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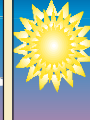


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**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**COOL** Light rain Saturday morning  
HIGHS: 53-58  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 42-47

**FRIDAY**  


**SATURDAY**  


**SUNDAY**  


# San Leandro Times

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

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



Cars plowed through the water after a small lake formed on East 14th Street downtown last Wednesday. A little later a city work crew showed up to unclog the storm drains.

PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

## Rain Returns, More on The Way

The rain finally blew in off the ocean last week and gave Northern California a good soaking.

Thankfully, the rain helped put out the fire in Butte County, and kept the rest of the fire-prone state from being a tinderbox. At least we won't have wildfires to worry about until next year.

The clouds opened up last Wednesday afternoon and streets flooded where the storm drains were clogged. Downtown on East 14th Street, storekeepers watched the water come right up to their doors.

But relief was in sight. A city crew in a pickup truck came along to unclog the drains. Workers slogged around in knee-



deep water looking for the drains. When they found one, they used shovels and other tools to clear them out.

Soon a whirlpool appeared and the pud-

dles gradually receded. All done by some guys in a pickup truck in wading boots with shovels, as low-tech saves the day.

— By Jim Knowles

## City Council Looking at New Taxes

Now that the election is out of the way, taxes on the agenda

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

The election was less than a month ago, but the San Leandro City Council is already considering a variety of possible tax measures to put on a future ballot.

At last week's City Council meeting, deputy city manager Eric Engelbart ran down four ideas for taxes. The City Council directed him and city staff to start polling the community on priorities and the public's openness to the taxes in the new year.

The city says a parcel tax, a property transfer tax, a vacant property tax, or a modified business license tax are all possibilities.

"We are, as a city, facing a number of challenges," said Engelbart of the city's desire for more revenue.

Those challenges include a decade of projected budget deficits as well as soaring pension costs.

The city also says they need more money for public safety, including \$650,000 for new fire department vehicles and medical equipment within the next two years.

Additionally, the police department and the fire department have both told the city they want more staff. Each additional San Leandro police officer costs the city an average of \$270,000 per year including salary, benefits,

and retirement costs.

Engelbart said the city is considering a \$65 to \$140 per parcel annual tax, which would bring in \$3 million to \$6 million

see TAXES, page 11

## Kaiser to Mark AIDS Day this Friday

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

This week marks the 30th annual World AIDS Day, and the Kaiser San Leandro Medical Center is commemorating that by inviting the public for a special AIDS awareness open house on Friday, Nov. 30 from noon to 2:30 p.m.

Nearly 40 years after the dawn of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the disease remains incurable, but tremendous advances in treatments mean those infected can still lead full lives.

Kaiser's program will include a remembrance of those who have passed away from the disease and

see AIDS, page 10

## Man Dies in House Fire in SLZ

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

A man was killed in a house fire during a family gathering on Thanksgiving Day in San Lorenzo.

Firefighters responded to the home on the 1400 block of Via Coralla shortly after noon and found heavy flames coming from the single-story house.

The identity of the dead man

was still in the process of being confirmed as of Tuesday afternoon, according to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

Nine people, both adults and children, escaped from the home before the fire department arrived and told first responders that one man was still inside. Firefighters attempted to rescue him, but could not and he was pronounced

see FIRE, page 12



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## San Leandro Times

An independent hometown newspaper  
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San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

## EDITORIAL

Fred Zehnder

Editor and Publisher

Jim Knowles

Managing Editor

jimk@ebpublishing.com

Amy Sylvestri

City Editor

amys@ebpublishing.com

Steve Schaefer

Auto Editor

## PRODUCTION

Howard Morrison

Manager

Greg Benson

Art Director

Moxie Morrison

Assistant

Kayla Steinorth

Assistant

## OPERATIONS

Claudette Morrison

Business Manager

## ADVERTISING

Display Advertising

Claudette Morrison

Classified Advertising

Patrick Vadnais

## HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times

2060 Washington Ave.

San Leandro, California 94577

Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Office: (510) 614-1555

Newsroom: (510) 614-1557

Sports: (510) 614-1561

Advertising: (510) 614-1555

Classified: (510) 614-1558

Fax: (510) 483-4209

Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com

www.ebpublishing.com



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## Pets of the Week



Felix



Couscous

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Felix the kitten and Couscous the kitten.

Felix is a handsome 6-month-old kitten who seeks attention, leans in for pets and purrs up a storm when he receives attention. Neutered and ready to go home

with you.

Couscous is a very special kitten. While a bit timid with new people and places, give him a little time, patience and TLC and he becomes a love bug who enjoys being held.

For more information on Felix or Couscous, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

## Have Breakfast With Santa On Sunday at St. Leander's

St. Leander School presents breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Ryan O'Connell Hall, just across from the church at 550 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro.

Meet Santa, share your wish list. Photos with Santa.

Crafts, music, pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit and beverages. \$6 pre-sale, \$8 at the door.

## Learn About SLZ Adult School Programs

The San Lorenzo Adult School, 820 Bockman Road in San Lorenzo, will host a Lemonade & Coffee get-together with Chabot College on Monday, Dec. 3, from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Learn about certificates, de-

grees, and special programs. Find out about the financial aid and application process.

For more information, contact Josue Hernandez at jahernandez@chabotcollege.edu or at 723-7533.



Catherine Cecil Bucher, Atticus Spence and Suzanne Ochs perform in the Chanticleers production of *An Appalachian Christmas*, opening on Friday night.

## Chanticleers Christmas Show Features Live Bluegrass Music

*An Appalachian Christmas* opens with Chanticleers' traditional complimentary hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverage gala on Friday, Nov. 30.

The Chanticleers play features live bluegrass and old-time music from young, award-winning Bay Area musicians with familiar and new tunes on the fiddle, mandolin, and cello.

The Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley, presents *An Appalachian Christmas* through Dec. 16.

Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. General admission is \$25, \$20 for seniors (60 and over), students, children, and military.

For tickets call 232-4031 or go online: www.masquers.org

or www.chanticleers.org.

Set against the backdrop of the Smoky Mountains during the Great Depression, a young boy living with his spinster aunts discovers riches of the season that can't be purchased.

The show features live bluegrass music and a timeless message. *An Appalachian Christmas* will stay with you all through the holidays.



## Probably the Best Way to Take Care of a Neck that's Being a Pain in the Neck!

If you suffer with neck problems like tension, stiffness or even pain it's likely by now that you've also felt the heavy head, sluggishness and maybe even headaches that go with it.

