

San Leandro Times

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SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

Students Expose Vaping's Hot Air

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

A San Leandro High School (SLHS) teacher's efforts to recruit students to fight teen vaping was featured in a recent issue of California Educator magazine, read by teachers and administrators throughout the state.

Dave Mason, a social studies teacher at the high school, also



SLHS student Michelle Cortez Badua with her award for a public service announcement on the health problems caused by vaping.

serves as site coordinator for TUPE, the Tobacco Use Prevention-Education (TUPE) program funded by tobacco tax money through the Alameda County Office of Education. He is in his third year of running the program.

"Adults can talk to students," he said. "But it helps if it's coming from someone their age or just

see VAPING, page 16



PHOTO COURTESY ALL SAINTS CHURCH

9-Year-Old's Idea Takes Root

All Saints Episcopal Church put up an Advent Giving Tree this year, an idea from parishioner Audrey Merchant, above, who is 9 years old.

On Sunday the congregation held a blessing of the tree on the front patio of the church at 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro. The tree will be

up through Advent and Christmas.

Anyone from the community is invited to come anytime to add decorations, leave non-perishable food in the bins for those in need, or take food if they need it. The church is also collecting toys in a box by the tree for children in need.

Broadmoor Preschool Move Put Off

"Significant limitations" cited by superintendent in letter, now saying it can be worked out

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Parents, children and alumni from Broadmoor Preschool on Dowling Avenue filled the San Leandro Board of Education meeting Tuesday night, arguing that the school should not be forced to move. By Wednesday morning, it appeared they might have gotten their wish.

Broadmoor Preschool currently occupies part of the campus of Roosevelt School.

At the Tuesday night meeting, the District gave them at least one more year at their current location, apologized for the "misunderstanding" that they would be forced to move at the end of the current school year, and promised to "work this out."

The following morning, school superintendent Dr. Mike McLaughlin visited Broadmoor to assure them they could stay in their present location indefinitely.

The preschool, subscribing to a philosophy of "playful learning" for children in the two years before they attend kindergarten, has been in operation for some 80 years. While owned and run cooperatively by parents, it has operated in close cooperation with the San Leandro schools since 1939.

For years, parent education classes there were funded by the

district using some state aid for adult education. The state discontinued much of that aid in 2008, forcing the district to drastically

see PRESCHOOL, page 14

Storm Washes Out Downtown Festival

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

For only the third time in 25 years, the annual "It's A Wonderful Night" holiday celebration scheduled for last Friday was canceled.

Forecast high winds, along with heavy rain, were the reason, according to Larry Allphin, president of the San Leandro Downtown Association, which co-sponsors the event along with the San Leandro Improvement Association.

There were fears for the safety of the horses pulling carriages on slick pavement, with high winds potentially startling the

see WASHOUT, page 9

Slow Going for AC Transit's Rapid Bus

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

The long anticipated opening of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line will be delayed another three months due to construction snafus.

The BRT station terminus at the San Leandro BART Station was scheduled to open this month, but that's been pushed back until March.

"There were a series of unforeseen events that hampered our ability to deliver construction by

2019," said AC Transit spokesman Robert Lyles. "We offer apologies to the riders along the corridor awaiting the opening."

Considerable development in other projects in downtown Oakland and along the route caused delay in the BRT construction, Lyles said. And there were a number of unmarked underground utilities that were discovered once they started digging that

see RAPID, page 9



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Workers demolish the bus stop island at the San Leandro BART station this week, preparing for the new BRT station.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

PETS

Pet shelter to host annual holiday adoption. **Page 2**

AUTOS

New Toyota Marai uses hydrogen fuel. **Page 5**

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San Leandro Times

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Faye



Laci

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Faye the cat and Laci the chihuahua.

Faye is a 1-and-a-half year old blue-eyed beauty. She's a Lynx Point mix and an independent girl who'll let you know when she wants your attention. She loves to explore her home

and release energy chasing toys.

Laci is a very sweet, shy 3-year-old chihuahua who needs a little time to warm up to new people. Once she does, she's a playful pup who wants to be near you a lot. Laci needs a patient family to help her blossom. OK with teens and adults. For more information on Faye or Laci, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

'Home for the Holidays' Pet Adoption

The Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, will host its annual "Home for the Holidays" pet adoption Friday through Sunday, Dec. 13 to 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dogs, puppies, cats, kittens, and bunnies will be available. Adoption fees for qualified homes will be covered by Santa Con Hayward. Bring your pet for photos with Santa Claus. Holiday bake sale, raffle prizes. Proceeds benefit the Hayward Animal Shelter homeless pets medical fund, the TNR program and the Cops for Kids Toy Drive.

Theater Troupes Join Forces To Present *Christmas in Oz*

Musical by DMT and EB Children's Theater

This holiday season, the Douglas Morrisson Theatre and East Bay Children's Theatre are decking the halls with a splashy musical for the entire family: "Christmas In Oz," running Dec. 13 to Dec. 22.

Tickets for the show are \$15 to \$29. Performances will be held at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward.

For tickets and more information, visit www.dmtOnline.org or www.ebctOnline.org or phone 510-881-6777.

Show times are Friday and Saturdays (Dec. 13, 14, 20, 21) at 8 p.m., Sundays (Dec. 15 and 22) at 2 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.



Lunch Menu at The Senior Center

Lunch provided by Spectrum Community Services

A low-cost senior lunch provided by Spectrum Community Services is served on weekdays at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St.

Everyone age 60 and up can have lunch. A suggested donation is \$3.75, but no one is refused for lack of funds. (\$10 for those under 60.)

Call 24 hours ahead to reserve a lunch (1-510-825-9793) or sign up at the Senior Center.

The menu for lunch next week, Dec. 16 to Dec. 20, is:

Monday – Baked potato

with broccoli and cheese, garden salad, pear, whole wheat roll.

Tuesday – Albondigas entree soup, tossed vegetable salad, whole wheat rolls, apple sauce.

Wednesday – Pot roast with gravy, mashed potatoes, collard greens, biscuit, oranges.

Thursday – Moroccan chicken, steamed butternut squash, brown rice, fruit mix.

Friday – Holiday Meal – Lemon baked fish, creamed spinach, rosemary potatoes, whole wheat roll, strawberries, butterscotch pudding.

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FOOD DRIVE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES with The Lovewell Team

We are proudly partnering with the Alameda Food Bank for the 2019 holiday food drive, which will run through January 2020. Please participate in aiding those in need by donating non-perishable food items. Checks made payable to Alameda County Food Bank are also welcome. Every \$1 donated allows the Food Bank to distribute \$7 worth of food. We invite you to drop off non-perishable food to our office: 3327 Castro Valley Blvd. or Call 510-351-5555 and we can come and pick it up.

Thank you for your contributions in helping those in need in our communities!

The Lovewell Team - Re/Max Accord Castro Valley
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POLICE & FIRE

U.S. Bank Robbery Suspect Arrested

The San Leandro Police Department has arrested a suspect in the robbery of a US Bank, located at 1585 East 14th Street in San Leandro.

On Dec. 2, at 10:25am, the suspect, later identified as 57-year-old Oakland resident Grady Arnold, entered the bank and handed the teller a note that demanded money. Arnold allegedly obtained an undisclosed amount and fled the bank.

Despite a search of the area by police officers who responded to the reported robbery, Arnold was not located.

San Leandro Police detectives and Crime Analyst Denise Joseph immediately investigated the robbery using law enforcement computer databases. Analyst Joseph quickly identified Arnold as a possible suspect.

At 2:00 p.m. the same day, detectives located and arrested Arnold, in the 5700 block of Foothill Boulevard in Oakland, without incident for his involvement in this robbery. He confessed to the crime and was booked into Santa

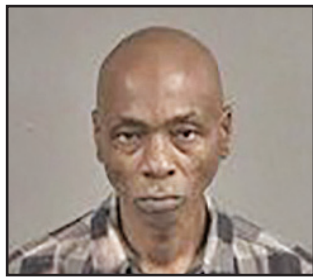


PHOTO COURTESY SAN LEANDRO POLICE

Rita Jail for robbery. He is being held on a \$100,000 bail.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office filed charges against Arnold for robbery on Dec. 4.

Lt. Ted Henderson said that crime analysis has become an essential tool in police work. In this case, he said along with Joseph's skills and quick work by detectives, it led to a suspect being arrested within hours instead of after a lengthy investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this robbery or any other robbery is urged to contact the San Leandro Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at (510) 577-3230.

