

WEEKEND WEATHER

MILD

Slight chance of showers through the weekend

HIGHS: 59-64

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

LOWS: 40-45

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 31 • NO. 1 THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



Thrift shop volunteers Dee Gonzales and Phyllis Rice welcome customers to the longtime shop in downtown San Leandro.

## Thrift Shop Treading Water

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

The little thrift shop in downtown San Leandro has always helped charities, but now the shop needs some help. The pandemic slowed down business. Plus, it's caused some of the shop's elderly volunteers to stay home and not risk infection. So the shop is looking for household goods and for customers.

"We're survivors, but the donations and monetary gifts we usually get, we aren't getting," said Dee Gonzalez, who runs the Treasures Hospice Thrift Shop at 1539 Washington Ave. "People aren't coming in because of the pandemic, and I don't blame them," Gonzalez said. "But we wear masks, practice social distancing, we have disinfectant and we wipe everything down." The thrift shop donates money to the

George Mark Children's House in San Leandro, a care center for children with illnesses that modern health care cannot yet cure. The thrift shop is always looking for volunteers, too, Gonzales said. "We're all volunteers here and we're all senior citizens, so I mean, come on, give us a hand," she said. "We're all between 70 and 85. The 70 year old is the baby." see SHOP, page 11

## Teachers, Food Workers Next Up For Vaccine

But shots are being distributed slowly, so don't hold your breath

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

If you are one of the 8 million people working in education or in the food and agriculture industry, you could be next in line for the COVID vaccine. Later today, California's Community Vaccine Advisory Committee is expected to announce dates for the next phase in administering the coronavirus vaccine in the state.

Split into two tiers, Phase 1B-tier 1 will include those who are aged 75 and older, workers in education and childcare, emergency services, food and agriculture. Phase 1B-tier 2 covers those who are aged 65 and older, transportation and logistics workers in industrial venues, people working in residential and commercial sheltering facilities or services, those who are critical to manufacturing, prisoners, and the homeless.

Phase 1a, which began late last week, included more than 3 million frontline healthcare workers at acute hospitals, 911 first responders, and those living in long-term care facilities. While no formal dates have been given yet, the state Advisory Committee today is expected to discuss Phase 1C, which will cover those aged 50 and older, those with underlying medical conditions and or a disability, and finally, those working in water

and waste management, defense, energy, communication and information technology (IT), financial services, chemical and hazardous materials, government operations see VACCINE, page 3

## Lawmakers Respond to Storming Of Capitol

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Congresswoman Barbara Lee spoke out as protesters stormed the United States Capitol on Wednesday and Capitol police barricaded the doors with guns drawn and members of congress were locked in a separate room. Many people blamed President Trump for stirring up the protestors, and for not immediately condemning the storming of the building where Congress meets. Congresswoman Barbara Lee sent out a Tweet, saying, "I am horrified that colleagues & staff are on lockdown in House office see CAPITOL, page 12

## New Laws Take Effect in the New Year

Although the legislative session in Sacramento was shortened in 2020 because of the coronavirus, lawmakers still passed a number of laws that went into effect in the New Year. Here are just a few:

**Health & Medicine**

- Beginning in April, hospitals must have a three-month stockpile of personal protective equipment or more for their workers.

- Flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, are banned. Meantime, the tobacco industry has launched a referendum campaign attempting to keep the law from going into effect until voters have had their say.
- Private insurance companies must fully cover all medically necessary mental health and substance abuse disorder treatments under the same terms as other medical conditions.

**Education & Sports**

- Students who enroll at a California State University campus in the fall will be required to take an ethnic studies course to graduate. Courses could focus on Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans.
- Youth football leagues cannot hold more than two practices a week, each lasting no longer than half an hour. An emergency

medical official must be present at games, and someone to evaluate injuries must attend practices.

**Drivers**

- Drivers on local streets and roads are now required to slow down or safely change lanes when approaching stationary emergency vehicles with emergency lights flashing, such as a tow truck or Caltrans vehicle. Previously, such slowing was

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## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

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

### SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



## San Leandro Times

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## PETS OF THE WEEK



**Katniss**

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are a female cat and a pair of guinea pigs.

**Katniss** is a 3-year-old female who allows handling but is still getting used to people. She enjoys cheek rubs and would like a cat experienced home that will go slow with her.

**Bow** (brown/white) and **But-**



**Bow**

**ton** (cream/white/black) are two male guinea pigs who came in together.

They are skittish and would like a home where people will socialize with them.

For more information on Katniss, or Bow and Button, call the Hayward Animal shelter at 510-293-7200.

## SLAA Zoom Art Demonstration

The San Leandro Art Association will host a Zoom art demonstration with the French oil painter Dominique Morillon Bossut ([www.instagram.com/DominiqueMorillonPeintures](http://www.instagram.com/DominiqueMorillonPeintures)). She will be doing the demo from her home in France on Tuesday,

Jan. 12, at 11 a.m.

The public is invited to join. The demo will last about an hour and a supply list is available if you'd like to work along with her.

Contact Kathleen Kelly at [kat@mkathleenkelly.com](mailto:kat@mkathleenkelly.com) for access or with questions.

## First Baby of the Year Arrives At Eden Medical Center

Ben Fico and Kim Pham Fico are the lucky parents of the first baby born in Castro Valley this year. Ayla Hae Linh Fico was born at 7:33 a.m. New Year's Day, weighing a healthy 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

Ayla's middle names honor her parent's heritage. Hae means "ocean" in Korean and Linh means "spirit" in Vietnamese, taken from the languages of her father and mother's ancestral homes.

Ayla is the first child for the Hayward couple and they were glad they decided in advance to deliver at nearby Eden Medical Center. "Kim's water broke at home about 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve and everything happened quickly after that," said Ben.

Delivered by Dr. Ricci Sylla M.D., Ayla arrived about two weeks before her due date, but her parents see that as a blessing saying "She showed up early to help us celebrate New Year's Day." The new family of three are all happy, healthy, and optimistic for 2021.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUTTER HEALTH

Kim and Ben Fico welcomed their baby Ayla Hae Linh Fico into the world on New Year's Day.

## Join the Library's Virtual Book Club

Join the San Leandro Library's new monthly adult book club focused on #Ownvoices books tonight (Thursday) from 6 to 7 p.m.

#Ownvoices is a hashtag that started in 2015 to promote diverse authors and books. The program for adults 18 and over specifically refers to books where the author and protagonist share a marginalized identity.

#Ownvoices is a useful tool to diversify your reading list, learn about new perspectives and find aspects of your own experiences in the pages of a book.

Come for a friendly, casual chat about any #ownvoices books you've read (any genre, any format) or drop by and get some inspiration for your next read.

