



Primed for Pumpkin
MAKE PUMPKIN PIE, PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE
AND SPICY PUMPKIN BREAD 4

WEEKEND WEATHER

Cloudy

Cloudy Friday thru Sunday

HIGHS: 76-82

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

LOWS: 52-59

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Over a hundred kids jumped into the pool for the annual Pumpkin Splash, held at the Boys & Girls Club pool last Friday evening.

Kids Go All In for Pumpkins

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Bobbing for apples is enjoyed by many families as Halloween approaches, but bobbing for pumpkins is too big an undertaking for most.

If only they had a good-sized swimming pool ... but the Boys and Girls Club does.

Over a hundred local children, and their parents, joined in and around that pool at 2200 San Leandro Blvd. for the annual Pumpkin Splash last Friday, Oct. 18. The pool was filled with many colorful pumpkins — which do float, if you were wondering — by the city's Parks and Recreation Department staff, and kids got to dive in and choose their

favorite to take home.

Parents and other caretakers could jump in, too, and were required to for pumpkin-hunters under 6, although lifeguards were present as well.

Parks and Recreation staff helped out, as did volunteers from the city's Youth Advisory Commission.

see PUMPKINS, page 11

Two Men Charged for Bay-O-Vista Murder

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Three men were arrested for the shooting death of a San Leandro man who was found his car in his driveway on the 1800 block of Benedict Drive in May.

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price's office on September 24 announced it would bring murder and attempted robbery charges against two of the three men.

San Leandro resident Anderson Choy was confronted

by three men as he was pulling out of his driveway on Benedict Drive in the Bay-O-Vista neighborhood, according to the district attorney. One of the men was armed with a gun and fired the fatal shot into the vehicle, killing Choy.

San Leandro police arrested two brothers — Erick Moreno, 18, and Mauricio Moreno, 28, both of Hayward. A third unnamed suspect was charged

see CHARGED, page 11

Crime Info Should Be Public, Say Candidates

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

City Council candidate Ed Hernandez has made crime data a part of his campaign this year.

Hernandez has pointed out that the police department has not released crime data since February. And crime information should be available to the public, he says.

Hernandez said that he also agrees that the crime reports should be available to reporters.

Years ago, the San Leandro Police Department let reporters see the police reports and

take notes. But the police department stopped making the reports available over a decade ago under the leadership of then-Chief Sandra Spagnoli.

Since then, 99 percent of crime in San Leandro is kept concealed from the public. Only an occasional police department press release gives the public any crime information.

Usually a press release comes after police have made an arrest in a major crime, such as a bank robbery or

see CRIME, page 12

Candidates All Talk about Crime, But What Would Be their Plan if Elected?

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Public safety and crime has emerged as a leading issue in San Leandro's city council races this year, with all candidates agreeing the city needs to be safer.

Candidates' campaign websites all mention crime, and candidates address it at forums — but just briefly, due to the limited response times allowed.

What, though, are their more detailed proposals about crime?

All six candidates for the four council seats say we should have more police officers in San Leandro. But the city has already been trying — over the past 4 years — to bring the number of police officers back to 90-something.

At a recent Chamber of Commerce candidates forum, most of the candidates

alluded to “fully staffing” the department. Only one named a specific number — 100 officers.

That was Ed Hernandez, a former City Councilmember running to retake the District 2 seat from incumbent Bryan Azevedo — who also said he supports full staffing. Hernandez said he believed 100 was the number cited by Police Chief Angela Averiett as the full staffing she would like to regain.

“We need to make sure the police have time to do their jobs,” Hernandez said at the forum. “Right now, they don't have time to do any community policing, they're just responding to crimes. They're stretched thin. For the last three years they've been working 12-hour shifts.”

Current staffing levels can translate into only six or seven officers being on duty at one

see CANDIDATES, page 11

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

THEATER

SL Players fall show opens on Saturday. **Page 3**

ART

Postcard art gets around. **Page 3**

HEALTH

A better way to measure fitness progress. **Page 5**

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Calendar.....	3
Classified Ads	8
Crossword	9
Food	4
Health & Fitness	5
Homes	6
Home Services	8
Letters.....	10
Obituaries.....	11

MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro
For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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

San Leandro Times

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

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Tulip

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To adopt or meet Tulip or Skippy John Jones, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

Skippy John Jones

needs activity and exercise. Skippy John Jones can be rough at times but with the right energy spent he will become a cuddle bug with his family and not run the house.
He's a sweet boy but

San Leandro Players Present The Madwoman of Chaillot

The San Leandro Players will present *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, opening on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro.

A comic fantasy centers around a plot to dig up the streets of Paris and pump oil. The “Madwoman,” is an idealist who resolves to fight back and rescue humanity from the scheming and corrupt developers.

Written in 1943 during the Nazi occupation of France, *The Madwoman of Chaillot* has remained remarkably up-to-date. Today, the play speaks of environmental concerns, the destruction of the natural world, and the dangers of authoritarianism.

Tickets: \$25 general, \$20 seniors and under 12 (other discounts may apply). For information and tickets, go

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SAN LEANDRO PLAYERS

Flower Girl (Sophia Ruggiano), The Madwoman (Terry Guillory) and The Hostess (Denise Anguiano) are performing in the San Leandro Players’ production of *The Madwoman of Chaillot*.

to www.slplayers.org or call Buchalter, Geoffrey Colton, 510-895-2573. Mark DeWeese, Dana M. Fry Ed.D., Nikolas Greene, Terry Guillory, Bruce Kaplan, DD Langley, Flannery Mays, Rob Mueller, Monte Paulsen, Paul Pedersen, Tiare Pena, Sophia Ruggiano

Performance Times: Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Nov. 24, plus two Friday shows at 8 p.m. on Nov. 15 and Nov. 22.

Featuring: Denise Anguiano, Karen Barbera, Dan Masking is recommended.

Twilight Concert in November At All Saints Episcopal Church

Music at the Mission Chronos San Leandro Twilight Concert will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro. Tickets online at tinyurl.com/ChronosSL

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Bay-O-Vista

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Community Calendar

American Legion Post 117 Blood Drive

American Legion Post 117 San Leandro at 1105 Bancroft Ave. is hosting a blood drive on Friday, Oct. 25, from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Appointments recommended. To make an appointment go to vitalant.org and enter your unique blood drive code: ALP117.

American Legion Post 117 Sunday Breakfast

American Legion Post 117 of San Leandro will host its monthly Fourth Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Pancakes with sausage, eggs, coffee, tea, juice. Veterans \$7, non-veterans \$8.

Halloween Family Fun Fest

Join the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd., for some spooky fun games and activities on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Win prizes and enter into a raffle drawing for a chance to win a pumpkin. This event is free and best for Kids ages 10 and under. Costumes are welcomed.

Silver Screen

Lights, camera, action! Seniors are invited to enjoy an entertaining movie at the Marina Community Center's Thunderbolt Room, 15301 Wicks Blvd., on Thursday, Oct. 31, at 1 p.m., hosted by the City of San Leandro Human Services Department's Senior Services. This month's movie is Beetlejuice (1988, PG-13). No registration needed. Tickets \$2. Popcorn included.

Hill & Valley Club Holiday Boutique

The Hill and Valley Club, 1808 B Street in Hayward, will hold its annual Scholarship Holiday Boutique on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring beautiful handmade items, jewelry, plants, holiday decorations, gift baskets, and homemade jams, candy, and baked goods, as well as opportunity drawings. Proceeds provide scholarships for local students. The indoor sale will be held rain or shine. Accepting cash, checks and credit/debit cards. For more information, visit the website at: <http://www.hillvalley.club>.

