



**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**WARM** Beautiful sunny skies  
HIGHS: 78-83  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 50-55

**FRIDAY**  
  
Sun

**SATURDAY**  
  
Sun

**SUNDAY**  
  
Sun

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 30 • NO. 28

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Twenty-four people became United States citizens last Thursday in a ceremony on the flight deck of the U.S.S. Hornet aircraft carrier in Alameda.

## New Citizens Sworn in on the Bay

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

The United States is in turmoil, full of problems and conflict.

But people still come from all around the world to be a part of it.

Around 700,000 people each year apply and pass the requirements to become U.S. citizens, and this year is no different – 64,000 just last month.

Last Thursday, 24 new citizens took the oath to become part of this democracy in a ceremony on the flight deck of the historic aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hornet in Alameda.

“Our current laws and structures fall short at times, but we’re in this together as a country and a community,” said John Kramer, district 42 director of the United

see CITIZENS, page 4



## Davis West Neighbors Irked by Homeless Camp

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

A homeless encampment just outside the Davis West neighborhood is becoming unbearable, residents say, and a challenge for government agencies.

Situated underneath Interstate 880, just north of Davis Street is a section of land where San Leandro Creek intersects with the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and a handful of industrial

businesses. For the last year, the number of people camping out in this zone has increased by double digits, according to one resident.

Neighbors say the homeless living there have fired guns nine times and set several large campfires in the last three months. They have also chopped down tree branches, washed and dumped waste in the creek, and even tried to build temporary shelters on private property.

Currently, two cars, an RV and a camper trailer are parked under the freeway with a few tents visible from the end of 105th Avenue in Oakland. A makeshift treehouse nearly reaches the overpass as large branches cut from the tree are strewn in the creek below.

Various boards, pallets, and tools can be seen along with found objects used for sitting. Garbage is piled in several loca-

tions including in the creek that flows to San Francisco Bay.

For people living along Warden Avenue and Tudor Road, the vagrants setting up camp over the last year have become a health and safety issue.

“It’s gotten way out of hand and there doesn’t seem to be anything anyone can do about it,” said one resident who asked not to be identified. “It smells when it rains.” see HOMELESS, page 12

## Covid Rising; Doesn’t Dampen July 4 Fireworks

People pent up by Covid rules unleash barrage of fireworks

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

Celebrating Independence Day this year took on a different vibe with the cloud of COVID-19 hanging overhead.

California and the Bay Area saw record spikes in new infections over the last seven days giving officials reason to revise their guidance on loosening business and social restrictions.

As of July 5, California saw 5,699 new cases of the novel coronavirus bringing the seven-day average to 7,876. The Covid-19 hospitalization rate in the past 14 days increased by 50 percent, and patients in an intensive care unit increased by 39 percent.

In his weekly update, Governor Gavin Newsom said 23 different counties are now on state watch as Covid hotspots, including Contra Costa. But the governor said he was upbeat about overcoming the increase of infections.

“We did an incredible job of moving forward and we bent that curve in the early days and we have the capacity to do that again...to mitigate the increase of this disease,” Newsom said.

Some of the pullbacks are focused on restricting businesses that serve large numbers of people at the same time. The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control said it made nearly 6,000

enforcement visits to restaurants and bars over the holiday weekend.

Newsom called for a shutdown last week following recent

see FIREWORKS, page 10

## SL Library Offers New Contactless Book Pickup

The San Leandro Public Library announced a new service: Contactless Curbside Hold Pickup.

This service will be offered on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., allowing patrons to place holds on library materials online or over the phone and check them out with ease.

Listed below are five easy steps to use this service or by accessing the Library’s 5 Easy Steps Public Service:

1.) Place holds on library materials you would like to read via the library’s online catalog

see LIBRARY, page 10

### INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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City donates computers to bridge digital divide. **Page 2**

#### HOUSING

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Police arrest man for shooting while looting. **Page 12**

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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.



## Pets of the Week



Sally

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are kittens, Sally and Sully.

Sally is an 8-week-old female kitten who is curious and playful.



Sully

She is littermates with Sully.

Sully is an 8 week old male kitten who is friendly and sweet. He likes to lean in for pets.

For more information, or to adopt Sally or Sully, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## New BRT Station Almost Ready

Michael Thomas, a union electrician working for Mike Brown Electric, installs LED lights at AC Transit's new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station, next to the San Leandro BART Station.

## San Leandro Times

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

### EDITORIAL

**Fred Zehnder**

Editor and Publisher

**Jim Knowles**

Managing Editor  
jimk@ebpublishing.com

**Mike McGuire**

City Editor

**Steve Schaefer**

Auto Editor

Contributing Writers

**Buzz Bertolero**

**Carl Medford**

**Linda Sandsmark**

### PRODUCTION

**Howard Morrison**

Manager

**Kayla Steinorth**

Art Director

**Moxie Morrison**

Assistant

### OPERATIONS

**Claudette Morrison**

Business Manager

### ADVERTISING

Display Advertising

**Claudette Morrison**

Classified Advertising

**Patrick Vadnais**

### HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times  
2060 Washington Ave.  
San Leandro, California 94577

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

Main Office: (510) 614-1555

Newsroom: (510) 614-1557

Sports: (510) 614-1561

Advertising: (510) 614-1555

Classified: (510) 614-1558

Fax: (510) 483-4209

Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com

[www.ebpublishing.com](http://www.ebpublishing.com)



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## Plans for Reopening School

Plans for reopening San Leandro public schools will be announced on July 15.

The San Leandro Unified School District said it will present the plans on its website ([www.slusd.us](http://www.slusd.us)) and on ParentSquare. Plans will include details on a blended model of in-person/distance learning and plans for a full distance learning model, as needed.

The district's Reopening

Schools Task Force has been looking at community surveys and summarizing key recommendations for planning, the district said. School district staff, principals, teachers and parents have formed work groups to prepare for reopening.

The plans are grounded in local public health recommendations, state and county guidelines and community comments.

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## City Donates Computer Equipment

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Shelter-in-Place orders, the City of San Leandro recently executed a public-private partnership to bridge the digital divide, the city announced last

week.

Through this innovative program, approximately 95 local residents, who were unable to access the internet, were provided at no cost with refurbished laptops and assistance in accessing free internet hotspots or reduced cost home internet services.

The city worked together with the Oakland-based nonprofit Tech Exchange, which focuses on refurbishing corporate computers to build a community of digitally proficient Bay Area residents who can access online education, employment, health, financial, and civic services.

The program was funded thanks to a grant from East Bay Community Energy and contributions from Common Networks, a local Bay Area company that already has agreements in place to utilize San Leandro's city infrastructure to deliver residential

high speed internet service.

"The City of San Leandro realizes how critical internet communications are today and how the closure of our public facilities impacted San Leandrans who depend on them," noted Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter. "This program is part of a much broader effort to support the public and help our most vulnerable residents during these very challenging times."

In total, nearly \$12,000 of computer equipment was secured and distributed to vulnerable community members. The City provided maps of locations throughout the City where free public Wi-Fi is available, including expanded outdoor access in front of the Main Library.

