



Route 97

AC TRANSIT TO UPGRADE
THE 97 LINE THROUGH
SAN LORENZO 8

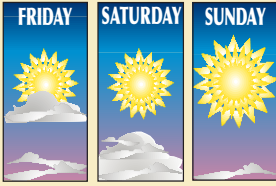


Multiple Meds

FIND OUT HOW TO MANAGE
YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS AND
SAVE SOME MONEY, TOO ... 9

WEEKEND WEATHER

MILD Clouds clear out on
Saturday afternoon
HIGHS: 63-73
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 46-52



San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 42

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Kraft Plant Disappearing

A demolition company is razing the former Kraft-General Foods plant at the corner of Halcyon and Washington avenues that used to make Maxwell House and Yuban brand coffee, and at one time made Jell-O. The 31-acre site is planned to become an industrial complex with warehouses and offices.

Bethel Food Pantry Passes Out the Goods

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

A lot of San Leandrans are just squeaking by as prices for rent, utilities and other essentials shoot up.

People are making ends meet by picking up groceries at local food pantries, like the one at Bethel Presbyterian Community Church.

Hundreds of people line up at Bethel on Bancroft Avenue every Thursday evening to pick up free groceries. Some are homeless but most have a place to stay, although that might mean sleeping on a relative's couch.

About 250 to 275 people come on every Thursday, said Carol Taylor, a volunteer at the Bethel Food Pantry.

"We have 600 people total on our rolls now," Taylor said. "A substantial number are homeless, see PANTRY, page 5



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Socorro Vera and San Leandro High student Jasmine Gutierrez prepare to pass out groceries on a recent Thursday night as volunteers at the Bethel Presbyterian Community Church food pantry.

City Helps Bal Theatre Financially

Council votes to loan Bal \$400,000, plus \$150,000 gift

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City of San Leandro is loaning the owners of the Bal Theatre \$400,000 so they can pay off their mortgage. The city is also giving them an additional \$150,000 to fund improvements to the theater, money that won't have to be repaid.

Dan and Gina Dillman bought the Bal in 2008 for \$750,000. They took out a loan for \$650,000 with a 6 percent interest rate. But their loan has a \$400,000 balloon payment due this December which will pay of the remainder of the mortgage.

Dan Dillman says he can't afford the balloon payment without the city's help.

The city says the 70-year-old Bal is worth saving, since it's an artistic and historical asset to San Leandro.

"It's a really unique cultural attribute of our city," said assistant city manager Jeff Kay at this week's City Council meeting. "It's a source of civic pride for the entire community."

The \$400,000 loan from the city will have a 3 percent interest rate over a 30 year term, with payments due twice a year.

"The intent is not to earn income for the city, but to keep the city whole," said Kay. "I would acknowledge that there is some risk."

Kay said that the the loan

would be secured by a deed on the property and the value of the Bal has been appraised at \$1.1 million in its current state, enough see BAL, page 14

Schools Improving, Says Supe

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

San Leandro School District Superintendent Mike McLaughlin gave the annual "State of the District" speech at the high school's arts education center Tuesday night, telling the modest crowd that things are coming along nicely for the city's nearly 9,000 students.

Tests scores are up, old buildings are being remodeled, and technology in the classrooms is helping San Leandro students prepare for their futures, McLaughlin said.

After a performance from the high school marching band, McLaughlin took the stage. The superintendent focused on the see DISTRICT, page 5

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

THEATER

SL Players new show to open Saturday. Page 2

NEWS

Man injured in knife fight at convenience store. Page 3

MUSIC

Pianist Fredrick Hodges to play on Saturday. Page 5

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Students to Hit Stage in Annual SLUSD's Got Talent

Students are invited to showcase their talent at the annual SLUSD's Got Talent where 30 acts will perform at San Leandro High's Arts Education Center on Sunday, Nov. 5. (Time to be announced.)

If you sing, dance, play an instrument, or have a band this is your opportunity. Winners will be invited to perform alongside award-winning musician Lenny Williams on Dec. 7 at the annual Holidays with Lenny Williams Concert.

SLUSD's Got Talent is open to a single performer or a group of no more than eight students. At least one member must be

enrolled in a San Leandro Unified school and all group members must be in 6th through 12th grade.

Each performing group must complete the online application, as well turn in the completed waiver release and non-refundable application fee of \$10 for individual performances or \$20 for group performances to the Keep Music Rockin' Foundation by Oct. 23.

Mail to P.O. Box 644, San Leandro CA 94577 or give to the designated music teacher at your school site in a clearly labeled sealed envelope (Bancroft-Ms. B, Muir-Mrs. Maier, SLHS-Mr. Hansen). Cash or check only.

Elderly Man Beaten At Bayfair Target

An elderly man was beaten up in the restroom of the Target store at Bayfair in San Leandro on Oct. 10 at 3:50 p.m.

The man is a 50-year resident of San Leandro and his daughter is asking for anyone who saw something to call the San Leandro police.

"Somebody just came up behind him out of nowhere," said the woman who asked that her name be withheld. "The attacker ran out with my poor father yelling for help on the floor."

She said her father has a few cuts and bruises and a broken right arm.



PHOTO BY SUKANYA ANY

The cast of *The Broken Badge* brings to the stage San Leandro characters from a century ago.

SL Players *Broken Badge* Features San Leandro Sally and other Notables

The San Leandro Players present *The Broken Badge*, Oct. 21 through Nov. 19, on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave.

Tickets are \$20 general, \$15 seniors, TBA members (with ID), under 12, students.

The play melds old-time radio and melodrama in a turn-of-the-century San Leandro story of lost love, a rehabilitated villain, a jilted woman, and a famed sheriff. For information or reservations, call 895-2573, or online

at www.slplayers.org.

It's also the story of one actor at the end of a radio career and another just at the beginning of a whole new life. Familiar melodrama friends include that scoundrel Professor Mack, the

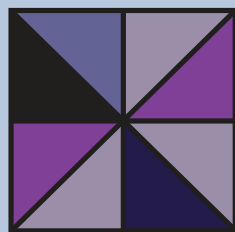
Judge Jerry Mander and that irrepressible Gypsy Claire Voyant who now runs the Horseshoe Road Inn. New friends include our Hero Justin Credible and our new Heroine "San Leandro Sally."

'Truth Thursday' Called Off

The monthly "Truth Thursday" under the "Truth Is Beauty" statue at the San Leandro Tech Campus has been cancelled for October (Oct. 26).

The organizers of the event, the Downtown San Leandro

Improvement Association, plan to bring back the monthly free event next summer with food trucks, beer from local breweries, wine, games and entertainment to the OSISOft building at 1600 Alvarado St.



SAN LEANDRO Connect Monthly



San Leandro City Council

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Vice Mayor Lee Thomas, District 3

Deborah Cox, District 1

Ed Hernandez, District 2

Benny Lee, District 4

Corina N. López, District 5

Pete Ballew, District 6

City Manager Chris Zapata

To receive City Council and Commission agendas and meeting materials, press releases, quarterly newsletters and City sponsored information, you can subscribe at sanleandro.org/mycity.

For more information, contact Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton, Communications and Community Relations Manager at 510-577-3372 or swalton@sanleandro.org.

Para Asistencia en Español
如需中文協助:
(510) 577-3372



San Leandro Wins Community Services Award for the "San Leandro Homeless Compact"

The League of California Cities selected San Leandro as a 2017 Helen Putnam Award winner for its program that provides long-term housing and services to homeless individuals. "The Compact" housed over 20 people, 5 are in the process of being permanently housed and numerous homeless residents are receiving services through the program. Program partners include: Building Futures, April Showers, Rental Housing Association, and the City of San Leandro.

The Oakland Ballet Company Presents Luna Mexicana

Dia De los Muertos Ballet Performance
Tuesday, October 24 at 6 pm
San Leandro Performance Arts Center
2250 Bancroft Ave.



The City of San Leandro, in partnership with the San Leandro Unified School District, is proud to bring the acclaimed Oakland Ballet Company's Día de los Muertos performance *Luna Mexicana*. This free family-friendly performance is filled with dancing, colorful costumes, vibrant music, and traditional Mexican folk music. *Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Performance Arts Center on Bancroft Ave. Event is free and open to the public but registration is required.*
www.lunamexicanasl.eventbrite.com



Interested in Serving in the City's First Administrative Hearing Board?

