Erika Busch of CIF Sports made the notification and is coordinating the announcement on social media. Coach Driggers response to the notification was simply "Wow. Thank you so much. What an honor."

Comic Studebaker to Perform

By Terry Liebowitz

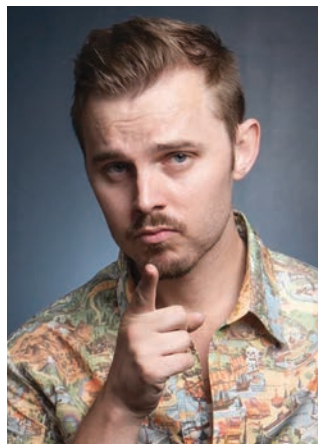
Special to the Times

Stand-up comic David Studebaker will perform at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, Saturday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

David describes himself as a comedian, author, host, and diaper-changer. He delights audiences with his special brand of comedy, blending music, personal stories, and pop culture into his interactive shows.

"My goal is to take my audience out of their everyday worries and create our own little joyful, carefree realm—to just have fun and party for the night."

David's comedy can be heard on Sirius XM Radio in



David Studebaker

regular rotation and his new comedy special "The Oracle of Dry Bar" is available now on the Dry Bar Comedy streaming network. He has been featured on Fox, ABC and is a popular entertainer for corpo-

rate gigs for Facebook, Twitter, and Re/Max and many others. As a director, David won Best Director at the Oregon Documentary Film Festival for his hit docu-series David's Ark, which has amassed millions of views on TikTok.

James D. Creviston opens for David. James is a Navy veteran, writer, filmmaker, and host of the Clean Comedy Podcast. He is known for his clean, self-deprecating style. He has worked as a freelance screenwriter for such shows as Leathal Weapon, The Bachelor and The Bachelorette. James also lives in Los Angeles.

This evening of fun, fresh comedy is presented by the Castro Valley Arts Foundation in their 2024-25 Series.

Women Making a Difference Awards Honor Exceptional East Bay Women

Three exceptional women will be honored for their professional achievements and contributions to positive change in the East Bay with the new Women Making a Difference Awards.

Kaiser Permanente will present the awards in collaboration with the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau during the East Bay Women's Conference (EBWC) on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Nominations opened last Monday, January 6.

Award categories include:

• **Innovation Award:**

Honors a woman who has significantly contributed to her field through innovative solutions that improve the well-being of people, places, opportunities, or conditions in the East Bay. She achieves measurable results and utilizes creative problem-solving to implement cutting-edge strategies and approaches.

• **Leadership and Empowerment Award:** Recognizes a woman who has shown outstanding leadership and a commitment to empowering others, leading to a lasting impact that improves the well-being of people, places, opportunities, or conditions in the East Bay. She successfully collaborates with diverse groups of people, creates inclusive teams, and exhibits superior leadership qualities.

• **Rising Star Award:** Will be presented to a woman who has demonstrated exceptional early-career accomplishments, including leadership prowess, clear initiative and a commitment to continuous learning. She is guided by a focused vision to positively impact people, places, opportunities, or conditions in the East Bay.

"Supporting health includes addressing the social, environmental and economic factors that shape well-being,"

says Deneen Wohlford, Public Affairs Director of Kaiser Permanente's Diablo Service Area. "By honoring women who are driving meaningful change in our community, we hope to spotlight their impactful work and inspire others to do the same."

Celebrating its 20th year in 2025, the EBWC remains the only conference of its kind in San Francisco's East Bay that provides women with opportunities to come together and participate in programs of personal and professional enrichment and development. The addition of the Women Making a Difference awards marks a new tradition of recognizing local women for their achievements that benefit the whole community.

For more about the Women Making a Difference Awards including how to apply, please visit: www.walnut-creek.com/ebwc2025-awards.

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- ➔ Before/After School Programs
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If your child turns 4 on or before Sept. 1, they're eligible for Transitional Kindergarten!

If your child turns 5 on or before Sept. 1, they're eligible for Kindergarten!

SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WWW.SLUSD.US



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"Fast Facts"

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- Latin grades 6-8 • Average Student-Teacher ratio 14:1
- 4th highest reading scores in the Oakland Diocese
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- Extended before and after school care with supervised homework club



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2025-2026 School Year
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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Increasing Numbers of Homeowners Are Staying Put

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

Hardly a week goes by without a call from someone asking us if we are interested in selling our home. Whether a flipper looking to score an off-market deal or a local Realtor searching for potential listings, our response to them is always the same: “NO, this is our forever house and we plan on leaving here in a box.”

Truth is, my wife and I had been looking for a

home like ours for close to 40 years and so, when the opportunity finally arose, we jumped on it. Given the location of our home, the amount of money we have invested in it to make it fit our lifestyle, our extremely low mortgage rate and proximity to other family members, it is no small chance we firmly fit into the category of homeowners who, according to Redfin’s 01/07/25 news post by Dana Anderson declare “They will never

sell.”

The Redfin article goes on to delineate potential sellers by strata, stating, “More than one-third (34%) of U.S. homeowners say they’ll never sell their home, according to a recent Redfin-commissioned survey. Another 27% say they wouldn’t consider selling for at least 10 years. Roughly one-quarter (24%) plan to sell in five to 10 years, while just 8% plan to sell in three to five years and 7% within the next three years.