**IF YOU suffer from neck pain, you are in good company with 7 out of 10 people who will also suffer with neck pain at some point.**

People who suffer from neck problems will usually have sharp or dull pain on movement and can feel sharp pain radiating into the head, often causing a **headache**. In some cases, pain, **numbness** or **tingling** may also radiate into the **upper arm, lower arm, hands or fingers**. Problems with the neck can also cause discomfort in between the **shoulder blades** as well.

Over the years, the first line for dealing with neck problems has been to take over the counter pain killers and anti-inflammatory drugs. Accepting the inevitable side effects in return for **meager** reductions in pain and a mild increase in comfort.

### That is, until now...

Recent advances in the treatment of neck problems have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Corrective Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published

in major medical journals, with some doctors recommending their patients try this treatment before resorting to drug therapy.

In Pleasanton, you can try Non-Surgical Corrective Spinal Care at Intero Chiropractic, the office of neck pain relief expert Jerry Hsieh, D.C.

Jerry, D.C. and his team of fully trained spinal care team have helped hundreds of patients find relief from their neck problems.

According to Jerry, D.C. "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in the local area, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your neck problem and a unique program for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain. This means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, drug-free, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Patient Julia Y. from Alameda says, "Shortly after my first visit, I realized that it was quite effective in not only relieving pain but helping with restoring normal posture and body movement. My neck pain went away quickly..."

**Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your neck problem...**

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic evaluation with the most advanced technology of its type in the world and a comprehensive, easy to understand report on your state of health is call (925)255-5805.

**Mention this article (COE: BOS37NP9) and Jerry, D.C. will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of \$100 to just \$20.** But hurry, for obvious reasons – this is a limited time offer, with only 100 reader consultations available at this

exclusively discounted rate.

**My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...**

Find out if Non-Surgical Corrective Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Jerry, D.C. and his team now by calling (925)255-5805. You can even call on the weekend and leave a message to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week, they are very busy, so if they don't pick up right away, leave a message.



# POLICE & FIRE

## County Sheriff's Office Sends Drone to Aid Fire Recovery Efforts

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office drone unit was part of a first responder coalition that mapped the devastation of the city of Paradise this month.

The drone gathered detailed aerial imagery that was used to

make maps of the burn areas. These maps provided valuable information to the search and recovery teams as well as to residents of the community who were affected by the Camp Fire.

The Camp Fire is the deadli-

est blaze in California history. As of this week, it has killed 88 with hundreds still reported missing. It has burned over 150,000 acres, destroying over 18,700 structures including nearly 14,000 single-family homes.



PHOTO COURTESY ACSO

The Alameda County Sheriff's "Unmanned Aerial Vehicle" (a.k.a drone) helped map out the destruction in the town of Paradise this month.

## Body Discovered in SL Marina

A man's body was pulled from the San Leandro marina Sunday afternoon, and the coroner's office is working on identifying him and finding his cause of death.

A person walking on the Bay Trail spotted the man floating in

the water and called police at around 3:30 p.m. Sunday, according to authorities.

Police say that there is no indication of foul play at this time or obvious signs of trauma to the body. They are awaiting the coroner's findings to determine

the course of the investigation.

The coroner said that the man had yet to be identified as of Wednesday afternoon. As soon as his identity is confirmed, they would release it to the public following notification of the man's next-of-kin.

## County Receives Grant for Bicycle And Pedestrian Safety Programs

The safety of people who use roadways to walk or ride their bike is the focus of a bicycle and pedestrian safety education program in partnership with the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The county recently received a \$200,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety which will fund a year-long pro-

gram that addresses the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists near active roadway and rail crossings.

This includes a variety of educational activities like classroom presentations and community events aimed at teaching youth and adults about traffic rules, rights and responsibilities as pedestrians and bicyclists, and raises awareness about trespass-

ing on active railroad tracks.

Bicycle and pedestrian deaths account for 29 percent of all roadway deaths in California, and the number of people killed on foot or on a bicycle is growing at an alarming rate.

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows 1,014 bicyclists and pedestrians across the state were killed in 2016, a nearly 30 percent increase from 2012. This equates to nearly three bicycle and pedestrian deaths in California every day.

Educational efforts funded by the grant will be implemented via the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

The goal of the educational efforts are to promote safe behaviors including avoiding distractions like cell phones, looking for parked cars that may be pulling out or opening a door, and making yourself visible by wearing bright clothing during the day and reflective materials at night.

## 'Tis the Season for Some Home Fire Safety Tips

This holiday season, as you string up those Christmas lights, PG&E is offering some tips for preventing house fires:

- Check for overhead power lines before hanging outdoor lights, keeping at least 10 feet away from lines.

- Never place yourself or any object in a position where you or it may come in contact with a power line.

- Look up to check for power lines before raising ladders or other objects.

- Make sure lights are approved for outdoor use. Never use indoor lights outdoors.

- Ensure outdoor tree limbs are a safe distance from power lines before stringing lights. Branches or entire trees can become energized if they contact a power line.

- Check strands for cracked or broken plugs, frayed insulation or bare wires. Discard damaged strands to help avoid a fire.

- Route cords inside your home to avoid trips and falls and never place strands under rugs, furniture or appliances. If covered, cords can overheat or become frayed and may cause a fire.

- Follow the manufacturer's limits for the number of strings that can safely be connected.

- Always turn off indoor and outdoor decorative and tree lights when leaving home and before going to bed.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

C	A	B	I	N	B	R	O	A	B	A
B	L	I	N	I	O	O	H	R	E	B
S	P	O	D	E	A	P	O	L	O	G
L	O	C	A	T	E	E	M	U	S	
U	F	O	E	V	E	M	E	A	N	S
R	A	G	S	A	R	R	O	W		
L	A	Y	E	R	S	A	M	A	Z	O
R	O	T	O	R	Y	O	R	E		
O	R	B	I	T	B	E	T	O	R	T
B	O	L	A	A	E	R	I	A	L	
E	C	O	L	O	G	Y	G	L	O	B
S	K	A	W	E	E	H	A	G	U	E
E	S	T	L	S	D	T	R	Y	S	T

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## Woman 'Rescues' Supermarket Fish

A woman could be in hot water for releasing live fish in Lake Chabot in hopes of rescuing them from becoming dinner.

East Bay Regional Park District police were called to the lake's marina at around 1:30 p.m. on Monday after getting reports of a woman putting fish into the water.

The woman, whose name wasn't released, said she'd put nine tilapia from a market into the water over a period of several days.