As part of the City's Community Care initiative, San Leandro created a new Resident Administrative Board that will hear code enforcement cases that are appealed by the property owner or are scheduled for abatement.

The Board will be comprised of six members representing the City's six districts and will serve for two years. To learn more about Community Care or learn about this exciting volunteer opportunity, visit:

www.sanleandro.org/communitycare

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Police Department
(Non-Emergency).....(510)577-2740
Library Services.....(510)577-3970
Public Works.....(510)577-3440
Recreation & Human Services....(510)577-3462



Alameda County Sheriff's deputy Chris DeLima walked through the charred remains of Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa last week. DeLima is graduate of the school.

Alameda Co. Firefighters and Police Head Out to Help in North Bay Fires

Alameda County firefighters, along with firefighters from Livermore, Pleasanton, and Fremont recently were dispatched to the Napa fires. Firefighters from 17 states including Alaska, Florida, and New York as well as firefighters all the way from Australia have come to California to aid in battling wildfires.

As of Tuesday, 12 wildfires

in four counties have killed 41 people and destroyed over 3,500 structures, requiring thousands of residents to be forced to evacuate from their homes.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office has also sent officers to the fires, some of the over 200 law enforcement staff providing support by investigating the whereabouts of those reported

missing and patrolling evacuated areas to prevent looting.

How to Learn Your Rights

The Alameda County Public Defender's Office runs a program called Learn Your Rights In California (LYRIC) to teach groups of young people about their legal rights.

The focus of the program is to educate students about their Constitutional rights and to practice how students can interact with police safely while exercising their rights.

The Public Defender's Office has formed teams of two attorneys to go to local high schools to give this one-time interactive presentation to a classroom size group of students.

During the presentation, they discuss casual encounters, detentions, searches and arrests by police officers.

So far, they have taught over 2,800 students in Alameda County and plan to reach more than 1,200 additional students every year.

In 2015, LYRIC was awarded the Achievement Award by the National Association of Counties, and the Public Defender Program of the Year Award from the California Public Defenders Association.

Contact the Public Defenders' Office at LYRIC@acgov.org if you are interested in scheduling a presentation for a group of students.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Knife Fight at Quick Stop

A San Leandro man has been charged with attempted murder following a fight outside a Quick Stop convenience store earlier this month.

Jermonta Cummings, 34, allegedly got into a fistfight with another man outside of the store 206 Marina Boulevard at around 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 2.

During the fight, police say Cummings produced a knife and began stabbing and slashing the victim multiple times.

As the victim lay wounded, Cummings continued to attack

the victim with the knife, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police. Cummings fled the scene before police arrived.

The victim sustained serious injuries and was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Detectives responded to the scene and found that the entire incident had been captured on store surveillance cameras, so investigators were able to identify the suspect and the location of his residence.

Cummings was arrested on

Oct. 4 by the San Leandro police at his home. Evidence from the crime scene was also found by police.

On Oct. 6, the case against Cummings was presented to the Alameda County District Attorney's office.

Cummings was charged with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated mayhem.

Cummings is being held without bail at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and is set to enter a plea in court this week.

Armed Cell Phone Thief Arrested

San Leandro police arrested a man for armed robbery after he allegedly pulled a gun on a man and stole his cell phone.

The victim was walking on West Juana Avenue last Sunday at around 9 p.m. when the suspect swiped the phone out of his hand, then pulled out a gun and demanded his wallet, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

The victim said he did not

have a wallet on him and the suspect then fled the area.

The victim was able to log onto his phone's GPS and detected its location in a neighborhood in East Oakland. San Leandro police officers responded to that location to search for the suspect.

Officers found the suspect's vehicle parked at a residence. A short time later, the suspect, identified as Akram Abdullah, 27, appeared and was detained

by officers.

A beacon was sounded on the victim's phone which was then located inside of the suspect's vehicle.

In addition, a replica firearm was located and several other stolen items were recovered from other robberies that occurred in neighboring communities.

The suspect has been charged with armed robbery and possession of stolen property.

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San Leandro Creek Video Contest

Calling all San Leandro area students, grade K-12 (+ adult category)! Grab your camera, or phone and make a five-minute video that will show...

"Why San Leandro Creek is Important."

Ask a question about the creek, and then go about discovering your answer! See if your class or club wants to join you.

Come on a **Family Creek Walk** with your camera **Saturday, Oct. 14**, to answer your burning question!

ENTRY DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Prizes: Three to five videos will be chosen for student winners. Prizes include: \$100.00 for 1st place. Adult-made videos will have \$25.00 prizes for 1st-3rd place winners. Winning videos will be viewed on Saturday, November 18, at the San Leandro Main Library at a video viewing party! Prizes will be given on that date.

Go to www.fslc.org for rules and details. Please email any questions to slevenson@sanleandro.org.

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NEIGHBORS



SL Students Help with Food Drive

Students at St. Felicitas and St. Leander's held their 7th annual food drive this month, collecting and passing out bags of groceries. Some of the food this year went to the fire victims in the north bay. The teams of coach Chris Alvarez along with other students and parents pitched in. "We appreciate the support from the community of all those that gave," Alvarez said.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ Chanticleers Theatre
The Addams Family

The Addams Family, a magnificently macabre musical comedy, now at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley. In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, a grave crisis is brewing. It is every father's worst nightmare but in reverse. Curtain time for Friday and Saturday evenings is 8 p.m.,

and Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. runs through Nov. 5. For tickets (general-\$25, seniors and students-\$20, call Seelive at 733-5483 or visit chanticleers.org.

❖ Ragtime Music Concert
at San Leandro Library

Enjoy an afternoon of great ragtime music with concert pianist Frederick Hodges at the San Leandro Main Library,

300 Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 2 to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Hailed by the press as one of the best concert pianists in the world, Hodges is sought after by today's foremost orchestras, festivals, conductors and many collaborative musicians. For more information, call 577-3971.

❖ San Leandro Players
The Broken Badge

The San Leandro Players present *The Broken Badge*, on Saturdays, Oct. 21 through Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave. Tickets are \$20 general, \$15 seniors, TBA members (with ID), under 12, students. The play melds old-time radio and melodrama in a turn-of-the-century San Leandro story of lost love, a rehabilitated villain, a jilted woman, and a famed sheriff. For information or reservations, call 895-2573, or online at www.slplayers.org.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ I.D.E.S. of Saint John Celebration

I.D.E.S. of Saint John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will have Our Lady of Fatima Celebration from, Oct. 18 to Oct. 21. Novenas will be held on Oct. 18, 19, and 20, at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Oct. 21, there will be a steak & shrimp dinner at 6 p.m., a candlelight procession at 7:30 p.m., with a dance to follow with Erminio Lemos. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by calling Willie Calvo at 635-6326, or Frances Leite at 886-1568.

❖ Eden Area League of Women Voters

The Eden Area League of Women Voters will host a forum with a panel of local educators to discuss challenges facing Eden Area schools and how the community can participate in improving our educational system tonight, Oct. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. in San Leandro. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit lwvea.org or call 826-6674.

❖ Free Smalltown October Gathering

The Smalltown Society celebrates its one-year anniversary on Friday, Oct. 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. at 22222 Redwood Road in Castro Valley, highlighting the music of Aisea Taimani and Minor Islands as they host a kickstarter launch for their upcoming LP release. For more information, check www.smalltownsociety.com

❖ Free Fitness and Health Screening

The Kennel Boxing Gym, 3051 Teagarden St. in San Leandro, will host a free fitness and health screening, "Knock Out Diabetes," with Tai Chi, tips on stress management, one-on-ones in the boxing ring, and tips on organic gardening and nutrition on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Samuel Merritt University's Ethnic Health Institute with support from the Alameda Alliance for Health. For more information, contact Gin Hansson at 869-8217 or ghansson@samuelmerritt.edu.

❖ Trunk or Treat Festival

Trunk or Treat is a family friendly festival to be held on Saturday, Oct., 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Principled Academy, 2305 Washington Ave. in San Leandro. Jumper house, trick or treating from decorated car trunk to car trunk, games, food and more. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. For more information, call 351-6400.

