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FRIDAY



SATURDAY



SUNDAY





Alameda County Teacher of the Year Tony Farley gathers with some of his SLAM students (bottom) Cece Merner, Andre Lopez, Valentino Escobarcerral (top) Ian Chandra, Emmy Saelee, Karen Chuong, Rebecca Hawkey and Wendy Chang.

Colleagues Nominate Farley for Teacher of the Year

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Tony Farley, a physics and multimedia teacher at San Leandro High, has been named one of Alameda County’s teachers of the year.

Farley has been teaching for 20 years and his wife, Cheryl Farley, teaches in the classroom right next door. She was one of a group of colleagues who nominated Farley for the honor.

“I was humbled by the experience,” said Farley.

Farley grew up in Lodi and graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in physics. He started grad school with an eye to-

ward a career in science.

“I was going to be an astronaut, then I wanted to be an astronomer,” said Farley.

But he became disenchanted in grad school and found he liked his work as a teaching assistant, so he eventually became a teacher. But Farley says his background in hard science stays with him in the classroom.

“I have a very tech-based approach to teaching,” said Farley. “I try to make everything very computer-intensive and my style is very project based. I find that when students are building projects, they see a bigger picture than they would in a single lesson. It gets them motivated.”

Farley has spent a summer as a research assistant at CERN in Switzerland and he is the author of The Electric Field, one of the first interactive text books for the iPad.

Outside of the classroom, Farley has a 23-year-old son and he spends his downtime pursuing a variety of athletics. He’s climbed Mt. Rainer and Grand Teton to raise money for charity and completed an Iron Man triathlon.

Farley’s multimedia students are working on a variety of projects. His sophomore students were taking green screen footage from Star Wars and compositing

see FARLEY, page 2

PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Council Seeks to Mitigate Mobile Park Rent Spike

Trailer Haven residents express anxious feelings of vulnerability

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City Council heard the early stages of a plan Monday night that would aid residents of an East 14th Street mobile home park who say they are being priced out of their homes.

When the ownership of Trailer Haven changed hands in September, the residents got notice that their rents would be increasing by up to 25 percent as of the first of the year. Residents of the park own their trailers, but pay rent on the land where the trailer sits.

Trailer Haven’s new owners, Cascade Management, said that the sharp rent increase is necessary to cover fees including increased property taxes and a \$101,000 transfer fee that the city charged when the property was sold.

The monthly rent increase will range between 15 and 25 percent — that amounts to about \$117 for the average trailer pad.

Cynthia Battenberg, the city’s community development director, shared the beginnings of the plan with council that would help mitigate some of that rent spike.

Battenberg said the city could partner with homeowner protection groups and perhaps use the money the city collected from the Trailer Haven transfer fee to provide hardship assistance for the residents.

That possibility will be considered by the City Council at an upcoming meeting.

Cascade is also offering a 10 percent discount for low-income families, but spokesman Brock

see SPIKE, page 16

Police Dept. Outfits More Officers with Body Cams

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Two years after cops first began wearing body cameras, the San Leandro police are buying 10 more cameras to outfit every patrolling officer.

The City Council recently approved \$30,000 from a police grant fund to purchase the cameras from the TASER company. They initially spent \$442,000 on cameras and data storage when the body cameras went into use in 2014.

That brings the total of body cameras in the department to 90, and officers no longer have to share cameras with other shifts.

see CAMERAS, page 14

Swalwell Settles Nerves after Election

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

A month after Donald Trump’s victory in the presidential election, Congressman Eric Swalwell held a forum at Castro Valley High School last weekend to touch base with his constituents who might have some lingering anxiety about our new leader.

“I wanted to have a conversation about the election and what your hopes, concerns and aspirations are moving forward,” Swalwell told the crowd. “In Alameda County, about 70 percent of people woke up the day after the election to see a candidate they did not vote for win.”

Asked if California should secede from the nation, Swalwell laughed off the suggestion, saying that would be giving in.

Swalwell referenced a Muslim family from Hayward who wrote him concerned that the county may no longer be safe for them. He talked about the hundreds of students who walked out of their classrooms in protest of Trump’s victory. Swalwell appealed to the crowd with promises that Democrats in positions of power

see SWALWELL, page 14



Congressman Eric Swalwell addressed a gathering of constituents at Castro Valley High School last weekend.

PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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Local feminist opens exhibit in San Francisco. **Page 2**

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Main Library sets to close for renovations. **Page 6**

THEATER

Beall couple perform in classic holiday plays. **Page 8**

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Celebrate Holidays Historically

Everyone is welcome to attend a merry and traditional holiday celebration at the Casa Peralta, San Leandro's historic house museum at 384 W. Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Casa's halls will be decked with boughs and beautiful holiday décor. There will be plenty of cookies, hot chocolate and other treats to share with family and friends.

Enjoy live caroling and pictures with Santa. Experience a fascinating part of San Leandro history, the world of the Peralta land grant family, and their descendants. Docents will be available to share that history with you as you enjoy the Casa in all its holiday finery.

The San Leandro High School Notables will be performing at 11:30 a.m. in the San Leandro



Casa Peralta, in all its finery, will open its doors for a holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Museum Multi-purpose room next door to Casa Peralta. The museum will also offer tin snowflake craft making and a showing of the film

Farley: Address each student

continued from front page
their own images. And Farley's senior multimedia students are beginning work on a months-long project involved in creating their own videos and websites on a social justice topic.

"Happy Feet" (Rated G).

For more information, call the San Leandro Main Library Information Desk at 577-3971.

San Leandran Directs Feminist Art Show

Leisel Whitlock, a San Leandro woman, is the director of a new art exhibition in San Francisco focusing on feminism.

Whitlock is one of over 50 artists speaking out against misogyny, sexism and discrimination in this new exhibition "F*U! In the

Most Loving Way" — on display from Dec. 17–Jan. 21 at the Arc Gallery located at 1246 Folsom St.

Whitlock's piece "genesis 1:1 the re-education of Eve (my answers may not be your answers)" is social practice art that asks viewers to consider five questions and leave a note if so inclined. Comments will be compiled for online viewing in February.

Of her piece, Whitlock says "Self-love is learned. And for those who exist outside the margins of the 'white' (male, hetero-normative young, thin and rich) ideal, it is learned in the process of rejecting messages that you are not sacred or of significant value. But what is to be done when some of those lessons are inadvertently taught by those who are most dear and then reinforced by oneself?"

Exhibition hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. (closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve). Admission is free.



PHOTO BY LEISEL WHITLOCK

Whitlock's piece "genesis 1:1" asks viewers to answer some probing questions. Their answers will be compiled and released in February.

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You Need the Right Diagnosis to Say Goodbye to

Nerve Pain

There are three types of nerves in the body:

1. **Autonomic nerves.** These nerves control the involuntary or partially voluntary activities of your body, including heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and temperature regulation.

2. **Motor nerves.** These nerves control your movements and actions by passing information from your brain and spinal cord to your muscles.

3. **Sensory nerves.** These nerves relay information from your skin and muscles back to your spinal cord and brain. The information is then processed to let you feel pain and other sensations.

Because nerves are essential to all you do, nerve pain and damage can seriously affect your quality of life.

What Are the Symptoms of Nerve Pain and Nerve Damage?

With nerve damage there can be a wide array of symptoms. Which ones you may have depends on the location and type of nerves that are affected. Damage can occur to nerves in your brain and spinal cord. It can also occur in the peripheral nerves, which are located throughout the rest of your body.