Voter Information Program

The San Leandro History Museum invites you to a Voter Information Program led in collaboration with the Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) on Saturday, Nov. 2, from noon to 2 p.m. at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave. The presentation will include information regarding why your vote is important, an overview of elections: national, state, and local, the pros and cons of Assembly and Senate bills, and a Voter information question and answer session. There will also be a button-making station and a small exhibit on the history of Women's Rights. Light refreshments will be provided. This free event is for all ages. For more information, see historymuseum@sanleandro.org or call 510-577-3990.

Castro Valley Orchestra – Free Performance

The Castro Valley Orchestra will present an intriguing selection of pieces at its concert on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 2 p.m. at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. On the program will be Beethoven's Symphony #7, Fauré "Masques et Bergamasque" and pieces by Thad Jones and George Gershwin performed by the 14-member "3 O'Clock Jump Big Band" with the orchestra, conducted by guest conductor and noted French hornist and trumpeter, Adrienne Chambers. Admission is free. A reception will immediately follow the concert.

Alta Mira Club Community Boutique

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host its annual Community Boutique on Friday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. White Elephant stage tables, opportunity drawing/gift table, unique handmade items, presented by many popular vendors and Alta Mira Club members. All proceeds will be used to support the club's purposes.



The Bunny Project: A Mail Art Collaboration

Mail art has a long and storied history of democratizing art-making, providing an avenue for everyone to participate.

San Leandro artist Nancy Brown created hundreds of postcard-size "starter" collages and distributed them in public venues around San Leandro over the past few months.

Community members picked them up, added to them, and mailed them back. They're on view now at <https://nancybrown-studio.com/the-bunny-project>.

They'll be exhibited IRL on the gallery wall at the San Leandro Main Library starting, Saturday, Nov. 2.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. you'll have an opportunity to create your own postcard-size collage to add to the project.

Come by, see the work, and meet some of the creators.

Why the "Bunny" project? Well, bunnies are cute, they're prolific, and they get around, just like mail art.

The Bunny Project, a community mail art collage collaboration, is funded by a grant from the City of San Leandro and the Arts, Culture and Library Commission.

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Magician Frank Oliver To Present Two-Day Happiness Experience

Magician Frank Olivier will present a free two-days of happiness at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1 and 2.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, at 1:30 p.m., Olivier will perform his unique show blending comedy, magic, and juggling. Known for captivating audiences across the country, including on "The Tonight Show" and "America's Got Talent," Olivier's performance promises to entertain and offer uplifting messages on happiness. Although geared towards adults, the show is open to families.



Frank Oliver

Happiness Workshop

The following day, Sunday, Nov. 3, at 1 p.m., Olivier will lead a workshop titled "Happiness Now." This interactive session will provide practical tips for cultivating happiness in everyday life. From small habits to broader perspectives, participants will learn how to embrace more joy.

Both events are free and made possible by a grant from the San Leandro Arts Council. Seats are limited, and tickets can be reserved on Eventbrite.

The workshop is free, but tickets are required: Tickets at: TricksToHappiness.Eventbrite.com.

Whether you're someone actively seeking more joy or simply curious about what happiness means, this workshop is a unique chance to

learn from a master entertainer who has spent his life delivering happiness in various forms to audiences across the globe. And, like the performance, the workshop is free, made possible by the San Leandro Arts Council.

Juggling Champion Has Performed Worldwide

Frank Olivier, a San Leandro local, is not only a three-time World Juggling Champion but has also performed for presidents, royalty, and audiences worldwide.

His talents have entertained millions, from international festivals to national television, to touring some of the country's most prestigious stages.

Yet, despite his global reach, Olivier's deep connection to the community has brought him back to San Leandro to share his message of joy and laughter with the people he calls neighbors.

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Sugar and Spice and Everything Pumpkin

For the past month we've all been bombarded with pumpkin-spice everything. And for good reason. All of our favorite spices — cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, allspice, cloves, mace — can be combined to enhance the mild, delicate flavor of pumpkin in all kinds of delicacies.

All of them start with pumpkin puree, and the most convenient form is the one we've depended upon for generations, Libby's canned pumpkin.

SPICY PUMPKIN BREAD

- 2/3 cup vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing pan
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup solid-pack canned pumpkin
- 1/3 cup dark corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 cups flour, plus extra for preparing pan
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup dried currants
- Butter, optional



Beat oil, eggs and sugar with electric mixer until thick and flowing, about 1 minute. Add pumpkin, corn syrup and vanilla and mix well.

Combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, allspice, salt, walnuts and currants in medium bowl. Add to pumpkin mixture and mix well.

Pour into buttered and floured 9x5-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350°F until dark brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, about 1 hour, 10 minutes.

Cool in pan 5 minutes. Turn onto wire rack to cool completely. Cut into thin slices and serve with softened butter if desired. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

Note: For best flavor and texture, make this bread a day or two ahead, wrapped in foil and kept at room temperature.

PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE

- 2 pounds cream cheese
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 2 (15-ounce) cans Libby's Pumpkin
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- Graham Cracker Crust

Sour Cream Topping

Blend cream cheese with sugar until smooth. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating until blended. Add whipping cream, pumpkin, vanilla and spice, blending thoroughly.

Pour into Graham Cracker Crust. Bake at 300°F for 1-1/2 hours or until cake sets. Remove and let rest 10 minutes, then pour Sour Cream Topping over cheesecake. Cool thoroughly before removing from pan. Chill. Makes 1 (10-inch) cheesecake.

Graham Cracker Crust

- 1 teaspoon soft butter
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1-1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Brush 10-inch springform pan

with soft butter. Mix crumbs, cinnamon, sugar and melted butter. Press onto bottom of pan.

Sour Cream Topping

- 1 pound sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoon vanilla

Blend sour cream, sugar and vanilla until smooth.

PUMPKIN GINGERBREAD

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 2 large eggs
- 1 can (1 pound) pumpkin
- 1/2 cup light molasses
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- Whipped cream

In a large bowl, stir together flours, sugar and spices. With a pastry blender or your fingers, cut or rub in butter until mixture resembles coarse meal. Set aside 2/3 cup of the mixture.

In a small bowl, beat eggs, pumpkin, molasses, milk and baking soda to blend. Add to dry ingredients and stir until just evenly moistened. Pour into a greased 8- by 12-inch baking pan. Sprinkle with reserved flour mixture.

Bake in a 350°F oven until top is firm to touch, about 50 minutes. Cool slightly. Serve gingerbread warm, adding whipped cream to taste. Serves 8 to 10.

PUMPKIN-BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

- 1-2/3 cups all-purpose flour

- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 cup Libby's Pumpkin
- 1/4 cup low-fat milk
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- Streusel topping (see below)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Paper-line or grease 12 regular muffin cups.

Combine 1-2/3 cups flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and allspice in large bowl. Combine pumpkin and milk in another small bowl. Beat butter and brown sugar in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add egg; beat until fluffy. Alternately add flour and pumpkin mixtures to butter mixture; beating just until blended. Combine blueberries and 1 tablespoon flour in small bowl. Stir gently into mixture.

Spoon batter gently into prepared muffin cups. Sprinkle Streusel Topping over batter.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes; remove to wire rack to cool. Store muffins in covered container.

For Streusel Topping: Combine 2 tablespoons flour, 2 tablespoons granulated sugar and 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon in small bowl. Using a fork, cut in 1 tablespoon butter until mixture is crumbly.

