

Leandro Cimes

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

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



Colorful Canopy

A nanny pushed a baby carriage through a canopy of leaves earlier this month in front of the Main Library.

Rent Control Advocate Finally Evicted

By Jim Knowles

San Leandro Times

John Busch finally got evicted.

He had held out most of the year, but the sheriff's department finally showed up at the door of his mobile home on Nov. 15.

The 82-year-old who grew up in San Leandro refused to go. He said he held onto the screen door and refused to comply. So he got arrested for obstruction of a public officer, trespassing, and contempt.

Busch spent four days in the county jail. On the following Monday morning he found out that he could go, because the District Attorney wasn't going to press charges.

A spokeswoman at the DA's office said they weren't pressing charges "in the interest of justice."

Now Busch is sleeping on the couch of a generous friend and planning to live in a camper. He quiring a camper. said the group Our Revolution



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

John Busch, at his trailer before he was evicted, says he doesn't want to leave San Leandro where he's lived his whole life.

Busch has always said that has taken up his cause, helping he believes what is "criminal" him with legal work and in ac- is the big rent increases that are

squeezing the working people of year, Busch had refused to pay the Bay Area. The former Eagle the 60 percent rent increase at Scout has made it his cause.

Since the beginning of the

the Bayshore Commons mobile see EVICTED, page 5

Year in Review: Rent, Taxes, & **Fosters Freeze**

By Amy Sylvestri

take a look back at some of the district annually. most noteworthy events in 2018 in San Leandro - Part II of the ing plan made its debut, with year-end wrap up.

- Independent investigator Karen Kramer released the findings on the sexual harassment allegations made by Davis Street Family Resource Center CEO Rose Johnson against City Manager Chris Zapata. Kramer's 50-page report found no wrongdoing **Assistant** by Zapata and said Johnson's allegations lacked credibility.
- · Despite being cleared of allegations and reinstated as City

 Manager Zanata announced he Manager, Zapata announced he was leaving his job in mid-July. was leaving his job in mid-July.
 The City Council agreed to a **Opioid Pills** "mutual separation agreement" which gave Zapata a \$350,000 severance package. Zapata left for a job as Anaheim's city manager and Jeff Kay was appointed assistant has been sentenced to
- Council, members of all of the mainly addictive opioids. city's boards and commissions were threatened with losing their 61, of San Mateo, was the state's positions if they refused to sign number one prescriber of opioids a gag order regarding Zapata. A in 2015 and 2016, according to few refused to sign, but no one the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northwas taken off any boards for not ern District of California.

August

Board voted unanimously to put Court in Oakland last week. a \$39 per parcel tax on the ballot. It passed in November and will

As the year draws to a close, bring in about \$745,000 to the

• A new downtown parkcolored stickers delineating six different parking zones for the

see 2018, page 10

Physician's **Prescribed**

By Amy Sylvestri

A San Leandro physician's San Leandro's new city manager. 10 years in prison for illegally • In a letter sent by the City prescribing over 1.6 million pills,

Prosecutors say David Lague,

Lague was convicted last July of 39 counts of distributing the pills for non-medical reasons and • The San Leandro School was sentenced at the U.S. District

> Lague was arrested in 2017 see OPIOIDS, page 12

INSIDE YOUR

TECH

Tech fair helps families with internet access. Page 2

NEWS

Sheriff's department sends bikes to Paradise. Page 3

NEIGHBORS

Homeowners oppose

apartment building. Page 12

38,500 EVERY THURSDAY THE LARGEST EREE-DELIVERED NEWSPAPER IN THE EAST BAY

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MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



San Leandro Times

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

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Pets of the Week 🔏 🧦



The Pets of the Week at the teens. Neutered and vaccinated. Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are ligent, friendly, belly-rub-loving Monte the dog and Froggy the

playful with people, toys and Neutered and vaccinated. dogs. He's social, sweet, outgoing

Froggy

Froggy is a 3-year-old intelpup. He would love to go to a training class to learn some **Monte** is 3 years old and very leash manners. OK with teens.

For more information on and needs an active family who Monte or Froggy, call the Haywill take him to training. OK with ward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

SL Museum to Screen The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

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Start the New Year with a ter frequently disappears into movie about change and new be- a world of exciting daydreams ginnings, The Secret Life of Wal-filled with heroism, romance ter Mitty, at the San Leandro His- and action. tory Museum, 320 W. Estudillo a.m. and again at 2 p.m.

azine, spends day after monotonous day developing photos for short story by James Thurber.

Walk-Ins

Welcome

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ıt. - Thur.: 9am-5pm

He gets a chance to have a (2013, PG, 1:54).

Free admission. Bring your information call 577-3990 or Exchange. To escape the tedium, Wal- email asilveira@sanleandro.org.



The meteor just after sunset on Dec. 19, seen across Northern California, left a trail

in the sky over the OSIsoft building by the San Leandro BART Station. The National

Weather Service called the trail a noctilucent cloud, formed by a meteor or debris

Free computers, digital litera-Ave., on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 11:15 real adventure when he goes on cy training and low-cost internet a mission to obtain the perfect service went to 130 families as Walter Mitty (played by Ben photo for the magazine's final the City of San Leandro hosted Stiller), an employee at Life mag- print issue, which changes his life its first-ever digital inclusion Tech Fair and "Appy hour" on Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Main the publication, based on a 1939 favorite movie snacks. For more Library, in partnership with Tech

Meteor Show

entering the upper atmosphere.

Another 30 families were given vouchers to pick up free computers from Tech Exchange's warehouse in Oakland. Access to the library's collection of e-books, online adult learning resources, and mobile apps were also available. New "cloudLibrary" circulation rate increased over 63 percent over that weekend, according to the library.

The tech fair was made possible by the city's partnership an environmentally sustainable model to provide free, refurbished computers to underserved residents in the East Bay. The



The City of San Leandro and the Tech Exchange hosted a tech fair and "appy hour" at the library on Dec. 8.

to Tech Exchange as a way to a real difference in the lives of so many local residents."

Photos from the Tech Fair and

MAINTENANCE

with Tech Exchange, a local know that over 22 percent of our Appy Hour event are available on non-profit organization that uses residents do not have access to the City's FaceBook page: www. broadband service at home," said facebook.com/cityofsanleandro/. Mayor Cutter. "That's why we For more information, contact continue to focus city resources Patricia Mallari with the San on finding new ways of bridging Leandro Library at pmallari@ City of San Leandro recently the digital divide. I am so proud sanleandro.org or Tony Batalla, committed to donating all its that our partnership with Tech Information Technology Mansurplus computer equipment Exchange has enabled us to make ager at tbatalla@sanleandro.org.

