

FOURTH of JULY

CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE THIS SATURDAY



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WARM Beautiful sunny skies
HIGHS: 72-79
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 55-60

FRIDAY

SUNNY

SATURDAY

SUNNY

SUNDAY

SUNNY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 30 • NO. 27

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

A family gets out on the water on the Oakland Estuary on a Sunday in June. This Fourth of July weekend looks like another good time to be outdoors – practicing the pandemic protocols, of course.

Americans Ready for the Fourth

The Independence Day celebration will be a lot quieter this year.

Fireworks shows and parades in the Bay Area have been canceled for this year's Fourth of July. There won't be any bombs bursting in air for spectators, because large gatherings spread the coronavirus.

The increase in coronavirus cases is at least partly attributed to the gatherings of

people on Memorial Day. Health officials warn against crowds on the Fourth of July weekend, which could worsen the pandemic.

The coronavirus has halted the annual pyrotechnic displays on the waterfront in San Francisco, the Berkeley Marina and other locations around the bay.

Many cities this year have scheduled virtual events. Some Bay Area cities are

having virtual Fourth of July parades where people enter by sending in a video.

Some neighborhoods are also seeing more fireworks of the unofficial kind this year, maybe caused by the pent-up pandemic blues.

But fire departments are warning people not to do their own fireworks displays. They could start a fire, or cause serious injury.

County Hits Pause on Reopening

Health officials spurred by increase in coronavirus cases

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

A recent spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates in the region prompted Alameda County Health officials to postpone the next phase of reopening.

In a statement issued Monday, a County Health spokesperson said the agency is extending its reopening timeline and if things don't improve in the next seven days that it may even recommend pulling back on activities reinstated since June 19, including outdoor dining, retail, and religious ceremonies.

"We are concerned by the increase in local cases, the disproportionate impact on communities of color, local impact of the outbreak at San Quentin State Prison, and the alarming disease trends we see in counties that have opened at a faster rate," Alameda County Health Care Services Agency spokesperson Neetu Balram said in a statement.

Even before the County said it would slow its rollout plans, California Governor Gavin Newsom ordered bars closed in some counties and the potential for increased enforcement of shelter in place orders.

Alameda County's case rate per 100,000 people increased from 63.2 to 71.1 over the past seven days. This week, health officials recorded an accumulation of more than 5,762 cases of

coronavirus infections with 133 related deaths.

As of Monday, San Leandro has 276 infected with COVID-19. Castro Valley reported 181 cases.

see PAUSE, page 4

Aguilar Endorses Azevedo

City Councilman Victor Aguilar endorsed candidate Bryan Azevedo who is running for the City Council in District 2.

Azevedo, who ran unsuccessfully in 2016, will challenge City Councilman Ed Hernandez for the second time.

Hernandez defeated Azevedo in the 2016 election for the same District 2 seat, taking 54 percent of the vote to Azevedo's 45 percent.

After that election, Azevedo said he learned that he has to become better known. He's followed through on that by attending just about every civic event, helping out at food banks, doing good deeds for neighbors, and posting his appearances daily

see AZEVEDO, page 4

Taylor Family Says City, Police, News Media Trying to Sweep Shooting Under the Rug

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

The family of a San Leandro man who was shot and killed by police called on City Hall, the police and the news media to show some regard for the man and his family and for all black people who have been victimized.

The family, along with supporters, held a press conference in front of the San Leandro police station on Friday evening to make their point.

"He was a loving man – people loved my son. He made everybody laugh," said Sharon

Taylor, mother of Steven Taylor. "Now we're two months down the road and we still don't know what's going on."

Taylor said the family wants a better explanation of the shooting and they want an apology.

Steven Taylor was shot and killed by police at the Walmart on Hesperian Boulevard in San Leandro on April 18. The 33 year old who was homeless was wielding a metal baseball bat and didn't put it down when police

see TAYLOR, page 3



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Steven Taylor's grandmother, Addie Kitchen (right), and his mother, Sharon Taylor (seated, second from left), spoke at the press conference.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

AUTOS

Simplicity of old cars makes them fun to work on. **Page 2**

HOMES

Fungus in the soil is natural and good. **Page 7**

SENIORS

State budget avoids cuts that would affect seniors. **Page 12**

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Auto	2
Business	10
Classified Ads	8
Crossword	9
Homes	6
Inquiring Reporter ...	11
Letters	11
Lifestyle	5
Obituaries	10
Seniors	12

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



Chester

Huey and Dewey, the orange and white kitten brothers shown here last week, were both adopted, the Hayward Animal Shelter announced.

This week, the Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are Chester the kitten and Dutchess the dog.

Chester is an adorable



Dutchess

9-week-old lynx point male kitten who loves playing with wand toys. He has a loud purr and is very sweet and playful.

Dutchess is a 4-year-old female who walks well on leash and takes treats gently. Dutchess loves getting attention and being near people, but she doesn't realize she is too big to be a lap dog. She would like to go to a home with teens and adults.

If interested in adopting, or for more information, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-283-7200.

This Day in History...

On July 2, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act into law.

On July 2, 1776 the Continental Congress resolved that the colonies are free and independent states.



PHOTO BY

Dean Meltz likes to tinker with cars and motorcycles, including this 1927 Chevrolet.

Car Buff Keeps Old Machines Running

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Dean "Rustoholic" Meltz put a few of his vehicles on display in his front yard on Violet Street on Sunday, June 7.

Neighbors were welcome to stop by and check out his 1927 Chevrolet, along with a few other vehicles — a 6 horse-power mini-bike and a homemade motor scooter he calls The BS Flyer.

"It's made with parts they had around in the early '50s," Meltz said. "The BS stands for Briggs & Stratton, of course," he chuckles.

The bike is powered by a lawnmower engine that Briggs & Stratton made for Montgomery Wards.

The '27 Chevy was sent from Chevrolet to Hercules Body in Indiana to put a canopy on it.