In addition, through the Library's Tech-to-Go lending program, dozens of Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots were lent out to Library patrons.

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# Eden Breaks Ground on New Apartment Building

Hayward-based nonprofit developer Eden Housing celebrated the groundbreaking of the Parrott Street Apartments on June 12.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the subsequent shelter-in-place and social distancing protocols, Eden launched a video production featuring instrumental stakeholders and partners.

Parrott Street Apartments will provide 62 new affordable homes to low-income families and individuals in the city of San Leandro. Half of the apartments in the \$33 million building will be designated for individuals and families exiting homelessness, including 25 homes for formerly homeless veterans.

"This is a very needed affordable housing project that epitomizes the ideals of transit-oriented development. It's right next to San Leandro's downtown BART station, and it provides a tremendous community benefit," said Thomas Liao, Community Development Director for the City of San Leandro.

"In these challenging times of the global pandemic, the start of construction represents a beacon of hope and opportunity for the



A new 62-unit apartment building is under construction on Parrott Street and San Leandro Boulevard, across the street from the San Leandro BART Station.

City of San Leandro," said San Leandro City Councilwoman Deborah Cox.

Assemblymember Rob Bonta lauded the project's diverse set of funding sources.

"This project is a great example of how the different levels of government can work together to create critical affordable housing for the community," said Bonta. "This project leverages a state

bond, a county affordable housing bond, and city funds, all while accessing state and federal tax credits to help low-income families, veterans and other Californians in need."

Bonta added, "Maybe you hear the BART go by – that's what these projects are supposed to be. They're supposed to be dense, they're supposed to be vertical, and they're supposed

to be near transit, so folks don't have to get in their cars and emit more greenhouse gases and can get right onto public transit."

**"These projects are supposed to be near transit."**

— State Assemblyman Rob Bonta

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan also touched upon the use of funding sources, particularly Measure A1, a county affordable housing bond.

"We're really happy to have been able to provide \$5.4 million from Measure A-1 bonds that were passed in 2016 to help with this project," Chan said.

Measure A1 was passed in 2016 to help those struggling with the cost of housing, and to help people experiencing home-

lessness find long-term solutions.

"Eden Housing is an incredible leader in fighting for affordable housing and against inequity in Alameda County," said Congresswoman Barbara Lee. "The Bay Area is in an affordable housing crisis, and although we have a lot of work to do, I am so proud that we are taking 62 steps forward."

"Eden was founded on the principle of dismantling discrimination by a group of community activists who attempted to place a fair housing initiative on California's ballot in 1968," said Linda Mandolini, President of Eden Housing. "Since then, we've worked every day creating the housing needed to ensure that all of our neighbors have a place to call home because we believe that a successful California makes room for all of us, regardless of the color of your skin."

## Beware of Virus Carrying Mosquitoes

Mosquito experts throughout the state say the increased attention on public health is an excellent reminder that there are many ways for residents to protect themselves from other viruses transmitted by infected mosquitoes.

While Covid-19 is not transmitted by mosquitoes, they can transmit several other diseases. West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that has impacted the lives of Californians since 2003. There is no human vaccine for West Nile virus which can cause debilitating cases of meningitis, encephalitis, and even death.

"As we enter mosquito season, I urge all residents to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito-transmitted diseases," said state Senator Henry Stern. "Having lost a dear friend to West Nile virus, I can tell you how real and devastating the risks

are. By raising awareness and encouraging individual action, we can protect health and save lives."

"The Covid-19 pandemic is a stark reminder that we must protect ourselves from all public health threats including mosquito-transmitted diseases," said Assemblymember Bill Quirk. "Mosquito control is essential and it's critical that residents understand that we all play an important part in helping to eliminate mosquitoes from our communities."

To minimize exposure to mosquito bites:

- Apply insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535, according to label instructions. Repellents keep

mosquitoes from biting. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.

- Dress in loose-fitting long sleeves and pants.

- Install screens on windows and doors and keep them in good repair.

- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including in flowerpots, old tires, buckets, pet dishes, and trash cans.

- Repair leaking faucets and broken sprinklers.

- Clean rain gutters clogged with leaves.

For additional information on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases please visit the California Department of Public Health.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Construction work got underway last week at the site on Parrott Street.

### Spiritual, but not religious?

Watch 11:11am Live-stream at [unitysanleandro.org](http://unitysanleandro.org) or on Facebook Live

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July 29, 10–11:30 a.m.

August 5, 4:30–6 p.m.

(same program, offered twice)

Register at [HopeHospice.com/townhall](http://HopeHospice.com/townhall).

This is a free webinar.

# Citizens: 'Don't shy away from saying what you think, and listen to others'

continued from front page

States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The 24 new citizens took their oath under a clear, blue, July sky on a deck looking over the bay as flags flew in the breeze, and

**“To be able to vote in this November's election is important for our future.”**

— Kat Clark,  
new United States citizen

the U.S.S. Hornet band played. Kramer reminded the two dozen people before him that they should use their rights as citizens to help decide how best to run the country.

“Contribute to the well-being of the country,” Kramer said. “You decide with us how to govern our country. Don't shy away from saying what you think, and honestly listen to others. Vote, serve on a jury, operate a business, run for office.”

The historic ship served as a symbol of the country's ideals.

“We're as excited as you are to be here on this beautiful day with the flags flying and this view,” said Mark Epperson, director of the U.S.S. Hornet Museum.

Epperson reminded the new citizens that the ship was a part of American history, both in the Second World War and in its role of retrieving the first astronauts to the moon, the Apollo 11 crew, when they landed in the ocean. The ship is steel, but it carries the spirit of the people who built her and who served on board, Epperson said.

“As you know, we're not in a normal time,” said Joseph Hamilton, acting field office director of USCIS San Francisco. “Taking the oath of allegiance is an act of patriotism giving you the full rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America.”

One of the new citizens who took the oath last Thursday, Kat Clark of Alameda, works in communications on environmental issues. She was born in Canada and grew up in the United Kingdom. Her job brought her to the



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The U.S.S. Hornet Band played at the naturalization ceremony last Thursday.

United States where she met a man from Alabama who became her husband.

Clark said one important part of becoming a citizen is the right to vote.

“To be able to vote in this November's election is important for our future,” Clark said. “And

for our relations with other countries, and for our relations with the planet.”

Another new citizen came from Greece, first arriving in

Atlanta in 2001 to attend graduate school at Georgia Tech. Nikolaos Papageorgiou is now married with three daughters, living in Alameda and working in Silicon Valley.

“It's a special day. You feel the history,” Papageorgiou said.

He remembers that he first came to America just before the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, another momentous time in American history. He said Georgia Tech isn't just tough to get into, it's tough to get through – but in a good way.

“In 2001, you didn't have wi-fi or Bluetooth,” he said. “At that time it was R&D.”

And the research and development is one of the things they were working on at Georgia Tech.

Papageorgiou said he had an economics professor who said that there needs to be more demos in democracy – demos, the Greek word for people.

