

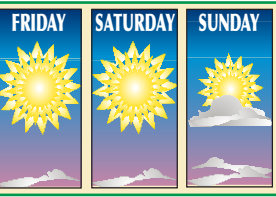


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San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 26 • NO. 48

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO COURTESY OF DARRYL POE

Tow truck drivers Darryl Poe and Moises Reyes pulled a woman from a burning car and saved her life on I-880.

Tow Truck Drivers Save the Day

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Tow truck drivers Moises Reyes and Darryl Poe pick up cars, fix flats and help drivers in all sorts of ways.

And every once in a while they save somebody's life, as they did on Oct. 26 at 6 o'clock in the morning.

Poe and Reyes were both driving their

Palace Garage tow trucks northbound on I-880. Poe came upon it first, a car had flown off the freeway near the 98th Avenue exit, taken out a couple of signs, hit the soundwall and caught on fire.

The driver had fallen asleep and her foot had pressed down on the gas pedal. Now she was trapped in the car.

Poe used a fire extinguisher to push back

the flames enough so he could pull her out of the car.

"I tried to pull her out but her seatbelt was jammed," Poe said.

The flames were coming closer to the driver, and Poe had already emptied his fire extinguisher.

Just then Reyes arrived and he started

see TOWMEN, page 7

Adopt a Storm Drain Near You

Help keep drains clear and reduce flooding in the streets

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The city of San Leandro is asking everyone to pitch in and help clean storm drains around town during the rainy season.

The city's 2,200 storm drains become clogged with leaves and trash. This leads to flooding on the streets and a bunch of garbage getting out into the bay, according to Debbie Pollart, the city's director of public works.

So the city is instituting an "adopt a drain" program and asking citizens to roll up their sleeves and get to work.

If you "adopt" a storm drain, the city will send you a high visibility t-shirt so you can be safe while you are out there on the street, a magnet for your fridge, and a thank you note from the mayor. The Public Works department will then come out to the drain and attach a medallion to it declaring that it has been cleaned by a devoted citizen.

The city asks that you clean and check on the drain once a month between May and October and then weekly between November and February and twice a month between March and April. You should also check on the drain before a predicted storm.

If you need to borrow a broom or rake, you can request a tool to be loaned by Public Works.

And if the leaves you remove

won't fit in your waste cans at home, you can pick up a leaf bag from Public Works at 14200 Chapman Road and they'll give you a bag that you can put out on

see STORM DRAINS, page 7

County To Build A New Juvi Hall

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The county has a \$55 million plan to raze the current Camp Sweeney and build a new modern juvenile detention facility.

But the plan calls for the facility to move closer to a residential area and some neighbors say it will affect their property values and cause disturbances, so they want it to remain in its current location.

Built in 1957, Camp Sweeney is nestled into a somewhat remote location at 2600 Fairmont Drive. The current site is a 60-bed minimum security facility for non-violent 15-to-18-year-old males – an

see FACILITY, page 10

Tree Lighting to Kick Off 'It's a Wonderful Night'

Downtown San Leandro's annual holiday celebration, "It's A Wonderful Night," will kick off with a tree-lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. this Friday in the Downtown Plaza.

Once the Holiday Tree is lit, families will be able to take photos with Santa Claus in the plaza. The downtown will become a winter wonderland with holiday entertainment, dancers and singers, holiday games, cookie decorating, interactive arts and crafts for kids and horse-drawn

carriage rides. Holiday movies will also be screening outdoors.

New this year will be the "Winter Wonder Walk," a row of artificial holiday trees donated by the San Leandro Improvement Association (SLIA), decorated by local San Leandro schools and lined up to create a path of holiday trees between Washington Avenue and East 14th Street for everybody to enjoy.

Later, the trees will be transported to the historic Casa Peralta.



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Woman mugged on 159th Avenue. Page 3

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



San Leandro Times

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

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Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro Show Supports Meals on Wheels

Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro will perform a special show, *Fiestas Navidenas*, in a benefit fundraiser for Meals on Wheels on Friday through Sunday, Dec. 10 through 11, at the San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave.

The show runs Friday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 11, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m.

Fiestas Navidenas will feature the full length Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro, a company of 65 dancers showcasing a colorful south-of-the-border celebration,

a traditional Christmas Posada procession, Mexican holiday songs (villancicos), a visit by the Three Wise Men, a festive Pinata scene and a holiday finale.

This year's *Fiestas Navidenas* is also a benefit fundraiser for the San Leandro based SOS Meals on Wheels who is celebrating 50 years of serving seniors in San Leandro, Hayward, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley and Oakland. Founded in 1966, SOS Meals on Wheels primary function are to deliver nutritious balanced meals to homebound seniors and to help seniors stay in their homes and

remain healthy and happy for as long as possible.

Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro has been performing throughout California, Arizona, Hawaii, and Florida since 2006 and opened their own dance studio in July 2009. Its mission is to preserve Mexican culture and traditions, education the community of their rich heritage through the visual and performing arts.

Tickets are \$25 in advance at brownpapertickets.com or \$30 at the door. For more information, call 316-3237 or 604-3829.

Sign Up for Boys & Girls Club Winter Basketball League

The Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro is now taking sign-ups for its Winter 2017 instructional basketball program for all boys and girls in grades 3 through 6. The league begins Jan. 18.

The Boys & Girls Club of

San Leandro basketball program is designed to give players a fun and competitive basketball experience. Each player is evaluated prior to being assigned to a team so that all teams have a balanced number of veterans and rookies.

All players are required to play two quarters per game, so no matter the child's ability level, they will have an opportunity to be on the court and be a part of the action.

All practices and games are held at the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro, 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro.

The basketball program fee is \$85 for current "After School" registered members or \$95 for all others and includes uniforms and awards.

The club is also looking for volunteer coaches for the program. For more information on the program or if you are interested in volunteering as a coach, call Ross Lim, at 483-5581.



Brian Copeland's show, *The Jewelry Box*, hailed as a classic Christmas story, is about his adventure as a 6-year-old.

Tickets Available at Door for Copeland's *The Jewelry Box*

A limited number of tickets will be available to Brian Copeland's acclaimed Christmas show, *The Jewelry Box*, for this Sunday's two shows at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The show is part of "The Best of San Francisco Solo Series" that Copeland is presenting at the San Leandro Library throughout the year, sold by subscription in advance. But there are some seats available for Sunday's shows that will be sold at the door, first-come, first-served.

The play first opened at the Marsh in San Francisco in 2013 to rave reviews. It's the true story of Christmas 1970 when Copeland was 6 years old and had to raise \$11.97 by Christmas

Eve to buy his mother a jewelry box from the White Front store on Hegenberger Road.