Autonomic nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

- Too much sweating or too little sweating
- Lightheadedness
- Dry eyes and mouth
- Constipation
- Bladder dysfunction
- Sexual dysfunction

Damage to motor nerves may produce the following symptoms:

- Weakness
- Muscle atrophy
- Twitching, also known as fasciculation
- Paralysis

Sensory nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

- Pain
- Sensitivity
- Numbness

- Tingling or prickling
- Burning
- Problems with positional awareness

In some instances, people with nerve damage will have symptoms that indicate damage to two, or even three, different types of nerves. For instance, you might experience weakness and burning of your legs at the same time. To further complicate matters we don't all develop the same way and different un-expected nerves can cause similar problems. This has made it very difficult to diagnose disorders caused by nerve damage based on which nerve "should" cause what.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in technology that detects nerve damage has led to **more precise diagnosis** for those people suffering with nerve damage disorders.

And more precise diagnosis leads to better results... results which have been published in major medical journals. With data published in 2014 showing success rates as high as 88% some back surgeons are recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery (for nerve damage that leads to back pain and sciatica).

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Ramirez Remembered

The family of Joel Ramirez, along with friends and neighbors, will gather this weekend on Kenilworth Avenue, the street where Joel grew up and where he was murdered two years ago in a case of mistaken identity.

A candlelight vigil will be held this Saturday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. to remember Joel and continue the search for justice.

Ramirez had just turned 21 and was attending Chabot College and working when he was shot and killed in his driveway on the night of Dec. 14, 2014.

Joel was living with his family in a detached in-law unit behind a house at the time of his murder. They did not know the people who were renting the front house. After Joel's death, police discovered a cannabis-growing operation inside the front house and determined that Joel and his family did not know it was there.

Last December, about 100 people gathered for a candlelight vigil on a chilly evening to remember Joel, sharing prayers, songs, a video about Joel, and Mexican hot chocolate.

Joel's aunt, Delia Aceves said, "He had such a bright future and then this tragedy changed our world. Help us catch the person who did this so they don't make another family suffer like we are."

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 577-3230 or the anonymous tip line at 577-3278. The city is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to a conviction.



Joel Ramirez's murder remains unsolved.

Alameda County Taking Donations for Victims of Oakland Warehouse Fire

Alameda County has reactivated its Disaster Relief Fund to collect funds to benefit the victims of the tragic fire last Friday at a converted warehouse space in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood. At this time, 36 people are confirmed to have died in the fire.

Activation of the Disaster Relief Fund enables Alameda County employees and people in the community to contribute cash donations to help people affected by the three-alarm fire – the families of those killed and those recovering from their injuries. County employees may also have the option to donate up to five days of their accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday time.

To make a donation, go to <http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>.

The Alameda County Disaster

Relief Fund was initially established in response to the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and has been reactivated numerous times in response to tragedies, both domestic and abroad, including Hurricane Katrina, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami and the mass shooting in Orlando.

"This tragedy hits us all especially hard because it occurred right here in our community," said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Cash and online donations are accepted. Cash donations may be contributed by sending a personal check payable to the

Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, c/o the Auditor-Controller Agency, 1221 Oak Street, Room 238, Oakland, CA 94612. To make an online donation, go to <http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>.

"In the past, county employees and residents have been extremely generous in times of crisis," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. "We created the fund to enable our employees to contribute directly and ensure that local donations will go directly to the people who need our support the most. The most recent event is right in the midst of our community and has directly affected some of our employees and their families."

DAs Settle \$10-million Suit Against Auto Store

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley, along with 50 other California District Attorneys, announced earlier this month that Alameda County Superior Court Judge Brad Seligman has ordered the Missouri-based O'Reilly Auto Parts to pay \$9.86 million as part of a settlement of a civil environmental prosecution alleging the company mishandled hazardous waste.

The lawsuit claimed that more than 525 O'Reilly stores throughout the state unlawfully handled, transported and disposed of used oil, used oil filters, and various hazardous wastes and materials over a 5-year period. Those hazardous wastes and materials included automotive fluids, alkaline batteries, electronic waste, aerosol cans and other toxic, ignitable and corrosive wastes.

During 2013 and 2014, inspectors conducted a series of undercover inspections of waste

bins originating at O'Reilly stores. The inspections revealed that O'Reilly had been routinely and systematically sending used oil, used oil filters and hazardous wastes to local landfills.

The investigation also revealed that O'Reilly was routinely and unlawfully transporting hazardous wastes from its stores to its California distribution centers without required licenses.

The statewide waste inspections revealed that 42 out of 43 O'Reilly stores and both O'Reilly distribution centers were in violation of state law.

There are 20 O'Reilly stores in Alameda County.

Under the settlement, O'Reilly must pay \$6 million in civil penalties and \$500,000 to reimburse the costs of the investigation. An additional \$1.5 million will fund supplemental environmental projects and O'Reilly will also pay \$1.85 million for hazardous waste minimization projects.

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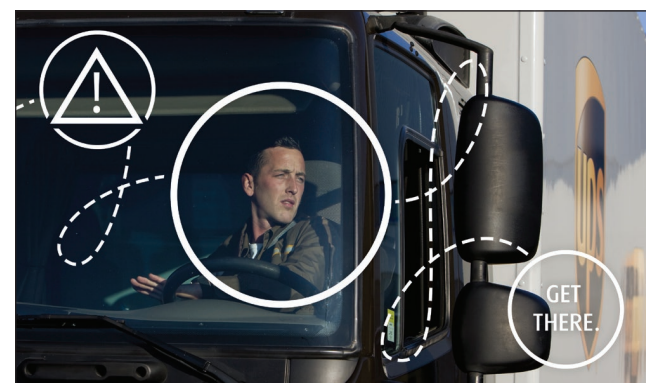
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NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Rich Rangnow admires his fast-growing Chayote plants in his front yard.

They Just Keep Growing

The Chayote plants in Rich Rangnow’s front yard have taken over and he thinks it’s great. Rangnow built a trellis over his driveway and sidewalk so the vines could keep growing. Three stalks now cover his entire front yard. The chayote is a vine that produces a pear-

shaped fruit. The plant is native to Mexico and the tropics and Rangnow says he never needs to water them. He says the plants are supposed to die after Halloween but they just kept growing. “People can’t believe it,” Rangnow says. “All my neighbors say it’s amazing.”

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ Chanticleers Theatre

A *Christmas Carol*, a classic holiday favorite will be presented at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley through Dec. 11. The whole family will enjoy this Christmas classic told in a unique way, along with music of the season. Friday and Saturday shows begin

at 8 p.m., Sundays shows begin at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 733-5483.

❖ **Douglas Morrisson Theatre** *It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* will be presented by the

Douglas Morrisson Theatre at 8 p.m. on Dec. 8, 9, 10, and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 11, at the DMT Theatre, 22311 North 3rd Street in Hayward. For tickets (\$27-\$29), visit www.dmtonline.org or call 881-6777. Enjoy the holiday classic that puts the “heart” in heartwarming.

