

Making Music

BAND AND ORCHESTRA CLASSES BACK AT SAN LORENZO HIGH SCHOOL ... 8



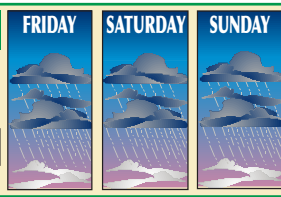
Keys, Please

WHEN SHOULD SENIORS GIVE UP THE FREEDOM OF DRIVING? 9



WEEKEND WEATHER

RAINY Showers persist through Sunday
HIGHS: 56-61
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 47-52



San Leandro Times

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

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SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

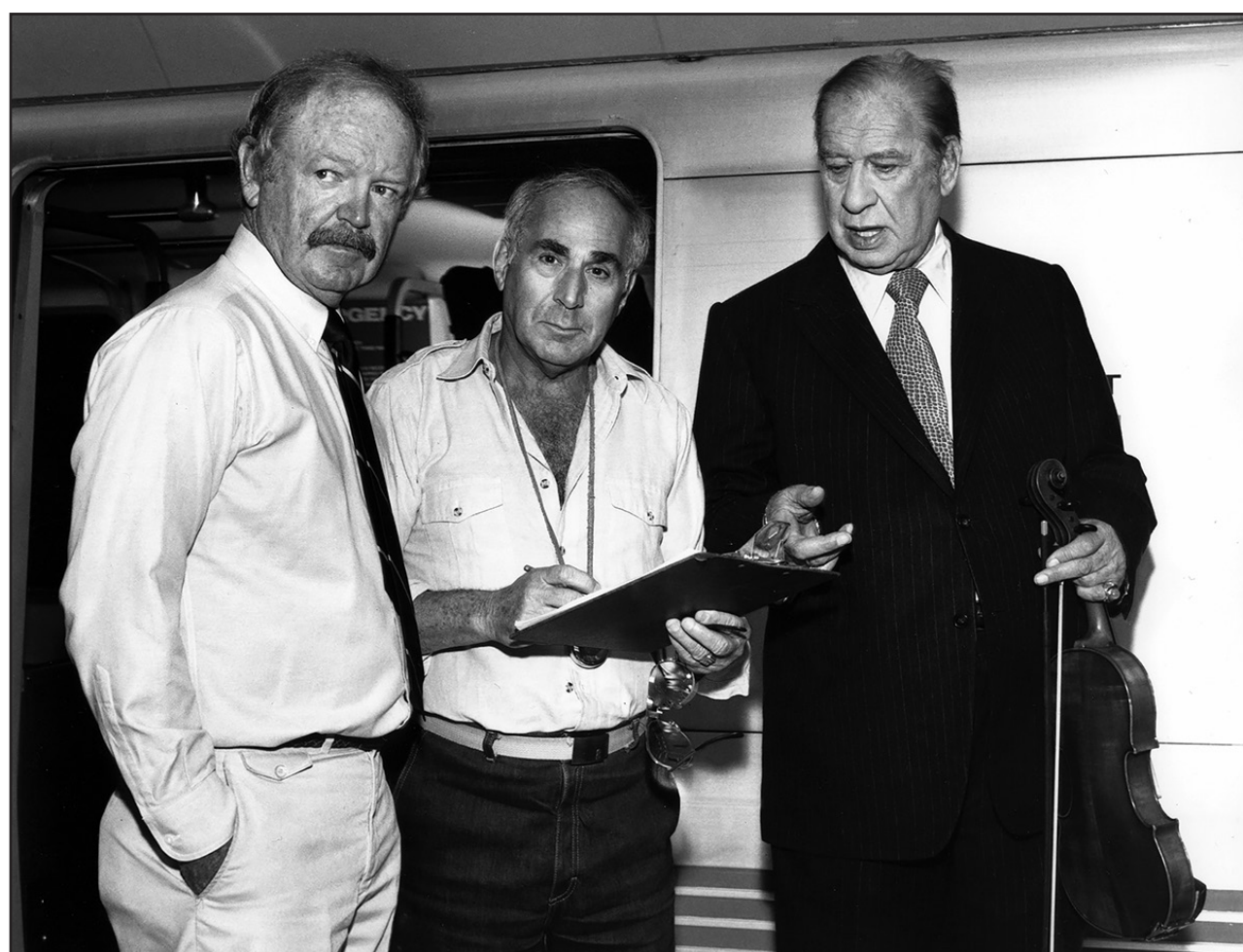


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE HEALY AND HEYDAY BOOKS

From left, BART former public information chief and author Mike Healy with ad man Eddie Spizel and comedian Henny Youngman prepare to shoot a commercial for the "Take Your BART, Please" ridership campaign in 1988.

Spokesman Compiles BART's Highs, Lows

By Linda Sandmark
San Leandro Times

As today's commuters scramble for seats on crowded Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) trains, it's hard to imagine a time before the BART system even existed. Yet there were many years — particular-

ly in the 1970s — when BART riders were scarce and funding even scarcer.

In fact, during the 1960s when the system was conceived and constructed, many locals questioned the wisdom of even building what is now the backbone of Bay Area transit.

BART's longtime spokesman Michael C. Healy — nicknamed "Mr. BART" — has penned a new book about BART's history, from its conception through the present day.

BART, The Dramatic History of the Bay Area Rapid Transit System contains enough see BART, page 6

EBMUD Water Floods Golf Course

Redwood Canyon Golf Course natural flood plain for excess water

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

During last week's heavy rains, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) made the decision to release water from the Upper San Leandro Reservoir and flood a golf course in order to prevent harm to a dam.

The course flooded on Jan. 23, which is designed to happen when EBMUD need to release a lot of water from the reservoir.

But the Redwood Canyon Golf Course was almost back to business as usual by this Tuesday morning with select holes open for play as the course dried out.

The front nine and a couple of holes on the back nine are playable, according to Redwood Canyon general manager Jake Stewart. And the restaurant, pro shop, bar and grill, and driving range are all open during normal business hours.

"There are still parts of the course that are flooded," said Stewart. "It's unfortunate but Mother Nature is Mother Nature."

Now, Stewart says it's simple a matter of waiting for the land to dry. He said there has only been minimal damage to the course.

The Upper San Leandro Reservoir is in the Oakland hills and water from the reservoir flows down into Lake Chabot though San Leandro Creek.

The flooding happened be-

cause the Upper San Leandro Reservoir had neared its capacity of 42,000 acre-feet. Water had to be released though the San Leandro Creek which runs see GOLF COURSE, page 14

Pols, Citizens Disagree on Eden Health

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Politicians ranging from San Leandro Mayor Pauline Cutter, to Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, to Assemblymember Rob Bonta have made it clear that they want to dissolve the Eden Township Healthcare District (ETHD) and have its funding absorbed by the county.

But citizens of the unincorporated areas say the ETHD is vital in making sure people in Castro Valley and San Lorenzo are represented just as well as people in cities like Hayward and San Leandro.

Castro Valley resident Elke Sommer said that the various politicians and agencies trying see EDEN, page 14

Hesperian School Goes Organic

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

The students at Hesperian Elementary School didn't need pencils and paper for their latest assignment.

They used shovels and buckets, turning Hesperian into the greenest school around.

On the Monday holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday, Hesperian School was a buzzing with kids, teachers and parents. They turned the old, dilapidated garden into a beautiful space, covered with mulch and planter

boxes.

"The garden was all weeds and we're making it more pretty," said fourth-grader Alberto Aguilar, who added, "You need compost to make vegetables."

Hesperian School, on Drew Street in San Leandro, is now recycling and composting all its waste, too.