Critics hailed it as "The Bay Area's Christmas story."

The Jewelry Box follows Brian's adventures as he scours the help-wanted ads, applies for jobs and collects bottles, inching his way toward the coveted present, a jewelry box from White Front.

Holiday Concert At the Douglas Morrisson Theatre

The Douglas Morrisson Theatre Chorus presents a Holiday Concert under the musical direction of Cesar Cancino Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 15 to Dec. 17, at 8 p.m.; and on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward.

Hear classical sacred works, popular holiday songs and jazz, as well as audience sing-a-long pieces. Tickets are \$18 adult, \$15 for under 30/over 60 and \$12 for youth/student. For more information, go to www.dmtonline.org or call 881-6777.

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PHOTO COURTESY ACFD

A one-alarm fire caused by a toy's batteries displaced a family of four last week.

Batteries Cause Blaze on Birch Street

Alameda County firefighters responded to a report of a house fire on the 14000 block of Birch Street in San Leandro on Nov. 23 just before 11:30 a.m.

Within minutes, firefighters arrived at the scene of a one-story house with smoke and flames coming out of the rear of the residence and nearing the neighboring house.

The one-alarm fire was contained to the rear corner bedroom, where the fire started, and the hallway of the residence.

A smoke alarm alerted a grandmother and her 10-year-old and 3-month-old grandchildren to the fire and all were able to safely exit the residence.

The cause of the fire is due to the failure of electrical equip-

ment charging remote control car rechargeable batteries.

A family of four and one dog are temporarily displaced as a result of the fire and will stay with family members.

There were no reports of injuries to firefighters.

One resident sustained a minor injury and was treated at the scene and released.

Young Girl Allegedly Groped on BART Train Near Bayfair Station

A man was arrested Sunday after allegedly groping a young girl on a BART train near the Bayfair station.

The 9-year-old girl was sitting in a San Francisco-bound train around 3:30 p.m. when a man sat next to her and began touching her leg and buttock,

according to BART police.

The girl's family member intervened and they got off at the Bayfair station to call police.

The suspect remained on the train and BART police boarded at the Coliseum station and detained him.

The suspect was arrested on

suspicion of sexual battery and annoying or molesting a child.

The man was also issued a ban from riding BART for up to a year.

The suspect is being held in lieu of \$150,000 at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and is scheduled to be arraigned this week in Oakland.

Woman Mugged and Beaten While Walking

A woman was attacked from behind and robbed while walking in the unincorporated area

by a man who had apparently followed her from the Bayfair BART station.

On Nov. 21, a 48-year-old woman was walking near 159th and Maubert avenues at around 8 p.m. when a man hit her on the head with a blunt object causing "severe facial injuries," according to the Alameda County Sheriff's office.

Police believe he had been following her for several blocks before he struck. He took her cell phone and fled.

No arrests have been made. The suspect is described only as wearing a blue jacket and jeans at the time of the assault.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call 667-3622.

Walmart Evacuated

The Walmart store at 15555 Hesperian Boulevard was evacuated Sunday afternoon following a bomb threat that turned out to be false.

A male suspect called store just before 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 27 and said there was a bomb in the shop, according to San Leandro police.

Police checked the store for explosives and found none. Customers were allowed back in the store around 4 p.m.

That particular Walmart has a history of bad luck over the Thanksgiving shopping weekend — in 2011, a San Lorenzo man was shot in the neck and injured and his cousins were robbed in the parking lot on Black Friday.

Hand-made Labradorite Pendant

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PHOTO COURTESY ACFD

Wet Weather Spin-Out

Firefighters responded to a single vehicle spin-out near Via Granada & Paseo Grande in San Lorenzo on at around 11 a.m. on Nov. 26. No one was injured when the driver lost control, but a fence was damaged.

License Plates Stolen in Broadmoor

Somebody's stealing a lot of license plates off cars in the Broadmoor neighborhood, residents say.

A woman said she knows five people on Broadmoor who've had the plates stolen, and a few more people on Kenilworth Avenue.

She said that she has found a

way to prevent her license plates from being stolen. She went to the hardware store and bought some Gorilla Glue and coated over the screws that hold on the plates.

"You can't get a screwdriver through that glue," she said.

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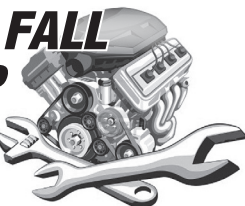
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Bay Elementary School students and three professional singers from San Francisco Opera participated in the production of *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

Bay Elementary Goes to the Opera

Bay Elementary School enjoyed the performance in October of the comic opera, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, by Italian composer Gaetano Donizetti.

The cast included three professional singers from the San Francisco Opera, a dozen fifth-graders and the school choir.

The student cast and choir were prepared by their music teacher, Barbara Barrett. Bay

School PTA and the East Bay Chapter of the Opera a La Carte (OLAC) education program provided scholarships to make this performance possible.

"We were so fortunate to learn about opera with our own students singing and performing with such amazing professional singers, a great opportunity for us all," said Principal Dr. Kimberly Yearsn.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ Chanticleers Theatre

A Christmas Carol, a classic holiday favorite will be presented at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley through Dec. 11. The whole family will enjoy this Christmas classic told in a unique way, along with music of the season. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m., Sundays shows begin at 2 p.m. General admission tickets

are \$25, \$20 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 733-5483.

❖ Douglas Morrisson Theatre

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play will be presented by the Douglas Morrisson Theatre at 8 p.m. on Dec. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 3, 4, and 11, at the DMT Theatre, 22311

North 3rd Street in Hayward. An Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1. For tickets (\$27-\$29), visit www.dmtonline.org or call 881-6777. Enjoy the holiday classic that puts the "heart" in heartwarming.

❖ Douglas Morrisson Theatre

The Douglas Morrisson Theatre Chorus presents a Holiday Concert under the musical direction of Cesar Cancino Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 15 to Dec. 17, at 8 p.m.; and on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. The Holiday Concert will feature a selection of classical sacred works, popular holiday songs and jazz, as well as audience sing-a-long pieces. Tickets are \$18 adult, \$15 for adult H.A.R.D. resident, \$15



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Creekside Art and Craft Show

The 13th annual Creekside Art and Craft Show will take place on Friday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Creekside Community Church, 951 MacArthur Blvd. in San Leandro. The two-day event will feature quality handmade items from over 30 artists. Admission and parking is free. Food and drink will be available for sale including raffle tickets. Join the Chili Cook-Off scheduled for Friday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.. A \$5 donation includes a bowl of chili or ten samples to judge, salad, cornbread and lemonade. For more information about the Creekside Craft Show or Chili Cook-Off, call Sandra Hess: sandrahess-consulting@gmail.com.

