



## Setting Sights

JEFFERSON STUDENTS SET THEIR SIGHTS ON FAVORITE COLLEGE ..... 8

## Valentine's Specials

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8 & 9

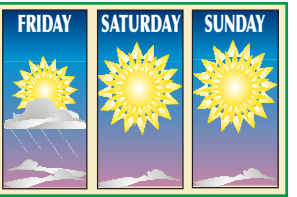
## WEEKEND WEATHER

**MILD** Sun shines on Saturday & Sunday

HIGHS: 57-62

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

LOWS: 41-46



# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 6

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

A big eucalyptus fell across the power lines on Bancroft Avenue on Tuesday afternoon.

## Eucalyptuses Falling in Soggy Soil

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

A big eucalyptus fell across the electricity lines on Bancroft Avenue on Tuesday afternoon, pulling down a utility pole and knocking out power in the area to over 4,000 customers.

It was the second eucalyptus to fall along the San Leandro Creek in this week's storms.

A PG&E crew worked into the night to

remove the tree on Bancroft and replace the pole and restore power. On Wednesday morning, power to 500 customers had to be temporarily turned off again to complete the work, said PG&E spokeswoman Tamar Sarkissian.

The Veterans Building and one other customer still remained with no power Wednesday because their own electrical equipment was damaged, Sarkissian said.

"We're in all-hands-on-deck mode

trying to restore power as quickly and safely as possible," Sarkissian said. "We just want people to know that if you see any low or down lines to assume it's a live wire and call 911 immediately."

The tree fell along San Leandro Creek where the eucalyptus grow very tall. Alameda County has removed some of the trees from the creek that were in danger of falling. In 2015, the county took out 23 at-risk trees

see TREES, page 6

## City Donates \$800,000 for Day Care Center

Center at affordable housing project to be run by Davis Street

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

The City Council unanimously approved an \$800,000 "forgivable loan" to BRIDGE Housing to build a childcare center at the Marea Alta affordable housing project on San Leandro Boulevard.

"The city is basically gifting this money to this facility," said Councilwoman Corina Lopez. "We are really committed to serving all stakeholders in this community."

The center will be open to any San Leandro child, not just Marea Alta residents and it will be operated by the Davis Street Family Resource Center.

The 7,200-square-foot center will be an addition to the Marea Alta building at 1400 San Leandro Boulevard. Once built, BRIDGE will lease the center to Davis Street.

There will space for 60 kids from 2-years-old to kindergarten age and it will be licensed to operate from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

About half the spots will be "affordable" and subsidized on a sliding scale based on family income, with some students not paying any fees.

A "market rate" customer can expect to pay about \$725 to \$800 a month for a 3-year-old kid.

Davis Street Executive Director Rose Johnson says that about

200 kids in San Leandro are in need of affordable day care and this project will help put a dent in see DONATION, page 6

## SL Man Allegedly Runs Over Girlfriend

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

A San Leandro man allegedly ran over his girlfriend with his car, killing her on the street near their Ruth Avenue home last week.

Kevin Valasco, a 26-year-old computer engineer, shared a duplex with the victim and the couple were apparently involved in a domestic dispute on Feb. 2 just before midnight, according to San Leandro police.

The victim's name has not yet been made public.

Several neighbors called 911 and when police arrived, they found the woman pinned under Valasco's red BMW. She was pronounced dead at the scene by see HOMICIDE, page 6

## Bonta Says We're Under Attack

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

Assemblyman Rob Bonta gave a "state of the district" update to the City Council Monday night, about what he accomplished in 2016 and looking at how he and other California lawmakers will function under President Trump.

"We're in a really interesting spot," said Bonta. "It's not an ordinary time and we in the state legislature realize that. I want to represent areas that are under attack by word and deed by this

administration."

Bonta (who represents San Leandro, Alameda, and Oakland) said he will focus on protecting immigrants, maintaining health care for all, and protecting the environment.

Bonta told the council that he supports San Leandro becoming a sanctuary city and California becoming a sanctuary state.

To that end, Mayor Pauline Cutter announced that the possible declaration of a sanctuary city will be discussed that the council next meeting, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at



Assemblyman Rob Bonta

City Hall.

Bonta said one way of protecting immigrants would be to budget funds to hire legal council for them.

Another priority for Bonta in 2017 is affordable housing.

"It's one of, if not the, top priority in this district," said Bonta. Bonta said he has two funding possibilities in the works.

The first is a \$75 recording fee for people who get their homes refinanced, which he said would bring in "tens of millions" see BONTA, page 6

## INSIDE YOUR TIMES

### THEATER

Charley's Aunt '66 opens at the DMT.

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City Council looks at year ahead.

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'All Fur Love' pet adoption in Hayward.

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## San Leandro Times

An independent hometown newspaper  
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San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

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# Charley's Aunt Opening at the Douglas Morrisson

The Douglas Morrisson Theatre presents the world premiere of a wonderfully silly farce: *Charley's Aunt '66*, freely adapted by Scott Munson from Brandon Thomas' classic *Charley's Aunt*, opening with a preview on Feb. 9.

Artistic Consultant Susan E. Evans approached the San Jose-based playwright to take a fresh look at the classic 1892 farce by Brandon Thomas. Over the past nine months the playwright developed *Charley's Aunt '66* with the help of DMT artistic staff and a dedicated group of actors.

Munson transports the original play from the hallowed halls of Oxford to Stanford University in the psychedelic '60s, but the bones of the plot remain the same: two college guys scheme to get their gals (but this time Amy is Mills pre-law) – with a little help from a cross-dressing buddy.

"It was great fun to take on

the challenge of adapting a play that is so well-known in the English-speaking theater world, a mainstay of the stage since its inception and also a hit film with the immortal Jack Benny," Munson says. "I loved finding a new way to look at the play from a uniquely American perspective and to reveal something about us, as Americans, while remaining true to the spirit of the original."

*Charley's Aunt '66* opens with a preview on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through March 5.

Tickets are \$29. Preview tickets are \$10. Discounts available for seniors, under 30, students and groups of 10 or more.

The box office number is 881-6777 or go to [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org).



Brooke Silva, Alan Coyne and Samantha Rasler in *Charley's Aunt '66* at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre with a preview tonight and runs through March 5.

## Apply for Eden Health District Advisory Committee

The Eden Health District invites people to join its Community Health Advisory Committee to act as a sounding board and assist with long-range planning and financial issues for the district.

Committee volunteers should

have an interest in health, in representing the community's interests on the committee, and helping to communicate with the public.

Committee members must be residents within the district

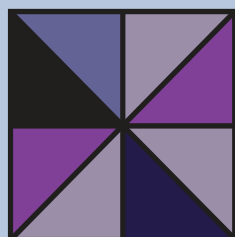
boundaries (Castro Valley, San Leandro, Hayward, San Lorenzo, and Ashland/Cherryland areas) and be available for one monthly meeting. Currently the Community Health Advisory Committee has members

from the Castro Valley and San Leandro areas and representation from the Hayward area would be encouraged.

Those interested in becoming a committee member should submit a statement of qualification

by Feb. 15 to: Eden Township Healthcare District, 20400 Lake Chabot Road, Suite 303, Castro Valley, CA 94546

For more information, call Dev Mahadevan, Eden Health District CEO at 538-2031.



# SAN LEANDRO Connect Monthly



## San Leandro City Council

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter  
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](http://sanleandro.org/mycity).

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

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



## State of the City

Monday, March 27

Reception: 6:30 PM

Address: 7:00 PM

Main Library/Lecture Hall  
300 Estudillo Ave.

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter is set to deliver her State of the City Address. The event will begin with a reception featuring light refreshments at 6:30 PM and the Mayor's address to the community starting promptly at 7:00 PM. Mayor Cutter will discuss her vision for the future and provide an update on a variety of topics important to the community.



## Check Out My-SL, Our New Mobile 311 App!

Residents will now be able to use their mobile phones to report common issues such as potholes, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, broken street lights and more by using My-SL, the city's new 311 mobile application and website ([www.my-sl.city](http://www.my-sl.city)). You can download the application on iTunes and Google Play Store by searching "My San Leandro". We look forward to hearing from you!

## OAK Airport Summer 2017 Construction Project

The Port of Oakland is planning to re-construct a runway at the Oakland International Airport during the summer of 2017. The Port is hosting a community meeting to seek feedback and provide information about the project.