The founders of this country borrowed ideas about democracy from Papageorgiou's native country, going back to ancient times – Athens, the Parthenon, the cradle of democracy.

“It's a continuum,” Papageorgiou said.

## Census Reminder: Fill Out Forms

### Census takers will not be visiting households that have already filled out the census

The Census Bureau will mail two additional reminder postcards to those who have not yet responded to the Census or get their mail from a P.O. box.

Reminder postcards were sent to 1.3 million P.O. boxes around the country between June 24 and July 3 instructing households on how they can respond to the census.

Many people who get their mail from a P.O. box will also get a questionnaire and invitation to respond through the ongoing Update Leave operation, which leaves packets at properties that don't have a regular mailing address.

Another Census reminder postcard – one of six total mailings since the Census opened



Census takers will start coming to households that haven't yet filled out forms, starting in August.

March 12 – will arrive in mailboxes between July 22 and July 28. That's a few weeks before

census takers knock on the doors of those who have not yet responded to the census.

That operation, called Non-Response Follow Up, employs half a million census takers and begins Aug. 11. Census takers will not be visiting households that have already responded to the census.

The 2020 Census has been extended to October 31, so people have plenty of time to avoid a census taker visit by responding online (my2020census.gov), by phone (844-330-2020) or by mail.

### LEGAL NOTICE

FILED  
JUNE 11, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy  
FILE NO. 570690

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Pamper and Beyond located at 2747 76th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LaTresca Porter, 2747 76th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.  
/s/ LaTresca Porter  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires JUNE 11, 2025

JUNE 25, JULY 02, 9, 16, 2020  
271-SLT

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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| B | A | S | E | L | I | N | E | D | O | T |
| S | O | A | K | L | A | S | S | O |   |   |
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# LIFESTYLE



## It's Watermelon Weather

What tops an icy-cold watermelon on a sultry July day? It's wonderful just as is, right out of the fridge. But that doesn't mean you can't get creative.

### WATERMELON & BLUE CHEESE

12-16 1-inch thick chunks ripe watermelon  
3 ounces crumbled blue cheese

*For Dressing:*  
1 shallot, finely chopped  
1/4 cup champagne vinegar  
1/4 cup olive oil or canola oil  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme  
Salt and pepper

1/3 cup roasted pine nuts  
Place watermelon pieces in a large bowl and crumble the blue cheese over the watermelon.

In a bowl combine shallot and vinegar. Let stand 10 minutes. Whisk in oil and thyme until well blended. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Drizzle the dressing over the watermelon and blue cheese.

Sprinkle with roasted pine nuts. Serve immediately. Yields 12 servings.

### WATERMELON SPICE PIE

1-1/2 cups watermelon rind  
1/4 teaspoon cloves  
1/2 cup raisins

1 cup sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup chopped pecans  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
2 teaspoons flour  
1 two-crust pie pastry  
1/3 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/4 cup vinegar

Cut away green outer rind and remove most of the red pulp from watermelon rind; cut the white rind into 1/4-inch cubes. Combine cubes with water to cover in saucepan; bring to boil. Simmer until tender. Drain. Add sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, salt, flour, vinegar, raisins and nuts to cubes and blend well.

Pour into pastry shell. Cover with pastry. Cut steam vents. Bake at 450°F until crust is browned.

Reduce temperature to 350 degrees; bake until filling is set.

### WATERMELON WALDORF SALAD

2 cups cubed watermelon (about 1/2-inch cubes)  
1/2 cup sliced celery  
1/2 cup seedless red grape halves  
Dash of salt  
1/4 cup Greek yogurt  
2 tablespoons sliced almonds, toasted

Stir together watermelon, celery, and grapes in bowl. Just before serving, stir salt into yogurt for dressing. You may want to add a little water to lighten the thickness. Pour mixture over fruit and stir until coated. Sprinkle with almonds.

### SPICY GRILLED WATERMELON

*Transform watermelon from sweet to savoury with this mouth-watering Thai-inspired sauce. Watermelon wedges are grilled until caramelized, drizzled with garlic chili sauce and garnished with cilantro. Serve as a side dish along with ribs, chicken or shrimp.*

1 tablespoon lime zest  
1/4 cup lime juice  
1/4 cup honey  
2 teaspoons garlic chili sauce  
pinch salt  
1 watermelon, medium sized  
1 tablespoon fresh chopped cilantro

Preheat grill to high. In bowl, whisk together lime zest, juice, 3 tablespoons of the honey, garlic chili sauce and salt.

## Is it ripe?

### Selecting a Melon

✓ Look for a watermelon with bright skin, is firm, symmetrical, and free of cuts.

✓ Find one that feels heavy for its size; melons contain more than 90% water and ripest ones have the most water.

✓ Should not be narrower on one end or misshapen; this could mean it grew in fits and starts.



✓ The underside should have a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun – rather than being picked early

✓ Position the melon two inches from your ear, thump with your free hand. If not ripe enough, it will sound solid; if too ripe, it will sound thick; if perfect, it will sound hollow.

Cut watermelon into 1-inch thick wedges. Lightly drizzle each side with remaining honey and place on grill. Grill until just browned, about 2 minutes per side. Place watermelon slices on a plate and drizzle with lime dressing. Garnish with cilantro. Makes 8-10 servings.

### WATERMELON COOLER

8 cups 1/2-inch watermelon cubes  
1-1/2 cups ginger ale  
1/3 cup water  
1 (6-ounce) can frozen limeade concentrate

Place watermelon cubes in a single layer in an extra-large zip-top plastic freezer bag, and freeze 8 hours. Let stand at room temperature 15 minutes.

Process half each of watermelon, ginger ale, water, and limeade concentrate in a blender until smooth; pour mixture into a pitcher. Repeat procedure with remain-

ing half of ingredients; stir into pitcher, and serve immediately.

### WATERMELON-TOMATO SALAD

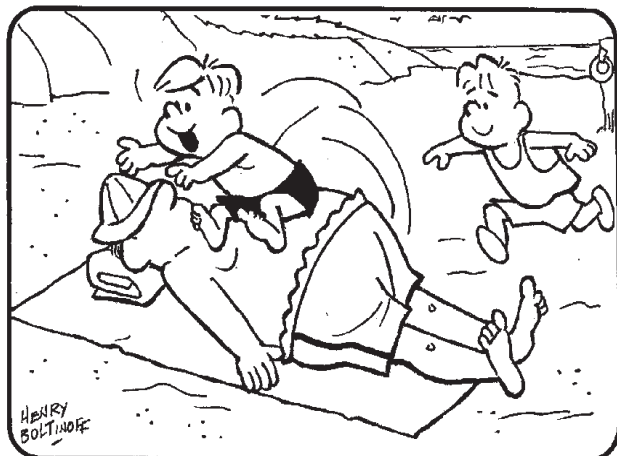
5 cups (3/4-inch) watermelon cubes (seeded)  
1-1/2 pounds ripe tomatoes, cut into 3/4-inch cubes  
3 teaspoons sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 small red onion, quartered and thinly sliced  
1/2 cup red wine vinegar  
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
Romaine lettuce leaves  
Cracked black pepper to taste

Combine watermelon and tomatoes in a large bowl; sprinkle with sugar and salt, tossing to coat. Let stand 15 minutes.