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PHOTO COURTESY BOYS &amp; GIRLS CLUB

New kitchen equipment and other fixtures arrived at the Boys & Girls Club.

## New Equipment Arrives for Boys & Girls Club Renovation

The renovation of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Leandro Marina Building continues and is at 85 percent completed as of the beginning of December.

Construction is projected to be completed sometime in mid-February 2021 with staff

occupancy probably in March, the club announced last week.

The building will become a vibrant Teen Center and Community Hub. New ceilings, glass folding walls, light fixtures and more are all being installed.

The club is looking forward

to a beautifully redesigned space that will serve youth for generations to come.

In addition, the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Leandro has a new address, too – 2200 San Leandro Boulevard, San Leandro, CA 94577.

## Vaccine: Plan had its problems

*continued from front page*  
tions, and community service.

Governor Gavin Newsom said the rollout plan has not gone without some problems. California has administered more than 454,000 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines since this past Sunday. That number is well below the 1.3 million doses the state has in its possession with another 611,000 being delivered this month. Newsom's health experts initially expected some 2 million vaccines would be given by the end of 2020.

"We are working aggressively to accelerate our pace,"

Newsom said during his weekly update. "That said, it has gone too slowly. We want to see 100 percent of what we receive administered in everyone's arms."

Alameda County Public Health Department in coordination with its own COVID-19 Community Advisory Group has already made plans for some of the special groups that will need help in getting the vaccine, such as the homeless.

"We have built out a street-level medical program, we will do vaccine in hotels, encampments, and shelters," Committee co-chair and Alameda County

Public Health Department Director, Kimi Watkins-Tartt said during a December 21 meeting. "We are concerned about how to reach people in single tents or tucked away."

Additionally, the Committee said County Public Health will track individuals that sign up to take the vaccine as part of California's Immunization Registry (or CAIR) system. While the program does dip into some private data, health officials say they will need the registry to keep tabs on those needing the second shot – between 21 and 28

*see VACCINE, page 11*



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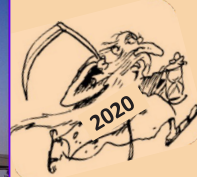
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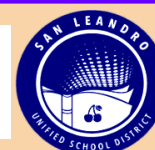
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## SENIORS

## Caregivers &amp; Medicare: Key Points

**Q:** I am the caregiver for my 81-year-old mother, who recently fell and broke her hip. I have a lot of questions about how original Medicare works and what it covers. Where can I get some help understanding this program?

**By Jim Miller**  
Special to the Times

**A:** Having a working knowledge of Medicare can help you take full advantage of the coverage and services it provides to ensure your mom receives the best care possible. Here's what you should know.

• Medicare Assistance

A good starting point to get familiar with Medicare is the

official "Medicare & You" handbook that overviews the program. It's mailed to all beneficiaries every fall and provides an up-to-date description of all services and benefits. You can also see it online at Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you.

If you have a particular question, you can call and visit with a Medicare customer service representative at 800-633-4227. Medicare also works closely with State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) to provide free health insurance counseling.

To find a SHIP counselor in your area visit ShiptaCenter.org or call 877-839-2675.

Caregivers also find Medicare's secure website – My-

Medicare.gov – especially useful. After setting up a personal account for your mom, you can view the details of her coverage, track recent health care claims and keep up to date on the preventive services she qualifies for.

• Compare Tools

Medicare can also help you locate the right health care providers for your mother. At Medicare.gov/care-compare you can find and compare doctors, hospitals, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, inpatient rehab facilities, long-term care hospitals and nursing homes in your mom's area.

• What Medicare Covers

Medicare can reduce many out-of-pocket medical expenses your mom incurs, but it doesn't cover everything.

Understanding what Medicare does and doesn't cover can save you time and spare you frustration when navigating the caregiving maze.

Here are some key points for caregivers:

Besides basic hospital and physician services (which includes telehealth services) and optional prescription drug benefits, Medicare covers home health care too.

To qualify, your mom must be homebound, under a physician's care and in need of part-time skilled nursing care or rehabilitative services like physical therapy.

Medicare also helps pay for oxygen, catheters and other medical supplies that a doctor prescribes for home use. The same is true for medically necessary equipment like oxygen machines, wheelchairs and walkers.

In addition, Medicare covers

skilled care in a nursing home for limited periods – up to 100 days – following hospital stays. But it doesn't cover long-term stays.

Patients who need custodial care (room and board) must pay out of pocket unless they're eligible for Medicaid or have private long-term care insurance.

Medicare pays for hospice care too, for someone with a terminal illness whose doctor expects to live six months or less. The hospice benefit also includes brief periods of respite care at a hospice facility, hospital or nursing home to give the patient's caregivers an occasional rest.

Besides long-term nursing home stays, original Medicare typically doesn't cover regular dental care or dentures, regular eye exams or eyeglasses, and hearing exams and hearing aids.

Likewise, it won't pay for nonemergency ambulance trips unless a doctor certifies they're

medically necessary.

To find out what Medicare covers, visit Medicare.gov/cov-erage and type in the test, item or service you have questions about, or download the Medicare "What's covered" app in either the App Store or Google Play.

• Financial Assistance

If your mom lives on a limited income, you should check whether she qualifies for help with prescription drug costs or with other Medicare-related premiums, deductibles and copayments.

For help with drug costs, visit SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp or contact Social Security at 800-772-1213 and ask about the "Extra Help Program." For help with other Medicare costs, go to Medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227 and ask about the "Medicare Savings Programs."

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

## Medi-Cal Myths Uncovered

**Q:** In talking with friends, I discovered a lot of misunderstanding about how the Medi-Cal program works if one needs help with the high cost of nursing home care. I wonder if you would clarify matters.

**By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.**  
Special to the Times

**A:** Sure. I have also discovered much misunderstanding, even among care professionals. Here are the most common "myths" regarding the Medi-Cal program for those needing a help with the cost of care:

**Myth No. 1:** Nursing home Medi-Cal is just for persons at or near the poverty level.

**Fact:** Not necessarily. Per-see MYTHS on page 5

## Senior News Line: The Best You Can Do

**By Matilda Charles**  
SENIOR NEWS LINE

A show of hands, please. Is anybody else getting worn out by the current state of our lives?

Is there anything we can do about it?

All I wanted was a package of socks. That shouldn't be hard. In the past, once a year or so, I'd stroll into the local big-box store, grab a package off the shelf (especially happy when I found a bonus pack with 2 extra pairs in it), pay for it and walk out.

And now? Now I can't find

them anywhere. I don't dare walk into stores just to wander around, so I'm left to do my hunt on the internet. These particular socks are nowhere to be found ... except for the ones at three times the price on Amazon.