Thursday, February 16  
from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Metropolitan Golf Links  
10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland, CA

The City Council and staff will work with the Port of Oakland to inform the San Leandro community about the project and its impact. We encourage you to email your questions or comments to Mr. Hugh Johnson at 510-627-1449 or [hjohnson@portofoakland.com](mailto:hjohnson@portofoakland.com)

## Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Community Open House  
Thursday, February 23 • 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
City Hall/Sister Cities Gallery  
835 E. 14th St.

Join us for a community open house and share your thoughts about walking, biking and accessing public transit in San Leandro. The family-friendly event will also feature snacks and children's activities. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Keep In Touch With The City!

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Engineering & Transportation...(510)577-3428  
Alameda County Fire.....(510)577-3317  
Finance.....(510)577-3376  
Human Resources.....(510)577-3396  
Police Department  
(Non-Emergency).....(510)577-2740  
Library Services.....(510)577-3970  
Public Works.....(510)577-3440  
Recreation & Human Services....(510)577-3462



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

## Apartment Fire on Doolittle

A fire broke out at an apartment complex on the 1900 Block of Doolittle Drive on Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the unit where it started, according to the Alameda County Fire Department. The cause of the fire was a cooking accident. No one was injured but seven residents in nearby units were displaced for a short time while the utilities were switched off. The residents of the damaged apartment made arrangements to stay with family members.

## County Settles "Green" Lawsuit Against Walmart, Labels Change

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley announced last week that her office and 22 other district attorney's offices in California settled a consumer protection action against WalMart for misleading customers about the environmental impact of some products.

The complaint alleged that WalMart sold plastic products in stores and online that were misleadingly labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable," a violation of California law.

Plastic waste can take up to a thousand years to decompose, depending on the environment in which it's disposed.

The judgment prohibits Walmart from selling plastic products labeled "biodegradable" or with other terms implying the product will break down in a landfill. Walmart is also prohibited from selling plastic products labeled "compostable" unless a scientific certification supports the claim.

Walmart agreed to pay \$875,000 in civil penalties and an additional payment of \$50,000 to CalRecycle to fund testing of plastic products marketed to consumers as compostable or degradable. Walmart's recent-

ly purchased subsidiary, Jet.com, agreed to pay an additional \$15,000 in civil penalties.

The district attorneys' offices thanked Walmart for its cooperation in implementing significant changes to their websites and at Walmart's stores in order to stay in compliance with California law.

As part of the settlement, WalMart did not admit liability.

California Law imposes an outright ban on the sale of plastics labeled "biodegradable" since such claims are inherently misleading without thorough disclaimers regarding how quickly the product will biodegrade in a landfill. The sale of plastic products labeled "compostable" is also prohibited unless the product meets certain scientific standards.

"Unfortunately, Californians concerned with reducing plastic waste in landfills are commonly misled to purchase plastic products based on marketers' unsubstantiated claims of biodegradability," said O'Malley in a written statement, "But almost nothing breaks down in a landfill. That's why the sale of plastic products labeled 'biodegradable' is illegal in California."

O'Malley says that consumers interested in plastic products that will break down should look for products that are labeled as having met scientific compostability standards, a compostable plastics certification called ASTM D6400.

## Alameda County Serial Killer Found Guilty Almost 30 Years After Murders

Michael Jose Monert was recently found guilty of the serial murders of Alameda County prostitutes in the 1980s and 1990s, according to the district attorney's office.

Last month, Monert, now 50, was convicted of first degree murder of Pamela Sanders, the second degree murder of Debra Adkins, and the second degree murder of Janice Flahiff, plus enhancements.

Monert was a serial murderer of prostitutes in and around Oakland. While awaiting trial for the murder of Sanders, Monert confessed to murdering two more women. During his confessions, he provided details that only the killer would know, the district attorney's office said in a press release. Some of these details included the manner of death and the location of where the murders took place.

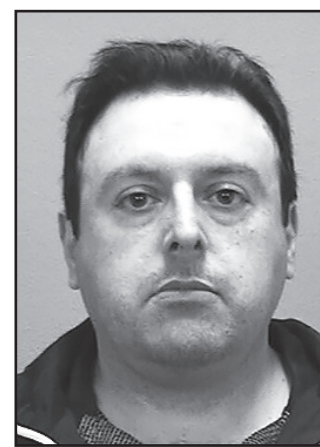
In October 1989, Monert picked up Adkins on International Boulevard and took her back to his home. When they were in his room, Monert hit Adkins numerous times on the head with a hammer. He then transported her body and dumped it above Skyline Boulevard near the entry to Roberts Regional Park.

In May 1991, Monert picked up Flahiff and drove her to Courtland Avenue in Oakland. While they were in his truck, Monert hit her on the head with a small hammer and dumped her body outside his truck. At the time,

Courtland Avenue was a dead-end street. This necessitated doing a three point turn to leave the area and he ran over the body of the victim - Flahiff's autopsy found tire tread marks on her leg.

In July 1991, Monert lured Sanders into a local market where he was working. When Sanders followed him into the rear of the store, Monert grabbed a hammer and struck her repeatedly in the head and then transported and dumped her body a few blocks away. Monert returned to the scene of the crime, where he and his unknowing girlfriend slept in the same area he had murdered Sanders an hour before, prosecutors said. The following morning, a man walking to West Oakland BART found the body of Pamela Sanders laying in the street wrapped in two large garbage bags.

Monert's crimes came to light in 2012, when he was a registered sex offender living in Hayward and cold case detectives matched



Michael Jose Monert

his fingerprints to those found on a plastic bag that one of the women had been wrapped in.

Monert told police that he killed a fourth woman, but authorities have not identified the possible victim. Monert's lawyer argued that he killed no one and is mentally ill.

On Jan. 20, Monert was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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L	I	N	A	D	I	O	S			
M	O	S	S	E	E	N	S	E	R	A
			P	A	S	U	P	K	E	E
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## NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## San Leandro Creek Flowing Again

San Leandro Creek is running this winter as water is released from Lake Chabot. Here, the creek widens as it passes below the bridge on East 14th Street.

## IN THE SERVICE

### ■ Enrique Cabrera

U.S. Air Force Airman **Enrique Santiago P. Cabrera** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits



Airman Enrique Cabrera

toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Cabrera is the son of **Cynthia Pangelinan** of San Leandro. He is also the brother of **Justice Pangelinan**.

The airman graduated in 2015 from San Leandro High School.



### ■ Mark P. Tayo

U.S. Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Mark P. Tayo** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Tayo is the son of **Maria and Apollo Tayo** of San Lorenzo. He is a 2015 graduate of Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ❖ Jazz & Pasta Dinner

The Arroyo High School Instrumental Music Department presents "A Night in Paris - Jazz 'n' Rendezvous" - pasta dinner and musical performance fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Arroyo High School cafeteria, featuring the Oasis Jazz Band and the Arroyo High School Jazz Ensemble. Tickets in advance are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children. Prices are \$5 higher at the door. All proceeds benefit the AHS Instrumental Music program.

### ❖ Hearing Loss Association Meeting

The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Parking is free in the old garage across from Howe St. Refreshments are at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m. Callie Frye will bring a sign language interpreter and with the captioning, looping and FM systems, this meeting is a must for all who are hearing impaired. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.

### ❖ St. Leander's Valentine Crab Feed

The St. Leander's Church will have its Valentine crab feed on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Ryan O'Connell Hall, 550 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. No-host bar at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$45 per person and includes crab, salad, pasta and bread. Purchase 20 or more tickets at one time and receive a 10 percent discount. This event is assigned seating. In addition to the dinner there will also be a dessert silent auction and a sports memorabilia silent auction. For more information, call the parish office at 895-5631.

### ❖ The Eagles Valentine Bingo Luncheon

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Eden Auxiliary 1139 will host their Valentine bingo charity luncheon on Monday, Feb. 13, at noon at the Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. The fare will include beef stew, salad, dessert, rolls, coffee, tea and fun. A donation of \$8 will include one bingo card. For more information, call 584-1568. Proceeds will benefit Meals on Wheels.

### ❖ Women's March Experiences

Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, 14235 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, invites anyone who lives in the San Leandro area and marched as part of the Women's March to come and hear about others' experiences or get to know your fellow marchers on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 10 a.m. Pastor Sarah marched in the Women's March in Washington, D.C. and is looking forward to hearing from others. If you wish, bring your signs, wear your hats, and RSVP to Pastor Sarah by email: bethelcommunitypcusa@gmail.com.