"Our school was throwing everything into the garbage, but now all our waste is separated with mulch and planter see GARDEN, page 8



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Students dig compost for garden at Hesperian School.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

NEW YEAR

Welcome the Year of the Rooster. Page 2

NEWS

Fred Korematsu remembered on birthday. Page 3

BOOKS

Library re-opens with new carpet, furniture. Page 16

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



Welcome the Year Of the Rooster On Saturday at Library

The San Leandro Public Library invites everyone to a Lunar New Year celebration on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Karp/Estudillo rooms at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Admission is free.

Welcome the Year of the Rooster with fun crafts, beautiful music, exciting dancing, and lion dancers. The performances scheduled for this celebration will delight guests of all ages and include the lion dancers of Vovinam Viet-Do-Dao of San Jose, Alex the Master Magician and dancers from the Thai Cultural Council of Berkeley.

Free Asian craft-making sessions for children will be hosted by the Asian Community Cultural Association (ACCA) of San Leandro. Beverages and snacks

will be available for purchase.

Chinese Fashion Show

Preceding this program in the same rooms from 1 to 2 p.m. will be a free fashion show of costumes direct from China that will be hosted by the ACCA. This collection of 56 beautiful costumes represents the diverse cultures and minority groups of China.

The collection was donated by Yu Chen Wu Yue Clothing & Accessories Co., Ltd. Of Beijing, China and was organized by the San Leandro Public Library, Dasen American Academy and the ACCA.

A free exhibit of some of these costumes will be on display in the Main Library's atrium through Feb. 20.



Alan Coyne appears in *Charley's Aunt '66* at the Douglas Morrison Theatre Feb. 9 through March 5.

Playwright Re-imagines Classic Farce With a Modern Twist

The Douglas Morrison 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.

SL Art Association Elects New Officers

The San Leandro Art Association announced its new officers for 2017 with Molly Dolly taking the help as the association's president.

Jane Tsushima is vice president, Marcia O'Kane is treasurer,

and Ana Maria Rodriguez is the recording and corresponding secretary.

The board members are Rosemarie Ramos, Ana May Tandil, Gayle Otvos, Maria Luisa Penaran-

da, Kathy Ries, and Janis Cushere.

Officers will be installed during the regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. in the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

San Leandro Times

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN DIONISIO

Happy Lunar New Year

In honor of the Lunar New Year, the sixth graders from St. Felicitas visited the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco last week. The museum has one of the largest Asian art collections in the world, with more than 18,000 works of art, some as much as 6,000 years old.

Remembering Civil Rights Pioneer Fred Korematsu

Monday, Jan. 30, marked what would have been the 98th birthday of civil rights activist Fred Korematsu.

Born in Oakland in 1919, Korematsu objected to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized that individuals of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast to be removed from their homes and forced into internment camps.

Korematsu challenged the order and became a fugitive.

Korematsu worked at his family's nursery in San Leandro during high school and when World War II began, he was rejected for military service for medical reasons but trained as a welder to help the war effort. After Roosevelt's executive order, Korematsu was arrested on a street corner in San Leandro on May 30, 1942. He was held at the Presidio during his trial, convicted in federal court, and then he was placed in the Central Utah War Relocation Center where he lived in a converted horse stall.

His conviction for evading internment was not overturned

until the 1980s and in 1998, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civil honor.

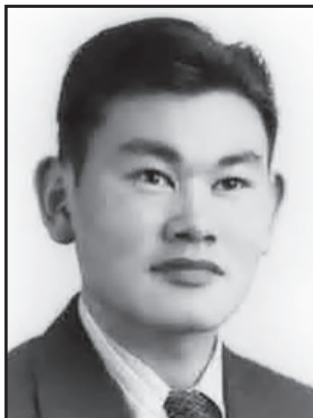
In the years before his death, Korematsu worked with civil rights groups and wrote two amicus briefs after the September 11 attacks warning about the restriction of civil liberties.

Korematsu passed away in 2005 in Marin County.

In 2009, the Fred T. Korematsu Institute was founded in to carry on Korematsu's legacy as a civilian rights advocate and educator.

In 2011, the state of California named January 30 the "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution."

In the past few years, eight



Fred Korematsu

other states have named days in his honor.

Closer to home, the ninth grade campus of San Leandro high school is named after Korematsu.

Dozens of License Plates Stolen From Parked Cars in North Area

Thieves have stolen dozens of license plates from parked cars in the Broadmoor neighborhood, San Leandro police say.

There have been 25 reports of stolen plates in the residential area since Jan. 21, according to Lt. Robert McManus of the San Leandro police.

The license plate thefts have been going on for a couple of months in this neighborhood, according to Broadmoor residents. Thefts were first reported in the

San Leandro Times last December ("License Plates Stolen in Broadmoor," Dec. 1, 2016).

The plates are stolen when its dark out and they've been reported stolen from the 700-800 block of Bancroft Avenue, the 500-600 block of Begier Avenue, the 700 block of Glen Drive, the 400 block of East Merle Court, the 500 block of Haas Avenue, the 900 block of Helen Avenue, and the 1100 block of Victoria Court.

"We don't know why anyone would steal this many license plates," said McManus in a written statement. "There could be many reasons, including selling them as novelty items, using them as art, or possibly, attaching them to cars used in crimes, hoping to avoid being identified by detectives and escape capture."

Police encourage anyone who has also been victimized by this type of theft, but hasn't reported the crime to contact them. Investigating officers will enter the stolen license plates into a national database which can assist in the arrest of offenders and recovery of the stolen plates.

Once the license plate number are uploaded into the database, patrol cars equipped with license plate readers will alert officers.

Anyone with information is asked to call 577-3230 or the anonymous tip line at 577-3278.

Mental Health of Cadet Murder Suspect Investigated

An Alameda County Superior Court judge has temporarily halted the criminal proceedings against a woman accused of killing her former coworker in order for the suspect's mental health to be evaluated.

Laura Rodgers, 23, is accused of killing San Leandro resident and former Alameda County Sheriff's Office Explore Karla Ramirez-Segoviano, 21, last November.

Ramirez-Segoviano's body was found stabbed and burned in an Oakland park. Rodgers and her boyfriend Curtys Taylor, 23, were arrested for the crime.

The victim and Rodgers had previously worked together at a fast food restaurant, but no

motive has been released for the crime.

Last week, Rodgers' attorney told the court that he has trouble communicating with his client and asked that she be evaluated by court-appointed doctors.

Man Escapes Custody on I-880

A man being extradited to Kentucky escaped custody Tuesday morning just before 10 a.m. while he was being driven to San Francisco International Airport.

Shawn New, 27, got out of a car driven by Kentucky authorities on I-880 near A Street in Hayward. He is wanted for fraud and ID theft. Anyone who spots him is asked to call 911.



Shawn New

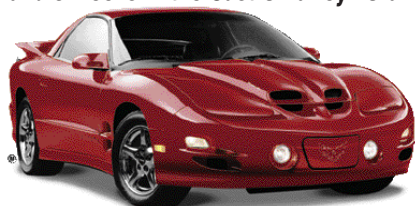
CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Alta Mira Celebrates 110th Birthday

The Alta Mira Club celebrated its 110th birthday last week with a luncheon and police Chief Jeff Tudor (at right) was the guest speaker. Tudor talked about growing up in San Leandro and his work today at the police department. He said community outreach is important and the department is doing more of that than ever before. Tudor is shown here with City Manager Chris Zapata, City Councilwoman Corina Lopez and Alta Mira Club President Gayle Hamilton.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Chanticleers Theatre Castro Valley with a traditional champagne gala on Friday, Feb. 3 and runs through Feb. 26. 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 \$20 on bargain night Feb. 4; \$25 for general admission; \$20 for seniors, students and military. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit chanticleers.org or call 510-733-5483.

Douglas Morrisson Theatre The world premiere of 'Charley's Aunt '66, a wonderfully silly farce by Scott Munson, comes to the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward, beginning with a preview on Thursday, 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.