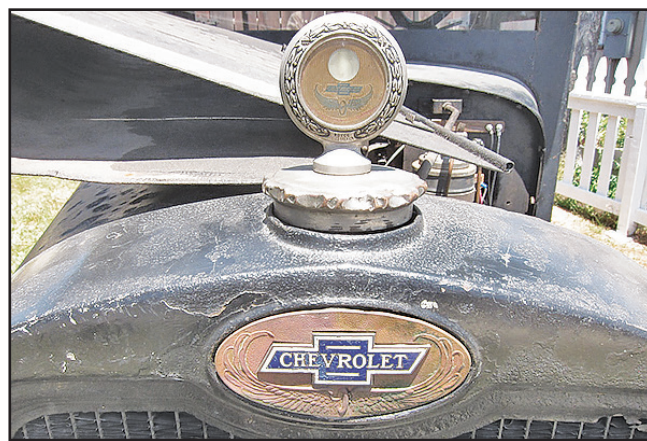
They sold fruit from the back of the truck, Meltz said.

The Chevrolet has a 4-cylinder, 171 cubic-inch engine, wooden wheels and spokes and a walnut steering wheel.

The radiator cap (below) has a glass display to indicate the engine temperature, made by the Boyce MotoMeter Company.

If you see the red line get up into the circle, the engine is getting too hot.

"So you pull over and take a break," Meltz said. "It's really fun to work on stuff that's this simple."



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Taylor: 'They need to learn how to de-escalate'

continued from front page

ordered him to do so. A taser momentarily stunned him but he again advanced on the policeman who shot him.

Taylor's family maintains that he was in a mental health crisis and should not have been shot and killed.

"This happened in your community," said Taylor's grandmother Addie Kitchen. "The news media didn't seem that concerned. Was that because he's black?"

Kitchen and Taylor said that they wanted to hear from the city and the police department.

"We had to have Miss (Congresswoman Barbara) Lee call the mayor to have her call me," Kitchen said.

Both Kitchen and Taylor said that the policeman who fired the shot should be named and prosecuted.

The shooting is under investigation by the San Leandro Police Department and the Alameda County District Attorney's office. In addition, the City Council sent a letter to state Attorney General Xavier Becerra requesting his office to investigate the shooting, too.

Sharon Taylor said that San



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Reporters speak with Sharon Taylor, mother of Steven Taylor, after a press conference in front of the police station.

Leandro hasn't really changed that much.

"If you call the police on a black person it isn't going to end well," Taylor said. "They don't need a brand new range for

\$600,000. They don't need new cars. They need to learn how to de-escalate."

If a white man was holding a baseball bat, Taylor said, it would have been different.

"Maybe the mayor doesn't think it's a real issue," Taylor said. "We need help getting justice for our son."

Vehicle Access Limited at Marina Park this Weekend

Vehicle access to Marina Park will be restricted this 4th of July Holiday weekend from Friday at dusk until Monday morning to prevent further spread of Covid-19, the City of San Leandro and the police department announced this week.

While the city recognizes that the 4th of July holiday weekend is a time when many residents and visitors to San Leandro may seek to use these parks, these changes are necessitated to protect the public safety of our community.

Additionally, as in years past, the Marina Park will close at 6 p.m. hours on July 4th.

Beginning at 3 p.m. the only vehicle entrance and exit into the park will be on Marina Boulevard.

While you'll be able to enjoy some healthy outdoor activities at the parks, such as exercise and walking as long as social distancing measures are in effect, the use of all barbecues, picnic tables, play structures, and other

park amenities associated with group activities will be closed to the public.

Regular police patrols, signage and temporary traffic will serve as reminders of these necessary restrictions.

Vehicle parking will be prohibited on Monarch Bay Drive and at the following locations:

San Leandro Marina Boat Launch parking lot (non-trailer vehicles)

Marina Park parking lots Monarch Bay Drive south of Fairway Drive

The City of San Leandro will continue to work with the community to manage the ongoing public health emergency, and asks that residents continue following public health guidelines, including:

Refrain from using parks or trails if you are feeling ill, or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19

Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene prior to and during use of parks or trails.

Bayfair Shopping Center to Reopen Friday

Bayfair shopping center will reopen the interior mall for business beginning Friday, July 3.

While Bayfair Center will be open for in-person shopping and dining, some of the center's restaurants will continue to provide curbside and delivery services.

"Now that Governor Newsom has given us the green light to reopen for business and reconnect with the community, we want everyone to know that we have taken significant precautions to safeguard the health of our visitors and employees, which is, of course, our number one priority as our stores and restaurants reopen for business," says Tony Smith, general manager of Bayfair Center.

Bayfair Center has implemented policies and procedures to safeguard the health and well-being of its valued shoppers and employees, including:

The center will temporarily

operate on a modified schedule of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily to allow additional time for cleaning and disinfection. Each of the center's retailers will individually determine their own re-opening

dates and hours; for a regularly updated list of open retailers, including many still offering virtual shopping, shipping and curbside pickup, visit www.shopbayfair.com.

Join the Summer Reading Program

Join the San Leandro Public Library Summer Reading Program from home. Visit the library's website at www.sanleandrolibrary.org to learn more and

sign up. Log your reading online or print out a reading log to keep track of your reading. Children, teens, and adults can participate in this fun program.

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ANNUAL "OUR READERS REMEMBER" SPECIAL SECTION

We want to hear your stories!

Published August 20, 2020

We invite our readers to share their stories and photos — old and not so old — of life in San Leandro.

All photos will be returned. Please include your name, address and telephone number on the back of each photo. Items must be submitted by Friday, July 5, at 12 p.m. For more information, call Jim Knowles at 614-1557. For advertising information, call Claudette Morrison at 614-1559 or Linda Nakhai at 915-1513.

San Leandro Times

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CELINA REYNES

City Councilman Victor Aguilar endorsed candidate Bryan Azevedo who is challenging Ed Hernandez for the City Council seat in District 2.

Azevedo: 'I want to make city council decisions more transparent'

continued from front page
on social media.

Aguilar said in a press release that Azevedo, a fourth-generation San Leandran, is a champion of his community and a necessary, progressive voice for San Leandro.