### ❖ St. Felicitas Valentine Luncheon

Tickets are on sale for the St. Felicitas Parish monthly Young at Heart Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Salad, pasta with red sauce and meatballs, garlic bread, dessert, coffee or apple cider will be served. Tickets are \$6. Entertainment and door prizes at the luncheon. Tickets must be purchased no later than the Monday before the luncheon. Tickets available at the parish office Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

### ❖ Mystery Tea at Alta Mira Club

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host its annual Scholarship Mystery Tea on Monday, Feb. 20, at noon,

featuring three mystery writers. Tickets are only \$15. Tea and delectable snacks will be served. Come and hear mystery writers Ellen Kirschman, author of *The Right Wrong Thing*; Marla Cooper, author of *Terror in Taffeta*; and Penny Warner, author of *The Code Busters Club*. For reservations, email Nancyfong@aol.com or call 483-1018. All proceeds benefit the Alta Mira Scholarship Fund.

### ❖ SL High Boosters Coaches' Crab Feed

The San Leandro High School Boosters Coaches' Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, March 4, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of San Leandro, 401 Marina Blvd. There will be a crab feed, silent auction, no host bar, DJ dancing, dessert auction and raffles. Purchase tickets online at [www.slhsunitedparents.com](http://www.slhsunitedparents.com).

### ❖ A.R.T., Inc. Members Exhibit

Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley, presents the works of A.R.T., Inc. members in the upcoming exhibit *Looking Forward*, through March 4. The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. The exhibit features a variety of media including two and three-dimensional art.

### ❖ San Leandro Toastmasters

The San Leandro Toastmasters meet on Thursday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The group fosters improved communication and public speaking. All levels of speakers from novice to seasoned are welcome.

### ❖ Black History Month at SL Main Library

Celebrate Black History Month with storyteller Kirk Waller on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Waller will share tall tales and true stories in honor of Black History Month. All ages welcome and refreshments will be served after the show. Doors open at 6:50 p.m. For more information, call 577-3960.

### ❖ C.V. Center for the Arts

Gina Eckstine, daughter of famed bandleader and singer Billy Eckstine, brings her own style to the music scene at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road in Castro Valley on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are from \$17 to \$25 and may be purchased online at [www.cvartsfoundation.org](http://www.cvartsfoundation.org); or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3 to 5 p.m., phone 889-8961; or at the CV Adult School, 4430 Alma Ave.

### ❖ Chanticleers Theatre

Neil Simon's wonderfully funny farce *Rumors* runs through Feb. 26, at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley. Curtain for Friday and Saturday evening shows is 8 p.m. Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. (no matinee on opening weekend). Tickets cost \$25 for general admission; \$20 for seniors, students and military. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit [chanticleers.org](http://chanticleers.org) or call 733-5483.

### ❖ Douglas Morrisson Theatre

The world premiere of 'Charley's Aunt '66 comes to the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward, beginning with a preview tonight, Feb. 9. Opening reception on Feb. 10. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Feb. 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 12, 19, 25. For tickets (\$10 preview to \$29), call 881-6777 or visit [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org). The show. Doors open at 6:50 p.m. For more information, call 577-3960.

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.

## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Lots of mixed signals can create an unreliable situation in which to make decisions. Best advice: Hold off on making any commitments until you're sure you know what's going on.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** An apparently friendly offer comes with some strings attached. Be careful not to get tied into something you don't really want. Thoroughly examine all your options before making a choice.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** If you're not careful, distractions can interrupt your best efforts. Continue to focus on what you need to do. You'll soon have lots of time to enjoy the rewards of your dedication.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Knowledge replaces suspicion as you begin to learn more about that "act of betrayal." On a lighter note, someone close to you might be planning a pleasant surprise.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Control your sometimes-overactive jealousy gene before you find yourself saying or doing something that you could later regret. Best advice: Stop obsessing and move on.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** It's a good time to loosen up and do something wonderful and exciting before your more reserved nature resurfaces. A message brings news of imminent change.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Cheer up. Things begin to improve significantly by mid-February. However, you might still need help to get through the rest of this sometimes-difficult period.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Something you learned last week takes on new meaning as you begin to relate it to another situation in your life. It's best to keep this matter to yourself for now.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Your energy level is climbing, and so is your self-confidence. Good for you, because you'll need a good dollop of both to tackle an exciting challenge on the way.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** A family issue might interrupt a career-linked project. Try to give the matter the attention it needs, but be careful not to jeopardize your workplace situation.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Some self-doubt shows up this week, causing you to question your ability to handle a new challenge. But you know you can do it, and this is your chance to prove it.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** A personal matter requires you to be as clear and forthcoming as possible in order to avoid misunderstandings. A career move is eased with the emergence of new facts.

# AUTOMOTIVE

## Bolt EV Makes a Unique Proposition

By Steve Schaefer  
San Leandro Times

**T**he ground-breaking Chevrolet Bolt EV is the first all-electric vehicle that works as a full-time car for most people. With an EPA range of 238 miles, it's perfect for every situation other than long-distance travel, and it's affordable, too.

Built in Lake Orion, Michigan, the Bolt EV is a sibling of the Chevrolet Volt, a plug-in hybrid sedan. The Volt combines an electric motor and a gasoline engine, which charges the motor's battery. It has a 53-mile all-electric range before the engine starts up.

The all-electric Bolt EV, on the other hand, uses a 60 Kw battery to get its remarkable range. If you look under the stubby hood, you'll see several silver boxes with wires and tubes, but no gasoline engine.

The Bolt EV's 960-pound battery runs along the bottom of the car, serving as a major structural element. This creates a low center of gravity, so the car handles athletically.

The 200-horsepower motor,

with 266 lb.-ft. of torque, shoots the 3,563-pound Bolt from zero to 60 mph in a sporting 6.5 seconds. The electrically assisted steering is taut, and the suspension is firm, as are the seats.

The Bolt's single-speed transmission offers two driving modes. Drive (D) feels just like a normal car. But pull the transmission lever back to Low (L), and you get "one-pedal driving." Press the accelerator to go and lift your foot to stop. This also provides maximum electricity regeneration and a precise, engaging driving experience.

The Bolt EV is a compact five-door hatchback, but with its lofty roofline, it has midsize room inside. With an overall length of just 164 inches on a 102.4-inch wheelbase, it'll squeeze into small parking spaces while accommodating grownups in the rear seats. Fold down those split seats for 56.6 cubic feet of flat cargo space.

Cute, attractive styling comes from GM of Korea, as does the battery technology. However, driving this all-new car attracted surprisingly little attention. It must look too normal.

Inside, the dash features a

colorful instrument panel and a customizable 10.2-inch screen in the center stack, both with attractive layouts. There's plenty of information available about your speed, energy usage, entertainment, phone, and more. Plug in your smart phone for instant Apple CarPlay or Android Auto.

The most important gauge on the instrument panel is the range indicator. It gives a predicted distance you can go, based on recent driving behavior, outside temperature, climate control usage, and other factors. There's also a maximum and minimum estimate to help you plan. I found that the predicted range estimate was surprisingly accurate.

The official EPA scores are 128 MPGe City, 110 Highway, and 119 combined. Smog and Greenhouse Gas scores are perfect 10s.

Bolt EVs come in LT and Premier trims. The upper level Premier adds leather seats and steering wheel, polished and painted 17-inch alloy wheels, and silver roof rails. Ambient blue piping winds around the instrument panel. The front and rear seats are heated, as is the steering wheel. For safety, there are Lane Change Alert and Rear Cross Traffic Alert. There's a cool rear-view camera in the inside mirror, too.

The DC quick charge option (\$750) on any Bolt lets you grab a fast recharge when you're on the go.

There are a couple of option packages for each model. The Premier offers an Infotainment package (\$485) with premium Bose audio, wireless device charging, and rear dual USB charging ports.



San Leandro Times Auto Editor Steve Schaefer liked the Chevrolet Bolt EV so much that he leased the car featured in this article.

The Driver Confidence II Package adds Forward Collision Alert, low-speed front automatic braking, Lane keep assist, front pedestrian braking and IntelliBeam headlights. Some colors cost extra, including my car's beautiful Kinetic Blue (\$395).

At home, you can plug in the built-in 7.2 kW charger to household current, but it's very slow. A Level 2 (240-volt) charger will cost you around \$500-\$600, and you'll need to hire an electrician to wire it up. Numerous public chargers exist, as well. Level 2 fills an empty Bolt EV battery in 9 hours.

The base LT starts at \$37,495 and the Premier starts at \$40,905. A fully loaded Premier comes to \$43,905. Federal tax credits and state rebates can take up to \$10,000 off those numbers. And, in California, PG&E will send you \$500 just for buying an EV.

The innovative Bolt EV has won multiple honors, including

Motor Trend 2017 Car of the Year, The North American Car of the Year, Green Car of the Year, and a Car and Driver top-10 pick.