App-Based Car Sale Goes Wrong: Car Stolen, Seller Injured At Denny's

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

A San Leandro man trying to sell his car on Dec. 1 was instead locked out and nearly run over by the prospective buyer, who then stole the car, San Leandro police report.

The incident occurred in front of the Denny's on Marina Boulevard, near Merced Street and I-880.

The man, Erik Lau, had posted the 2003 Mercedes on the LetGo smartphone app, and set up a meeting in a place that was public and well-lit, as safety experts often advise. It was also right next to a freeway on-ramp.

Lau told police and the media that things went normally until the man asked to take the car for a test drive. Lau handed the prospective buyer the keys and walked around to get in the passenger seat. That's when he found the doors locked and the car beginning to move, according to Lt. Ted Henderson of the San Leandro Police Department.

Lau tried to stop the man from stealing the car, first by standing in his path and then by jumping on the hood after the driver tried to run him over. He pounded on the windshield to slow down the thief, according to police, but was unsuccessful and broke his hand when he put it through the car's windshield.

He told news outlets that his cell phone was stolen along with the car, and he was able to track the cell phone as far as United Nations Plaza in downtown San Francisco. But he did not attempt to go there to confront the thief, especially after hurting his hand.

Henderson said no new leads have come in on the theft, and the next step for police will be asking LetGo for information on the thief's account.

"Hopefully he has an account there in his real name," Henderson said. "That's how he and the victim first got in contact."

"Tech companies often say no to such requests, though, and

we often have to get a subpoena or search warrant to get those records," Henderson said. "It takes time."

Lt. Henderson suggested people making app-based purchases or sales that require meeting in person first check out the legitimacy and reputation of the app and find out what they can about the buyer or sellers history and reputation on the app.

Meet in a well-lit public place, as Lau did, but also try for a place with surveillance cameras. You probably won't need them, Henderson said, but they can be very helpful to police if a theft or other crime does occur.

You might want to avoid meeting someone very close to a freeway on-ramp or other quick escape route for a thief, Henderson said.

Buyers and sellers are well-come to meet right at the police station, Henderson said, where the odds of anything going criminally wrong are greatly reduced.

Some cities already have "safe meetup places" where people can meet in-person for sales that began online. Chief Jeff Tudor is asking the city to set up a similar area in San Leandro, Henderson said.

Holiday Safety Tips

The San Leandro Police Department reminds the community of a few crime prevention tips during this holiday season. Criminals may not be taking days off from work for the holidays, so we may want to make their "work" more difficult.

When holiday shopping, watch where you're going and be aware of your surroundings.

Don't walk and text or talk on your cell phone at the same time. Maybe you can do the two things at once, but you might not notice that criminal getting ready to steal your phone! Cell phone thefts are

on the rise.

Park near where everyone else parks, not in a dark or secluded spot. You're safer if you're patient and courteous while parking, even if not everyone else is. Have packages out of sight before you arrive; thieves may be watching you put items in your trunk once there.

Try not to be the last shopper out of the store when it closes. Company from fellow shoppers is good when you're walking back to your car.

Stores will happily reunite kids with parents or other guard-

ians when necessary. Tell children to immediately go to a clerk or security guard if they get separated from you.

Hold on to your money and credit cards. Tuck your purse tightly under your arm, or don't carry one at all. You can put money and only necessary cards in your front pocket where it is difficult for a thief to grab them.

Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside your home.

The San Leandro Police Department wishes you a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season.

Police Volunteer Leo Loh Mourned

The San Leandro Police Department wished a fond farewell to long-time volunteer Leo Loh, who passed away on Dec. 1. Loh had volunteered with the department for 10 years, and was chosen Volunteer of the Year in 2017.

Lt. Ted Henderson of the San Leandro police said that Loh took police vehicles back and forth from police headquarters and the department's garage on Chapman Street. He also jumped in to help when records clerks got backed up, or whenever people in the department needed a hand.

Loh, born in China and educated in Japan, ran a successful export-import business until retirement. He moved to San Leandro in 2007, and first volunteered for the police department in 2009. He leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Frances, and three grown sons.

"We will miss his infectious smile and deep commitment to the volunteer program," said



PHOTO COURTESY SAN LEANDRO POLICE

Leo Loh, longtime San Leandro Police volunteer.

police chief Jeff Tudor in a Twitter post.

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NEIGHBORS



From left, Herman Yang of Modern Woodmen Fraternal presents a check for \$2,500 for SOS Meals On Wheels to Joe Ingellis and CV Women's Club President Carolyn Willkie.

\$5,826 Raised for SOS/Meals on Wheels

The Castro Valley Women's Club's 7th Annual Holiday Boutique this year raised \$5,826 for SOS/Meals on Wheels — the equivalent of nearly a thousand nutritious meals and welfare checks for local seniors in need.

The total included a matching fund of \$2,500 from Modern Woodmen Financial Fraternal.

The combined support of the 33 local businesses who gave the club \$3,500 worth of Pick-Your-Prize gifts, the Claremont Hotel and Spa's generous grand prize, and the participation of 13 local artisans made this year's event exciting and fun.

The event was well attended, raising the visibility of the club in the community.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ **Douglas Morrisson Theatre** Morrisson Theatre and East Bay Children's Theatre are decking the halls with a splashy musical *Christmas In OZ*. This holiday season, the Douglas

Children's Theatre are decking the halls with a splashy musical *Christmas In OZ*, running Dec. 13 to Dec. 22. Tickets are \$15 to \$29. Performances will be held at Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. For tickets and more information, visit www.dmtOnline.org or www.ebctOnline.org or phone 510-881-6777. Show times are Friday and Saturdays Dec. 13, 14, 20, 21 at 8 p.m., Sundays Dec. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

❖ Bal Theater A Christmas Carol

The San Leandro Players will perform a live radio show adaptation of Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at the historic Bal Theater, 14808 East 14th St. in San Leandro. The show will benefit the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club. Tickets for the show are free and can be obtained through either the San Leandro Players website — www.slplayers.org — or the Bal Theater website — www.baltheater.com. Walk-ups on the night of the show will also be acceptable. Doors open at 6 p.m. for music and photos with Santa Claus. Although the show is free, donations will be cheerfully accepted.

RECYCLE!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Deadline for Calendar Items is Friday for the Following Week



❖ Libertarian Party Holiday Meet & Greet

The Libertarian Party of Alameda County will have a holiday meet-and-greet on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Buffalo Bill's Brewery, 1082 B St. in Hayward. There will be an optional anonymous gift exchange (\$10 and under if newly purchased), re-gifting and white elephants are welcome, baked goods work too. No membership required. For more information, visit lpac.us/events.

❖ Adult Coloring Fun

Remember when coloring made you feel relaxed and happy? Relax and enjoy the moment at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro, on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Whether you color inside or outside the lines is your call. Refreshments, relaxing music, and coloring supplies provided. No registration required.

❖ Meeting of the SL Democratic Club

The San Leandro Democratic Club will have a Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. Sing Christmas carols, tell political jokes and line dance.

❖ An Evening of Christmas Hymns

Catholic Daughters of the Americas will host an Evening of Christmas Hymns and Humorous Stories with singer Michael Russell O'Brien on Friday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. at St. Felicitas Church, 1662 San Leandro Blvd. in San Leandro. Tickets are \$10 in advance. Call Kim Oliver at 510-940-5949. Proceeds benefit local charities such as Habitat for Humanity, Disabled Veteran's and many others.

❖ Alta Mira Club Holiday Tea

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host the Lucille Kline Holiday Tea on Saturday, Dec. 14 at noon. Tickets are \$25. For reservations, call Linda Klass at 510-914-5684 or Isabel Polvorosa at 510-483-2073.

❖ Hearing Loss Association Meeting

The Hearing Loss Association meeting will be on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Oakland Kaiser Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Refreshments are at 9:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 10 a.m. Topic for discussion will be *The ways we cope with Hearing Loss*, a members' discussion group about our ongoing problems in social situations, also a 'show and tell' of the latest gadgets which allows you to hear better. Audience participation is encouraged, so please come prepared to share a funny story, or a frustration you have recently experienced. Please bring finger food to share at this holiday potluck. Parking is free on Saturdays at the garage on Howe St. For more information, call 510-221-6080 or email info@hearinglosseb.org.

❖ SL Library Winter Cookbook Sale

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will host a Winter "Cookbook Sale" on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 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 on sale, 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. Start your holiday shopping with quality cookbooks at bargain prices. All proceeds benefit the San Leandro Library's programs and services.