"Bryan is a community activist that I can trust to get things done," said Aguilar. "He's a hometown hero. He has led the way to clean up his community. He has fed many of those in need. He has volunteered to bag groceries and has called to check on the most vulnerable in our city during the COVID-19 pandemic. San Leandro needs a leader that will stand up and speak out to injustice, inequities, and budgetary reform. That's why I'm endorsing him for the District 2 race."

Azevedo said he's running to promote working-class val-

ues, which he believes are under-represented in the current city council:

"I'm on the ground, fighting for my community every single day," said Azevedo. "I'm going to bring progressive values, make sure average people have a voice, people living paycheck to paycheck. I want to make city council decisions more transparent, and hold police accountable."

Last month, the City Council voted to re-allocate \$1.7 million

from the police budget. Azevedo hopes that the mayor and city council will reallocate these funds toward investments in public safety, housing, and education.

"Victor and I share the fact that we're independent people, not followers," said Azevedo. "I'm the only District 2 candidate who can bring small business and labor together. I'm a bit of a political outsider in that way, but that's why I'm running—so I can help people."

City Council to Meet Monday

The San Leandro City Council will meet on Monday, July 6, at 7 p.m.

Due to the pandemic emergency, the meeting be conducted telephonically.

You can access the meeting

remotely using the URL: <http://zoom.us/j/506831637> or by toll free phone: *67 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099.

The agenda is on the City of San Leandro's website: www.sanleandro.org.

Parking Enforcement to Resume in Downtown SL

Parking fees in downtown San Leandro were suspended due to the pandemic emergency, but regular parking fees went into effect this week, starting on July 1.

On-street parking compliance is essential in managing turnover for businesses who rely on customers accessing their locations throughout the day.

This is a phased approach to bring back paid parking, allowing time to notify parkers who have gotten used to the limited enforcement the last couple of months.

For the first two weeks of July, parking enforcement will begin issuing warnings for paid parking device time or permit

parking zone stay violations. No monetary penalty will be issued for a first time warning, but penalties will be assessed for subsequent violations.

Starting July 15, full enforcement will resume of paid parking devices and permit parking zones and warnings will no longer be issued.

Pause: Limit gatherings to household

continued from front page

The rest of the unincorporated area saw 364 cases of COVID. More than 180 cases were identified on Father's Day (June 21) alone.

Daily hospitalizations were decreasing through June 22, but since then County Health says it has seen a daily increase in hospitalizations.

Now with July 4 celebrations this weekend, Balram says residents should limit outdoor picnics to household members and social bubbles. Staying at home or close to home is recommended.

"We all play a part in safely reopening our communities and protecting people at high risk for COVID-19 infection and death," Balram says.

Some of those at highest risk were quick to acknowledge the pause as a step in the right direction, but are impatient with the county's response to the pandemic.

In an open letter to County Supervisors, 14 community and health groups including Sinkler Miller Medical Association, East Oakland Collective, Roots Community Health Center, Allen Temple Health & Social Services, Urban Strategies, and James A. Watson Wellness Center, voiced their concern that Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

had been slow to respond to Black and Latinx communities.

"Because marginalized communities suffer compromised health even in the best of times, it appears inevitable that the Coun-

"We all play a part in safely reopening our communities."

— Neetu Balram

ty's Black and brown residents and workers will disproportionately bear the brunt of new infections, and increased morbidity and mortality," the group said in a statement.

The letter criticizes the county's slow response to rolling out testing centers, contact tracing, and supplying frontline health-

care workers with personal protective equipment (PPE).

"Black and Latinx communities are often at risk because they provide those essential services. All of us need to do a better job protecting those who cannot shelter in place," said Carolyn Johnson, executive director of the Black Cultural Zone Collective.

At the community level, Johnson added that these non-profits were already organizing testing strategies, outreach, and education in neighborhoods that have been historically ignored.

"Opening up the county too quickly will not help anyone, which is why we are even going door to door to coordinate, communicate, and collaborate these safety precautions to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID in a household," Johnson said.

Health officials are expected to assess the next window of opportunity for reopening recommendations next week.

Testing Available at Marina Community Center

Free Covid-19 testing is now available to everyone, even those without symptoms, at the San Leandro Marina Community Center, and all community testing sites operated by Alameda County Health Services.

No insurance is required and no one is asked about their immigration status.

The hours of operation at the San Leandro Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd., are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. That's a change from the previous schedule which

included Mondays.

This week, the center will be open this Friday, July 3, but will be closed on Saturday, July 4. The following week it is back to its regular schedule of Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing remains by appointment only and can be made by visiting the website <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or calling toll free 1-888-634-1123. Both the website and phone line provide information in English and Spanish.

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No: HG20063137

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. In the matter of the petition to change the name(s) of **JONATHAN MCCARTHY JONG**. Petitioner(s) **Jonathan McCarthy Jong** has/have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name(s) as follows: **Jon Jong**. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **1221 Oak Street Dept. 17, Oakland, CA 94612 on August 07, 2020 at 11:00 o'clock am.** A copy of this order to show cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county **The San Leandro Times**.

Dated: May 18, 2020

Tara Desautels - Judge of the Superior Court
JUNE 11, 18, 25, JULY 2, 2020
-SLT

FILED
MAY 29, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 570619

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Traditional Whispers located at 1242 Fordham Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Joshua Kaplan, 1242 Fordham Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Joshua Kaplan
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires MAY 29, 2025

JUNE 11, 18, 25, JULY 02, 2020
268-SLT

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

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LIFESTYLE

Hot Dogs are on a Roll for the Fourth of July



for 5 minutes.

Arrange hot dogs in sauce; cover and simmer 10 minutes, or until puffed and bubbling.

Place hot dogs in buns and spoon sauce over them. Makes 10 to 12.

CRUNCHY SAUERKRAUT DOG

3/4 cup sauerkraut
8 wieners
8 good hot dog buns
3 bacon slices, chopped and fried crisp

Thousand Island Dressing:

1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons chili sauce
1 tablespoon minced onion
1 tablespoon minced green bell pepper
1 tablespoon drained pickle relish
2 teaspoons minced fresh parsley

Prepare the dressing, combining the ingredients in a small bowl. Cover and refrigerate until needed.