For now, the Bolt EV is a unique proposition. It's fun, affordable, green, and can do almost anything you ask. In fact, I liked it so much that I leased the car featured in this article!

*Note: On February 8, 1992, the San Leandro Times ran my first car review, on the 1992 Honda Prelude. Today's column marks not only my 25th anniversary, but the start of an increasing focus on electric and hybrid vehicles. Thank you very much for reading all these years.*

— Steve Schaefer



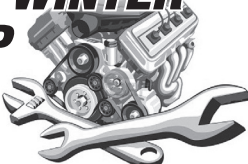
The "floating" instrument panel features a 10.2-inch touch screen, which helps to create a horizontal feel to the interior.

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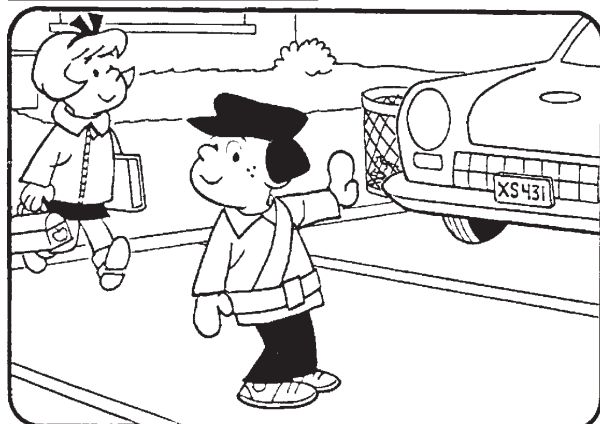
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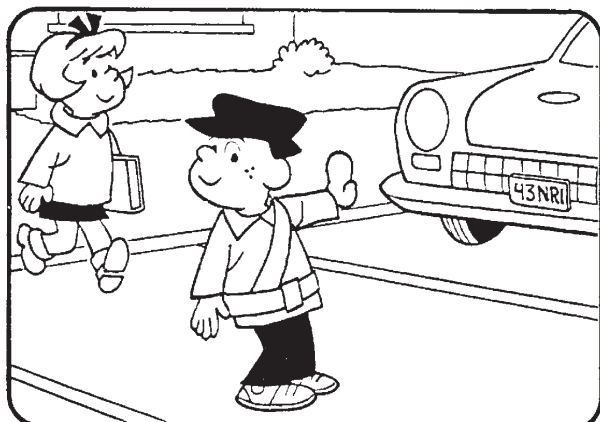


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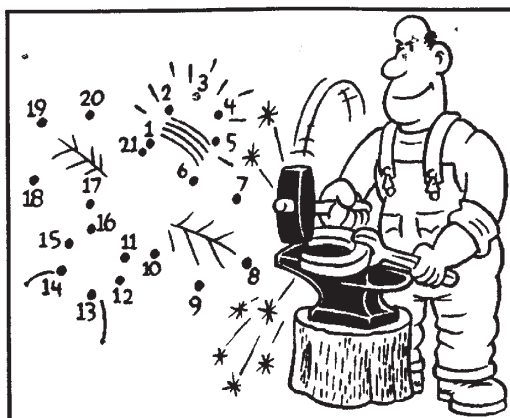
BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Zipper is missing. 2. Lunchbox is different. 3. Earflap is different. 4. Mitten is missing. 5. Trash can is missing. 6. License is different.



CONNECT THE DOTS and find out what insect a blacksmith manufactures.

Answer: He makes the firefly.

**SHAKES, FRIES AND ALPHAMATH!** To solve this AlphaMath puzzle, you must replace the letters with the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

Our answer: H=7, A=6, R=1, D=2, O=0, C=8, K=3, F=9, E=5 (7612 + 1083 = 8695).

**DON'T GO DRY ON THIS ONE!** Can you complete the Word Square on the right using the definitions below. All words must read the same both across and down.

1. A refuge (in place).
2. To make embarrassed.
3. Lively and spirited.
4. Set of new stamps.
5. More reserved.

O	A	S	I	S
A				
S				
I				
S				

Answers: 1. Oasis. 2. Abash. 3. Sassy. 4. Issue. 5. Shyer.

### Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PUZZLE FOR ALL SEASONS!

S	E	I	R	R	U	L	F	N	B	S	L	E	E	T
A	P	P	L	E	S	S	C	O	L	L	E	G	E	A
N	D	U	R	P	U	L	N	B	L	O	S	S	O	M
M	T	N	D	M	K	F	I	S	H	I	N	G	M	Y
U	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	O	C	E	A	N	A	I
T	S	E	V	R	A	H	S	P	R	I	N	G	J	M
U	R	L	E	T	E	N	N	I	S	H	O	W	E	R
A	H	C	H	I	K	I	N	G	R	E	T	N	I	W

Illustrated by David Coulson



Hidden in the diagram above are 19 words pertaining to the four seasons of the year. They can be found reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words that you're looking for.

APPLES	FISHING	SHOWER
AUTUMN	FLURRIES	SLEET
BLOSSOM	FOLIAGE	SPRING
BONFIRE	HARVEST	SUMMER
CAMPING	HIKING	TENNIS
CLEANUP	OCEAN	WINTER
COLLEGE		

## Trees: Resident says ivy pulling down trees

*continued from front page*  
along the creek out of 337 county-owned trees.

A Cary Drive resident said the his mother's patio was damaged by a fallen euclyptus a couple of years ago. He said the ivy climbs the trees and makes them more likely to fall.

"We had an arborist come out and he said the weight of that ivy is substantial, and euclyptus have shallow roots," said Martin Torres. "All that ivy certainly doesn't help a tree."

Another big euclyptus toppled over this week along San Leandro Creek between the Cherrywood neighborhood and the Alameda County Fire Department training center. The tree did some damage to a fence at the training center, said Debbie Pollart, San Leandro public works director.

There was also a high tide at around 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday. Combined with the rainwater runoff, the high tide flooded a parking lot by the marina. But other than that, there was nothing out of the ordinary, Pollart said.

The traffic signal was out of order – defaulting to flash



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

**A euclyptus fell across San Leandro Creek this week between the Cherrywood neighborhood and the fire department training center, damaging a fence.**

mode – at the intersection of Marina Boulevard and Merced Street on Tuesday. But this may have been due to an electrical glitch, not the weather, Pollart said. She said the signal has had some snafus lately, and engineers are trying to figure

out the problem.

It wasn't as bad here in the East Bay as the North Bay where there were flash flood warnings and residents had to evacuate some areas.

And of course, the freeways were no fun at all, lots of spinouts

and accidents were reported by the Highway Patrol.

As a Domino's Pizza semi truck unloaded at a local outlet, the driver summed up conditions on the highways on Tuesday morning in one word.

"Terrible," he said.

## Bonta: Questions bail

*continued from front page*  
lions" to help pay for affordable housing.

The other proposal is to eliminate the state mortgage interest deduction on second homes.

Only about .4 percent of Californians own and occupy two homes in the state. Currently they get a tax break on the second home, which Bonta would see eliminated. He estimates that would add to \$400 million to the state's coffers.

"It would help make sure people had a first roof over their heads before others get a second roof," said Bonta.

Another project he says he'll focus on in 2017 is the elimination of the money bail system.

Bonta says that requiring bail to get out of jail after an arrest puts people with less money at a disadvantage in the criminal justice system before they are ever convicted of wrongdoing, so he's working on legislation that would reform the system.

Also at Monday night's meeting, the City Council unanimously approved a 3.5 percent raise based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the city

manager – a matter that had to be made public due to a new state law.

City manager Chris Zapata now makes \$20,405 per month (\$244,860 annually). Zapata has raises based on the CPI built into his contract.

Normally Zapata's raise wouldn't warrant a discussion at a City Council meeting, but the new law requires cities to publicly announce adjustments to the salaries of top employees.

SB 1436 went into effect on Jan. 1 of this year, partially in reaction to the public employee wage scandal in Bell, California, according to city attorney Richard Pio Roda. City officials and employees in Bell misappropriated millions of taxpayer dollars, giving themselves the highest salaries in the nation.

Zapata is the only City of San Leandro employee subject to the law. Other city employees are in unions and their the terms of their salary negotiations are already public.

SB 1436 now requires a city's legislative body to summarize a city executive's pay in a public forum prior to approval.

## Homicide: Driver charged with murder

*continued from front page*  
paramedics.