❖ **Douglas Morrisson Theatre** The Douglas Morrisson Theatre Chorus presents a Holiday Concert under the musical direction of Cesar Cancino Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 15 to Dec. 17, at 8 p.m.; and on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. The Holiday Concert will feature a selection of classical sacred works, popular holiday songs and jazz, as well as audience sing-a-long pieces. Tickets are \$18 adult, \$15 for adult H.A.R.D. resident, \$15

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): our curiosity might not be appreciated by everyone. Expect some resistance in getting answers to your questions. But stay with it. You need facts in order to make important decisions.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Some of the mystery surrounding your recent fiscal situation soon will be dispelled with a clear explanation. Use this new knowledge to help you chart a fresh financial course.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Start your Hanukkah and Christmas gift-buying now. This will help avoid problems caused by possible mid-December delays. A family member has important information.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Use a little more sense in how you plan to spend your end-of-the-year holiday dollars. Meanwhile, you continue to gain support for your stand on a workplace issue.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Wearing that big, loving Lion’s heart of yours on your sleeve leaves it unprotected. Let things develop a little more before you allow your emotions to spill over.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): You might feel you’re not ready to patch up an unraveled relationship. But the longer you wait, the more difficult it will be for all parties to take the first healing step.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Your end-of-the-year holiday plans could be disrupted by something out of your control, but stay the course. Ultimately, things will settle back into a normal pace.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your honest approach to a workplace project earns you both respect and credit from those in charge. Meanwhile, that personal problem still needs to be dealt with.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Money could be a little tight this month. This means the usually bargain-oblivious Sagittarian should look for ways to save on end-of-the-year holidays.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Examine the facts, and you might find that it’s a wiser move to shift gears and redirect some of your goals before the end of the year. Someone close to you offers good advice.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Be careful that your generosity is not abused. Find out more, both about the special favors you might be asked to grant and who is asking for them.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): You’ve come through a recent rough time in great shape. Congratulations. Now go out and enjoy your well-earned rewards. More good news comes in mid-December.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Bancroft School Family Science Night

Bancroft Middle School, 1150 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, is having its annual family science night tonight, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. See science demonstrations and have interactive fun on topics of energy, chemistry, engineering, experimentation and invention. See the science magic show and enjoy liquid nitrogen ice cream. This free event is co-sponsored by Xtreme Science Magic, The Lawrence Hall of Science, and The American Chemical Society.

❖ San Leandro Adult School Open House

The Adult School Career and Technical Education (CTE) will have an Open House tonight, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Adult School, 1448 Williams St. Learn about the certificated training programs and meet the instructors. Most classes begin on Monday, Jan. 9. For more information, call 667-6250 or go to www.sanleandroadultschool.org.

❖ Alta Mira Club Holiday Tea

Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, invites everyone to the Lucille Kline Holiday Tea on Saturday, Dec. 10, at noon. Tickets are \$25. For tickets, call Linda Klass at 914-5684.

❖ Hearing Loss Association

The holiday meeting of the Hearing Loss Association will be on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. This will be a potluck luncheon. The leadership would like to hear from the members which speakers, topics and events offered this year were the most interesting or memorable, and suggestions for future programs. Free parking is available on Saturday in the old garage across from Howe St. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.

❖ All Saints Winter Wine & Dine

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro, will have its Winter Wine & Dine fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. Foods from around the world will be featured, including Scottish, Japanese, Nigerian, Italian and more. Fine Russian River Valley wines and other tasty beverages will be offered. Fabulous prizes will be raffled off. Enjoy both a live and silent auction, and live entertainment. Tickets are available online at tinyurl.com/Dec10WineDine.

❖ Free Family Fun Night & Puppet Show

Join the fun on Family Fun Night Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. All ages will enjoy the classic tale of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, with a fun holiday twist, presented by the Puppet Art Theater Company. Don’t miss a special appearance by Santa after the show. Doors open at 6:50 p.m. Refreshments served after the show.

❖ Fraternal Order of Eagles Bingo Luncheon

The Hayward Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary 1139 will have its holiday bingo luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at noon at the Hayward Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. Ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salad, rolls, sweet potato pie, cake, and coffee or tea will be served. A donation of \$8 will include one bingo card.

❖ St. Gerard Women’s Club Bake Sale

The members of St. Gerard Women’s Club will hold its Christmas bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. John the Baptist Catholic

Church, 264 E Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo. Bake sale begins after the 4:30 p.m. Mass and after all the Masses on Sunday, Dec. 18, starting at 7:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will also be available on Sunday along with a raffle after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

❖ Bob Grazzini Memorial Crab Feed

The Buon Tempo Italian Club presents the Bob Grazzini Memorial Crab Feed on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Transfiguration Catholic Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. No host cocktails from 5 to 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person, paid in advance, no tickets sold at the door. Make your reservations on the Buon Tempo dinner line at 483-6929 or send your check to Rick Martens, PO Box 2625, Fremont, CA 94536. Make your check payable to: Buon Tempo Club.

❖ St. Felicitas Christmas Luncheon

St. Felicitas Parish, 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro, hosts its monthly Young at Heart Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 21, with baked ham and pineapple sauce, potato casserole, peas and carrots, corn bread, dessert, and coffee or apple cider. Tickets are \$6. Entertainment and door prizes at each luncheon. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Tickets may be purchased at the parish office, 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro, Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets must be purchased no later than the Monday before the luncheon.

❖ Hayward Area Historical Society

The Hayward Area Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, presents *Local Botanical Beauties, Then and Now*, guest curated by Mary L. Harden School of Botanical Illustration, in the Community Gallery through Jan. 8, during the museum’s hours, Wednesday though Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This exhibit of watercolors shows the variety of plant life that once dominated the landscape of the Hayward area as well as plants that are still seen in the foothills and gardens.

❖ Memory Cafe

Memory Cafe, 294 Broadmoor Blvd. in San Leandro, is a comfortable place for people with dementia and their caregivers to come for a cup of coffee and time to share stories and a sense of community every Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. The cafe rents space in the Community Center of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. Join volunteers of the nonprofit Memory Day-ByDay and help them celebrate everyone’s history and life. For more information, call 931-9336 or 876-5880.

❖ 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.

❖ Christmas Concert & Vegetarian Dinner

Celebrate Christmas in the serene atmosphere of Badarikashrama with enchanting music and numerous vegetarian dishes on Sunday, Dec. 25, at 3 p.m. at 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro. This year, Subhangi Sakhalkar, one of the Bay Area’s top Hindustani vocalists, will be accompanied by Vivek Datar on harmonium and Nikhil Pandya on tabla. For reservations, call 278-2444. Space is limited but no one will be turned away. This event is free and open to all.

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.

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SENIORS

Unmarried Partners Should Give Estate Planning Top Priority

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

Q My partner and I have been in a non-marital relationship for approximately 10 years. Unfortunately, she is showing signs of early dementia, and her children from her former marriage are trying to take over her financial and personal life in a manner which is not in her best interest.

We do not have anything formal recognizing our relationship, nor even any basic estate planning documents.

Do you have any thoughts as to how we can legally empower each other to manage the other's affairs when the time comes?

A Unfortunately, your situation is all too common. Whether her children's behavior is motivated by concern for their parent, or by their perceived need to protect their own inheritance, the situation can definitely complicate

your lives and lead to unintended consequences.

If you have not married, not filed formal documents to become Registered Domestic Partners (RDPs), nor created an estate plan recognizing your relationship, then, in the eyes of the law, neither of you would have the legal right to manage the personal or financial affairs of the other.

Some of the situations that could arise in this circumstance might include the following:

1) When she becomes incapable of making decisions for herself, her children, rather than you, would have legal standing to petition the court to become her conservators, with the associated legal right to control her care, manage her finances, determine where she lives, and even bar you from visiting if they were so inclined.

Further, if you now live in her home, they might even force you to vacate;

2) Unless you were designated as a signer on any of her

bank or brokerage accounts, you would have no legal authority to draw upon her funds to pay her bills;

3) Upon her demise, you would have no legal right to become her estate administrator in the event a probate proceeding were necessary, nor any standing to be treated as an heir or beneficiary of her estate.

In short, if your relationship is not formalized and if you have not created an estate plan for yourselves, the law would treat you as merely her friend, rather than as a spouse or family member. As a result, you would have little if any legal rights.