"She felt she was rescuing the live fish from the market and making it possible for the fish to live," the parks district said in a statement.

But the fish are a non-native

and invasive species which can introduce diseases and parasites to the native fish in the lake, so the parks police took a report on

the misdemeanor and forwarded it to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for possible charges.

## Forever Christmas

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given..." Isaiah 9:6

Dec. 14th - Dec. 24th

Tickets \$5 online at [3CROSSES.ORG](http://3CROSSES.ORG)

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OFFICE: 510.537.4690

## BAYFAIR

### Holiday Events in Center Court

### SANTA'S ELF WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

1PM - 3PM IN CENTER COURT

✦ Crafts ✦

✦ Musical Elves ✦

✦ Cookie Decorating ✦

✦ Face Painting ✦

Live Holiday Performers every weekend!\*

DICKENS CAROLERS, SAT 12/1: 1PM-3PM

## PHOTOS WITH SANTA

THROUGH DECEMBER 24, 2018

Visit [ShopBayfair.com](http://ShopBayfair.com) for more information



# NEIGHBORS



## Hazardous Air Conditions

Bryan Azevedo filled his Little Library with N95 face masks for neighbors to take if they needed one during the week the Bay Area was filled with smoke from the fire up in Butte County.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ **Talk & Book Signing by Prof. Paul Ortiz**  
The San Leandro Public Library presents a talk and book signing with University of Florida Professor Paul Ortiz, the author of

*An African American and Latinx History of the United States* on Saturday, Dec. 1, from noon to 1 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Ortiz is a graduate of San Leandro High School and his non-fictional work is a recipient of the 2018 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Book Award. The book is an intersectional history of the shared struggle for African American and Latinx civil rights and argues that Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa were integral to the development of democracy in the United States.

## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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- ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Your Arian penchant for impatience shows, as you consider passing a problem-prone project on to someone else. Best advice: Stay with it and work out those snarls yourself.
- TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Even patient Bovines can be frustrated when carefully made plans go awry. But crank up that “stick-to-it-ivity” you do so well, and you’ll soon find that your schedule is back in sync.
- GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Your aspect favors using more resourceful means in dealing with a workplace situation. Some discreet checking around could help shed light on the root cause of the problem.
- CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** You show an unusually strong streak of stubbornness in rejecting suggestions from friends and/or family members early in the week. But you become more receptive by the week’s end.
- LEO (July 23 - August 22):** The Big Cat might find a gentler approach more effective when dealing with those who resist needed changes. Remember, the word “persuasion” starts with the sound “purr.”
- VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** A disappointing experience with someone you felt you could trust can be painful. But there just might be more to this situation than you’re aware of. Press for an explanation.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Changing your views about something you believe in isn’t easy. But you might reconsider as the facts come in. Keep your mind open, even if you’re uneasy about what you might learn.
- SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** You might have to do some serious shifting of gears to get your project back on track. But cheer up. Your hard work starts to produce some positive results by the week’s end.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** An unsettling mood at the start of the week soon lifts and gives way to a more positive attitude as you find fun and friendship beginning to dominate your aspect.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** A delay in firming up holiday plans could work to your advantage. Use this time to scout out possibilities that might be more in line with what those close to you would prefer.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Some people might question some of the new friends you’ve welcomed into your life. But your ability to see beyond the obvious helps you recognize how special they are.
- PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Financial matters can be especially tricky this week. It’s best to follow a conservative investment path for now, and wait for a more fortuitous time to take a bolder approach.

Keep your out-of-town friends and family informed with a subscription to the Times!



■ Did you know that the Times will mail the paper to anyone in the continental United States?

Call 614-1555

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ❖ Creekside Craft Show

The 15th annual Creekside Craft Show will be on Friday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Creekside Community Church, 951 MacArthur Blvd. in San Leandro. The craft show is free of charge, food and drink is available for sale each day and includes a raffle that will take place at 4 p.m. on Dec. 1. Plenty of parking and all are welcome. The 5th Annual “Chili Cook-Off” will take place on Friday, Dec. 1 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with 10 chefs compete in a fiery competition all for a good cause. \$5 advance ticket or \$7 donation at the door until the chili runs out. Proceeds from the Chili Cook Off also benefit Mercy Brown Bag Program.

### ❖ Estudillo Estates Holiday Stroll

The Estudillo Estates Holiday Stroll will be on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. on MacArthur Blvd., between Estudillo and Dutton ave. Come for an afternoon of activities, treats and holiday cheer, and help local neighbors in need by bringing a donation to a participating local business for the food and toy collection, which will go to the Davis Street Family Resource Center. Wine and beer tasting, food tasting, holiday shopping, kids activities, live music and more.

### ❖ Community Garden Open House

See what your neighbors are growing at Paradise Community Garden, 20095 Mission Blvd. in Hayward on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. StopWaste.org will sponsor a hands-on composting workshop at 11 a.m. Live music, personal coaching, snacks and coffee. Rent your own garden box. For more information, call Rick Hatcher at 909-4077.

### ❖ SL Readers Roundtable Meeting

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable meets Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, to discuss *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi’s story of two half-sisters in 18th-century Ghana. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the Library’s Booktique bookstore.

### ❖ Auditions for Children in Gypsy Musical

San Leandro High School will produce the musical, *Gypsy*, the first two weekends in April, 2019. Auditions for children will be held on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at the high school theatre, 2200 Bancroft Ave. Roles for boys and girls between 8 and 12 years old. Prepare part of a song (not from *Gypsy*) and bring sheet music in your key. A short dance routine will be taught. Wear clothes and shoes you can move in. After school rehearsals begin Jan. 28. For more information email: Sue Ellen Nelsen, director.springshow@gmail.com

### ❖ Corvallis School Holiday Boutique

Corvallis School, 14790 Corvallis St. in San Leandro, will have a Holiday Boutique on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with raffles, refreshments and local vendors. Help those in need by bringing a toy, canned food item or a clean used coat. Receive a raffle ticket for every item you bring. Admission is free. For booth information, email Corvallis elementarypta@gmail.com.

### ❖ Catholic Daughters Advent Tea

The Catholic Daughters Annual Advent Tea “Follow the Star” Scholarship Fundraiser will be on Saturday, Dec. 1, at Monsignor McGinty Hall at St. Felicitas Parish, 1620 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. Tickets are \$5 per person or host a table.

Reserve your tickets now. For more information, call Laura at 283-7166.