Broken down by generation, older homeowners are more likely than their younger counterparts to say they’ll never sell. More than two of every five (43%) baby boomer

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(+) To see Hawaii, you will need a big ladder.

homeowners say they’ll never sell, compared to 34% of Gen X owners and 28% of millennial/Gen Z owners.”

Data suggests that a significant percentage of homeowners, working hard over the years to eliminate their mortgage, have either attained that goal or are close enough that, in their minds, it makes no sense to sell. Using the analogy of a car, many, having paid off their vehicle, choose to continue driving it instead of opting to sell and buy a new vehicle with a new set of payments. It appears the same logic applies to sellers. In fact, looking at the demographic who would be most likely to have liquidated their mortgage payments – Boomers (those born between 1946-1964) – Redfin’s latest data reveals that 43% state they will never sell their existing home.

While the national average for moving has increased from 7 years to 13.2 years, for some ... it is “never.”

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

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

21476 Orange Avenue 94546: \$700,000 [3 BD - 1,197 SF - 1948
18467 Hastings Way 94546: \$1,010,000 [3 BD - 1,042 SF - 1950
18795 Sydney Circle 94546: \$1,085,000 [3 BD - 1,835 SF - 1991
18464 Plymouth Drive 94546: \$1,150,000 [2 BD - 1,317 SF - 1951
3415 Wyndale Drive 94546: \$1,260,000 [3 BD - 1,790 SF - 1958
19292 Heyer Lane 94546: \$1,360,000 [3 BD - 2,162 SF - 1997
4987 Buti Park Drive 94546: \$1,375,000 [3 BD - 1,723 SF - 1962
17485 Parker Road 94546: \$1,540,000 [3 BD - 2,502 SF - 1958
7501 Denison Place 94552: \$1,650,000 [4 BD - 2,690 SF - 1999
20270 Glenwood Drive 94552: \$1,745,000 [4 BD - 2,539 SF - 1993

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$700,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$1,310,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,745,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$1,287,500

SAN LEANDRO

660 Fargo Avenue #9 94579: \$615,000 [3 BD - 1,136 SF - 1965
1173 139th Avenue 94578: \$628,000 [3 BD - 1,090 SF - 1947
14996 Lark Street 94578: \$715,000 [3 BD - 1,296 SF - 1945
1854 North Boulevard 94577: \$750,000 [1,364 SF - 1943
14829 Wake Avenue 94578: \$757,000 [2 BD - 1,234 SF - 1946
355 Lorraine Boulevard 94577: \$775,000 [2 BD - 1,128 SF - 1941
255 Bowling Green Street 94577: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,103 SF - 1941
2092 Wallace Avenue 94577: \$805,000 [3 BD - 1,355 SF - 1944
45 Begier Avenue 94577: \$901,000 [3 BD - 1,414 SF - 1928
1005 Lee Avenue 94577: \$1,210,000 [3 BD - 1,752 SF - 1927
853 Begier Avenue 94577: \$1,275,000 [4 BD - 1,650 SF - 1929
2137 Longview Drive 94577: \$1,300,000 [3 BD - 2,508 SF - 1960

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$615,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$787,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,300,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$877,583

SAN LORENZO

1179 Bockman Road 94580: \$601,000 [2 BD - 812 SF - 1950
15373 Dermody Avenue 94580: \$805,000 [3 BD - 1,334 SF - 1950
170 Via Palos 94580: \$845,000 [3 BD - 1,472 SF - 1950
18769 Times Avenue 94580: \$850,000 [3 BD - 1,995 SF - 1956
31 Via Matero 94580: \$855,000 [3 BD - 1,024 SF - 1951
16108 Channel Street 94580: \$930,000 [3 BD - 1,460 SF - 1951

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$601,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$847,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$930,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$814,333

HAYWARD

22839 Myrtle Street 94541: \$620,000 [2 BD - 842 SF - 1950
267 Jerilyn Lane 94541: \$651,000 [2 BD - 1,151 SF - 1951
663 Kendall Way 94541: \$665,000 [4 BD - 1,968 SF - 1895
24009 La Paz Way 94541: \$670,000 [2 BD - 1,412 SF - 1980
25883 Seaver Street 94545: \$750,000 [3 BD - 1,728 SF - 1959
26446 Mockingbird Lane 94544: \$764,000 [3 BD - 1,047 SF - 1952
10 Crystal Gate Common 94544: \$770,000 [3 BD - 1,475 SF - 1992
28069 East 12th Street 94544: \$775,000 [3 BD - 1,015 SF - 1962

OPEN HOMES

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JANUARY 18 & 19

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDR/BA.	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
P	1-4	1-4	7331 Lemonwood Way	\$1,510,000	3/2.5	Re/Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
A	1-4	1-4	1301 E Juana Ave	\$1,374,975	3/2.5	RE eBroker	Antonio M. Cardenas	510-326-4263

CITY GUIDE

A = SAN LEANDRO • B = BRENTWOOD • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DUBLIN • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD
L = LIVERMORE • P = PLEASANTON • S = SAN RAMON • SLZ = SAN LORENZO • W = WALNUT CREEK • Z = ALAMEDA



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Bromeliad Pups Perpetuate Mother Plant

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q How do I get my bromeliad plant to bloom again? Someone suggested that I put the plant into a bag of cut-up apples. Also, how long can I keep it as a houseplant?

All bromeliads have colorful, long-lasting flowers and some varieties have brilliant foliage. They make an excellent, long-lasting houseplant because they adapt to the unfavorable growing conditions that exist in most homes.