❖ Shrouded Tales of the Paranormal

Explore true tales of tragic ends on Friday and Saturday, Oct 20 and 21, at the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery, 15506 Hesperian Blvd., and Oct. 27 and 28, at the Meek Mansion, 240 Hampton Road in Hayward. Two tours per night at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Learn about Victorian death traditions and superstitions all sprinkled with a touch of the paranormal. General Admission is \$15 for HAHS members, seniors and students is \$10. To purchase tickets, call 581-0223 or visit www.haywardareahistory.org/shrouded-tales. Proceeds go toward the maintenance and preservation of the sites.

❖ Free Plant Exchange Day

Join the plant exchange on Saturday, Oct. 21, from noon till 4 p.m. at 4500 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland as it celebrates its 10th anniversary. To participate, gardening fans must bring plants to exchange, or garden items, such as pots, decorative items, tools, equipment, books on gardening, etc. All types of plants are wel-

come, from cuttings to full size. Interactive gardening demos at 11 a.m. For more information, visit www.theplantexchange.org or call 866-8482.

❖ Consul General of Portugal Reception

The Portuguese Fraternal Society of America (PFSA) invites everyone to a reception for the new Consul General of Portugal in San Francisco, Maria Joao Lopes Cardoso, on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the PFSA's J.A. Freitas Library, 1120 East 14th St. in San Leandro. For more information, email mypfsa@mypfsa.org or call 483-7676.

❖ Group Bike Ride

Join Cherry City Cyclists and Bike Walk San Leandro on Sunday, Oct. 22, meet at Bay Fair BART at 9:30 a.m. to carpool or meet in San Mateo at 10:30 a.m. where the ride will start. Enjoy a relaxed-paced no-drop community bike ride on Cañada Road closed to cars on Sundays. Round trip will be 15-20 miles. For more information, visit www.cherrycitycyclists.org. RSVP to bikewalksanleandro@gmail.com.

❖ Eden Garden Fall Bazaar

The Eden Garden Club will hold its Fall Bazaar on Monday, Oct. 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley (off Castro Valley Blvd. behind Burger King). You will find plants, gardening items, books, crafts, household items, baked good and more. Most items cost from \$1 to \$5. Come early for best selection.

❖ Harvest Party at Bethel Church

Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, 14235 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, will host a Harvest Party on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 6 p.m. with music, games, food, karaoke, jump house and fun for everyone.

❖ A Haunting in the History Room

For those who love a spooky Halloween, visit the library's Haunted History Room on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Visitors will encounter the ghosts of some of San Leandro's more famous residents and learn their fascinating histories, and then receive a coupon for a small bag of treats, while supplies last. The library's fantastic history researchers will be on hand to encourage and assist visitors during their walk to The Other Side. Admission is free. For more information, call 577-3971.

❖ Walk/Run Benefit for People with Asthma

Students at the Jefferson Service Club at San Leandro High are organizing a walk/run to benefit people with asthma on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Marina Park, 14001 Monarch Bay Drive. Registration is \$20 for students and \$25 for adults, and includes a T-shirt. Proceeds go to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. San Francisco Giants memorabilia will be auctioned and Giants mascot Lou Seal will be on hand. Register for the run/walk online at tinyurl.com/AttachAsthma or register at the day of the run at 8:30 a.m. Questions can be sent to sljeffersonservice@gmail.com.

❖ Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast

The Lt. Frank Reasoner Detachment, Marine Corps League will host a breakfast celebrating the 242nd Marine Corps birthday on Saturday, Nov. 4., at 8 a.m. at the San Leandro Veterans Building, 1103 Bancroft Ave. Tickets are \$20 at the door. For more information, call Ron Saunders at 489-4186.

Calendar items should be submitted at least one week prior to the desired edition of the Times, which is published Thursdays. Space limitations require we print items of the most general interest. Only Non-Profit Organizations should submit calendar items.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You might feel compelled to get involved on the "right side" of a seemingly unfair fight. But appearances can be deceptive. Get the facts before going forth into the fray.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Bullying others into agreeing with your position could cause resentment. Instead, persuade them to join you by making your case on a logical point-by-point basis.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Resist pushing for a workplace decision you might feel is long overdue. Your impatience could backfire. Meanwhile, focus on that still-unsettled personal situation.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Your aspects favor doing something different. You might decide to redecorate your home, or take a trip somewhere you've never been, or even change your hairstyle.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): You might want to take a break from your busy schedule to restore your energy levels. Use this less-hectic time to also reassess your plans and make needed changes.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): What you like to think of as determination might be seen by others as nothing more than stubbornness. Try to be more flexible if you hope to get things resolved.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Watch that you don't unwittingly reveal work-related information to the wrong person. Best to say nothing until you get official clearance to open up.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): With things settling down at work or at home, you can now take on a new challenge without fear of distraction. Be open to helpful suggestions from colleagues.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Your creativity can help resolve an emotional situation that might otherwise get out of hand. Continue to be your usual caring, sensitive self.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You could impress a lot of influential people with the way you untangle a few knotty problems. Meanwhile, a colleague is set to share some welcome news.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Aspects favor recharging your social life and meeting new people. It's also a good time to renew friendships that might be stagnating due to neglect on both sides.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Congratulations. Your talent for working out a highly technical problem earns you well-deserved praise. The weekend could bring news about a friend or relative.



Pianist Frederick Hodges, hailed as one of the best concert pianists in the world, will play a concert of ragtime hits on Saturday afternoon at the library.

SL Library to Present Ragtime Music Concert This Saturday

Enjoy an afternoon of great ragtime music with concert pianist Frederick Hodges at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., this Saturday from 2 to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Hailed by the press as one of the best concert pianists in the world, Hodges is sought after by today's foremost orchestras,

festivals, conductors and many collaborative musicians.

His absolute artistry, virtuosity and charisma have brought him to the world's most renowned stages numerous times, leaving audiences around the globe repeatedly captivated.

His extensive repertoire includes the great European classical masters as well as the

best American composers such as George Gershwin and Cole Porter.

His distinguished discography, primarily on Rivermont Records, Stomp Off and Aristophone Records, includes piano works by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern.

For more information, call 577-3971.

District: 'Huge improvements'

continued from front page changes that have occurred over the past four years since he was hired by the district in 2013.

Improvements in technology infrastructure have been made, including the schools joining in the high-speed data loop.

"We are probably one of the top 10 fastest (internet speed) districts in the U.S.," said McLaughlin.

And the students have personal access to that technology – classrooms went from having a ratio of one computer or tablet per 40 students a few years ago to having one device per student last school year.

The district also pays for PSAT examinations for all sophomores and juniors and SATs for seniors – the cost of taking those tests had been an obstacle for some students.

"You don't learn about what opportunities in college could be without taking those tests," said McLaughlin.

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson visited San Leandro earlier this year to personally deliver the results of the state's



Superintendent Mike McLaughlin said the school district is improving.

"We are probably one of the top 10 fastest (internet speed) districts in the U.S."

— School Superintendent Mike McLaughlin

new standardized test. Torlakson said there was good news in San Leandro, with scores up in every subject for every grade.

The results revealed that 49 percent of San Leandro students met state standards in English (up 5 percent from last year) and 37 percent met standards in math (up 4 percent from last year).

"There have been huge improvements," said McLaughlin.

McLaughlin touted the passage of Measure J1 last November, a \$104 million general obligation bond that has property owners pay \$36 per \$100,000 of their assessed property value.

The superintendent didn't mention Measure B, the parcel tax the district tried to pass during a special election in August, which failed by less than 3 percent of the votes.

Assistant Superintendent Kevin Collins has said that, at the bare minimum, a current tax that is set to expire at the end of this school year needs to be extended to keep the school district running as is.

Rent Review Board Meets Tuesday

The Rent Review Board will meet on Tuesday, October 24, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at San Leandro City Hall, 835 East 14th Street. Hearings will be held

on residences four residences that are on Oakes Boulevard and Dutton Avenue.

on residences four residences that are on Oakes Boulevard and Dutton Avenue.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Residents line up around Bethel Presbyterian Community Church on Bancroft Avenue on a Thursday evening to pick up groceries.

Pantry: Many grateful for groceries

continued from front page maybe 100 out of 600."

The Bethel volunteers get produce from the Alameda County Food Bank and buy rice, milk, beans. They get goods through the Grocery Rescue Program that grocery stores would throw out, Taylor said.