One remedy for this situation is to create an estate plan which recognizes your relationship and, to the extent each of you so desires, designates the other as the agent, executor, successor trustee and/or beneficiary of each other's estates.

However, merely because your plan may recognize each other in some fashion does not mean that her children, nor

yours, if you have any, would need to be entirely left out.

Example: If she owns the home you live in, she could give you the legal right, if you are the survivor, to remain in the home rent-free for the rest of your life with the home going to her children only after your demise.

Since you indicate your partner is showing signs of early dementia, it will be important

to first establish her mental capacity to sign legal documents. In this regard, a letter from her physician so affirming will be helpful.

The key is to start planning now and place a high priority on completing your plan soon.

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



Gene L. Osofsky

EyeCare America Helps Save Seniors' Sight

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

It's a fact of life: When people reach their senior years, they are at high risk for developing age-related eye diseases that can lead to blindness if not caught and treated in time.

The good news is that people can take steps to protect themselves. The first step is to get a simple, painless eye exam by an ophthalmologist, the medical doctors that detect and treat these conditions.

To help seniors who haven't seen an ophthalmologist in three

or more years, the American Academy of Ophthalmology's EyeCare America program may be able to help.

This public service program has been matching Americans 65 and older with volunteer ophthalmologists across the country see *SIGHT*, page 9



Age Well Drive Smart

As we age, factors such as vision changes and slower reflexes can affect the ability to react to hazards swiftly. According to the CDC, an average of 586 older Americans are injured every day in vehicle crashes. The good news is there are corrective steps people can take to stay safe on the road.

Join us for a FREE class
Thursday, December 15
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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Wednesdays at All Saints:

10:45am Bible Study

12:00pm Celtic Earth Mass
with Contemplative Prayer



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Holiday Concert

The Dayton Elementary School Choir is comprised of 106 fourth- and fifth-grade students who give up recess and class time to rehearse. They will present their Third Annual Holiday Concert at Bayfair Mall on Wednesday evening, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. near the Food Court. The kids will perform many holiday favorites such as "Joy to the World", "I Saw Three Ships", "Masters in this Hall", and "Jingle Bells", as well as some original seasonal selections. Diane Rook is the director and she is assisted by Debi Rico.

Main Library Closure

The San Leandro Main Library is set to receive new carpet and furniture over the upcoming holiday break. In order to complete the scheduled improvements, the Main Library, including the meeting room wing, will be closed from Monday, Dec. 19, 2016 through Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017.

During the closure, community members and library card holders may take advantage of enhanced service hours at the branch libraries, as well as extended rental time of checked-out materials. San Leandro has three branch libraries: Manor Branch Library, located at 1241 Manor Blvd.; South Branch Library, located at 14799 E. 14th St.; and Mulford-Marina Branch, located at 13699 Aurora Dr.

The renovation project was made possible by leveraging local Measure HH revenue and a donation from the San Leandro Public

Library Foundation. The Foundation generously provided funding for furniture and project design. Outreach material regarding the closure also will be distributed at all City facilities and will be made available in Spanish and Chinese.

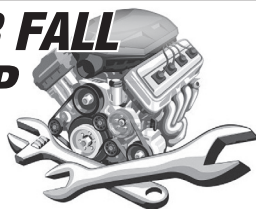
The City of San Leandro greatly appreciates the public's patience as this temporary closure will allow for a significantly enhanced visitor experience to San Leandro's world class library. The 87,000-square-foot library is equipped with many facilities that will continue to be available to the public following the carpet and furniture upgrades, including a computer lab, free high-speed internet access, study tables and a collection of over 250,000 books.

For more information about the closure, contact the Information Desk at 577-3971 or visit the Library's website at www.sanleandrolibrary.org.

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Bancroft Remembers Irving Berlin

Bancroft Musical Theatre in partnership with Opus Theatre Works presents "Remembering Irving Berlin" on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at The San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave. The free concert features such favorites as: "Stepping Out With My Baby", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "White Christmas" and "There's No Business Like Show Business". This evening of incredible music features over 50 Bancroft Middle School music and theatre students — directed by Meghan Michelle McGovern, and choreographed by Meghan McGovern and Leo Diaz. Bancroft Middle School Choir is directed by Susan Dent.



FLOOD ZONE

IS YOUR HOME IN THE FLOOD ZONE?



The City of San Leandro continues to participate in the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Flood Insurance Rating System and achieved a Class 8 designation that enables residents in FEMA-designated flood zones or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) to receive discounts of up to 10 percent on flood insurance.

Properties in the flood zone that have federally backed loans are required to have flood insurance. If you are unsure whether your home is in the flood zone, we will gladly provide you with flood zone information. Please send your name, email address, phone number and the site address you are inquiring about by:

- Email to: jsmithjr@sanleandro.org -or-
- Phone: City's Flood Zone Information Hotline at 510-577-3413

Flood zone maps can be viewed at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal> or at the City's Division of Building & Safety Services located on the 1st Floor, City Hall at 835 E. 14th Street.

Ways to Reduce Flood Risks

There are approximately 3,000 homes that are in San Leandro's flood zone, the following are steps all residents can take to reduce flood risks.

- Residents are encouraged to assist in maintaining the flood control channels in their areas by removing or reporting obstructions (such as shopping carts, leaves, debris, trash, etc.). To report obstructions or illegal dumping, or for questions regarding flood control channels, please contact Alameda County Public Works Agency's Maintenance and Operations Department at (510) 670-5500.
- Keeping storm drains free of obstructions reduces flooding in the event of heavy rains. To report obstructions or illegal dumping, or for questions regarding the City's drainage system maintenance, please contact Public Works – Water Pollution Control Plant at (510) 577-3434.
- Do not drive or walk around road barriers where roads or pathways may be flooded or washed out.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.
- In the event of home flooding, turn off electricity.
- Do not use appliances or motors that get wet unless they are taken apart, cleaned and dried.
- Elevate or relocate electrical panels, furnaces, water heaters, washers and dryers.

Building in the Flood Zone

Though all development within the city requires a permit, there are very specific requirements when building in the flood zone. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Division of Building & Safety Services at (510) 577-3405 and/or the Engineering Division at (510) 577-3428 before you build on, alter, fill, or re-grade on any portion of your property and/or within any easement or right-of-way. To report any suspected permitting violations, please contact Division of Building & Safety at (510) 577-3405.

Local Actors Perform In Holiday Classics

Long-time San Leandro residents Judy and Matt Beall have been performing on Bay Area stages since 2003 — after being inspired by watching their daughter, Jennifer.

While often appearing together, this season they are both playing multiple roles in two separate local holiday productions, each with a similar and universal theme of redemption and fresh starts.

Judy will appear in "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" opening Dec. 1 at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre in Hayward. This unique production of the heartwarming well-loved story is performed as a live 1940's radio broadcast with onstage sound effects and musical accompaniment.

Matt is currently on stage in "A Christmas Carol" at Chanticleers Theatre in Castro Valley. Based on the Charles Dickens' tale, this adaptation of the classic



Judy Beall

holiday favorite is told in a clever new way, also with music of the season. Both productions are appropriate for families.

Come celebrate the holidays and remember what is truly important in life.

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre runs through Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets available online at www.dmtonline.org, in person Tuesday-Friday from 1 to 5 p.m., or by calling 881-6777.

"A Christmas Carol" at the Chanticleer's Theatre can be seen at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays



Matt Beall

and at 2 p.m. on Sundays — now through Dec. 11. Tickets are available online at www.chanticleers.org or by calling 733-5483.

Girls Softball

San Leandro Girl's Softball will hold in-person registration on Friday, Dec. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Puerto Bello Restaurant, 14680 Washington Ave., in San Leandro. Open to girls 4-14 of all playing abilities from San Leandro and all surrounding cities. For more info, contact Leo Sheridan at 510 909-7152 or visit www.sanleandro-girlssoftball.com.