Then there was the phone call from a neighbor, in the middle of my hunt, describing a new family panic. A family member is undergoing serious medical treatment. They just learned that his nurse tested positive for Covid.

Is anyone else tired of the need for constant vigilance because of Covid? The inability to acquire basic goods and sometimes food? The constant sad stories of seniors who are in rehab centers who haven't had

visitors in months?

That's probably what breaks my heart the most, all those lonely seniors in nursing homes or retirement centers.

I can't do anything about the state of the world, but I can do this: Over the next week I'm going to send individual notes and cards to the residents of a local nursing home. I got all their first names and last initials from the facility director, and I've ordered a big box of miscellaneous greeting cards.

Each one will get a note and a cheery card from me. Maybe it will help brighten their day for a few minutes.

It's the best I can do.

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## LIFESTYLE



before serving.

One or two cups of lightly-packed greens are considered a serving.

### SPINACH SALAD WITH DIJON DRESSING

- 1 (9 ounce) bag of baby spinach leaves
- 4 crimini mushrooms, sliced thin
- 1/2 red onion, sliced thin
- 4 ounces of feta cheese crumbles
- Sliced almonds (optional)
- Dijon vinaigrette (recipe follows)

Combine all ingredients, except dressing in a bowl, then add desired amount of dressing and toss. Serves 4 to 6.

### Dijon Vinaigrette

- 1 clove garlic, finely minced
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon fresh cracked pepper
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

In a jar with a lid, combine garlic, red wine vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Close lid and shake vigorously. Once combined, add olive oil. Shake vigorously. Serve over salad.

### FESTIVE CHICKEN SALAD

- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

- 1 1.3-oz (about) packet dry fajita seasoning, divided
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (11 ounce) can Mexican-style corn
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 1 (10 ounce) package mixed salad greens
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tomato, cut into wedges

Rub chicken evenly with half of the fajita seasoning. Heat the oil in a skillet over medium heat, and cook the chicken 8 minutes on each side, or until juices run clear; set aside.

In a large saucepan, mix beans, corn, salsa and other 1/2 of fajita seasoning. Heat over medium heat until warm.

Prepare the salad by tossing the greens, onion and tomato. Top salad with chicken and dress with the bean and corn mixture.

### LOW-FAT COBB SALAD

- 8 cups torn romaine lettuce
- 1 small bunch curly endive, finely chopped
- 12 ounces cooked turkey breast, cut in bite-size pieces
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1/4 cup fat-free cottage cheese
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 green or red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small red onion, chopped

- 4 hard-cooked egg whites, coarsely chopped
- 4 slices turkey bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup fat free or reduced fat salad dressing

In large bowl, combine romaine and endive. Divide mixture among four plates. Top each with turkey, mounding it in the center of the romaine mixture.

In small bowl, use a fork to stir together blue cheese and cottage cheese. Mound cheese mixture on top of romaine near turkey, then arrange small mounds of tomato, peppers, onions and egg whites on top of romaine. Sprinkle with turkey bacon and serve with desired dressing. Yields 4 servings.

### GARDEN VEGETABLE-RAISIN SALAD

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 lettuce leaves
- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 cup shredded beats
- 3/4 cup raisins

Combine olive oil, lemon juice, basil and pepper in jar. Shake well to mix. Arrange lettuce leaves on four serving plates. Arrange shredded zucchini, carrots and beats evenly among plates and top with raisins. Drizzle with dressing.

## Turning Over a New Leaf

Salads today are a far cry from the quintessential wedge of iceberg lettuce drizzled with bright orange “French” dressing that graced tables half a century ago.

Most markets now stock more than a dozen varieties of leafy greens, ranging in flavor from bland to pleasantly bitter.

Textures vary from crisp to buttery. Some greens stand well on their own; others are best used in combination or as accents.

At the start of a New Year,

when our thoughts turn to healthier eating.

When making a large salad, pick up a few greens you are unfamiliar with and give them a try. You may be pleasantly surprised.

When buying salad greens, select those that are fresh and free of blemishes. It is best to use greens as soon as possible after purchase. They need a thorough washing to remove grit, but should not be allowed to soak.

For dressing to coat salad greens, the greens must be dry. After washing, place on paper

towels or clean kitchen towel and blot with another towel. Salad spinners, which remove water by centrifugal force, are another option.

Greens may be cut with a knife, but most people believe the greens are more appealing when torn into bite-size pieces, removing any tough stems or ribs.

Cleaned greens may be torn in advance and placed in a plastic food bag, then refrigerated several hours before serving. To prevent crisp greens from wilting, toss with dressing and other ingredients just

## Myths: Debunking common misunderstandings about the Medi-Cal system

*continued from previous page* sons with substantial assets can often qualify for a Medi-Cal subsidy, providing planning is in place and that proper steps are taken at the time of need.

This is especially true in the case of married couples, where both federal and state law include Spousal Impoverishment provisions designed to subsidize the cost of care for the Ill Spouse, while preserving a “nest egg” of income and marital resources for the At Home spouse.

**Myth No. 2:** The state can force you to sell your home in order to qualify for a nursing home Medi-Cal subsidy.

**Fact:** False. Your home is an exempt asset during your lifetime and the state will not force you to sell your home in order to qualify for a Medi-Cal nursing home subsidy. However, the home exemption usually expires on death (or upon the later death of surviving spouse or disabled child), and Medi-Cal may then seek to recover benefits paid out on your behalf, often by placing a lien on the home.

Good news: By taking appropriate steps during your lifetime, you can fully protect your home from a post-death Medi-Cal payback claim. One option is to place the home in a Living Trust.

**Myth No. 3:** If you give all of your savings to your children, you can immediately qualify for Medi-Cal.

**Fact:** False. Medi-Cal has a “look back” period, which is currently 30 months in California, and which will ultimately be extended to 5 years. Significant gifts made within that “look back” will usually result in a period of disqualification.

However, if gifts are handled in a very special way, they can still be made in a manner which is both compliant with the Medi-Cal rules and which will not result in disqualification. However, to avoid running afoul of the gifting rules proper guidance from an Elder Law attorney is essential.

**Myth No. 4:** If you put all of your assets into a Living Trust, they do not count when applying for a Medi-Cal subsidy.

**Fact:** False. Placing assets into a Living Trust does not shield them from being considered at qualification, as you normally retain the right to revoke the trust. The Living Trust is therefore disregarded when Medi-Cal considers your resources. However, it can shield those same assets from post-death Medi-Cal “recovery” claims (“pay-back”), and hence is often a recommended option for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

**Myth No. 5:** If you convert from private pay to Medi-Cal, the nursing home can ask you

to leave.