Fire up the grill, bringing the temperature to high.

In a medium bowl, mix together the sauerkraut with the dressing.

Grill the wieners for about 3 to 5 minutes over high heat until deeply browned, rolling to crisp all surfaces. Toast the buns on the edge of the grill if you wish.

Toss the bacon with the sauerkraut mixture. Place the dogs on the buns and the sauerkraut over the dogs. Serve immediately. Serves 4 to 8.

BACON-CHEDDAR DOGS

For each Dog:

1 beef hot dog
1 slice Cheddar cheese
1 slice bacon

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Using a knife, make a slit along the entire length of the hot dog that's about 3/4 of the way through the hot dog. Break the cheese slice into 2 pieces and stuff each piece into the slit in the dog. Wrap the

bacon slice around the hot dog in a spiral fashion, then secure all with a toothpick. Place on a cookie sheet or baking dish.

Bake at 400°F for 11 to 15 minutes, or until bacon is crisp.

AVOCADO DOGS

3 ripe Hass avocados
1 tablespoon lime juice
3/4 teaspoon salt
8 all-beef hot dogs, grilled
8 hot dog buns
1 small white onion, cut into slivers
2 ripe plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped
1 cup crushed potato chips

In bowl mash together avocados, lime juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper. Cover surface with plastic wrap; refrigerate.

Top grilled hot dogs with avocado mixture, slivered onions, tomatoes, and crushed potato chips. Makes 8 hot dogs.

Why are there typically 10 hot dogs per pack and eight buns per bag? It's one of the great mysteries of the universe. You would think the makers of these two inherently linked items would collaborate on this.

When hot dog buns were introduced, hot dogs were sold in varying quantities at the butcher shop. Not until 1940 were hot dogs packaged the way we currently see them in the grocery store. When manufacturers began packaging hot dogs, they chose the 10 to the pack formula.

To save you from the bread aisle arithmetic anxiety, you need to purchase five bags of buns and four packs of hot dogs to break even.

The ingredients in hot dogs have been the subject of much humor, rumor and speculation.

All hot dogs are cured and cooked sausages that consist of mainly pork, beef, chicken and turkey or a combination of meat and poultry, with water, curing agents and spices, such as garlic, salt, sugar, ground mustard, nutmeg, coriander and white pepper. Regardless of the ingredients, the hot dog's flavor is smothered by all the stuff we put on it.

CLASSIC AMERICAN HOT DOGS

8 hot dogs
1/2 cup coarsely chopped bread and butter pickles
1/4 cup coarsely chopped dill pickles
8 hot dog buns
1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
1/2 cucumber cut into wedge

Preheat broiler. Place hot dogs on baking sheet lined with foil. Broil 4 to 5 minutes, turning often, until heated through. Meanwhile, in a small bowl stir together pickles. Serve hot dogs in buns with pickles, onion, cucumber and mustard. Makes 8 servings.

BBQ HOT DOGS

1/2 cup chopped onion
2 tablespoons butter
1 (15-ounce) can tomato sauce
1 tablespoon molasses
1 tablespoon vinegar
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
1/2 teaspoon leaf basil, crumbled
1/2 teaspoon salt
10 to 12 hot dogs
10 to 12 hot dog buns, buttered and toasted

In a large skillet, sauté onion in butter, just until soft. Stir in tomato sauce, molasses, vinegar, mustard, basil, and salt; simmer, uncovered,

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REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



COVID-19 Realities Become Visible

While the beginning of the year started with a bang, the introduction of

COVID-19 added wrinkles that have not been fully seen until now.

Due to a significant lack of inventory in the local housing market, prices began to escalate in January 2020 as multiple offers pushed numbers higher. Just when it looked like we were going to see a reversal of the downward trend for 2018 and 2019, the Coronavirus hit and everything changed.

As we all grappled with the new pandemic realities, a few things happened immediately. Some buyers canceled transactions fearing the market would crash. Others lost their down payments due to the plunging stock market and bailed out.

On the listing side, some sellers retracted homes from the market due to uncertainty and fear of infection. While occupied homes could not be shown at all, and, in some cases, languished on the market, vacant homes that could be accessed went pending at a steady clip.

Clearly, there was a pool

of buyers who wanted to buy homes regardless of whether or not we were going through a crisis.

Consequently, the question on everyone's mind has been: "Will we see an actual effect on the market as a result of COVID-19?" It appears that answer is now: "Yes."

May and June are the months we normally see the highest prices in any given year. So far this year, we are seeing a different pattern. 2020 average prices in San Leandro for single family homes started at \$737,000 in January and rose to \$775,000 in March before dropping to \$741,000 in May.

San Lorenzo started the year at \$728,000, also climbed to \$775,000 before sliding to \$740,000 in May. Same period for Hayward began with \$740,000, bumped up to \$783,000 before settling down to \$741,000.

Castro Valley emerged stronger than the other three, launching 2020 at \$855,000 and aggressively increasing to \$949,000 in April before easing to \$932,000 last month.

The next question is, "Where do we go from here?"

Since no one has been in this situation before, it is extremely hard to say anything for certain. Some have suggested that the normal peak buying season of March to May might be moved out a few months. We simply do not know.

One thing is certain: with no cure and current restrictions, we are still sailing uncharted waters where every day reveals a new real estate reality.

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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Coffee Cultivates Rich Soil

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

What is the value of adding coffee grounds to my garden? Can they be spread directly around plants, or should they be composted first? I'm planning on using them around my azaleas and other shade plants, but I don't want to overdo it.

A Coffee grounds are widely available, and

their primary benefit around plants is as an organic acidifier which makes – or keeps – a soil acid by reducing the pH.

The pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of the soil, a scale that runs from 1 to 14 with 7 being neutral, 6 and below acid, 8 and above being alkaline.

Typically, our clay soil is around neutral (7.0), or slightly alkaline. It varies depending on the water.