Bromeliad varieties with thick, gray, gray-green or fuzzy foliage withstand the brightest light levels and some direct sunlight while Tillandsias and other species with soft, green, thin leaves grow best in low light conditions.

At the end of their blooming cycle, they'll need to be divided. The flowering or mother plant usually dies after flowering, but it does produce pups or side shoots first.

You can perpetuate the plant by separating the pups from the mother plant and growing them on as new plants. These new plants then flower. The pups should be a half to one-third the size of the parent before removing them.

You may begin to see roots on pups, but even if they haven't formed roots, mature pups can survive since they are epiphytic.

Epiphytic plants can grow without roots. In their natural habitat, they grow in the canopy of trees where they anchor



By pinay06 - Own work, CC BY 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1408078>

themselves by their roots to the tree trunks. They don't have extensive roots, so they are adaptable to being grown in relatively small containers.

The longer pups remain on the parent, the earlier they will reach maturity and flower. That means tolerating a dying parent plant whose leaves will yellow and eventually turn brown. If necessary, you can trim back the parent plant's leaves, allowing more room for the pups to grow.

Once they are big enough, it is time to remove the bromeliad pups. You'll need a sharp knife, and it's often best to remove the mother plant from the container to bet-

ter see where to make the cuts. You'll cut the pup away from the parent, taking a small amount of the parent along with the offset.

The container should be twice as big as the base of the pup, and you can use any of the commercial potting soils. The pups may need support for the first few weeks until more extensive roots form. A straw is a sufficient stake to support the new pups. The straw is removed after enough roots have formed.

You can force bromeliads into bloom by exposing the plants to ethylene gas. Many fruits, such as apples and pears, release ethylene naturally.

To encourage your bro-

meliads to bloom, place the plants inside a clear plastic bag with sliced apples for 10 to 14 days. You need to tie the bag securely to trap the ethylene gas. As the apple slices age, they emit the ethylene gas that, in turn, induces the formation of flowers.

Depending on the variety the new plants should be in bloom again in 6 to 14 weeks.

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



RECENT HOME SALES

continued from page 6

HAYWARD

10 Crystal Gate Common 94544: \$770,000 [3 BD - 1,475 SF - 1992
28069 East 12th Street 94544: \$775,000 [3 BD - 1,015 SF - 1962
21997 Victory Drive 94541: \$775,000 [3 BD - 1,020 SF - 1943
1467 170th Avenue 94541: \$780,000 [2 BD - 1,354 SF - 1947
509 Kim Place 94544: \$835,000 [3 BD - 1,186 SF - 1956
31932 Olean Street 94544: \$849,500 [3 BD - 1,437 SF - 1951
25271 Parklane Drive 94544: \$890,000 [4 BD - 1,909 SF - 2019
1141 M L King Drive 94544: \$898,000 [4 BD - 1,982 SF - 2014

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's a good time to take a much-needed break from your recent hectic schedule and spend some time in quieter surroundings. Important news could arrive early next week.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): The Taurean traits of reliability and thoroughness could be well-tested when decision-makers consider your proposals and/or requests. Be prepared to answer some probing questions.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A sudden attack of boredom leaves you with some tasks undone. It's OK to take a short respite, but get back to work by week's end so that you have time for other projects.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Avoid prejudging a situation just because it looks bad. Facts could emerge that can make your position uncomfortable, to say the least. Meanwhile, a relative has interesting news to share with you.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): This is a good time to begin reassessing some of your recent decisions about your long-range goals to see if they still have merit. In addition, spend more time with loved ones this weekend.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): An unsettled situation at home or on the job early in the week could drain your energy levels, making it difficult to get your work done on schedule. But things improve by midweek.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A temporary setback could give you time to go over your plans to find weaknesses that you might have overlooked before. Also, a romantic getaway with a special person is favored this weekend.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Professional and personal situations benefit you once you set a positive tone in getting things off to a good start. Honest dialogue smooths over any occasional display of balkiness.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): A problem with workplace colleagues or family members seems to defy even your sage counsel. But be patient. Your words will eventually lead to a resolution.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Don't just wait out an unexpected and unexplained delay in your career move. You could gain added respect if you ask why it happened and what you can do to move things along.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Although your workplace strategies are usually accepted, you could be challenged by someone who isn't so favorably impressed. Be prepared to defend your positions.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Your friendship circle expands with new people coming into your life at this time. Welcome them warmly, but don't neglect cherished longtime personal relationships.

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Two (2)	Studio	1 to 2	\$2,725	1 Person \$109,000 2 People \$124,550
Five (5)	1 Bedroom	1 to 3	\$3,113	1 Person \$109,000 2 People \$124,550 3 People \$140,150
Three (3)	2 Bedroom	2 to 5	\$3,503	1 Person \$109,000 2 People \$124,550 3 People \$140,150 4 People \$155,700 5 People \$168,150

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Cinco (5)	1 dormitorio	1 a 3	\$ 3,113	1 persona \$ 109,000 2 personas \$ 124,550 3 personas \$ 140,150
Tres (3)	2 dormitorios	2 a 5	\$ 3,503	1 persona \$ 109,000 2 personas \$ 124,550 3 personas \$ 140,150 4 personas \$ 155,700 5 personas \$ 168,150

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兩 (2) 個	一房單位	1 至 2	\$2,725	1人 \$109,000 2人 \$124,550
五 (5) 個	一房單位	1 至 3	\$3,113	1人 \$109,000 2人 \$124,550 3人 \$140,150
三 (3) 個	兩房單位	2 至 5	\$3,503	1人 \$109,000 2人 \$124,550 3人 \$140,150 4人 \$155,700 5人 \$168,150