### ❖ St. Gerard Christmas Bake Sale

The members of St. Gerard Women’s Club of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 264 East Lewelling Blvd., San Lorenzo will hold a Christmas bake sale and raffle in the community room after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 1, and after all the Masses starting at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2. There will be a continental breakfast available on Sunday, Dec. 2, and the raffle will be held after the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday (you do not have to be present to win). For more information, call the bake sale committee chairpersons Evelyn Long at 276-7239 or Pat Forsythe 278-4161.

### ❖ “Goodwill to All” Music Gathering

The San Leandro Library invites the public to celebrate a “Goodwill to All” gathering with music on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Music will be performed by the Oakland Youth Chorus and sends the message of peace on Earth to all. The music inspires songs of peace, goodwill and acceptance of all ages, all races, all nationalities, and all cultures across all beliefs or philosophies.

### ❖ Santa’s Workshop at Bayfair

Bayfair Center, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro, invites children and their families to join Santa’s singing and dancing elves for arts and crafts, cookie decorating, and face painting on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Kids can also visit with Santa and professional photo packages will be available for purchase. Children attending must be accompanied by an adult.

### ❖ St. Felicitas Young at Heart Luncheon

St. Felicitas Church’s Young at Heart Senior Luncheon returns on Wednesday, Dec. 5, in Monsignor McGinty Hall behind the church at 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. Doors open at 11 a.m. Lunch served at noon. The holiday luncheon will feature a complete baked ham lunch with dessert, beverage and lots of door prizes. Tickets are only \$6 and can be purchased at the church office, phone 351-5244, located to the right of the church. Last day to buy tickets is Tuesday, Dec. 4. All are welcome.

### ❖ Learn to Paint with Watercolor

San Lorenzo Adult School is offering a 12-week, watercolor painting class on Wednesday mornings beginning Dec. 5, taught by Monica Satterthwaite. All levels are welcome, beginners to experienced painters. The class costs \$75, plus materials. Register in person at the San Lorenzo Adult School, 820 Bockman Road in San Lorenzo. For more information, call 317-4200.

### ❖ Alta Mira Club Holiday Tea

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host its annual Lucille Kline Holiday Tea on Saturday, Dec. 8, at noon. Tickets are \$25. For reservations, call Linda Klass at 914-5684 or Isabel Polvorosa at 483-2073.

### ❖ All Saints Winter Wine ’n’ Dine

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro, will host it’s Annual Winter Wine ’n’ Dine on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 9 p.m. The evening will feature a photo booth, entertainment (music, dancing, singing trio), raffle prizes and silent auction. Delectable food, dessert, wine, beer, and soda. Tickets online at [tinyurl.com/AllSaintsWineDine](http://tinyurl.com/AllSaintsWineDine).

Calendar items should be submitted at least one week prior to the desired edition of the Times, which is published Thursdays. Space limitations require we print items of the most general interest. Only Non-Profit Organizations should submit calendar items.



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Fires Change the Face of Real Estate Statewide

As California struggles to cope with recent wildfires, one thing is clear: life as we've known it in the Golden State has changed irrevocably. From the Governor's Office down, demands for change are being voiced and the resultant shifts will reshape the future of real estate across the state.

While everyone has pet theories as to what is fueling the increase in fires, it is likely a combination of many things, including (1) climate change, (2) improper forest clearing, (3) tinder-like conditions after years of drought, (4) beetle infestations killing countless trees, (5) homes built in fire-prone locations, and more.

Here are some of the fire-induced effects:

*Increasing Statewide Housing Crisis.*

California is already suffering through a prolonged housing shortage. The thousands of homes lost to fires the past two years have exacerbated the crisis, and, coupled with shortages

of skilled labor, especially in outlying regions, provide grim hope for immediate solutions.

In Paradise alone, officials state that completely rebuilding existing homes can be expected to take a decade, to say nothing of any new development.

Potential short-term effects include higher rental rates, increased housing prices in nearby communities and significant decreases in homeownership percentages for years to come.

*Increasing Building Costs.*

After the Wine County fires, the price-per-square-foot for construction/remodeling increased dramatically, including both labor and material costs. Many Wine County victims were shocked to discover their insurance coverage did not include the higher costs of rebuilding. Coupled with trade issues with China and Canada, expect costs to continue climbing.

*Insurance Company Responses.*

With nearly 12,000 homes lost in Paradise alone, insurance companies are in crisis mode. As stated by Mary Williams Walsh in the Nov. 20 edition of the New York Times:

"This has put pressure on property insurers, some of which have been declining to renew homeowners' policies in fire-prone areas. When the houses that burned this year are rebuilt, their owners may find that no one is writing insurance there — at least not at affordable prices."

*Changes In Building Codes.*

Moving forward, counties with potentially fire-prone areas will have to grapple with

two fundamental issues. First is whether-or-not to allow any future building in hazardous zones. Second, if they DO issue building permits, expect significant changes in building codes to include fire resistant materials, setbacks from vegetation and more.

One thing is certain: recent fires statewide have ushered in a brand-new era that will permanently reshape the face of California real estate.

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.

## Mortgage Rates In Big Decline

Mortgage rates dropped across the board over Thanksgiving week in the largest weekly decline since early 2015, according to Freddie Mac's weekly survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.81 percent last week, down from 4.94 percent a week earlier. A year ago at this time, it averaged 3.92 percent.

Fifteen-year loans averaged 4.24 percent, down from 4.36 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 4.09 percent, down from 4.14 percent.



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A	—	1-4	14829 Wake Ave.	\$597,000	2/1	Re/Max Accord	Louise Lovewell	510-351-5555
B	—	1-4	16147 Via Sonora	\$675,000	4/1.5	J. Rockcliff RE	Lisa Ferraris	925-251-2583
A	—	1-3	14868 Towers St.	\$698,000	3/1.5	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Bob Jones	510-357-0120
A	—	1-4	393 Dowling Blvd.	\$1,188,000	5/3.5	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt Jones	510-357-0120