❖ Christmas at the Mission

The Mission Peak Chamber Singers announce the 31st Annual Christmas at the Mission performance on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4, at the Old Mission San Jose on Mission Blvd. in Fremont. This year they introduce a new Music Director, Ofer dal La, who is filling in this year for Michael Morris. Advanced Tickets are available online via the MPCS website (www.mpchambersingers.org).

❖ Hayward Area Historical Society

The Hayward Area Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, presents *Local Botanical Beauties, Then and Now* guest curated by Mary L. Harden School of Botanical Illustration in the Community Gallery through Jan. 8, during the museum's hours, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This exhibit of watercolors shows the variety of plant life that once dominated the landscape of the Hayward area as well as plants that are still seen in the foothills and gardens. Meet the artists at a reception on Friday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

❖ Readers Roundtable

The Readers Roundtable meets on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The book up for discussion is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, a charming tale about unlikely friendships. All books discussed may be purchased in the Library's Booktique bookstore.

❖ James Madison Holiday Boutique

James Madison Elementary School, 14759 Juniper St. in San Leandro, is having a holiday boutique art and craft sale on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. If you're interested in a table to sell, email sl.jamesmadison.pto@gmail.com

❖ Corvallis School Holiday Boutique

Corvallis Elementary School, 14790 Corvallis St. in San Leandro, will have its annual Holiday Boutique on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Homemade crafts and goodies at reasonable prices by local artists. Receive one free ticket at the door and additional free tickets for every toy, canned food item, or clean used coat you bring. Door prize drawings every half hour. Door prize drawing tickets will be on sale the day of the boutique. Admission is free. Food and drinks for sale. Proceeds benefit Corvallis Elementary School. New vendors are welcome. For booth information or additional information regarding the boutique, call Karen Webb at 461-2290.

❖ Soroptimist Holiday Boutique

Soroptimist of the East Bay will have its 12th Annual Holiday Boutique, Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hill and Valley Club House, 1808 B St. in Hayward. Crafts, jewelry, hats, wardrobe accessories, garden items, stained glass,

soaps and lotions and much more will be on sale. Lunch and refreshments will also be available. All proceeds help support the goal of Soroptimist – improving the lives of women and girls. For more information, call Donna Whitehouse at 924-7622 or at: rambosmom@comcast.net.

❖ Bancroft School Family Science Night

Bancroft Middle School, 1150 Bancroft Ave., is having its annual family science night on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. See science demonstrations and interactive fun on topics of energy, chemistry, engineering, experimentation and invention. See the science magic show and enjoy liquid nitrogen ice cream. This free event is co-sponsored by Xtreme Science Magic, The Lawrence Hall of Science, and The American Chemical Society.

❖ SL Adult School Open House

The Adult School Career and Technical Education (CTE) will have an Open House on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St. Learn about the certificated training programs and meet the instructors. Most classes begin on Monday, Jan. 9. For more information, call 667-6250 or www.sanleandroadultschool.org

❖ Alta Mira Club Holiday Tea

Alta Mira Club 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, invites everyone to the Lucille Kline Holiday Tea on Saturday, Dec. 10, at noon. Tickets are \$25. For tickets, call Linda Klass 914-5684.

❖ All Saints Winter Wine & Dine

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro, will have its Winter Wine & Dine fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. Foods from around the world will be featured including Scottish, Japanese, Nigerian, Italian, and more. Fine Russian River Valley wines, and other tasty beverages will be offered. Fabulous prizes will be raffle off. Enjoy both a live and silent auction, and live entertainment. Tickets are available online at tinyurl.com/Dec10WineDine.

❖ Bob Grazzini Memorial Crab Feed

The Buon Tempo Italian Club presents the Bob Grazzini Memorial Crab Feed on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Transfiguration Catholic Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. No host cocktails from 5 to 6 p.m., dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person paid in advance, no tickets sold at the door. Make your reservations on the Buon Tempo dinner line at 483-6929 or send your check to Rick Martens, PO Box 2625, Fremont, CA 94536. Make your check payable to: Buon Tempo Club.

❖ Sons In Retirement Meetings

SIRs, an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The group meets at the Wedgewood Center at the Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr. in Oakland. Happy Hour starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Great guest speakers. Guests are welcome. Come and meet new friends. For more information, call Mel at 357-0601.

❖ St. Gerard Women's Club Bake Sale

The members of St. Gerard Women's Club will hold its Christmas bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo. Bake sale begins after the 4:30 p.m. Mass and after all the Masses on Sunday, Dec. 18 starting at 7:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will also be available on Sunday along with the raffle after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

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.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Keep those sharp Sheep eyes focused on a hazy situation. As things begin to clear up, you'll find a sharper picture emerging, showing something you will need to know.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Watch your expenses through the end of the month. Later, you'll be glad to have extra money to pay for something that will make an acquisitive Bovine's heart beat faster.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): You're now ready to make that off-deferred commitment, if you still believe it's what you want. Don't be afraid to change your mind if you feel you should go in another direction.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Now that you are moving on with your life after that recent disappointment, how about reactivating your travel plans and taking someone special along with you.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Many new friends come into your personal life, which suits all of you social Lions just fine. However, one new friend might make demands that you could find difficult to deal with.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Communication doesn't exist unless it's two-way. So if you're getting no replies to the signals you're sending, it could be time to look for someone more receptive.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A workplace complication that you thought was ironed out develops new wrinkles that need attention. Meanwhile, expect continuing improvement in your home life.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A tense personal problem needs to be talked out before someone decides to walk out. Resist making decisions until full explanations are offered from both sides.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): A technological glitch that caused problems recently will soon be repaired, and life can return to normal. A colleague has a surprising message to deliver.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Your partner might feel that you haven't been as open with him or her as you should be. Deal with this now, before it turns into something more difficult to handle.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Good news: Many of the stumbling blocks that affected the progress of some of your career projects are fading away. Things also start to look up on the home front.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): You'll need that strong Piscean pluck to get through waters that will be turbulent for a while. A more positive aspect soon emerges, along with some welcome news.

LIFESTYLE

Tasty Persimmons are at Their Peak Right Now

A lot of people love them, but the truth is, most of us have never eaten a persimmon, even though 98 percent of the nation's crop is grown right here in California.

For those in the know, ripe Fuyu persimmons are delicious eaten raw, but persimmon purée is the secret ingredient for baked holiday treats. The subtle flavor blends well with spices and nuts and it contributes a rich orangy-brown color to baked goods as well as ensuring, tender, moist results.