**Fact:** False. If the nursing home is Medi-Cal certified, it is illegal to evict you when you seek a Medi-Cal subsidy.

**Myth No. 6:** Medi-Cal planning is illegal or unethical.

**Fact:** False. Medi-Cal plan-

ning is perfectly legal and ethical. In our view, it is akin to tax planning in which the wealthy engage. Both types of planning do impact the public treasury. To be sure, tax avoidance planning has a far greater impact than Medi-Cal planning.

*Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in the East Bay. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).*



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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Primary Factors to Watch in the 2021 Real Estate Market

With 2020 over and done, everyone I know is looking forward to 2021 and what they hope will be a much calmer, less catastrophic year. 2020 was certainly one for the record books, and none of us want to revisit the events that shaped the year.

If we have learned one thing this past year, it is that anything can happen with little or no notice that might permanently change our lives.

Going into 2021, while we certainly have hopes for what the year may hold, we still do not have many definitive answers. As it relates to real estate, here are things to watch:

The red-hot real estate market.

One of 2020's big surprises was the overheated housing market. The year started with a bang, faltered a bit when COVID-19 arrived, but quickly

regained momentum and finished strong.

Pundits are predicting it will continue full speed ahead for at least the next six months. The key drivers have not changed: low interest rates, limited inventory and a surplus of well-healed buyers.

Low inventory.

Normal real estate markets rely on three groups to provide a flow of listings: move-ups (sellers looking to upgrade), retirees (looking to downsize or relocate) and forced relocations (job transfers, divorces, deaths, etc.).

With housing prices high, it is difficult to move up and, in a housing shortage, it becomes almost impossible to find a replacement home without first selling and moving out.

Many sellers are unwilling to take the risk of selling without having a replacement lined up. This is not likely to change in the near future.

It is hoped that the passage of Prop. 19, allowing homeowners over 55 to transfer their current home tax assessment to any area in California, will prompt many seniors to downsize. Previously, the potential of higher taxes for replacement properties kept older sellers firmly locked in place.

There may be another bright spot as well: many corporations are telling employees they can continue to work from home. This has spawned a migration from urban centers to suburbs and beyond, and

should make more homes available.

Low interest rates.

It is predicted that rates may creep up in the new year, but will still be at remarkably low levels that should continue to fuel purchases.

2021 is off and running, and all of us are praying this New Year will be better dramatically for all.

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.

## Happy New Year!

*The Grubb Team*

helped 22 families realize their home ownership dreams in 2020. A big THANK YOU to all our Clients who placed their trust in us, our Vendors who worked with us and the other Realtors who were in contract with us. Here's to New Beginnings in 2021!

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## Winter Care for Houseplants

By Melinda Myers  
Special to the Times

Be sure to keep your houseplants looking their best with proper winter care.

Make sure houseplants receive sufficient light now and throughout the winter. The shorter, often gray days of winter mean less light reaches our plants.

Start by moving plants to the sunniest available window. A south-facing window is usually best, but if it is obstructed by trees or awnings it may be no better than an unobstructed window facing another direction.

If brightly lit locations are limited in your home, try rotating plants between high and low light areas. Switching plants every few weeks usually keeps them growing healthy.

Give the pots a turn every few weeks to ensure each side of the plant has time facing the light. This encourages even growth and discourages stems stretching toward the light.

Consider supplementing natural light with artificial light when light is limited. Newer styles that clip onto pots, are mounted on the wall, or tucked

into furniture grade stands make them attractive and easier to use. And now LED plant lights are more affordable, longer lasting and use less energy.

Humidity is the other winter stress. Many of our houseplants are tropical and require higher humidity than our homes provide. As we turn up the heat, the humidity declines.

Boost the humidity around your plants by displaying them together. As one plant loses moisture, the others will benefit. Add a gravel tray for additional humidity. Fill a tray or saucer with pebbles and water. Then set the plant on the pebbles elevated above the water. As the water evaporates, it increases humidity around the plant.

Adjust your watering schedule to fit the conditions in your home. Always water thoroughly but only as needed. Use your finger to check the soil moisture below the soil surface.

Water plants that love moisture, like Moon Valley Pilea, when the top few inches are barely moist. Allow the top few inches of soil to dry for cacti and succulents. And always pour off excess water that col-

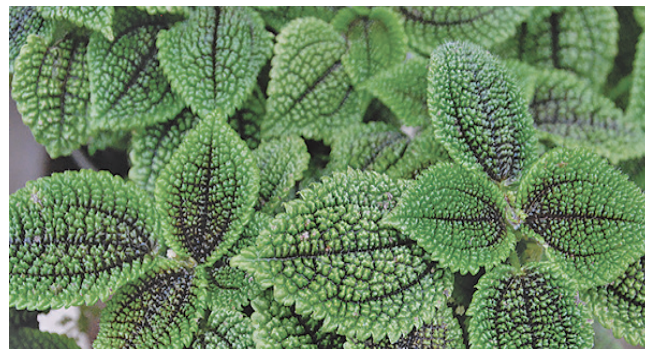


PHOTO COURTESY OF MELINDAMYERS.COM

lects in the saucer. Or use gravel trays to capture the excess water, eliminating this task.

Most houseplants do fine in the same temperatures people prefer. They do not tolerate drafts of hot air from heat vents or cold air from windows and doors. Move plants as needed to avoid drafty locations.

Never trap houseplants between the curtain or blinds and the window. The temperature can be significantly colder, resulting in injury and even death of some plants. Place plants on a table near the window or window sill extension, leaving room to close the window coverings at night.

Wait until spring to fertilize.

Plants do not need as many nutrients when their growth is limited by less-than-ideal winter conditions. As the outdoor growing conditions improve with longer days and brighter light, so do those indoors.

You will be rewarded with healthier, more attractive plants when giving them the care they need this winter. And as you tend your indoor garden, you will help fight the winter blues.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening." She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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## Mortgage Rates Remain Near Record Low

Long-term mortgage interest rates remained near last week's record low heading into 2021, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.67 percent for the week ending Dec. 31, up slightly from a week earlier when it averaged 2.66 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.72 percent.

Fifteen-year-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.17 percent, down from the previous week when it averaged 2.19 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.71 percent, down from 2.79 percent.

"All eyes have been on

mortgage rates this year, especially the 30-year fixed-rate, which has dropped more than one percentage point over the last 12 months, driving housing market activity in 2020," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "Heading into 2021 we expect rates to remain flat, potentially rising modestly off their record low, but solid purchase demand and tight inventory will continue to put pressure on housing markets as well as house price growth." 5-year Treasury-indexed hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) averaged 2.71 percent with an average 0.4 point, down from last week when it averaged 2.79 percent. A year ago at this time, the 5-year ARM averaged 3.46 percent.