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LEGAL NOTICES

FILED January 8, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 611674

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

The name of the business(es):
Ohlone Lawn Care located at 1353 Via Vista San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gabriel Medina, located at 21353 Via Vista San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A
/s/Gabriel Medina
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 7, 2030
JAN 16, 23, 30, FEB 6, 2025
1905 - SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED January 8, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 611670

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

The name of the business(es):
Pilar / R Assets Management Network located at 10510 Pearmain Street Oakland, CA 94603 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pilar Rosales, located at 10510 Pearmain Street Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 11/15/24
/s/Pilar Rosales
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 7, 2030
JAN 16, 23, 30, FEB 6, 2025
1907 - SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED December 31, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 611550

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

The name of the business(es):
ZZL Construction located at 1220 Georgetown Ave. San Leandro, CA 94579 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zhuozi Lin, located at 1220 Georgetown Ave. San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 12/31/2024
/s/Zhuozi Lin
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires December 30, 2029
JAN 09, 16, 23, 30, 2025
1900 - SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED November 26, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 610868

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

The name of the business(es):
Goldline Tattoo & Body Piercing located at 17255 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Goldline Tattoo & Body Piercing, LLC located at 17255 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced 10/15/2024
/s/Gloria Perez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires November 25, 2029
DEC 26, JAN 2, 09, 16, 2025
1920 - SLT

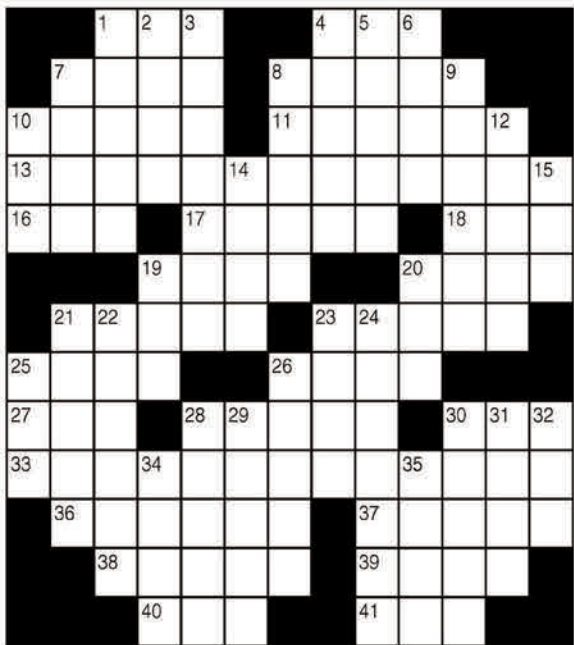
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ACROSS


- Kitten's cry
- Bit of advice
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- Rds.
- Pitchers
- Stickum
- Unpaid TV ads
- Close
- Revue segments
- Lover's meeting
- Smack a baseball
- 1982 sci-fi film
- Signing need
- "-- of One's Own"
- 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- Burger King, for one
- Kilt pattern
- Lubricated
- Canary snacks
- Hosp. scans
- Triage ctrs.
- Salty expanse

DOWN

- Short skirts
- Grand tale
- Least strong
- Piglike mammal
- Golf clubs
- Beans go-with
- Sulk
- Campfire leftovers
- Stallion sounds
- Mensa stats
- Animal's nose
- "Jabberwocky" starter
- Inherited
- Peach center
- Wd. from Roget
- Hard work
- Sunflower State
- Walked (on)
- Date movies, for short
- Beach lotion letters
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- Sasha's sister
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- Sloth's home
- Employ

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

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MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 611614

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

The name of the business(es):
EM Stone located at 2140 Dunn Rd Hayward, CA 94545 / 22226 Moselle Ct Hayward, CA 94541 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Enrique Mata, located at 22226 Moselle Ct Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 1/28/2020
/s/Enrique Mata
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
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1910 - SLT

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Mayor: Council members' committee positions up to the mayor

continued from front page

"I am to understand that I was the only council member pulled off of a committee," Simon said. "To me, this feels a bit like a continuation of the censorship fallout from last year, which I still have a bad taste in my mouth because of that."

With the committee motion approved, Councilmember Bowen will represent San Leandro on the Alameda County Waste Management Authority Board of Directors, with Councilmember Azevedo as her alternate.

This year's Rules Com-

mittee includes the mayor, Bowen, and Simon. González, Councilmember Dylan Boldt, and Councilmember Azevedo were named to the Facilities and Transportation Committee. González, Aguilar, and Councilmember Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton will comprise the Finance Committee.

As for Intergovernmental Agencies, Simon and Boldt were named to the Alameda County Fire Advisory Commission. Aguilar will represent San Leandro on the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees.

González will continue

serving on the Alameda County Transportation Commission Board of Directors with Simon as his alternate.

San Leandro's representative on the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) will continue to be González, and Aguilar will attend in the mayor's absence. The mayor will also serve on the Ava Community Energy Board of Directors, with Simon as his alternate.

Azevedo will be San Leandro's voice on the East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA) Commission, with Simon as his alternate. The

Housing Authority of Alameda County Board of Directors will have former Councilmember Pete Ballew, a San Leandro resident, serve on the commission.

Councilmember Aguilar will assume San Leandro's lead in the League of California Cities, East Bay Division, and Board of Directors. González will serve as his alternate.