They have a core group of 20 volunteers, plus volunteers with school groups – the Key Club

and Interact from San Leandro and Arroyo high schools, and from the Kipp King Charter School.

People come from San Leandro and beyond to pick up groceries every Thursday.

"We walk three miles to come here," said Jessica Serna, waiting in line with her husband and baby. "My mom needs food, she's disabled. This helps us put

food on the table."

A man from Hayward said a friend told him about the food pantry after he lost his job.

"This place is amazing, it's well organized and the people are really nice," said the man who asked that he just be called "Tom Cruise."

"I'm really grateful," he added. "It's not too much food, but it's enough."

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San Leandro Times

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AUTOMOTIVE

Acura Creates a Hybrid Crossover

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

Hybrid vehicles are designed to improve upon gasoline-powered cars rather than replace them. The Acura MDX, a midsize, three-row crossover SUV, is no paragon of fuel efficiency on its own, but when you add an electric component to the drivetrain, it jumps up to earning the mileage of a compact hatchback, despite its bountiful power and hauling capacity — and mass.

Knowing that the action in the personal transportation business is in the crossover segment, Acura positions this hybrid as a flagship. While the Hybrid's engine drops from a 290-horsepower, 3.5-liter V6 to a 257-horsepower 3.0-liter one, adding in not one but three electric motors and a 1.3 kW lithium-ion battery pushes total output to a formidable 321 horsepower and 289 lb.-ft. of torque, making it the brand's mightiest SUV ever.

Acura's engineers tucked all

this extra technology underneath the car, so passenger and cargo space is unaffected, and the extra couple of hundred pounds adds to stability with a low center of gravity.

The Sport Hybrid gets a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic with manual mode, like the one in the RLX sport hybrid sedan and the nine-speed version in the NSX. You get virtually instant gear changes, as the other clutch sets up the next gear before you select it. Without a torque converter, a dual-clutch transmission is more efficient. You can use steering wheel mounted paddles to pick your own gears to add to the sportiness.

The three motors are integrated tightly into the existing powertrain. In front, a 47-horsepower motor is part of the transmission. At the rear, twin 36-horsepower motors sit where the differential for all-wheel-drive lives.

Acura's SH-AWD all-wheel-drive technology is a proven feature. The twin rear motors in this application use torque vectoring to

affect handling in positive ways. For example, during turns, the outer wheel can be given more torque. All three motors regenerate electricity while braking to fill the battery for more EV driving.

The Hybrid MDX gets EPA ratings of 26 City, 27 Highway, and 27 Combined. The regular MDX achieves 18/26/21 respectively. Smog and Greenhouse gas numbers are both 6s, which is normal for 3.0-liter V6s. The 329 grams of CO2 emitted by this car is about ¾ of what many standard vehicles put out, so there's some positive environmental impact.

Despite its size and height, electronic tuning and controls allow you to personalize the driving experience, so you can tackle interesting roads. While the standard MDX offers three preconfigured driving modes — Comfort, Normal, and Sport — the MDX Hybrid gives you a Sport+ mode as well. Each setting uses the car's electronic controls to enable more and more extreme modification to steering effort, throttle response, shock damping, shift points, and amount of torque vectoring to suit the driving conditions and the driver's taste.

Acuras have worn some aggressive faces in the last several years, but have toned that down recently to look less beaky. The new MDX design features the "Diamond Pentagon" grille, made up of tiny elements radiating away from the oversize Acura logo at the center. This is becoming the new face of the brand, scaled to fit each model. Knowing that they compete against models from BMW and Mercedes-Benz with



The 2017 MDX Sport Hybrid is Acura's first-ever hybrid SUV and the technological flagship of the Acura SUV lineup.

long-familiar visages, Acura has struggled to create a meaningful identity that sticks. This new look is easy to take, but time will tell.

Interiors are plush in an upscale way here, with the distinctive boldly carved dash and doors making every moment inside an Acura a stimulating experience. Materials rate above sister division Honda, as expected.

The MDX Sport Hybrid comes in two forms: Technology and Advance. The Advance incorporates the Technology package. Highlights of the Technology package include a navigation system with voice recognition, AcuraLink Communication System with Real-Time Traffic, the Acura ELS Studio Premium Audio System, a GPS-linked Tri-Zone Auto Climate System, Blind Spot Information System and Rear Cross Traffic Monitor, rain sensing wipers, and more. The Advance brings in a surround-view camera



The Advance package of the 2017 Acura MDX Hybrid features wood interior accents.

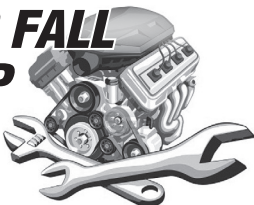
system, leather sport seats, heated second-row captain's chairs, wood trim, rear door sunshades, and more amenities.

Prices start at \$53,915 for the Technology Package version. My White Diamond Pearl tester, an Advance model with no additional options, listed at \$58,975. The non-hybrid MDX starts at \$45,025, if you want the look and utility but not the hybrid performance.

As it has done for all its existence, Acura fights against the German luxury brands, as well as Lexus, Cadillac, Volvo, and the others. Honda can hope its customers will move upward into Acuras, part of the assignment for the founding Integra and Legend models. The MDX is an Acura perennial, and with crossovers hotter than ever, is a suitable flagship. The Sport Hybrid makes it just a bit more fuel efficient.

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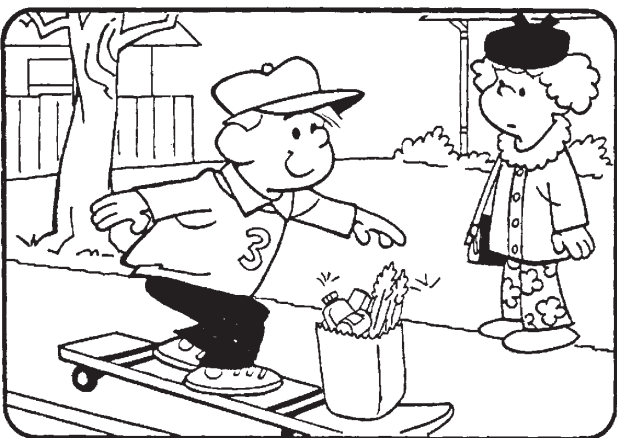
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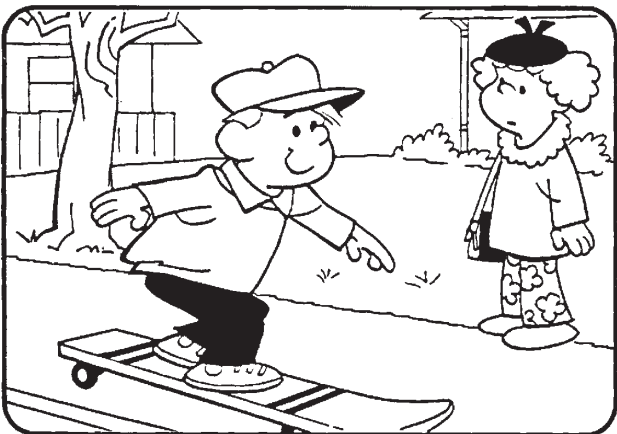


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence is smaller. 2. Number 5 is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Bag of groceries is missing. 5. Hat is different. 6. Button strip is missing.



DON'T BE SCARED OF THIS ONE! Hidden in the above frame is an old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

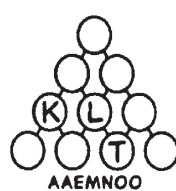
Answer: Starting with the "H" in the bottom row: "His bark is worse than his bite."

TRY SEWING THIS ONE UP IN FIVE MINUTES! To solve this problem you must replace the letters in our AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition expression. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get a higher total than we did.



Our answer: T=8, E=7, A=6, R=1, M=9, O=5, N=2, D=0, (8761 + 959 = 9720.)

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

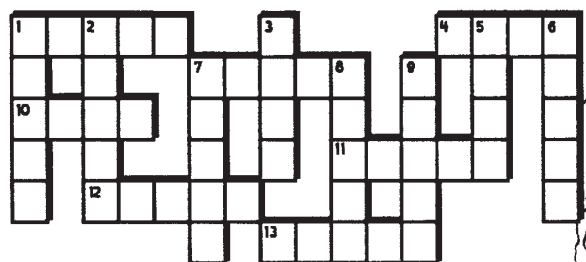


Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Make, make, male, mole, molt, moat, moan.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A HAUNTED HOUSE FILL-IN PUZZLE



Illustrated by David Coulson

Below are 15 words associated with scary stories and places. You must place them in the crossword puzzle grid shown above. Use the trial-and-error method, and keep a good eraser handy.