❖ Holidays at Casa Peralta & Museum

Everyone is welcome to attend a traditional holiday celebration at San Leandro's historic Casa Peralta, 384 W. Estudillo Ave., and a Grinch Christmas at the neighboring History Museum on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Casa Peralta will be decked with boughs and beautiful holiday décor. Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and warm cider while you sit and write a letter to Santa or make a card for someone special this holiday season. For a Grinch Christmas visit the History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Avenue, to make a special Grinch holiday ornament and watch the 2018 animated movie "The Grinch" showing at 11:15 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. Ornament crafts will be available while supplies last. Admission is free for all ages. For more information, call 510-577-3991 or email asilveira@sanleandro.org.

❖ Principled Academy Breakfast with Santa

The Principled Academy, 2305 Washington Ave. in San Leandro, is hosting a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Includes a delicious pancake breakfast, crafts, a Lego play area, and pictures with Santa. Ages 14 and over \$10, children 3 and over \$5; children 2 and under admitted free.

❖ St. Felicitas Young at Heart Luncheon

St. Felicitas Church's Young at Heart senior luncheon will be on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Monsignor McGinty Hall located behind the church at 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. The luncheon will feature baked ham with dessert, a beverage and door prizes. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Tickets can be purchased at the church office located to the right of the church. Last day to buy tickets is Friday, Dec. 13 before noon. No ticket sales at the door. The cost is \$6. All seniors our welcomed. For more information, call 510-351-5244.

❖ San Leandro Adult School

San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St., will host a Career Technical Education Open House on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. Explore the many certificated training classes and programs: Accounting I & II, Administrative Assistant, Barbering & Cosmetology, Clinical Medical Assistant, Employment Preparation, Homecare Worker, Nurse Assistant & Home Health Aide, Medical Billing & Coding, Medical Terminology Bootcamp, Microsoft Office Word, Excel & PowerPoint, Office Skills Preparation, Para Educator Test Preparation, Payroll Accounting, Pharmacy Technician and QuickBooks. For more information, call 510-667-6250 or visit www.sanleandroadult-school.org.

❖ San Leandro Toastmasters

The San Leandro Toastmasters meet on Thursday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The group fosters improved communication and public speaking. All levels of speakers from novice to seasoned are welcome.

❖ Build It with Legos at Manor Library

Build it with Legos! Come and let your imagination soar with Legos at the Manor Library 1241 Manor Boulevard in San Leandro, on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Bring your design skills. Legos for building will be provided. For kids 6 to 10 years old. No registration required.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

AUTOMOTIVE

Mirai Paves Path to the Future

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

The Toyota Mirai (means “future” in Japanese) is an unusual looking, midsize, four-door sedan. It’s one of only three hydrogen-fuel-powered vehicles for sale in the United States. The other two are the Honda Clarity sedan and the new Hyundai Nexo cross-over.

Hydrogen, the first element, is abundant in nature. It’s one of the two elements that make up water, after all. But when the atoms are split from the H_2 in H_2O into H_1 pressurized liquid fuel, they can be used in a high-tech device under a car hood to produce energy to power an electric motor and drive a 4,075-pound car.

The Mirai uses a fuel cell with a battery. You can view on a screen where the energy comes from and where it’s going as it

switches back and forth between them. The electricity in the battery is also regenerated when you’re braking, slowing down, or rolling downhill, as in other electric vehicles. You can’t plug it in.

Hydrogen seems like a dream fuel. The only byproduct is water, and there’s an H_2O button on the dashboard that you can push to release the water. The energy downside is that producing hydrogen can be very energy intensive, so how “green” it is depends on how the fuel is made. Research is ongoing to find a way to do it sustainably.

I spent a week in a Nautical Blue 2019 example and drove around town and down the freeway, and it behaved flawlessly. With a 0-60 acceleration of 9.0 seconds, it feels relatively quick, although it is not at all exciting to pilot a Mirai. It is very quiet, except for occasional buzzes and hums from the powerplant. Wind and road noise are subdued.

The interior is typical of a Camry or Avalon sedan, with padded doors and dash and sweeps of hard, shiny panels that undulate across your field of view. The central console is home to dozens of spots you can touch to manipulate the climate control, adjust the performance from normal to “Eco” or “Power,” turn on the heated steering wheel, and so on.

The audio system works more traditionally, although the absence of Apple CarPlay or Android Auto is disappointing. Toyota offers its Entune app, which provides a wealth of services if you own the car and have an account.

The goal of a hydrogen-powered car is to not use any fossil fuels at all, so maximum fuel economy may not be the top consideration. My tester carried an official EPA rating of 67 MPGe (miles per gallon equivalent). However, some battery electric vehicles achieve much higher efficiency, such as the 132 MPGe of a Hyundai Kona Electric.

Living with a hydrogen fuel cell car has some sets of advantages and disadvantages. For example, the Mirai doesn’t use fossil fuels at all, but as discussed before, hydrogen can be environmentally costly to produce. The Mirai is roomy and comfortable, but only for four people—a tall armrest divides the rear passengers.

The official range of a Mirai is a laudable 312 miles, and you can fill up in just five minutes, unlike the longer charge times of a battery electric vehicle. But you need to be able to find



The 2021 model, pictured here, was unveiled at the Los Angeles Auto Show recently and will go on sale next year. The redesigned 2021 Mirai charts an entirely new course as a luxury vehicle.



With a 0-60 acceleration of 9.0 seconds, it feels relatively quick, although it is not at all exciting to pilot a Mirai.

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED
NOVEMBER 14, 2019
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 565425

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Studio HX located at 4748 Mira Vista Drive,
Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County,
is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wei Wu, 4748 Mira Vista Drive, Castro
Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted
by an individual. This business commenced
N/A.

/s/ Wei Wu

This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.

Expires NOVEMBER 14, 2024

DEC 12, 19, 26, 2019 JAN 02, 2020
0192-SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED
NOVEMBER 05, 2019
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 565175

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the businesses:
Tacos El Diabliito located at 1024 75th Avenue,
San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda
County, mailing address 1024 75th Avenue,
Oakland, CA 94621 in Alameda County is
hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Mario Gomez, 1024 75th Avenue, Oakland,
CA 94621. This business is conducted by
an individual. This business commenced
11/05/19.

/s/ Mario Gomez

This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.

Expires November 05, 2024

NOV 21, 28, DEC 05, 12, 2019
0186-SLT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the businesses:
Onward Painting located at 1418 Marybelle
Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda
County, is hereby registered by the following
owner(s): Deagean Painting Inc., 1418 Marybelle
Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. This
business is conducted by a corporation. This
business commenced N/A.

/s/ Deagean Painting Inc.

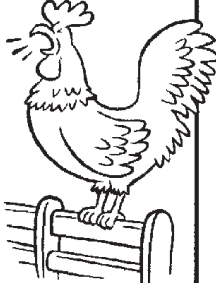
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.

Expires December 04, 2024

DEC 12, 19, 26, 2019 JAN 02, 2020
0190-SLT

RIDDLE CARD

1. Why is a rooster sitting on a fence like a penny?
2. When is a pie like a poet?
3. Why is a goose like an icicle?
4. When is a man like a pony?
5. What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?



Answers: 1. Because its head is on one side and its tail both grow down. 2. When it is brown. 3. Because they are on the other. 4. When he is a little hoarse (horse). 5. A towel.

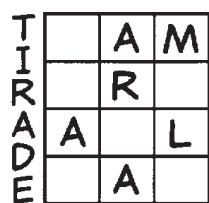
ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHICALLY is the longest word we could find in our English Language Dictionary! We also found one word that can actually be made shorter by adding one syllable to it. Can you guess what this word is?

Answer: The word is SHORT. It becomes SHORTER when you add one syllable to it.



FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we’ve removed six of the letters to spell out the word “TIRADE.” See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you’ll have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.

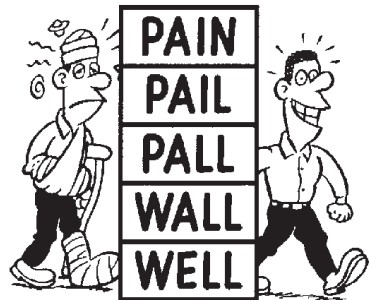
Answers: (Across): (Across): Dam, era, all, rat, (Down): Dear, aria, mall.



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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

CALLING DR. WHIRL!