Cherry City Toastmasters Meet Tuesdays

Visit Cherry City Toastmasters to learn how to speak effectively in a safe and supportive environment. Build confidence and effectiveness in your professional and personal life. Meetings are weekly on Tuesday from 12:05 to 1:05 p.m. in the Trustee Room of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

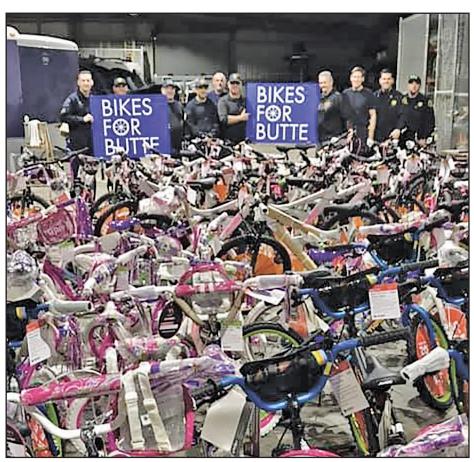




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POLICE & FIRE



Bikes for Butte

Earlier this month, the Alameda County Sheriff's office began taking donations for "Bikes for Butte" to raise money to buy bicycles for children who were impacted by the deadly Camp Fire. The officers got busy putting together the bikes themselves and Sheriff Greg Ahern even picked up a screwdriver to help. This week, they were able to deliver over 400 bicycles to kids in Paradise and surrounding communities just in time for Christmas. The department also received thousands of dollars to buy helmets and other sports equipment.

Man Who Stole Stuffed Animals **Arrested by San Leandro Police**

Leandro police was arrested on Dec. 14 after allegedly burglarizing the East Bay Flower shop at 1200 East 14th Street this fall.

The burglary happened on Oct. 11 at 2 a.m. when a thief used a BB gun to shoot out the front glass windows of the business, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

After shattering the glass, the burglar entered the store and stole numerous flowers and stuffed animals. The burglary was captured on the store's video surveillance

Detectives began working the case and received a lead from another police agency that led them to the identity of the suspect, Andre Benny Murphy, 46, of Oakland.

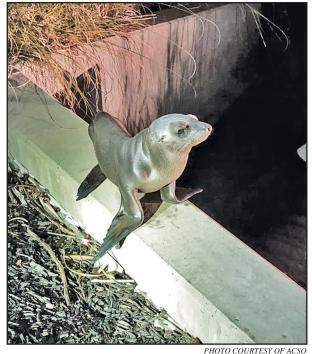
During the investigation, some of the stuffed teddy bears were found at a female's home in Alameda.

A warrant was issued for Murphy's arrest and on Dec. 14, Murphy was located in Oakland and arrested. Several other law enforcement agencies are also investigating Murphy for similar style burglaries.

"The case is an example of how law enforcement agencies network together, sharing infor-

the "teddy bear bandit" by San Isaac Benabou in a press release. his next court date is scheduled Murphy remains in custody for Jan. 18.

A suspect who was dubbed mation to solve cases," said Lt. at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and



Lost Holiday Traveler

Alameda County Sheriff's deputies were surprised to see a little seal headed into the Oakland Airport early last Thursday morning. The officers were able to coax him safely back into the Bay.

DA Settles Suit Against Fast Food Restaurants

poration, which manages fast plans to the state electronically so food restaurants Kentucky Fried that first responders know what investigation, O'Malley's office costs and the issuance of a per-Chicken, Taco Bell, A&W and chemicals are on site and in what said. After Harman submitted manent injunction that orders the Pizza Hut, recently settled an quantities. environmental lawsuit brought against it by Alameda County Dis- \$195,000 in civil penalties and

C02 tanks, especially in contained San Francisco Counties. areas, and can have serious health impacts, including dizziness, requirements at issue in this case unconsciousness, and ultimately were enforced for the protection asphyxiation. C02 is used to car- of restaurant workers and cusbonate beverages.

rants such as KFC that store and throughout the county and the use threshold amounts of carbon state must comply with required dioxide, must implement haz- measures to avoid serious and ardous materials business plans, O'Malley said.

Such plans require training employees so that workers know the dangers of C02, how to prevent C02 releases, how to recognize the signs of respiratory failure from potential C02 releases, and what to do should a release occur, or in a threatened release. in order to prevent harm to the public and how to properly notify appropriate emergency responders. Businesses must also submit

Harman Management Cor- hazardous materials business potentially fatal disasters."

Harman agreed to pay trict Attorney Nancy O'Malley. costs for violations of environ-O'Malley's office announced mental protection laws, including earlier this month that the suit its failure to implement and suballeged that Harman mishandled mit hazardous materials business pure carbon dioxide (C02) in its plans, including employee training requirements, at restaurants The gas is undetectable to hu- in Alameda County as well as mans and leaks from compressed Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo, and

"The hazardous materials tomers," said O'Malley in a writ-Businesses, including restauten statement. "Every business

CI	RC	S	SI	V	DF	RD	A	N	S	W	E	RS
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complaint and proposed order ployee training.

were filed to settle the matter with Harman cooperated with the the payment of a civil penalty and the required hazardous materials company to comply with various business plans and showed proof requirements related to hazardous of employee training, a civil materials business plans and em-

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NEIGHBORS



Salvation Army's Little "Angels" **Donate 100 Gifts to Children**

St. Rose Hospital partnered with The Salvation Army again this year for The Angel Tree Program. Anonymous donors adopt The Salvation Army's little "angels" in a Christmas tradition that makes the season brighter for both the gift giver and receiver. This year, St. Rose Hospital doctors, staff, and volunteers donated over 100 gifts for children in the Hayward Area. St. Rose Hospital has been an independent, nonprofit community hospital in Hayward for over 55 years.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

SL Center for the **Performing Arts**

the San Leandro Center for the are \$18 advance, and \$20 at munity

Brian Copeland returns to the the Bay Area's best comedians Stand Up Comedy Concerts. San Leandro Performing Arts are coming, including Sandy Center with another in his Stec, Chicago Steve Barklev. series of all-star stand-up come- Joe Klocek, and more. Advance dy concerts on New Year's Eve, sale tickets are \$65, tickets at Ring in the new year with Monday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m. at the door are \$70. Student prices Castro Valley's newest com-

Performing Arts, 2250 Bancroft the door. To order tickets, visit Ave. in San Leandro. Some of brownpapertickets.com All Star

❖ Plethos New Year's **Eve Party**

theatre company Plethos Productions on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Ristorante Di Parma, 22532 Foothill Blvd. There will be a Talent Showdown with standup comedy and musical theatre. Tickets are \$50, which includes tasty Italian small plates and champagne toast. For tickets or for more information, visit Plethos.org.

Castro Valley Center for the Arts

The award-winning movie Science Fair will be shown on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. The inspiring documentary is about brilliant teens competing in the olympics of science fairs on the international level as they navigate rivalries and setbacks to be the Best in Fair among 78 different countries. Register at http://bit.ly/sciencefair-cv.