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.cvarts-foundation.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.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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- ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** The changes you've waited to see in your work situation might not be happening quite as quickly as you'd hoped. Although the pace is slow, it's ongoing. Expect to hear news soon.
- TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** You should be feeling very proud of the fine effort you've made to get that important project done. Now take some time out to celebrate with family and friends. You've earned it.
- GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You're close to reaching your objectives. That's the good news. But be careful: Your aspects show lots of potential distractions looming. Stay focused and keep your eyes fixed on your goals.
- CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Be careful not to let that suspicious Cancerian mind create a problem where none exists. What you might believe is an act of betrayal could be nothing more than a misunderstanding.
- LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Your Lion's heart overflows with self-confidence. All you need to do is tap into it, and you'll be able to handle any change that must be made regarding that recent surprise development.
- VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** The need to watch what you say becomes increasingly crucial this week. Be as temperate as you can with your comments and avoid arguments for the sake of controversy.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** A longtime family problem presents new demands. But this time, you won't have to go it alone: Someone else is asking to help share your responsibilities. Let it happen.
- SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** A period of feeling vulnerable is about to give way to a stronger, more self-confident aspect. Use this new strength to reaffirm promises you've made to others and yourself.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** A creative dilemma stalls your progress. Instead of letting it raise your ire, use the time to re-examine your aims and, perhaps, come up with a new target.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Your nimble will finds a way for you to work out those newly emerged problems plaguing your new project. Stay with it. The results will be well worth your efforts.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** You might feel overwhelmed at having to decide which new opportunity you should follow. Best advice: Check them all out and see which offers what you really want.
- PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Continue to tread water before you even consider plunging into something that never seemed quite right. Some facts will soon emerge that can help you make a decision.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Readers Roundtable

The Readers Roundtable will meet on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. *The Green Road* by Irish author Anne Enright will be discussed. All are welcome.

❖ I.D.E.S. of Saint John Lunch & Bingo

I.D.E.S. of Saint John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will have lunch and bingo on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m. Chicken, vegetables and rice will be served. Lunch is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 6 to 12 and includes three bingo cards, extra cards are 25 cents apiece. Raffle at 3 p.m. For more information, call Willie Calvo at 635-6326 or Helder Quadros at 357-5846.

❖ Fashion Show at the San Leandro Library

The Asian Community Cultural Association (ACCA), Desan American Academy and the San Leandro Library will present a display of 56 traditional costumes from the minority groups of China. Twenty-four of the colorful costumes and head pieces will be hung on the second-floor walls of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., through Feb. 20. The remaining 32 costumes and head pieces will be featured in a fashion show on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. in the Karp and Estudillo rooms of the Main Library. Acclaimed local author Pam Chun will share information about the 56 minority groups. There will be limited seating at this free event.

❖ Diabetes Support Group

The Diabetes Support Group will host cardiology specialist Dr. Aditya Jain, M.D. in honor of heart month to discuss "Keeping Your Heart Healthy" on Monday, Feb. 6, at 5 p.m. at the San Leandro Surgery Center, 15035 East 14th St. in San Leandro.

❖ Sons In Retirement Meetings

SIRs, an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Wedgewood Center at Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr. in Oakland. Happy Hour starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Great guest speakers. Guests are welcome. Come and meet new friends. For more information, call MEL at 357-0601.

❖ 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 Valen-

tine 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. Last day to purchase tickets is Tuesday, Feb. 7. For more information, call the parish office at 895-5631.

❖ 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.

❖ 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.

❖ The Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast

The Hayward/Castro Valley Kiwanis Club will have a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 18, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Kenneth Aitken Senior Center, 17800 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. The cost is \$10 per person for adults, \$30 for a family of 4, \$5 for children from 5 to 10. Proceeds go to community projects and scholarships. Come join the fun with a cake walk, basket raffles, silent auction, and door prizes. For more information, call 886-1100.

❖ Join the Marines for Coffee

Don't be just a former Marine, join other Marines, past and present, once a month on the second Saturday at 0900 hours at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, for coffee, doughnuts and friendship. All are welcome. For more information, call Bobby Ferreira at 460-0636.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

Lexus Updates RX; Goes Hybrid

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

Hard to believe, but the Lexus RX has been around since 1988. Back then, it looked futuristic, and was already heading the direction the entire vehicle industry has gone since — car-based crossovers that look a bit like a sport-utility vehicle (SUV).

For 2016, the RX receives a whole new look and feel. Lexus vehicles originally were smooth, pleasant, and kind of vanilla. It wasn't until the spindle grille appeared that the cars began to take on more personality.

The new model features a "floating" roof treatment — the first for Lexus, but not the first ever. This trend appears on cars as diverse as the Nissan Murano and the brand-new Chevrolet Bolt EV.

The first RX was the RX 300; today's gasoline version is the RX 350, with the growth of its V6 engine to 3.5 liters. It cranks out 295 horsepower and 267 lb.-ft. of torque.

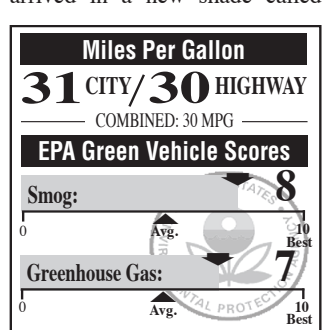
Now, you can opt for a hybrid version. The hybrid uses a variant of the 3.5-liter engine, mated to an electric motor, which together send out 308 horsepower and 247 lb.-ft. of torque. The RX 350 comes as front- or all-wheel drive (AWD), but the hybrid is AWD only.

What do you get with the hybrid model? Well, fuel efficiency for one thing. The EPA numbers say 31 City, 30 Highway and 30 Combined. Compare that

to the RX 350 AWD's 19 City, 26 Highway, and 22 Combined. I averaged 28.9 mpg, which is gratifyingly close to the EPA Combined score.

The hybrid gets an 8 for Smog and 7 for Greenhouse Gas, giving it EPA Certified SmartWay status. The RX 350 makes do with a 7 for Smog and 5 for Greenhouse Gas — and no SmartWay. Significantly, while the 450h puts out 299 grams of CO2 per mile, the 350 emits 405. So, stepping into the 450h does make a difference.

This is a Lexus, so you expect — and receive — lots of comfort, style and features. My test vehicle arrived in a new shade called



Autumn Shimmer. Walking up to it, I'd ask two things. What color is Autumn Shimmer? What were the designers thinking?

The Lexus folks were tired of dull, so they have now become the opposite. There are lots of slices and creases flowing along the sides from that maw up front and onto the tail.

The RX joins its brethren on the showroom floor looking ready to pounce and eat you. Nobody will mistake your ride for a Mercedes-Benz, who are

heading the opposite direction, featuring soft sensuous shapes. You won't be confused with a BMW, either. They are returning to post Chris Bangle conservatism and "sausage" styling. The latter term means the 3, 5 and 7 series sedans, for example, look very similar, just in different lengths.

Inside, along with the carefully assembled, high-quality plastics, are wood trim with meandering silver accents. Stitching on the doors runs parallel and then crosses over itself at one point. The seats are sublimely comfortable, and it's nearly silent in there when you have the premium 12-speaker audio system turned off.

This car isn't an all-electric vehicle, but it has a gauge to show how the motor is doing. There's an industry-standard Charge/Eco/Power meter so you can measure how hard you're working the drivetrain. Charge means you're generating power and Power means, well, you're using some of it. The ECO setting is where you want the needle to sit.

I drove one day in EV mode on a 43-mph cruise through town. But, realistically, both engine and motor trade off. There's no plug to charge up the battery — it's all regenerated — so driving gently does put the motor a little more in the spotlight.

So, what's the price difference? The all-wheel-drive RX 350 starts at \$45,460, while the 450h begins at \$53,975. These prices include the "Delivery, Processing and Handling Fee."



The front view of the new RX 450h is characterized by an emboldened version of the Lexus brand's signature spindle grille.