ATTIC	CRYPT	MOANS
BEAST	CURSE	MUMMY
BODY	GHOST	OWLS
CRASH	GLOOM	RATS
CROSS	HOWL	YELLS

Answers: (Across) 1. Crash. 4. Body. 7. Gloom. 10. Rats. 11. Moans. 12. Cross. 13. Crypt. (Down) 1. Curse. 2. Attic. 3. Howl. 5. Owls. 6. Yells. 8. Mummy. 9. Beast.

AC Transit to Give Green Light To 97 Line

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Line 97, the bus route running from San Leandro into Union City, will be getting \$6 million worth of upgrades by AC Transit this winter.

The 13-mile route runs from the Bay Fair BART station, down Hesperian Boulevard with stops in San Lorenzo and at Chabot College before terminating at the

Union City BART station. Line 97 is one of AC Transit's busiest routes, with daily ridership of over 4,000 people, according to AC Transit spokesman Robert Lyles.

The project is planned to start in the next few weeks and be completed by spring. The bulk of the cost is the "intelligent" traffic signal system which will be installed at 34 intersections

in San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Hayward. It allows buses to adjust the timing of traffic signals by requesting longer green lights or requesting a green light when approaching an intersection.

'Intelligent' Traffic Signal System to Be Installed

But the decision about whether to extend the light by a few seconds is made by a traffic computer's evaluation of traffic at the time and the buses will not automatically be granted the green light.

Additionally, some of the current bus stations will be moved past the intersection so that buses won't have to wait in traffic at a bus stop placed right before a traffic signal.

Bus Shelters Replaced, Curbs Rebuilt

Several of the bus shelters will be replaced, sidewalks widened, and curbs will be rebuilt.

The project is being paid for by public funds coming through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Alameda County Transportation Commission,



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Some of the bus stops on the 97 route will be moved as part of the project to upgrade the 13-mile long route, one of the busiest in AC Transit's system.

the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and AC Transit.

Riders will also be able to see live-updated arrival times on digital displays at the new bus stops.

One drawback of the larger bus stops will be a loss of street parking – in San Leandro seven

spots will be lost near the intersection of Hesperian Boulevard and Thornally Drive, four spots will be lost at Hesperian Boulevard and Drew Street, and three spots will be lost at Hesperian Boulevard and Sycamore Street.

AC Transit says that the Line

97 route will run as scheduled during construction, though some stops may be temporarily closed. Information on which stops and when isn't known yet, but all closures will be on the actransit.org website two weeks before any closure.

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Register at <https://runsignup.com/runtothedam>

What/When/Where:

5K Walk/Run and 10K Trail Run
Sunday, October 29, 2017
7:30 am Packet Pickup & Race Day Registration
8:30 am 5K Run/Walk & 10K Run Start Time
Chabot Staging Area
Redwood Road & Miller Road
(just past Redwood Canyon Golf Course by the Castro Valley Tree Farm)

Packet Pick-up:

Bibs and Shirts will be available for pick up on race day at the event location. Shirts are only guaranteed to pre-registered participants. You must register by October 13th, 2017 to be guaranteed a shirt. Race day t-shirts will be "first-come, first-served" basis.

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Awards Ceremony will be held at 10 am.

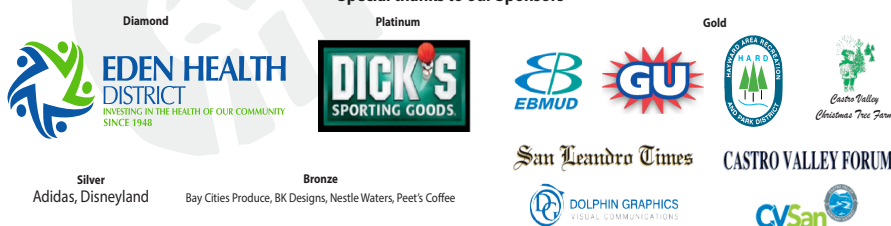
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SENIORS

Get a Handle on Prescription Drugs

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

Q I'm concerned that my 80-year-old mother is taking too many medications. She currently takes 10 different drugs prescribed by three different doctors, which I think is causing her some problems. She also struggles to keep up with all the drug costs. Any suggestions?

A There's no doubt that older Americans are taking more prescription medications than ever before. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, around 40 percent of seniors, age 65 and older, take five or more medications.

And, the more drugs a person takes, the higher their risk for medication problems, and the more likely they are to take something they don't need.

■ Brown Bag Review

To help you get a better handle on the medications your mom is taking, gather up all her pill bottles — include all prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, minerals and herbal supplements — and put them in a bag and take them to her primary doctor or pharmacist for a thorough drug checkup.

This "brown-bag review" will

give you a chance to check for duplicate meds, excessive doses and dangerous interactions, and for you to ask questions.

Medicare Part B covers free yearly medication reviews with a doctor through their annual wellness visits, and many Medicare Part D plans cover medication reviews with a pharmacist too.

You should also note that Oct. 21 — this Saturday — is "National Check Your Meds Day." A number of pharmacies, including Albertsons, Costco, CVS, Sam's Club, Target, Walmart and many independents, have agreed to support the effort.

Some may even have extra staff on hand to help you review your meds. Ask your local pharmacy whether it is participating.

When you get your mom's review, go over the basics for each medication or supplement, such as what it's for, how long she should take it, what it costs, and any side effects and potential interactions.

Also, ask if there are any meds she can stop taking, and find out if there are any nondrug options that might be safer, and whether she can switch to a lower dose.

To help your mom avoid future medication problems, make sure her primary doctor is aware of all the medications, over-the-counter drugs and supplements she takes.

You should also keep an updat-

ed list of everything she takes and share it with every doctor she sees. And, be sure that your mom fills all her prescriptions at the same pharmacy and informs her pharmacist of any over-the-counter, herbal or mail-order prescriptions she's taking so that there is complete oversight of her medications.

■ How To Save

To help cut your mom's medication costs, there are a number of cost-saving tips you can try. For starters, find out if there are any generic alternatives to the drugs she currently takes. Switching to generics saves anywhere between 20 and 90 percent.

You should also ask your mom's prescribing doctors if any of the pills she takes could be cut in half. Pill splitting allows you to get two months worth of medicine for the price of one. And, for the drugs she takes long-term, ask for a three-month prescription, which is usually cheaper than buying month-to-month.

Because drug prices can vary depending on where you buy them, another way to save is by shopping around (GoodRX.com will help you compare drug prices at U.S. pharmacies), and find out if your mom's drug insurance plan offers cheaper deals through preferred pharmacies or mail-order.

And, finally, if your mom's income is limited, she can probably get help through drug assistance



There are a number of ways to save on prescription medications — switching to generics, pill splitting, mail order, etc.

programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations. To find these types of programs use BenefitsCheckUp.org.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org



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

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Top Ten Moving Fails, Part 2

If a move is in your near future, it's best to start planning now to avoid classic mistakes. Last week was Part 1 of Top 10 Moving Fails, including:

- Failure to plan
- Failure to shop
- Failure to count actual costs
- Failure to effectively schedule
- Failure to properly insure

This week, here are the remaining Top 5 Fails:

• Failure to purge

Your belongings have been a part of your life for years, but

you may pay more to move them than they are worth. I cleaned out my spice drawer a while ago and discovered spice containers with French on them — which means we moved them with us from Canada close to 40 years ago.

Time to let go. Moving is a perfect opportunity to dispose of those things you haven't used for years. Be ruthless.

• Failure to pack a survival kit

Pack things you will need for the journey separately and place in your vehicle, including all the moving documents, ID, medications, toiletries, children's favorite toys and so on. Nothing worse than realizing that something you urgently need is buried in a truck in transit.

• Failure to account for pets

Moving can be very traumatic for pets; make sure you've accounted for their needs. Have proper ID and records of shots, certificates and more.

It's a good idea to have a microchip implanted and registered in the national database. Carry your pet's documentation with

you, along with a supply of their favorite food and treats.