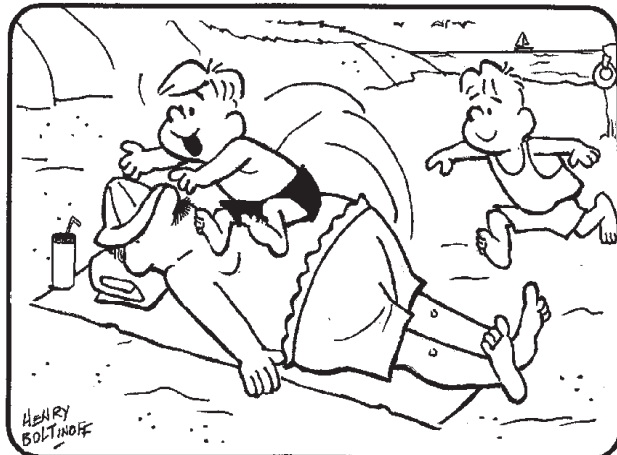
Stir in onion, vinegar, and oil. Cover and chill 2 hours. Serve chilled with lettuce leaves, if desired. Sprinkle with cracked black pepper to taste. Yields 4 to 6 servings.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

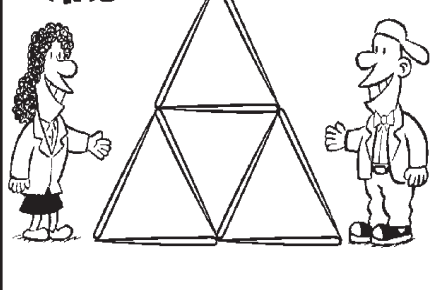


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy is barefoot. 2. Blanket is narrower. 3. Man has mustache. 4. Water bottle has been added. 5. Swim trunks have no stripe. 6. Boat is on horizon.

## PUZZLE CARD



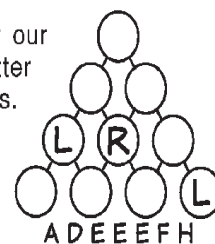
**TOOTHPICK PUZZLE!** Place 9 toothpicks on the table and challenge your friends to arrange them in the form of 5 equilateral triangles. The solution shown here has 4 small triangles and 1 large triangle

**HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE!** If you look "everywhere" in the word EVERYWHERE, you'll find 10 smaller words. The letters, in each case, are in the same order, next to one another

Answer: Eve, eve, every, very, where, he, her, here, ere, re.

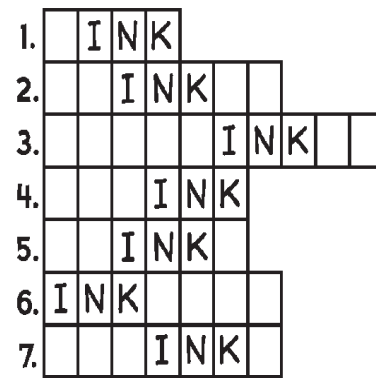
**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Half, hale, hare, hard, here, herd, heed, heel.



## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



### A QUILLER-DILLER QUIZ!

It's time for another dictionary quiz! To the left is a list of seven words, each of which contains the word "ink." Using the following hints, see if you can "ink in" the correct answers:

1. An animal noise.
2. A sour musical note.
3. An edible marine snail.
4. A type of wrap.
5. A stair descender.
6. A testing pattern.
7. Playful, noisy activities.

Answers: 1. Oink. 2. Periwinkle. 3. Clinker (slang). 4. Shrink-wrap. 5. Slinky (toy). 6. Inkblot. 7. Hilarious.

Illustrated by David Coulson

# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

**REAL ESTATE REALITY**  
By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Covid Is Changing Everything

Even with easing restrictions, we find ourselves in a strange new world.

As it relates to real estate, although homes are still being sold, the amount of work and stress for all concerned has increased dramatically. Realtors describe working twice as hard for 50% of the results.

Studies show video conferencing, while effective in communicating during this crisis, increases psychological stress. We even have a name: Zoom Fatigue.

Along with the dramatic shortage of homes for sale, lenders, deluged with refi requests, are lagging far behind. Factor in coronavirus-related restrictions and everyone is anxious and frustrated.

While not wishing to downplay the devastation to our personal lives and economy, I think we need some levity. Here are some terms that have developed new meanings as a result of the

COVID-19 crisis:

Social distancing: used to be what parents hoped dating teenagers would employ.

Flatten the curve: what we used to call attempts at reducing belly fat.

Droplets: used to refer to the scattered raindrops preceding a downpour.

Transmission: was the thing connecting the car engine to the wheels.

Contact tracing: what preschoolers did to learn how to write numbers and letters.

Screening: what smart dads did before they allowed someone to date their daughter.

Reproductive rate: used to refer to the number of kids you had.

Isolation: children sitting on a chair or sent to their room as punishment.

Toilet Paper: used to be a basic commodity; now it's the new global currency – more valuable than gold.

Zoom: what we did to go somewhere fast: now that we are going nowhere it is how we currently stay in touch. Also a word for stock we wish we had all purchased before the crisis.

GrubHub and Doordash: Angels of mercy or knights in shining armor – take your pick.

Grocery Delivery Services: we used to call it Meals on Wheels – now it goes by the names Walmart Grocery, Instacart, Shipt, Amazon Fresh, Safeway Home Delivery ... it's everything you hoped it might be if you are OK with never getting what you actually ordered and

living with substitutions.

Netflix: Our new best friend and window on the world.

Bandwidth: What we used to have before our neighbors started watching online entertainment all day long.

We also have new words: covid-brain (suffering from covid-related stress) and covid-iot: someone ignoring public health regulations.

These are tough times, but we'll make it through. In the meantime, stay safe.

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

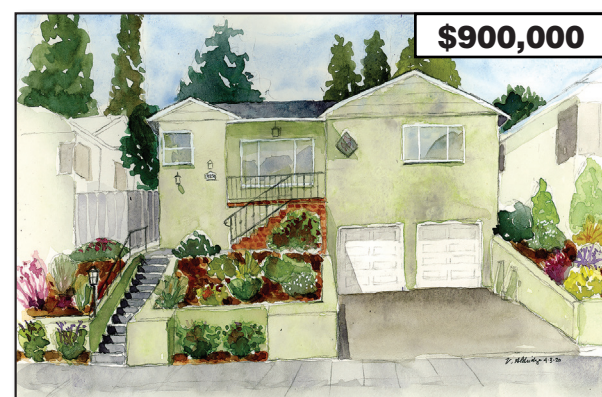
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## Reviving Garden Roses

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Times

**Q** I have several roses that are not looking their best. I was told that I could revive them by adding new topsoil. Do I have to remove the old soil altogether?

**A** Roses are very resilient plants. You can mistreat them for years, and with little care, they respond. Add some additional soil only if it's to replace some lost volume. This typically happens in a container when the soil flows out the bottom. But raising the soil level to revive the plants isn't recommended.