You can save \$1,400 on an RX 350 by declining all-wheel drive.

My test 450h had some extras, including the safety benefit of Blind Spot Monitoring and Rear Cross-Traffic Alert (\$800). The Lexus Safety System (\$2,250) brings in more, with triple-beam LED headlamps too. The touch-free power rear door (\$200) is an

industry trend.

The Luxury Package (\$3,125) adds upgraded leather seats, a wood-and-leather steering wheel, a bump to 20-inch rims, and a bunch of other stuff that should probably be standard. The Navigation system seems cheap at \$430. Bottom line — my car retailed at \$61,420.

As with all luxury cars, there's much too much to list here. If you want the stone honest reliability of a Toyota, some real distinction when you park in front of Restoration Hardware, and some seriously high-tech safety equipment built in, you can't really go wrong with Lexus' best-selling model.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Earlap is missing; 2. Jacket is different; 3. Scarf end is shorter; 4. Dock is missing; 5. Cloud is smaller; 6. Sign is different.

FIG. 1 Puzzle

Card

LAY OUT 24 ICE-CREAM STICKS as shown in fig. 1. Then, bet your friends that they can't form three squares by moving four of the sticks to new positions. The answer is shown in fig. 2

TOPSY-TURVY!

Below we have three cups mouth up and three cups mouth down. In three moves, turning over any two adjacent cups at a time, change the order of these cups to mouth up, down, up, down, up, down.

Answer: First move, turn 2 and 3; Second move, turn 3 and 4; Third move, turn 4 and 5

IT'S MAGIC!

Use the numbers 7 through 16 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and each vertical column should total 53. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you.

		21	5
20	6		
	23		
			22
[53]			

Our answer: First row: 12, 15, 21, 5; Second row: 20, 6, 11, 16; Third row: 7, 23, 13, 10; Fourth row: 14, 9, 8, 22

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A BOYS' NAMES PUZZLE

Illustrated by David Coulson

Below are 16 boys' names you'll need to complete the puzzle grid above. Use the trial-and-error method.

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| CARL | NEIL | OTTO |
| CONAN | NIGEL | ROYAL |
| EBEN | NOLAN | SETON |
| EDSEL | ORSON | SILAS |
| EVERS | OTIS | YATES |
| NALDO | | |

Answers: (Across) 1. Eben; 2. Conan; 3. Carl; 4. Roy; 5. Nolan; 6. Orson; 7. Nigel; 8. Otis; 9. Otto; 10. Seton; 11. Yates; 12. Silas; 13. Naldo; 14. Neil; 15. Royal; 16. Edsel

BART: Notables Ali, Nixon, Prince Charles came to check out BART

continued from front page
entertaining anecdotes and behind-the-scenes machinations to create a lively read.

"It was a two-and-a-half year labor of love," says Healy, who was asked to write the book by BART General Manager Grace Crunican. "I always joke that I knew where all the bodies were buried, and found a few more as I did research for the book."

California was an automobile culture in the '60s, and suburbs in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Mateo counties were considered "crabgrass frontiers" which might never use a train system like BART.

Agreements with dozens of cities, unincorporated areas, and public and private entities were sought over the years, affecting the placement — and cost — of the initial 12 stations and those that followed.

On September 11, 1972 the first 18 cars were available for the system's grand opening. Over the years, notables from various walks of life came to check out BART, including boxer Muhammad Ali, former presidents



BART FILE PHOTO

A BART train heads south in 1972 with the Oakland skyline in the background.

Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, Britain's Prince Charles and former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and King Gustav

of Sweden. A low point came in 1979 when the system closed down twice, once during a lengthy labor dispute and another time after a fire in the Transbay tube.

"That was a horrendous year for the organization, and certainly for me," says Healy.

In 1988 BART hired comedian Henny Youngman to promote ridership. Youngman, who was famous for saying, "Take my wife, please!" appeared in advertisements saying, "Take your BART, please!"

"That became a very suc-

cessful venture, despite a lot of skepticism. Everyone seemed to know and love him," Healy says of Youngman.

But BART's finest hour came in 1989 after the Loma Prieta earthquake, when a section of the Bay Bridge roadway collapsed.

Fortunately BART's transbay tube was unscathed by the magnitude 6.9 temblor — in fact, passengers inside the tube hadn't even felt the earthquake.

It quickly became apparent that the Bay Bridge repairs would take months.

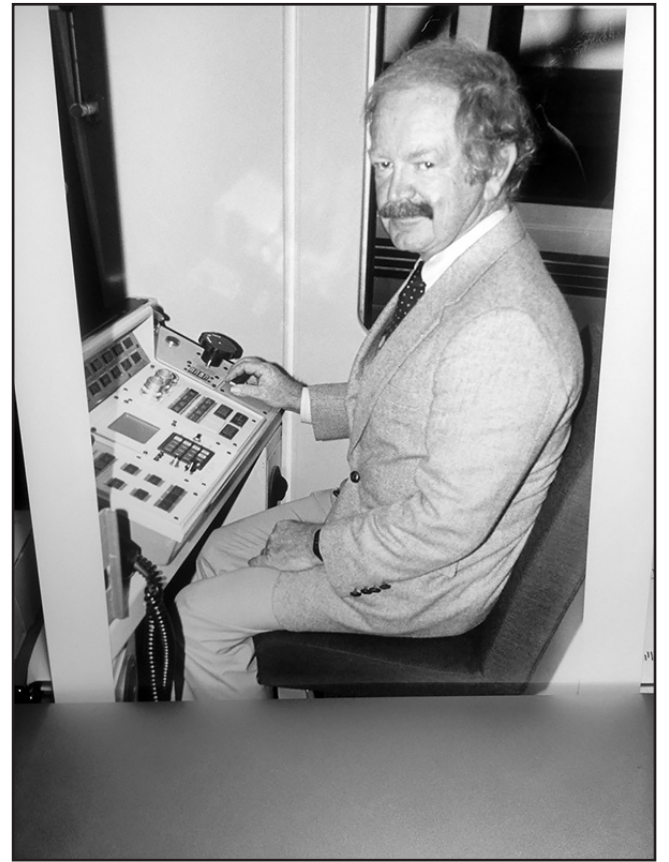


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE HEALY

Author Healy in the cab of an early BART train.

"BART became the only game in town for commuters," notes Healy. Ridership shot up by 20 percent, and many new riders remained converts from that point on.

BART made worldwide news as it filled in the San Francisco Bay Area's transit gap. Healy even got U.S. Congressman Don Edwards to include BART's contributions in the Congressional Record.

Numerous scandals and the system's "growing pains" are also included in the book, warts and all. The year 2017 will mark BART's 45th year of service, and anyone interested in how the system evolved will enjoy Healy's book.