Building Futures Seeks Holiday Donations

Making the season brighter for children and adults re-gaining their lives after homelessness and family violence, Building Futures will provide new holiday gifts for every single individual and family served at the San Leandro Shelter, Sister Me Home Safe House, Midway Shelter, Bessie Coleman Court, and through the Housing and Domestic Violence intervention programs. In all, the generous community will help provide for 300 children and adults.

Items needed for children include pajamas and slippers, underwear and socks, hats, gloves, scarves, clothing and shoes, educational toys, puzzles and books, craft and hobby kits, outdoor toys, multi-racial dolls, and character nightlights.

For teens, Building Futures seeks fashion accessories, art supplies, books, shaving kits, beauty items, sports equipment and gift cards (\$25 or less) for retailers like Amazon.com, Target and Old Navy, or for activities like Alameda Theatre, and Century and Regal Theatres.



TIMES FILE PHOTO

Last year, Girl Scout Troop #31110 collected gifts for Building Futures.

For adult clients — pajamas, slippers, bath and body kits, skin care products, new socks, and gift cards to retailers like Safeway, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, and gas stations are needed.

Please bring unwrapped gifts to Building Futures' office, 1395

Bancroft Ave., in San Leandro on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by Dec. 16.

For questions about holiday gift drive donations, contact Kaeleigh Thorp at kthorp@bfwc.org, or 357-0205, ext. 205.

Donors may also make secure online gifts at www.bfwc.org.

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Sight: People 65 and older should get an eye exam annually

continued from previous page
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EyeCare America volunteers provide eligible seniors with medical eye exams often at no out-of-pocket cost, and up to one year of follow-up care for any condition diagnosed during the initial exam for the physician services. The program also offers a glaucoma eye exam to eligible, uninsured individuals who are at increased risk for

glaucoma, determined by their age, race and family history.

Visit the website www.aao.org/eyecare-america to see if you or a loved one is eligible.

There are also other ways EyeCare America can help:

● Drug Discounts

EyeCare America's new drug discount card can help people save up to 80 percent on drug costs. It can be used as often as needed at over 65,000 pharmacies nation-

wide, including all major chains. The card can also be shared with friends and family.

It's free, with no fees or registration, and it never expires. Download the card today and start saving by visiting the Assistance with Medications page at the website www.aao.org/eyecare-america.

● Eye Exams

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends that

people 65 and older get medical eye exams with an ophthalmologist on an annual basis. Through comprehensive eye exams, ophthalmologists can check a person's eyes for hidden signs of eye disease, which may have no noticeable symptoms in their early stages.

Once diagnosed, ophthalmologists can provide treatments to help prevent vision loss. Learn more about eye dis-

You may be able to improve your sight and get a free eye exam. Contact EyeCare America at www.aao.org/eyecare-america.



How Much Will You Pay for Medicare in 2017?

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

There won't be much of a cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits next year, but what about Medicare?

Considering the rising cost of health care coverage, the news regarding your Medicare costs for 2017 is not too bad. Here's what you can expect.

■ Part B Premiums

Because the Social Security Administration is giving out a measly 0.3 percent cost of living increase starting in January – that equates to about a \$4 to \$5 monthly increase on average – the 2017 Part B monthly premium for about 70 percent of Medicare recipients will increase only about \$4 to \$5.

Thanks to the Social Security Act's "hold harmless" provision, Medicare cannot pass along premium increases greater than the dollar increase in their Social Security checks.

So, if your Medicare Part

B monthly premium is currently \$104.90, you can expect it to be around \$109 (on average) in 2017. Or, if you signed up for Part B for the first time in 2016, your \$121.80 monthly premium will rise to around \$127 (on average) next year.

■ Some Will Pay More

Unfortunately, the hold harmless provision does not protect all Medicare recipients. New Medicare enrollees (those who will enroll in 2017), beneficiaries who are directly billed for their Part B premium, and current beneficiaries who have deferred claiming their Social Security will pay more.

If you fit into any of these categories, your Medicare Part B premium will be \$134 per month in 2017, up from \$121.80.

The hold harmless rule also does not protect high-income Medicare beneficiaries who already pay higher Part B premiums because their annual incomes are above \$85,000 for an individual or \$170,000 for a couple.

If you fit into this category,

here's what you'll pay for your Part B premium next year, based on your 2015 tax returns.

- Individuals with incomes of \$85,000 to \$107,000, or married couples filing joint tax returns with incomes of \$170,000 to \$214,000, will pay \$187.50 per month.

- Individuals earning \$107,000 to \$160,000 (couples \$214,000 to \$320,000) will pay \$267.90.

- Individuals with incomes of \$160,000 to \$214,000 (couples \$320,000 to \$428,000) will pay \$348.30.

- Individuals with incomes over \$214,000 or couples above \$428,000 will pay \$428.60.

Another increase high-income beneficiaries (those with incomes over \$85,000, or \$170,000 for joint filers) need to be aware of is the surcharge on Part D premiums. Affluent seniors that have a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan will pay an additional \$13.30 to \$76.20 per month, depending on their income, on top of their regular Part D premiums.

■ Deductibles and Co-Pays

Other changes that will affect all Medicare beneficiaries include the Part B deductible, which will increase to \$183 in 2017 from \$166 in 2016.

The Part A (hospital insurance) annual deductible will also go up to \$1,316 in 2017 (it's currently \$1,288) for hospital stays up to 60 days. That increases to \$329 per day for days 61-90, and to \$658 a day for days 91 and beyond. And the skilled nursing facility coinsurance for days 21-100 will also increase to \$164.50 per day, up from \$161 in 2016.

For more information on all the Medicare costs for 2016 visit Medicare.gov and click on "Find out how much Medicare costs in 2017," or call 800-633-4227



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

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



HGTV Skews Buyers' Perspective

Today's buyers know what they want, and are willing to pay more for it

Twenty years ago, real estate was fairly simple: Realtors picked a few homes for their clients to see, drove them around to their choices and then asked them to write an offer for one of them. While they might go out a few times, the process was fairly simple and straightforward.

HGTV has changed everything.

We've owned three separate homes since we moved to California in the '80s, and none of the homes we looked at "back in the day" were staged.

None were extensively prepped and zero owners had

done anything to upgrade the homes for sale. In fact, when looking for our first property, my wife joked that she bought the first clean house she saw. And, according to her, it took a while to find one.

Today's sellers not only understand that homes need to be clean, they know that if they want top dollar, some preparation will be required.

Whereas prep 20 years ago was typically limited to an interior coat of stark white paint, today it can involve kitchen and bath remodels, designer colors, new flooring and more. Buyer tastes and expectations have

dramatically changed, and I lay the blame squarely at the feet of HGTV.

Buyers used to understand that it would usually take some elbow grease and imagination to make a newly purchased home their own. More often than not, they'd move in and then begin to plan future renovations and upgrades.

When touring homes now, today's buyers frequently tell me that they cannot buy a given home because they'd have to do too much to it to make it "livable." In their words, it would need new baths, new kitchens, new flooring and much more.

Most importantly, it would all need to be done before they moved in — the idea of doing renovations while living in the home has become unpalatable. And here is the rub: they have absolutely no idea what a renovation might cost and no concept of how to get the look they want.

The current generation of buyers may have no idea how to transform a home like they see happening on TV, but they do know what they want, and will pay extra for homes that are not only move-in ready, but resemble homes they see on HGTV or the internet. In some cases, a lot more.