READ AND **RECYCLE!**

HOROSCOPE by Salomé



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's a good time to take a much-needed break from your recent hectic schedule and spend some time in quieter surroundings. Important news could arrive early next week



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Taurean traits of reliability and thoroughness could be well-tested when decision-makers consider your proposals and/or requests. Be prepared to answer some probing questions. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A sudden attack of boredom leaves you



with some tasks undone. It's OK to take a short respite. But get back to work by week's end so that you have time for other projects. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid prejudging a situation just because it looks bad. Facts could emerge that would make your position uncomfortable, to say the least. A relative has interesting news to share with you.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to begin reassessing some of your recent decisions about your long-range goals to see if they still have merit. Spend more time with loved ones this weekend.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An unsettled situation at home or on the job early in the week could drain your energy levels, making it difficult to get your work done on schedule. But things improve by midweek.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A temporary setback could give you time to go over your plans to find weaknesses you might have overlooked efore. A romantic getaway with that special person is favored this weekend SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Professional and personal



start. Honest dialogue smoothes over any occasional display of balkiness SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A problem with workplace colleagues or family members seems to defy even your sage counsel. But be patient. Your words eventually will lead to a resolution

situations benefit once you set a positive tone in getting things off to a good



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't just wait out that unexpected and unexplained delay in your career move. You could gain added respect if you ask why it happened and what you can do to move things along.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Although your workplace strategies usually are accepted, you could be challenged by someone who isn't so favorably impressed. Be prepared to defend your positions.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your friendship circle expands, with new people coming into your life at this time. Welcome them warmly. But don't neglect those cherished longtime personal relationships.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Bayfair Center Red Cross Blood Drive

Bayfair Center, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro, invites the public to help save lives during its Red Cross blood drive today, Dec. 27, from noon to 6 p.m. in the lower level, Suite 312. Blood donors will receive a free long-sleeve Red Cross t-shirt while supplies last. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood. org and enter sponsor code "Bayfair" or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Potential donors with questions about their eligibility to donate blood should call 1-866-236-3276 before scheduling an appointment. Identification is required to donate.

❖ San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group The San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 3, at 10:30 a.m. at the San Lorenzo Community Church at 945 Paseo Grande. The speaker will be Ysela Junenez from Alameda Healthcare. For more information, call Lona White at 276-3119.

* Drake's Brewing Co. Friday Fundraiser Come out and support San Leandro Girls Softball and San Lorenzo Girls Softball at Drake's First Friday Fundraiser on Friday, Jan. 4, from 4 to 9 p.m. at Drake's Brewing Co., 1933 Davis St., #177, San Leandro. Proceeds will benefit both girl's softball leagues. For more information, visit sanleandrogirlssoftball on Facebook or contact Leo Sheridan at 909-7152.

San Leandro Readers Roundtable

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable will meet on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., to discuss The Book That Matters Most, by Ann Hood, the story of a book group and a troubled mother-daughter relationship. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the Library's Booktique bookstore.

❖ Buon Tempo Club Family Dinner

The Buon Tempo Club is having a family dinner on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. at Mt. Tabor Hall, Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. Everyone is welcome. Chef John Tandi and crew will serve a 5-course, family-style dinner of chicken with polenta. Red and white wine and soda are included. Happy hour begins at 6 p.m. The dinner is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Make reservations by Friday, Jan. 4, by calling the Buon Tempo dinner line at 483-6929. For more information about events or membership, see the website at www.buontempo.org.

SL Holiday Lights Recycling Program

The City of San Leandro Recycling Program is hosting its third annual free holiday lights recycling program through Jan. 11. Holiday lights, working or not, are being accepted Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Public Works Service Center, 14200 Chapman Road. Collection bins are in the lobby. The event is open to San Leandro residents only. Lights should be free of all bags, binding and packaging. Extension cords, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), pre-lit trees, wreaths and garland are not accepted.

❖ SL Boys & Girls Club's Annual Crab Feed The San Leandro Boys & Girls Club's annual

crab feed will be on Saturday, Jan. 12, at the club's facility at 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes all-you-can-eat crab,

pasta, salad and French bread. The event is "Assigned Seating Only" and always sells out, so purchase your tickets early. For tickets or more information, call Bob Glotch at the Boys & Girls Club at 483-5581 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Proceeds support the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, which provides educational and enrichment after-school programs for 1,200 children per day at 12 sites in San Leandro and San Lorenzo.

* I.D.E.S. St. John Lunch & Bingo

I.D.E.S. St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will host a spaghetti lunch and bingo on Saturday, Jan. 12, at noon. Lunch tickets are \$10 for adults and children 6 to 12 and includes four bingo cards. Extra cards are 25 cents each. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. For tickets, call Darlene at 589-6536, Willie at 635-6326 or Frances at 886-1568.

❖ St. Felicitas Young at Heart Luncheon

St. Felicitas Church Young at Heart Senior Luncheon will be Wednesday, Jan. 16, at Monsignor McGinty Hall located behind the church at 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. The luncheon will feature a complete homemade meatloaf lunch with dessert, beverage and door prizes. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. with lunch being served at noon. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the church office located to the right of the church. Last day to buy tickets is Tuesday, Jan. 14. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 351-5244. All seniors our welcomed.

❖ Kiwanis Club Annual Crab Feed

The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro presents its 15th Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, Jan. 19, at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 401 Marina Blvd. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. with dancing and live music by Chico and the Band from 7:30 to 10 p.m. All you can eat salad, garlic bread, pasta and crab. Tickets are \$50, or \$20 for children 10 and under. All seats are reserved. Call early to reserve group seating. Tickets available from San Leandro Kiwanis Club members, or call Terri Neumann at 895-4425.

❖ Sons of Norway Snorre Lodge Crab Feed

Sons of Norway Snorre Lodge 6-61 presents its annual crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Hill & Valley Clubhouse, 1808 B St. in Hayward. No host bar begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., raffle at 8:30 p.m. Dinner will include salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, fresh cracked crab and dessert. Cost is \$55 for Adult members 13 and up, \$60 for non-members, \$25 for children 12 and under and free for children under 5. Make checks payable to Sons of Norway and send to Aunda Arndt, 1016 Apache St., Livermore, CA 94551. For tickets or for more information, email aja469@hotmail.com or call 925-548-0292.

❖ PhotoCentral Gallery Exhibit

Cultures in Transition: Photos by Oliver Klink, are on exhibit through Feb. 15 in the PhotoCentral Gallery at the HARD District Offices, 1099 E St. in Hayward. The exhibit and book celebrate cultures in Asia including Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Mongolia, and India, and include essays as well as stories about the images by the photographer. The upstairs gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The downstairs gallery is open on Monday from 5 to 10 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and by appointment. For more information, call Geir Jordahl at 881-6721 or info@photocentral.org.

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.