Councilmember Simon will continue representing San Leandro for the Airport Community Noise Management Forum. Viveros-Walton will serve on the board of directors



The City Council voted to name Xouhoa Bowen vice mayor to fill in when Gonzalez is unavailable.

for the San Leandro Improvement Association, with Bowen as her alternate.

Bowen Named Vice Mayor

The City Council also voted to name Xouhoa Bowen as the vice mayor on a 5-1-1 vote. Simon voted against the motion, and Aguilar abstained.

Bowen said she was honored to serve as vice mayor this year and was congratulated by Councilmember Viveros-Walton for Bowen's commitment to San Leandro residents.

"She always comes prepared and ready to serve," Viveros-Walton said.

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.

What We Take for Granted

Editor,
Nobody wants high taxes, and Corey Anderson wrote about that complaint. (Letters to the Editor, Jan. 9, 2025) Many people complain that they get nothing for their taxes. They should visit a country with low taxes, as I have.

Low taxes result in low "services." I know a city of 1.4 million people with 7 fire stations, and about 70 full time firefighters. With less than one quarter of that population, the internet says the Oakland Fire Department has about 500 employees.

Beside Anderson's letter is a letter praising San Leandro's Parks department for clearing debris-strewn pathways, which points to the parks and recreation facilities which do not exist where taxes are low. I have seen low-tax places where schools lack windows, and sometimes no desks and where teachers are political appointees who collect a salary but to not show up for work.

Anderson mentions mosquito abatement, but does not recognize that we are free of mosquito-born diseases. Indeed, the complaint that "I get nothing for my taxes" ignores the absence of the successes of a public health situation.

Planes do not collide because we have aviation controls, inspections, and safety requirements. We have paved streets, not dirt

or cobblestone streets. Modern medicines commonly result from government-supported scientific studies, often in cooperation with public universities.

Work places must have safety provisions for the well-being of employees. We have laws and personnel working to protect consumers. Auto safety provisions have been enacted and enforced. Building codes and inspections take account of what officials learn from individual and community disasters so that new buildings are safer and more stable.

Many who complain that they get nothing for their tax money do not realize that what we take for granted are absent in many low-tax places.

John Rawlinson
San Leandro

Is Bay-O-Vista the Next Pacific Palisades?

Dear Editor,

The tragic Pacific Palisades fire and past local disasters, such as the 1991 Oakland Hills fire and the 2024 fire near Keller Avenue, are sobering reminders of how critical evacuation routes are during emergencies. Here in San Leandro, the continued closure of Lake Chabot Road poses a serious threat to public safety. This once-essential evacuation route remains virtually inaccessible, leaving our residents and first responders vulnerable.

In high-stress situations, such as wildfire evacuations, people often abandon vehicles when traffic grinds to a halt. The images from Pacific Palisades of abandoned vehicles blocking streets is sobering. With Lake Chabot Road closed, the risk of gridlock and chaos is heightened, potentially turning any emergency into a tragedy.

The Pacific Palisades fire demonstrated how quickly wildfire conditions can overwhelm a neighborhood, forcing residents to flee and leaving emergency responders struggling to navigate blocked or limited access roads. Like the 1991 Oakland Hills fire, which claimed 25 lives, the Pacific Palisades fire serves as a grim reminder of what happens when evacuation routes are insufficient. Similarly, during the 2024 fire near Keller Avenue, first responders faced significant challenges due to limited road access and congestion. These examples highlight the dire consequences of inadequate infrastructure during emergencies.

Reopening Lake Chabot Road is not just about convenience—it's a matter of life and safety. It also serves as a vital link to Lake Chabot Regional Park and the surrounding community, ensuring we're better prepared for increasing threats posed by climate change.

Let's not wait until Bay-O-Vista becomes the next Pacific Palisades to spur action. San Leandro officials must prioritize reopening Lake Chabot Road to protect residents and strengthen our city's emergency preparedness.

Greg Novak
San Leandro

Are We Next?

Editor,

Coverage of the LA fires is truly heartbreaking. With each passing year the fires across the state are getting bigger and more destructive.

What's becoming sadly apparent is that the LA County Fire Department and the cities did not have a coordinated fire plan in the event of something like this happening. It's head scratching. How could Mayor Bass propose any cuts to the fire budget with tinder dry hills surrounding LA basin?

And yet, Oakland is doing the same thing. Two stations closed already with four more slated for February. This defies all logic and concern for public safety.

What is my city doing to prepare for our hills possibly (probably) becoming an inferno? Nothing, zero. We've spent all our time on bike lanes and public art and feel-good things like the Cherry Festival. I guess all of that will be but fond memories once the north part of town burns to the ground.

We now know I-580 will not be the fire break some of my neighbors think it will be.

Just ask Coffey Park in Santa Rosa. Lake Chabot Road must be reopened as a fire safety route. Find the money.

Knowing our City Council like all do, they will discuss the possibility of placing a discussion of fire safety on the agenda for some time in late 2026. Then, they'll have to hire a "fire consultant" followed by 25 community meetings to see how we all feel about fire safety.

As we now memorialize places in California by the size of the fire that occurred there, will Bay-O-Vista, Estudillo Estates, and the Broadmoor be added to list?

Gary Langbehn
San Leandro

Condemn Genocide in Gaza

Editor,

I had a brief chat with a local resident at a San Leandro Council meeting recently and asked if the council has introduced a statement condemning Israel's genocide in Gaza. His response was that they

pretty much stick to local issues.