"BART, The Dramatic History of the Bay Area Rapid Transit System" is printed by Heyday Publishers of Berkeley, 510-549-3564 (\$20 paperback, e-book available) ISBN 9781597143707. Available from bookstores and Amazon.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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46	47	48			49		50				
51				52		53				54	55
56				57					58		
59				60							61

ACROSS

- 1 Tavern
- 4 Tosses in
- 8 Slays, "Sopranos" style
- 12 Altar affirmative
- 13 Voice in an iPhone
- 14 Law office aide, for short
- 15 "Sinker"
- 17 Caspian feeder
- 18 Teut.
- 19 Financial rescue
- 21 Decapitate
- 24 Fish eggs
- 25 Greek vowel
- 26 Coffee holder
- 28 Family member
- 32 Tatters
- 34 Physique
- 36 Grabbed
- 37 Astronaut John
- 39 Speck
- 41 Work with
- 42 Wet wriggler
- 44 Persistent attacks
- 46 Bug
- 50 To the ___ degree
- 51 Smell
- 52 Bafflers
- 56 Otherwise
- 57 Throw
- 58 "To be or ___ ..."
- 59 Start a garden
- 60 ___ Stanley Gardner
- 61 Wildebeest

DOWN

- 1 Auction action
- 2 Commotion
- 3 Fiber
- 4 Religious retreat
- 5 Cacophony
- 6 Defeat soundly
- 7 Shankar's instrument
- 8 Rich
- 9 Gambling game
- 10 Herr's wife
- 11 Shaker contents
- 16 "Golly!"
- 20 Debtor's letters
- 21 Ice mass
- 22 List-ending abbr.
- 23 Fix the soundtrack
- 27 Deity
- 29 Cold symptom
- 30 Misplace
- 31 Stretches (out)
- 33 Showed disdain
- 35 Two, in Tijuana
- 38 Butterfly catcher
- 40 Feels pins and needles
- 43 Workshop machine
- 45 Ordinal suffix
- 46 Troubles
- 47 Not working
- 48 American Beauty, e.g.
- 49 Rain hard
- 53 Web address
- 54 A billion years
- 55 Disco fan on "The Simpsons"

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

Send Your Sweetheart & Loved Ones a Special Valentine Message

Published in the February 8th issue of the Castro Valley Forum and the February 9th issue of the San Leandro Times!

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DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017 • 5PM

<p>♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ Ronnie, Andrew & Ashleigh Happy Valentine's Day! To the world's most terrific kids. All our love, Mama and Denny</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">JOAN</p> <p>Happy Valentine's Day To My Love We'll Be Together Always — RJ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TO MY VALENTINE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ JOAN SMITH ♥</p> <p>ALL MY LOVE ROBERT JONES</p>	<p>♥ JOAN SMITH ♥ Thank You For Being My True Love For All These Years! Your Sweetheart, Robert Jones</p>
<p>STYLE #1 Line of hearts • First line bold Up to 20 words</p>	<p>STYLE #2 Large heart • Short name on heart Up to 10 words</p>	<p>STYLE #3 All-cap message over large heart Up to 10 words</p>	<p>STYLE #4 All-cap name with hearts Up to 20 words</p>

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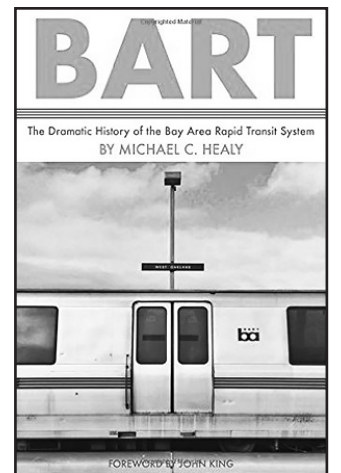
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Healy's book is available at local book stores.

CV Toastmasters Meet Tuesdays

The Castro Valley Toastmasters welcome everyone who wants to improve their communication skills in a friendly supportive atmosphere to their weekly meetings every Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 21966 Dolores St. in Castro Valley. For more information call 566-9761 or go to <http://961.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

Garden: Students, teachers, parents build Hesperian's new garden

continued from front page
 rated into food scraps, recycling and garbage," said fourth-grade teacher Toya Sonnier.

The classrooms all have compost bins. The garden was turned into a calm place to relax, as well as an eco-friendly space where students grow their own vegetables and learn about nature, Sonnier said.

Monarch butterflies might come to the garden, said teacher Rachel Lerman who is planting milkweed, which attracts the butterflies.

"I planted some in my backyard and they came," Lerman said. "If you plant it, they will come."

Another idea of the program is bringing nature to kids in an urban area who don't get out in nature a lot. A city park is synthetic, not the same as nature, Lerman said.

"We have kids who live in apartments on 165th Avenue who've never even been to the beach," she said.

So gardening is both fun and learning experience – combining nutrition, biology, ecology – as you learn about the plants as well



A class at Hesperian Elementary releases a butterfly.

as the insects, birds and butterflies.

Lerman has butterfly chrysalis in a container in her classroom, the outer skin formed by the caterpillar from where the butterfly will emerge. When the butterfly comes out, she puts it on her finger, and the whole class goes out-

side to see the butterfly take off.

It's sort of an experiment to see if the butterflies return, as they do every year to the trees around the Monarch Bay Golf Course.

"When the butterfly comes out, we take them outside and let them fly away...maybe they'll



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RACHEL LERMAN

Everybody posed for a picture once the garden was all finished.

come back," Lerman said.

All the materials for the garden – and the lunch – were provided by StopWaste, the county

agency in charge of reducing waste. Also, student-athletes from UC Berkeley helped to build the new garden.

"StopWaste brought the mulch, wood and food, so we're not out-of-pocket for anything," Sonnier said.

San Leandro Toastmasters Meet Thursdays

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.

Band & Orchestra Classes Back at San Lorenzo High

After a nearly decade-long absence, band and orchestra classes are back at San Lorenzo High.

For years, there were band classes at the younger grade levels and at Arroyo High, but the programs were not available at San Lorenzo High until the beginning of this school year, according to Rachel Horne and Barbara Barrett, co-chairs of the San Lorenzo School District's music de-

partment. Horne and Barrett said they are thankful to get money from the district for the programs and are looking to have even more students participate next year.

For more information – including updates on the upcoming spring concert which will feature students from all of San Lorenzo's schools – email the music department at musicchair@slzUSD.k12.ca.us.



The San Lorenzo School School district recently reinstated band and orchestra classes at San Lorenzo High. From right are Rachel Horne-Hernandez and Barbara Barrett, co-chairs of district music department; Superintendent Dr. Fred Brill; San Lorenzo High music teacher Leatrice Innocent; Arroyo High music teacher Vernon Miyata; school board president, Norman Fobert; board member Helen Foster; instrumental teacher Paul Klein; school board members Helen Randall, Penny Peck, and Janet Zamudio; director of secondary education Janette Hernandez; and assistant superintendent Barb deBarger.



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SIRs Meets Monthly at Metropolitan Golf Links

SIRs, an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Wedgwood Center at the Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Drive in Oakland. Happy hour starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Come and meet new friends. For more information, call Al at 895-9900.





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SENIORS

When Is It Time To Take the Car Keys?

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

Q What tips can you recommend that can help me deal with my mom's bad driving? At age 83, her driving abilities have declined, but I know she's bound and determined to keep driving as long as she's alive.

A There's no doubt that giving up driving can be a tough step for many elderly seniors, as well as a difficult conversation for concerned family members.

While there's no one way to handle this sometimes touchy topic, there are a number of tips and resources that can help you evaluate and possibly adjust your mom's driving, and ease her out from behind the wheel when she can no longer drive safely.

Assess Her Driving

To get a clear picture of your mom's driving abilities, your first step, if you haven't already done so, is to take a ride with her and watch for problem areas.

For example: Does she drive at inappropriate speeds, tailgate or drift between lanes? Does she have difficulty seeing, backing up or changing lanes? Does she react slowly, get confused easily or make poor driving decisions?

Also, has she had any fender benders or tickets lately, or have you noticed any dents or scrapes on her vehicle? These, too, are red flags. For more assessment tips, see SeniorDriverChecklist.info.

If you need help with this, consider hiring a driver rehabilitation specialist who's trained to evaluate older drivers. This typically runs between \$100 and \$200. Visit AOTA.org/older-driver or ADED.net to locate a specialist in your area.

Transitioning and Talking

After your assessment, if you think it's still safe for your mom to drive, see if she would be willing to take an older driver refresher course.

These courses will show her how aging affects driving skills, and offers tips and adjustments to help ensure her safety. Taking a class may also earn your mom a discount on her auto insurance.

Local Classes

The Castro Valley office of the California Highway Patrol periodically offers a free senior safe-driving workshop at the Castro Valley Library. The announcements are carried in the Senior Sections of the Times and the Castro Valley Forum.