PUMPKIN PIE SPICE

- For 4 tablespoons, blend:
- 3 tablespoons cinnamon
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons ginger
 - 1 teaspoon nutmeg
 - 1 teaspoon allspice
 - 1/2 to 1 teaspoon mace
 - 1/4 teaspoon cloves

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A bold approach has served you well in your workaday world, but you'll find that your private life will blossom in a more moderate atmosphere.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Your determination soon pays off now that your goals are in sight. But be alert to a possible development that could cause problems if mishandled.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Expect the unexpected this week! Most surprises will be welcome, but even the less-pleasant ones can be handled with patience and common sense.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Learn to listen to the truth, even if it upsets your perception of how you believe things are or should be. Meanwhile, a family matter requires sensitive handling.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): Unsettled situations don't get sorted out while you're catnapping. So stop putting things off and work out a schedule to help get your life back in order.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Someone close might be preparing to move away. Repress the temptation to try to change their mind and instead offer them your loving support.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Be careful about finances this week. Invest only when you're sure of your facts. In addition, renewing ties with an old friend turns out to be a very wise move.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A new wrinkle appears in a deal that you thought had been well ironed out. Use this delay to dig for any facts that might still be hidden.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): There is a need for you to be super-wary of making commitments. Take things step by step and reject any attempts to get you to hurry up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): That cautious, conservative side of you is about to be overwhelmed by your equally strong sense of adventure and curiosity. Go with it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Cupid favors both attached and single Water Bearers this week. Help the chubby Cherub do his job by showing a special someone a little more affection than usual.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Changes in your professional life might affect your personal relationships. You need to reassure your loved ones that there is no change in your feelings for them.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SLED

Valeria Rico joined Lee Thomas along with parent facilitators at the New Shoes for Schools shopping event.

Helping to Remove Barriers For Students in Need

By Kate Miller
Special to the Times

As the new school year begins and thousands of students return to classrooms throughout San Leandro, the school district and the San Leandro Education Foundation remain committed to ensuring that all students have access to quality education.

But for many students, the beginning of school can be a stressful time. Especially for those in the lowest income brackets, unhoused, and foster youth, being prepared and ready for school with supplies, clothing, and other basics isn't a guarantee.

The school district's Student & Family Services department does so much to assist families and students with extreme need. Services include quality education and instruction, Family Learning Pad workshop series to provide additional support, and helpful access to other services and local resources

like food pantries, reduced cost transportation, housing information, and more.

The San Leandro Education Foundation (SLED) also provides a Removing Barriers program fund of \$10,000 per year which helps to make purchases and support initiatives that the district may not be able to provide due to funding restrictions.

Emergency food gift cards, transportation gift cards, winter supplies, and field trips to the Princess Project for prom attire are all examples of the support that SLED provides.

A huge benefit to all school sites is the CARE (Community Access to Required Essentials) Closets. Valeria Rico, a program coordinator with Student & Family Services, along with the support of the parent facilitators at all school sites, team up to use SLED and district funds to keep CARE Closets fully stocked throughout the school year.

Students and families in

need have access to clothing, shoes, school supplies, toiletries, and laundry supplies all year long.

At the recent New Shoes for School private shoe shopping event at Nike Outlet, organized by Lee Thomas, Valeria was on hand with parent facilitators Joanna Garcia Salazar and Evelyn Afusia to help check in students, provide nutritious snacks, and to make sure all students and their families felt welcomed and comfortable as they browsed the aisles for new shoes in time for the new school year.

Partnerships like those with San Leandro Unified School District, San Leandro Education Foundation, New Shoes For School, and others are essential to ensuring that students have what they need to succeed.

For more information on how you can support local students, contact SLED at info@sledfund.org, or visit www.sledfund.org.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Six Better Ways to Measure Your Fitness Results

By Mitch Rothbardt
Special to the Times

When you're measuring results from an exercise program, why choose the most depressing and belittling way?

It's like asking someone if they liked your poached salmon when you know they hate fish.

That's what it's like using the scale. It's disillusioning, traumatic, and not even an accurate measure of health.

Here are 6 better ways to measure your results.

The first is Strength. What helps you get up when you fall? What helps you not get injured when you fall? What helps you bring in four bags of groceries at once? What helps you kick osteoporosis's butt?

Strength is the answer to these questions and plenty more.

The second is Speed. Are you taking less time to do the same workout? That means your cardio is improving. You don't want to go so fast that your form gets sloppy, but a little effort can go a long way. You can also time your walks and try to improve by a few seconds or a minute each

week or so.

The third is Consistency. Hear this - the most important goal during the first two months of starting to exercise is showing up.

Yes, you heard that right. Showing up is more important than anything. If you're pursuing fitness to improve your health, developing that habit is crucial. Let me put this another way: Ten average workouts beat two fantastic workouts every single time.

The fourth is Less Pain. The connection between posture, movement, and pain is wildly misunderstood. People are surprised to find that back and knee pain usually doesn't have much to do with their backs and knees. We see less pain with better movement all the time in our gym.

The fifth is Fun. Are you having fun? Yeah, I know exercise isn't necessarily everyone's idea of a good time. That being said, we know the benefits so why not find something you actually enjoy...at least a little. Besides, you'll find it more fun once you start to feel healthier.

The sixth and last is "Are

you getting what you thought weight-loss would get you?" Nearly everyone says they want to "lose weight" when asked what they want out of an exercise program.

But it gets real when they say why. They say things like, "I need to get off this medication." "I don't want to end up like my dad who has diabetes." "I want to feel more confident." and "I want more energy to play with my grandkids."

The list goes on and on and after having these conversations for years, I've found that people who know why they want to lose weight reach their goals faster and more consistently, even if they don't lose a pound. That part is important because weight loss itself is rarely required to reach a health goal.

I hope these things will give you some new, empowering, and exciting ideas. Results come in all shapes and sizes—just like people.

Mitch Rothbardt is the owner and head trainer at Castro Valley Fitness. He can be reached at Mitch@CastroValleyFitness.com.

New Assistant City Manager Appointed

City Manager Janelle Cameron recently appointed Mr. T. Michael Yuen as Assistant City Manager.

Yuen previously served as the City's Finance Director. He brings decades of local government experience, starting with the State of Illinois, and also as the Chief Executive Officer for the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. Yuen's career in the superior court also included serving as Chief Financial Officer. He worked for then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's Office of Public Policy and Finance.

"Michael brings extensive public management experience, strong financial expertise, and proven leadership skills, which will support both myself and City staff in enhancing our service to residents," said Cameron. "He offers both visionary ideas and practical strategies for their implementation."



T. Michael Yuen

As the Assistant City Manager, Yuen will oversee the City's Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, Library, and Recreation & Parks departments. He will lead key initiatives including implementation of a new enterprise resource planning system to help the city manage its finance and human resources operations, community engagement in the budget

process, and finalization of a parks master plan.

"I am honored to step into the role of Assistant City Manager, where I will focus on managing public resources to enhance city programs and services for our residents while ensuring the long-term program service sustainability of our City, and I am grateful for the opportunity to support the City Council, City Manager Cameron, and the tremendous city staff," stated Yuen.

Yuen attained a political science degree from Illinois State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from San Francisco State University, where he graduated in the top tier of his class as a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha public administration honor society. Mr. Yuen spends his free time volunteering to support youth athletics, gardening, and traveling. Yuen speaks fluent Chinese Cantonese.

1st Methodists Hosts Senior Citizens Exercise and Meditation

First United Methodist Church, 1600 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, invites senior citizens for a free seated exercise and guided meditation followed by conversation over healthy refreshments on Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. through Nov. 12.

Nurture your body, mind, and spirit while building community. Meet in the Chapel which is entered from Bancroft Ave.

All are welcome, non-denominational. For more information, call the church office at 510-483-0606, Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friends of the Library DVD Sale

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will host a DVD Sale on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Check out the large selection of DVDs at low, low prices. All DVDs are \$1 each or buy 3 discs get 1 disc free. All proceeds benefit the San Leandro Library's programs and services. Credit cards now accepted.