Evicted: Busch tries to hold his ground

continued from front page

home park on Grand Avenue in schools - Roosevelt Elementary wouldn't let go when they tried San Leandro. Instead he paid through San Leandro High. He to handcuff him. each month with a 7 percent says he shouldn't be forced out increase in his rent, which he of San Leandro by huge rent back of the squad car, and Busch believes was fair enough.

The property management company didn't see it that way, though, and refused to take the checks.

In the meantime, last summer Busch agreed with the management company's lawyer to move out in July and he wouldn't have to pay his back rent.

Busch stayed until he was evicted, saying he wanted to make a point – to bring attention to rent increases and evictions.

Before the eviction, Busch said that Mayor Pauline Cutter offered to meet with him, along with other city staff members.

you could find me a penthouse go to jail. in the tallest building in town, the answer is no.' That's not the issue. I have a car. I can survive prison-industrial complex." homelessness. They kept trying to find me a safe landing. And I kept Nov. 15, Busch said the sheriff's telling them, it's not about me, it's department knocked on his door me know they're for it, but they about rent control."

increases.

And I kept telling them, it's not about me, it's about rent

- John Busch for me."

control.

Busch says he told them, Well, my second cause is the

at about 9 a.m. Busch said he can't do anything because of Busch grew up in San didn't put up a fight, but he did gentrification."

Leandro and attended local hold onto the screen door and

The deputies got him in the said they told him they hoped Before the eviction, Busch they didn't hurt him. On the way to jail, Busch said he talked to the deputies about why he believes in rent control.

"And I think they were beginning to see my point a little,'

At Santa Rita, Busch said a couple of the inmates said they had seen him on TV (in a story about his pending eviction).

"One guy said, 'I know you. You were on TV.' So I got special treatment from them," Busch said. "They even got my meals Season runs on

When last contacted, Busch 'They said they could find me said people told him he needed sounded sure as ever about his a place," Busch said. "I said, 'If to leave his place or he might cause - rent control. He regularly goes to City Council meetings and tries to win over the City Council members.

"Everyone on the City Counsaid. "A couple have tried to let

Sign Up for Boys & Girls Club Basketball

of San Leandro is taking of veterans and rookies. sign-ups for its Winter 2019 in grades 3 through 6. The on the court and part of the action. coaches for the program. For league begins in January.

and competitive experience. San Leandro. Each player is evaluated prior to

All players are required to and awards. instructional basketball pro- play two quarters per game, so all gram for all boys and girls players have an opportunity to be is also looking for volunteer

The basketball program is held at the Boys and Girls Club of gram or if you are interested in designed to give players a fun San Leandro, 401 Marina Blvd. in volunteering as a coach please

being assigned to a team so that is \$85 for current "After School"

The Boys and Girls Club all teams have a balanced number registered members or \$95 for all others and includes uniforms

> The Boys & Girls Club All practices and games are more information on the procontact Ross Lim, at 483-5581 The basketball program fee or via e-mail at rosslim89@ gmail.com.

City's Jr. Warriors Basketball **Program Starts in January**

Saturdays, Jan. 12 through March 16

The City of San Leandro's Junior Warriors basketball program struction. boys and girls 5 to 14 years of age is back for its 19th season.

On the day of the eviction, cil has pulled me aside," Busch season will be held on Satur- co-sponsored by the Golden State 15301 Wicks Blvd. days beginning Jan. 12 through Warriors, the NBA, WNBA and March 16 at the San Leandro the City of San Leandro. Early recreation supervisor Lydia Ro-High School 9th Grade Campus registration discount ends on driguez at 577-3477 or email and Washington Manor Middle Dec. 14.

School. The program offers a

Pre-registration is required. non-competitive environment Register with the San Leandro where beginners and veterans Recreation and Human Services alike can improve their skills Department online at www. through weekly games and in- sanleandrorec.org. Walk-in registrations are also available at the All players will receive a San Leandro Senior Community Jr. Warriors' jersey, instruction, Center, 13909 East 14th St., or at The 2019 youth basketball and league play. This program is the Marina Community Center,

> For more information, call lrodriguez@sanleandro.org.



EAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

GUEST COMMENTARY



2018 Real Estate Closes Out With Affordability Crisis Issue No. 1

he year 2018 has been a tumultuous one for California real estate.

While national issues such as U.S. immigration and foreign trade policies have affected the Golden State's housing market, we have encountered numerous statewide issues including widespread wildfires, a decline in international buyers, low housing inventory, record high prices and a housing crisis spiraling out of control.

It is no secret affordability is the number one issue facing the California housing market.

Rising steadily for 7-1/2 years, home prices have escalated far beyond what many home-buyers can afford. Even though home prices plateaued in May/June 2018 and have since been declining, the average price in Alameda County for November, 2018 was \$1,012,000, up 3.69% from \$976,000 in November, 2017.

And 2018 was also the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing

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Act passed in 1968, prohibiting discrimination concerning the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin or sex.

We've come a long way since this landmark legislation removed significant barriers to homeownership. It is a bit ironic, then, that local governments and municipalities, faced with a housing crisis, are initiating barriers to home procurement in 2019 by adding costs to the homebuying process.

Faced with budget shortfalls, some Alameda County cities are looking to real estate transactions to help provide income. While a few cities have had city transfer taxes on their books for years, changes are in the works

As an example, Hayward is increasing its transfer tax from \$4.50/\$1,000 to \$8.50/\$1,000. While the sale of a \$500,000 home in 2018 would have incurred a tax of \$2,250, in 2019 this number will be \$4,250.

This increase means that buyers, already straining to find the cash for their down payment and closing costs, may face higher out-of-pocket costs.

San Leandro, currently charging \$6.00/\$1,000, is studying a tax increase of their own.

The Castro Valley Sanitary District also joined the fray by inaugurating its sewer lateral ordinance. Beginning July 1, 2019, this program will ensure that any home sold in Castro Valley has a valid sewer lateral compliance certificate. The average cost of a sewer lateral replacement is between \$7,000 -

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\$8,000. Buyers, confronted with as-is purchases, may end up paying the costs.

Ready or not, 2019 is coming and it is the sincere hope of the Central County Realtors that 2019 will be less turbulent than

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

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.

Rusty Dots on Ferns Just **Part of Nature**

By Buzz Bertolero Special to the Times

I have a nice sized Boston fern, but I've found rusty, brown color dots in perfect rows on the back of some of the leaves. What are they and how do I prevent it from reoccurring?

wonderful.

nessing is the beginnings of the plant's reproductive cycle. Unlike other plants that produce seed, ferns produce spores. The spores are the produce new plants.

rieties of ferns. Tissue culture Bertolero

and/or plant divisions are the primary method of reproducing Ah, Mother Nature is ferns. The sterile spores have an aesthetic value, so I wouldn't What you were wit- remove the fronds. Besides, they're going to continually form naturally anyway.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advance California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's reddish brown dots; however, website is www.dirtgardener.com they're sterile so they will never and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardemer.com or on This is typical of many va- Facebook at Facebook.com/Buzz.