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## RECENT HOME SALES

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1078 Broadmoor Blvd	94577: \$615,000 2 BD - 1,073 SF - 1941
341 Caliente Circle	94578: \$440,000 2 BD - 997 SF - 1980
15306 Dewey Street	94579: \$435,000 3 BD - 859 SF - 1950
13474 Doolittle Drive	94577: \$765,000 4 BD - 1,842 SF - 1954
1081 Duzmal Avenue	94579: \$655,000 1,395 SF - 1980
1990 Evergreen Avenue	94577: \$675,000 3 BD - 1,334 SF - 1953
2501 Galleon Place	94577: \$480,000 2 BD - 990 SF - 01
2468 Heathrow Lane	94577: \$410,000 3 BD - 1,659 SF - 1978
629 Lee Avenue	94577: \$890,000 2 BD - 2,857 SF - 1949
1126 Mersey Avenue	94579: \$455,000 3 BD - 988 SF - 1950
16283 Miramar Place	94578: \$668,000 3 BD - 1,526 SF - 1985
14445 Pansy Street	94578: \$410,000 3 BD - 843 SF - 1908
14590 Pansy Street	94578: \$720,000 3 BD - 2,050 SF - 1952
501 Sugar Maple Lane	94578: \$705,000 3 BD - 1,531 SF - 2014
14873 Sylvia Way	94578: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,370 SF - 1946
16111 Paseo Del Campo	94580: \$650,000 3 BD - 1,300 SF - 1944

TOTAL SALES:	16
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$410,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$890,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$661,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$621,000

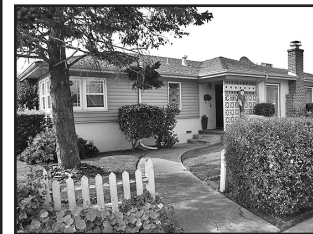
### San Lorenzo

944 Via Mariposa	94580: \$530,000 2 BD - 898 SF - 1944
15956 Via Marlin	94580: \$645,000 3 BD - 1,305 SF - 1951
35125 11th Street	94587: \$905,000 2 BD - 1,203 SF - 2007

TOTAL SALES:	3
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$530,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$650,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$645,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$608,333

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## 3 Reasons To Avoid or Delay Knee-Replacement Surgery

By Dr. Victor Romano  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Hitting middle age can bring several life changes, and increasingly those include artificial joints. For much of the aging U.S. population, knees in particular are wearing out.

More than 600,000 knee replacements are performed annually in the U.S., according to The Journal of Bone & Joint

Surgery.

That number is expected to swell to 3 million by the year 2030, the publication's study reported, partly because people are working longer and obesity is on the rise.

But while knee replacements are becoming a popular elective surgery, some studies estimate 20 percent or more of recipients aren't pleased with the result. Medical experts question whether replacement surgery is

being done too soon – or whether some people need a new knee at all.

Surgery should only be done as a last resort. A knee replacement can be life-changing, but they can also be painful, wear down prematurely and become infected.

If you have debilitating pain and difficulty walking because of degenerative arthritis, surgery may be your best option no matter your age. Otherwise,

there are sound reasons to avoid a knee replacement, or at least to postpone it until a more appropriate time.

There are three main reasons to avoid or put off knee replacement surgery:

**Plastic debris:** A total knee replacement consists of metal moving on plastic. The plastic wears down over time, and can be a pain – physically and financially – to patients who may have to get it replaced once, twice or more.

The plastic debris accumulates in the knee joint. The more active you are, the heavier you are, the more debris. The white cells, which attack foreign invaders, start attacking the surrounding bone. When it's time to replace the plastic joint, we also have to replace the bone – and that's a significant and unpleasant surgery.

**A prosthesis doesn't last 30 years:** This is a key reason why younger replacement candidates should wait as long as possible. A total joint replacement in a 70-year-old patient will typically last 15 years. With the average life expectancy being 85, chances are this would be the only knee replacement that



patient would need. But for a 40-year-old who's more active, it may only last 10 years. And remember, recovery is challenging. So it's better to wait for technology to catch up.

**Other remedies may work:** Many people experiencing chronic knee pain are overweight or obese. A healthy diet and exercise program can bring the weight down and take pressure off the knees. Also, a hinged knee brace, supplements that aid in repairing worn cartilage, and injections such as cortisone or hyaluronic acid could reduce pain.

There are ways to at least buy time, and there are patients who were told they needed a knee replacement, but with conservative therapy options, happily discovered otherwise and returned to their favorite activities without pain.

Dr. Victor Romano ([romanomd.com](http://romanomd.com)) is an orthopedic surgeon in Oak Park, Ill., and the author of "Finding The Source: Maximizing Your Results – With and Without Orthopaedic Surgery." He is board-certified in orthopedics and sports medicine with over 25 years of experience in the field.

## Preventing Falls in Older Adults: Free Class this Coming Tuesday

By Pamela Stoker  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Falls are, unfortunately, a common occurrence. Every year more than one in four older adults fall. This equates to approximately 30 million falls annually. Yet, fewer than half tell their doctors.

Some older adults feel embarrassed about having fallen; some worry that telling may lead to a loss of independence.

What many older adults fail to realize is that by keeping quiet about a fall they have had or not discussing their concerns regarding potential falls, they put themselves at greater risk for having a serious injury from a future fall.

Falls can be a sign that something in your body is not working properly. You could be experiencing vision changes or hearing loss that can be disrupting to your balance.

Blood pressure issues or certain medications could be causing a sensation of dizziness. Talking with your doctor is the first step in taking corrective action to prevent falls.

Concerns about falling are normal. When those concerns become fear, that can be a sign of a problem. Fear can be a debilitating emotion.

When someone has a fear of falling, they often limit their physical activities. They may feel that they are eliminating the opportunity for a fall, when in actuality limiting activity can lead to weaker muscles and poor balance, which makes a future fall more likely.

Exercise is proven to prevent falls by strengthening muscles and improving balance. Learning what types of exercise is appropriate for you and your medical conditions can help prevent falls.

Although a fall can happen

anywhere at any time, most falls happen at home.

With some minor home modifications, the risk for a fall can be reduced. Something as simple as removing a throw rug or other tripping hazard to something more involved as installing grab bars inside and outside the shower can help prevent a fall in the home.

By assessing each room of your home and determining what modifications can be made, you can make a plan to reduce fall risk and stay safely in your home longer.

**Fall Prevention Class**

Falling does not have to be

a normal part of aging. With a little care and preparation, you can safeguard yourself from falls. Join Eden Medical Center's Trauma Injury Prevention Specialist and Exercise Physiologist, Pamela Stoker from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. this coming Tuesday, Dec. 4, as she talks more extensively about what you can do to prevent falls. This is a *free* class. Call Eden Medical Center, Trauma Injury Prevention at 510-727-8485 to register.

Pamela Stoker is Trauma Injury Prevention Specialist at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley.

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# AIDS: People living into their 80s with the disease with advances in treatment

continued from front page

booths that guests can visit to learn the history of HIV/AIDS, gain knowledge about prevention, and get information about how to get tested.