Shade-loving plants, along with blueberries, benefit from soil with a pH between 6 to 6.5. Coffee grounds can be liberally spread under the canopy of plants or added to a compost pile.

When applying them directly to the soil surface, they

are lightly cultivated into the soil. The mixing of the soil particle prevents the grounds from forming a moisture barrier or crust. The grounds, along with the other material, break down to form a rich, organic soil amendment or mulch.

Unfortunately, there are no tables available to indicate how much you need to apply to adjust the pH, so they're best used to maintain the current level.

Soil Sulfur or Aluminum Sulfate is the recommended acidifier if you need to make a significant change. Simple pH kits are available at your favorite garden center to test your soil.

Note: One word of warning: Coffee grounds can

be harmful to pets, usually dogs, when ingested in large quantity. Caffeine is a problem. It's hard to say what would be a large enough dose to cause poisoning as the caffeine level varies in the different coffees.

It would be wise to avoid laying large quantities of coffee grounds directly around plants. Instead, bury them in your compost pile. You can also check with your Vet for his or her thoughts. *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.*



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WEEKEND GARDENER

• **Vegetables**
Feed your vegetable crop periodically with a mild, balanced fertilizer for bigger and better harvests.

• **Add Color, Shade**
The first week in July is a good time to add color and shade to the yard. Look for bargains in hibiscus, gardenias, bougainvilleas, white and yellow marguerites, and patio trees in 5-gallon containers. Brighten up the midsummer months with flowering vines, such as trumpet vines in red, orange or lavender, star jasmine and Hall's honeysuckle.

• **Roses**
Lightly prune, feed and water roses on a weekly or

biweekly basis to encourage them to flower continuously into late fall. Trim faded blooms down to the first 5-part leaf or further to gently shape the plant. New blooms should appear in about three weeks.

• **Lawns**
Mow grass often enough to maintain a 2-inch height. Closer cutting in hot weather weakens the turf. Use the grass clippings as mulch around plants, but mix them with leaves or shredded newspapers to keep them from matting.

Happy 4th of July!

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Growing Blueberries in Honor of National Blueberry Month

By Melinda Myers
Special to the Forum

It's time to celebrate. July is National blueberry month so enjoy some of these nutritious berries and consider growing a few plants in your landscape.

Don't let a lack of space or poor soil stop you from growing blueberries. Simply plant a few blueberries in containers and enjoy their spring blooms, fall color and tasty and nutritional fruit for snacking, baking and including in healthful meals.

Blueberries prefer moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Most of us don't have this type of soil. We can, however, create the ideal conditions with a quality potting mix. Or make your own with a combination of sphagnum moss, pine bark and rice hulls or perlite for drainage. Incorporate a slow release fertilizer at planting to provide needed nutrients for 6 to 8 weeks.

Grow one blueberry in a 5-gallon pot with drainage holes. You only need one plant to have fruit but growing two blueberry plants more than doubles the harvest. Plus, you'll have more flowers and colorful fall foliage to brighten your patio, deck or balcony.

Select a blueberry suited to your growing region or one of the compact blueberry cultivars like Top Hat, Jelly Bean, Blueberry Glaze, and Peach Sorbet. Perpetua is not only compact but produces both a summer and fall crop.

Place your container in a sunny location. Check soil moisture in your container gardens daily. Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil slightly moist but not soggy wet.

Dress up the container and keep the roots cool and moist with mulch. Cover the soil surface with shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or shredded bark.

Birds are the biggest pest of blueberries. Simply cover the plants with netting as the fruit begins to develop to protect your harvest from hungry birds. This is a much easier task when dealing with a couple of potted plants versus a large in-ground planting.

You will need to provide a bit of winter protection if your winters are cold. Place your potted blueberries in a sheltered location and cover the container with woodchips to insulate the roots. Or sink the container in a vacant spot in the garden. You can also store your plants in an unheated garage for winter. Just be sure to water the plants anytime the soil is thawed and dry.

And even if you don't get a big harvest – the flowers and fall color make great additions to any landscape. Visit MelindaMyers.com for tips on harvesting, storing and preserving blueberries.

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous books,



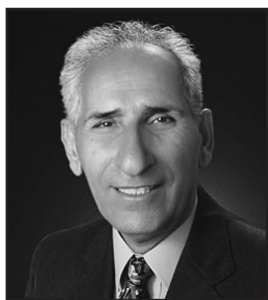
including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow

Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV

& radio program. Myers web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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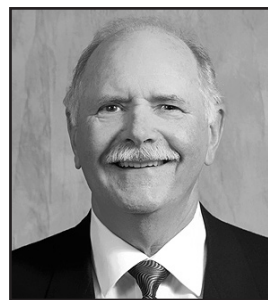
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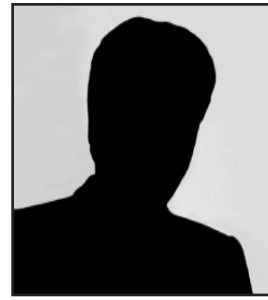
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Restaurants Reopen for Outdoor Dining

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

San Leandro took another step toward returning to normal last week with the reopening of retail businesses and restaurants with outdoor seating.

On June 19, the Alameda County Public Health Office further relaxed shelter-in-place restrictions by permitting the reopening of outdoor restaurant dining, indoor and outdoor retail shops, outdoor fitness classes, outdoor museums, and religious services, subject to social distancing as well as health and safety requirements.

Restrictions Relax For Business Conducted Outdoors

The relaxed restrictions favor those businesses with outdoor seating where diners can maintain a safe distance.

There was not an empty seat during the dinner shift at the Sons of Liberty Alehouse in San Leandro Plaza last week. Manager Teresa Lawrie noted that a steady stream of patrons kept the outdoor area full since the company reopened last Monday.

The restaurant was one of a handful of businesses that offered grocery pickup to offset the loss



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SINGER

Diners returned to the Sons of Liberty Alehouse last week after emergency restrictions were relaxed for restaurants that have outdoor seating.

of foot traffic since the initial shelter-in-place in March. By contrast, the Asia Delight restaurant right next door continued to sell only takeout and delivery meals. The manager said he was eager to reopen his indoor seating area.