This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in the desirable Proctor neighborhood is brimming with appeal and warm livability. Light, bright, spacious rooms, newly refinished hardwood floors, downstairs room



18057 Joseph Dr., Castro Valley

with ½ bath and separate entrance can be used as family room, master retreat or in-law unit. Relax in the spacious backyard with parklike setting. Nearby walking trails, parks, recreation, shopping, dining, BART, freeway access and award winning Castro Valley schools make this an extra convenient location.





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Mortgage Rates Move Slightly

Mortgage rates moderated last ing to Freddie Mac's nationwide down from 4.04 percent.

3.94 percent.

unchanged from the prior week. during the summer months."

Five-year hybrid adjustweek after seeing a significant able-rate mortgages (ARMs) drop the previous week, accord- averaged 3.98 percent last week,

"The response to the recent de-The 30-year fixed-rate mort- cline in mortgage rates is already gage averaged 4.62 percent last being felt in the housing market,' week, down from 4.63 percent said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's a week earlier. A year ago at this chief economist. After declining time, the 30-year rate averaged for six consecutive months, existing home sales finally rose in Fifteen-year home loan rates October and November and are averaged 4.07 percent last week, essentially at the same level as

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro 3811 Wedgewood Street 2271 Transom Way 94578: \$425,000 2 BD - 918 SF - 1987 94577: \$480,000 1,062 SF - 1978 14640 Outrigger Drive #98 94577: \$522,000 2 BD - 1,033 SF - 1986 16475 Liberty Street 94578: \$572,000 2 BD - 1,290 SF - 2008 814 Collier Drive 94577: \$593,000 2 BD - 1,274 SF - 1949 94577: \$600,000 3 BD - 1,274 SF 94578: \$610,000 3 BD - 1,271 SF 94577: \$620,000 3 BD - 1,264 SF 94577: \$626,000 3 BD - 1,264 SF 94577: \$626,500 1,723 SF 94577: \$639,000 3 BD - 1,076 SF 94577: \$639,000 2 BD - 1,040 SF 715 Arguello Drive 15045 Endicott Street 1917 Pacific Avenue 2378 Cheshire Place 853 Serra Drive 445 Lewis Avenue 1305 Lillian Avenue 1312 Advent Avenue 3969 Carmel Way 176 California Avenue 94578: \$640,000 3 BD - 1,586 SF - 1947 94579: \$640,000 3 BD - 1,212 SF - 1951 94578: \$660,000 3 BD - 1,151 SF - 1953 94577: \$677,500 2 BD - 1,024 SF - 1925 176 Calliornia Avenue 94571: \$677,300 2 BD - 1,024 31 - 1925 3442 Monterey Boulevard 94578: \$688,000 3 BD - 1,405 SF - 1955 192 Beverly Avenue 94577: \$760,000 1 BD - 609 SF - 1920 308 Warren Avenue 94577: \$850,000 3 BD - 2,000 SF - 1952 1357 East Juana Avenue 94577: \$915,000 3 BD - 2,009 SF - 1952 17499 Via Estrella 94580: \$575,000 2 BD - 868 SF - 1949 TOTAL SALES: LOWEST AMOUNT: HIGHEST AMOUNT: MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$628,250 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$624,900

\$350,000 \$915,000 **Castro Valley**

4306 Watters Court 6486 Paloverde Road 17856 Almond Road 18691 West Cavendish Dr 7430 Oxford Circle

94546: \$900,000 3 BD - 2,173 SF - 1965 94552: \$1,000,000 1,584 SF -94546: \$1,100,000 4 BD - 2,204 SF - 2015 94552: \$1,175,000 4 BD - 2,262 SF - 1978 94568: \$668,000 2 BD - 1,346 SF - 1990

TOTAL SALES: HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,175,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$927,000

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06 HOMES 12-27-18.indd 1 12/26/18 4:48 PM

Nibbling Our Way Into a New Year



then cover in breadcrumbs.

Serve ravioli with dipping sauce.

DEVILED EGGS

1/4 teaspoon mustard powder

1 tablespoon chopped parsley

1 tablespoon chopped chives

Yields 24 ravioli.

1 tablespoon milk

1/4 cup of mayonnaise

onday night we close es deep to a temperature of 375°F. the book on 2018 and Dip each ravioli in beaten egg, whether you're celebrating with just the family or you're having friends over for a party, you're going to need lots of munchies that are quick and easy

All of these are great.

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

- 2 dozen fresh mushrooms, no
- 1 cup chopped spinach, frozen 6 eggs 1/2 cup yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese Salt and pepper to taste

Clean mushrooms and dry. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl, except mushrooms and Parmesan.

Fill each mushroom cap with mixture and bake at 350°F on a large cookie sheet for 10 minutes.

Sprinkle each mushroom with Parmesan and bake again for 5 additional minutes.

TOASTED RAVIOLI

- 2 dozen filled ravioli, thawed if frozen
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup Italian seasoned breadcrumbs

Parmesan cheese Vegetable oil (for frying) Marinara sauce (for dipping)

Cook ravioli in boiling salted water until they float to the top; remove from water, drain and set aside to cool.

Heat oil in fryer at least 2 inch-

tablespoon chopped tarragon Salt and pepper to taste

Put eggs in a pot; cover with cold water and bring to a simmer. Remove from the heat, cover and let stand for 10 minutes. Drain, cool and peel. Halve lengthwise. Scoop out yolks, mash with milk, mayonnaise, mustard powder, chopped herbs and salt and pepper. Stuff yolk mixture into egg whites. Top with paprika and

BAKED POTATO SKINS

- 4 large baked potatoes 3 tablespoons vegetable oil tablespoon grated
- Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon salt 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (8 ounces) 1/2 cup sour cream (optional)

4 green onions, sliced Cut potatoes in half lengthwise; scoop out pulp, leaving 1/4-inch in the shell. Save potato pulp for mashed potatoes or other use.

Place skins on a greased baking sheet.

Combine oil, Parmesan cheese, salt, garlic powder, paprika and Fry in batches in hot oil until pepper and brush all over potato golden brown, about 5 minutes;

Bake at 475°F for about 8 min-Sprinkle hot ravioli with Parmeutes and turn over. Bake for anothsan cheese. Heat marinara sauce er 8 minutes or so and then turn and set aside in serving bowl. right side up.

Sprinkle bacon and cheddar evenly inside of skins.

Bake 2 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Top with sour cream and onions, if desired. Yields 8 servings.

CHEESE & SHRIMP CROSTINI

8 ounces herbed cream

cheese, softened 1/2 cup mayonnaise

1 tablespoon garlic paste 1/2 tablespoon onion powder

- 2 tablespoons melted butter 24 fresh shrimp, peeled and deveined
- dozen crostinis (small slices of grilled or toasted bread) Fresh parsley

Combine all ingredients except butter, shrimp, and crostinis in a

Saute shrimp and a dash of garlic paste in butter over medium heat until pink.