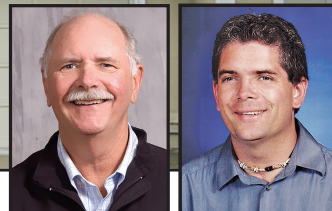
It's a new day, and I know exactly who to blame.

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.



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This highly upgraded Pleasanton townhome is located in Del Valle Manor on Stanley Boulevard — just a short walk to downtown. Features include 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths and upgrades throughout. Offered by Robert Jones and Associates with offices in Downtown San Leandro, 142 Joaquin Ave. For more information, call 357-0120.



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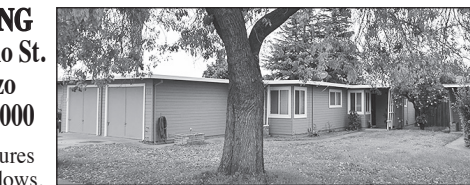
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Poinsettia Plants Prefer Cool Temps

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q Could you tell me what I need to do in order to keep my poinsettia plants from withering away so quickly?

A The leaves on poinsettia plants turn yellow, curl and shrivel quickly due to warm temperatures and excessive moisture. It's a perennial problem that I thought would have been conquered by today's plant breeding techniques, but not so as yet.

Poinsettias like to be kept in a cool room, preferably under 65°F. They also need to be kept away from heater vents and operating fireplaces. Plants placed lower to the ground perform better than those up high because of the rising heat. Also, avoid placing plants in a draft, especially by doorways as the sudden change in temperature causes problems.



Excessive moisture is usually the reason why the flowers and leaves of the poinsettia plant collapse.

Plants displayed outdoors in a protected entryway will survive even on the coldest of nights.

The warmer the room, the quicker the leaves shrivel; however, the colorful bracts or flowers are not usually affected.

When the flower and leaves collapse, excessive moisture is usually the reason. Poinsettia

plants like to be kept uniformly moist. Before watering, stick your finger down an inch in the soil. If it feels moist to the touch, then skip the watering but don't let them go totally dry. This wet to dry to wet conditions is problematical.

Be sure to punch a hole in the decorative covers so the water can drain, and dump any excess water that collects in saucers.

You might consider cyclamen or zygocactus as a red or white alternative plant. They are not as finicky indoors.

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



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RECENT HOME SALES**San Leandro**

750 Bancroft Avenue	94577	\$880,000	3 BD - 3,088 SF - 1938
169 Durant Avenue	94577	\$580,000	4 BD - 1,568 SF - 1944
1536 Kelly Avenue	94577	\$565,000	4 BD - 1,335 SF - 1942
900 Lee Avenue	94577	\$697,500	2 BD - 1,616 SF - 1928
14023 Outrigger Dr #15	94577	\$465,000	2 BD - 962 SF - 1985
1750 150th Avenue	94578	\$485,000	N/ABD - 1,480 SF - 1977
1476 153rd Avenue	94578	\$482,000	3 BD - 1,176 SF - 1994
15956 East 14th St #315	94578	\$367,000	2 BD - 918 SF - 2008
15111 Lark Street	94578	\$570,000	3 BD - 1,914 SF - 1951
15224 Edgemoor Street	94579	\$540,000	3 BD - 1,763 SF - 1950
15239 Inverness Street	94579	\$570,000	3 BD - 1,421 SF - 1952

TOTAL SALES: 11**LOWEST AMOUNT:** \$367,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$565,000**HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$880,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$563,773**San Lorenzo**

578 Cornell Street	94580	\$535,000	3 BD - 1,733 SF - 1950
16124 Hesperian Blvd	94580	\$600,000	4 BD - 1,316 SF - 1944
118 Via Bolsa	94580	\$620,000	3 BD - 1,493 SF - 1950
38 Via Verde	94580	\$545,000	3 BD - 1,623 SF - 1951

TOTAL SALES: 4**LOWEST AMOUNT:** \$535,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$572,500**HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$620,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$575,000**Castro Valley**

19187 Alpha Court	94546	\$875,000	4 BD - 2,689 SF - 1991
18666 Crest Avenue	94546	\$580,000	3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1953
2500 Miramar Ave #301	94546	\$400,000	2 BD - 1,148 SF - 1982
4278 Moreland Drive	94546	\$602,000	3 BD - 1,509 SF - 1952
20883 Rutledge Road	94546	\$370,000	2 BD - 804 SF - 1942
3977 Seven Hills Road	94546	\$635,000	2 BD - 1,320 SF - 1953
2041 Vivian Street	94546	\$850,000	4 BD - 1,891 SF - 1944
17969 Columbia Drive	94552	\$800,000	3 BD - 1,890 SF - 1985
25599 Gold Ridge Drive	94552	\$1,000,000	4 BD - 2,475 SF - 1997
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18749 West Cavendish Dr	94552	\$937,000	4 BD - 2,292 SF - 1978

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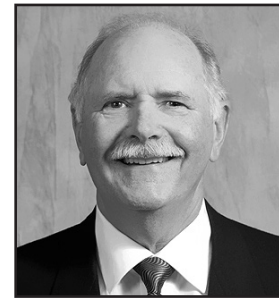
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Cameras: Adds a layer of transparency

continued from front page

Unlike many other police departments which require mandatory camera use on duty, in San Leandro, it is up to the officer's discretion whether to turn the camera on or off.

According to Lt. Robert McManus, that trust in the officer's discretion has led to a three-fold increase in the use of the cameras since they were issued.

"It takes getting used to," said McManus. Now, he says the officers find turning on the cameras as routine as checking in with dispatch.

The police say they want their actions recorded because the video can be used as evidence in a case and it also "ensures professionalism

and adds another layer of transparency," McManus said.

In San Leandro, the body camera footage is stored for one year if they record an incident related to a crime, three years if it's misdemeanor, and indefinitely if it's a murder. All the footage is stored for 180 days even if it doesn't relate to a crime that is prosecuted because it could still be useful.

Case in point—the city recently settled a lawsuit brought by a man who was put in chokehold and lost consciousness while being arrested for alleged intoxication.

Body camera footage recorded the arrest. Eventually, it came out that the man wasn't drunk and no charges were ever pressed, but the

footage was still being stored and was used as evidence in the suit.

"If there is any sort of complaint, we have the ability to review," said McManus.

In another incident, Alameda County Sheriff's deputies believed their cameras weren't rolling when they beat car theft suspect Stanislav Petrov with batons after a car chase from Foothill Boulevard in the unincorporated area into San Francisco last November.

But it came out that one of the deputies accidentally turned his camera on in the melee and the entire incident was also caught on a nearby building's surveillance camera. When the footage was made public by the public defenders'



All SLPD officers will be outfitted with a body camera.

office, it led to public outcry and the arrests of two deputies.

Those deputies, including the one who inadvertently turned on his camera, have been charged with assault with a deadly weapon, assault under color of authority, and battery resulting in serious injury.

Swalwell: Congressman vows to work with Trump 'if he is sincere' on projects

continued from front page

Infrastructure seems like one aren't about to roll over for the new regime.

"It's hard to see friends and supporters in tears and so anxious," said Swalwell. "A lot of people felt powerless."

Judging by the "I'm with Her" bumper stickers on the cars in the parking lot and where the (mostly white, mostly over 50) standing-room-only crowd applauded and booed during Swalwell's talk, it's safe to say it was an overwhelming Democratic audience.

But one man in a "Make America Great Again" hat spoke up to ask a question. He wanted to know when Alameda County would get infrastructure funding.

Swalwell promised to prioritize extending BART out to Livermore and said he's also working on a non-partisan project to close the gap between the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and the ACE train station that serves commuters over the Altamont Pass.