You're better off pulling the rose out of the container and adding the soil to the bottom. The key to restoring them is the

addition of nutrients and water.

It would be okay to cover up some exposed roots, but you don't want to bury the bud union. The bud union is the location where the desired variety is budded on to a rootstock. This is a large knot near the soil line.

Modern garden roses such as Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, and Floribundas are not growing on their own roots; so, it's important not to raise the soil level significantly. The new soil should be cultivated around the plants. The soil microbes will then break down the organic matter and supply additional nutrients to the plants.

Also, don't be concerned with the surface roots, as you'll find plenty. Roses are heavy feeders, along with needing lots of moisture. There are plenty of



BUZZ BERTOLERO  
THE DIRT GARDENER

functional Rose Foods available today. However, I'd look for one that contains the essential nutrients plus additional microbes.

Monthly applications are recommended and always water your plants the day before or at least four hours before feeding and immediately afterward. Roses are watered at least three times a week during the summer and more often when the temperatures are over 90°F. You should see a marked difference

in your roses within six weeks.

The best way to monitor the progress is by making a digital history by using your smartphone. With the before and now pictures, you know that you're on the right track. Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## 10 Tips for Women to Stay Well During All Stages of Life

Women are taught to eat right and exercise to maintain good health. And, that's certainly true, but they have the power to proactively take control of their feminine health during all stages of life from the first period through post-partum, during perimenopause and beyond. Maria Sophocles, MD, OB/GYN, the Medical Director of Women's Healthcare of Princeton, offers these tips to help change your health for the better.

Tips to keep healthy include:

\* Freshen up by balancing pH: Vaginal pH can be offset by menstruation, sex, and hormone fluctuations during menopause and pregnancy. An imbalance in pH can often lead to a dreaded UTI or other infection like bacterial vaginosis, causing uncomfortable itching, burning, and smell. A pH-balancing gel like RepHresh will normalize

pH and eliminate odor. Many women mistake BV for yeast infections and are prescribed antibiotics, which can throw off the normal pH.

\* Eat right: Drink one less soda a day and lose 15 pounds in a year, and replace the "white" foods with "brown" like brown rice and whole wheat bread. Take fast food out of your diet completely. It's full of sugar and trans fats that clog your cell walls and contains toxins that are bad for the heart and arteries. Most fast food also contains chemicals like MSG that should be avoided.

\* Consider a vaginal probiotic: Millions of women suffer from recurrent vaginal infections. Sex and antibiotics can be the reason why. RepHresh Pro-B provides 2 strains of vaginal lactobacilli specifically designed to maintain vaginal health by keep-

ing yeast and bacteria balanced every day.

\* Optimize vitamin D levels: Safe sun exposure is a powerful and inexpensive intervention that can have profound benefits on your health. Enjoy 10-15 minutes of exposure to natural sunlight daily for nutrition, mental health, and bone density. Supplement a balanced diet with essential nutrients to promote healthy teeth and bones, support the immune system, and benefit cardiovascular health.

\* Fast fix to eliminate painful sex: Stress and decreased estrogen levels during menopause can cause uncomfortable dryness and irritation. Replens Vaginal Moisturizer provides relief from internal dryness for three days and Replens Silky Smooth is a preservative-free silicone lube that should be used just before sex to avoid abrasion

and ease comfort.

\* Exercise: Regular exercise decreases chances of developing cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity. Try ending the day with a personal dance party, watch YouTube videos, or get a subscription to a virtual exercise class.

\* Track your menstrual cycle: Stress and other factors can affect the menstrual cycle, so it's important to stay on top of your cycle whether or not you're planning on getting pregnant. Make sure to have a pregnancy test like First Response Early Result on hand to find out 6-days sooner than your missed period. If you are trying to conceive, make sure to use a lubricant that won't harm sperm, like Pre-Seed.

\* Decrease stress: Don't feel guilty taking time to clear your mind. Plan quiet times and activities like reading a book, starting a garden, or even meditating. Listening to relaxing music or taking a bath helps to slow down



heart rate and breathing. The better you feel mentally can improve how you feel physically.

\* Afraid to laugh, sneeze or cough after having a baby? Pregnancy and birth can give pelvic floor muscles a serious beating. Even moms in their 20's often notice post-natal side effects that include accidental loss of urine when they laugh, sneeze, cough, exercise, or during sex. Consider an FDA cleared, at-home pelvic floor strengthening device to restore post-baby strength and reduce leakage like Attain.

\* Prioritize sleep: Sleep is

like a reset button for the body and mind. Prioritize getting at least 7-8 hours of uninterrupted sleep and try to stay off technology at least an hour before bed to avoid blue light keeping you awake. If you have trouble sleeping, try taking a vitafusion Max Strength Melatonin gummy before bed.

There's no better time than now to change your health for the better. Eat right, prioritize fitness, take control of your vaginal health and remember, you are your biggest health advocate.

-Brandpoint

## Why You Should Stretch More

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

Of all possible exercises, stretching tends to be the most neglected, yet nothing is more vital to keeping an aging body limber and injury free.

As we get older, our muscles naturally lose their elasticity if you're not active, which can make common day-to-day activities like reaching down to tie your shoes or looking over your shoulder to back your car out of the driveway, difficult.

But the good news is, by incorporating some simple stretching exercises into your routine (at least three times a week) you can greatly improve your flexibility, as well as enhance your balance, posture and circulation, relieve pain and stress, and prevent injuries.

In addition, stretching is also important as a warm-up and cool-down for more vigorous activities, and leg stretching is an excellent way to prevent nighttime leg cramps too.

### Simple Stretches

Stretching exercises should focus on the muscles in your neck, shoulders, arms, chest, back, hips, thighs, hamstrings and calves. If you've had hip or back surgery, you should talk to your doctor before doing lower-back flexibility exercises.

While stretching, it's very important to listen to your body. You want to stretch each muscle group to the point where the muscle feels tight. If it hurts, you've gone too far. Back off to the point where you don't feel any pain, then hold the stretch for 10 to 20 seconds.

Relax, then repeat it three to

five times, trying to stretch a little farther, but don't bounce. Bouncing greatly increases your chance of injury.

It's also a good idea to warm up a little before you start stretching by walking in place and pumping your arms. And remember to breathe when you stretch. Also, keep in mind that muscles that have not been stretched in a while take time to regain their flexibility. So be patient and go slow.

If you don't have much experience with stretching, the National Institute on Aging offers a free guide that provides illustrated examples of flexibility exercises to help you get started. Go to [order.nia.nih.gov](http://order.nia.nih.gov), and type in "Exercise & Physical Activity: Your Everyday Guide from The National Institute on Aging" to view it online.

There are also senior fitness programs, like SilverSneakers (siversneakers.com) and Silver&Fit (silverandfit.com), that are currently offering online flexibility and balance videos that can guide you through a series of stretching exercises you can do at home during the pandemic.

There are also a wide variety

of stretching exercise DVDs or videos you could purchase at sites like CollageVideo.com or Amazon.com.