Valasco was arrested at the scene and later charged by the Alameda County District Attorney's

Office with murder and use of a deadly weapon. He is currently being held without bail at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

Valasco is set to enter a plea

during his next court appearance at the Hayward Hall of Justice next Friday, Feb. 17.

This was San Leandro's first homicide of the year.



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

**The day care center will be build here on the side of the Marea Alta Apartments that faces Carpentier Street.**

## Donation: Residents moving in

*continued from front page*  
that number.

Last year, Davis Street failed to pay back a \$1.5 million loan from the city on time. They later paid off the loan. Earlier in Monday's City Council meeting Johnson addressed the council saying she hoped to "repair" their relationship.

But paying back this loan shouldn't be an issue for BRIDGE housing, because the loan is go-

ing to be forgiven annually as long as the day care stays open and running to city terms.

BRIDGE and Davis Street are currently negotiating their terms of operation. BRIDGE plans on asking one dollar per year from Davis Street as part of the lease agreement.

BRIDGE project manager Jamie Hiteshew says construction should start this summer and he foresees children in the facility

before the end of he year.

Hiteshew also gave the City Council an update on the Marea Alta apartment project. About 60 of the 115 affordable housing units are now occupied and residents will move into the rest by the end of February.

Hiteshew added that an 85 unit, four-story affordable senior housing project is slated to begin construction this year on Marea Alta's east side facing Carpentier Street.

San Leandro Times

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Do You Know Someone Addicted to Painkillers?

**F**ifty-two people die every day from opioid overdoses nationwide, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported more than 12 million U.S. residents used prescription painkillers non-medically in the past year.

Unfortunately, even a small dosage can depress respiratory function, and these drugs can be especially dangerous when combined with other common substances like alcohol and sleeping pills. What's more, prescription drug abuse can be addictive, and even lead to heroin use.

If you know someone who may be addicted to prescription painkillers, here are five things the National Safety Council says you should know.

**1. Addiction is a chronic disease that affects the brain.** Addiction, like heart disease or dia-

betes, leads to increasingly poor health, and can be fatal if it's not effectively treated and managed. People who suffer from addiction still have self-worth and should be treated with dignity. Unfortunately, shame and discrimination prevent many of them from seeking treatment. Recovery can be achieved in many different ways and all recovery efforts should be celebrated.

**2. Medication Helps.** Opioid and heroin addiction cause a chemical imbalance in the brain, which medication can help repair.

There are three major medications typically used as part of a comprehensive treatment plan that includes counseling and participation in social support programs: Buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone.

Buprenorphine and methadone diminish the effects of

withdrawal and cravings, restoring brain chemistry. Naltrexone blocks the euphoric effects of opioids and heroin. Buprenorphine and naltrexone can be administered by health care providers. Methadone is delivered in specialized clinics.

**3. Traditional treatments aren't always effective.** Recovery is a lifelong journey. Unfortunately, some traditional treatments focus on quicker fixes like attempting it alone or going cold turkey, which ultimately can be detrimental.

Rates of relapse and overdose are higher for people who have gone through 30-day treatment programs, and 56 percent of people who leave treatment centers relapse within the first week. However, medications can offer longer-term solutions, and are often less expensive than

in-patient treatment. If traditional substance abuse programs haven't worked, consider medication.

**4. Support is critical.** A failed cycle of detox and inpatient therapy, then relapse, can leave a person feeling hopeless. This is why support is critical.

Doctors and treatment counselors are important, but even more so is a well-informed support group of family and friends.

**5. Understanding addiction is crucial.** Both patients and their friends and family should understand that addiction is a disease, and know what is needed to manage it.

There are more options than traditional 30-day-treatment and 12-step programs. In addition to medication, there are support programs like SMART recovery, which provide attendees with tools based on the latest scientific research, as well as a worldwide community with self-empowering, science-based support groups.

—StatePoint



A road of recovery is paved by many people — not just those in recovery. With the right support systems in place, a successful and sober life is possible.

©ALEXD75-ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

## Hope Hospice Offers 'Living with Dementia' Classes

**W**ith the goal of promoting a meaningful connection between the individual with dementia and those providing care, Hope Hospice in Dublin presents, "Living with Dementia: Communication and Feelings," from 9:45 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Feb. 11.

Hospice Certified Dementia Practitioner Jill Smith and Recreation Therapist Angela Piazza will demonstrate how communication can be enhanced through a focus on emotions and feelings to manage the deficits that worsen throughout the disease process.

Any community member engaged in the role of family caregiver or expecting to soon become a caregiver is invited to attend these classes. Light refreshments will be served.

Classes are held at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, in Dublin in the 2nd-floor conference room.

Visit: [HopeHospice.com](http://HopeHospice.com) to register online or you may contact the Community Education Volunteer, Debbie Emerson, by emailing her at: [debbiee@hopehospice.com](mailto:debbiee@hopehospice.com).

The class is part of Hope Hospice's Family Caregiver Education Series.

These classes are available at no cost to all community members; however, donations to Hope Hospice are greatly appreciated.

For more information about other sessions, visit [HopeHospice.com](http://HopeHospice.com). This program is supported in part by a generous grant from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton.



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# Jefferson Elementary Students Set Sights on College

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

Fifth graders at Jefferson Elementary School took the stage in their school's cafeteria last week in front of teachers and parents and announced where they'd like to go to college when they are older.

Superintendent Mike McLaughlin spoke to the crowd and told them he was proud that they were considering their futures.

"A commitment to a college or vocational school is a commitment to life-long learning," said McLaughlin. "As human beings, if we stop learning, we stop growing."

The superintendent joked that perhaps some of the kids couldn't wait to finish high school and be done with school forever.

"I guarantee you that once you get a job, you'll think, 'God, I miss school,'" joked McLaughlin.

Principal Guillermo Morales said the ceremony is a fun way of getting kids to start thinking about college and their careers.



The crowd of fifth graders at Jefferson elementary wait their turn to declare where they plan on going to college at a special "commitment" ceremony. At right, fifth grader Xavyion Brown told Principal Guillermo Morales and the crowd that he plans to go to Louisiana State University.



The kids might not end up at the school they picked at the age of 10, but Morales said that in researching the college and just

thinking about their futures, they are on the right track.

After all that research, the kids will share what they've

learned with younger Jefferson students at a College Expo in May. At last Wednesday's commitment ceremony, the fourth

graders came to the cafeteria to see what they'll be a part of next year and get excited about choosing a college of their own.

"Here at Thomas Jefferson, we have students as young as kindergarten thinking about college," said Morales.

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## Traditional Chinese Costumes On Display at the Main Library

A display of 56 traditional costumes of China are on display through Feb. 20 in the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Twenty-four of the colorful

costumes and head pieces will be hung on the second-floor walls of the library, presented by The Asian Community Cultural Association (ACCA), Desan American Academy and the San Leandro Library.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



### One Game Is Over, A New Game Begins

With this year's Super Bowl in the history books, Realtors are gearing up for their favorite event: The Post Super Bowl Real Estate Surge.

Known to many as "The Super Bowl Effect," it's no joke. The real estate market usually gets into gear as soon as the post-game credits stop rolling and, if the first few weeks of 2017 have been any indicator, it looks like we may have another epic march up the field to another winning market in the spring.

Why the spike every year at this time?

There are a number of reasons, including the idea that with football season finally over, avid fans have nothing else to do on Sunday afternoons, so they head

out and start looking at open houses.

Agreed, there is obviously more to it than that, but every year at this time, open houses start seeing visitor numbers increase right after the big game. In fact, February 2011 signaled the turn in housing market prices as negative numbers reversed and began a steady march upwards out of the depression lows.

Other factors triggering this year's rush might include rumored rate hikes, resulting in a frenzy to get in before the market becomes too rich. For others, this time of the year symbolizes a new beginning, resulting in buyers popping up like spring flowers.

With the market seeing five

straight years of significant gains, many have espoused the idea that 2017 will be the year when things begin to soften and turn.

Most real estate cycles span 10 years, so it's normative to figure prices will peak somewhere in the middle of the cycle. While that should be right about now (and I've said as much in previous posts), so far the indicators are still pointing upward.

While we won't have January numbers until after this article is printed, everyone I know points to a continued shortage of inventory and multiple offers on everything in sight.

Looking to buy a home this spring? I'd recommend sooner than later. Once the rush begins, it's a lot like driving on I-880 during rush hour: there are way too many cars vying for far too little asphalt, and the result is severe, stress-inducing congestion. Similarly, as buyers emerge en masse, prices start shooting up along with the blood pressure of those trying to compete for new digs.

One game is over, now a new game begins.

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 at [www.ccmgtoday.com](http://www.ccmgtoday.com).