REAL ESTATE GALLERY



Demands for Lower Closing Costs Misses the Mark

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

An Oct 18, 2024
WRE News
headline by Phil

Hall screamed, “SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN ASKS BIDEN TO USE EXECUTIVE ORDERS TO LOWER HOUSING COSTS.” Hall said that

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) is leading a coalition of more than 30 Congressmembers who are calling on President Biden to take executive order actions to lower the cost of housing.

In a letter to Biden, Warren and some of her colleagues called on the administration to direct the Federal Housing Finance Agency to set “price gouging protections,” to order the Federal Trade Commission to finalize its proposed rule to ban junk fees while calling on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to “address anti-competitive closing costs and junk fees, lowering closing costs for home mortgages and making homeownership more accessible,” and to order the Department of Justice to investigate if the Fair Isaac Corporation – you may recognize their acronym “FICO” – is violating antitrust law.

As someone in the real estate industry for well over 20 years, I believe this type of action by politicians misses the real reasons housing costs are high. It also fails to recognize the numerous legal actions over the past years against predatory lending practices and the ongoing efforts to make closing costs and fees affordable for home buyers.

While efforts to reign in these types of fees are laudable, the bigger issues keeping homeownership out of reach for many potential buyers are not the fees associated with

852 Glen Dr. Open Saturday
and Sunday 2-4

Step into history with this charming 1929 Tudor-style home, located on one of the most desirable streets in San Leandro. This beautifully maintained residence features three bedrooms and three bathrooms, offering approximately 1,637 square feet of living space and two detached bonus areas. The split-level floor plan includes a spacious family room with easy access to the backyard, perfect for relaxing and entertaining. The home boasts beautiful formal rooms, in-laid hardwood floors, and a sunny breakfast nook with lots of natural light. The detached garage offers a spacious finished loft, which could be used as a home office, art studio, or a workout space. Additionally, there is a separate bonus room with its own bathroom, providing even more flexibility for your lifestyle.

Lovingly cared for over the years, this home blends its original 1929 charm with modern updates, offering the perfect mix of classic elegance and contemporary comfort. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of San Leandro history on this highly sought-after street.



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K	1-4	1-4	1652 Oak View Ave	\$1,195,000	3/2.5	Re/ Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
A	1-4	1-4	14172 Outrigger Dr	\$550,000	2/1	United Brokers	Tere Lee / Danielle Ewing	510-305-8827
A	1-4	1-4	15094 Alexandria St	\$1,068,000	3/2	Re/ Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555

CITY GUIDE A = SAN LEANDRO • B = BRENTWOOD • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DUBLIN • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD
K = KENSINGTON • L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • SLZ = SAN LORENZO • W = WALNUT CREEK • Z = ALAMEDA

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purchasing a property. Instead, they are high home prices, mortgage interest rates and the soaring costs of homeownership including insurance, building materials, labor, and property taxes. The fees some politicians are focusing on are a mere fraction of the overall cost of purchasing a home. Even if most fees were eliminated, it would not significantly lower the purchase price of a home or the ongoing operating costs.

Since we live in a market economy, prices are determined by supply and demand. Home prices are high because buyers have been willing to compete with each other and pay the price required to get one of the few homes on the market. Simply put, it's the imbalance between supply and demand that impacts prices more than so-called junk fees. If politicians at any level of government want to lower housing costs, they should focus on increasing supply by incentivizing builders, reducing upfront permitting fees and increasing the capital gains tax exclusion for sellers.

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

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

21314 Gary Drive #101 94546: \$680,000 [3 BD - 1,354 SF - 1991
21177 Dawe Avenue 94546: \$880,000 [3 BD - 1,050 SF - 1948
5115 Rahives Drive 94546: \$940,000 [3 BD - 1,238 SF - 1954
19734 Laurelwood Drive 94552: \$960,000 [2 BD - 1,350 SF - 1986
2706 Jennifer Drive 94546: \$1,102,000 [1,304 SF - 1961
19526 Yuma Street 94546: \$1,250,000 [4 BD - 1,853 SF - 1956
5509 Gold Creek Drive 94552: \$1,805,000 [5 BD - 2,527 SF - 1995

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$680,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$960,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,805,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,088,142

SAN LEANDRO

16706 Foothill Boulevard 94578: \$200,000 [2 BD - 1,400 SF - 1983
86 Preda Street 94577: \$425,000 [3 BD - 1,176 SF - 1946
670 Fargo Avenue #4 94579: \$582,000 [3 BD - 1,136 SF - 1965
1135 Minerva Street 94577: \$600,000 [2 BD - 993 SF - 1946
330 Melven Court 94577: \$615,000 [2 BD - 1,303 SF - 1922
122 California Avenue 94577: \$770,000 [2 BD - 1,192 SF - 1925
2233 Croyden Place 94577: \$775,000 [3 BD - 1,659 SF - 1977
200 Joaquin Avenue 94577: \$878,000 [2 BD - 1,055 SF - 1926
1365 Santa Rosa Street 94577: \$900,000 [3 BD - 1,306 SF - 2000
2137 Whelan Avenue 94577: \$910,000 [3 BD - 1,274 SF - 1944
377 Kenilworth Avenue 94577: \$925,000 [2 BD - 1,071 SF - 1935
3881 Carmel Way 94578: \$985,000 [3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1954
366 Aloha Drive 94578: \$1,000,000 [5 BD - 1,730 SF - 1954
16572 Rolando Avenue 94578: \$1,090,000 [5 BD - 2,178 SF - 1963
717 Cary Drive 94577: \$1,100,000 [3 BD - 2,046 SF - 1937
1667 Halsey Avenue 94578: \$1,200,000 [4 BD - 2,116 SF - 1945

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$200,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$889,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,200,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$809,687

SAN LORENZO

920 Elgin Street #1a 94580: \$575,000 [2 BD - 1,234 SF - 1990
17252 Via Estrella 94580: \$730,000 [4 BD - 1,269 SF - 1948
16041 Silverleaf Drive 94580: \$1,070,000 [4 BD - 1,948 SF - 1996

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$575,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$730,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,070,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$791,666

HAYWARD

25753 Whitman Street 94544: \$400,000 [3 BD - 1,170 SF - 1920
2419 Saint Helena Drive #3 94542: \$460,000 [1 BD - 787 SF - 1984
1010 Sahara Court 94541: \$615,000 [2 BD - 1,270 SF - 1973
2541 Oliver Drive 94545: \$620,000 [2 BD - 988 SF - 1971
1845 Southgate Street 94545: \$710,000 [3 BD - 1,128 SF - 1957
27340 Marigold Court #4 94545: \$715,000 [4 BD - 1,656 SF - 1971
27854 Havana Avenue 94544: \$735,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1954
24587 Margaret Drive 94542: \$760,000 [2 BD - 1,289 SF - 1956
31730 Valley Forge Street 94544: \$795,000 [3 BD - 1,031 SF - 1951

Privet Provides Privacy; Mexican Fan Palm Will Not Stop Growing

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q Last spring, I purchased four huge, 24-inch, Rubbermaid pots and planted them with wax leaf privet. I needed to camouflage an unsightly neighbor's yard. I was told that the privets could take the hot sun, and would grow rapidly to 8-10 feet. None of these things have proven to be true. In the past seven months, the plants have barely grown and the leaves are burned from the sun. Is there any way to remedy this problem or can you recommend other plants that are more suitable?

A Wax leaf privet is an excellent choice but it's unrealistic to think that they would grow to eight feet in the first growing season. Two to three seasons is more likely.

The poor performance issue is from water stress. Although you watered regularly, it may not have penetrated the original root ball. A primary indicator of this is yellow and burnt leaves. In addition, if you fertilized while they were on the dry side, you may also have had fertilizer burn.

The norm for watering container plants would be three to four times per week and more often when the temperatures are over 90°F; otherwise, the plants suffer.

This also means you must fill the container to the brim with each watering.