You can also locate a class by calling your local AAA (AAA.com) or AARP (AARP.org/drive, 888-227-7669). Most courses cost around \$20 to \$30 and can be taken online or in a classroom.

If, however, your assessment shows that your mom really does need to stop driving, you need to have a talk with her, but don't overdo it. If you begin with a dramatic outburst like, "Mom, you're going to kill someone!", you're likely to trigger resistance. Start by simply expressing your concern for her safety.

For more tips on how to talk to your mom about this, the Hartford Financial Services Group and MIT AgeLab offers a variety of resources at TheHartford.com/lifetime; click on "Publications" on the menu bar, then on the "We Need To Talk" guidebook.

Refuses To Quit

If your mom refuses to quit, you have several options. One possible solution is to suggest a visit to her doctor who can give her a medical evaluation and, if warranted, "prescribe" that she stops driving. Older people will often listen to their doctor be-



There are a number of tips and resources that can help you evaluate and adjust a senior's driving, and ease them out from behind the wheel when they can no longer drive safely.

fore they will listen to their own family.

If she still refuses, contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles to see if they can help. Or, call in an attorney to discuss with your mom the potential financial and legal consequences of a crash or injury. If all else fails, you may just have to take away her keys.

Alternative Transportation

Once your mom stops driving, she's going to need other ways to get around, so help her create a list of names and phone numbers of family, friends and local transportation services that she can call on.

To find out what transportation services are available in her area, contact the Rides in Sight (RidesInSight.org, 855-607-4337) and the Eldercare Locator (800-677-1116), which will direct you to her area agency on aging for assistance.



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

'Can I Deduct Long-term Care Insurance Premiums?'

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.

Special to the Times

Q Tax day is coming soon and I wonder if I can claim a tax deduction for my Long Term Care Insurance Premiums paid during this past year.

A Depending upon your income and age, the answer may very well be yes — at least as to a portion of your premiums paid. Here's the way it works:

AGI Threshold: Premiums for qualified long-term care insurance policies are tax deductible to the extent that they, along with other unreimbursed medical expenses (including Medicare premiums), exceed 10 percent of your Adjusted Gross Income.

This is sometimes referred to as the "AGI Threshold." However, in tax year 2016, taxpayers aged 65 and older only need medical expenses to exceed 7.5 percent of their income, but in 2017 they will have the same 10 percent threshold rule as everyone else.

If medical expenses do not exceed these AGI Thresholds, then they are not deductible.

Age Determines Extent of

Deduction That Can Be Counted:

The amount of long-term care insurance premiums that are countable toward your AGI Threshold is based upon your age, and the amount changes each year.

For the 2016 tax year, taxpayers who are aged 40 or younger can count toward their deduction only \$390 a year; taxpayers between 40 and 50 can count \$730; taxpayers between 50 and 60 can count \$1,460; taxpayers between 60 and 70 can count \$3,900; and taxpayers who are 70 or older can count up to \$4,870 in LTC premiums toward their AGI Threshold.

What this means is that taxpayers must total all of their medical and LTC Premium expenses and compare them to their incomes.

For example, suppose 64-year-old Frank has an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 and long-term care premiums totaling \$5,000, plus \$1,000 in other medical expenses. Ten percent of \$30,000 is \$3,000, which is then his AGI Threshold. Therefore, Frank can only deduct any medical and LTC expenses that exceed \$3,000.

The 2016 limit for counting long-term care premiums is \$3,900. So, Frank can only count \$3,900 of his long-term care premiums. If he adds the countable

\$3,900 in long-term care premiums to the \$1,000 in other expenses his total medical expenses are \$4,900. He can therefore deduct \$1,900 in medical expenses from his income (\$4,900 - \$3,000).

If Frank is 70 in 2016, the calculation changes because his medical and LTC expenses only need to exceed 7.5 percent of his income, which would be \$2,250 in Frank's case (\$30,000 X 7.5% = \$2,250). In essence, he has a lower qualifying AGI Threshold.

Also, the amount of premiums he can count toward his deduction is increased because of his age: because he is 70, he can count toward his threshold up to \$4,870 in LTC premiums. Subtracting the 7.5 percent deduction threshold from his total medical expenses, Frank can deduct \$3,620 in medical & LTC

expenses from his income (\$4,870 + \$1,000 - \$2,250).

In 2017, Frank will only be able to deduct medical and LTC expenses that exceed 10 percent of his income, so his qualifying AGI threshold will go up and, hence, the amount he can actually deduct from his income will go down.

In sum, the amount of your tax deduction will depend upon your age, the amount of your adjusted gross income, your applicable AGI Threshold and the extent to which your countable medical expenses exceed your AGI threshold.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com. He wishes to thank ElderLawAnswers.com for permission to revise and publish this article.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Water Conservation Efforts Become Law

California's recent drought was a reminder of the importance of conserving water. To that end, state legislators have enacted a law requiring all single-family homeowners in California to install water-conserving plumbing (WCP) fixtures in homes built before 1994.

The law (California Civil Code 1101.1 through 1101.9) became effective January 1, 2017 and mandates that if any California home has the following, they must be upgraded:*

(1) Any toilet manufactured to use more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush.

(2) Any urinal manufactured to use more than 1 gallon of water per flush.

(3) Any showerhead manufactured to have a flow capacity of more than 2.5 gallons of water per minute.

(4) Any interior faucet that emits more than 2.2 gallons of

water per minute.

In contrast to the recent push by some cities and municipalities to make energy and/or sewer upgrades required at the point of the sale of a home, the state did NOT make the installation of WCP fixtures a point-of-sale requirement. This means that real estate agents and brokers will NOT be obligated to ensure that sellers or buyers install WCP fixtures.

According to Robert Bloom, Esq., Council with the California Association of Realtors Member Legal Services, the oneness will instead be on sellers to adequately disclose the following:

(1) **Disclosure of the legal requirement.** First, the seller must disclose to the buyer in writing the legal requirement that the owner of the property must replace non-compliant plumbing fixtures with WCP fixtures for properties built before 1994.

(2) **Disclosure of non-compliant fixtures.** Second, the seller must disclose to the buyer in writing whether the real property includes any non-compliant plumbing fixtures.

(3) **The seller's affirmation.** Third, when a transfer Disclosure Statement (Form TDS) is required, the law calls on the seller to specifically affirm that the disclosures of the seller are not those of the agent, are not intended to be part of any contract, are not a warranty, and are not a substitute for the buyer's own inspections.

The big question is how the state intends to police the law and whether or not any penalties might be levied.

For now, buyers of any single family home built prior to 1994 (1) have the right to insist the seller fully disclose the state of current plumbing fixtures and (2) can initiate negotiations requesting any non-compliant fixtures be upgraded to meet the standards of Civil Code Section 1101.3.

*Low-Flow Toilets to become Law, Robert Bloom, Esq.

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.



Here Are the Winning Combination of Numbers for this Pre-Game Open House:
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Just listed, 1300 Parker Street in San Leandro will be Open Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. Features include upgraded kitchen and bathrooms, energy-efficient double-pane windows, roof only a few years new, original plank hardwood floors and much more. Presented by "The Realtors In Motion," Antonio & Alexia Cardenas. Take a Virtual Tour at www.ListedbyAntonio.com. Call us... We'll come and TANGO with you — 510-326-4263.

Be Safe When Using Space Heaters

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Times

Regardless of the type of portable electric heater you have, it must be set up so that there is 3 feet of clearance around it, and placed on a heat-resistant surface (bare floor, for example, not carpet).

Additionally, make sure that the outlet being used can handle the amount of electricity the space heater will draw. Don't plug anything else into that outlet.

Consider replacing older space



Enclosed oil heaters provide indirect heat and are considered safer than open-coil models.

heaters. While I've seen many models built as long ago as the 1950s that are very sturdy, they often do not meet current electrical standards and can use a lot more power than newer models, meaning higher electric bills.