### Roses

January is the month to prune your rose bushes as well as deciduous trees, shrubs, grape vines, kiwis and berries. Apply dormant oil spray after pruning, not before. Do *not* prune any spring-flowering trees or shrubs until they finish blooming.

Prune roses way back, using clean, sharp tools and protect your hands with heavy gloves. Make all cuts at 45-degree angles above an outside bud eye, about a quarter-inch above the eye. Take out twiggy and malformed growth.

For a moderate pruning, cut bushes 18 to 24 inches high with three to six canes left in place. Severe pruning produces larger, but fewer blooms. Floribundas and grandifloras often benefit from a light pruning.

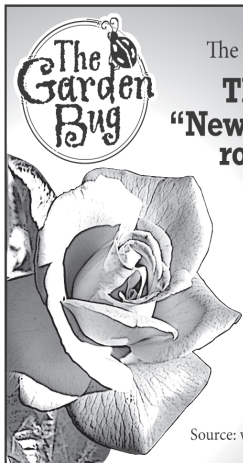
On old garden roses, don't do anything until after the spring bloom. Prune tree roses and hybrid teas to a vase shape. Climbing roses bloom on mature canes, so don't be overzealous. Train their canes against a fence or trellis by attaching the canes to the structure in a horizontal position.

### Slithery Pests

Snails and slugs love rainy weather and will be after young winter annuals. The quickest, safest way to get rid of them is to hand pick them at dusk using a flashlight. They can often be found clinging to the garden hose and along the side of sheltered bricks. Secure them in a plastic bag and put them in the garbage.

### Lawns

On dry days, rake up leaves and debris from the lawn so a buildup won't flatten the grass. Be careful about walking on the grass too much during downpours.



The inner petals of this Grandiflora rose are pale orange, with the undersides slightly darker. The outer petals are edged in red, and curl under. The fully-bloomed flower can be 4 1/2" across, have up to 25 petals, and carries a light, pleasing fragrance. A bush of this kind can grow 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide, and display many blooms at a time throughout a growing season. When set next to blue flowers such as delphinium it is especially striking.

Source: www.allaboutrosegardening.com - Brenda Weaver

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# Laws: New law requires state AG to investigate police shootings

continued from front page  
only required on freeways.

- Authorized emergency vehicles are now allowed to use a high-low warning sound instead of a siren to notify the public of an immediate need to evacuate an area for an emergency.
- Eligible disabled veterans may verify eligibility for special license plates or a handicapped parking placard if they present certification from the Calif. Department of Veterans Affairs or a county veterans services officer.
- The Dept. of Motor Ve-

hicles will waive driving skills tests required for a commercial driver's license if the applicant is a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces licensed to drive large trucks.

- Beginning July 1, driving while using a hand-held cell phone will result in a point being added to a driver's record if the violation is the second to occur within 36 months. Four points within a year could lead to a suspended license.

## Business

- Employers must provide

written notice within 24 hours to workers who might have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

- The retail sale of all dogs, cats and rabbits is no longer allowed. Shelter and rescue groups can, however, offer pets for adoption in pet stores.
- Employees can now use their sick days for whatever reason they deem necessary.
- California's minimum wage rises to \$14 an hour for large companies, with pay rising to \$13 in workplaces with 25 or

fewer employees.

- Small employers are required to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to employees for such events as serious health problems, birth of a child, and military service.

## Law & Order

- Probation terms for most misdemeanors are capped at one year, instead of the former three years. Terms are capped at two years instead of five for many felonies, except for violent offenses and certain financial crimes.
- Inmates who have partici-

pated in training for firefighting are allowed to have their criminal records expunged.

- The state attorney general must investigate any incident in which an unarmed person is killed by a police officer.
- Police departments are required to screen prospective

officers for such biases as race, sexual orientation, gender, religion, etc.

- Law enforcement agencies in California must honor a gun violence restraining order issued in another state.
- Police officers are banned see LAWS, page 11

## LOCAL DEATHS

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### Irmina Magsaysay Riccio

December 24, 1955 – December 21, 2020  
Resident of San Leandro, CA

It is with deep sadness that the family of Irmina Magsaysay Riccio announces her death on Monday, December 21, 2020. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Joseph W. Riccio. She was very dear to her family: her sister Aurea Magsaysay del Prado (Armand), her brother, Leon Magsaysay, and sister, Socorro Posadas. She was preceded in death by brother Lorenzo Magsaysay, by her parents, Paterno Magsasay, Oliver Posadas and Dolores Fabie; by father-in-law, J. Riccio.



She will also be missed by Sisters-in-law, Lydia, Teresa, and Christine; by brothers-in-law, James, Edward. By nieces and nephews: Randall, Patrick; Heather, Tyler; Cory, Andrew; Patricia, Katrina, Dolores, and Noah.

Irmina was born in Pasay City, Philippines on December 24, 1955. Her parents were Paterno Magsaysay and Dolores Fabie. Irmina was a graduate of Assumption College in Makati, immigrating to the United States in 1987. She was married on February 14, 1998 in Alameda, California.

Irmina's Father died on March, 1957 in a plane crash carrying the entourage of Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay. Her Mother remarried Oliver Posadas, first cousin of Paterno. Irmina (known as Mina) studied in St. Theresa's during her elementary years, transferred to Assumption, Herran, in Manila, for high school. Later, she graduated with a small business degree in Assumption College in Makati and started working. She joined a Scripture-based organization and formed many long friendships there. She owned a dress-making business, specializing in bridal gowns.

She moved to Alameda, in 1987, primarily to take care of her ailing mother, who was terminally ill with cancer. She lived with her father in Alameda, CA, and worked at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Oakland in the Admitting department for over 10 years.

Later, she served as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion at San Leandro Church of the Assumption for many years, and participated as an active parish member. Every Christmas, she sponsored and hosted a table for the community's annual Women's Advent program. She often said that she had found her home at the Church of the Assumption and her caring nature exhibited her deep faith.

She will be missed by her large family of cousins, relatives, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to your favorite charity or St. Vincent de Paul, Alameda County at, St. Vincent de Paul, Alameda County, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612.

Services for Irmina will be private. The Funeral Mass will be held post-pandemic. Inurnment also to follow at a future date. Arrangements by Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Funeral Offices.

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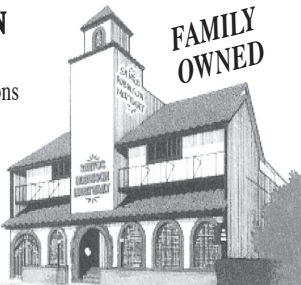
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### Richard N. Boss

November 25, 1928 - November 26, 2020

Richard N. Boss peacefully passed away on November 26, 2020 with fiancée Nellie and his daughter-in-law by his side.