There are two main kinds of persimmons – Fuyus (flat and firm) can be eaten raw and are good in salads.

The acorn-shaped Hiyachi cannot be eaten until it is ripe—almost seemingly overripe and soft. If bitten into before it is ripe, the astringency is overpowering.

The Fuyu on the other hand, isn't astringent, even when unripe.



Hayachi Persimmon

POACHED PERSIMMONS

- 6 firm-ripe Fuyu persimmons,
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger root, peeled and minced
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Stem and peel the persimmons, discard any seeds, and cut each persimmon into 8 wedges. In a



Fuyu Persimmon

saucepan combine the persimmons, wine, orange juice, sugar, ginger-root, and cinnamon, bring the liquid to a boil, stirring occasionally, and simmer the mixture, covered, for 15 minutes, or until the persimmons are tender. Transfer the persimmons with a slotted spoon to a bowl, boil the syrup until it is reduced to about 1/2 cup, and pour it over the persimmons. The persimmons may be served warm or chilled over ice cream, rice pudding, or bread pudding. Makes 6 servings.

BAKED PERSIMMON PUDDING

- 1/2 cup sifted cake flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons soft butter
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon zest
- 3/4 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup persimmon purée

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Sift together flour, salt and soda. Cream the butter and sugar together with an electric mixer until the mixture is light and fluffy. Add the egg, vanilla and cinnamon to the butter-sugar mixture and continue beating for 2 more minutes.

To the butter-sugar mixture

alternately add the dry ingredients with the milk and buttermilk. Stir the lemon zest and lemon juice into the persimmon purée and fold into the batter.

Divide the batter among four lightly buttered 4-ounce ramekin dishes and bake in the preheated oven 40-45 minutes or until the top springs back when pressed lightly. Remove from oven and let cool for 10 minutes.

Unmold and serve warm. Yields 4 servings.

HOLIDAY PERSIMMON BREAD

- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup brandy
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 cups persimmon purée
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease and flour two 9-by-5-inch or three 8-by-4-inch loaf pans.

Put the raisins in the brandy and set aside. Combine the sugars, persimmon pulp and oil. Add eggs, one at a time; beat well after each addition.

Sift together the dry ingredients into a medium bowl. Add to the egg mixture and stir in the brandied raisins and nuts.

Pour into greased pans. Bake for 1 hour, a bit longer for the 9-inch pans. Be sure to test with a toothpick to make sure the bread is done. You may have to adjust the cooking time. Makes about 18 slices.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



Despite Raises, Middle Class Is Moving Out

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

"Five point two percent! The middle class finally got a raise!" trumpeted CNN Money's Kathryn Vasel on Nov. 7.

"Median household incomes in 2015 rose 5.2 percent from a year earlier. This is the first increase since 2007, the year before the recession started. And," she added, "there's more good news! The poverty rate ticked (down) to 13.5 percent!"

Great, right?

Not according to Sam Khater, deputy chief economist at CoreLogic.

While the income bump might be good in parts of the country, large numbers of middle-class wage earners are being forced out of California. "There is clearly a relationship between the migration patterns and home prices," he explains. "The middle and lower middle can no longer afford to live in California."

CNN's Vasel confirms. "California's housing market is one of the most expensive in the nation, with a median home price of \$428,000 across the state. Prices

have shot up 71 percent since 2011."

Locally? Prices are higher.

Contra Costa County's median price for Nov. 17 was \$540,000. Alameda County showed same period median pricing of \$779,000. Santa Clara County clocked in at \$1,050,000, while San Mateo County broke the bank at \$1,350,000.*

Vasel reiterates that while wage boosts are great, "incomes just haven't kept up with the (California) home price bonanza for many people — particularly for the working and middle class." It's even worse in the tech-centric Bay Area.

You would think that high wages would be a boost to the economy. "Not so," declares Christopher Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics. "The gains aren't coming in support of the rest of the economy, they're coming at the expense of the rest of the economy."

He warns, "Folks in the tech industry make craploads of money and they can afford to live there and will force out other people."

Khater agrees, adding, "It

makes it harder for the average person to make a living there. So that means less teachers, fire fighters, retail workers."

Many have no choice but to move to places like Oregon, Arizona, Texas and Nevada. Realtors confirm a mass exodus is underway, with critical non-tech skills exiting the state in hordes.

CoreLogic's data confirms that for every home buyer coming into the state, there are three Californians selling and moving out.

With the state's labor pool scrambling to implement low-cost housing to keep some here. It's a very real problem, and there's no immediate solution in sight.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association at www.ccmgtoday.com.

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Christmas Tree Safety Tips

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

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

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

According to the California Christmas Tree Association, these simple steps can help guard against the serious event of a holiday fire:

- Select the freshest-looking

tree available. Make a fresh cut across the tree's base and immediately place it in water. Keep the tree's water container full at all times. Check the water level daily.

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

- Use only UL approved electrical decorations and extension cords.

- Place the Christmas tree well away from heat registers, space heaters, fire places and wood stoves.

- Unplug tree lights and other decorations when away or sleeping.

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

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981 Dowling Blvd • Represented seller • \$680,000



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RECENT HOME SALES

Neither California Resource nor the San Leandro Times guarantees the accuracy or completeness of the information. Direct questions to: CalREsource@aol.com.

San Leandro

210 Best Avenue	94577	\$567,000	2 BD - 1,200 SF - 1935
244 Best Avenue	94577	\$555,000	2 BD - 1,193 SF - 1925
14627 Doolittle Drive	94577	\$400,000	3 BD - 1,060 SF - 1979
689 Joaquin Avenue	94577	\$700,000	3 BD - 1,744 SF - 1970
2540 Marina Boulevard #1	94577	\$565,000	3 BD - 1,579 SF - 1992
2062 Marineview Drive	94577	\$801,000	3 BD - 2,539 SF - 1968
1348 Montrose Drive	94577	\$700,000	2 BD - 1,597 SF - 1959
14408 Outrigger Drive	94577	\$475,000	3 BD - 1,957 SF - 1987
1507 138th Avenue	94578	\$312,000	2 BD - 811 SF - 1970
1651 139th Avenue	94578	\$539,000	3 BD - 1,315 SF - 1946
1572 152nd Avenue	94578	\$467,000	2 BD - 832 SF - 1940
1035 Adason Drive	94578	\$360,000	2 BD - 1,042 SF - 1947
372 Anza Way	94578	\$567,000	4 BD - 1,348 SF - 1954
15991 Gramercy Drive	94578	\$670,000	3 BD - 1,467 SF - 1959
14047 Reed Avenue	94578	\$447,000	2 BD - 1,300 SF - 1973
1539 Andover Street	94579	\$480,000	2 BD - 821 SF - 1950
14925 Farnsworth Street	94579	\$500,000	3 BD - 988 SF - 1950
14787 Wiley Street	94579	\$532,000	3 BD - 1,081 SF - 1951