The City's Community Development department says it has been working on creating a streamlined process for businesses who want to reopen.

In order to participate in the program and provide outdoor facilities, businesses need to complete and submit a registration form, which certifies that they will comply with applicable city, county and state health and safety requirements, and provide business insurance information.

"Once a business has submitted the registration form and insurance forms—if operating

on public property—they may begin outdoor operations without further City approval," says Lars Halle, development coordinator, Community Development.

Companies that are looking to reopen are asked to make sure they have a plan with clear rules on assessing physical distancing, disinfecting and cleaning protocols, and employee training to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

Fire Damages House on Cumberland

Two rooms of a house on Cumberland Avenue in San Leandro were destroyed by a fire on Sunday night. The family's two dogs were kept in the backyard.

Alameda County firefighters arrived at about 7:15 p.m. to the fire and contained the blaze. There were no injuries.

Enjoy the Fourth at a Park, But No Fireworks, Please

The Fourth of July holiday is always a busy time in the East Bay Regional Parks.

Although visitor centers are closed, no special events are planned, and large get-togethers are not allowed, there is still plenty to do in the parklands.

Trails in the regional parks are generally open for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding.

Check the maps and park signs for which trails are open to which mode.

One thing you can't do in the regional parks on the Fourth of July or any other time is set off fireworks. All fireworks, including the so-called safe-and-sane variety, are against the law in the parklands. Fire danger is high enough as it is.

LOCAL DEATHS

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Patricia Clare Delaney Campe

With profound sadness we announce the passing of Pat, our loving and devoted mother and friend to all lives she touched, on June 23, 2020. She left us peacefully, surrounded by her entire family in her home of 56 years overlooking the garden she built with Jack, her beloved husband of 66 years who we lost two years ago.

Patricia was born on June 5th, 1930 to Thomas and Clare Delaney in Detroit Michigan, and had one older sister, Margaret. While gaining her degree at the University of Detroit in 1952, Pat, a striking beauty, met and fell in love with a handsome, charming football player, John Campe. They married on April 27th, 1954 in Gesu Church in Detroit and soon thereafter began starting a family, ultimately having seven children before realizing that was a perfectly good number of kids.

Pat was a natural matriarch: a caring and loving mother. She had an exquisite sense of when to apply humor to fix a situation, she was brave when her children needed support, and fiercely protective. To her children, and any outside observer, she was the best mother anyone could ever ask for.

Jack's work took him to California in 1964, and to their current home in Sheffield Village in 1965. Pat soon began putting her education to work, becoming a schoolteacher in San Leandro, with most of her career at Washington Elementary. It was in her service as a teacher where she created a legacy that affected so many lives. She made lifelong friends as a teacher, and almost all of her colleagues over the years shared just how much she influenced them. Toward the end of her career, she flourished at an alternative school for challenged youth, changing the lives of countless people. Upon retirement she said, "you know, you don't get a gold watch at the end of your career as an educator, but you do get something far more significant," and plopped down a fairly large and heavy construction paper book from her students dating back 35 years telling her how meaningful she was to them.

Pat was an intrepid traveler. Of course, she loved visiting her children and grandchildren all around California. She and Jack also enjoyed trips with family and friends all over Europe, and even to China and Africa. Her special skill was her in-depth research of a given destination—rarely was there a significant sight to see that Pat missed.

Pat was preceded in death by her loving husband Jack and her daughter Julie. Pat is survived by her six living children and their spouses and grandchildren: Cathleen Campe and Jon Scott, Jim & Leslie Campe, John and Sachiko Campe, Mary (Campe) and Carl DiGiorgio, Mark and Susan (Campe) Benschmidt (Kevin, Jimmy, Jack), Mark Campe and Maria Curry (Liam).

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Pat's favorite charity, St Vincent Du Paul of Alameda County at <https://www.svd-p-alameda.org/donate.html> Arrangements by Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 510-483-0123.



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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Although you don't like to change plans once they're set, once again, you might find that doing so can make a big difference in your favor. Family matters dominate the weekend.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): You continue to get encouragement for your proposals, including some support from unlikely sources. Use this positive flow to move forward with your plans. Good luck.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Family matters are dominant this week. It's a good time to be with those you love. It's also a good time to contact loved ones with whom you've lost touch.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Be careful not to allow differences of opinion to create unpleasant feelings, especially in the workplace. A neutral observer could check out the situation and suggest a resolution.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): While the Lion's Den is the center of attention this week, with family matters dominating much of your time, workplace issues are also important. Try to find a balance between them.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): The future of a new relationship could depend on how much the usually impatient-to-get-things-done Virgo is willing to stop pushing and let things happen naturally.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Worry over a loved one's well-being is eased with good news from a sympathetic source. Your continued show of love and support is important. Stay with it.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): This is a good time to consider mending fences with someone you wish was back in your life. Forget about blame, and focus on the good things you once shared.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): This is a good week to start researching information regarding whatever changes you're considering, whether it involves a new home, a new location or a new job.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): A long-anticipated job opportunity could turn out to be less than you expected. But appearances might be deceiving. Check it out before you decide it's not for you.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Good news: Adapting to a new situation might come more easily than you expected. You can look for continued support from colleagues who appreciate your contributions.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Someone you care for might need more reassurance from the typically "unemotional" Pisces. Go ahead. Open up, and you might be surprised at what you find when you do.

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.

Defund, Not Eliminate

Editor:

A letter from Mr. Allen ("Eliminating the Police?" Letters, June 25) requires a response.

I think everybody that knows me believes me to be an honest, law-abiding citizen, and that includes Jeff Tudor. I've been involved in many recent local conversations about defunding the police, and no one I have heard is talking about eliminating the police – somehow that is what people who just want things to stay the way they are, are choosing to hear.

People are asking that *some* of the police department funding be moved into other departments to work toward the same goals. I have heard over and over that people want safety, and that has been annually interpreted to mean more police. Since the passage of Prop. 13 in the '70s, so many other services here have been cut back. Now police are the doing mental health work and homeless outreach, and lately enforcing public health orders. What's next? Morals?