Rich grew up in East Hampton, MA and eventually moved to California. He worked extremely hard to provide for his family and worked as a Commercial/ Residential Electrician with IBEW Local Union until he retired. Rich had a zest for life, always making humor and laughter present. He loved music and was passionate playing his banjos. He played in numerous banjo bands in bay area in Oakland, Redwood City, San Jose, San Francisco, multiple Banjorama's and playing every Thursday at Porky's Pizza in San Leandro for the past 40 years. Wherever and whenever Rich knew of his fellow banjo players were jamming, he was always ready to play! Rich also loved NASCAR races, Golden State Warriors and had a very strong faith in the Baha'i religion.

Rich is predeceased by his wife, Caroline Richardson Boss and his parents Henry and Lillian Boss. Rich is survived by his children; son Rick, daughter Cindy (Rudy) and his grandchildren; Angela Kraft (Greg), Logan Boss, Erica Boss, Heather Arana, Blake Arana and great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Rich's life event at Porky's Pizza, San Leandro will be announced at a later date.



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Sections 17900-17930

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tered by the following owner(s): The Agency  
Real Estate and Finance, 1546 Scenicview  
Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business  
is conducted by a corporation. This business  
commenced 11/01/2020.

/s/ The Agency Real Estate and Finance  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated  
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Expires DECEMBER 03, 2025  
DEC 17, 24, 31, 2020, JAN 07, 2021  
303-SLT

FILED DECEMBER 09, 2020  
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cated at 423 Bartlett Ave. Apt #3, Hayward,  
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Antonio Rosas Sandoval, 423 Bartlett Ave.  
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is conducted by an individual. This business  
commenced 12/2/20.

/s/ Marco Antonio Rosas Sandoval  
This statement was filed with the County  
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Expires DECEMBER 09, 2025  
DEC 24, 31, 2020, JAN 07, 14, 2021  
306-SLT

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ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 574880

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

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Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):  
Speedy IRP Trucking located at 1948 Davis  
Street, Suite B, San Leandro, CA 94577, in  
Alameda County, mailing address 643 Olive  
Avenue, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby regis-  
tered by the following owner(s): Vivek Berry,  
643 Olive Avenue, Fremont, CA 94539. This  
business is conducted by an individual. This  
business commenced N/A.

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

Expires DECEMBER 01, 2025  
DEC 17, 24, 31, 2020, JAN 07, 2021  
305-SLT

Project Name: Sanitary Sewer Point Repairs 2021  
Contract/Bid #: 2020.0120

Awarding Agency: City of San Leandro

Project Location: City of San Leandro, Alameda County, CA

Bid Date: 01/28/2021 at 02:30

#### Project Details:

Cratus, Inc. is requesting quotes from qualified local business enterpris-  
es of City of San Leandro for construction on the Sanitary Sewer Point  
Repairs 2021 - Project No. 2020.0120 project. Subcontractors, Supplie-  
rs, Haulers, etc... are encouraged to submit quotes. Quotes are requested  
from qualified contractors for scopes including but not limited to, SWPPP,  
Traffic Control, Trucking, Demolition, Concrete, Traffic Markings, Land-  
scape, and HMA. The work to be done consists of sanitary sewer point  
repairs, maintenance hole rehabilitation, CIPP installation, and CCTV  
inspection. Such miscellaneous work includes removing concrete forms,  
disposal off-site of all unsuitable materials, and cleanup of the site. The  
Engineers Estimate for the project is \$2.5M.

Work includes point repairment of 1,078 lf of 6", 8", 10" sewer pipeline  
by open-cut method, rehabilitation of 3,287 lf of 6" and 8" sewer by CIPP  
method, upsizing of 361 lf of 8" pipeline with new to 10" pipeline by open  
trench method, re-establishing of 113 ea of service lateral connections  
in CIPP rehabilitated pipeline, and installation of 28ea new maintenance  
hole in the City of San Leandro, California. Plans & Specifications are  
available at our office between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through  
Friday by appointment only. Plans & Specifications also can be viewed  
on the City of San Leandro's website. ([https://www.sanleandro.org/depts/finance/purchasing/bids/current\\_bids/default.asp](https://www.sanleandro.org/depts/finance/purchasing/bids/current_bids/default.asp))

Please contact our office with any questions or for help with bidding,  
bonding, or insurance. We are an equal opportunity employer. The plans  
and specs are available for your review at our office. Bonds will not be  
required from qualified subcontractors.

Contractor:

**Cratus, Inc.**

2178 Palou Ave, San Francisco, CA 94124  
(415) 939 - 2840 (phone) - (415) 520 - 6037 (fax)  
[https://cratusinc.com/\(website\)](https://cratusinc.com/(website))



## Shop: Items for auction, too

continued from front page

"We can't pay all our rent now, we've been paying half our rent," Gonzales said. "We have all the bills that everyone else has."

Treasures Thrift Shop has been around a long time, and the shop also helps April Showers,

the program that provides a shower and clean clothes to homeless people.

"We give them clean clothes," Gonzales said. "Nobody wants to take a shower and then put on the same dirty clothes."

The shop is full of clothes, dishes, lamps, a bicycle and all sorts

of goods. They always have an item on the front table up for auction. Currently it's a Fossil handbag.

"You can come in and bid," Gonzales said. "We need household items and people to come in and find a treasure. It's to help the community – that's what we're here for, to help people."

## Laws: New law on choke holds

continued from page 10

from using choke holds and carotid restraints that apply pressure to a person's windpipe or sides of the neck.

- Inmates in California prisons must be classified by their gender identity, to be determined when taken into custody.

- New fines can be charged to anyone making a 911 call to threaten or harass someone based on race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

- County supervisors can create Sheriff Oversight Boards and an office of Inspector General with the power to issue subpoenas when necessary. The California State Sheriffs' Association opposed the law, arguing that counties already have authority to oversee sheriff's offices.

- Youths up to age 17 can-

not be questioned by police or waive their rights until they have a chance to consult with an attorney.

### Other

- Over the next two years, homeowners in high fire hazard areas are required to reduce vegetation within 100 feet of

buildings, including eliminating vegetation close to structures per state regulations that are yet to come.

- A nine-member task force will convene by this summer to examine whether California will establish a program to provide reparations for slavery.

## Vaccine: Still in lockdown

continued from page 3

days following the first vaccine injection.

"As a county, we will have a (point of dispensing website) and we can do tracking for those we vaccinate," Watkins-Tartt said. "They will receive an appointment card with a reminder on it. We will ask them to take a picture and send it to a close

representative."