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

1. HAVE to LEND
2. PAID to FULL
3. PEAT to WARM
4. SALT to DOME
5. CREW to TEAM

Answers: 1. HAVE, LAVE, LANE, LAND, LEND. 2. PAID, PAIL, PALL, PULL, FULL. 3. PEAT, PEAT, PART, PART, WARM. 4. SALT, SALE, DALE, DOLE, DOME. 5. CREW, CRAW, CREAM, TRAM, TEAM.

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Casa Peralta To Host Holiday Celebration

Everyone is welcome to attend a traditional holiday celebration at San Leandro's historic Casa Peralta, 384 W. Estudillo Ave., and a Grinch Christmas at the neighboring History Museum on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m.

Casa Peralta will be decked with boughs and beautiful holiday décor. Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and warm cider while you sit and write a letter to Santa or make a card for someone special this holiday season.

For a Grinch Christmas visit the History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Avenue, to make a special Grinch holiday ornament and watch the 2018 animated movie "The Grinch" showing at

11:15 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. Ornament craft will be available while supplies last. Admission is free for all ages.

For more information, call 510-577-3991 or email asilveira@sanleandro.org.

During the events, the performers will begin near Center Court of the mall and from there they will stroll through the center from 1 to 3 p.m., sharing their happy holiday sounds with everybody along the way.

Strolling Musicians Coming to Bayfair

Bayfair Center, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro, will host a series of festive strolling musical performances this holiday season on Saturdays through Dec. 21, with one final performance on Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve).

During the events, the performers will begin near Center Court of the mall and from there they will stroll through the center from 1 to 3 p.m., sharing their happy holiday sounds with everybody along the way.

These performances are free and open to the public.

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UC Conducting Study On East Bay Wildfire And Power Shutoff

Researchers from the UC Berkeley are conducting a study to better understand the public's wildfire evacuation decision-making as well as the public safety power shutoff (PSPS) events by the PG&E this past October.

The UC team is asking residents from Castro Valley and other East Bay communities to fill out a survey about their choices in a future wildfire evacuation.

The team is also interested in analyzing travel patterns following the recent PSPS events. The goal is to develop strategies that can assist agencies across

California in preparing for future wildfire events.

Similar surveys have been conducted across the state following wildfires in the northern valley and Southern California, but researchers now want to know how East Bay residents might react to a wildfire, and what experiences residents had during the PSPS events.

Those who participate in the survey will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$200 Amazon gift cards.

The survey is available online at: http://bit.ly/eastbay_wildfire_survey.

Make a Life-Saving Gift this Holiday Season

Individuals are urged to give a lifesaving gift this holiday season by making an appointment to donate blood or platelets and help the American Red Cross ensure a sufficient supply is available for patients throughout the holiday season.

Those with type O blood are especially needed.

During the holiday season,

set aside an hour to give blood and be the lifeline patients need. Make an appointment now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The upcoming blood donation in San Leandro will be on Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at San Leandro Hospital, 13855 East 14th St.

Citizens Wanted for H.A.R.D. F-1 Bond Oversight Committee

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) is accepting applications from interested residents of Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and unincorporated Alameda County to serve as committee members on the District's Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (C.B.O.C.). There are currently three position openings on the committee.

The committee oversees the expenditure and use of Measure F1 Bond proceeds to ensure their use on the types of projects stated in the bond measure. The committee in its operation shall represent no specific or special group but provides bond oversight for the general welfare of the district as a whole.

The Measure F1 Bond was approved by voters in 2017 and provides \$250 million to be used for the building, design and improvement of H.A.R.D. facilities and parks. The C.B.O.C. meets four times per year; members serve a two-year term.

To obtain a C.B.O.C. application, call the H.A.R.D. Capital Planning Offices at 510-881-6712, or email Meghan Tiernan, Capital Planning and Development Director at TieM@haywardrec.org. The deadline to submit the application is Monday, Jan. 6.

To learn more about H.A.R.D. programs and events, visit www.HaywardRec.org.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Take steps to make the most of your health benefits. Doing so could help improve your health and save you money.



HEALTH & FITNESS

Make the Most of Your Health Plan Before the End of the Year

By Rebecca Madsen
Special to the Times

The holiday season is at hand, and many residents in California are already making year-end plans to travel and celebrate with friends and family.

Yet there is one year-end plan that is often overlooked: taking steps to make the most of your health benefits. Doing so could help improve your health and save you money.

Tips to consider before the end of the year:

- **Get Ahead of Health Issues:** People with employer-sponsored, individual, Medicare and Medicaid plans have access to many preventive services that can help detect diseases and encourage well-being.

Take advantage of the various health screenings — such as blood pressure, cholesterol and depression — and timely vaccines, such as the flu shot, that are available through your health plan before year-end.

Doing so now may give you a head start on those healthy New Year's resolutions. Check with your health plan as many eligible preventive services are available at no additional cost, as long as they are delivered by care providers in your plan's network.

- **Delay Non-Emergency Services:** A growing number of employers and consumers are choosing health plans with higher deductibles; nearly 45% of Americans are enrolled in such plans, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

If this applies to you, check if you have reached or exceeded your deductible, which is the amount you have to pay before insurance kicks in. If not, it may make sense to delay non-emergency services, such as a joint

replacement, until 2020.

The cost for those services would then apply to your 2020 deductible and out-of-pocket maximum, increasing the likelihood that your health plan would pay for more of your medical expenses for the remainder of the year.

- **Schedule Recommended Health Services:** The opposite is true if you have already reached your deductible. In this case, check with your health care professional to schedule recommended medical services, as those will likely be covered (all or in part) by your health plan.

If possible, tell your health care professional that you've reached your deductible and out-of-pocket maximum, and see if there's any needed follow-up care that can be arranged before the end of the year.

Understand Your Spending Accounts: Many people have spending accounts with funds earmarked for health care services. Health savings accounts (HSAs) offer tax-advantages, and the money can roll over from year to year.

If you contribute money to your HSA before year-end, you can help pay for qualified medi-

cal services in 2020 or even later while lowering your taxable income for 2019.

On the other hand, flexible spending accounts (FSAs) require the money be spent before the year ends, and unused balances are not rolled over into the next calendar year. So if you have funds left in your FSA and you need to order contact lenses, schedule a dental cleaning or refill prescriptions, for example, now's the time to do that.

- **Prepare to Use Your 2020 Benefits:** Before the year is out, take time to review your health plan and check with your employer's HR department to determine what well-being incentives or other resources might be available when 2020 starts. Nearly 75% of employers offer well-being programs, with an average incentive of \$762 annually, according to a recent study by the National Business Group on Health.

By finding out now what incentives are available to you, you can help prepare yourself to start earning all or some of those rewards starting New Year's Day.

Rebecca Madsen is Chief Consumer Officer of UnitedHealthcare.

4 Reasons Playing Piano is Good for Your Health

Have you always wanted to play the piano but never took that first step in getting started? If you need any more motivation than the fact that making music is a fun and rewarding activity, consider that this is one hobby with many surprising positive benefits for your health.

Here are just a few of them:

- **It's good for your brain:** The act of learning to play a keyboard or piano helps boost cognitive brain development. In children, this can lead to better grades and better focus at school. In adults, this can help to slow the aging process and improve memory retention.

- **It reduces stress:** Music has the power to reduce stress, so too does engaging in favorite pastimes, and new tools can help you achieve competence faster so that playing is more fun than frustrating from the outset. When it comes to digital pianos, some of today's models come with features that support the learning process, as well as grow with you on your journey

as a musician. The PX-S3000 from Casio for example, works with the free Chordana Play for Piano app, which displays the music score and piano roll notation for built-in songs and MIDI files and also features songwriting tools.

- **You'll get a self-esteem boost:** With the mastery of a new skill comes pride and a major confidence boost. Knowing you have the power to achieve your goals will help you to fearlessly set new ones.

- **Your dexterity will im-**

prove: Dexterity and hand-eye coordination are fundamental skills that are necessary to develop early and maintain as you age. Research shows that playing the piano can help improve and sharpen them.

There are many reasons to learn to play piano and it's never too early or too late to start. Consider using new tools that will help make the learning process stress-free so you can begin to reap the benefits of this hobby right away.

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LIFESTYLE



Christmas Just Around the Corner!

It's time to start making plans for your yuletide feast, because the big day will be here before you know it.

For a spectacular holiday centerpiece, nothing quite compares to a beautiful beef roast cooked to

perfection.

Cooking a roast may seem a bit intimidating at first, but it really is one of the more simple main dishes to prepare.