### 14828 Martell Avenue • San Leandro • \$498,000

This cute 1,008-square-foot Foresta Gardens home built in 1952 features 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, recently refinished hardwood floors, brick fireplace, private backyard, covered patio, 2-car garage, dual-pane windows, and easy access to 880 and shopping. Offers due by Tuesday, Feb. 21. Open Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Louise Lovewell and the Lovewell Team of Re/Max Accord at 510-351-5555.

### Receive 10 Free Trees from Arbor Day Foundation

Joining the Arbor Day Foundation is an ideal way to get in the mood for spring planting. Anyone who joins the Foundation in February will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees or 10 free redbud trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

"These trees will help beautify your home for many years to come," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees will also add to the proud heritage of your state's existing Tree City USA communities."

The Tree City USA program



The crape myrtle tree is a popular choice for the Bay Area.

has supported community forestry throughout the country for the past 40 years.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's col-

orful bimonthly publication, Arbor

Day, and The Tree Book, which

contains information about plant-

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To become a member of the

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28, or visit [arborday.org/february](http://arborday.org/february).

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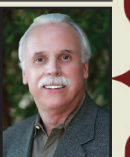
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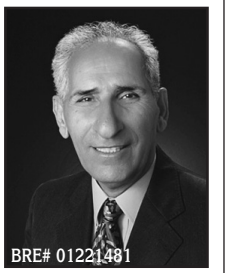
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# Resilient Roses Rise Up; Fountain Grass Turns Brown

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** My roses haven't been pruned in several years and are now over seven feet high. When will it be too late to prune, as the new growth is starting to emerge? Also, how far back can I prune them? I've heard that roses will go into shock if you remove more than half the growth.

**A** The winter pruning season can extend into late March. The appearance of the new growth does not signal the end of the pruning season, as roses are pruned year-round.

Most gardeners don't think of it as pruning, but deadheading the spent flowers during the summer and fall months is a form of pruning.

Late-season pruning, let's say mid-March and on, will only delay when the first flush of flowers are in bloom.

In addition, it's just a gardening myth that the bushes will go into shock from pruning.

The more I think about it, it just doesn't make any sense. You haven't disturbed any of the roots, just reduced the length of the canes.

Roses are very resilient plants. They can take a lot of abuse from a pair of hand pruners and/or neglect. They respond nicely with improved cultural practices.

Different pruning techniques are used with the different seasons. The cool winter months allows for you to cut the bushes back, exposing the bare canes. However, if you were to do this in August, the green canes would turn black and die from sunburn. At that time of the year, you would have to cover the plants with shade cloth until the new leaves developed. The leaves would then shade the canes from the harsh sun.

During the growing season, your goals are to remove the spent flowers, reduce the height and bring in the sides. I'd have no problem cutting the bushes down to three to four feet looking for an outside bud.



Prune fountain grass down to the ground. It will grow back as the days get longer and warmer.

An outside bud or shoot is one that is growing away from the center of the plant. If you don't find one, wait a couple of weeks and then finish the job.

You may have to alter this because of a pathway or a barrier, like a fence or the side of the garage.

In addition, remove any dead wood and eliminate the rubbing and crossing branches along with those canes that are growing close to one another. The remaining canes at the base should be spaced about the width of you're pruning shears.

There is no reason for you to shy away from pruning today.

**Q** My fountain grass has turned brown. How far back can I prune it? Also, when will it be nice and

full again?

**A** Fountain grass is pruned down to the ground. The new growth will appear at the base of the clump, as the days get longer and warmer.

After Memorial Day, the growth rate will accelerate and the plant should reach full size by mid-July. However, this is all dependent on the weather.

You can encourage the new growth with a handful or two of a balanced fertilizer around the drip line in March.

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



## WEEKEND GARDENER

### Sowing Seeds

It's not too early to sow some flower seeds outdoors, including cosmos, sweet alyssum, sweet peas, California poppies and larkspur. Start seeds indoors in flats for summer vegetables, including tomatoes, squash and peppers.

### Perennials

Plant perennials now for early spring bloom. English primroses, day lilies, Shasta daisies and phlox are all good bets.

### Don't Wait

If you haven't pruned roses, fruit trees and grapes, do it now. New growth has already started to appear, but better late than not at all. Also, February is your last chance for dormant spraying. Dormant spraying controls insects that hibernate during the winter and fungal diseases such as peach-leaf curl.



### Hardiness Zones

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is based on average minimum winter temperatures which are divided into zones. Gardeners and growers rely on the map to select suitable plants for specific locations. It is available as an interactive map and also as state, regional, and national images that can be downloaded and printed.



[planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov)

Source: USDA

- Brenda Weaver

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589 Bixco Street	94577	\$800,000	5 BD - 2,503 SF - 2004
182 Cherrywood Avenue	94577	\$460,000	2 BD - 1,339 SF - 1936
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2168 Estabrook Circle	94577	\$525,000	3 BD - 1,460 SF - 1941
433 Harlan Street #108	94577	\$220,000	2 BD - 803 SF - 1964
345 Lille Avenue	94577	\$545,000	2 BD - 1,203 SF - 1941
1249 Pacific Avenue	94577	\$520,000	2 BD - 839 SF - 1922
1516 141st Avenue	94578	\$490,000	2 BD - 885 SF - 1942
1650 165th Avenue	94578	\$623,000	2 BD - 852 SF - 1925
2051 Altamont Road	94578	\$544,000	N/ABD - 1,560 SF - 1980
15976 Gramercy Drive	94578	\$690,000	3 BD - 1,754 SF - 1956
14895 Saturn Drive	94578	\$420,000	2 BD - 752 SF - 1939
1226 Belleau Street	94579	\$582,500	3 BD - 1,309 SF - 1958
15084 Churchill Street	94579	\$600,000	3 BD - 1,697 SF - 1949
14918 Crosby Street	94579	\$499,000	3 BD - 1,119 SF - 1952
740 Fargo Avenue #8	94579	\$342,000	2 BD - 840 SF - 1965
15476 Heron Drive	94579	\$645,000	4 BD - 1,651 SF - 1999
1136 Mersey Avenue	94579	\$511,000	3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1950
15203 Shining Star Lane	94579	\$899,000	4 BD - 2,820 SF - 1999
1474 Vining Drive	94579	\$595,000	3 BD - 1,125 SF - 1957

#### TOTAL SALES:

20

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$220,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT:

\$534,500

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$899,000

AVERAGE AMOUNT:

\$545,525

### San Lorenzo

527 Doane Street	94580	\$610,000	3 BD - 1,144 SF - 1950
16167 Via Chiquita	94580	\$571,000	3 BD - 1,475 SF - 1951
629 Via Pacheco	94580	\$542,500	3 BD - 986 SF - 1944

#### TOTAL SALES:

3

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$542,500

MEDIAN AMOUNT:

\$571,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$610,000

AVERAGE AMOUNT:

\$574,500

### Sheffield Village

215 Marlow Drive	94605	\$770,000	3 BD - 1,682 SF - 1946
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19025 Carlton Avenue	94546	\$500,000	1 BD - 734 SF - 1930
2367 Farley Street	94546	\$592,500	2 BD - 917 SF - 1948
18803 Huber Drive	94546	\$765,000	3 BD - 1,448 SF - 1939
3124 Huntington Court	94546	\$950,000	3 BD - 3,088 SF - 2010
19116 Parsons Avenue	94546	\$800,000	4 BD - 2,184 SF - 1936
5406 Briar Ridge Drive	94552	\$570,000	3 BD - 1,619 SF - 1978
19705 Buren Place	94552	\$871,000	4 BD - 2,251 SF - 2000
20006 Jensen Ranch Rd	94552	\$1,320,000	N/A BD - N/A SF - N/A
19139 Mt. Jasper Drive	94552	\$900,000	4 BD - 2,505 SF - 1989

#### TOTAL SALES:

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LOWEST AMOUNT: \$500,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT:

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HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,320,000

AVERAGE AMOUNT:

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C	—	1-3	5957 E. Castro Valley Blvd.	\$899,000	6/3 - Home & dplx	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy P.	925-251-2536
C	—	1-4	17844 Center Street	\$1,186,000	3/2.5 - 2+ car	Coldwell Banker	Trish Radovich	367-7999
C	—	1-3	8585 Norris Canyon Road	\$1,375,000	5/2.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy P.	925-251-2536