### Yoga and Tai Chi

Another great way to improve your flexibility is through gentle yoga or chair yoga.

In chair yoga you replace the yoga mat with a chair where most poses can be duplicated. This is much easier on tight, inflexible muscles. Tai chi and qigong are also great exercise options for improving balance and flexibility.

To get started, there are many DVDs and videos that offer instructions and routines you can do at home. The YMCA has also launched a new series of free, online health and fitness videos at [YMCA360.org](http://YMCA360.org) that includes gentle yoga, chair yoga and tai chi videos.

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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## Library: Place a hold online or on the phone

continued from front page

([www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org)) or by calling the virtual reference phone line, 510-577-3971, during normal business hours.

2.) Wait for notification from the library that your hold is ready to pick up. This will come in the form of an email or phone call depending on how you have notices set up on your library account.

3.) Arrive at the library during our contactless curbside hold pickup hours. This service will be available at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. When you arrive, follow the posted signs to park in a designated curbside pickup spot, and follow the instructions to call library staff.

4.) Wait in your car until your items are placed on an assigned pickup table, and staff has walked back into the building. This process will involve no physical contact between you and library staff. Please wear a face covering or mask when you get out of your



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Library patrons will be able to pull up in front and pick up their books.

car to retrieve your items as is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC).

5.) Pick up your items and enjoy.

Visit [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org) for more information or call 510-577-3971.

## Applications Due Friday For PG&E Scholarships In STEM Education

Students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) disciplines are urged to apply by this Friday, July 10, for one of 40 scholarships from Pacific Gas & Electric Company and its corporate foundation.

The Program will award 20 scholarships of \$10,000 each and 20 scholarships of \$2,500 each, for a total funding of \$250,000.

Applications are open to graduating high school seniors, current college students, veterans and adults returning to school who are PG&E customers at the time of application.

Applicants must plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study for the entire 2020-2021 academic year and be seeking their first undergraduate degree at an accredited four-year institution

in California.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement, demonstrated participation and leadership in school and community activities, and financial need.

The funds are raised totally through employee donations, employee fundraising events and the company's employee giving program.

Since 2012, the scholarship program has awarded more than \$6 million to accomplished students based on a combined demonstration of community leadership, personal triumph, financial need and academic achievement.

Interested applicants can learn more and apply at [pge.com](http://pge.com). Application deadline is July 10 with awards will be announced in August.

## Fireworks: Explosions still going on at 1 o'clock in the morning

continued from front page

surges in infections statewide.

"I think we can safely reopen (these restaurants and bars) but with enforcement and individual responsibility and expectations," the governor said pointing to mandatory mask-wearing to prevent the spread of the virus. "It's incumbent to monitor that and enforce those restrictions."

Masks are now required in six Bay Area counties including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Sonoma.

Starting this week, not wearing a mask in public could get you in trouble. Police in California say they could start writing tickets to people who aren't wearing face coverings while they are out

and about.

### Fireworks Heard Throughout the East Bay

The pandemic may have closed down some businesses, but that didn't stop the July 4 celebrations—including a barrage of fireworks—from lighting up the skies.

Most parades and large-scale public fireworks shows were canceled due to the shelter-in-place rules. The usual blooms of sparkling explosions were replaced with louder, more abundant fireworks launched from streets and backyards.

The Alameda County Fire Department responded to more than 175 emergency calls to extinguish fires and treat injuries

stemming from illegal fireworks. The fire department said it put out seven buildings set ablaze, extinguished 22 grass fires, and put out 14 other fires between dusk on July 4 to the following morning.

For many residents, the hours of endless explosions were overwhelming.

"I'm convinced people are massively pent up, exhausted, and basically traumatized by everything that has hit us, and the 4th was an opportunity to blow off steam," says Irene Kovacs.

*"People must have spent thousands on those fireworks."*

— Karen Moschella

"Some very professional stuff," said Karen Moschella about the fireworks. "People must have spent thousands on those fireworks. That being said, the bomb-like noise was off the charts and so unnecessary."

"Not only that but it was still going strong at 1 a.m. That's just ridiculous. Also, it wasn't just loud on July 4. This has been going on every night for almost a month. I hope they used the last of them and it will be peaceful again. Plus, they didn't even clean up after themselves. There is fireworks

debris all over the streets."

The celebrations were not resigned to just backyard activity. Fewer than normal numbers of people flocked to local parks and lakes in search of an outdoor picnic. But heavy visitor traffic over the holiday weekend forced officials to block off entrances to some East Bay parks after parking areas filled including Lake Chabot and Point Pinole.

Thankfully, more than 80 percent of visitors followed social distance and mask protocols, according to park district officials.

## LOCAL DEATHS

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### Augustus James Jones, III

It is with great sadness our family has laid Augustus James Jones, III to rest. This loving father, husband and friend will be dearly missed. Gussie leaves behind his daughter Sha'vonn and her mother Sylvia. He worked in technology for BART over 30 years. Sunrise June 03, 1950 to Sunset October 07, 2019.



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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** A perplexing situation needs to be dealt with in order to avoid problems later on. Rely on both your own sense of what's right and the advice of someone you trust to help work it out.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Let your sharp Taurean business insight guide you when considering a "dream deal." Without all the facts, it could turn into a nightmare. Remember: Investigate before investing.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Sharing so much of your time and your gifts with others is what you do so well, and this week, don't be surprised if others want to share with you. Enjoy the experience. You've earned it.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** A difficult personal situation seems to defy efforts to resolve it. Perhaps you're too close to it. Take some time to reassess what went wrong, and then see where things can be set right.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Leonine pride could be piqued a bit when someone else appears to be standing in your light. Be patient and resist the urge to growl at the interloper. You'll soon be the "mane" attraction again.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** A professional situation benefits from your clear assessment of the circumstances involved. On the personal side, that new relationship looks as if it will continue to grow.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** More good news about a loved one helps reassure others who could not share your more-optimistic view before. Continue to help everyone in need of your comforting presence.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Creating new friendships could turn out to be the unexpected but welcome result of reconnecting with old friends. The weekend is a good time for fun and games. Enjoy!



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** The more you learn about what you plan to do, the more likely you are to consider making some changes in your plans. This is good; don't resist it. Instead, go with it.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** A career change is still in your aspect, but a potential workplace change could be what you've been looking for. See what develops before making any drastic moves.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Your energy levels are high this week, which should help you get all your workaday tasks done and still leave you with enough breath to handle some domestic challenges.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** An unexpected fluke could cause problems with your plans. If so, use the time to troll for other available options, and you might be pleasantly surprised at what turns up.

# City to Host Town Hall Meeting For Districts on West Side of City

Virtual meeting to discuss city's response to Covid, and more

A virtual town-hall meeting for the City Council districts in the western portion of the city will be held on Monday, July 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter, Vice Mayor Pete Ballew and City Council members Victor Aguilar and Benny Lee invite the community to a Town Hall meeting to discuss the city's response to Covid-19 project updates and other city issues.

A link to Zoom video and phone conferencing can be found on the City of San Leandro website: [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org).