There's little more to it than putting it in the oven and pulling it

out when it's done. To know when it's done, you'll need a good meat thermometer (an instant-read type is best to use).

CLASSIC PRIME RIB ROAST

- 1 (6-8 pound) trimmed beef rib roast, chine bone removed
- 6 large cloves garlic, crushed
- 1-1/2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon cracked black pepper

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Combine garlic, thyme and black pepper. Press evenly into surface of beef roast.

Place roast, fat side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. Do not add water or cover roast.

Roast approximately 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 hours. Using an instant read thermometer, remove roast when internal temperature reaches 135°F for medium rare or 150°F for medium.

Tent loosely with foil and let stand 15 minutes prior to carving. Serve with Yorkshire Pudding, if desired. Makes 8 to 12 servings.

YORKSHIRE PUDDING

- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- 4 to 8 tablespoons reserved drippings from roasting pan

Preheat oven to 475°F.

Whisk together the flour, salt, milk, butter and eggs. Using a baster, drop a teaspoon or two of drippings into each cup of a muffin tin.

Put the muffin tin in the preheated oven. When the drippings are sizzling hot, remove the tin and fill each cup 1/2 to 2/3 full with batter.

Bake for 15 minutes, then reduce oven temperature to 350°F and bake for 15 to 20 minutes longer, or until the popovers are puffed and brown. Serve hot.

Yields 12 large popovers.

CREAMY MASHED POTATOES WITH CHIVES

- 6 Idaho or russet potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives
- 4 ounces mascarpone cheese
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus more for cooking potatoes
- 1 cup milk, warmed

Place potatoes in a large pot and cover with cold water to 2 inches above potatoes. Season water generously with salt and bring potatoes to a boil to cook for 40 minutes, until very tender.

Drain potatoes and return to pot. Mash potatoes with warm milk until smooth. Fold in mascarpone and chives. Season with 1 teaspoon salt. Serves 6 to 8.

CHRISTMAS CRANBERRY SALAD

Cranberry Vinaigrette:

- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
 - 1/2 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed
 - 2 green onions, cut into 1-inch pieces
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon dried sage, crushed
 - 3/4 cup olive oil
- Salad:*
- 12 cups mixed greens
 - 1 small red bell pepper, chopped
 - Grated or shredded Parmesan cheese, optional

In a blender, combine the first eight ingredients. While processing, gradually add oil in a steady stream. Chill until ready to serve.

In a large salad bowl, combine the greens and red pepper. Sprinkle with cheese if desired. Serve with cranberry vinaigrette. Yields 12 servings (1 cup vinaigrette).

GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

- 2 (10-3/4 ounce) cans Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 (9-ounce) packages frozen cut green beans, thawed
- 2-2/3 cups French fried onions

Stir soup, milk, soy sauce, black pepper, beans and 1-1/3 cups onions in 3-quart casserole.

Bake at 350°F 30 minutes or until hot. Stir. Top with remaining

onions. Bake 5 minutes more until onions are golden.

Makes 12 servings.

To enhance this dish, cook 4 slices bacon until crisp and crumble over the top.

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

- 4-1/2 cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

In a large bowl, mix together mashed sweet potatoes, 1/2 cup butter, milk, sugar, vanilla extract, and eggs. Spread sweet potato mixture into the prepared baking dish.

In a small bowl, mix together brown sugar and flour. Cut in 1/3 cup butter until mixture is crumbly, then stir in pecans. Sprinkle pecan mixture over the sweet potatoes.

Bake for 25 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown. Serves 12.

STEAMED WINTER VEGETABLES

- 3/4 pound baby carrots, peeled
- 4 medium new potatoes, quartered
- 6 Brussels sprouts, halved
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper

Place carrots and potatoes in steamer over boiling water.

Cover and steam 6 minutes. Add sprouts and continue steaming 5 to 7 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Combine butter, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Toss with steamed vegetables. Serves 8

ROASTED BRUSSELS SPROUTS

- 1-1/2 pounds Brussels sprouts, ends trimmed and yellow leaves removed
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Place trimmed Brussels sprouts, olive oil, salt and pepper in a large resealable plastic bag. Seal tightly, and shake to coat. Pour onto a baking sheet, and place on center oven rack.

Roast in the preheated oven for 30 to 45 minutes, shaking pan every 5 to 7 minutes for even browning.

Reduce heat when necessary to prevent burning. Brussels sprouts should be darkest brown, almost black, when done. Adjust seasoning with salt, if necessary. Serve immediately. Serves 6.



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Season's Greetings & Sincere Wishes
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 From the staff of the
 San Leandro Times

Rapid: BRT line re-scheduled for an opening in the spring

continued from front page
caused delays.

"We're happy that both the cities of San Leandro and Oakland continue to work with us to develop remedies to get around the challenges," Lyles said.

The BRT line will run from downtown Oakland to San Leandro BART, an express bus with dedicated lanes and limited stops at platforms where riders can buy a ticket in advance. BRT has been operating in several European cities, and is seen as a lower cost alternative to light rail.

Construction began in 2015 on the BRT route that was originally scheduled to be running in 2017.

The \$216 million rapid-bus line was originally planned to run from UC Berkeley to Bayfair. But AC Transit could only get approval for a 9.5-mile route between downtown Oakland to the San Leandro BART station.

The San Leandro City Council wouldn't allow it, saying it would be disruptive to East 14th Street. The Berkeley City Council axed the BRT in that city, too, even though it encourages people to ride public transit, reduces automobile use, and is good for



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The new AC Transit BRT station at the San Leandro BART Station doesn't look like it will be running in December, but it's now scheduled to open in March.

urban living as well as the planet as a whole.

AC Transit points out that a BRT line in Cleveland, Ohio has attracted \$5.8 billion in investment along the route, which goes 6.8 miles from downtown Cleveland to University Circle, home of the Cleveland Clinic and

University Hospital.

AC Transit believes the rapid bus route will spur economic development along its route, too – something that may have been beneficial to East 14th in south San Leandro.

But the transit agency has pressed on despite provincialism

to make the best of the rapid bus line.

Most of the route will include dedicated bus lanes in the middle of the road, but in San Leandro the bus-only lane will go just a few blocks into the city before turning off East 14th Street at Davis Street and

heading to the San Leandro BART station.

Once construction is finished, AC Transit will begin training its operators on the new system, Lyles said. The BRT will run fare-free when it first opens, as the system tests that all the vending machines and station lighting are operating properly.

Art will decorate each station, including the five stations in San Leandro – Durant Avenue, Georgia Way, Civic Center, Downtown San Leandro, and

San Leandro BART. The art at each station will be designed to reflect the history, culture and the neighborhood identity along the route.

A continuous poem along with icons and images developed through extensive research and community workshops will be seen by riders traveling along the route. The poem continues from station to station.

"I think it will be attractive for the community and for riders as well," Lyles said.

Washout: Tree is lit

continued from front page

horses as well.

Young dancers from the DC Dance Center downtown faced risk of injury if it rained during their performance, said Allphin.

The centerpiece event, the lighting of the city's Christmas tree, was postponed by San Leandro city officials due to the weather. Several other Bay Area cities took the same step in face of the forecast, Allphin said.

The Christmas tree, however, was later lit by volunteers work-

ing quickly between rainstorms, according to Chamber of Commerce President Emily Griego. She added that sponsors had hoped to reschedule the public lighting, but forecasts of rain on weekend nights blocked that.

The Downtown Association also sponsors the annual October street festival, The Sausage & Suds Music Festival, which was canceled this year. The association plans to bring back another festival with a different theme next October.

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By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Winter Rains Open the Door to Foundation Issues

Winter has ushered in a new season of rain and numerous accompanying water-related issues.

While normal to see sudden shortages in the umbrella supplies, in traffic delays and increasing numbers of accidents, it is what is *not* readily visible that can be problematic.

Think, "foundation issues." While water is one of our primary natural resources, too much of a good thing in the wrong place can be devastating. A sudden influx of rainwater into a region such as the East Bay can cause soil instability, induce landslides and put significant strain on residential foundations.

Foundations are designed to support a structure, not keep water out. Concrete in and of itself is porous and if water is allowed to pool on the outside of a foundation, it is only a matter of time before the water makes its way into crawlspac-

es and basements, often with serious implications.

It is not typical in our area to see extensive waterproofing applied to foundations exteriors, so Bay Area residents must ensure there are adequate systems in place to divert water away from foundations.