There are an estimated 500 HIV and AIDS patients at Kaiser's San Leandro and Fremont facilities, according to Susan Miranda, Kaiser's infectious diseases manager. Her department's goal is to get everyone to know their status, so further infection can be stopped.

"The campaign we have is called 'Getting to Zero' meaning zero new infections and zero deaths," said Miranda. "The goal is to have everyone between the ages of 18 and 65 to get tested at least once."

Miranda wants people to know that any Kaiser patient can walk into any Kaiser lab and ask to get tested even without a doctor's referral.

"HIV has become very manageable," said Miranda. "A lot of our HIV patients are dying of geriatric causes instead of



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

**HIV Health Educator Joyne Taylor, Dr. Daniel Klein, and Infectious Disease Manager Susan Miranda will be at a World AIDS Day Open House at the Kaiser San Leandro Medical Center this Friday.**

AIDS-related causes. They are dying of old age."

Dr. Daniel Klein is an infectious disease expert at the San Leandro Medical Center with decades of experience working on HIV/AIDS.

"I'm sure I saw my first HIV

patient in the '70s," said Klein. "I was working at San Francisco General and there were these cases of gay men coming in with minor lab abnormalities. It was described as some unidentified illness for some time.

"In 1981, I saw my first of-

ficial case. And then there was this population of gay men who were infected but not yet showing symptoms. The rate of infection in high-risk patients at that time was absolutely phenomenal."

Since then, there have been numerous advances in treatments and what was once a death sentence is now manageable for the vast majority of patients, though Klein says a stigma still surrounds the disease.

"Many patients still feel marginalized," said Klein. "I have patients that get a diagnosis and are absolutely devastated. But when I do give a diagnosis, I say if you take one thing away from this conversation it should be '80,' because 80 is your life expectancy on average with this disease. You can live to be 80 or older."

The important thing, according to Klein, is that if you get an HIV positive diagnosis you need to start getting treatment as soon as possible.

"Some people still don't understand the great benefit of the

advances that have been made so they are still hesitant to get tested," said Klein. "The other side of that is that perhaps others take HIV/AIDS less seriously. With the successes we've had with treatment maybe there is less of a sense of doom, but we still need to remember that people die and it's not curable at present."

Klein said that World AIDS Day and events like Kaiser's are a way to keep the disease in the

public consciousness and a good chance to get your questions answered in an open, informal environment.

"There have been a lot of advances and there are a lot more opportunities today than in the past," said Klein. "I've been fortunate to see a true medical miracle in my lifetime with all the advances that have been made through testing, treatment, and prevention."

## Learn to Paint With Watercolor

San Lorenzo Adult School is offering a 12-week, watercolor painting class on Wednesday mornings beginning Dec. 5, taught by Monica Satterthwaite.

All levels are welcome, beginners to experienced painters. The class costs \$75. Register at the San Lorenzo Adult School, 820 Bockman Road in San Lorenzo. .

## See Charlie Brown Christmas at Museum

Visit the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., for *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and crafts session this Saturday.

The 1965 Peanuts classic will

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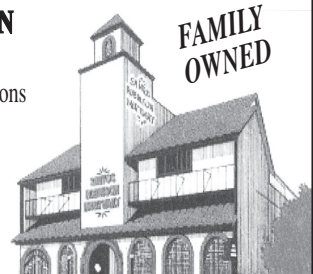
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July 27, 1936 - November 21, 2018

Sharon Lee (Lipka) Miller peacefully passed November 21, 2018, surrounded by her loving family.

Sharon was born to Elkan and Ethel (Worlund) Lipka in Oakland, CA, on July 27, 1936. She grew up in Alameda and after marriage lived in Alameda, San Leandro and Castro Valley. She met her husband Bob while working at Tucker's Ice Cream in 1956. She worked at Bank of America assisting customers balance their accounts. She worked for her sister Nancy at her store, Card 'n Quill, and her brother-in-law John Leavitt at Leavitt-Pacific, both in the capacity of bookkeeper. Her most notable job of all was being a mom. She loved her family as fiercely as anyone ever could.

You knew Sharon by her love for the color pink as she streaked her hair pink long before it was a fad. She had many talents and interests. Ice skating, den mother, sewing, house-boating, pianist, photography, travel, gambling and many more.

Loving angel wings waiting to reunite with Sharon are her husband Bob of 49 years, son Robbie, her daddy and mother and countless friends. And yet she left behind many loving arms not yet ready to let go, son Mark and daughters Vicki and Kassi. As well as grandchildren Samantha, Mandy, Riley and Keara, great-grandchildren Olivia and William, her sister Nancy and nieces Kirsten, Loya and Sherri and nephews Johnny, Curt and John. And not to be left out, Ruby, her beloved and faithful puppy (who also had pink in hair).

Family & friends will gather for a Celebration of Life to be announced at a later time.



### SAN LEANDRO TIMES OBITUARIES

may be submitted online at [ebpublishing.com](http://ebpublishing.com), emailed to [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com) or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number. For assistance, call 510-614-1555.

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### Jack Kenneth Holmes

Jack Kenneth Holmes, age 74, of Castro Valley, graduate of San Leandro High School- Class of 1962 and well known Bay Area saxophonist passed away November 19, 2018 peacefully at home, surrounded by family.

Survived by his wife Diana Engel-Holmes, his 4 children; Nathan, Leora, Joseph and Gabriel, granddaughter Eija, brother Brian Holmes (Anne), and nieces Stacey, Christine, and Jeri Leigh.

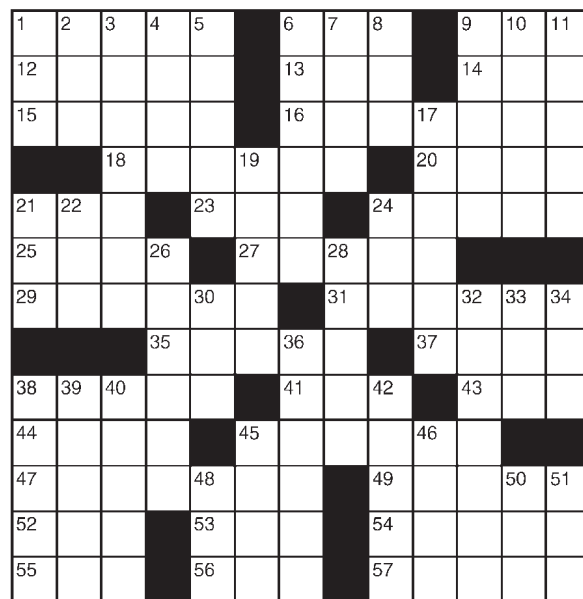
Memorial Service and Mass on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 3433 Somers Ave., in Castro Valley, reception to follow at OLG-Stack Hall.