Last month, House minority leader Nancy Pelosi said she'd work with Trump to pass an infrastructure jobs bill.

Swalwell agreed, saying he'd "work with Trump if he is sincere about infrastructure projects and eliminating lobbyists' influence."

Pelosi also recently named Swalwell as co-chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, so he says he'll have more influence on his party's future.

Swalwell, like many other Democrats, acknowledged that Trump's win was at least in part a response to the perception that coastal liberals are out of touch with middle America and said he's ready to get to work unifying the country.

"I'm not powerless," said Swalwell. "You sent me back to Washington to support you. I don't feel hopeless, I'm ready for what's ahead."

LOCAL DEATHS

SAN LEANDRO TIMES OBITUARIES

may be emailed to: obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Include a phone number. Brief death notices are published free. Longer-length notices, including pictures, are available for a fee. For assistance, please call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558.

Craig Joseph Liebelt

69, of San Leandro, passed away on October 13, 2016, from natural causes.

Craig was born in Oakland on October 24, 1946. He graduated from Castlemont High School and continued on to graduate from the police academy.

Craig worked as a Detective for San Leandro Police Department for 29 years. He enjoyed fishing and camping.

Craig is survived by his mother, brother, son, daughter, grandchildren, and other family and friends. Craig is preceded in death by his father, daughter and two brothers.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. at Santos Robinson Mortuary located at 160 Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Cancer Society or Children's Diabetes Association.

He was loved very much and will be missed greatly.

Floyd Richard Overby

September 14, 1933 – November 28, 2016 • Resident of Lafayette

Floyd Richard Overby was born in Findley, North Dakota. He was the youngest of the four children of Alph and Josephine Overby. He graduated from Saint Olaf College then attended the University of Iowa Medical School. After two years in the Army, he went on to specialize in urology. On August 15, 1964, Floyd married Marie Carolyn Anderson of Montevideo, Minnesota. The couple moved to California at the end of 1965 and Floyd joined a urologic practice with two associates. Floyd and Marie bought their first house in Oakland and lived there for 14 years before moving to Lafayette. By this point, Floyd was in solo practice with offices in San Leandro and Castro Valley, and Marie was busy with their three children, Sara, Andrew and Paul.

Floyd was active in Boy Scouts with his two sons, Andrew and Paul, who both achieved the level of Eagle Scout. Floyd enjoyed working in his garden after a long day of practicing medicine. He had a rose garden containing over 40 rose bushes. Floyd's other interests included singing in the church choir and reading — particularly biography and political books.

Floyd reluctantly retired from urology in June of 2006. He had served as Chief of Staff at Doctor's Hospital in San Leandro for one year during his practice and also served as a Mental Health Commissioner in Contra Costa County for several years, and on the board of NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness). He truly enjoyed his 50 years of practice and had long-term relationships with many of his patients.

Less than two weeks after his retirement, Floyd returned to the hospital, this time as the patient instead of the physician. For the next 10 years, Floyd battled an increasing number of health challenges, including cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's, diabetes and strokes. Floyd faced his growing limitations with grace and dignity, aided by devoted care from his wife of 52 years. With her help, he was able to remain in their home until the end of October.

Floyd is survived by his wife, Marie; his children, Sara, Andrew and Paul; his sister, Peggy Alberg; his twin brother, Phillip (Eve) Overby; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, in Lafayette, CA 94549 (oslc.net). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Our Savior's Lutheran Church or to Putnam Clubhouse, 3024 Willow Pass Road, Suite 230, Concord, CA 94519 (putnamclubhouse.org).

ANDRADE, Lourdes A.
BRADSHAW, Claire A.
LIEBELT, Craig Joseph
OVERBY, Floyd Richard

■ ANDRADE, Lourdes A., a longtime resident of San Leandro, passed away on December 6, 2016, at age 62. Visitation will be at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. A vigil service will be held on Tuesday evening at St. Leander Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Funeral Liturgy will

be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at St. Leander Church in San Leandro beginning at 10:30 a.m. Interment to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

■ BRADSHAW, Claire A., of San Leandro, passed on November 24, 2016. A Funeral Service celebrating her life was held on Monday, Dec. 5, at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com). Interment was at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward.

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OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

Dark School Crossing Called 'Potential Death Trap'

Editor:

Now that the dark evenings are upon us, the school crossing at Chetland and Dutton Ave. by Roosevelt School is a potential death trap for anyone attempting to cross after 4:30 p.m. The lack of lighting here is a tragedy waiting to happen!

Yet again, last night, I was almost hit by a car whilst in the crosswalk, the third time in as many weeks. I cannot blame the drivers, as it's impossible to see a pedestrian if they are crossing. As for the two flashing amber lights that are there, they're completely useless!

With property taxes soaring, along with paying some of the highest sales tax in the country, can someone at City Hall please install extra crosswalk lighting here? I'm tired of taking my life in my hands just to collect my daughter from school.

—Michael Walsh
San Leandro

City's 'Adopt-a-Storm-Drain' is a Not-So-Funny Joke

Editor:

Look, I know storm drain maintenance is a serious matter. But the "Adopt a Storm Drain Near You" story on page 1 of the December 1 Times was more appropriate for an April 1 edition.

Asking residents to perform an expected city service such as this is a joke. And the protocols are ludicrous. Tracking the months in which vigilance and action are required, and borrowing tools from the city, if necessary?

What is not funny is the City's apparent lack of resources to properly care for critical infrastructure. Why are we being asked to assume this responsibility when, one can assume, sales tax revenues and real estate transfer fees are up strongly, and voters recently approved an extension of the county levy for roadway maintenance, etc.? What's happening to those monies? Why didn't the city make this appeal when it had major revenue shortfalls during the last recession?

Moreover, the city, by its own estimates, expects to accommodate up to 15,000 new residents in coming years, a good number of whom will exacerbate the current storm-drain-litter problem.

Once again, the people who are paying ever increasing taxes and fees at each of our interfaces with government, are not receiving full value for our dollars. San Leandro must do better than this.

While I will respect the residents who respond to the city's "invitation," I for one believe this idea is one thing that should go down the drain.

—Fred Reicker
San Leandro

Visitor Who Fell Thankful for Local Good Samaritans

Editor:

I was a visitor to your fair city this past weekend. I was walking alone near the bay behind the Marina Inn, I lost my footing and fell, hitting my face on the pavement and broke my nose.

I was bleeding quite profusely and a bit stunned. My mind was racing as to

how I would manage this situation when four or five Good Samaritans came to my rescue. They called 911 for me and helped me to sit up and clean off some of the blood and protected me from traffic until the first responders arrived.

Unfortunately, I don't remember names except for a dog named Mr. Pickles. Everyone was so nice and reassuring. I do extend my deep appreciation to everyone who assisted me. Being a stranger in town, I couldn't have asked for better.

Thank you!

—Jennifer Fuchs
Rockford, Illinois

'Outdoor Adventure' Turns Into Unplanned Muddy Rescue

Editor:

During the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, this San Leandro grandfather and his one-year-old grandson, Erik (aka "Rico") experienced an outdoor adventure complete with water rescue at Lake Chabot Regional Park.

Since Rico is already taking baby steps, I parked his stroller at the trailhead near the park entrance and we toddled off-trail together, hand-in-hand, to get a closer look at the water fowl. Due to rainfall earlier in the week, the grassy slope leading down to the duck pond was treacherously muddy underfoot. Suddenly, we lost our footing.

Instinctively, I wrapped my arms around Rico and we sped downhill like a two-man bobsled team in the Winter Olympics. As we neared the water's edge, I somehow managed to deposit Rico safely onshore and regain my footing in the shallows. Although grandpa and grandson were covered in mud, our kindred spirits were not dampened, which was fortunate because our great outdoor adventure was just beginning.