Top each crostini with a dollop of cream cheese and a shrimp. Garnish with parsley.

TANGY COCKTAIL **FRANKS**

- 1 (12 ounce) jar currant jelly 2/3 cup chili sauce 2 teaspoons prepared
- mustard 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 pound cocktail franks or regular weiners cut in 1-inch sections
- 1 can sliced pineapple tidbits, drained, quartered Dash cavenne, or to taste

In a medium saucepan combine currant jelly, chili sauce, mustard, and lemon juice. Add the hot dogs or cocktail franks, pineapple, and ground pepper; simmer for about 5 minutes. Transfer to slow cooker and keep on LOW for serving. Serve with toothpicks.

Unleaded Libation

f your tastes have turned to celebratory drinks that are more spiced than spiked, you're not alone.

Many of us continue to cut back on alcohol consumption, especially on New Year's Eve.

So let's celebrate with everybody's New Year's favorite — eggnog.

This recipe for Cooked Eggnog is probably the best you ever tasted. It has a sensational custard-like flavor, which is sure to please your guests as they welcome in 2019.



COOKED EGGNOG

- quart nonfat milk
- 4 large egg whites
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Fresh grated nutmeg, for garnish

In a small bowl, lightly beat egg whites and eggs together. Combine milk, eggs and sugar in a heavy saucepan and mix well with a wire whisk. Slowly bring to a simmer over low heat and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring frequently with the whisk. Remove from the heat, add vanilla and mix well. Refrigerate until cold.

To serve, pour mixture into a blender container and add 1 cup crushed ice. Blend until frothy. Yields five 1-cup servings.





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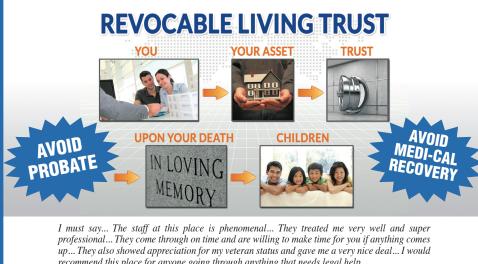
New Years Eve Menu from 2pm - 10pm

Entrees Include Soup or Salad & Dessert Soup: Beef Consomme w/Chicken Quenelles Salad: Mixced Green tossed with Vinaigrette Dressing

Entrees

 _	
Chicken Served Creamy Morel Mushroom Sauce	\$1 7. 95
Salmon Oscar	\$18.95
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Broiled Jumbo Scallops ~ Served over Fettuccini in Creamy Wine Sauce	\$21.95
Filet Mignon Served with a Port Wine Sauce	\$26.95
Lobster Tail	\$36.95
Dessert ~ <i>Chocolate Fondue</i>	

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2018: New parking regulations downtown; fire at metal recyclers

continued from front page

3,000 parking spaces in the area, all with different time limits and parking costs. The police department started using license-plate reading technology to enforce parking limits.

• It was discovered that an Alameda County Sheriff's deputy at the Eden Township Substation illegally recorded inmates' private conversations with their lawyers, violating attorney-client privilege. Sgt. James Russell was later charged with four felonies by the district attorney's office.

September

- by an Amtrak passenger train ment. Authorities say they've in the shooting death of Joseph near the Williams Street crossing. been called to Alco at least 10 Gormley, a San Leandro man Amtrak urges people to use cautimes over the past three years tion around railroad tracks and for incidents including fires and crossings - nationwide, about an accidental death, leading the suspects, Davis Harrison, Jr. and 2,000 people are killed annually company to be publicly chastised Marcus Smith, are next scheduled by trains.
- The City Council voted to extend a moratorium on non-hosted short-term home rentals such as Airbnb.
- Alco Metal & Iron Company at food, and live music. the intersection of Davis Street





Rose Johnson and Chris Zapata met numerous times at the Fosters Freeze about a Davis Street loan and a medical marijuana permit.

• A man was struck and killed Alameda County Fire Departby the City Council.

October

- Thousands partied down-
- The Oro Loma Sanitary

• Two men were arrested who was killed while sitting in his parked car in Castro Valley. The to appear in court on Jan. 7.

November

• The Camp Fire devastated town at the annual Sausage and Butte County and Alameda Coun-• Fumes from a fire at the Suds Festival, enjoying beer, ty fire and sheriff's staff provided mutual aid, sending firefighters, bulldozer operators, police search



The annual San Leandro City Junior Gold Championship was held last summer at the Monarch Bay Golf Club.

Michael Gregory filed a complaint against the four "fresh and Doolittle Drive prompted a District broke ground on a new dogs, coroner investigators, and clean slate" candidates with the shelter in place order from the \$19 million water treatment plant. rescue volunteers to the town of state's Fair Political Practice

Commission alleging campaign of evidence. • Former City Councilman finance violations. The complaint was eventually tossed out for lack

• Real estate developers, see 2018, page 12

LOCAL DEATHS

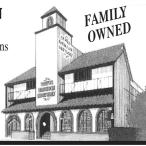
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Mary Lee Luzmoor

March 31, 1924 - December 5, 2018

Mary Lee Luzmoor, a longtime resident of San Leandro, passed away on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at age 94.

Mary Lee served her country during WWII in the U.S. Naval Reserve (WAVES), then graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in English, and taught in Redding (CA), Gandy (NE), and

Fort Morgan and Erie (CO), in junior and senior high schools. When her children were in elementary school in Oakland, CA, she resumed teaching, primarily in grades K-3 in Oakland public schools. Mary Lee retired in 1989 from the Arts School.

During retirement she hosted international students, travelled in Europe and

Japan, volunteered as an usher with the S.F. Opera, remained an active member of Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church in Oakland, and participated in the East Bay retired teachers and hearing loss organizations.

Mary Lee will be greatly missed by her family and friends: a memorial service will be held in Oakland in the spring, and Mary Lee will later be interred next to her parents in Arnold Cemetery (NE). Her family has created a memorial website, www.maryleeluzmoor.org, which has more information about her life, and contact information for her family.



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■ Wills & Trusts ■ Benefits, ERISA QDROs 510-633-9985

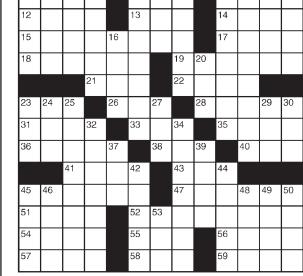
TIMES OBITUARIES may be submitted online at ebpublishing.com, emailed to obits@ ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number

Isabell Teresa Luisotti

April 15, 1929 - December 17, 2018

Isabell Luisotti passed away peacefully on December 17, 2018 with her children by her side. She was 89. She was born in Oakland, California and graduated from Castlemont High School in 1947. Isabell is survived by her husband Louis of nearly 70 years, her sons Louis and Steven, her daughter Theresa, and granddaughter Nicole. Also survived by her brother Gasper and sister Rose Tassielli. Predeceased by her parents, her son Mark, infant daughter Mary Ann, and her brother Frank. A devoted mother and loved by all.