TOTAL SALES: 18
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$312,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$801,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$535,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$535,389

San Lorenzo

16773 Ventry Way	94580	\$450,000	2 BD - 876 SF - 1956
1868 Via Natal	94580	\$602,000	4 BD - 1,644 SF - 1955
17668 Via Segundo	94580	\$575,000	3 BD - 1,272 SF - 1944

Castro Valley

19504 Alana Road	94546	\$730,000	2 BD - 1,218 SF - 1947
19656 Center Street	94546	\$550,000	2 BD - 952 SF - 1952
3712 Christensen Lane	94546	\$678,000	4 BD - 1,302 SF - 1954
21109 Gary Drive #202	94546	\$425,000	2 BD - 1,041 SF - 1981
17882 Lamson Road	94546	\$850,000	4 BD - 3,344 SF - 1959
2546 Lessley Avenue	94546	\$640,000	4 BD - 1,991 SF - 1948
3908 Lotus Court	94546	\$815,000	3 BD - 2,248 SF - 1968
18445 Magee Way	94546	\$700,000	3 BD - 1,467 SF - 1952
22154 North 6th Street	94546	\$435,000	1 BD - 829 SF - 1954
5233 Reedley Way	94546	\$865,000	3 BD - 2,152 SF - 1964
20175 San Miguel Avenue	94546	\$535,000	3 BD - 756 SF - 1953
4359 Seven Hills Road	94546	\$711,000	3 BD - 1,526 SF - 1955
4801 Shauna Court	94546	\$750,000	3 BD - 1,534 SF - 1969
5450 Briar Ridge Drive	94552	\$577,500	3 BD - 1,593 SF - 1978
19120 Buren Place	94552	\$720,000	3 BD - 1,785 SF - 2002
7497 Denison Place	94552	\$1,145,000	5 BD - 2,875 SF - 1999
25801 Durrwood Court	94552	\$1,075,000	5 BD - 2,820 SF - 1998

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$425,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,145,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$711,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$717,735

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RECENT SALES

4678 Balboa Way, Fremont • \$489,000
1027 Tobago Lane, Alameda • \$715,000
1609 136th Avenue, San Leandro • \$585,000
14991 Portofino Circle, San Leandro • \$620,000
367 Farrelly Drive, San Leandro • \$545,000
11326 Ettrick Street, Oakland • \$931,000
1035 Adason Drive, San Leandro • \$360,000

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RECENT SALES: 1435 Dutton Avenue, 9001 McGurrian Road, 1052 Broadmoor, 56 Chumalia — Great work, Matt!

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PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

By keeping a drain clear, residents can help prevent flooding.

Storm Drains: Adopt a drain

continued from front page
trash day which will be removed free of charge.

Some people pick a drain right in front of their house or business, some people adopt multiple drains.

About 100 drains have been identified as "high-priority" by Public Works – that means they are more likely to flood or because they are in a high-traffic area with lots of litter, said Pollart.

Pollart says it's still the job of San Leandro Public Works to maintain city drains, but they

can only get to each drain once per year and not all are reached before winter comes.

"We can't get to them all before the rainy season, and we can't be everywhere all of the time, so this is a way for people

to help themselves and help their neighbors out," said Pollart.

You can enter your address and see if a drain near you needs adopting at www.preparesanleandro.org and you can also sign up for drain duty on that site.

Adult School to Host an Open House Next Thursday

San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St., will host a Career Technical Education (CTE) Open House on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn about the certificated training programs in fields such as medical, business, accounting and computers. Meet the instructors. Most classes begin on Jan. 9.

Towmen: Arrive just in nick of time

continued from front page

flagging down other vehicles. A Waste Management truck pulled over, driven by David Garcia who had a bigger fire extinguisher.

"The Waste Management guy threw his coat over her and the fire extinguisher pushed back the fire," Reyes said. "Then we cut the seatbelt and pulled her out through the window."

The driver, a woman from Hayward, was taken to the hospital with a broken leg and arm from the accident.

The three Good Samaritans were invited to Baltimore, Maryland to receive a plaque for their good deed from American Towman Magazine.

Freeway Service Patrol Keeps Traffic Flowing

Poe and Reyes are part of the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program, run by the California

Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The program uses privately owned tow trucks to assist stranded drivers and remove their vehicle from the highway for free.

The FSP program helps the CHP keep the traffic moving during commute hours by removing obstructions as quickly as possible. The drivers will also

jump start a car, offer a gallon of gas, refill a radiator and tape hoses, and change a flat tire – all at no charge. But they don't tow to a private repair shop or residence for free.

The CHP reimburses the tow company, since it's in the CHP's interest to keep the traffic flowing.

"So we want everybody to know we're here to help," Reyes said.

Young Scientists to Present Magic, Demonstrations at Bancroft M.S.

Bancroft Middle School, 1150 Bancroft Ave., is having its annual family science night on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m.

See science demonstrations and interactive fun on topics of energy, chemistry, engineering,

experimentation and invention. See the science magic show and enjoy liquid nitrogen ice cream.

This free science fair is co-sponsored by Xtreme Science Magic, The Lawrence Hall of Science, and The American Chemical Society.



Age Well Drive Smart

As we age, factors such as vision changes and slower reflexes can affect the ability to react to hazards swiftly. According to the CDC, an average of 586 older Americans are injured every day in vehicle crashes. The good news is there are corrective steps people can take to stay safe on the road.

Join us for a FREE class

Thursday, December 15

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH

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OK	1-4	1-4	17 Lowell Court	\$580,000	5/2.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Lisa Ferraris	304-1271
C	—	1-3	8585 Norris Canyon	\$1,499,000	5/2.5 - 5+/- acres	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy P.	925-251-2536

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CITY CORNER

CURRENT ISSUES AND INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF SAN LEANDRO

PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, December 8, 2016

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

at the Senior Community Center

13909 E. 14th St., San Leandro

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WANTED: I'm looking for a room/ studio w/private bath (for couple) with excellent references. Call 510-638-3682

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Facility: New 120-bed detention center needed, county says

continued from front page

alternative to the higher security Juvenile Justice Center, just up the hill.

The new facility would be located at 2400 Fairmont Drive, made up of seven buildings on 10.7 acres, including offices, food service, a gymnasium, and dorms. Alameda County received funding for the project via a grant from the state board of corrections in February 2009.