To connect by phone conferencing, dial \*67 877- 853-5247 (Toll Free) or 888- 788-0099 (Toll Free), enter meeting ID: 876 7229 0615.

Mayor Cutter and the three City Council members will give

brief updates on the City's response to Covid-19, including the highly-utilized Marina Community Center testing site, as well as a variety of development proposals including the Monarch Bay Shoreline Redevelopment Project, and many other projects from across the city.

The event will include time for the public to ask questions or share ideas and concerns about topics relevant to city government. A staff contact list will be available at the conclusion of the meeting for follow up comments or questions to specific city departments.

Comments or questions can be emailed prior to the town hall meeting to [psanftner@sanleandro.org](mailto:psanftner@sanleandro.org) and add "Town Hall" to the subject line by noon on Monday, July 13. The City

Council will respond to written inquiries during the meeting as time permits.

"I look forward to our westside town hall meeting. The eastside town hall meeting held in June was well attended by the community," said Mayor Cutter. "It's encouraging to see so many San Leandro residents engaged on important civic matters. Along with my colleagues on the City Council and our staff, we look forward to this opportunity to hear from residents in the other parts of the City about what we can do to further support our community's needs, and celebrate success stories."

Interpretation services for the hearing impaired or language translation are available when requested at least three working days in advance of the meeting.



Baron Batarse of San Leandro has been playing piano for five years.

## John Muir Student Awarded Music Grant

Congratulations to Baron Batarse who is one of 10 students in California to receive a \$500 Grant from the Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC.org) for continuing piano lessons.

Baron is 13-and-a-half years old and recently graduated from 8th grade at John Muir Middle

School.

Baron has been playing piano for 5 years. He said that when he plays in front of an audience and his peers he can see the results of his hard work.

"Although the road to where I am today has been challenging, I have grown to appreciate music on a deeper level," Baron said.

## Free Covid-19 Testing at Marina C.C.

Free Covid-19 testing is available at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro.

The testing center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The center is open to all frontline and essential workers, seniors, persons with diabetes, hypertension and other health conditions making them vulnerable to Covid-19, plus anyone with Covid-19 symptoms regardless of where you live. You do not need health insurance and will not be asked about immigration status.

Testing is by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or call 1-888-634-1123.

# 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](mailto:letters@ebpublishing.com) or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

### Task Forces to Study SLPD Funding

Editor:

As Mayor, I want to thank the community for being so engaged during the series of challenging events our City has faced in recent months.

Along with my colleagues on the City Council, I can assure the public that we are actively listening and moving forward with numerous initiatives in response to community concerns.

For example, we recently voted to reallocate approximately \$1.7 million from our Police Department towards other community needs.

Although the details of that reallocation have yet to be finalized, we are committed to giving the public a voice in those decisions.

This was not an action taken lightly, but one which followed extensive community feedback and participation during our most recent Council meetings, each of which included over seven hours of discourse.

Our City Council is also moving forward with the formation of two community advisory task forces – one on the City budget, and the other on Equity & Race.

These two groups will be asked to advise on a range of important policy issues, including how to enact positive change while also addressing the fiscal challenges San Leandro faces from the pandemic.

The City Council intends to discuss the formation of these task forces at our July 20th Council meeting. I expect that applications to serve on

these bodies will be available in the near future. I hope you would consider joining one of them to provide your knowledge, experience, diversity, and appreciation for living in our kind and vibrant city.

—Pauline Russo Cutter  
Mayor, City of San Leandro

### Worried by SLPD Defunding News

Editor:

The news of defunding part of the San Leandro police budget both saddened and worried me.

Just when the crime rate is starting to improve, now the police budget will be cut. However, I can understand why all the council members took the decision. They are following the urges and recommendations of the majority attendees (around 160) who spoke during the June 15 city council meeting.

I appreciate council members Lee, Cox, Ballew and Mayor Cutter for voting against the immediate reallocation of the bucket funds (funds removed from the police department) in order to get input from more members of the community.

They are following the democratic process of community participation. San Leandro has a population of approximately 89,000. Hopefully, the remaining silent majority will turn up in the future discussion of the bucket fund allocation. This is part of our civic responsibility so we can enable local government respond to our needs.

—Nida Ward  
San Leandro

### Urges State Probe of Taylor Killing

Editor:

I was initially relieved to hear that the San Leandro Mayor and City Council had referred the investigation of the killing of Steven Taylor to State Attorney General Becerra. The incident is only part of a long SLPD history.

In public statements and news releases, it appears that San Leandro has requested the Attorney General to conduct an independent investigation. The actual wording of City Manager Kay's June 5 letter shows this is not the case:

"Given that local investigations of the OIS (Office Involved Shooting) are not yet concluded, could you preliminarily provide information regarding the policies, procedures, or protocols that would be employed in a potential independent investigation by your office into this incident?"

Alameda County residents are aware of the poor track record of the Alameda County District Attorney in prosecuting police abuse of power.

I would like to believe that this is simply a poorly worded letter, but it's difficult not to conclude that the City and SLPD are stalling for time with internal investigations and hoping Alameda County will be the venue.

San Leandro's Mayor, City Council and City Manager need to directly request an investigation of the Steven Taylor killing with State Attorney General Becerra. I'll be sharing my request with that office as well, and urge others who are concerned to do the same.

Nothing less than a state level investigation will begin to address longstanding ongoing issues with SLPD.

Perhaps the City Council, Mayor and Police Department will prove this wrong, but I'm not hopeful.

Steps to set aside some of the bloat-

ed SLPD budget for social services are a step in the right direction, but police accountability is first and foremost in the basic needs of our residents. Shame on me if my skepticism is not supported, but shame on city government if it is.

—Nora Trentacoste  
San Leandro

### Sewage Discharge at the Marina?

Editor:

Apparently, Mr. Bryan Azevedo of San Leandro made a posting on social media in which he identified a sewage spill at the San Leandro Marina.

The city spokesman, Mr. Paul Sanfter, later stated that our Public Works Department found no evidence of any such overflows.

However, between June 20 and June 27 of this year approximately a dozen frequenters of the marina at Fairway and Monarch Bay Drive where the alleged incident was said to have occurred, complained of a foul choking odor which accompanied a brackish discharge which steadily

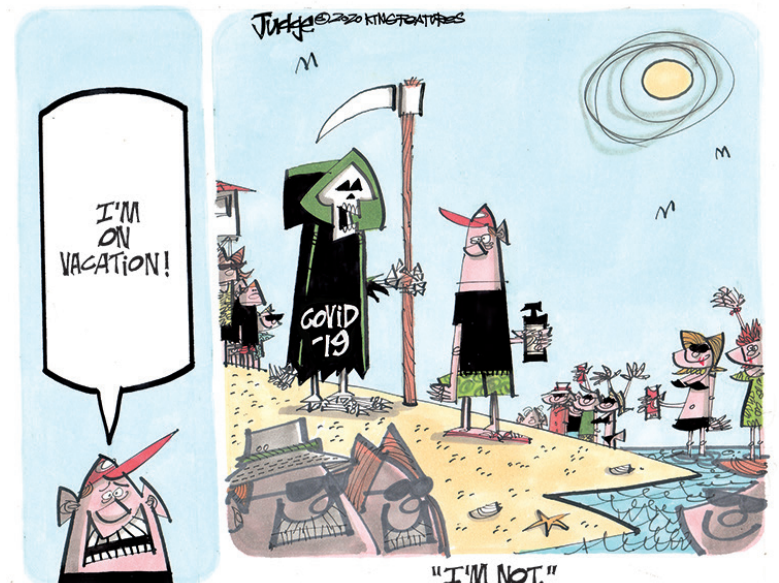
oozed from the 3-and-a-half to 4-foot cast iron sewage pipe located at the end of the marina inlet where the park, boat launch, and hotel complex meet.