It is almost impossible to overwater container plants, as long as there is no saucer and the bottom of the pots are raised off the ground so the water can flow out the bottom.

With large containers, you have a lot of excess soil. Until the new growth is generated, the roots are contained in the original rootball.

At the time of planting, the rootball should be wet; otherwise, the water will roll around the rootball and never penetrate. This may have been the issue you had.

As the plants mature, you have less and less soil and a predominance of roots; so the water schedule is maintained.

Privets are hardy, so these plants are not a lost cause. However, with the growing season near an end, you're not going to see any changes until next year.

In February, I'd feed them Osmocote. Osmocote releases nutrients with every watering and it should be reapplied every four months.

If you decide that the plants need to be replaced, I'd suggest you consider, Eleagnus Maculata or Marginata, or Viburnum tinus Robustum.

Q I have several Mexican fan palms that have almost reached the point I'd like to keep them at. What can I do to maintain the desired height? I really don't want them to

grow too tall.

A With most plants, you can control their size by pruning. However, that is not the case with palms.

Palms grow from a central point at the top of their trunk. The older fronds die naturally to form their distinctive

shape.

Palms will die if you remove the central growing point, so there is little one can do to curb or stop their growth. At some point, they'll have to be removed.

Buzz Bertolero is Executive Vice President of Navlet's Garden Centers and a California Certified Nursery Professional. Send questions by email to dirtgarden@aol.com or to 360 Civic Drive, Ste. "D," Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, and on Facebook at Facebook.com/Buzz-Bertolero.



Palms will die if you remove its central growing point.



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WEEKEND GARDENER

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Winter Color

For winter color, nothings beats pansies and violas. This pair makes a great showing massed together in flower beds or planted as accents in containers of all sizes. Choose from many different varieties, some with clear faces, others with butterfly designs.

Vegetables

The cooler and wetter the winter, the more important it is to get cool-season vegetables—such as beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, leafy greens and all kinds of peas—started early in the fall.

Tree Check-up

Coming winter storms may cause major trouble for trees in your yard. Seek advice from a certified arborist if you spot any of the following potential problems:

- Dead or partially attached limbs hanging up in higher branches, or decayed areas on the trunk or main limbs. Mushrooms growing from bark are a sign of a decaying trunk.
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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No: 24CV086797
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. In the matter of the petition to change the name(s) of **Quetzalli Victoria Rodriguez**. Petitioner(s) **Quetzalli Victoria Rodriguez** has/have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name(s) as follows: **Quetzalli Victoria Rodriguez** to **Quetzalli Victoria Rodriguez Barbosa**. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse 661 Washington Street Oakland, CA 94607 on NOVEMBER 1, 2024 at 9:30 am Dept. 103.** A copy of this order to show cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county **SAN LEANDRO TIMES**. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter are directed to make known any objection that they may have to the granting of the petition for change of name by filing a written objection, which includes the reasons for the objection, with the court at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and by appearing in court at the hearing to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Dated: AUGUST 12, 2024
Thomas J. Nixon - Judge of the Superior Court
OCT 03, 10, 17, 24, 2024

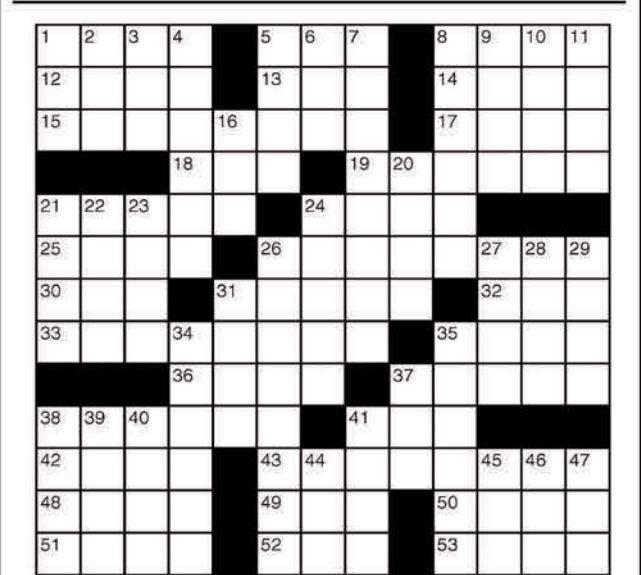
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26 Campus cafeteria offering

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31 Long skirts

32 Oklahoma tribe

33 '80s arcade game

35 Castle defense

36 Eyeglass frames

37 Smooths, as wood

38 Source of gum arabic

41 Numerical prefix

42 Composer Bartok

43 Performance bonus

48 Japanese noodle

49 "Rocks"

50 Rights org.

51 Head, to Henri

52 Fine, at NASA

53 Detail
- DOWN

1 River blocker

2 A Gershwin brother

3 British ref. work

4 Italian port

5 Huff and puff

6 Wardrobe malfunction

7 Check

8 Tempura choice

9 Furnace fuel

10 Pay to play

11 Clarinet insert

16 Scepter

20 Feels unwell

21 Mattress option

22 Writer Kingsley

23 Music genre for BTS

24 Plano's state

26 ABBA-inspired musical

27 Lake bird

28 Slightly

29 Forget-me- -- (flowers)

31 1102, to Nero

34 Esoteric

35 Rum cocktail

37 Hindu honorific

38 Border on

39 Give up

40 Oodles

41 Arduous journey

44 Author Umberto

45 Agt.'s cut

46 Hearty brew

47 "Tasty!"

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED September 6, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600147

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

The name of the business(es):
Rogers Resources, located at 2321 86th Ave Oakland, CA 94605-3907 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sharonne Rogers, located at 2321 86th Ave Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced 11/19/2021 /s/Sharonne Rogers
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires September 5, 2029
OCT 3, 10, 17, 24, 2024

FILED September 10, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 609209

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

The name of the business(es):
Avila's Multiservices, located at 939 Burkhart Ave San Leandro, CA 94579 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Oliver Adrian Avila Solval, located at 939 Burkhart Ave San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 08/15/2024 /s/Oliver Adrian Avila Solval
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires September 9, 2029
OCT 17, 24, 31, NOV 07, 2024

ABANDONMENT FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NUMBER. 603796

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:
GMS Cleaning Services
at 1664 Maubert CT APT 10 San Leandro CA 94578.
Full name of registrant is:
Gabriela Mondragon Soto
at 1664 Maubert CT APT 10 San Leandro CA 94578.
The Fictitious Business Name Statement
GMS Cleaning Services
was filed on 02/02/2024 in the county of Alameda. Original File Number 603796. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime). This statement was filed with the County clerk of Alameda County on: top right stamp date.
NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14400, et seq., B&P Code.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 09/26/2024
OCT 03, 10, 17, 24, 2024

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at the Historic Bal Theatre can use your help. We hope you will choose to stand with us as we continue to keep Arts, Entertainment and Culture and this American treasure alive and thriving in our community and surrounding areas. All proceeds/donations benefit San Leandro Curtain Call Performing Arts General Fund.

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OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

\$4,000 to Decorate a Box

Editor,

Once again our City Council must be smoking something that is laced with something that even Cheech and Chong would never think of using. They just approved spending \$24,500 of our tax dollars to decorate six utility boxes. Yup, you read that right, over \$4,000 per box to make them look pretty.

Let's be honest, it's a utility box, and this approval is like trying to put lipstick on a pig and when it's all said and done it's still a utility box. I'm willing to bet that a large number of San Leandro residents would be willing to chip in with me and buy a gallon of paint at Home Depot if they don't like the color and use the \$24,500 to fix potholes. Come to think of it, maybe we use the \$24,500 to recall the potholes who are on our City Council.