In its 2014 report, the Alameda County Grand Jury said that Camp Sweeney is "old and dilapidated" and said that the campus is seismically deficient by current standards.

The county also said that the "population of female offenders was growing" so they need girls' dorms, which the new Camp Sweeney would have.

The proposed new facility would be built within the 206-acre area on Fairmont Drive that is owned by the county. It will have 120 beds, a sports field, vegetable garden, and amphitheater classroom area.

But Hillcrest Knolls residents have lodged some complaints

with the county – citing concerns about traffic, noise, and light pollution. They asked the county to rebuild at the current site instead of moving the campus.

However, the county says the new site is more seismically sound and the neighbors' complaints aren't enough reason to change their plans.

Over 30 residents in the unincorporated area sent the county a form letter saying relocating the camp near their neighborhood would result in "social stigma... that will have an effect on our peace of mind" and a loss of open space.

The project's environmental impact report notes (and ultimately dismisses) neighbors' concerns about a "conflict with the peaceful enjoyment of their status quo, increasing the possibility of criminal activity encroaching into their neighborhood... and lowering their property value."

The next step for the new Camp Sweeney will be presenting the project to the state in January. It could be put out to bid next fall, and open in 2020.

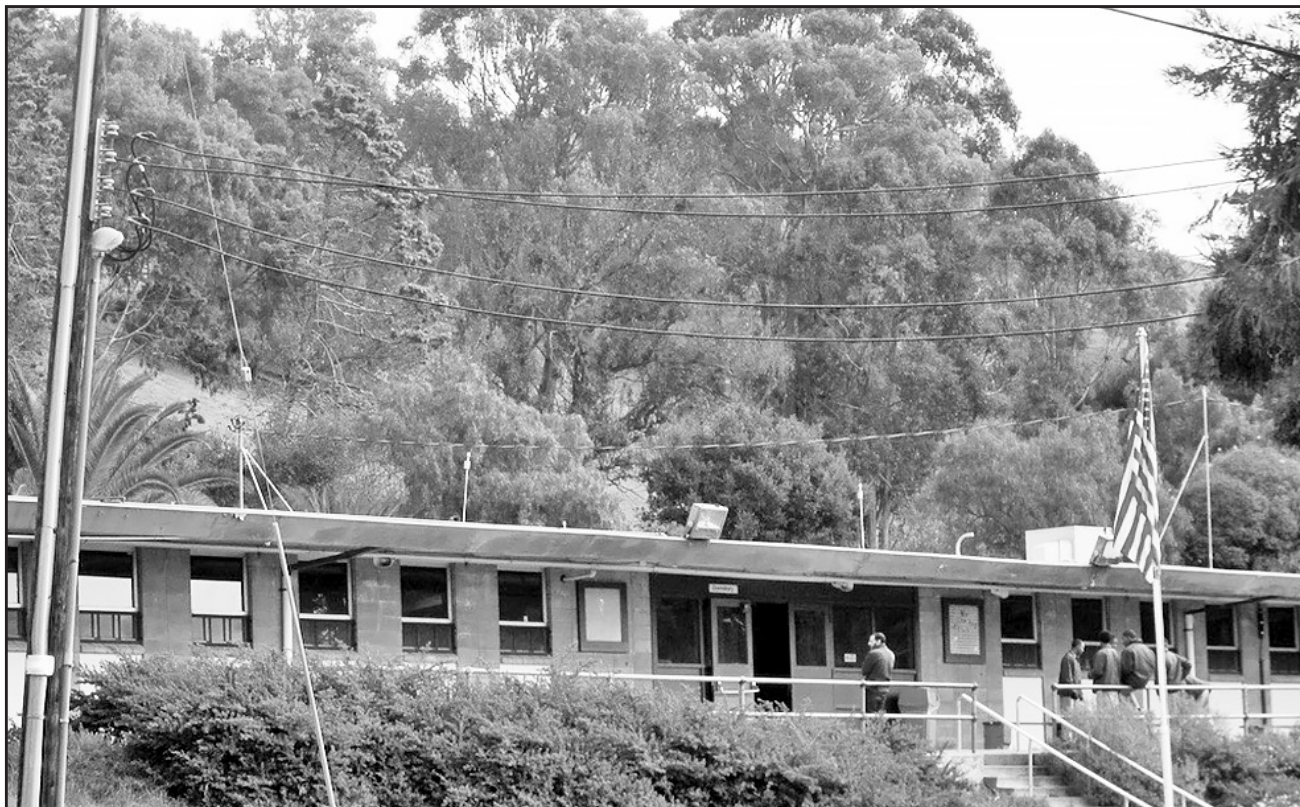
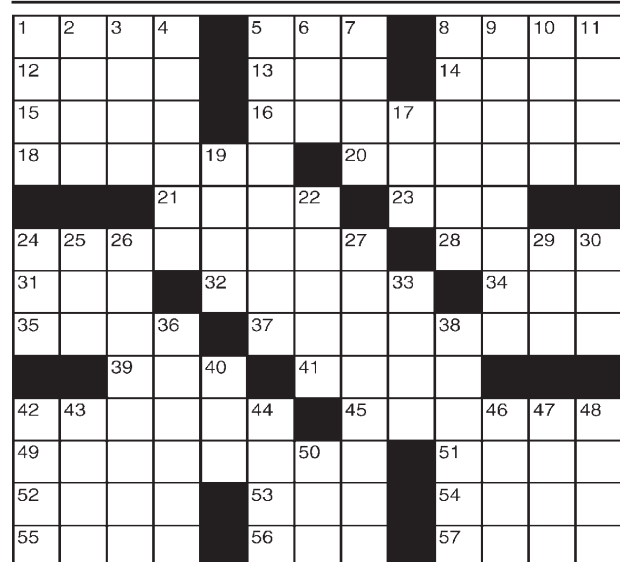


PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The county says it's time to replace Camp Sweeney on Fairmont Drive that opened in 1957. Plans are ready for a new juvenile minimum-detention facility on the same county property just down the hill.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD



ACROSS

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- 5 U.K. television option
- 8 Lily variety
- 12 Opposed to, slangily
- 13 Always, in verse
- 14 Mimicked
- 15 Get bigger
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- 52 Not working
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DOWN

- 1 Trails behind
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- 48 Sudden rush of wind
- 50 Individual

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

LOCAL DEATHS

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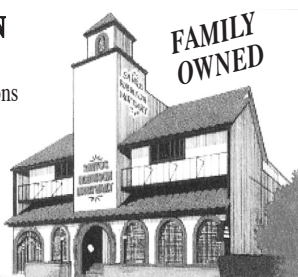
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CALIC. FD-81



BAGLEY, Marilyn A.
DeSMIDT, Lucille Kathleen
FREITAS, Melody Ann
McINTYRE, Helen Jeanne

■ **DeSMIDT, Lucille Kathleen** (May 21, 1921 – Nov. 21, 2016), a resident of San Leandro, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 21, with her loving son and grandson at her side. She led a full and happy life and touched many people with her kindness and joy. Daughter of Homer and Agnes Keele, Lucille was born in San Francisco and al-

ways loved the City. She married her sailor, the love of her life, Joseph F. DeSmidt in 1942. They settled in San Leandro where they raised 8 children and shared 58 years of married life. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, Dec. 1, at 11 a.m. at Assumption Church in San Leandro. Burial will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

TIMES OBITUARIES

may be emailed to: obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Include a phone number. For help, call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558.