Upon showing him the Times article, my Oregonian friend of the past four months, a fellow of the highest ethical standing from said state, informed me that not only he, but at least a dozen other park fans, had complained of a nauseating stench and discharge which appeared to emanate from said sewage pipe.

While I myself, upon examination of the site, found no noxious discharge on or about the 28th of June, I did observe that the cast iron pipe had been blocked up with the large river rock common to the area.

Perhaps our friend Mr. Bryan Azevedo made a correct observation after all, while our friends at the Public Works Department need to be queried as to whether they flushed the pipe out with fresh seawater before they made their "negative observation."

—David F. Sigel  
San Leandro



# Homeless: Number of homeless rising

continued from front page

gets hot and they light fires all the time. We could see the fire reaching so high a couple of times, we thought it was in our backyard."

Jurisdictional issues make this location tricky. Some of it is technically in the City of Oakland and land ownership spans Union Pacific Railroad, Caltrans, and Alameda County Flood Control.

The City of San Leandro Human Services staff, homeless liai-

**"Our first step is to offer services to people living in encampments."**

— City Manager Jeff Kay

son officers and local non-profits say they have been working hard to identify solutions.

"Our first step is always to offer services to the people living in encampments. We've done that and will continue to do so. We also work with the property owners to press them to properly secure and



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SINGER

Neighbors in the Davis West neighborhood say they're worried about the homeless camp just behind some houses.

maintain their property," said San Leandro City Manager Jeff Kay. "I've personally been on calls with both Union Pacific and Caltrans in the past month and I'm hopeful that we are making some headway on improved protocols and cooperation. I understand that Union Pacific barricaded their property in this location and that it has remained clear since they did so."

The City's first step is to contact the people residing in the encampments, work to build trust, and try to connect them to services, with the ultimate goal being permanent housing, Kay said. Although simply clearing an encampment can be faster, it generally does not result in lasting improvement since the people just move elsewhere or quickly

return to the same place.

"We've been able to place a few dozen people in permanent housing and will continue working to find solutions for as many people as possible," Kay said.

The number of homeless in San Leandro has risen to more than 418 in 2019, up from 109 in 2017. According to the 2019 EveryOne Counts Homeless Point-in-Time Count & Survey, 74 of those who were counted as homeless ended up sheltered in transitional housing. The remaining 344 were considered unsheltered, most living in tents, cars, and RVs.

The San Leandro police encourage residents and businesses to call if encampments are creating a safety hazard.

# Police Arrest Man for Shooting at Officers On Night of Looting

Police arrested a Sacramento man for shooting at the police on the night of May 31 when officers arrived at Bayfair Center in response to reports of looting.

When police arrived, a suspect fired eight shots at the officers, according to San Leandro police in a press release this week. A Union City police officer suffered a minor injury in his left hand from a ricocheted round. There were no other injuries.

On the night of the looting, San Leandro police arrived with the assistance of the Union City and Fremont police departments. On the same night, businesses all across San Leandro were looted,

from Bayfair to Marina Square to downtown.

The San Leandro police were able to get video of the suspect, his vehicle and the crime scene, police said. That information was sent through law enforcement channels to identify the suspect, 33-year-old Luracious Paul Wilkerson of Sacramento.

On Monday, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office filed eight counts of attempted murder and eight counts of assault with a firearm on police officers, along with multiple enhancements, against Wilkerson. Wilkerson is currently being held without bail at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

# County Health Reports 345 Covid Cases in San Leandro

The number of Covid-19 cases in Alameda County reached 6,887 this week, according to the Alameda County Health Department.

The county totals on Tuesday reported 140 deaths in Alameda County from Covid-19, a 2 percent fatality rate.

The county reports 345 Covid-19 cases in San Leandro, as of Tuesday. The county health department's Covid-19 Dash-

board doesn't give the number of deaths in each city. But if the rate were the same as the county rate, 2 percent, there would be about seven deaths in this city due to Covid-19.

The highest numbers for Covid-19 in Alameda County are Oakland with 2,712 cases, and Hayward with 1,116 cases. Castro Valley had 214 cases, Fremont 362, Alameda 107, Pleasanton 132, and Union City 223.

# San Leandro Students Make the Dean's List at N. Colorado and Gonzaga

Jasmine White of San Leandro was named to the 2019-20 Dean's Honor Roll at the University of Northern Colorado.

Students who received this honor earned a combined GPA of 3.50 to 3.74 during at least two of the academic semesters and completed a minimum of 24

semester hours.

The University of Northern Colorado is in the town of Greeley.

Gonzaga University announced last week that two students from San Leandro, Benjamin Mandel and Nathan Whites, made the Dean's List for

the spring 2020 semester.

Students must earn a 3.5 to 3.84 grade-point average to be listed.

Gonzaga University is a humanistic, private Catholic University in Spokane, Wash., providing a Jesuit education to more than 7,500 students.

# Library to Host Webinar with Illustrator of *They Called Us Enemy*

The San Leandro Public Library invites the community to participate in a webinar, "Meet the Illustrator: Harmony Becker," on Tuesday, July 14, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Ericka Cruz Guevarra, producer of the KQED podcast, "The Bay," will interview Harmony Becker, the illustrator of *They Called Us Enemy*. Becker will discuss her creative process while contributing to the stunning graphic novel about courage,

country, love, and loyalty.

All are invited to view this interview by registering in advance for the webinar by going to [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org) for registration details. Or can call 510-577-3971 to contact staff. E-book copies of *They Called Us Enemy* are available for circulation through the San Leandro Public Library's Overdrive Collection.

The library has distributed a limited number of copies of the graphic novel memoir, *They*

*Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, in both hard copy and eBook formats. The library has coordinated the virtual interview with the book's illustrator.

The virtual summer event is related to the Book to Action grant that the library received in Spring 2020 from The California Center for the Book. Book to Action is a framework that elevates the book club model into impactful community partnerships and thoughtful intergenerational engagement.

# Aviation Museum Opens Outdoor Exhibits

The Oakland Aviation Museum is open to the public for outdoor viewing only, Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Indoor exhibits will

remain closed until the current restrictions are lifted.

The museum is located at the Oakland Airport's North Field, 8252 Earhart Road in Oakland,

just off Doolittle Drive. Visitors can view famous aircraft, including the A-3 Skywarrior, A-7 Corsair, a Harrier jump jet, or a MiG-15.

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