Viewing and Rosary on Thursday, Dec. 27th at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, San Leandro. Funeral Mass at Assumption Church in San Leandro on Friday December 28 at 10:30 am. Interment following at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward. Donations may be made to St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda



THE TIMES CROSSWORD

ACROSS

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- 14 Patriot Nathan
- 15 Irrational suspiciousness
- 17 Artillery
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- 45 Walk like a duck
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DOWN

- Enervates Western state
- Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
- Card symbol
- Grendel's slaver
- Island souvenir
- Garbage Not deep
- Like some lines
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- City in Alaska
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- 4-Down, e.g.
- 23 Tase
- 24 Altar affirmative 25 Eden
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- Shelter 29
- 30 Hot tub 32 Busvbodv
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- Old photo tint Microwaved slangily
- 44 45 Existed
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- 48 Lima's land 49 Sawbucks
- Undo a dele 50
- 53 Baba

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PINION

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.

Too Many Taxes: 'San Leandro Must Tighten its Belt!'

Editor:

I was disappointed to learn the City is considering increasing taxes (again), and even more dismayed that the source would be business owners. Specifically, the article I read suggested increasing property taxes to business owners and increasing the cost associated with obtaining and maintaining a business license.

When people read such an article, they may assume this only affects big businesses with deep pockets. Please remember that these sorts of taxes and penalties greatly affect small businesses as well. One might think, 'what will one more small fee hurt?" One doesn't hurt, but businesses are literally bombarded with taxes, fees and costs which cause most people who wish to open a business to give up because it becomes cost prohibitive and exhausting. Small businesses which are incorporated, like mine, get hit with all sorts of additional fees and taxes.

It is already difficult enough to maintain a profit with the law requiring employers to pay for healthcare for their entire staff and to pay for unemployment compensation even in the case of termination for cause. I can't begin to tell you the extraordinary costs incurred to accommodate ADA requirements which are completely over-the-top standing alone. I could go on and on with real examples of the exploitation of we, the people, by our government in the form of taxes, fees, surcharges, accommodations, etc.

It is personally frustrating to know that there is little I can do since I am not a resident of San Leandro and therefore am not permitted to vote or sit on most committees. (This law should be amended because if a business owns the property on which it sits and will be affected by a tax (or anything) imposed by this City, the business owner should be able to vote.)

The concept of raising taxes in any way, shape or form by any government entity makes me cringe considering I pay more than 50 percent of my income to the government between personal, corporate, property and payroll taxes. Add to that all of the money all of us pay in fees, surcharges, etc. Just look at the extra charges on your phone bill, cable bill or property tax bill. Add

to that all of the near 10 percent sales tax we pay personally on everything we buy. Add it up and then ask yourself whether we should perpetuate this problem by allowing the government to tax us further or if its time for the government to tighten its belt?

The City of San Leandro must tighten its belt!

Marina Parking: Says City is Being Short-sighted Again

Ferry company PropSF has asked the City of San Leandro for access to the Wes McClure public boat launch to provide ferry service for Genentech employees working in South San Francisco.

Once again the City Council is being short sighted by seriously thinking about waiving any fees for providing access to the marina because PropSF and Genentech would graciously pay for any needed dock upgrades. The only reason why dock upgrades would be needed is because PropSF and Genentech need them, not the City of San Leandro, so they should be responsible for any upgrades on their own dime. The City should charge \$120 a month for a parking pass just like the private parking company in Walnut Creek is charging BART riders.

Side thought — this property has been under utilized for years and not generating any income and I wonder why the Council never thought about renting out the space to the major car rental companies who are always looking for a spot to park their airport cars when overflow parking is needed.

-Brent Heath San Leandro

Calls Global Warming Politics, Not Science

Reading letters like that of Leo West (Dec. 13) reminds me of watching students telling Dr. Roy Spencer, who was the head of NASA's weather satellite program starting in 1998 and who keeps the Mean Global Temperature records so obtained to this very date on his Internet site, or those addressing Dr. Kary Mullis, a Nobel Laurette, that they don't know what they're talking

about when they are disproving manmade climate change.

What I have always noticed is that those who have gained their education of the climate from an article in Lady's Home Journal or Popular Mechanics seem to know a great deal more than the people who actually study the climate and the physical causes of it.

While I could write a textbook on the climate just let it be known that President Trump was quite accurate when he called it a hoax. The hundreds of billions of dollars that have gone into the study of it by scientists who were starting from a conclusion and working their way back to a false set of "facts" couldn't be better explained -Kelly Gamble by the false claim that "97% of all sci-Law Office of Kelly Gamble P.C. entists agree" when the truth is 2% of San Leandro all scientists and only those receiving government research grants.

> Dr. Michael Mann recently lost a court case because he failed to present the actual temperature records that displayed global warming. He didn't because he couldn't. There were no such records. So perhaps a little more skepticism from the untrained masses would be appropriate. This is not science – it is purely politics.

-Tom Kunich San Leandro

Putin's Best Week Ever?

Editor:

It's a good week for Vladimir Putin. Trump shut down the U.S. government. Trump is pulling our troops out of Syria, leaving the field open for Russia and Iran to celebrate with

Secretary of Defense Mattis, the last "adult in the room," just resigned, objecting to Trump's policy of insulting our allies and cuddling up to our adversaries.

Trump's initiation of a tariff war has finally collapsed the stock market.

Yep, this may be Putin's very best week, ever.

—Bruce Joffe Piedmont



Send a Letter to the Editor Letters@ebpublishing.com

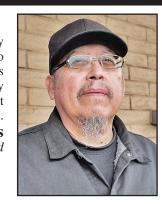
INQUIRING REPORTER

Your goal for 2019?

— Asked around town

To be with my family and watch my grandkids play and try to teach them to get outside and be with others. That's what matters. Too many people are busy making money, looking for riches, but what's important is right at home.

Louis Ramos Oakland



I want to be a better person, help people, clean up litter around the neighborhood and love more. And I want to finish writing my book.

Gwen Howard and Hunter Oakland

To be kinder and more loving to everyone, not just people I know. And to continue my journey of changing my career in my 50s to become a minister and teach the principles of Agape, love and kindness.