Helen Jeanne McIntyre



of Modesto and San Leandro passed on November 25, 2016 after a valiant fight against cancer.

Jeanne was a loving mother to Josie Chapman Adams, great-grandmother to Zoey Zile, grandmother of Peter James Zile and Nickolas Chase Adams, sister to Ruth Toovey-Bock and Betsy Venters, sister-in-law to Richard Reichel and Fred Souza, auntie to Denyce Hatch, Tammy Hglesiass, Kim Bethel, Angie, Rebecca, Adam, James Peter, and many other nieces and nephews. She was the Paint Goddess of San Leandro Color.

There will be a Celebration of Life held Friday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 10 p.m. in San Leandro. For details, call 510-569-8236 or 817-235-4671.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Cancer Society in her name.

Melody Ann Freitas

84, of San Leandro, died peacefully at her home on Tuesday, November 22, 2016.

Melody was born June 2, 1932 in Indiana to Charles Sanders and Melverine Jennings. She owned and operated Melody's Beauty Salon in San Leandro for 35 years. She enjoyed skating, dancing, crocheting and crafting, traveling the world on cruise ships, casinos, bingo, and spoiling her grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Bob, and his wife, Debra; her daughter, Paula; her grandchildren, Robbie, Gina, Nick, Samantha and Will; great-granddaughter, Nova; and loving caregivers, Elisiva Lauaki, her husband, Toni Uepi, and their family. Melody was preceded in death by her husbands, Frank Obra, K Spangle, Ernie Truscott and Bob Freitas.

A vigil will be held at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. The Funeral Liturgy will be held at St. Felicitas Church, 1662 Manor Blvd., in San Leandro on Friday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 26320 Mission Blvd., in Hayward.

Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

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Marilyn A. Bagley

July 12, 1935 – November 27, 2016

Marilyn A. Bagley passed away peacefully at her home Sunday evening. She was a loving mother and grandmother. Ever the social butterfly, Marilyn enjoyed being surrounded by family, friends (old and new), golfing, traveling the Pacific Northwest as well as shopping. She will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Kelly McCarthy; sister, Sharon Huber; granddaughters, Kristen Galbraith and Katie McCarthy; great-grandchildren, Meleah Holgate and Giovanni Cervantes; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, grandson and many friends.

There will be a gathering of friends and family to remember her at her home this Sunday, Dec. 4, from 2 to 7 p.m.

Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

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: 483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Pot Use As Seen By a Substance Abuse Counselor

Editor:

This is in rebuttal To Michael Smith's position that marijuana does not have any deleterious consequences ("Marijuana-User for 50 Years And He's 'Extremely Well,'" Letters, Nov. 10).

First off, I would like to commend you for your service to our country. I have a great deal of respect for Viet Nam Veterans. However, if I understand you to take the position that marijuana is not a problem for you, so therefore it is not a problem for anyone, I believe that you have come to an erroneous conclusion.

From my 32 years in the field of Human Services which includes working as a Substance Abuse Counselor, I've seen plenty of problems from marijuana usage as well other drugs. For the past 13 years, I have been employed as a Mental Health Worker and most of the young people that come through our facility have a history of cannabis usage in their patient profiles. Some of these individuals may never be able to complete their schooling or hold a job.

Also, I don't believe that any reasonable person would say that someone can safely operate an automobile under the influence of marijuana.

In the prior 20 years, I worked in a Substance Abuse Recovery Center. There were a lot of problems with those who used marijuana in combination with other substances.

As far as doing some research in history of cannabis usage, I am not a medical professional, but I can attest to the fact that I had a serious back injury around 1995 and I've managed my chronic pain primarily through prayer, diet, and exercise. Now that "recreational" marijuana is legal, I can only foresee a multitude future of problems, especially to our young people.

—Alan Garrett
San Leandro

Truth Is Beauty Called 'A Progressive Icon for Our City'

Editor:

At last she's here! After a long wait, Truth Is Beauty has arrived, a beautiful icon of grace, strength and progression. Truth Is Beauty is a woman embracing the new day.

All of San Leandro's citizens along with those from San Lorenzo, Oakland and Castro Valley can call their own.

If you haven't see this fantastic piece of community art, I urge you to take your family, to view what I hope to be a long-standing symbol of beauty, grace, strength and a progressive icon for our city. It is sad to say that some citizens think that she is "naked." She is not.

She is a proud rendition of a nude woman addressing the beauty of the sky of the sun and the moon, but never "naked" which implies incomplete and undone.

No. She is complete in every way, pointing the way to the hope of a renewed future of all who can love and appreciate the labors of the artist and the gift to the city.

—Richard Mercouris
San Leandro

Wants San Leandro to Become A Sanctuary City

Editor:

I hope you will join me in asking the Council to designate San Leandro as a sanctuary city.

The Federal government is responsible for enforcing immigration laws, including deportation-related activity.

We need to ask our San Leandro City Council to direct the Police Department to do its job and let the Federal immigration officers do theirs. Our police should be helping our residents and protecting us. They should not be wasting their valuable resources to hold law-abiding, tax-paying San Leandro residents.

We're talking about neighbors who contribute to society and whose only issue is that they happen to be undocumented immigrants.

If San Leandro were a sanctuary city, the Federal government could still deport a San Leandro resident, but the City of San Leandro would not volunteer to help them do it.

Deportation is one of Trump's campaign promises. His transition team has said they plan to remove 3 million undocumented people. He becomes President in two months. This is a conversation San Leandro needs to have right now.

Becoming a sanctuary city will protect the most vulnerable residents and it will protect public safety. Fear of deportation means that residents would fear to report crimes or come forward as witnesses of crimes and could be victimized because they could never go to the police.