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### ACROSS

- Paid player
- Taxi
- Expert
- Potential syrup
- Lennon's lady
- Similar
- Citric beverage
- Underwent reduction
- Jeremy of basketball
- Tijuana toodle-oo
- Rolling stone's lack
- Poetic nightfall
- Antitoxins
- de deux
- Maintenance
- Quibblers split these
- Senorita's wiggle?
- "Rabbit, Run" author
- Feedbag morsel
- Piratic quaff
- Paving goop
- "is life!"
- Con game
- Pair
- Absolutely
- Use a towel
- Photoshop company
- Reading matter, for short
- 90-degree shape
- Therefore
- Tokyo's old name
- Deli loaf

### DOWN

- Any of 150 in the Bible
- Deejay's domain
- Starts
- Last few notes
- Battery terminals
- Jim at the Alamo
- Church service
- "The Greatest"
- Kin of "i.e."
- out a living
- Homer's neighbor
- Bourgeois, to Brits
- Parsley serving
- Revue segments
- Conger or moray
- Roulette bet
- Mimic
- Request
- Sch. org.
- Embrace
- Spring mo.
- Bachelor's last words
- Needle case
- Corsage bloom
- Point of view
- Milk dispenser
- Moe's brother
- Rulebook compiler
- A "Desperate Housewife"
- Director Preminger
- Doo follower
- Praise in verse
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- Peacock network

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

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**ALCANTAR, Virginia L.**  
**SANTOS, Petronilla M.**  
**STEVENS, Lionel P.**

■ **ALCANTAR, Virginia L.**, entered into rest on February 4, 2017 at age 90. She was born on August 16, 1926 in Fresno, CA. Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Sunday, Feb. 12. Visitation from noon to 4 p.m. with a Vigil Service beginning at 1 p.m. at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro. Monday Feb. 13 Funeral Liturgy 10:30 a.m. at St. Felicitas Church, 1604 Manor Blvd., San Leandro. Burial will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward. Arrangements by Santos-Robinson Mortuary, San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

■ **SANTOS, Petronilla M.** (AKA Nanay), a resident of San Leandro,

passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at age 97. Nanay was born in Tanay, Rizal Province, Philippines and immigrated to the Bay Area 41 years ago. She is survived by her 4 daughters, Melodia, Thelma, Elvira and Mercedes. She is preceded in death by her 2 sons, Rodolfo and Lucino. Nanay was a loving grandmother and great-grandmother to dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Viewing will be held today, Feb. 9, at Santos-Robinson Mortuary from noon to 8 p.m. Church Mass is on Friday, Feb. 10, at St. Leander Church at 10 a.m. Burial Service is on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 11:30 a.m. at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

■ **STEVENS, Lionel P.**, passed away at age 85, peacefully at home in San Leandro in the presence of his loving wife and family on January 21, 2017. The service will be private for closest of friends and family.

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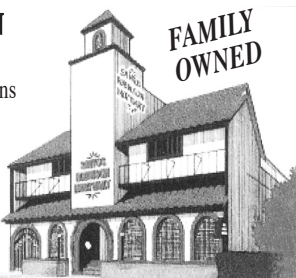
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PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

A little light broke through the clouds over the bay this week, as seen from the point at the San Leandro Marina.

## Council Members Share their Dreams for San Leandro

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro City Council got together on Jan. 28 and spent a day planning out how they'd like to see 2017 shape up for the city.

As part of the council's annual planning session at the Senior Community Center the council brainstormed ideas about where their priorities should be in the next year for city staff to research and work on.

Any changes or new policies will be examined in more detail by the council throughout the year at its meetings.

Quality of life issues and infrastructure projects were singled out as areas for improvement.

The council said that traffic calming, being a pedestrian and bicycle friendly city, and enhancing parks are all important.

They said that a formal declaration of becoming a sanctuary city may be on the books, and that they need to figure out a variety of ways to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds – for example, how do they reach out to people who don't have computer access?

There was a call for more af-

fordable housing and to find outside funding sources for mixed use housing projects.

The council says it wants to figure out how to deal with the city's unfunded pension debt – which has topped \$170 million.

Council members Corina Lopez and Benny Lee said there needs to be more restaurants in town.

"A hundred and fifty restaurants is small for a city of this size," said Lee, who added that the city needs to support small business.

Lee added that 25 percent of San Leandro's population doesn't speak English as their first language, and he wants the city to consider the multilingual residents. He wants every communication from the city to be in

“Empower-  
ing our staff  
empowers the  
community.”

— City Councilman  
Pete Ballew

“150  
restaurants  
is small for a  
city this size.”

— City Councilman  
Benny Lee

“I think  
we are on  
the right  
track.”

— City Councilwoman  
Deborah Cox

multiple languages.

Lopez said that public-private partnerships may be key to getting restaurants and other businesses in town and maybe the city could offer incentives to help pay for start up costs. She wants the city to offer tax breaks to new restaurants that open here.

New council member Pete Ballew said that attracting top staff members to work for the city should be important. He suggested that incentives should be offered to city employees to stay in the long-term.

"Empowering our staff empowers the community," said Ballew.

Council member Ed Hernandez, also newly elected, said engaging more with the Chamber of Commerce is a good idea.

Hernandez also mentioned the perpetual desire the council seems to have to lure Trader Joe's into town despite the fact that the grocery store chain has turned the city and (several real estate developers) down multiple times.

"It's our unicorn," said Hernandez, perhaps referring to something that proves impossible to get.

Mayor Pauline Cutter said that one of her priorities is road repair, as San Leandro has some of the worst pavement in the Bay Area.

Councilwoman Deborah Cox said the planning session was a good way to make sure that the council is on the same page when it comes to setting goals.

"I think we are on the right track," said Cox.

## Tickets on Sale for Annual 'San Leandro's Got Talent' Popular Teen Talent Show

Tickets are on sale for the fifth annual San Leandro city-wide teen talent show, San Leandro's Got Talent, on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the San Leandro Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Boulevard.

Teens ages 13 to 18 will compete for prizes, with winners

chosen by the audience and a local celebrity judging panel.

Tickets are available at the Marina Community Center; the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.; or the San Leandro Senior Center, located at 13909 East 14th St. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for

youths 17 years of age and under.

The talent shows celebrity judges will include DJ St. John – 99.7NOW! radio personality; Douglas Spalding – Local teacher and performing arts enthusiast; and Joy Graham-Korst – Professional Opera singer and musician.

San Leandro's Got Talent is a

collaboration of the San Leandro Public Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and the Youth Advisory Commission (YAC). Proceeds from ticket sales and sponsorships will be used for teen programs at the library, as well as YAC's mini-grant program for youth-serving organizations.

# OPINION

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

### Asks Why City Would Fund Davis Street Center to Be a Sponsor for Chamber of Commerce Events?

Editor:

Thank you City Manager, Mayor and City Council for ensuring that Davis Street Family Resources Center (DSFRC) repaid the \$1.5-million loan back to the City and residents of San Leandro.

If that loan was not repaid, City services would have been cut, maybe that pothole not filled, or that street not repaved, or the library hours cut back, or the pool not open during the summer.

If DSFRC continues to apply for CDBG funds from the City, why should we support providing those funds when they are just using it to be an Emerald Sponsor for the recent Chamber of Commerce event as well as other Chamber events?

We know that they are running at over \$1 million deficit annually, so what program did not get funded, or what family in need did not get services, so they could sponsor Chamber of Commerce events? Is that why you donate to DSFRC – so they can sponsor Chamber of Commerce events? The DSFRC Board of Directors needs to get this center in order.

—Diana Souza, San Leandro

### Disgusted by School District's Handling of Honors Class Issue

Editor:

As someone who went to the January 12 meeting at San Leandro High School in regards to the proposed dropping of honors classes, I feel compelled to voice my disgust at how misleading and disingenuous the SLUSD is being about this debacle.

For one, the district representatives made it plain that there are ongoing discussions between the administration and teachers at SLHS about cutting honors courses; a far cry from the non-issue this interview makes things out to be.

They aren't at a point of voting one way or another just yet, according to the administrators who controlled the meeting, but the issue is anything but shelved and clearly picking up momentum, as can be inferred from the hosts of students who went home to tell their parents about the situation. The way that Mucetti claims "There was this fear that got around to parents, but no change is being made" is insulting at best, blatant misdirection and obfuscation at worst.

The meeting itself was a disaster from the second it veered towards discussion of this topic, as the district rep had the nerve to claim that she had no idea why we were all gathered. We were gathered there because the students, not the school, made a potentially damaging bit of a possible policy change widely known prior to it being carefully sanitized and prettied up by administrators before being drip-fed to the public.