What's the best space heater to purchase? I'm not a fan of the classic open-coil model, and there are alternatives. For example, an enclosed oil heater, which looks like a radiator on wheels, circulates heated oil through each section and provides indirect heat and a greater measure of safety.

There are heaters that fit inside a kitchen's kickspace, oscillating tower heaters, and heaters disguised as fireplaces or standing vases.

Portable heaters range in price from about \$50 to several hundred dollars, so look at several options

both in the home-improvement store and online. Make sure any heater you consider has the UL (Underwriters Laboratory) label.

Heaters with thermostat control can provide greater energy savings. And it's important to make sure you purchase a heater that can handle the size of the room where you'll use it the most. (Check the sizing chart on the heater's packaging.)

Home Tip: Plug your space heater directly into a wall outlet, not a power strip; if an extension cord is needed, choose a heavy-duty cord of 14 gauge or larger.

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Rates Rise for First Time in '17

Average 30-year and 15-year fixed mortgage rates rose last week for the first time in 2017.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.19 percent, up from 4.09 percent the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.79.

Fifteen-year home loans averaged 3.40 percent, up from 3.34 percent a week earlier.

Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) edged down slightly. The five-year hybrid ARM averaged 3.20 percent last week, down from 3.21 percent.

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January Stats for San Leandro Real Estate
32 detached homes are currently for sale,
33 homes went Pending within 14 days of
going on the market, 24 homes Sold and Closed.
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H	1-4	1-4	1600 D St	\$589,000	4/2 - Duplex	Berkshire Hathaway	The Brent Team	333-9404
A	—	12-3	1547 Hays Street	\$606,000	3/3 - 2 car	Rinetti & Co. Realtors	Carrie Miles	735-5223
A	—	12-3	1300 Parker Street	\$649,976	3/2 - 2 car	R.E. eBroker Inc.	Antonio	326-4263
P	6-8	—	4119 Stanley Blvd.	\$711,000	3/2.5	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt Jones	357-0120
C	1-4	—	17844 Center Street	\$1,186,000	3/2.5 - 2+ car	Coldwell Banker	Trish Radovich	367-7999
Alamo	1-4	—	2631 Danville Blvd.	\$2,795,000	6/7	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Lisa Ferraris	304-1271

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WEEKEND GARDENER

Flower Bulbs

Start planting gladioluses now. Follow up with additional plantings at three-week intervals to extend the blooming season. Other bulbs for spring and early-summer bloom that can be planted now include achimenes, agapanthus, amaryllis, tuberous begonias, calla lilies, canna lilies, dahlias, daylilies and irises.

Vegetables

Although nighttime temperatures continue to drop to the low 30s, seeds in the garden will germinate, but very slowly. Sow beets, celery, carrots, chard, chive, collards, garlic, leafy lettuce, mustard, parsley, peas, radishes, spinaches and turnips.

Weeds

While the ground is wet from our latest rains, pull weeds before they form seeds. Be sure to remove the entire root system so they don't sprout again. Avoid using weed-killing chemicals, as they just add pollution to your yard's soil.

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro

2542 Marina Boulevard #2	94577	\$508,000	3 BD - 1,571 SF - 1992
14085 Reed Avenue	94578	\$365,000	2 BD - 1,084 SF - 1973
14790 Ruthelen Court	94578	\$565,000	3 BD - 1,205 SF - 1953
15388 Churchill Street	94579	\$499,500	3 BD - 821 SF - 1950
2350 Diamond Bar Court	94579	\$800,000	4 BD - 2,405 SF - 2000
830 Woodgate Drive	94579	\$480,000	3 BD - 1,356 SF - 1973

TOTAL SALES:	6		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$365,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$503,750
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$800,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$536,250

San Lorenzo

536 Grant Avenue	94580	\$530,000	4 BD - 1,264 SF - 1944
652 Heritage Circle	94580	\$500,000	4 BD - 1,451 SF - 2003
738 Via Aires	94580	\$650,000	4 BD - 1,915 SF - 1947

Castro Valley

18532 Carlton Avenue	94546	\$770,000	3 BD - 1,591 SF - 1966
18757 Dubin Court	94546	\$525,000	3 BD - 1,356 SF - 1956
21501 Gail Drive	94546	\$650,000	3 BD - 1,550 SF - 1950
3176 Huntington Court	94546	\$585,000	4 BD - 2,236 SF - 1959
5014 Vannoy Avenue	94546	\$825,000	3 BD - 1,238 SF - 1954

TOTAL SALES:	5		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$525,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$650,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$825,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$671,000

Hayward

22770 Alice Street	94541	\$480,000	3 BD - 913 SF - 1930
2165 D Street	94541	\$599,000	2 BD - 1,044 SF - 1911
2112 Edgebrook Place	94541	\$738,000	4 BD - 2,308 SF - 1989
24735 Garwood Glen Dr	94541	\$475,000	3 BD - 1,607 SF - 1981
1221 George Circle	94541	\$605,000	3 BD - 1,809 SF - 2013
137 Laurel Avenue	94541	\$540,000	6 BD - 1,890 SF - 1930
22853 Paseo Place	94541	\$540,000	3 BD - 1,700 SF - 2004
22081 Valencia Place #1	94541	\$470,000	2 BD - 1,482 SF - 1982
22661 Wildwood Street	94541	\$835,000	5 BD - 3,564 SF - 1952
25019 Discoverer Place	94544	\$430,000	2 BD - 1,490 SF - 1988
26937 Huntwood Avenue	94544	\$415,000	2 BD - 870 SF - 1947
1027 Inglewood Street	94544	\$430,000	3 BD - 1,042 SF - 1952
29145 Eden Shores Drive	94545	\$760,000	3 BD - 1,822 SF - 2004
2438 Hibiscus Drive	94545	\$650,000	4 BD - 1,404 SF - 1976
27553 Portsmouth Ave	94545	\$608,000	3 BD - 1,128 SF - 1957
21103 Gary Drive #318A	94546	\$425,000	2 BD - 1,100 SF - 1993

TOTAL SALES:	16		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$415,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$540,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$835,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$562,500

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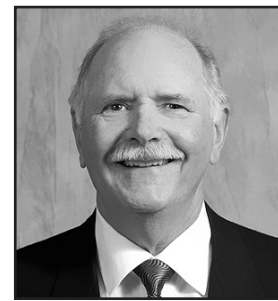
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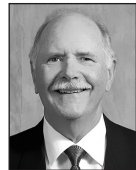
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Golf Course: System designed so that golf course could flood



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The water from Upper San Leandro Reservoir flows down San Leandro Creek through the golf course, which sometimes floods, before reaching Lake Chabot.

continued from front page
through the golf course or else there was a risk of harming the dam, according to Frank Mellon, EBMUD Ward 7 director.

Mellon said that the district's reservoirs are kept around 80 percent full so they can allow for water to flow-in from other sources upcountry.

The district and the golf course have an understanding that EBMUD will release water into the creek if it's necessary and the golf course is on the flood plain.

It was a deliberate decision to have a golf course in the area, because few if any uses for the land other than recreation can be an effective part of a flood area, Mellon added.

Mellon also cautioned people to not have an exaggerated picture in their minds about how EBMUD releases excess water.

"It's not some massive flood that comes barreling down the canyon," said Mellon. The creek reaches capacity and overflows its banks.

That being said, Mellon warns that California's drought problems are far from over despite a rainy few months.

"I love the rain, but I've

had many people ask me if the drought is over," said Mellon. "Really and truly, California is drought country. We are between droughts – this is only an interlude before the next drought is due. That's why East Bay MUD is so concerned with things like conservation and recycling of water."

Eden: Purpose questioned

continued from front page
to shut down ETHD "evoked the image of scheming relatives trying to get a rich uncle declared incompetent in order to grab his cash."