San Leandro believes this is a moral issue, as do the vast majority of neighbors I've talked to. And we've seen this before in the early 20th Century. Federal policy back in the '40s forcibly removed Japanese Americans from right here in San Leandro. The Fred Korematsu 9th Grade Campus building is named after one of that policy's victims. History has judged that period as un-American.

We see ourselves as a 21st Century city, one that values diversity and tolerance. We talk the talk, and it is now time to walk the walk.

San Leandro's policies will either show that we support those ideals or that we are simply pay lip service to those values.

Our neighbors in the Bay Area are already sanctuary cities: Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, San Rafael, San Francisco, East Palo Alto, San Jose and just this week American Canyon in Napa County started the steps to become a sanctuary city just like I hope we will do soon.

San Leandro residents, myself included, are very fearful about what's in store in the coming months. I hope San Leandro and its leaders make a bold announcement that we will not help a potential deportation sweep. Our future as a 21st century city depends on it. I encourage everyone to contact our Mayor and your City Council member today.

—Brandon Brock
San Leandro

Set Hand Brake When Parking; It Could Save a Life

Editor:

The tragic death of a four-year-old boy

in another Bay Area city a week or so ago is a reminder to apply your emergency brake when parking. It only takes two seconds.

An older boy was behind the steering wheel, and possibly curious, and took the gear shift out of the parking gear which resulted in the tragic death.

Many times I've gotten into my car after it's been serviced and found that the technician only placed my transmission in "Park." What's the hurry, everyone? It only takes two seconds to apply the emergency brake and possibly save someone's life.

—Richard Sofield
San Leandro

Electoral College Could Deny A Trump Presidency

Editor:

The candidate who claimed he would "drain the swamp" is filling it with plutocrat alligators like himself.

Our democracy is in danger of dissolving under Trump's appointees. He cares only about amassing power and wealth for himself. His allies would serve those goals as they use our governmental agencies for their own purposes – cutting taxes for themselves, scrapping oversight of Wall Street, and reducing environmental regulations on big polluters.

His quick-trigger, authoritarian temper would harm us within and beyond our borders.

The Electoral College is poised to elect the most unprepared, corrupt, untruthful, intemperate candidate in our entire history, one who appears to be a misogynistic, racist, mentally unstable narcissist.

The purpose of the Electoral College system is to prevent an unqualified demagogue from assuming Presidential power. In Hamilton's words (Federalist 68):

"The process of election [EC] affords a moral certainty, that the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications."

Now is the time to use this built-in safety mechanism to prevent a very dangerous man from becoming President. Twenty-one states do *not* restrict which candidate their electors vote for. In these states, it is perfectly legal for electors to vote for the candidate that received over 2 million more votes, and preserve our democracy.

We pledge allegiance to our nation, the United States of America, not to states. States shouldn't determine the result of our vote. It is not fair nor democratic that the votes of people living in California count one third as much as votes of people living in low-populated states. Democracy's demise under a self-serving swindler triumphing over the majority of Americans can still be avoided.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

Calls Congress 'a Safety Measure' Over Trump Policies

Editor:

Please try to calm down. This is America and we will survive.

I don't think Trump will abolish Obama-Care entirely. He may change the name but the USA has always had some sort of coverage on legal Americans long before Obama-Care. Most people from other countries come here for freedom and the benefits America has to offer.

The elderly in our country who are legal Americans who have paid taxes all their lives may be missing out because much of the services and benefits that

may be going to the newcomers who are here illegally. However, Congress will not let Trump do anything they don't want him to do. So that in itself is a safety measure.

Trump has a lot to offer to America. He is a businessman. Trump will have hundreds of top-rated professional people, teachers and advisors at his fingertips. Trump and his team will bring jobs and prosperity back to America with God's help. And Trump has already stopped his yelling and has quieted down considerably.

Remember Ronald Reagan? He was a movie star and he is marked as one of the best presidents we ever had.

One factor is that the American male population voted for Trump because many of them lost their jobs. Most jobs were sent elsewhere outside of America. Men need to work!

In 1948 it was predicted that Dewey would win but Truman won by a landslide. Everyone was in a state of shock! It was shortly after World War II and times were tough. The world was still in a big mess at the time. America survived. We are still here. It is not the end of the world.

America is generous (to a fault) to the rest of the world. America is blessed.

—Mary Cronin
Alameda

INQUIRING REPORTER

Most unusual thing that you have?

— Asked downtown

A really old Remington typewriter. I got it in the early '60s on the way to Santa Cruz. We saw a flea market and my husband said, "Let's see what it is." I saw this beautiful old typewriter. It just needed cleaning. I just recently gave it to my son.

Ruby Fong-Soo
Oakland



My husband. He's a great man. I wish every woman could find a man like him.

Maria Cabral
San Leandro



I have an original chamber pot. We never had a toilet back then.

My mother had a barn and we lived on Clarke Street. I've been living there for 79 years.

Diane Madrigal
San Leandro



I wouldn't call it unusual but I have a Jewish study Bible. It's a closer translation to the original manuscripts.

Keith Freeman
Oakland



Does a sword collection count? I collect swords, mostly Japanese. They're reproductions. The originals would be too expensive.

Darren Barnett
Oakland



Pets of the Week



Urijah



Azalea

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Urijah the cat, and Azalea the dog.

Urijah is independent and new environments can make him

a bit nervous. With a little TLC he warms up. He enjoys light scratches behind the ears and laying in boxes.

Azalea is a gentle, sweet girl who walks nicely on leash. She needs a home where she'll get

lots of attention and will feel safe, secure and loved. Azalea is all right with kids who are 13 years and older.

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



CYO Basketball Players Assist St. Vincent de Paul

The 8th grade CYO basketball team from St. Leander's, along with other teams from St. Leander's and St. Felicitas, collected 150 bags of food that was given to St. Vincent de Paul. The players and their parents are grateful to the community for their generosity. The food collection by players under coach Chris Alvarez has been going on for several years.

American Legion to Host Dinner for Toys for Tots

The American Legion Riders District 10 is hosting a toy drive and dinner for Toys for Tots this Saturday at the San Leandro Veterans Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave.

The social hour starts at 5 p.m. and dinner begins at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for dinner with a toy or \$15 for dinner without a toy. U.S. Marine Corps personnel will be present to accept toy donations. You don't need to attend dinner to drop off a toy.

For more information, call 333-7212.

Carlton Living Holiday Boutique

Holiday Boutique at Carlton Senior Living, 1000 East 14th St., will have a Holiday Boutique on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop local artisans for jewelry, crafts and treats and be the first to boast that you are all done with your holiday shopping. Enjoy the Hot Cocoa Bar while shopping. For more information, call 636-0660.

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