Climbing back up the slippery slope was out of the question due to the muddiness of the conditions. Sensing our predicament from across the pond, a concerned citizen hailed the park personnel who quickly came to our rescue in a motorized rowboat.

Rico's first boat ride was free courtesy of the kindness of our rescuer, Robert Hernandez, himself the father of four children. A second park employee, Ian Cornelius, was successful in helping me find my eyeglasses which I had lost during the downhill. The specs had landed in a near-sighted, sumac bush.

Needless to say, Rico and I had a lot of explaining to do when we returned home. Thankfully, his mother and grandmother both found our bobsledding and water rescue highly amusing. "Boys will be boys."

—Doug Okamoto
San Leandro

'Crushed and Disappointed' By Theft from Christmas Display

Editor:

Today seemed longer than most. I went to work excited because its officially Day One on the countdown to Christmas and I was looking forward to rushing home and turning on the lights on my home.

Instead, this afternoon I came home after a long day at work to find decorations missing from my Christmas display.

I feel crushed and so disappointed in my community.

Every year for the past nine years my housemates and I have constructed Christmas displays, each one different from the next. And every year we have the pleasure of hearing the laughter of the children and families who stop by to enjoy them. We were even visited by the vice mayor one year.

This year, the giant teddy bear has been a hit with the teen crowd as well, but our cheap little Mickey Mouse (who has been the only constant in all the displays) always gets his moment and the younger ones would always gravitate toward him to have their picture taken.

It seems that a photo was not enough. Mickey has been stolen, along with a few candy canes. Ironically we have a stash of real candy canes on hand to give to the little ones when they stop by with mom and dad.

I'm so disappointed that my urge is to dismantle the display entirely and leave just a sign with a photo of what was.

My neighborhood is heavily patrolled by the police so I never thought someone would even consider it. Are there others who experience this type of vandalism in our community? Is this why there aren't more cheerful displays around?

Anyway, thanks for letting me vent. The lights will remain off tonight as we mourn the loss of our Mickey. My only hope is that he's now bringing joy to at least one child who will remain oblivious to the cause of his existence. May he or she be protected from the teachings of the adult responsible.

Best wishes to you for the season!

—Dayne Nichols
San Leandro

Burning of American Flag Not Protected by First Amendment

Editor:

Amendment 1: Forty-five words which have many meanings. For those who pledge loyalty to the flag, veterans, Americans, keep pledging loyalty to this great flag.

Saying it is alright to burn the flag by hiding behind Amendment 1 is absolutely ridiculous.

To me, burning the flag is abominable and always will be.

—Earl Cava
San Leandro

Opposes San Leandro Becoming A Sanctuary City

Editor:

Do not make San Leandro a "sanctuary city." We should be against the idea.

This policy forces police to be uncooperative with ICE in the apprehension of law-breakers, illegals. An illegal alien killed Officer Nieme from the San Leandro Police force by shooting him seven times. This left his wife and two kids without their husband/father, our police force aggrieved of a valued officer.

Anyone remember Kate Steinle? She was shot and killed in San Francisco by an illegal alien. He had been deported five times. *Five times*. Diane Feinstein said "Well, we should deport him." Again?

What good did it do the other five times, Diane? He just came back, and shot Kate dead. This illegal was on ICE's radar, but San Francisco refused to cooperate with ICE, and he killed Kate. I lay that right at the feet of San Francisco Supervisors. Would they be accessories to murder when they could have prevented it?

It is a good point to ask: Will San Leandro lose any federal money if we endorse this deplorable idea, but I ask will we be sued like San Francisco is being sued by the Steinle family? I hope the Steinles win big against San Francisco. This was a murder that need not have happened.

We all know there are criminals in our midst. We are losing our minds over this "inclusive" attitude which encourages more criminality. I will not lose my daughter or wife to an un-vetted illegal in our midst if I can possibly help it. These "undocumented," as many have recharacterized it, have broken the law right away by coming into this country and circumventing our immigration laws,

pushing their way past people from other countries who went through the legal process and waited to become citizens. Let's not encourage that.

I think our laws should be followed. Otherwise, we are encouraging lawless deeds like these murders to continue on. God forbid one of you should lose your daughter, or husband, or father, as these families did.

I am encouraging our city council not to join this madness. Please join me and write your city council and our mayor that you want sanity in our city policy and not to become a "sanctuary city."

—Corey Anderson
San Leandro

INQUIRING REPORTER

Best mode of transportation?

— Asked at the San Leandro BART Station

A bike. It's cost effective. It's more feasible if you're low income, because the cost of living is so expensive here. You just have to watch out – predict the worst in drivers. I'm from Sacramento and public transit is good here.

Rachel Hammitt
Oakland, works in San Leandro



Not BART. It's a 4-car train to and from San Francisco – standing-room only. I take the 4:34 a.m. train and it's never on time. It used to get to San Francisco before 5 a.m. and now it's 5:10 or 5:15.

Eileen Alldridge
San Lorenzo



I think BART, because it gets you there fast and it's quiet and it's easy access.

Alicia Rivera
Oakland



Well, I use BART. I take it five days a week. The first train is four cars and it's crowded but a later train has nine cars.

Rafael Linares
San Leandro



I have a car but I prefer BART. Absolutely. Hands down. I get a free parking space in the city but I still take BART. Sometimes there are delays but I love it.

Reggie Harris
San Leandro



Spike: City Council would like to see new owner do more for residents

continued from front page

Kaveny said they haven't had a lot of takers for that program.

Trailer Haven resident Maxina Ventura says that's because a lot of the residents don't feel comfortable sharing their financial information with the owners. She also says that the discount that Kaveny is offering can be changed or cancelled at any time

and without warning, so it still leaves the trailer residents feeling very vulnerable.

"There is no stability in this," Ventura told the council, calling the offer a "smokescreen."

Ventura went on to share the story of an elderly neighbor who told her that he hopes he passes away before his savings runs out.

"That's what we are facing," said Ventura.

The members of the City Council told Kaveny they'd like to see his company do more for the Trailer Haven residents, beyond the 10 percent discount.

"I've seen it too often, San Leandro people getting priced out of their homes by outside companies," said Councilman Jim Prola.

Councilwoman Corina Lopez called the 15 to 25 percent rent hike "excessive" and "extreme."

And Councilman Benny Lee asked Kaveny what the owners could do for residents who can't afford the rent hike even with the 10 percent discount.

"The worst thing that we can hear as a council is someone who can't even make up that difference in their rent," said Lee.



TIMES FILE PHOTO

When Cascade Management took ownership of Trailer Haven mobile home park on E. 14th Street in September, the residents got notice that their rents would be increasing by up to 25 percent as of the first of the year.

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Square One Yoga Invites All to 'Write for Rights' Campaign

Square One Yoga in San Leandro invites you to join them on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. to participate in Amnesty International's (AI) "Write for Rights" campaign, which takes place through Dec. 31.

The AI campaign is a collective action to help end human rights violations, and it's the largest letter-writing event in

the world.

Each year, AI chooses 12 cases throughout the world, and hundreds of thousands of people worldwide write letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders, and others at risk of human rights violations.

Last year, 3.7 million people wrote letters, Tweets, emails, and messages. In 2016, so far, 4 of the

12 cases were rectified, resulting in five people being freed.

To RSVP and get complete information about the event, contact Cherie Turner at 798-1806 or send an email to clouiseturner@yahoo.com.

If you wish to learn about the cases beforehand, visit write.amnestyusa.org. The event is free and open to the public.

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