Brent Heath
San Leandro

We Need More Civility in Politics

Editor,

I write this to express my strong disapproval of the lack of civility directed toward candidates running for office. We need candidates to be encouraged to run for office in San Leandro, or anywhere, without the concern of personal attacks on themselves, supporters or their families.

In turn, office holders, candidates and former elected officials should hold themselves to the highest ethical standards, recognizing that they are role models for the community. No one, and especially role models, should engage in violence of any form.

I urge all candidates and their supporters to work on uniting our community rather than inciting division and hostility toward one another in these final days of the campaign.

As an elected Eden Health District Director, I have sought to improve our community. Under my leadership, on behalf of San Leandro residents, the District has provided over \$1 million in grants to local non-profit organizations in San Leandro and Central Alameda County that serve our most vulnerable residents.

As a candidate for City Council, I am focused on important issues that matter to all San Leandrans, starting with public safety. I am honored to be endorsed by the San Leandro's Firefighters and Police Officers, Mayor Juan Gonzalez, all former San Leandro Mayors, the Sierra Club, Nor

Cal Carpenters, and over 100 elected officials, commissioners and community leaders.

I will always put the public interest first. I will work collaboratively with our mayor and other City Councilmembers to address the pressing issues facing San Leandro. I would be honored to serve as the Council Member for District 2, and all our community, towards a safer San Leandro for all.

Ed Hernandez
San Leandro

Ed Hernandez is a candidate for City Council in District 2

Beware of Misleading Mailers

Editor,

Over the weekend my family received a political mailer titled "Official Voter Guide and Voting Instructions" prepared by CA Slates. I noticed similar mailers over the past few elections, ranted to my husband about how misleading they were, and tossed them in the recycling.

After several, I am fed up! The small print disavows any connection with anyone and leads me to understand every person or organization referenced paid to be on the mailer. At best the mailer is misleading, at worst it is election interference.

Read political mailings very carefully and educate yourself through official means. Enlist the help of a trusted family member or friend to find legitimate sources. If not already illegal to use such titles for paid ads, it certainly should be. I invite someone familiar with CA Slates to explain how this mailer, titled as it is, could possibly be appropriate. I, for one, think it is the shadiest of marketing. And, sadly, doubt any of our lawmakers will hold them accountable in any way.

Deanna Chasteen
San Leandro

Gonzales for EBRPD Board

Editor,

I was saddened to hear of the recent passing of former state Senator and San Leandro Mayor Ellen Corbett. Ellen had dedicated her life to the people of the East Bay and the entire Bay Area.

She had most recently served on the board of directors for the East Bay Regional Parks District. East Bay voters must now elect a suitable replacement to fill Ellen's seat on the EBRPD board of directors. I would encourage all voters to elect Susan

Gonzales.

Susan was a longtime personnel director for the East Bay Regional Parks District and has extensive experience and familiarity with the inner workings and challenges of our parks district. She implemented an intern program for college students and our daughter worked for Susan for several years, so I have firsthand knowledge of Susan's ability to work in our district as well as her ability to lead with compassion as Ellen did. I assure you Susan Gonzales will be the perfect person to fill Ellen's shoes.

Jerry Maughan
San Leandro

Short-Cuts Are a Mistake

Editor,

The campaign to open Lake Chabot Road has clearly reached a fever pitch, with yard signs, heated exchanges at City Council meetings, and a coordinated stream of letters to the editor (sometimes a little too coordinated – on October 3rd this paper published two letters that were nearly identical!). However, facts are stubborn and do not bend to pressure.

Lake Chabot Road is not safe for vehicle traffic in its current condition. That is a fact that has been stated by city staff in a variety of settings. Before repairs are made, any attempt to open the road to one way traffic is irresponsible. Such a plan could further damage the road, put drivers at risk, and open the city of San Leandro up to significant liability.

Further, the proposal to open the road to alternating one-way traffic with traffic lights in residential neighborhoods will cause chaos, traffic congestion, and won't solve the problem it is intended to address. It will invite traffic back into Bay-O-Vista, reversing the improving traffic patterns that have resulted from motorists finding alternate routes – mainly the freeway and Fairmont.

Traffic will flood back into the community, including an increase in the upper portion of Bay-O-Vista. Many drivers, particularly commuters, will use that neighborhood to avoid the long lines at the traffic lights.

This half mile portion of Lake Chabot Road is certainly one of the most expensive and problematic stretches of road in all of San Leandro. It has taken up an outsized portion of the City's staff time and San Leandro's resources. I thank the City staff and Council members who are trying to work in a creative and productive fashion to try to alleviate the concerns that have arisen based on the damage to the road. Opening the gates for evacuation and emergency vehicle use has been a big step forward.

Repairing the road, for whatever purpose, is not going to be quick or easy. The pressure to take shortcuts and ignore reality is wrongheaded and ultimately counterproductive. Lower the temperature of this debate. Let the City staff do their jobs.

Peter VanOosting
San Leandro

Questionable Endorsement

Editor,

I am amazed that the San Leandro Police Officers Association endorsed Ed Hernandez for City Council. When Ed Hernandez was previously on the City Council he voted to make San Leandro a sanctuary city. If my memory serves me correctly, the last San Leandro police officer killed in the line of duty was murdered by an illegal alien from El Salvador. If the San Leandro police officers feel Ed has their back, then better you than me.

Jeanette Wilson
Castro Valley

Azevedo Isn't Tied to Developers

Editor,

As a San Leandro resident, I've seen Bryan Azevedo in action, and I believe he's the right person to keep leading our community. He's been consistent in supporting much-needed housing while making sure residents' concerns are addressed. Bryan focuses on responsible and transparent growth, especially when new projects affect our neighborhoods.

Ed Hernandez, on the other hand, has ties to developers that raise concerns. He's received financial backing from groups involved in projects like the Marina, which didn't go as planned. That kind of closeness to developers makes me question if his priorities are really with us.

Bryan listens. He's pushed for green initiatives, focused on public safety, and advocates for development that benefits all of San Leandro. His leadership has been steady in addressing issues like housing and homelessness while keeping the community's voice at the center.

San Leandro needs someone like Bryan, who puts the community first.

Andrew Liu & Manting Kuang
San Leandro

Yes on Proposition 33

Editor,

I write concerning matters of great importance to our community, the subject of housing. The high costs of housing have reached such significance that even the presidential candidates are speaking about it, each with their own proposals how to address it. According to analysis by the Gender Equity Policy Institute, 56 percent of California renting households are rent burdened, (that is, a family spending more than 30% of its pre-tax monthly income on rent). Additionally, 30 percent are severely rent burdened. That great sucking sound you hear is not politicians jabbering, it is the sound of families' hard-earned money leaving our community and out of the pockets of our local merchants.

The Costa Hawkins Act contributes in huge part to these resources leaving our community by encouraging evictions so housing providers gain vacancy de-controlled rent increases, as well as unlimited increases on single family homes and condominiums. This law was passed in 1995 after at least five failed at-

tempts. No compelling public policy interest supports it, just the jingle of rent money into the hands of real estate interests. Most importantly for our community, it prohibits local municipalities from changing the law, even if we decide we prefer to value our neighbors' interests over those of the large out-of-area, real estate tycoons.

But now we have the opportunity to change that, to take back control and put power back in our hands, right here in our own town. A big yes vote on Prop. 33 to repeal Costa Hawkins means we get to decide what is best for us; we have in-put into our local housing plans; we can implement rent stabilization and just cause for eviction when we want it; how we want it; in a manner best for our community. Yes on Prop. 33 for San Leandro.

Marc S. Janowitz
San Leandro

Track Record of Crime

Editor,

Police officers and FBI agents are generally staunch Republican supporters but should look more critically at the last five Republican presidents. Of course Trump is an ongoing criminal saga but his predecessors also have arguably rich rap sheets.