The fact that the bulk of the meeting was spent hearing administrators pat themselves on the backs and then talk to, not with, the people assembled is quite telling of how little the district was actually interested in discussing this issue at all.

Perhaps most frightening, however,

is this mucking with the facts that the district is now engaged in when it comes to discussing the merits of honors classes. To say that these courses offer "similar, more challenging material but the end game is not the same" does little to convey the reality of how colleges offer more consideration to students who participate in honors course work versus CP. There might not be a nearly-\$100 test to take at the end for honors classes, but they're incredibly valuable to students trying to go to college.

At this point, there needs to be a frank black and white discussion as to why teachers want these classes cut and why the district and SLHS are being so coy about it. Honestly, it's clear from what I saw at the meeting that the district was only interested in pretending to have a discussion with parents because the students rattled them out. Shameful.

—Robert Marrujo, San Leandro

### City's "Just Cause for Evictions" Not a Protection for SL Families

Editor:

Attention Tenants, Here we go again.

Landlords and their puppets on the city council are putting the finishing touches on an aggressive new approach to displacement "buyouts." Not happy with having gutted what little recourse the toothless rent review board provided, a proposal pitched by councilmember Lee Thomas and apparently seconded by councilmember Corina Lopez would put a target on San Leandro families and seniors who are barely scraping by.

The proposal for relocation payments is sold as a "just cause for eviction" whatever the proposal is, it's not a protection for San Leandro families. The proposal as presented does not limit evictions, does not slow down displacement and creates a profit motive for landlords to evict long term tenants.

We do not need your money, we need just cause for eviction. Just cause is exactly what it sounds like, it's an ordinance that limits evictions so that landlords must have just cause to take your home.

We demand that no tenant will be evicted unless one of the following happens.

1. Nonpayment of rent, habitual late payment, or frequent bounced checks.

2. Breach (violation) of a term of the rental agreement that has not been corrected after written notice from the landlord.

3. Nuisance or substantial damage to the unit (waste), or "creating a substantial interference with the comfort, safety, or enjoyment of the landlord or other tenants in the building."

4. Illegal use of the unit.

5. Termination of the rental agreement and the tenant refuses to execute a written extension for materially the same terms.

6. The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the unit as required by law.

7. Unapproved subtenant (approval can be either stated or implied) is the only person still remaining in the unit (subtenant holding over).

8. Move-in of the landlord or a close relative of the landlord (if the landlord

lives in the building).

9. Demolition or removal of the unit from housing use.

Capital improvements or rehabilitation with all the necessary permits that allows temporary removal of the unit from housing use. The tenant has the right to re-occupy the unit once the work is completed at the prior rent.

10. Ellis Act evictions which require withdrawal from rental housing use all of the units in the building or a unit detached from another structure on the same lot (e.g. a cottage).

Stop the landlord giveaway, real Just Cause Now.

—Guillermo Elenes, co-chair  
San Leandro Tenant Union de Vecinos

### Thoughts While Waiting in Line At the Bank

Editor:

One day last December, after Federal Reserve Chief Janet Yellen announced a rise in interest rates, my bank started to charge for coffee. It was only 50 cents, but I was paying for checking and money orders as well as interest on my loan. Lots of other customers weren't happy, either.

"Every month they charge for checking and now they want fifty cents for coffee," said a lady who was 15 people back in the teller line. "Who are they, the airlines?"

"I'm sure that after Donald Trump gets elected, things will change for the better," said a man, who was second in line.

I wasn't sure whether his optimism was due to his place in line or the fact he knew something about Trump the rest of us didn't.

"How do you know," I asked.

"Oh, Donald will fight for the little guy. Didn't he tweet that to us?"

"I don't remember," I replied. "He's tweeted so much stuff. Is there a record of his tweets?"

"I think Putin has all of them," replied a woman, who was 17 people back in the line.

Just as the line started moving closer to the teller's window, a thin man who looked pale, collapsed. I heard the crowd gasp.

After the ambulance arrived, the man, who was conscious, refused to be taken to the hospital. "Please don't take me," he pleaded. "I'll lose my insurance under TrumpCare."

He consented to go in the ambulance after a bank employee convinced him that only ex-President Obama could take away his healthcare and Obama will be out of office by the time his bill arrives from the hospital.

As the teller line moved forward, some people said that President Trump and the Republicans will bring fresh air to the country. I wasn't so sure. I was glad the bank's java is cheaper than a cup of coffee at Starbucks.

—George Banks, San Leandro

### Call Letter-Writer's Pro-Choice Argument "Intellectually Lazy"

Editor:

To Gerry Mellen ("Wonders Why 'Pro-Lifers' Ignore Unwanted Children After Birth," *Letters*, Feb. 2): Do you know any "Pro-Lifers"? Have you bothered to ask us or any adoption counselors how many families are waiting to adopt children? You say we don't care about kids after birth. This is intellectually lazy. Adoption counselors say there are 30 couples awaiting a chance to adopt a single available baby. Couples

compete with each other to prove they would be good parents. Candidates offer to pay thousands of dollars for the health of the mother through the pregnancy.

Or have you called First Resort here in San Leandro? Or any crisis pregnancy center? This is a free counseling service provided by caring people to women who find themselves pregnant out of wedlock who need support. The caring continues well after birth.

Then there are the foster parents I know. It goes on and on. If you have not seen "uproar about what happens to unwanted children," as you say, maybe it is because adoptions and fostering happen quietly.

"Unwanted babies" is a straw man

argument which you then try to knock down because if babies are unwanted, abortion is justified. The people of your faith would rather kill the unborn baby than be inconvenienced by an unwanted pregnancy. That is despicable. Abortion is defended by so many because people want sex without consequences (thanks, '60s generation), that's why this "straw man" of uncaring Pro-Lifers is used to accuse us without investigating the truth.

To everyone who just parrots this argument, please stop drinking the Kool-Aid by abortionists and put some effort into understanding the facts. Many lives depend on it.

—Corey Anderson, San Leandro

## INQUIRING REPORTER

### Best state to live in?

— Asked at Marina Faire (Doolittle and Fairway)

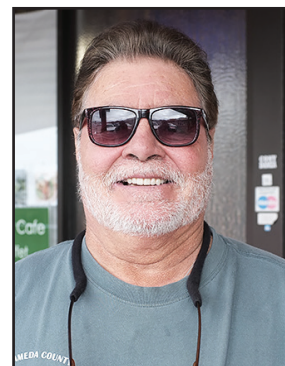
Probably Texas, because California has a lot more unnecessary laws that restrict our freedom.

**David Garcia**  
Hayward



I like California. It's got everything. There's a lot of stuff to do here in the Bay Area, the marina and all kinds of stuff.

**Michael Herrera**  
San Leandro



I would stay here in California. It has everything – the ocean, the mountains, the weather, it's the sixth largest economy in the world.

**Aaron Decker**  
San Leandro



I would stay in California, because of the weather and all the beaches. I like Santa Cruz and Santa Monica, too.

**Josselyn Castro**  
Richmond,  
works in San Leandro



California, man. The weather, the nice scenery, the beaches the hills – everything.

**Cody Nee**  
San Leandro



## Author to Discuss Historical Book at Library

Local Author Martha C. Taylor will discuss her historical book, *From Labor To Reward*, this Saturday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The epic story spans from 1849-1972 and delves into the rich history of African Americans sojourning from the South to San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond, and how they started their own independent churches in a social context of discriminatory practices. The book is a fascinating look into local history, and a way to celebrate and honor African-American History Month. No charge for admission.

## Hear Storyteller Kirk Waller at Library

Celebrate Black History Month with storyteller Kirk Waller on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Waller will share tall tales and true stories in honor of Black History Month. All ages welcome and refreshments will be served after the show. Doors open at 6:50 p.m.

## Pets of the Week



Nutmeg

The Pets of the Week from the Hayward Animal Shelter are Nutmeg the dog and Millie the bunny.

Nutmeg is a sweet pup who loves attention and hugs. She's active, enjoys playtime, tennis balls and squeaky toys. Good with kids 5 years and older.



Millie

Millie is a quiet bunny who loves munching on timothy hay and veggies.

Napping on a soft towel is also a favorite pastime. She's spayed.

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



Bessy



Goofy



Liam



Hufflepuff

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## All Fur Love Adoption

The Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, will host its annual "All Fur Love" pet adoption this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dogs, cats and bunnies will be available at the adoption, sponsored by the Hayward Animal Shelter Volunteers and Assembly Member Bill Quirk. Free adoptions to qualified homes.

The Valentine's Day photo booth will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for a suggested donation of \$10.

For more information, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

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