Sticking to local issues amid a US backed genocide is immoral and political cowardice. Additionally, there is no such thing as local issues. What happens nationally and internationally affects us here in San Leandro.

Human Rights watch and Amnesty International have published reports detailing the genocide. The ICJ found "plausible cause" for genocide and the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his defence minister for crimes against humanity. Israeli soldiers themselves post their crimes on social media. It is our country that blocks all efforts at the UN to halt the Zionist regime's massacres.

Biden plans to send another \$8 billion worth of weapons to the Apartheid regime for a total of \$18 billion since October 7th. How many more dead, maimed or shredded, children will that amount to? President Biden's support of the genocide has done more to undermine international law and America's reputation than any president in my lifetime.

San Leandro Council should publicly condemn Israel's genocide and call for an end to weapons sales to Israel. Meanwhile, we have the worst health care system in the industrialized world, many social crises of our own and public services are under assault.

What we give Israel would be better spent solving some issues at home. There is another effort to increase property taxes in Alameda County and we should not support it.

Any council member that claims to represent the interests of working people should oppose raising taxes for public projects when billions are spent on predatory wars and a bloated arms industry.

Richard Mellor
San Leandro

Fires: Red flag conditions

continued from front page

with electric and water asset protection by applying fire retardant on poles and other equipment, checking fire-damaged utility equipment and making the area safe for LADWP crews to restore power. Some electric distribution crews also will be traveling to Southern California to help with restoration.

"The challenging wildfire conditions we saw last year have carried forward into the start of 2025 for parts of California that haven't experienced any relief from rain," said PG&E Wildfire, Emergency & Operations

Senior Vice President Mark Quinlan. "We are very fortunate to have experienced a few significant rainstorms in our service area this rain season. This puts us in a good position to share wildfire response resources and crews with hometowns and utilities in Southern California."

PG&E is monitoring Red Flag conditions in portions of its own service area in Kern, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. PG&E has enabled Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings across circuits in multiple counties in response to the high winds and low humidity from this

offshore wind event that could cause ignitions.

"We've seen gusts above 40 miles per hour in the southern part of our service area that will continue into tomorrow. While it's not unusual to see high wind gusts in January, it is unusual combined with the lack of rain we've seen so far this year down south," said Evan Duffey, a manager in Meteorology and Fire Sciences. "We will continue to closely watch conditions as they develop and provide data-driven information to our field operations team so they can make informed decisions about the grid."

27 County Fire Fighters Deployed to Palisades Fire

The Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) has sent 27 firefighter, joining a contingent of 93 fire fighters in the county's mutual aid network, to fight the Palisades fire in Los Angeles.

The county fire fighters

deployed to the southland are all volunteers, said Alameda County Fire Department spokeswoman Sheryl Hurd. They put their name into a hat to go out-of-county to fight fires.

The total county fire fight-

ers deployed breaks down this way: 20 firefighters on engine companies, 2 battalion chiefs as strike team leaders, 1 division chief, 1 battalion chief, and 1 engineer as a safety officer, 1 captain, 1 captain as a rescue specialist.

Scores: One measure of success

continued from front page

"Statewide standardized tests are one important measure of success, and we continually strive for improvement at all levels, while recognizing that such tests may not reflect our students' true brilliance," Camp said.

The science scores were slightly up (0.3 points) from last year, but are still 24 points below the state's learning standard. Statewide, students scored on average 13 points below that standard.

The scores are on a 500 point scale. The tests are given each year for students in grades 3 to 8, and then in 11th grade.

English scores dropped by 8 points, landing the district in the orange, or second-lowest, of five color-coded categories, of all districts statewide. San Lorenzo students missed the state learning standards by 56 points, compared with a statewide average of 13 points below the standard.

Math scores dropped by less, 1 point on that 500-point scale, but still left San Lorenzo students some 86 points below the state's standard. As in English, this put the district in the state's orange category. The average statewide was 48 percent below the standard.

This year's test scores showed an increase of 6 percent in the proportion of San Lorenzo students prepared for college or careers. This rose to 34 percent and qualified for the state's yellow, or middle, category. The statewide average is 45 percent prepared.

While students may be better prepared, fewer are graduating. The graduation rate fell from last year's nearly 90 percent to 81.5 percent. The statewide average of 86.7 percent.

The district improved on measures of two things that can keep students out of school, chronic absences and suspensions. Chronic absences, defined as students missing 10 percent or more of instructional days, emerged as a nationwide problem during the pandemic and persists

nationwide.

San Lorenzo, though, decreased its rate to 28 percent, getting it into the state's yellow, or middle, category. The statewide average is 19 percent chronically absent.

District Programs to Improve Absentee Rate

More recently, the improvement has continued in the current school year, with chronic absenteeism down to 23 percent, according to district spokesperson Scott Faust.

"This is the result of a multi-prong strategy built around a theme of 'Missing School = Missing Out,'" he said. Burgundy (the school color) T-shirts with that message have been distributed to all elementary students and staff, who are encouraged to

see SCORES, page 12

SENIORS

'Trusted Contact Person': Financial Tool To Protect Seniors from Financial Scams

Q: My 90 year old father has a substantial brokerage account and likes to manage it himself. Yet I worry that he could easily fall victim to financial scams. Is there anything I can do to protect him?