Celebration of Life per Jack's request will be held at Moose Lodge in Castro Valley on Sunday, Dec. 16th at 1:30 p.m. with open mic live music with local Bay Area musicians that played with Jack throughout his career. Please bring your favorite dish for our potluck.

In Lieu of flowers donations to GoFundMe on Nathan's Instagram or contact Diana at 510-586-4835.



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD



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# Taxes: City Council considers several ideas on new taxes

*continued from front page*

and would need a two-thirds majority of votes to pass.

Another option would be an increase to the property transfer tax, which would be assessed when someone sells their home and would only need a simple majority of votes to pass.

Currently, San Leandro's transfer tax is \$6 per \$1,000 of value of a home, the lowest in Alameda County. Berkeley and Oakland charge \$15.

Engelbart says that if San Leandro raises the transfer tax to \$11, the city would bring in an additional \$3 million annually and the biggest impact would be on commercial property owners.

Another option would be a vacant property tax, which Engelbart called "a very new, emerging concept" as the first one in the state in Oakland only just passed on the November ballot.

The vacant property tax is a tax on buildings that are in use fewer than 50 days per year. It would need a two-thirds majority to pass. Engelbart cautioned that it would be difficult to assess and that property owners would likely contest that their properties are vacant.

## Several Other Special Taxes Will Be Considered

Finally, the city could consider another specialized business tax, such as the current Measures OO, PP, and NN which are assessed on warehouses, hotels, and cannabis revenue.

"There are all open questions right now, we are just raising them," said Engelbart.

The cost of putting a tax measure out to public vote ranges from \$685,000 for a stand-alone election, to \$420,000 for a mail-in election, to \$280,000 for a

regular election, said Engelbart. The City Council didn't take a vote, but indicated they'd like the more inexpensive option.

Additionally, surveying the public and hiring consultants will cost another \$100,000, Engelbart said.

"We are going to hit the ground running with the survey work if you tell us to do so," said Engelbart.

City Manager Jeff Kay says that in the next several months, the city will also produce a budget that will promote voters' faith in a new tax measure.

"(The budget) will demonstrate to the community how committed this organization is, not just to the revenue side, but to the expenditure side," said Kay.

The City Council said they were interested in seeing the public's feedback on all of the taxes as well as what their priorities are for how the city spends its money.

Mayor Pauline Cutter also offered an alternative tax idea – hitting the city's three unopened marijuana dispensaries

with a financial burden. She said it's unacceptable they haven't opened after all these years.

## Building Futures Holiday Gift Drive

Building Futures' annual Holiday Gift Drive provides gifts for the children and women served by the homeless street outreach, housing and domestic violence programs.

Building Futures is counting on generous community members to help provide holiday joy to over 300 children and adults.

Please bring clothing and unwrapped gifts to Building Futures' office, located

at 1395 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

This year's gift donation deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 18. For questions or more information, email Joyce VanScoy at jvanscoy@bfwc.org, or call 357-0205 ext. 205.

To make a tax-deductible monetary gift, mail or bring to 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

## 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.

#### Calls on Those in Power to Make America Safe and Sane Again

Editor:

When the Constitution was ratified in 1787, the young Republic did not have a standing army. If a militia were needed, it was necessary for the Colonists to lay down their plows and take up their muskets. Our Founding Fathers could never have imagined the might of our military today, and the killing power of its weapons.

We the People have the right to keep and bear arms. How we exercise that right is the true test of our national character. Another mass shooting in Thousand Oaks within days of the last and mere months since those before that, and on and on, is proof that we have failed that test.

The gun culture in our country, which has been fueled and nurtured by the National Rifle Association, gun manufacturers and politicians, can only be changed by those very people who embrace it and profit from it. These groups should be supportive of the nation's welfare. This does not mean arming teachers, or posting armed guards at synagogues as the President suggested. This means addressing the hate, fear and intolerance that drive men to take up their high-powered guns and obliterate innocent lives.

With power comes responsibility. Consider the bright, young lives that might be saved, and those who would not have to suffer the senseless murder of a child or loved one, if those in power were to nurture positive change, help heal our nation, and contribute to the common good of its people; if they were to muster the heart, the soul, the courage, the decency and the will to:

Make America safe and sane again.

Make America civil again.

Make America proud again.

—Jeanne Kinkella  
San Leandro

#### Calls Climate Change 'a Hoax'

Editor:

The last two lines of George Z. Banks' poem (*Letters*, Nov. 22) should read:

If you can't breathe and you can no longer romp

Oh, what the heck, just blame it all on Donald J. Trump.

That's what the Democrats, who have total political control in Sacramento, are doing instead of assuming responsibility for the mismanagement of the forest, the electrical grid, the tax money collected under the guise of "climate change" and for flooding the state with illegals who go to the forest to grow marijuana and set fires to clear land.

About this "climate change" novelty, it used to be called "global warming" but, a few years ago, there were three consecutive winters that buried most of the cities in the East and the Midwest in six feet of snow until the beginning of June so, "global warming" was not very catchy, hence the change.

Now, to the "novelty": This planet started as a ball of fire; after millions of years it became a chemical soup; millions of years more and H<sub>2</sub>O appeared, big forests grew, big reptiles appeared, then big mammals and, between all of this there were several ice ages and all kind of cataclysms: Big volcanic eruptions; floods (I think that I read somewhere in the bible a fable about a big flood of thousands of years ago); earthquakes and much more reshaped the surface of the earth thousands of times. Yes, this "climate change" is such a novelty.

We, the humans, have occupied an infinitesimal space of time in the life of this planet and, as the big reptiles and the big mammals, we're going to be gone well before the entire solar system tumbles into space and into a black hole when our sun runs out of fuel.

Finally, let me remind everybody that we live in California, a compound word from the Spanish "cálido"= Hot, and the Galician word "forno"= Furnace= Hot Furnace; named by the Spaniards some 300 hundred years ago. This arrogance and ignorance also applies to this City's slanted forum of last month on this issue.

It's a hoax, folks.