As of last Saturday, Alameda county reported 27% of its ICU staffed beds and 17% of its inpatient beds were filled with people recovering from COVID-19. That's better than the state average, but the county remains in the most severe tier because its overall test positivity rate was 7% percent over a 7 days.



PHOTO COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Trapped Driver Rescued

Firefighters rescued a driver who was trapped in an overturned car after a collision on Monday night on the 15000 block of Washington Avenue in San Leandro. The Alameda County Fire Department extricated the single occupant from the car who was then taken by ambulance to the hospital, said fire department spokeswoman Joanna Leal. The cause of the accident is being investigated by the San Leandro police.

# OPINION

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

### Recruiters Violating the Rules

Editor:

Military recruiters, love them or hate them, are an essential part of military readiness across all branches.

As a concerned citizen I ask: how is it acceptable for local military recruiters to work in a shared office

space without masks, shields, or the most basic of safety precautions?

At all hours of the day, recruiters at the office located across the street from Chabot College can be seen conducting business with members of the public. These meetings are held indoors, with no masks, and zero responsibility.

This blatant disregard for public health and safety is unacceptable. How can we expect them to protect us when they cannot seem to protect themselves with something as basic as a mask? I'm sure wearing a piece of cloth over the face is nothing compared to a full combat kit overseas.

I expect the military to hold themselves to a higher standard, given that they have sworn to protect the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. COVID-19 is a global enemy, and it's time they uphold their oath.

—Lyn Miller  
Castro Valley

### Coronavirus & Animal Abuse

Editor:

Novelist Milan Kundera wrote that, "Mankind's true moral test, its fundamental test...consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals." ("The Unbearable Lightness of Being," 1984)

As we slog through this god awful pandemic, let's never forget that it was human-caused, a direct result of our gross mistreatment and abuse of other animals, both wild and domestic.

If nothing else, COVID-19 should teach us all a much-needed lesson in humility, with a dose of concern and compassion for others. Some serious changes are in order. Are we up to the task?

Happy New Year to all, human and non-human alike.

—Eric Mills, coordinator  
Action for Animals, Oakland

### Turning to Plant-Based Foods

Editor:

With the "Year of Covid" barely behind us, we look forward to the New Year and the customary resolutions: reduce personal weight, reduce time on social media, and reduce consumption of animal foods.

Yes, that. Nearly 40% of Americans are already eating more plant-based foods. Hundreds of school, college, and corporate cafeterias have embraced Meatless Monday.

Even fast-food chains like McDonald's, Burger King, Carl's Jr, Chipotle, Denny's, Dunkin', Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell, and White Castle offer plant-based options.

Dozens of start-ups, led by Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods, are producing plant-based meats, milks, cheeses, and ice creams. Every ice cream manufacturer boasts nut-based flavors.

Even meat industry giants Tyson Foods, Perdue, Hormel, and Canada's Maple Leaf Foods have rolled out their own plant-based meat products.

The reasons for the skyrocketing popularity of plant-based meat and milk products are compelling: they are more convenient, healthier, more eco-friendly, and more compassionate than their animal-based counterparts.

The resolution to explore plant-based foods requires no sweat or deprivation – just some fun visits to our favorite supermarket and food websites.

—Dennis Roth  
San Leandro

### 'Phony Propaganda'

Editor:

It appears that John Clouston believes the Lame Stream Media and their fake news, which is nothing more than phony propaganda.

Perfectly aside from the information from several of the swing states that shows that they illegally changed the voting laws without any actions by their own legislatures as required by law, we have literally hundreds of legal affidavits filed by poll watchers including some Democrats that saw election fraud.

In one case a damaged ballot was re-written by two poll watchers, a Democrat and a Republican. The ballot assigned Trump for President. When they put the ballot through the counting machine it showed a count for Biden. They both signed that affidavit with that claim.

Affidavits are legally admissible in court and people have been put on trial for murder on the basis of affidavits. The pretense that literally thousands of votes which were illegally cast (thousand of people that didn't exist, were not residents of that state or died and yet somehow voted) should be passed over isn't going to stop the people of this country.

Eighty-three percent of Republicans and 15% of Democrats and an uncounted number of Independents believe that this election was fraudulent and this is treason to this country and should be so treated.

—Tom Kunich  
San Leandro

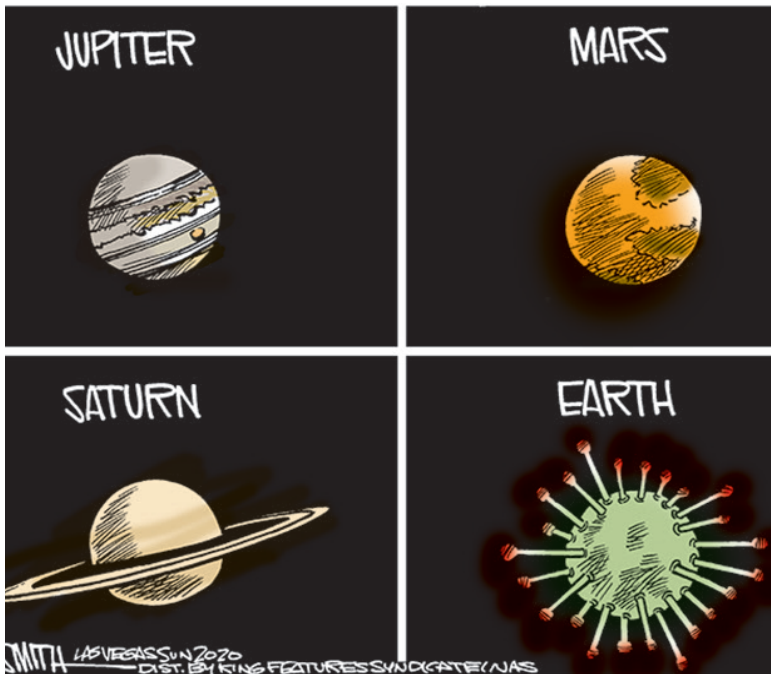






PHOTO COURTESY OF BENJAMIN GOULART

## Bright Spot in Hayward

Benjamin Goulart's newest public art project is titled "City Diversity," located at West Tennyson and Industrial Boulevard in Hayward. Goulart, who calls himself "The Mural Man," describes his style as "Cubist-Modern which is a stained-glass style composition in a colorful abstract approach." The muralist says he wanted to brighten up the lives of everyone during these dark times, and the City of Hayward selected him to deliver this bright message just in time for the holidays. Goulart has been creating distinctive murals in California for 21 years and also gives classes in the art form. For more information, visit [Mural-Man.com](http://Mural-Man.com).