• Failure to identify boxes

Clearly label each box for contents and room. Pack items you will need first (tools and other basic items) in one box and load it last so it's the first box off the truck. Use color-coded labels to help movers quickly identify ultimate destinations for each box.

• Failure to secure valuables

Do not trust irreplaceable items with the mover. Passports, jewelry and other valuables should go with you and be secured in the trunk of your vehicle.

• Failure to inform the IRS

A Bonus! Talk to your accountant to ensure you deduct as much of your move as possible. Keep all your receipts and invoices in a separate envelope for easy retrieval at tax time.

If you plan carefully and avoid these Top 10 Fails, your move can be relatively painless and you can begin enjoying your new home and neighborhood!

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.

Rates Jump Up

Long-term fixed mortgage rates posted their biggest week-over-week increase since July 2017, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.91 percent last week, up from the previous week when it averaged 3.85 percent.

Fifteen-year rates averaged 3.21 percent, up from 3.15 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.16 percent last week, down from 3.18 percent.

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Prep Walls Prior to Painting

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Times

First-timers often are daunted by the amount of paint and paint products to choose from, conflicting instructions from various sources, and sometimes a lack of helpful information from home-improvement store paint sections.

Others feel it's simple enough to just buy a bunch of paint and brushes and just go for it. The reality falls somewhere in between.

Preparation is the most important rule to follow, however. You'll want to prepare the walls (and presumably trim) in your house or apartment for painting. You'll need to figure out not just what color paint to use, but how much of it to buy, and if the colors even work the way you think they will. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Buy sample sizes of paint colors you're interested in, and paint a stripe of each in an inconspicuous section of the wall. Paint looks different when wet and when dry.



Applying a primer coat will keep your new paint from bubbling, cracking or peeling.

- How much paint should you buy? A gallon of latex paint covers 350 square feet. Measure the length of each wall and add the figures together. Measure the height of the room from floor to ceiling. Multiply the first number by the height of the room and you'll have your square footage.

- Wash all surfaces to be painted with a damp sponge soaked in a soap-and-water solution and then squeezed to remove most of the water. Let the surfaces dry for about a half-day, longer if it's rainy or humid.

- Remove protruding nails and patch nail holes and small (less than 1/2 inch) dents and holes with spackling compound. Once it's dry, sand the compound lightly and wipe with a damp sponge to remove dust.

- Mask off areas you don't want to paint using blue paint-

er's tape, which comes off more easily than masking tape.

- Covering a dark wall with a lighter paint? Prime the wall first with a primer that is close to or matches the color of the new paint.

- Ditto for covering one type of paint, such as an oil-based paint, with a different type, such as latex paint. A primer coat will keep your new paint from bubbling, cracking or peeling.

- Make sure the area being painted is well ventilated; additionally, wear a filter mask (not a dust mask) to reduce inhalation of paint fumes.

Home Tip: Paint stores will pre-mix your paint after you purchase it, saving a lot of time, but you still should stir the paint for a few seconds immediately before beginning to paint with it.

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Japanese Maple Needs Replanting; Rugosa Roses Reborn

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q I planted a Japanese Maple in early June. Two months ago, it started dying and now has lost all its leaves. The roots are about one foot below the surface, so none of them are exposed, and watered every five days. What can I do to revive it?

A Japanese Maples drop their leaves in the fall as a prelude to dormancy. This occurrence will delay the answer as to whether or not it can be revived; however, I'm pessimistic it will leaf out next spring. Here are my concerns.

Japanese Maples are planted with the root ball above the soil surface in clay soils. Placing

plants high out of the ground is critical in heavy and poorly draining clay soils to prevent crown and root rot. Water will then drain away quickly from the crown area.

In sandy soils, this is not a problem.

Unfortunately, your Japanese Maple is planted way too deep. It's not necessary to cover every root. The number-one non-pest or disease-related plant problem gardeners have is planting plants too deep. Mulching during the summer months protects the exposed surface roots.

Also, you're hastening the decline by watering every five days, especially when the Japanese Maple had no leaves. After a month to six weeks of being planted, every six to 10 days is



Be careful not to plant Japanese Maples too deep.

typical. The excessive soil moisture increases the activity of the soil pathogens.

Right now, I'd dig it up, and replant it with the top of the first root at the soil surface. Also, change you're watering pattern to every two weeks until the rainy season starts.

In March, I'd feed it an All Purpose Plant Food to encourage the new growth. By Mother's Day, you should see new growth. If not, I would replace it.

Q Two years ago, I dug up 10 little Rugosa rose seedlings and planted them. One of the bushes is four times larger than the others and never bloomed. Can I rectify this problem by adding extra phosphorous? Also, is it possible that a hybrid wild seed produces a seedling(s) that is not capable of blooming?

A Adding additional phosphorus is not going to correct this problem. With nutrient deficiencies, all the bushes would be experienc-

ing the same problem, not one out of 10.

Your second assumption is correct. You're dealing with genetics.

Seedling roses, like many other plants, are unpredictable when started from seeds. The genes from one parent combine with a second.

Flowering is one of the many characteristics that may or may not transfer from seedling to seedling. Hence, vegetative plant parts are used to produce commercial plants such as cuttings, budding, grafting, divisions, etc.

Vegetative reproduction guarantees that every cutting will mirror the parent or donor plant. I'd then select the most vigorous cutting(s) to replace the non-blooming plant.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. His web address is www.dirtgardener.com. Email questions to dirtgarden@aol.com or go to [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero).

WEEKEND GARDENER

Lawns
Now that the weather is changing, start new lawns with sod or seed, or reseed thin spots in established ones. The cooler, showery conditions mean less watering during the first two weeks it takes for the seeds to germinate.

Winter Color
For winter color, nothing beats pansies and violas. This pair makes a great showing massed together in flower beds or planted as accents in containers of all sizes. Choose from many different varieties, some with clear faces, others with butterfly designs.

Soil is a living, breathing, natural entity made of solids, liquids, and gases. It provides habitat for organisms, recycles waste products and filters water. Soil provides structural stability for plants, and retains and relinquishes water and the nutrients necessary for plants to grow. Most soil scientists agree that soil composed of 25% water, 25% air, 45% mineral matter, and 5% organic matter make up an ideal ratio for plant growth.

- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.ces.ncsu.edu

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365 Macarthur Boulevard	94577	\$360,000	3 BD - 1,171 SF - 1933
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14 Simple	6 Id counterpart
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Bal: Ballew says he doesn't support personal loans but votes for it

continued from front page
value to make it fair collateral for the loan.

Kay acknowledged that the Bal is currently "scraping by" financially and Dan Dillman said they've operated at a loss each year since he bought it.

Dillman said he entered into the mortgage with the balloon payment out of optimism that he could parlay his entertainment industry experience and people skills into a thriving enterprise, but there have been personal and professional obstacles along the way.

"The reality is that at the time I believed that within 10 years we'd be successful enough to pay off the loan," said Dillman. "We are a miracle to have done what we've done so far without any outside support. But now that time has come and with the support from the city we can survive and create."

The city has also agreed to a \$150,000 "forgivable loan" — which means the money is essentially a gift and doesn't have to be paid back as long as certain conditions are met.

The \$150,000 will go to Dillman's non-profit organization — Curtain Call Performing Arts — to make improvements to the theater including new seats,

screen, projector, curtains, carpeting, and more. The City Council increased the amount of the gift from \$100,000, saying that the Bal needed far more money than that to completely be renovated.

The \$150,000 must be used

"We aren't giving away money. We are injecting it into the community."

— City Councilman Ed Hernandez

on designated repairs and allow the city to use the theater at least four times per year for city events.

"The forgivable money is money we won't see again and that we hope not to see again because it has gone to the improvements," said Kay.

Curtain Call under different leadership had a contract with the city to run shows out of the city-owned California Conservatory Theatre (CCT) with free rent, but in 2014 Curtain Call abruptly shut

down production in the middle of the season.

After Curtain Call left, the CCT remained empty for years and eventually the city decided to turn it into a meeting room instead of a theater.

Dillman says that a personal loss suffered by the then-director was the reason and refunds were issued and now Curtain Call operates well under his direction.

He said the board of directors of the Curtain Call is looking to expand and at Monday night's City Council meeting, there was some discussion of a council member joining the board.