Potential water issues in residential settings come from three fundamental areas: (1) the property's roof, (2) the surrounding yard and (3) a high water table.

Since roofs gather massive amounts of water, it must be routed as far away from the home as possible.

Gutters and downspouts need to be free of debris and diverters need to deposit water at least 3 feet from the foundation. Downspout extensions can be purchased from local home improvement stores and easily added to the bottom of downspouts.

Yards can be more problematic.

Ideally, surfaces should slant away from the foundation. In some cases, this might mean changing the yard's layout. If a hill dumps water towards the foundation, French drains or similar water management systems are needed to divert water around the house.

Much of our regional soil is expansive, which expands when wet and shrinks when dry. If water interacts regularly with expansive soil, the constant shrinking/expanding movement can actually lead to foundation cracks.

Streams of water hitting a

foundation can also undermine the footings. Neighborhoods with high water tables may require sump pumps under the home to keep things dry.

As the rains descend, check your crawl space and/or basement. If you see water activity, you may want to take proactive measures to ensure the damp does not ultimately lead to doom.

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.

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Plant the Right Tree to Complement Yard; Where Did the Blueberries Go Wrong?

By Buzz Bertolero

Special to the Times

Q We have virtually no areas of full sun in our yard. The trees in our neighborhood have matured around us, so now we only get six to seven hours of morning and early afternoon sun during the summer. Our peach, nectarine, and cherry trees are not doing well because of the shade, so we're in the process of replacing them. Are there any varieties of fruit trees like the Asian pear or persimmon that can produce reasonably well in these conditions?

A Any plant that receives six or more hours of direct sunlight per day is considered to be in a sunny location. It doesn't need to be continuous, so your yard is still okay for growing a variety of fruit trees.

I'd only consider a persimmon if the area received little or no summer irrigation.

You should find a selection of standard, semi-dwarf and other types of dwarf trees toward the end of January. But first, you need to have a good idea of just

how big a mature tree is right for your yard.

For many yards, a semi dwarf fruit tree is too big as they can reach a height of fifteen feet plus with a ten-foot spread. You can keep these trees smaller if you prune diligently each winter.

In addition, I'd prune the branches so they are spaced farther apart to increase the light in the center and on the shadiest side of the tree.

I suspect the current trees are declining for other reasons other than the exposure. Established trees decline from root rot and borers from constant summer irrigation, so you don't want to plant in the soil under them.

Apples, pears, and Asian pears are the exception and do fine with frequent watering while peaches, nectarines, cherries, persimmons and others suffer.

With our smaller yards, it's important to plant the right types of trees that complement the rest of plants. The nursery professional at your favorite garden center is a great resource for this type of information.



Q I planted a blueberry bush in my Castro Valley yard some years ago. It grew, flowered, but did not fruit. I was advised to plant a second as they are not self-fertile. I have tried four times and still no success. The second blueberries were around 2-3 feet from the first one. What am I doing wrong?

A Blueberries do require a second variety to fruit. Sunshine Blue is one of several varieties that produce berries on their own. The key to selecting the second variety is the flowering period. Two blueberries of the same name will not pollinate one

another. You need to plant a second variety that blooms at the same time as the one you have.

Blueberries are grouped as early, midseason and late-blooming varieties. Also, you want 'low chill' varieties because of our mild winters. The trick now is to figure out what you have and then plant a variety that will pollinate it. It make take another season to get the right variety.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advance California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)

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Prune Climbing Rose Early; Don't Plant Too Deep!

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Many years ago we planted a climbing rose on the south side of the house. It's been somewhat neglected, so it is two-stories high, very woody and doesn't bloom on the lower half. Can I prune it severely to bush it out, and when is the best time to do so?

Sure, you can prune climbing roses severely just like a bush rose. The primary season to prune it would be now through the end of February. However, most gardener

would wait until January to start their pruning as the holidays get in the way.

At this writing, the rainy season has started and it hasn't been cold, damp and muddy. So, pruning early is a good option.

Before pruning a climbing rose you should try to determine whether it is a Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora or Floribunda type rose.

With Hybrid Teas and Grandiflora, the flowers bloom on the second year wood so heavy pruning will prevent it from blooming next year. This is typical of those varieties introduced and plant-

ed in the last century.

The new Hybrid Teas and Grandiflora will bloom on the old and new wood so heavy pruning will not cause you to miss a flowering cycle.

Floribunda type climbers bloom on the first year wood so heavy pruning shouldn't effect it as much. Hybrid Teas and Grandiflora type roses have the large flowers while the floribunda flowers are much smaller, about the size of a fifty-cent piece.

Another statagery is not pruning it and instead plant another climber at the base to fill in the blank area. At one time this was taboo but not

today.

One other point. The new vine doesn't have to be a rose. It could be a Clematis, Honey-suckle or Trumpet Vine.

I transplanted a small tree peony into a three gallon ceramic container this spring. I added plenty of peat moss to the planting mix to keep it acidic, along with Osmocote fertilizer and covered about an inch of the stem. It was kept outside in partial shade and the soil was constantly moist. Other than some leaf edge burn on a few the leaves, there is absolutely no signs of any growth. What's up?



You have broken one of the cardinal rules of gardening by planting a plant too deep.

Plants growing in a container have an established planting depth. The original root ball should be at the soil surface. You can correct this problem by replanting the peony and remove the excess soil down to the original root ball. Another option is to scope out the excess soil in the existing

container. I don't know if it will survive. The growing season is over for this year. If it hasn't leaf out by May or June, you'll need to replace it.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advance California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)

How to Choose a Christmas Tree

The days are shorter, the temperatures are dropping: It's time to get ready for the holidays! For many families, no decoration is more important than the Christmas tree. The following tips from expert arborist Mark Chisholm will help you choose the perfect tree for your home.

Select your location

Before you head to the lot or store to pick out this year's perfect tree, decide where you want to place the tree and the space available. Try to avoid spots near heat sources such as radiators, fireplaces, heating vents or sun-drenched windows. Also try to tuck the tree into a low-traffic area to avoid accidental bumping and possible safety issues. Next, you'll need to measure the space dimensions you have to work with, bearing in mind that a tree stand will add a few extra inches of height, as will a star or angel to finish the top.

Consider a charitable tree lot

If you're like me and look forward to contributing to the spirit of the season while picking a tree, you can look for charitable lots. One I like to shop at donates all of their proceeds to a local children's hospital. Another option would be to purchase an extra tree and then donate it to a family that cannot afford a tree or an organization that finds the right home for the tree.

Select the right tree

At the lot you will see three or four common varieties of

trees. Some things to consider when choosing the right type will be the color, shape and feel of a tree. Some trees are dark green and others have gray or white hues. There are trees with tight branching patterns and then some with more spaces. One thing to remember is that if the tree looks very full while absent of ornaments, it may be difficult to decorate. Most trees that end up on a lot have been groomed and sheared to look great during the selection process. Then you get it home and realize that there's very little space for ornaments. Choosing one with some empty spaces might be a better route. You could also bring a few of your favorite ornaments with you to test at the store. Also, be sure that the first foot of trunk is straight too, or you'll have one heck of a time getting it to stand up correctly at home.

Try a live tree

Balled and burlap or container trees can be a nice choice for a live tree. After the holidays are over, it can be added to the landscape. One extra step you'll need to adopt is the assessment of the planting space for proper growing space, sunlight and also watering needs. Make sure that the species you are choosing will thrive in your climate. A tree shipped from New Hampshire will have a rough time surviving the warm summer months in South Carolina.

Test your tree for freshness

Once you have the look you want, you'll need to test the tree for freshness. Trees that are on a lot have been cut and shipped weeks earlier. Look for greener trees with no signs of wilting or browning. What can be tricky

is the fact that many trees have undergone a colorizing treatment before they were shipped. That is why a quick pull test is next on my list. Grab a limb or two and pull them toward you. Release the limb slowly, allowing it to pull through your hand. A fresh tree will keep most or all of its needles in this test, and the limb will not feel brittle or snap. Flexibility in the limbs is a must if the tree is to remain green for the next few weeks indoors. The final test is a quick drop test. Lift the tree a few inches off of the ground and then let the butt of the tree hit the ground. That quick shock will release any dry needles and give you a good feel for how fresh the tree truly is. Don't worry about a few needles letting loose within the interior.

Prepare your tree for indoors

Once you pick the perfect tree and truck it home, make a fresh cut at the base, unless it was already done for you. One thing I like to do before I bring my tree inside is to take out my STIHL blower and give the tree a quick blast to remove any loose needles, debris wedged in the

branches and, most importantly, remove any insects or egg masses that might have survived the journey.