—Leo T. West  
San Leandro

#### Is Chief Justice Being Conned to Give President Trump a Break?

Editor:

We've seen this con played before. Remember when FBI Director James Comey revealed an ongoing investigation of Hillary Clinton just before the election? He violated agency policy because he feared his agency would be considered biased if they didn't reveal and Hillary won. Turns out, the investigation found nothing illegal and it was dropped, but its revelation twisted the election toward the con artist who now occupies the Oval Office. For months, the con man had been complaining that the election was rigged and the FBI was biased, causing Comey to bend over backwards to prove it wasn't. He bent over, way too far.

Now the Grifter-in-Chief is complaining that the Federal judge who decided a case against him is biased. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has come to the judge's defense, explaining that judges are objective, irrespective of the President who appointed them. Is Justice Roberts now being conned to bend over and over-react to prove no bias in anticipation of a Trump case coming before the Supreme Court?

—Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont

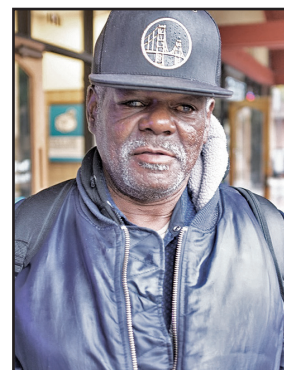
## INQUIRING REPORTER

### Worst show on TV?

— Asked downtown

*Family Guy*, because of the cussing. There's too much foul language. It's a cartoon and kids watch cartoons. So it shouldn't be like that.

**Frank Taylor**  
Oakland



*Family Feud*, because it's too blue. It's not a family show.

**Phil Donnellan**  
San Leandro



I can't think of one. I can only think of shows I like. I love *Grey's Anatomy*.

**Alyse Peters**  
Stockton



There's so much on TV and so many different platforms – Amazon, Hulu. I try to look for the good shows, so I guess I just pass over the bad ones.

**Lem Haskins**  
Oakland



Fox News, it's biased. Not the local Fox station, but the national Fox News. It's biased toward a negative president.

**Rashaun Raymond**  
San Leandro





# Hanukkah Events Set for Temple Beth Sholom

Every night throughout Hanukkah the community will kindle the Light of Miracles and Freedom together at Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave. in San Leandro.

The lightings will be nightly from Dec. 2 to Dec. 9 from 6 to 6:30 p.m. with local dignitaries among the guest lighters.

Other Hanukkah events include:

- Hanukkah Party (Torah School) on Sunday, Dec. 2, from noon to 2 p.m. in Zucker Hall at Temple Beth Sholom. Music, games, Hanukkah songs, homemade latkes, lunch for purchase, and lots of fun with friends and family. Free.

- Hanukkah Sing Along (Seniors) on Monday, Dec. 3, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Baywood Court, 21966 Dolores St. in Castro Valley. Rita Goldhor and Loretta Siegel hosts, Peter Felsenfeld on guitar. Free. All ages are welcome to sing about freedom, latkes, dreidels, and the miracles that surround us this holiday. Song books provided. Hanukkah treats. RSVP to [tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org](mailto:tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org).

- "What Happened After the War?" (Adult Education) on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Zucker Hall. Learn of the triumph and tragedy after Judah Maccabee and his followers liberated Jerusalem

and restored the Temple, as he and his brothers labored to maintain Judean independence. Josh Meyers hosts. Hanukkah treats. Free. RSVP to [tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org](mailto:tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org).

- "Share the Warmth" Coat Drive (Tzedakah) through Wednesday, Dec. 5, in Zucker Hall. Bring new or gently used coats in all sizes to share with those in need. Benefitting Davis Street.

- Oil Tasting at the President's Home (Adults) on Thursday, Dec. 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. RSVP for location to [tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org](mailto:tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org). This oil isn't as miraculous as the one that lasted eight days, but you may be blown away by the various flavors: garlic, mushroom sage, strawberry, etc. dipped with a little sourdough to go along with hors d'oeuvres and wine. Free. Julie Rubenstein and Aaron Bukofzer host.

- Minute-to-Win-It Party (Community) Saturday, Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Zucker Hall.

All ages are welcome to Face the Cookie, Attack the Stack, Shake the Junk from the Trunk and more.

You do not want to miss this one. Hanukkah treats will be available.

Marcy Weiss hosts. RSVP to [tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org](mailto:tbsoffice@tbssanleandro.org).



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Nancy Skinner, who is a dancer as well as the church building manager, will perform at the ceremony on Sunday for the church's new labyrinth.

## Church to Unveil Maze on Sunday

The 1st United Methodist Church on Bancroft Avenue will hold a ceremony to unveil the church's newly painted labyrinth after the 9:30 a.m. service this Sunday, Dec. 2.

The labyrinth has been a dream of church members for several years, said Nancy Skinner, the custodian, building manager, and dancer who will perform at the ceremony.

The church recently hired a painter who used a compass to mark the circles and paint the maze. The artist took about a week to paint it, Skinner said. The church is improving the garden

around the labyrinth, too.

The ceremony for the labyrinth at 1st United Methodist Church, 1600 Bancroft Ave., will start Sunday at around 10:15 to 10:30 a.m.

## Elves Will Sing and Dance Santa's Workshop at Bayfair

Bayfair Center, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro, invites children and their families to join Santa's singing and dancing elves for arts and crafts, cookie decorating, and face painting on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Kids can also visit with Santa and professional photo packages will be available for purchase.

Children attending must be accompanied by an adult.

Bayfair Center rings in the holiday season with free live entertainment throughout the holidays. The entertainment groups will be strolling through the center spreading cheer through Dec. 24:

Saturday, Dec. 1 from 1 to 3 p.m.: Dickens Carolers

Saturday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Holiday Festive Strings  
Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.: Merry Mariachi Band  
Saturday, Dec. 22, from 1

to 3 p.m.: Merry Mariachi Band  
Monday, Dec. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Dickens Carolers  
For information, visit [www.shopbayfair.com](http://www.shopbayfair.com).

## Fire: Families displaced

*continued from front page*  
dead at the scene, according to the fire department.

Crews arrived within five minutes of being called and the one-alarm fire was extinguished within 20 minutes and contained to the home. The source of the fire appears to have been at the rear of the home, near the back bedroom where the man was found dead, authorities said.

Firefighters said that there was a second roof constructed over the home's original roof, which necessitated cutting four

separate holes in the roof with chainsaws, creating "vertical ventilation" holes which gave crews inside relief from heat and helped them gain visibility, authorities said.

Five adults and eight children from two families as well as two dogs, were displaced by the fire and the Red Cross was called to assist them.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, according to the Alameda County Fire Department. The home is completely burned out and uninhabitable.



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**December 8 | December 15**

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