The City Council voted 4-3 to approve the loans, with Mayor Pauline Cutter and council members Deborah Cox and Lee Thomas dissenting.

All of the City Council said that they appreciate the Bal, but Thomas said that they should take "baby steps" in approving the loan to make sure the public supports and is confident in the decision.

Cutter said that other businesses and organizations around town are just as worthy of funding.

"I do think we have to be prudent and make sure we can help other businesses, too," said Cutter. Though he ultimately voted



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The owner of the Bal Theatre received a \$400,000 loan, plus a gift of \$150,000 from the City of San Leandro.

in favor of the loan, Councilman Pete Ballew had similar misgivings about the city getting into the loan business.

"Philosophically, I don't support giving personal loans, I don't think that's what cities do," said Ballew. But he acknowledged

that the Bal needed the \$400,000 bailout to survive.

Council members Ed Hernandez and Corina Lopez proposed increasing the amount of the gift, with Lopez saying the initial \$100,000 offer "wasn't going to get us far enough."

And Hernandez suggested increasing the combined amount of money given to the Bal to nearly \$1 million in order to get the theater running with all amenities.

"We aren't giving away money," said Hernandez. "We are injecting it into the community."

LOCAL DEATHS

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SANDERSON, Judith
THOMAS, Matthew Mark
VARELA, Dan

■ **Matthew Mark Thomas** passed away September 29, 2017

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Judith Sanderson

April 7, 1955 – October 5, 2017 • Resident of Alameda

After a year and a half battle with cancer, Judy Ortnor Sanderson passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family and friends on Thursday, October 5, 2017. She is survived by her devoted husband, Stewart, and son, Tyler; her mother, Jan Ortnor; her brother, Ray Ortnor (Rhonda), and their children, Allyson, Emily and Kelsey; her sister-in-law, Kathie DeShon (Loren), and their children, Cheryl and Daniel; brother-in-law, Russ Sanderson (Bente), and their children, Katrine and Thor; and brother-in-law, Stan Sanderson (Ann).

Judy was born on April 7, 1955 in Alameda.

She attended Edison Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School and graduated from Alameda High School. Judy then went to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), where she became a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Judy earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from UCLA in 1975. She taught school in Alameda for 36 years. Her favorite grade level was kindergarten.

Judy was a loving, giving and caring person. Her family, friends and students were a very special part of her life. Her love of traditions and holidays created many lasting memories.

Services will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 2 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave., in Alameda. Arrangements made by Piedmont Funeral Services and Mountain View Cemetery, 5000 Piedmont Ave., in Oakland (www.mountainviewcemetery.org).



Dan Varela

June 15, 1949 – October 11, 2017

Dan lived life with passion. He loved his family deeply. He is survived by his lifelong partner of 50 years, Penny; and his five children, Liz (Riley) Sarah (Doug), Jonas (Jenny), Bekka and Emily (Paul), along with 9 grandchildren, Owen, Arai, Evy, Penny, Max, Mimi, Joaquin, Tommy and Mack. He is also survived by his cherished family, including his mother, Carmen Varela; his sister and brother, Carmen and Steve (Linda); his sister-in-law, Kathie Renick; and his aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

He cared fiercely about his Teamster family — he worked tirelessly for 50 years with his union brothers and sisters. He started as a truck driver with Garrett Freightlines. He then served as a Business Agent for Local 70, Local 78 and Local 853. The union he loved gave us so much — great health care, a meaningful pension, and an abiding belief in the power of collective action against the "powers that be". Solidarity was his religion.

Dan cheered passionately for his beloved 49ers from the age of 5 years old. We all became experts at swearing and trash talking by hanging out with him during 49er games. He was a life-long athlete. He played football in his youth at San Leandro High and Sonoma State. He was also a world-class powerlifter — he holds the world record for Master Powerlifters Age 55-59 in the squat (amateur, 745 lbs), bench press (pro, 600 lbs), deadlift (pro, 625 lbs) and total points in amateur (1,870 lbs) and professional categories (2,010 lbs).

Most importantly, he was the best father, a devoted husband, and a dedicated Teamster brother. Memorial donations may be made to the Teamsters Joint Council #7 All Charities Fund, Building Futures With Women and Children, or the 49ers' offense. Eternal solidarity.



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OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and *must be under 300 words*. 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.

Ode to San Leandro's Growth Movements

Editor:

Too many people,
We do not need.
Encouraged, no doubt,
By developer greed.

Too many cars,
So traffic can't flow.
I support all growth movements
That really are slow.

—George Banks
San Leandro

'Firearms Do Not Solve Problems or Create Safer Neighborhoods'

Editor:

As I read of thefts and how upset we all are by violations of our personal property, I am hoping that we can respond by reporting the incidents to police, and not suggesting that we resort to guns or bullets to keep the peace.

After Las Vegas, Moms Demand Action and others are finding that firearms do not solve problems or create safer neighborhoods.

—Maxine Sitts
Neighborhood Watch
Begier Avenue, San Leandro

Annual Gun Registration Sounds Like a Fine Idea, but...

Editor:

Re: Annual Registration of all guns

Sounds like a mighty fine idea, but we would need to get in line behind all the car jackers, the gang-bangers, the drive-by shooters, the home-invaders, robbers, muggers, thieves, crooks and assorted others criminals as they rush to register each of their guns every year

—Ken Kellogg
San Leandro

'Subtle Racism' in Cries for Gun Control

Editor:

The tragedy in Las Vegas has brought out the usual suspects screaming for more gun control and even outright confiscation.

If these people were genuinely concerned with the loss of human life by gunfire, they'd be thronging Chicago's city hall, clamoring for more police in the slums and projects to stop the violence.

More than 59 people a month — almost all of them persons of color — are murdered in strict, gun-controlled Chicago, but are they doing or saying anything about that? How about Detroit? What about Baltimore, or even Oakland right next door? No, their silence speaks for itself; the implications are disgusting.

It seems that only when white people are killed do these creatures sally forth with the usual cries for more laws and restrictions that even such a one as Diane Feinstein says could not have stopped Las Vegas. They ignore the very real

holocaust on the streets of our minority communities and cry vengeance only when it affects their kind of people.

One wonders what these hypocrites are really after because the subtle racism inherent when they raise the cry for gun control is plain to see. Why give them any credence?

—Allan Lindsay-O'Neal
San Leandro

Original Intersection Design Worked Fine at First

Editor:

Some five or six years ago I raised the same concerns about the design of the three lanes at the intersection of Fargo and Washington that Richard Brock raises ("Poor Design of Intersection Creates Huge Traffic Backup," *Letters*, Oct. 12) in his letter in the Times.

In the original design, the middle lane was for a left turn and also to proceed straight through. It was working fine. It lasted some three months, then came Keith Cook and his Engineering Dept. to change it to the current design.

I raised a complaint at a couple of public meetings and also through my council member at the time, Joyce Starosciak. The city's engineers came, took a look and decided that it was working just fine. When have you heard an engineer admit that he's wrong?

I live a block from that intersection and I have to breathe the carbon monoxide from idling cars every day. The car line extends for four or five blocks. Cassidy was the mayor at the time. So why wonder that he's now working for the marijuana business?

—Leo T. West
San Leandro

New Law Cuts Down on Homeless Animal Population

Editor:

Kudos to Governor Jerry Brown: Now that California's pet stores will be required to sell dogs, cats, and rabbits from shelters or adoption centers, countless animals will have a chance to experience the love and companionship that they deserve.

The new law, though, should raise a red flag about purchasing our animal companions from a breeder. Licensed or not, there is no such thing as a responsible breeder—every sale exacerbates the homeless-animal overpopulation crisis.

Shelters take in more than 6 million animals every year, and because there aren't enough good homes for all of them, about half must be euthanized. Others are turned away by other shelters and left to survive on the street, where they can be hit by cars; are exposed to weather extremes and disease; and are vulnerable to

cruel humans who shoot, stab, and poison them.

When we purchase an animal from a breeder, we not only encourage him or her to pump out more puppies, kittens, and rabbits, we deny a home to one whose life may depend on being adopted.

Visiting an open-admission shelter addresses both issues.

—Craig Shapiro
PETA Foundation
Norfolk, VA

How Will GOP React to Trump Attempt to 'Bust Health Insurance Laws'?