Recycle your tree

After Christmas is over, you'll need to dispose of the family tree. There are many recycling programs all over the country that account for the recycling of 93% of all trees nationally. Most get ground into mulch to be given back to the community or utilized as mulch in flower beds and parks.

Check local sources for recycling options in your area, or check out this article for ideas on how to reuse your Christmas tree: 7 Ways to Reuse or Recycle your Christmas Tree at <https://www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to-plans/how-to/g2384/6-ways-to-reuse-your-christmas-tree/>.

One part acrobat, one part expert rope climber, one part tree physiologist, and several parts competitor and thrill seeker, Mark Chisholm is a third-generation certified arborist with his family-owned Aspen Tree Expert Company and STIHL Inc. spokesperson.

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Source: morningchores.com

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Preschool: Public speakers call for keeping school where it is

continued from front page

restructure Adult Education, but their relationship with Broadmoor continued.

Parents, current students, young alumni and grandparents who themselves are alumni were out in force at the meeting, all wearing red shirts supporting the school with many holding signs and banners. There was not any organized public opposition at the meeting.

Parents and school leaders had heard informally that the district was looking to save an estimated \$25,000 a year by moving Broadmoor to a new home near the district's Adult School on Williams Street. Neighborhood online discussion boards along with Facebook and Twitter posts spread the word in advance of the school board meeting.

But there had never been any formal communication from the district to the school that they were being evicted, said school

community-building and fundraising chair Gloria Strohm.

The district had signed a five-year agreement with Broadmoor earlier this year that school leaders thought meant they could stay at Roosevelt for at least several years, under the new leadership of co-directors Kacia Sato and Liz Pallesen.

Superintendent McLaughlin had issued a letter Dec. 9, however, calling for renegotiating that agreement and referring to "decisions that have been made regarding the location." He also called for addressing "significant limitations" in the school's "current operating model."

Some 30 speakers, each limited to two minutes, mostly pleaded with the board and superintendent to leave the school where it was, arguing that the place itself mattered along with the people who fill it.

In the case of Broadmoor, several speakers pointed out,

parts of the school had been physically built by current and past parents. As a parent cooperative, parents are expected to put in extensive hours maintaining, building and helping run the preschool.

A number of the speakers told of moving to the neighborhood to be near the school, in some cases deciding to buy a house nearby rather than rent.

The first speaker, Contessa Bonnel, said the point of having Broadmoor Preschool on the Roosevelt School campus was shown by her older daughter, who attends Roosevelt, being able to visit her younger daughter, who attends Broadmoor, during the school day. The two girls can even pass snacks back and forth through the cast-iron fence between the two schools, Bonnel said.

Speakers also praised the preschool's unusual educational methods for instilling confidence and leadership skills in very young children. The school's cooperative structure also ends up training the parents in more advanced versions of those skills, several speakers noted.

"Broadmoor Preschool isn't a cost for the district. It's an investment in San Leandro's future," said one parent at the meeting.



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Broadmoor Preschool's Lee family all came to the meeting. From left, current Broadmoor student Cadence, alumna Addie, dad Josh, mom Vanessa and future student Zion.

Perhaps to buttress that point, two of the speakers were City Councilman Ed Hernandez and his wife, Katherine Greenberg. Both are Broadmoor Preschool alumni.

Breanna Hatcher, a trainer of adults as potential leaders with Leadership San Leandro,

first learned her own leadership skills as a Broadmoor student, according to Strohm.

Gloria Strohm was hopeful any issues between Broadmoor Preschool and the district would

be worked out.

"Nobody really wants to play the Grinch or Scrooge, throwing a bunch of two-, three- and four-year-olds out of their home in the middle of the holidays," she said.

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Mary Theresa Van Koersel (Alaniz)

1928 - 2019

Mary Guerrero relocated from Mexico with her parents to San Leandro, CA as a small girl. Mary graduated from San Leandro High School in 1946, then got married, had her 2 children Linda and Michael, and settled in San Leandro.

Mary later became a U.S. citizen and it was the proudest moment of her life. Mary worked at Crown Zellerbach and then James River Co. in San Leandro for over 25 years. Mary enjoyed being a member of the Tony Lema Women's Golf Club and amazingly, she had TWO registered/witnessed HOLE-IN-ONES after age 60!

Mary passed away peacefully and comfortably with her family at home.

Mary is survived by her son Mike Alaniz of San Leandro, granddaughter Mary Alaniz Desa and her husband Jason Desa of Oakley, CA. She is also survived by her son-in-law Gary Graff of Alameda, CA and her loving caregiver Cora. Services are pending.



Alka Ram, Broadmoor Preschool board president, and Gloria Strohm, director of community-building and fundraising, outside Broadmoor Preschool.

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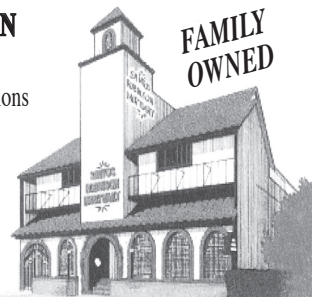
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- 1 Chum
- 4 With 29-Across, Conrad novel
- 8 Faction
- 12 Whatever amount
- 13 Dermatology subject
- 14 Horn sound
- 15 Related to summer theater
- 17 "That hurts!"
- 18 Decorate a T-shirt, '60s-style
- 19 Old Olds
- 21 "___ the fields we go"
- 22 Trité
- 26 McCartney cohort
- 29 See 4-Across
- 30 Praise in verse
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- 34 Commotion
- 35 Trot
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- 37 1935 Astaire/Rogers movie
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- 40 Swelled head
- 41 Pester
- 45 Oodles
- 48 Western hero's trademark
- 50 Suitor
- 51 Draftable
- 52 List-ending abbr.
- 53 Complain
- 54 Peruse
- 55 "Quiet!"

DOWN

- 1 History
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- 8 Remained upright
- 9 Debtor's letters
- 10 Elmer, to Bugs
- 11 Biblical verb ending
- 16 Worship
- 20 Shade source
- 23 Georgetown athlete
- 24 Hebrew month
- 25 See to
- 26 "Shoo!"
- 27 ___ list
- 28 On
- 29 Moonshine container
- 32 Commence hostilities
- 33 Thick
- 35 Binge
- 36 Went by water
- 38 Excited
- 39 Porcelain
- 42 "I'll have what ___ having"
- 43 Wooden strip
- 44 Leave an impression
- 45 "The Chew" network
- 46 Meadow
- 47 Rowing need
- 49 Weeding tool

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

'A Threat to Our Existence'

Editor:

A Climate Emergency Resolution was unanimously approved at the December 2 meeting of the San Leandro City Council, putting our city on record in support of broad scientific consensus on the reality of global warming.

Along with current efforts to update the City's Climate Action Plan, this resolution recognizes the need for local action with the goal of "shifting to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its members."

Global warming threatens homes and businesses in our western neighborhoods with flooding due to sea level rise, while the growing risk of wildfire looms over the eastern reaches of our city. Already, residents in every corner are experiencing the ill effects of higher temperatures and increased air pollution.

In the early 1940s, San Leandrans were able to rapidly transform their lives in the American effort to meet the demands of fighting a world war. We now face a threat to our very existence on Earth. It will take drastic change in every household, every business sector, and every level of government to resolve the dire challenges of accelerating environmental deterioration.

So, let's all try to drive less, consume less, and if possible, plant some trees.

As the city's resolution encourages "robust community participation," let's also look for opportunities to provide input and support for this major mobilization effort. Some cities have formed citizen advisory panels to explore local solutions to this crisis. A panel reflecting San Leandro's rich diversity would strengthen community involvement and help to ensure a just transition. We can do this!

—Carol Bardoff
—Molly Almeida
—Ileana Soto
—Nancy Kocot
—Jaime Robles

(All San Leandro residents)

Who's Making Money Off EBCE?

Editor:

East Bay Community Energy, or EBCE, is the electricity "provider" we were forced to accept a short time ago.

I opt out of things that are forced on me as a matter of principle. I received a flyer from EBCE recently letting me know how good they were doing. I have no love for PG&E, but am glad I opted out.

The EBCE site offers us a "bright choice" that will "buy and build cleaner energy" that we will benefit from. This is done through the auspices of PG&E who will "deliver energy, repair lines, handle billing."

The flyer offers a breakdown of energy supplied with average

monthly billing.