Please consider that we're going in a direction where the police will do *all* public service work. Do you want to live in a police state? Many San Leandrans do not. That is what needs to change, and this is the beginning of that process.

If you were likely to be shot by the police officer who answered your call about the robbery in your neighborhood, you would not be interested in leaving things the way they are. The police are supposed to reflect the community they serve. Do they?

Police officers are trained and must regularly be evaluated on their ability to shoot at the center of a human torso. What if their human empathy and understanding were evaluated on a similarly regular schedule? What if they had the time to really evaluate a situation instead of just following the assessment of the person who called them to the scene?

—Virginia Madsen
San Leandro

Follow Hayward's Example

Editor:

I applaud, correct that, I wish to give a ten minute standing ovation to the City of Hayward employees who have volunteered to furlough 55 hours of their pay to help the city deal with their expected \$9.6 million drop in revenue caused by the shelter in place requirement.

In addition, city management agreed to 80 hours of unpaid leave and the fire fighters agreed to a delay in their cost of living increase. And last but not least, a hats off to the City Council who also agreed to take a cut in pay. All of these actions add up to \$1.1 million in cost savings for the city of Hayward.

To the best of my knowledge, our city employees and city council have not agreed to any kind of salary cuts to help deal with our reduction in revenue. In fact, I still remember when our city council gave our mayor a 50% increase in salary (say what!) just a few short months ago.

I think we should dump our entire city council and let the Hayward city council take over starting tomorrow as they un-

derstand the dire situation that we are in.

—Brent Heath
San Leandro

Unmasked Police

Editor:

I was at the San Leandro downtown farmer's market on June 24. While standing in line at one of the stands, the San Leandro police officer on duty came up to the stand to buy something. He walked up to less than three feet (not six feet!) from me, without a mask.

When I asked where his mask was, he replied, twice, adamantly, that masks were only to be worn inside. I reminded him of the governor's guidelines, but he again repeated that it was only for inside. I should have also reminded him that there was a sign at the entrance to the farmers market, requiring the use of masks, but decided not to engage any further. He obviously was not going to wear a mask under any circumstance.

I think anyone representing the City of San Leandro in public, especially when on duty, should be respectful of the state's guidelines and adhere to them, not only for everyone's health, but to set a good example.

—Maureen Sirhall
San Leandro

Homeless Compact or HVAC?

Editor:

When I was reading the Sunday paper, I read a quote from Councilmember Corina Lopez: "We must provide wrap-around services to the most needy and disenfranchised."

Well why then would she not fight to keep the San Leandro Homeless Compact during the City Council meeting June 15, 2020? She spoke up and fought for HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) not to be cut, though nothing about a portion of the San Leandro Homeless Compact that was cut.

The San Leandro Homeless Compact is a collaboration between the City of San Leandro's human services, police departments, homeless advocacy non-profit Building Futures with Women & Children and the Rental Housing Association to provide long-term housing and services to chronically homeless individuals in San Leandro.

That sounds like a program for the most needy and disenfranchised to me. Guess HVAC was more important to Councilmember Lopez.

—Diana Souza
San Leandro

Recyclers' Anonymous Boost

Editor:

My mother and I were at a recycling center last week and I want to thank the gentleman that passed out envelopes with a \$20 bill inside. I don't know who you are but wanted to say thank you for the act of kindness!

I also want to thank the people in line with us that helped us with our bottles! These acts of kindness are very much appreciated. Thank you again, stay safe and bless you all.

—Kathy Kanzenbach
San Leandro

Try Healthier Fare on the 4th

Editor:

COVID-19 heralds some good news for this Independence Day. We won't be facing heavy traffic. And, the scarcity of meat will keep our outdoor grills safe.

Folks who grill hamburgers and hot dogs face a nasty choice. The U.S. Meat and Poultry Hotline advises grilling at high temperature to avoid food poisoning by E. coli and Salmonella bacteria. But the National Cancer Institute warns that high-temperature grilling of processed meats generates cancer-causing compounds.

Fortunately, we no longer need to choose between food poisoning and cancer!

A bunch of enterprising U.S. food processors have met this challenge head-on by developing a rich variety of convenient, healthful, delicious plant-based veggie burgers, veggie dogs, and soy nuggets. These products don't harbor nasty bugs or cancer-causing compounds. They are missing the cholesterol, saturated fats, drugs, hormones, and pesticides of their animal-based alternatives. And, they are waiting for us in the frozen food section of our favorite supermarket, along with nut-based ice creams, and other dairy-free desserts.

On this Independence Day, let's declare our independence from the meat industry, which exposes its workers to COVID infection. And, let's stay away from both the COVID and the barbecue bugs!

—Dennis Roth
San Leandro

The Dominator

Editor:

Donald Trump's philosophy whether business, government or humans is: Dominate.

Dominate the real estate market, banks, corporations, media, his administration, Republican senators, the Supreme Court with conservative judges, Executive Privilege, subverting the Senate, and our democratic election by calling voting by mail a "fraud" and forcing voter intimidation, and the right to assemble and peacefully protest under edict of US Military intervention.

Anyone who fails to kiss the ring of Donald Trump is disparaged, fired or fired upon. Trump will *always* put his interests above people, country, the world. Lying with impunity about Russian election involvement, the criminal lack of preparation of COVID-19, the hoax of pandemic. the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine, et-al.

Lie after lie with nonstop media flooding attempting to distract, confusing facts and truths with bullying, with an ever-present directive to dominate. It's the Trump Modus Operandi. Very pitiful yet obvious to the intelligentsia.

Donald Trump exhibits the very persona and actions of a Fascist Dictator. For those afflicted it must be something akin to pre WWII Germans under the influence and charisma of Adolph Hitler.

United States of America has become what the framers never intended. With the people's government now setback for decades.

Americans are currently the beneficiary of government run amok with a dictator at the helm. A total abomination of: America Of the People, By The People, For The People.

—Dwight Pitcaithley
San Leandro



INQUIRING REPORTER

Do you miss sports?