Nixon, to start with, broke into his opponents headquarters (Watergate) and also began the War on Drugs sending 500,000 to prison for a relatively mild weed that even his health consultants considered relatively harmless. But if they had long hair or were Black and smoked marijuana they were probably not voting Republican according to Nixon's thinking. Half a million political victims.

Reagan's crime was Iran Contra. The Contras wanted to reinstate a dictator in Nicaragua and the Reagan administration snuck weapons to Iran and sent money to the terrorist Contra group whose war plan involved attacking women and children instead of confronting the Sandinista military. His old age and dementia kept him from being prosecuted.

George H. Bush followed and the old yankee elitist ran what is considered the most racist political campaign in American history (Willie Horton), and he no doubt had a significant hand in Iran Contra though he denied it.

His son George W. gave us the Iraq War based on bogus claims of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The WMD were never found but the war tab is an estimated \$5 trillion, according to the Brown University Center on the Cost of War, along with several hundred thousand innocent civilians killed. Arms merchants and Big Oil however made out like bandits.

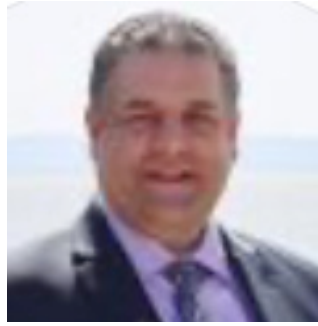
There is room for lots of groups in the Democrat's Big Tent and law enforcement people who every day are hard working and deal with the danger of criminals should switch sides and not vote for a criminal in November. Please check their historic MO, it's five in a row (criminals).

Craig Williams
San Leandro

Candidates: More police are needed, so what's the plan?



Robert Bulatao



Dylan Boldt



Ed Hernandez



Bryan Azevedo



Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton



Fred Simon

continued from front page
time across the entire city.

Dylan Boldt, running for an open Seat in District 6, said he's fine with 100 officers if that's what the chief wants. He said he supports the chief and would follow her lead for a specific number of officers, "within reason."

Robert Bulatao also said he also supports a fully staffed police department.

Incumbent Fred Simon, running unopposed for re-election in District 4, said he had focused in his first term on achieving police accountability and would focus in his second on rebuilding the department.

Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton, the incumbent running unopposed in District 1, said the funds are there to fully staff the department, but that hiring should be rethought so officers can be brought on as quickly as possible.

Viveros-Walton also called for using data to more efficiently target police resources to where they're needed.

However, she said, "Data is like produce. It has to be fresh to be useful."

Hernandez says he has had trouble getting current data from the police department, and says data delayed in its release showed the city's levels of serious and violent crime, called Part 1 crimes, are at their worst in 27 years.

Asked what "fully staffed" meant, police department spokesperson Lieutenant Abe Teng said the City Council has authorized 91 sworn officers, from the police chief down, but that there are currently about 20 vacancies. He said the department is currently focused more on filling those vacancies than on seeking staffing beyond what's now authorized.

The department has put videos online nationwide encouraging police officers now working elsewhere to come to San Leandro.

Several candidates pointed out that there's a link between public safety and the health of local businesses.

Azevedo said seniors in particular were afraid to go shopping. Hernandez pointed out the considerable economic costs small businesses suffer from both crime and vandalism.

"If people don't feel safe when they go downtown, they're not going to come downtown," Dylan Boldt said at the Chamber of Commerce forum. "They're going to go to other places where they feel safe."

Viveros-Walton pointed out at that same forum that city economic development funds have helped small business owners with security audits to improve safety for their business and customers.

Several of the candidates support non-police help on public safety issues. Simon supports hiring private security temporarily, until more police officers can be hired. Azevedo supports safety ambassadors for downtown, and would like to see their use expanded to the Greenhouse Marketplace and to Bayfair.

"I'm not sure if our budget will allow us to retain private security, but bringing on more people to expand the safety ambassador program would be more efficient in my opinion," Robert Bulatao wrote in an email.

"I believe that many calls can and should be handled by mental health professionals and other non-police responders," Bulatao said. "People that are adept in de-escalation should be used whenever possible and if things get out of hand, such as a weapon being presented or de-escalation tactics being ineffective, then we should bring in our police force."

The use of mental health professionals was supported by most of the candidates. None opposed it outright. While some people in the area had once called for reducing the police budget to pay for these added services, none of the candidates for council suggest that.

Hernandez was skeptical, though, of hiring private security to fill in for police officers temporarily.

"Private security guards are not a substitute for fully trained and qualified police officers, he said. "They cannot formally arrest anyone nor have the authority to investigate and solve crimes."

Viveros-Walton supports using mental health professional for calls when safe, and she said what is safe enough for armed police not to be involved is evolving, with constant discussion among council members.

A joint program with the city to turn over some 911 police calls to firefighters, who work as paramedics as well, is being set up now, she said. The Mental Health Response Unit

is set for a December 1 launch, according to the Update on Council Priority Work Plans presented at the city council work session on October 14.

Azevedo called for doing whatever we need to do to further public safety at a time when we're short on police. He's for hiring private security temporarily, more safety ambassadors in town, mental health teams and other civilian help for the police.

Azevedo had earlier proposed his own three-point plan for fighting crime. It consisted of "bait cars" kept under surveillance to catch catalytic converter thieves and car thieves, civilians being paid to ride around town and call in apparent crimes to police, and safety ambassadors.

Azevedo also called for more police visits to people's homes to take reports of crimes, but adds that it doesn't have to be a sworn officers doing that. It could be civilians, he said. Boldt likewise called for more attention to crime victim's needs.

Asked how the city could afford both a fully staffed police department and non-police help for their work, candidates brought up economic development. A healthier downtown, and more businesses moving here, would generate more revenue for the city without having to raise taxes, Hernandez said. Other candidates agreed.

Fred Simon said funding is available to restore the police department, and pointed out that the city is currently saving on some police salaries due to the vacancies.

"I am also a huge believer in investing in our youth, which takes time and energy, though so critical that we follow through and invest,

Simon wrote in an email. "I support additional organized youth programs, to channel youth energy into positive and life-long opportunities such as carpentry, chess, sailing, and bicycling."

Viveros-Walton said that an infrastructure to deal with a number of needs in the community is still being built, and there will be initial costs. Opening our first navigation center to help the homeless re-center their lived, which is set to open soon, is an example.

Several candidates said besides making it safer to patronize businesses in town, increased economic development could provide good-paying jobs, especially for the young.

Boldt has been active in promoting workforce development efforts within the construction industry and other trades, which he said provides young people with promising opportunities.

Bulatao gave the broadest vision of what public safety could be.

On his campaign website, Bulatao said "Public Safety can mean a lot of things. To me, public safety means better lighting for our streets, better traffic conditions for our schools, stronger community protection through Neighborhood Watches and supporting programs, and having a police force that we can trust."

Charged: Choy shot and killed in his own driveway

continued from front page

as an accessory to the crime but recently released.

On May 5, officers responded to a call about a solo vehicle collision on Scenicview Drive and Benedict Court around 6:24 p.m. When they arrived, they found the driver (later identified as Choy) was suffering from a gunshot wound.

Police provided lifesaving first aid, but the man was unresponsive and later pronounced deceased by paramedics.

"Mr. Choy's death underscores the sadness and grave consequences of gun violence in this community," said District Attorney Pamela Price. "What is alleged here not only resulted in the tragic loss of

life but also deeply impacted a family who now mourns the death of their loved one. My office is committed to holding those accountable who use guns to rob, injure, and take the lives of people here in Alameda County."

The Moreno brothers are scheduled for a hearing to make a plea on November 14.