The EBCE Bright Choice is shown \$0.63 cheaper than the PG&E basic plan.

For the clean choice however, EBCE Renewable 100 is \$1.22 more than PG&E Solar Choice. PG&E is 100% solar, EBCE offers 50% solar and 50% wind.

Many environmental advocates believe wind kills too many flying animals. Even the EBCE Brilliant 100 relies on 55% large hydro-electric which negatively impact migratory species.

Finally, there is the power source under the Bright Choice and PG&E basic plans. All PG&E sources are specified with the percentages stated. EBCE, however, shows 38% from "unspecified sources" that "may include renewables". Maybe. But if you look at the PG&E sources, there is 34% from nuclear, 15% natural gas and 13% large hydro-electric.

So EBCE has no idea what sources this 34% of their energy comes from. Could be coal for all they know. More likely it is a similar mix to the one PG&E provides. So much for "cleaner energy".

So the "feel good," "do good" crowd forces on us a new entity that makes great promises and then delivers an accounting that completely undermines their stated purpose. Someone convinced the county and all the participating cities to force us into this without proper vetting prior to implementation. Somebody is making money off this, but it is not us.

—Rhett Varnadore
San Leandro

Christmas Decorations Stolen

Editor:

I would like to report a theft at my address on Bancroft Avenue.

Several of our outdoor Christmas decorations were stolen last night. Our blow up Mickey, our very large blow up Nativity, and our twinkly sleigh.

We go to great lengths to decorate our home every year and our neighbors as well as passersby comment and thank us for doing this. It's getting harder and harder for me as I get older to do this but I love doing it and people love seeing it.

It's very upsetting that someone thinks they can just take something from someone's lawn, especially in San Leandro.

—Cathy Romero
San Leandro

Good News for Seniors

Editor:

To all seniors in San Leandro: 2020 is just around the corner and I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

I hope that I am not the last one to inform you the following confirmed good news:

(1) There will be an increase in

Social Security benefits in January 2020 of roughly 1.6 %.

(2) The Older Americans Act of 1965 will be extended with an increase of 7%.

I hope to be able to furnish you with more information if and when available.

With this "Happy News," I will provide you part of a very lovely song...

"I am dreaming of a white Christmas,

With every Christmas card I write,

May your days be merry and bright,

And may all your Christmases be white..."

—Alfred Kwok
San Leandro

Risk of Oil Pipeline

Editor:

I am urging the majority of Americans to be aware of a Canadian oil company known as Embridge who wants to destroy the way of life of the Chippewa people in Minnesota by trying to build its pipeline, Line 3, through their homeland, a pipeline which would go from Canada to Wisconsin.

If oil leaks from it, the pipeline will go into the water resulting in the Chippewas suffering health problems.

I urge the majority of Americans to stop Embridge from building Line 3.

—Billy Trice Jr.
Oakland

Uncovering Trump's Offenses

Editor:

Impeachment shouldn't end with a narrow vote on one narrow issue, important as weakening our national security is.

Trump has committed many more impeachable crimes in addition to shaking down Ukraine.

The impeachment investigation is our only and best opportunity to get to the bottom of his emoluments, his electoral collusion with Russia, his ceding our foreign influence to Russia in places like Syria, his disruption of our NATO alliances, his obstructions of justice, his personal profiting from governmental expenditures at his hotels ... the list goes on.

At present, it is expected the Senate will acquit Trump of all impeachment accusations. Then he will prance around the country clucking "exonerated, exonerated!"

Impeaching Trump by December's end would give him way too much time to exploit that opportunity.

Congress must keep the investigation boiling; keep uncovering more of his impeachable offenses.

Eventually, the accumulating evidence will overwhelm Republican tribal partisanship.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

The Endless Impeachment

Editor:

Christmas comes but once a year,

With snow and nasty weather, Unlike Impeachment, which I fear, Seems to last forever.

—George Z. Banks
San Leandro



INQUIRING REPORTER

Ever binge-watched a TV show?

— Asked on Washington Avenue

I am so busy that I don't have time to watch TV, but we have all the channels, including the new Disney Plus. I have three children under the age of 5 who may someday wish they could binge-watch TV.

Tony Beitia
San Leandro



I have been binge-watching the mockumentary sitcom *The Office* since the beginning of the year. Now the show is on repeat and relaxes me when it's on, even in the background.

Taylor Marasigan
San Leandro



I've binge-watched a lot of shows.

We have Netflix and Hulu. The latest show I saw was the Spanish language dark-comedy series, *The House of Flowers*.

Vanessa Pena
San Leandro



Yes, I have. The show I had heard good things about on social media. *The Godfather of Harlem*, starring Forest Whitaker on Epix was riveting. Six hours after starting, I had seen the whole series.

Jerry Law
Oakland



I watched *The Central Park Five* documentary from about 12:45 a.m. until it was time to take my kids to school.

Nicole Day
San Leandro





PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

'It's a Wonderful Night' Canceled, But Kids Make the Best of It

The downtown holiday festival, "It's a Wonderful Night," was canceled on Friday due to rain but kids still found a way to have fun after somebody poured a box of laundry detergent into the fountain.

Vaping: Students wise to big tobacco

continued from front page a little bit older."

The program uses students, mostly seniors, as peer educators. They go into classes, most often freshman health classes, where they offer their perspectives to material already in the curriculum about tobacco products.

There are 14 TUPE peer educators at the high school this year.

"I'm not sure if kids who are already vaping are going to stop so easily, but kids who haven't started might be dissuaded," said Mason. "They got the message in middle school, they get it from high school teachers, and now they're getting it from students who are a little older whom they might look up to."

Peer educators have mostly been welcomed by the younger students, Mason said.

The peer educators receive training from the county education office, along with T-shirts identifying their role. They attend the Teens Talking Tobacco annual conference held at UC Berkeley. There they learn about not only vaping, but tobacco smoking and numerous other health topics of interest to teens.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID MASON

SLHS 10th grade student and peer educator Michelle Cortez Badua made exhibits about tobacco use.

This year the SLHS peer educators will also address the staff in addition to students. Mason said that while staff talk to students every day, hearing how the students themselves think about the issues will help in those conversations.

Mason said he got involved after growing up in a household of smokers. He initially thought progress was being made in the fight against nicotine addiction, especially among the young.

"I thought this was going to be the generation that beat Big Tobacco. But the tobacco indus-

try figured out how to bring it back," he said.

Mason thinks even the term "vaping" is dishonest. He pointed out that a user isn't actually breathing in water vapor, but an aerosol better compared to hairspray.

A low point for him as a teacher and tobacco foe came when he checked on what he thought was a thumb drive plugged into a USB port on a classroom Chromebook computer. He realized it was a vaping device being recharged.

"For some reason, nobody claimed it when I offered to return it," he said.



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If your collection day is:	Mon. 23	Tue. 24	Wed. 25	Thu. 26	Fri. 27
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 23	Tue. 24	Thu. 26	Fri. 27	Sat. 28

CHRISTMAS WEEK: If your regular collection day is Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, your carts will be serviced one day later.

DEC. 30, 2019 - JAN. 4, 2020

If your collection day is:	Mon. 30	Tue. 31	Wed. 1	Thu. 2	Fri. 3
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 30	Tue. 31	Thu. 2	Fri. 3	Sat. 4

NEW YEAR'S DAY WEEK: If your regular collection day is Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, your carts will be serviced one day later.

Holiday Tree Collection - On regular residential service days, from December 26 to January 31, place your holiday trees curbside. ACI will collect and compost them. Different trucks are used to collect the trees, so tree removal may occur earlier or later than your normal organics service.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Place tree curbside on your scheduled collection day.
- Remove all decorations, lights and the stand.
- Cut tree in half if taller than 6'.
- Flocked and artificial trees cannot be composted. Place them in the garbage or schedule a special collection.



Wrap It Up! - Metallic wrapping paper, most ribbons and bows, cellophane, and polystyrene packaging are not recyclable through curbside collection.

TRY THESE WASTE SAVING TIPS:

- Wrap gifts in reusable, recycled/recyclable, or compostable materials. (We used a cotton kitchen towel for the gift shown here!)
- Save and reuse ribbons, wrap, and other packaging.
- Donate packing peanuts to a local mailing or shipping store.

Find locations at www.StopWaste.org.

As a last resort, place non-recyclable packaging and wrapping materials in the gray cart, securing small items in a bag.

Alameda County Industries wishes you the happiest of holidays and a prosperous 2020.

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