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

A: Yes, there may be. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"), which regulates firms and professionals selling securities in the United States, has activated two new rules to protect senior investors: One rule now requires member brokers to make reasonable efforts to ask investor clients, age 65 years and older, to designate a Trusted Contact Person ("TCP") whom the broker may contact if the broker reasonably believes that financial exploitation has occurred or may be attempted, or where the investor shows signs of dementia or diminished capacity. Where exploitation is suspected, a companion rule authorizes the broker to place a temporary hold on the disbursements of funds from the customer's account, pending further investigation.

These two rules are the result of a growing realization that financial exploitation of seniors is a very real problem, not only for the senior investors, but also for the brokerage firms when financial abuse is suspected. Previously, there were issues of privacy which prevented the broker from contacting family members when suspicious activity was detected, and prior FINRA rules prevented brokerage firms from halting suspected transactions without risking liability. The scope of the problem became apparent to FINRA after it placed into service its Securities Helpline for Seniors in April 2015: during its first two years of its operation, it fielded more than 8,600 calls seeking help and recovered more than \$4.3 million for seniors. For Senior Helpline, call 1-844-574-3577.

For now, the new rules only apply to new accounts or to accounts that are updated, but not yet to existing accounts. That said, it is anticipated that the rule will soon apply, as well, to existing accounts even without an update. These rules protect not only seniors, but also younger persons aged 18 and older whom the broker reasonably believes have a mental or physical impairment which renders such individuals unable to protect their own interest.

rather than from you, and to that extent may be more palatable to your father and other senior investors.



Where the brokerage firm suspects financial exploitation, and initiates a hold on disbursements, it must immediately begin an investigation to determine whether the hold may be extended. The initial hold is limited to 15 days, but may be extended an additional 10 days if there is sufficient cause. A hold can be further extended by court order where the facts so warrant.

Another option is to consider elder protection monitoring through services such as EverSafe. This account monitoring service sends alerts when suspicious activity is detected showing unusual withdrawals, deposits, changes in spending patterns, changes in passwords and identity theft. EverSafe also enables subscribers to designate trusted advocates to receive these alerts, and can assist with creating a recovery plan in the event of loss. Monitoring is on a paid subscription basis, and customers of some brokerage firms can qualify for a discount, e.g. Fidelity customers. For more go to www.EverSafe.com or call 1-888-575-3837.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney who has been helping East Bay families for over 25 years with Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Wills, Probate, Medi-Cal Planning, and related matters. Email at Gene@LawyerForSeniors.com.

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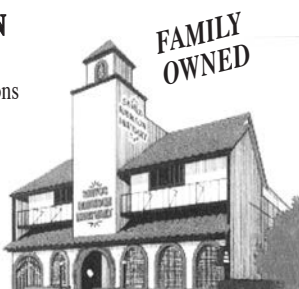
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Closed: Neighbors who use the grounds disappointed about closure

continued from front page

thick jacket she was wearing prevented any serious injury from the bite, Moss said.

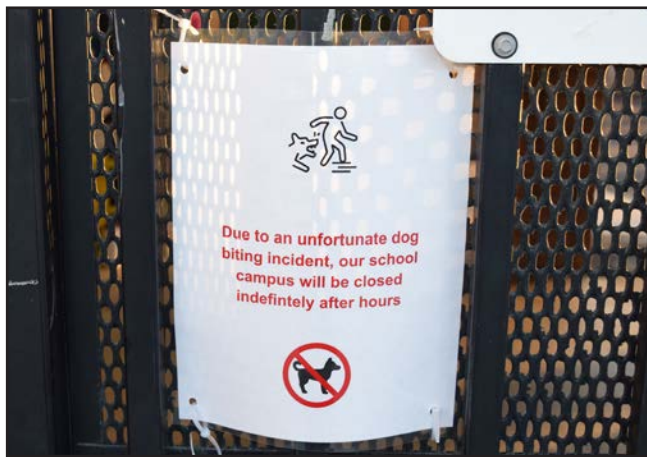
People at the event were unable to identify the owner or owners of the dog.

"In addition to this incident, there has been an ongoing issue with dog waste and other litter being left behind on the grounds," Moss said. "Since the closure, the school has received other reports of previous close calls with unleashed dogs after hours."

Neighbors dropping by the use the playground or sports areas in the middle of a nice Sunday afternoon were disappointed at being turned away. None had dogs with them, though children had bicycles.

Elementary school basketball tryouts in progress behind a gate, and a woman at the gate turned away everyone who wasn't "with the tournament."

A man in a parked car, who insisted he was not working



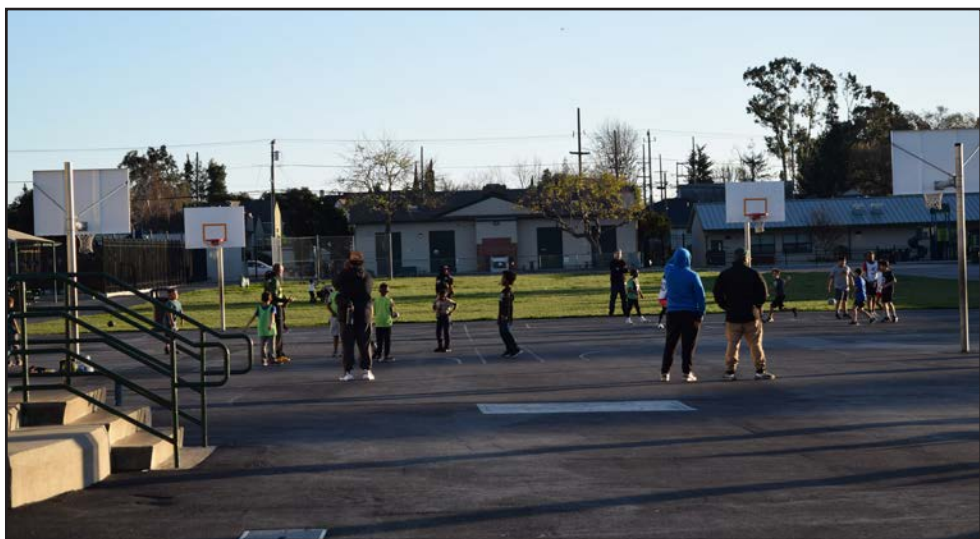
security for the district, tried to turn away people walking up before they got to the gate. But they were told to proceed if they were there for the tryouts.