Pumpkins: Splashing and pumpkins

continued from front page

"It was an opportunity for families to get together and get in a good swim before the seasons totally change," said Ashley Perry, aquatics recreation supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Perry said 106 children signed up for the event, not counting the parents and other adults who accompanied them. She said it was the third Pumpkin Splash held since a

pause for the pandemic. Before that, though, it had been held for years by the Youth Advisory Commission.

Kids could splash around for as long as they wanted before and after picking their pumpkin for the duration of the event, which ran from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

There was a snack table, a pumpkin decorating table, a ring toss and other activities in the club's courtyard for those

who had enough of the water or just didn't want to get too wet standing near the pool.

There is swimming for adults and teens as well as children available through Parks and Rec at the Boys and Girls Club pool, which is indoors and heated. For more information, go to www.sanleandrorec.org or navigate to the Parks and Rec section of the city's website, www.sanleandro.org.

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No Charges Will Be Filed on Argument After Candidates Forum

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

The argument after the candidate's forum at the Main Library on September 7 has been investigated by police who determined that no crime occurred.

The San Leandro Police Department sent the statements and video to the Alameda Police Department to conduct the investigation to

avoid any conflict of interest.

The library's video shows what appears to be an argument in the lobby after the forum between City Council member Bryan Azevedo and former City Councilmember Lee Thomas who is a supporter of Azevedo's opponent, Ed Hernandez.

The statement from the City of San Leandro reads: "The City of Alameda Police

Department completed the criminal investigation of the incident and determined it to be a non-criminal incident, and that there is no probable cause to forward the investigation to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office to consider charging anyone involved with a crime."

The statement along with video footage is posted on the City of San Leandro's website.

Crime: Public needs information

continued from front page

shooting. Sometimes there is no public knowledge of the crime until the press release comes out after the arrest.

Hernandez said he believes this practice is wrong.

"All government data, including crime reports, should

be widely and readily available to the public," Hernandez said.

Hernandez's opponent for the District 2 City Council seat, Bryan Azevedo, agrees.

"I agree 100 percent on that," Azevedo said. "I've been pushing since I joined

the council for the police department to be more transparent. I've talked to the chief about it."

Azevedo said there hasn't been as much progress as he hoped for, though.

"I was told that they're looking into it," Azevedo said.

Four Vie for EB Parks District Board of Directors

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Four local residents are contending to succeed the late Ellen Corbett on the East Bay Regional Parks and Recreation District (EBPRD) board from Ward 4.

That ward includes San Leandro, Alameda, Ashland, Cherryland, San Lorenzo and parts of Oakland, Hayward and Castro Valley.

The candidates are librarian and writer Taryn Edwards, attorney Tim McMahon, community affairs representative Luana España, and retired EBPRD human resources director Susan Gonzales.

Susan Gonzales

Gonzales said she believes in the mission of the parks district, and that while she feels she contributed quite a bit to that in her years working there, she now has the time, knowledge and energy to contribute even more.

"We're at a critical time for the future of our public lands, and I'm committed to making sure that our parks remain accessible, safe, and vibrant for everyone," Gonzales said.

Gonzales has continued to teach human resource management at area colleges since her retirement from EBPRD, and served on the county's Commission on the Status of Women after having been appointed to it by the late Supervisor Wilma Chan.

Luana España

Luana España says she is running for the board because she's spent so much of her life literally on the run, through the parks and on trails, when she wasn't out backpacking.

"My passion for the outdoors has been a defining part of my life," she said. "As an avid trail runner and outdoor enthusiast, I've spent countless hours exploring the beauty of our parks and public lands."

España is on the board of the group working to build the Ridge Trail completely around the Bay, and serves on advisory committees to both EBPRD and the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD).

Taryn Edwards

Taryn Edwards has spent almost all of her life in San Leandro, after being born just over the city line at the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland. She wants to preserve public parkland for future generations and survive

the assault on it by climate change.

Part of that survival involved using technology when it will help. She is fascinated by the BurnBot that cuts firebreaks much faster than they can be by humans, or by our friends in nature.

"Goats can't do it all," she said.

Edwards has been a librarian in San Leandro, but worked more years in San Francisco's libraries. As a public historian, she's a local expert on Andrew Hallidie, who she notes was the father of Bay Area's public libraries as well as of San Francisco's cable cars. She is on the boards of both the Institute for Historical Studies and the Market St. Railway Museum.

Tim McMahon

Tim McMahon said on his campaign website, "The East Bay Regional Parks District is a treasure that offers not only breathtaking natural beauty but also essential recreational and educational opportunities for people of all ages."

"I will prioritize the preservation and acquisition of significant biologic, geologic, and historic resources within Alameda and Contra Costa counties," he added.

McMahon vowed to ensure fiscal health for the district to keep parks well-maintained, employees well-supported, and programs of the highest quality. He also called for more collaboration with community groups and other government agencies to broaden what the parks can provide to the public.

Campaigns for park district boards tend not to spend a lot of money. Gonzales is not taking any campaign contributions at all. She's paying for her relatively few campaign materials, such as signs, out of pocket.

She notes there have been retirements at the district, so some new people have been hired, and she sees herself as providing some added continuity there. The district should reflect a mix of new ideas and experience, Gonzales said.

Candidates Expand On Ideas

When Gonzales worked for the district, she said she led a revamp of employee benefit programs that saved the district millions while being supported by unions, she said. That helped her, a few years later, become the rare former chief management negotia-

tor endorsed both by former managers and by leaders of employee unions.

Edwards would like to see a stronger connection by the parks with the public. She notes many parks do not have a visitors center, and would like to see public outreach closer to where most people live.

"We should bring the parks downtown," she said.

She notes that HARD built an office in the new Madrone Terrace Apartments in Ashland, and thinks that should be copied in some of the many new building projects now underway in the area.

Edwards says she feels a bit like an outsider running for the EBPRD board, but that the board and the district and could benefit from having and hiring people with varied backgrounds.

España would like to have greater representation for all groups within the district and great accessibility for everyone in the community. She said she works with a number of community groups, and asks whether all parts of the community benefit evenly from parks and recreation activities.

España said she would go beyond the usual ethnic categories to also look at age, orientation, location, and their abilities/disabilities. She notes that many district programs mostly benefit people from that particular ward, and would like to see more land purchased in currently underserved areas.

España would like to see the district hire a chief equity officer, and also ensure greater representation of everyone on the district's park advisory committee, from which later district leaders often emerge.

España cites among her qualifications management experience with the Bay Ridge Trail group and as a graduate of AT&T's Leadership Development Program, as well as her current position overseeing some construction and doing community outreach with the Port of Oakland.

McMahon said he would like to see the district follow the three core principles of preservation, accessibility, and community engagement. He's not a politician, he wrote on his website, but is a practicing attorney with a background in environmental law, clean energy, regulated industries and business law.

"I have a strong understanding how government agencies operate," he said.

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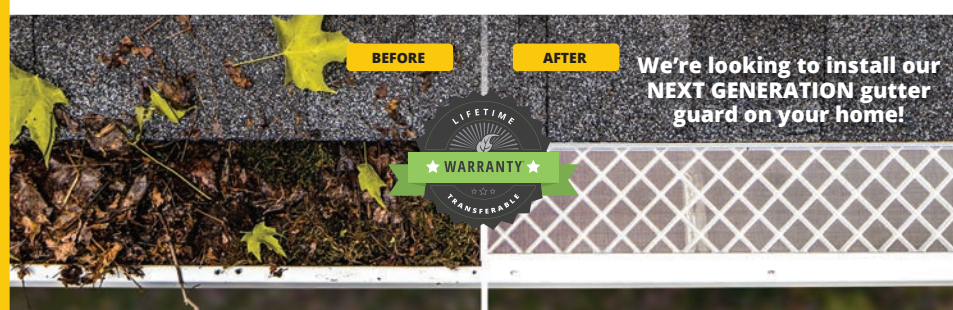


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