## City Council Okays Funds For Social Issues

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro City Council approved more than \$700,000 in funds in the past month toward improving various social and business projects as part of its year-end meetings.

Advancing its prior stance on fighting issues of race, privilege, and injustice, the council voted, 7-0, to approve a consulting contract with the SEED Collaborative of Inglewood, Calif. to create a City of San Leandro Equity plan with the help of an advisory committee.

The council decision means spending \$227,500, to support San Leandro's existing Community Task Force to help define what equity looks like in San Leandro and make suggestions on how to improve police and public interactions.

Like many cities this past year, San Leandro residents staged protests related to complaints about institutional racism and the use of force by police. The council committed in June to real-locating \$1.7 million from direct

police services toward support programs including intervention and social support funds.

The SEED Collaborative said it will work in partnership with the Perception Institute, a non-profit think tank that works to reduce racial bias. The group is expected to wrap up its assessment in February 2021 and begin community engagement projects through next summer.

In another motion on social issues, the Council unanimously approved \$290,000 to establish animal shelter services with East Bay SPCA. The agreement augments a 15-year agreement with Tri-City Animal Shelter in Fremont. The contract includes helping assist with animal control within the city for issues like stray pets and donation services.

In a nod to non-profits suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Leandro City Council approved a boost of \$28,355 from the general fund to ensure the city has \$150,000 available for its Community Assistance Program

(CAP) grants.

The 2-year grants provide financial support to non-profits providing human services and programs especially for mental and behavioral health needs, development of food security programs or services, and domestic and intimate partner violence services. The program is co-funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The minimum grant amount remains at \$10,000.

Finally, for small businesses struggling to keep afloat during the pandemic, the council approved transferring \$150,000 of Alameda County business incentive funds to be administered as small business grants to San Leandro businesses. The grants would be used to help businesses with operating expenses, payroll, leasing equipment or business space, as well as reimbursement of the purchase of protective equipment to keep a business operating. The grants are expected to be available until the end of 2021.

## Library Launches 'Project Teen Lounge' State Deploys More Medical Workers

The San Leandro Public Library recently launched "Project Teen Lounge," a series of after-school programs for teens in grades 6 through 12.

Programs will launch virtually starting in January. January programs include: Let's Play: Among Us (Jan. 12), art-making with recycled materials (Jan. 13, 20, and 27), a career speaker (Jan. 19) and a resume/cover letter workshop (Jan. 26).

Teens can begin registering

for January programs now at [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org) via the library website.

Project Teen Lounge aims to make sure that San Leandro teens have skills they need to be successful in college, career, and life by providing programs that explore art/self-expression, collaboration, life skills, design thinking, and career planning. Guest teachers will include local artists, professionals in the design, tech, and medical

fields, and life-skills teachers including a career consultant and a mechanic.

Topics for programming have been developed in conversation with the Library's Teen Advisory Group and the City's Youth Advisory Council, both of which continue to consult on developing new programs.

"We are excited to expand the critical role libraries play in after-school development with teens, and deepen our connection with our community and partners," said Library Director Theresa Mallon. "We are grateful to the State Library for funding that allows us to support out community needs."

Enhancing efforts to protect healthcare workers and patients alike, the State of California – through the Office of Emergency Services and the Health and Human Services Agency – have deployed 1,280 medical personnel to healthcare facilities across

the state.

These deployments are part of an ongoing effort by the state to relieve stress on the medical care system during the current surge in cases and hospitalizations. They will help to ensure necessary healthcare staffing for hospitals,

nursing homes and other medical facilities.

The state has also procured hundreds of millions of pieces of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) including N-95 respirators, procedure masks, gowns, face shields and gloves.

## Capitol: 'It's over. Please go home'

*continued from front page*  
buildings as I tweet this. I am equally horrified that Trump & members of the GOP have called for this blatant attempt to undermine our democracy. Please stay safe. This is dangerous."

Congressman Eric Swalwell

also Tweeted in the first hour of the storming of the Capitol.

"As representatives, we swear an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Any elected official who does not denounce this full frontal assault on our democracy is assisting a coup attempt on the Capitol."

Swalwell's message was sent before Trump later Tweeted a message for his supporters to remain peaceful and respect law and order. Trump had been Tweeting for a month false claims of voter fraud.

Trump had Tweeted the day before about the people coming to Washington, D.C. to protest the election result, saying, "They won't stand for a landslide elec-

tion victory being stolen."

Later in the afternoon, the Virginia National Guard and Maryland state police were called in to assist police in the District of Columbia. The Department of Justice took charge of policing the city, an important distinction in that the military should not be involved in a political power struggle.

Lawmakers, including Republicans, told President Trump to tell his supporters to back off.

"Call it off, Mr. President. We need you to call it off," said Rep. Mike Gallagher, a Republican from Wisconsin in a CNN interview. "It's over. Please go home. Thank you for your support. I look forward to a peaceful transition of power."

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Aspects call for care in preparing material for submission. Although you might find it bothersome to go over what you've done, the fact is, rechecking could be worth your time and effort.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** The week is favorable for Bovines who welcome change. New career opportunities wait to be checked out. You also might want to get started on that home makeover you've been considering.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You might have to be extra careful to protect that surprise you have planned, thanks to a certain snoopy someone who wants to know more about your plans than you're willing to share.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Family ties are strong this week, although an old and still-unresolved problem might create some unpleasant moments. If so, look to straighten the situation out once and for all.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Although the Lion might see it as an act of loyalty and courage to hold on to an increasingly shaky position, it might be wiser to make changes now to prevent a possible meltdown later.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Your gift for adding new people to your circle of friends works overtime this week, thanks largely to contacts you made during the holidays. A surprise awaits you at the week's end.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Don't hide your talents. It's a good time to show what you can do to impress people who can do a lot for you. A dispute with a family member might still need some smoothing over.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Be open with your colleagues about your plan to bring a workplace matter out into the open. You'll want their support, and they'll want to know how you'll pull it off.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Trying to patch up an unraveling relationship is often easier said than done. But it helps to discuss and work out any problems that arise along the way.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** While your creative aspect remains high this week, you might want to call on your practical side to help work out the why and wherefore of an upcoming decision.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Dealing with someone's disappointment can be difficult for Aquarians, who always try to avoid giving pain. But a full explanation and a show of sympathy can work wonders.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Getting a job-related matter past some major obstacles should be easier this week. A personal situation might take a surprising but not necessarily unwelcome turn by the week's end.

### Spiritual, but not religious?

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[unitysanleandro.org](http://unitysanleandro.org) or on Facebook Live

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- We believe there are many paths to God.
- We show you how to transform your life through practical spiritual principles.
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