A man with a young child on a bicycle left without serious protest, but a couple arriving with two children on bicycles with training wheels were angered. The father pointed to a sign on the gate that said school grounds were open to the public after hours.

Two recent high school graduates came to play basketball and were turned away.

"We've come here before and could always play, said Antonio Cluell. "It's kind of a bummer. We're just looking for a place to shoot some hoops."

Cluell pointed out that someone could do so at all the other schools in the area, and wondered by Roosevelt was the exception.



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

In addition to a sign at Roosevelt School saying the grounds are open to the public when school is not in session, a new sign is posted saying the grounds are closed due to a dog bite.

Shan Liu came with her 4-year-old daughter riding a scooter.

"Too bad we don't have

access to the schools, Liu said. "Especially for the kids, playgrounds are very important."

She suggested keeping

playgrounds open, but posting a phone number to call if there's a dog problem or other hazard.

Scores: Student suspensions drop

continued from page 11

wear them each Wednesday.

There is also intensified outreach to families experiencing absenteeism, and the most popular lunch entrees, such as chicken wings, are served on the days most often missed, Faust said.

A "March Madness" competition will be held in schools to see which classes have the best attendance, Faust said.

Student suspensions dropped by 0.6 percent, bringing the rate down to 3 percent of students suspended for at least one day. This matched

the state average and put the district into the state's green, or next-to-best, category.

The district met all of the state's "Local Indicators." These focus on things like having qualified teachers, sufficient instructional materials, and safe facilities. They also look at whether subjects are being taught according to state standards, families are engaged, school climates are healthy and all students have access to a broad range of courses.

The 2023 Dashboard had shown the district as not fully

meeting an indicator for Basics, which covers teachers, instructional materials and facilities. But that standard was fully met this year.

Camp said, "Our ongoing efforts include a focus on essential standards for each grade level and subject matter, professional learning communities for educators, a multi-tiered approach to meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of individual students, and a commitment to advancing racial equity within our highly diverse community."

County Arts Commission Accepting Applications for Grants

Alameda County Arts Commission's ARTSFUND Grant Program is accepting applications through Feb. 6.

The Alameda County Arts Commission's 2025 ARTSFUND Grant Program supports Alameda County-based nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

The online application is now open. Information can be found at the Arts Commission's website arts.acgov.org/artsfund.

Standard grant awards are \$2,000-\$3,000 each. The application deadline is Thursday, Feb. 6, at 5 p.m.

The ARTSFUND Grant Program supports all types of arts and cultural programs such as visual arts, dance, music, theater, literature, media

arts, and other related forms presented by Alameda County nonprofit organizations.

Last year's ARTSFUND program awarded grants to 120 nonprofit organizations throughout Alameda County.

The Alameda County Arts Commission, a division of the County of Alameda, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Alameda County by nurturing a thriving environment for the arts, promoting economic opportunities for Alameda County's artists and arts organizations, and encouraging public participation in the arts.

The Arts Commission staff will present a webinar to assist organizations in preparing their grant application on Friday, Jan. 17 at 1 p.m. The

workshop is free, open to the public, and reservations are not required.

A pre-recorded video of the webinar is also available to watch online at any time. For details about how to join the Zoom webinars, watch the video, and learn more about the ARTSFUND Grant Program, visit the Alameda County Arts Commission's website arts.acgov.org/artsfund.

The Arts Commission staff can also be reached by email at artscommission@acgov.org or phone (510) 208-9646.

Funding for the ARTSFUND Grant Program is provided by the County of Alameda and through donations to ARTSFUND and the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

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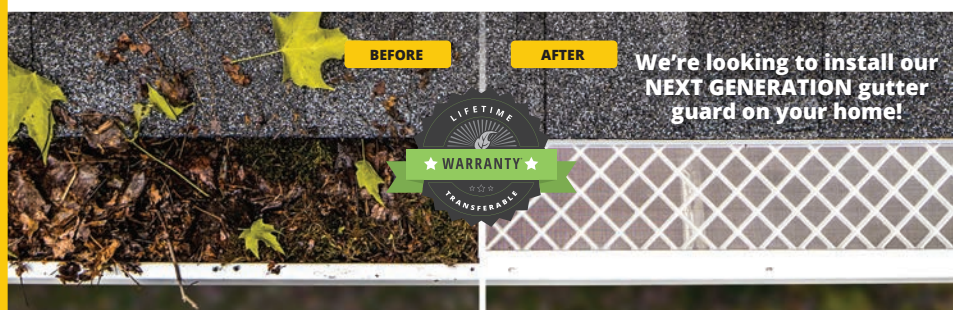


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