— Asked downtown

Yes, I do. I like to watch football, but it doesn't look like it will be this season, unfortunately. I like baseball, too. I miss Dollar Wednesdays at the Coliseum – hot dogs for a dollar.

Sage Emmenegger
San Leandro



Yeah, I miss soccer and football, being at home and watching it on TV with friends. But it's not going to happen with this pandemic going on. I just watch movies, and the wife wants to get me out of the house.

Richard Isinya
San Leandro



Not really, I never watch sports. But I've heard a lot of people complain. A friend of mine complains because European soccer is on but there are no fans.

Luis Fernandez
San Leandro



Sure, I miss basketball. I listen to the Warriors on the radio when I'm doing stuff in the kitchen. I miss baseball, too, but basketball is what I really miss.

Betsy Reeve
San Leandro



Oh, heck, yes, I miss sports. I'm a high school baseball coach and it's been very difficult. We played four games and then it was canceled. So the thought of sports coming back makes me happy. As long as it's on TV, I'm happy.

Jon Stephens
Walnut Creek



SENIORS

How Seniors Can Spot Fake News

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Q I recently read that seniors are the number one purveyor of fake news on the Internet. Is this true, or is it fake news too? If it's true, how can seniors go about spotting fake news?

A Yes, it's true. According to a recent study published in the journal Science Advances, people aged 65 and older are almost four times more likely to share fake news on social media than younger people.

Why do older users share fake news more often? There are two theories. The first is that seniors, who came to the Internet later, sometimes lack the digital literacy skills of their younger counterparts to identify false or misleading content. The second is that many older people experience cognitive decline as they age, making them more likely to fall for hoaxes.

What is Fake News?

Fake news is not new, but it is

more prevalent than ever before because of the Internet and social networking, which enables it to spread like wildfire.

Fake news is false news stories, hoaxes or propaganda created to deliberately misinform or deceive readers.

Usually, these stories are created to either influence people's views, push a political agenda or cause confusion and can often be a profitable business for online publishers.

Also note that some fake stories aren't completely false, but rather distortions of real events. These deceitful claims can take a legitimate news story and twist what it says, or even claim that something that happened long ago is related to current events.

How to Spot Fake News

Here are some tips from the International Federation of Library Associations, Harvard University and Facebook that can help you spot fake news stories.

- Be skeptical of headlines: False news stories often have catchy headlines in all caps with

exclamation points. If shocking claims in the headline sound unbelievable, they probably are.

- Look closely at the Web link: A phony or look-alike link may be a warning sign of false news. Many false news sites mimic authentic news sources by making small changes to the link, for example "abcnews.com.co" (an illegitimate site) versus the actual "abcnews.com."

- Investigate the source: Make sure the story is written by a source that you trust with a reputation for accuracy. If the story comes from an unfamiliar organization, check their "About" section to learn more.

You can also find a list of websites that post deceptive and fake content at FactCheck.org – type "misinformation directory" in their search feature to find it.

- Watch for unusual formatting: Many false news sites have misspellings or awkward layouts. Read carefully if you see these signs.

- Inspect the dates: False news stories may contain timelines that

make no sense, or event dates that have been altered.

- Check the evidence: Check the author's sources to confirm that they are accurate. Lack of evidence or reliance on unnamed experts may indicate a false news story.

- Look at other reports: If no other news source is reporting the same story, it may indicate that

the story is false. If the story is reported by multiple sources you trust, it's more likely to be true.

- Is the story a joke? Sometimes false news stories can be hard to distinguish from humor or satire. Check whether the source is known for parody, and whether the story's details and tone suggest it may be just for fun.

- Do some fact checking:

There are many good websites, like PolitiFact.com, Snopes.com and FactCheck.org that can help you fact check a story to help you identify fact versus fiction. These sites have most likely already fact-checked the latest viral claim to pop up in your news feed.

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

Budget Win for Seniors

Q I heard that the proposed California Budget cuts to the Medi-Cal program are now off the table. Is that true?

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

A Yes! Some background: Faced with a proposed \$54 Billion Budget Deficit, last month Governor Newsom had proposed drastic cuts to Medi-Cal and other social programs that serve low income seniors and the disabled.

Fortunately, the California State Senate and Assembly just soundly rejected those cuts included in the Governor's "May Revise" Budget. Instead, they agreed to a budget deal that would address the deficit by relying, instead, on a combination of drawing on reserves, borrowing from special funds, temporary furloughs for state workers, limiting corporate tax credits and relying upon Congress to pass a relief package for states and local government.

This is very good news. It means that the proposed cuts to

Medi-Cal and most other social service programs are now off the table. However, a part of the deal was that the Governor could make these cuts effective July, 2021, if state finances do not approve.

Here is a list of what was saved:

- 1) Home and Community-Based Services (aka, adult day care)
- 2) The Multipurpose Senior Services Program ("MSSP")
- 3) The In-Home Supportive Services Program ("IHSS");
- 4) SSI/SSP: Current SSI/SSP benefit levels will remain;

5) Other Senior Programs: the budget preserves senior nutrition, caregiver resource centers, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, aging and disability resource centers, and Independent Living Centers.

6) Increased Income Limits to Qualify for the "Aged, Blind and Disabled Program", slated for August 1, 2020, is still on schedule, which will permit more seniors to qualify for "No Share of Cost Medi-Cal," as well as dental benefits.

7) Very important: the deal avoided reinstatement of the old, draconian pre-2017 rules, which allowed the state to recover the

value of Medi-Cal nursing home benefits received during lifetime, which claims often resulted in the forced sale of homes and the displacements of low income families after the death of their loved ones.

This Budget Deal is a very big deal, as the May reductions proposed to target some of the most vulnerable seniors and the disabled.

Unfortunately, the budget did not include extending Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented senior immigrants, but it does include intent language to do so should funding become available.

Saving these programs was the result of an effort by many well-intentioned groups and citizens who called their legislators, and the good will of our Governor and Legislators.

As Hilary Clinton once said, it "takes a Village" to preserve our community.

Gene L. Osofsky is an estate planning and elder law attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com



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