Cindy Edelson San Leandro





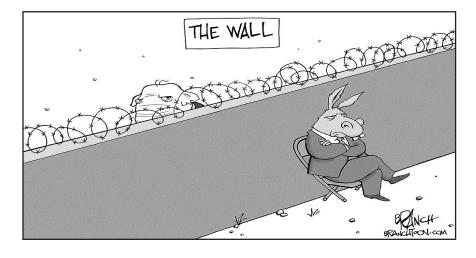
I would like to be more like my creator, more kind. Having been under his influence all these years I know it's possible to change. I used to be very angry and me-centered. Now I'm happier and I have gratitude for what I have.

Dayle Owens Santa Rosa

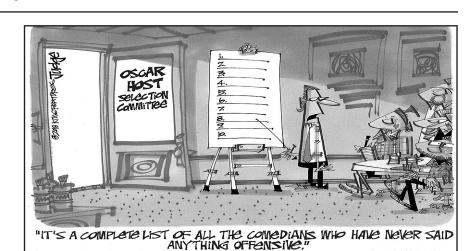
Getting a knee replacement, my second. When you get old your joints start falling apart. But within a week you're on a walker. For six weeks you can't sleep, it hurts. But it's worth it, 100 percent. I can go to football games again now.

Debbie McElroy San Leandro









Planning Board Okay's Bancroft Apartment Building

By Amy Sylvestri

The Planning Commission approved a redesigned plan for an apartment building at 1388 Bancroft Avenue last week over the objections from the Estudillo Estates neighborhood.

The decision sends the plan sion's approval. to the City Council for final approval at a meeting next month. it," said Riskind. "It doesn't make

The apartments have been in the works since 2016 when developer Tom Silva purchased the partially-occupied medical building and first drew up plans for a five-story, 51 unit building.

But the City Council, under pressure from the Estudillo Estates neighborhood group, limited Silva to three stories.

Since then, there have been numerous meetings between Silva, the city's Planning Commission, and North Area neighbors. At one point, Silva presented plans for a 73-unit building with double-decker car stackers, but he withdrew those plans.

The design that was approved by the Planning Commission last week calls for a three-story, 45-unit, market-rate apartment complex with 55 parking spots with electric vecar stackers.

homeowners have been vehe- Silva's previous plans, but said mently opposed to all versions he'd like to see it scaled down of the building, and speakers at even more. the Dec. 20 meeting continued expressing the same objections come, at 45 it is not," said Adams. town for the annual "It's a Wonthey've had for the past two

spill out on to their streets, and a Leandro Chamber of Commerce. task for having a "not in my back- Breslin recused himself because 22 council meeting. An additional "isn't a good fit" for the neighborhood.

said that her neighbors will continue to protest the development despite the Planning Commis-

"We shouldn't be allowing city," said Griego.

It's the very essence of NIMBYism. It's completely disingenuous to say, I'm all for housing projects, just not here.

sense at that location."

Neighbor Evan Adams acversion of the development with But many Estudillo Estates fewer apartments was better than

"At 30 units it would be wel-

Two speakers were in favor years: the building will lead to of the project: Emily Griego and traffic congestion, parking will Jerry Garcia, both from the San

multi-family apartment building They said that more high-density yard" (NIMBY) mentality when he owns property in the area and public meeting on the project will housing is desirable because it it comes to the project. will mitigate the housing short-Speaker Susan Rose Riskind age and attract businesses to San NIMBY-ism" said Brennan. "It's Collier and Tom Baker voted the city's community develop-Leandro.

> velopment which will help San San Leandro, just not here.' Don't and Jim Hussey voted in favor considering amendments to Leandro become a world class put it here is the NIMBY mantra."

Estudillo Estates neighbors to velopment. Commissioner Tony Commission's decision at the Jan. meeting.

completely disingenuous to say no. Commissioners Ken Pon, ment director. 'The Chamber supports de- 'I'm all for housing projects in Richard Brennan, Denise Abero,

The Planning Commission Planning Commission- ultimately voted 4-2 to recom- ect will be the City Council's apartments and that matter is er Richard Brennan took the mend approval of Silva's de- consideration of the Planning scheduled for the Feb. 4 council

of approval.

would have had a conflict of also be scheduled for sometime in "It's the very essence of interest. Commissioners Esther January, according to Tom Liao,

> The City Council is also street parking rules in the area The next step for the proj- which could affect plans for the

2018: Money to improve Casa Peralta diverted

continued from page 10

unions, and the Chamber of Commerce were the biggest donors to local candidates. The candidate with the biggest war chest in the 2018 election was Benny Lee, who raised over \$69,000 but failed to win his bid for mayor.

December

- · Less than a month after the - Planning Commissioner election, the City Council direct-**Richard Brennan** ed city staff to begin preparations for a new parcel tax to be placed on an upcoming ballot.
- Nearly \$1 million of city hicle charging stations and no knowledged that the newest funding that had been earmarked for upgrades to the historic Casa Peralta were diverted to the upcoming expansion of San Leandro police headquarters
 - · Hundreds gathered downderful Night" celebration, featuring carolers, carriage rides, and a tree-lighting to get San Leandrans in a Christmas mood.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN BAKER

Cub Scout Pack 635 took a bike ride along the Bay Trail last summer.

Wishing Everyone A very Happy Christmas and a Safe and San Leandro Healthy New Year! 182 Pelton Center We Appreciate Your (510) 483-3630 Business. Thank You! **Castro Valley** 3446 Village Dr. Ethan & Staff (510) 581-0220





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Opioids: 1.6 million highly additive pills

continued from front page

was working for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recorded Lague prescribing un-scribed oxycodone to a patient that he knew was not medically

after a confidential source who Attorney's Office said in a press planned to sell the pills.

necessary medication, the U.S. who had told Lague that he necessary, prosecutors said.

Among the evidence present- ed that Lague had prescribed in exchange for a lighter sentence ed against Lague were details addictive controlled substances for his or her own drug crime, of two occasions where he pre- to four other patients in a manner

LOST DOG

The drugs that Lague dis-In addition, the jury conclud- tributed were oxycodone, oxymorphone, methadone, amphetamines, clonazepam, fentanyl, hydromorphone, morphine, hydrocodone, alprazolam and carisoprodol, prosecutors said.

> Those pills- which have been deemed to be in the "most dangerous and abused" category by the DAE, accounted for 1.4 million of the 1.6 million he prescribed.

Lague has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison, a fine of \$5,000, and three years of supervised release following his time in prison.

'This case represents an important victory for the community in its fight against the diversion of prescription drugs," U.S. Attorney Alexander Tse said in a press release. "The medical profession has made great strides in reforming prescribing practices, and the DEA has worked to decrease the total quantities of pills that pharmaceutical companies produce every year, all with the end of decreasing the numbers of powerful opioid pills getting into the hands of vulnerable members of our community."



SNOWBALL was last seen on Friday, Dec. 7, in the Stenzel Park area of balance and flexibility in a low-impact method. San Leandro. Call 415-652-2842 info@centeredstudiopilates.com www.centeredstudiopilates.com **REWARD** or call 510-331-0136