Editor:

Since Congress failed to take Obamacare away from 20 million people, the current President issued an executive order allowing young, healthy people to opt out and buy cheaper health insurance.

This benefits them with cheaper payments, but as they might learn the hard way, you get what you pay for. Young and healthy doesn't protect one from something unexpected, like a car crash, injury from a hurricane's wind, or the stray bullet from an unregulated shooter's gun.

Even healthy people sometimes get sick, might pop a shoulder from slipping and falling, might suffer food poisoning due to underfunded FDA inspectors. If that happens to you, and you have the cheap-o medical insurance, you might not be covered; you might have an enormous co-pay; you might go bankrupt; and you certainly will end up with a pre-existing condition that would preclude you retaining Trump-o health insurance.

Health insurance works because everyone pays into it, and anyone can get the medical care they need. It is fair when everyone participates, young and older, healthy and sick. It will be useless and unfair if craven politics distort the system into a scam.

We've seen Republican lawmakers hooting, hollering and jumping up and down about how Obama's executive orders overreached his authority. Let's see how they react to Trump's attempt to bust the health insurance laws.

Sure, ACA needs some improvement (like Medicare-for-all); we don't need its uninformed destruction.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

Urges Americans to Fight GOP's Congressional Budget

Editor:

The Republican-controlled Congressional budget will cut both medical and social security. What the majority of Americans should understand is that it will also allow both oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife in Alaska. Both of these drilling will ruin the way of life of the Gwich'in people by killing their food supply which are the caribous. They relied on them for both food and clothing.

I urge the majority of Americans to fight the Republican budget that will allow both oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife.

—Billy Trice Jr.
Oakland



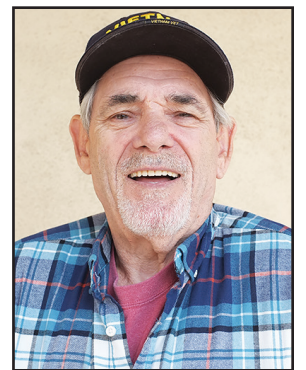
INQUIRING REPORTER

Ever been in a disaster?

— Asked at Pak N Save on Floresta

Yeah, my machine shop burned down. It was started by fireworks. The fire took four buildings. Everybody got out but we lost one dog. A forklift blew up — the propane tank. I know what they're going through in the North Bay. Every time I see a fire I get a flashback.

Ray Rhodes
San Leandro



The Oakland hills fire, cutting down trees. I just volunteered. I brought my chainsaw and the Berkeley Fire Department brought me in and told me what trees to cut down.

Dale 'Tree Man' Rigley
San Leandro



A hurricane in Bedford, Massachusetts with my godparents. We took the dog out and the wind was blowing so hard he was flying at the end of his leash. They drained the hotel pool and threw the patio furniture in. It was so humid and windy, and everybody was supposed to shelter in place.

Lisa Tarin
San Leandro



I've never been in a disaster. I'm thankful for that. I was here during the earthquake in 1989 but I was in the car. It was an older car, so I just thought, uh-oh, something's wrong with the car.

Cindy DeSanti
San Leandro



My home's a disaster. It's in total disarray. We're remodeling and they found dry rot, and it's taken so long to get it back together again.

Shirley Demerse
San Leandro





San Leandro Girls Softball Nitro took second in Fremont.

Nitros 10-U Takes 2nd

The San Leandro Girls Softball Nitro 10-U team placed second in the Silver Bracket in the Play For The Cure Tournament held in Fremont on the weekend of Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Led by head coach Leo Sheridan, assistant coaches Salina Longoria, Denice Hatch and Michelle Sheridan, the Nitro battled their way through single elimination to the championship game.

Strong pitching by their Ace, Katrina Longoria, solid defense including two double-plays by "Double-Double" Jazlyn Roque

and clutch hitting was the key to success. Gisele Tinoco blasted a monster 3-run homer, and another home run by Yumiuz Cobbs gave Nitro the offense needed to advance to the championship game.

"These girls gave it their all, and should be very proud of their accomplishment" said Sheridan. As of Monday, Oct. 2, Nitro 10-U is ranked 11th in the state by USSSA Fastpitch Softball.

Online registration is now open at www.sanleandrogirls-softball.com for their upcoming Spring Recreation season.

Women Voters to Host Forum on Education Tonight

The Eden Area League of Women Voters will host a forum with a panel of local educators to discuss challenges facing Eden Area schools and how the community can participate in improving our educational system tonight (Thursday) from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. in San Leandro. This event is free and open to the public.

The panel will consist of Maria Ochoa, Ph.D. and Professor Emerita, Dept of Sociology- In-

terdisciplinary Social Sciences, San Jose State University; Mercedes Faraj, president of the Hayward Education Association; Patrick Walsh, managing regional director of California Charter Schools; Norman Fobert, past governing board member of the San Lorenzo Unified School District; and moderated by Jim Negri, president of the Rotary Club of Castro Valley and past superintendent of the Castro Valley Unified School District.

For more information, visit lwvea.org or call 826-6674.

Friends of Creek To Meet on Tuesday

The Friends of San Leandro Creek will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The club will provide fold-

scopes (pocket sized microscopes) and teach you how to set up yours and then look at some slides of interesting tiny things found in the creek. Free coffee and snacks.

For more information on foldscopes, go to foldscope.com.

Pets of the Week



Zach



Kittay

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Zach the kitten and, Kittay the kitten.

Zach is 5-month-old and always looks for a new adventure or something new to play with. He loves to cuddle as he winds down from an exciting

play session.

Kittay is a cute as a button 4-month-old kitten who is friendly and outgoing. He allows all handling and really enjoys playing with string toys.

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

Hayward Shelter to Host Black & White Fur Ball

Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, will have its 14th Annual Black and

White "Fur" Ball adoption on Saturday, Oct. 21, from noon to 6 p.m. with cats, kittens, dogs, puppies, and bunnies.



Adoption fees are \$20, which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations and microchip.

Hors d'oeuvres, non-alcoholic cocktails, music, raffle prizes, and more.

The adoption is sponsored by the Hayward Animal Shelter Volunteers.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/haywardanimalshelter.

Marine Breakfast

The Lt. Frank Reasoner Detachment, Marine Corps League will host a breakfast celebrating the 242nd Marine Corps birthday on Saturday, Nov. 4., at 8 a.m. at the San Leandro Veterans Building, 1103 Bancroft Ave. Tickets are \$20 at the door. For more information, call Ron Saunders at 489-4186.



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- Matt Bellini (San Leandro High School Class of 1986 Athlete Football)
- Dennis Corti (San Leandro High School Class of 1959 Athlete Baseball)
- John "Biff" Crawley (San Leandro High School 1955-65 Coach)
- Bob Dalton (San Leandro High School Class of 1955 Athlete Basketball & Football)
- Loren Diaz (San Leandro High School Class of 1979 Athlete Track and Field)
- Thomas Gunnari (Pacific High School Coach/Contributor)
- Jan Hagan (City of San Leandro 1981-96 Coach/Contributor)
- Kim Musch (Pacific High School Class of 1973 Athlete and Coach Swimming)
- Tony Nasimento (City of San Leandro Coach/Contributor)
- Doug Padilla (Marina High School Class of 1974 Athlete Track and Field)
- Lou Profumo (San Leandro High School Class of 1956 Athlete/Coach/Contributor Baseball)
- Saskia Roberson (San Leandro High School Class of 2001 Athlete Softball)
- Norm Santos (San Leandro High School Class of 1962 Athlete Football)
- Jeanette Wood (San Leandro High School Class of 1986 Contributor)
- Sarah Woofter (San Leandro High School Class of 2007 Athlete Softball)

Friday, October 27, 2017 • 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Zero Net Energy Center

14600 Catalina Street, San Leandro, CA 94577

TICKETS: \$60 PER PERSON

Call Terry Kleven to order your tickets today at 510-895-1918 or visit our website www.slsfi.org for more information.

The San Leandro Sports Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The Hall of Fame event is a fundraiser for athletic/sports programs in San Leandro Schools.

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Activities include:

Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Pumpkin Patch, Dunk Tank,

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Kids are welcome to come in friendly and non scary costumes!

Snacks and pumpkins are for sale (but everything else is free!).

Located in church parking lot (located in the gym, if it rains).

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