After nearly 70 years in operation, ETHD has been hit with claims from Chan, Bonta, and others that the district is redundant and its function could be better handled by the county.

The district countered that if its functions were taken over, whatever successor agency put in place would still require funding and staff to operate and who is to say that would be anymore efficient than having ETHD do the job?

The district took more criticism over the summer, when the Alameda County Grand Jury issued a report that said the district "failed in its mission" and lacked a plan for its future.

So the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) ordered another report on ETHD's operations prepared by independent urban policy analysts Berkson Associates.

Richard Berkson presented a draft of his report to the LAFCo board Tuesday Night at a special meeting at the Castro Valley Library.

Overall, Berkson concluded that the ETHD provides a "service of value" to the community and its services shouldn't be discontinued.

But Berkson did say that if ETHD were to be dissolved, those services could continue via a successor agency and it would be up to LAFCo to create such an entity.

The district started out managing Eden Hospital and, over the years, has owned and overseen various medical buildings in San Leandro, Hayward, and the unincorporated areas. It was created with taxpayer money, but no longer collects tax money and instead subsists on its real estate holdings.

Currently, ETHD owns and rents out three medical office buildings and also distributes healthcare-related grant money, though it doesn't own or operate any hospitals.

One of the main arguments against maintaining the ETHD is that it no longer provides direct health services. But Berkson said that is not unusual for a healthcare district. Of the 78 such districts in California, 30 no longer operate hospitals.

LAFCo heard public comments from over 20 speakers at the meeting, which will be included in the final draft of Berkson's report.

Mayor Cutter and a representative from Chan's office both said that if the money went to the county, hospitals with fewer well-insured patients – including San Leandro Hospital – would benefit.

"What I want is to keep our safety-net hospitals open," said Cutter, who added that she was disappointed that she and San Leandro city staff weren't

“What I want is to keep our safety-net hospitals open.”

— San Leandro Mayor Pauline Cutter

contacted for the report. Terry Lightfoot, director of the county health system, criticized ETHD for spending too much on administration and not enough on direct health care, calling their spending "extremely one-sided." He went on to suggest that ETHD donate some office space in the buildings that it owns to doctors who care for under-served patients.

Eden CEO Dev Mahadevan called shutting down the district "killing a golden goose" because if the district is dissolved and the real estate sold (as Berkson said was probable), all of the money will be distributed as a one-time event and new revenue will cease to come in.

If you didn't get a chance to speak to the LAFCo board at the meeting, you can also submit a written comment to the LAFCo website, or mail your comment to 1221 Oak Street, Room 555, Oakland, CA 94612. Comments received by tomorrow (Feb. 3) will be considered for the final draft of the study.

After the final draft is completed, LAFCo will make its decision – they could decide to keep ETHD running as is, dissolve the district, or restructure it. Tentatively, they are set to discuss ETHD's fate at their March 9 meeting.

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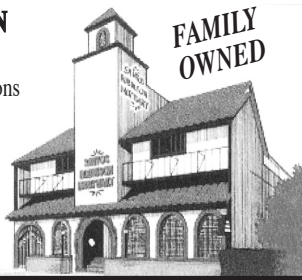
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may be emailed to: obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. (Include a phone number.)

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.

FERREIRA, Ruth Helen MECK, George H., Jr. VERDUZCO, Jesse G.

■ **MECK, George H. Meck, Jr.**, a resident of San Leandro, passed away January 21, 2017. He was 83 years old. George was born in Sacramento and raised in Niles. Graveside services to be held at Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4.

■ **VERDUZCO, Jesse G.**, a longtime resident of San Leandro, passed away on January 24, 2017 at age 72. At his request, no services will be held. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

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Ruth Helen Ferreira

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Ruth was born in Las Banos, California, and grew up in San Leandro. She passed peacefully with her family by her side at her home in Oakland.

Ruth is survived by David, her devoted husband of 70 years. She was a beloved mother to her children, Douglas (Rosalie) and Russell (Rena). She loved and adored her 5 grandchildren, Doug, Jr. (Brandy) David (Lisa), Andrew, Adam and Robert; and her 5 great-grandchildren, Marina, Madeleine, David Jr., Joseph and Madelyn. She is warmly remembered by her nieces, Victoria Sciacca (Paul), Annie and Tori; her nephew and godson, Gilbert Colomy; and her caregiver-angel, Dawn Robinson Criss.

Friends and family gathered at Assumption Church in San Leandro for a Mass of Christian Burial.



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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.

Wonders Why 'Pro-Lifers' Ignore Unwanted Children After Birth

Editor:

This is a reply to Stephanie Choury ("Trump Victory 'Brought About By Prayers of Pro-Lifers,'" *Letters*, Jan. 26).

I applaud your right to your opinion, but have one question that has bothered me for years.

Why are pro-lifers all so vigilant about life before it's born and ignore the problems for many of these unwanted children after they're born? I would agree with you whole heartedly if every pro-lifer agreed to adopt, raise and support every unwanted child that is born.

I don't see any uproar about what happens to our unwanted children after birth – caring has to be for that life after birth as well as before.

— **Gerry Mellen**
San Leandro

'How Do We Handle People Who Deny Reality?'

Editor:

The Washington Post showed photos of the crowds at Trump's and Obama's 2009 inauguration to 1,388 Americans. Half were not told which inauguration the photos showed, they were simply asked to point to the larger crowd.

In that group, 41 percent of declared Trump supporters pointed to the smaller crowd and said it was bigger. How's that possible?

From Wikipedia: "In the psychology of human behavior, denialism is a person's choice to deny reality, as a way to avoid a psychologically uncomfortable truth. Denialism is an essentially irrational action that withholds the validation of a historical experience or event, by the person refusing to accept an empirically verifiable reality."

No one makes good decisions from inaccurate, incomplete or obsolete information, but people make stupid decisions every time they ignore the facts altogether. Duh!

Well documented lists of Trump's lies and contradictions are easy to find because he lies constantly, blatantly, without shame or regret. Every day he says something so outrageous it sends the media, America, and much of the world into confusion and panic.

These are attempts to distract us from Trump's dubious activities including trying to muzzle the "hostile" media, silence scientific organizations and remove factual information from government websites which do not conform to Trump's Alice-in-Wonderland view of the universe.

How can anyone believe anything the rookie Trump administration says when even his own cabinet appointees (dis-appointees?) contradict Trump at their confirmation hearings when they said, "NATO good, Russia bad, walls don't work, torture and a Muslim ban are illegal, un-American and counter productive in the war on terror."

He won't release his taxes, and claims he's impervious to conflict of interest laws. No big deal, right?

His minions eat it up, and say, "Please, sir, may I have some more." (And the minions include Republican leaders who twist themselves into Gordian knots trying to support Trumps bizarre rants and proposals.)

Q: How do you have a civil debate with politicians who refuse to bargain in good faith or citizens who display ignorance, hate, self-destructive behavior? How do we handle people who deny reality?

A: We demonstrate how to act like an American. We stand together the way we did during the biggest demonstration in history against Trump and in support of women's and human rights. We dash to the barricades the way many thousands did at airports and federal buildings across America when the disastrous Muslim ban was launched. We fight like they did in 1776.

Paraphrasing German Pastor Martin Neimoller: "First they came for the fact checkers, and I did not speak out because I'm not a fact checker. Then they came for the dissenters and I did not speak out because I'm not a dissenter. Then they came for the poor, the uneducated and the sick, and I did not speak out because I wasn't poor, uneducated or sick. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me."

We stand up for the oppressed, the poor, the sick and the defenseless — because that is what Americans have always done, because that is who we are! We can't delay, freedom and justice are just too precious... and fragile.

— **Sal Capo**
San Leandro

Says Trump's Only Mandate Exists in His Imagination

Editor:

Poor Leo T. ("*Trump's Speech 'a Beautiful Departing Kick in Obama's Butt'*," *Leo T. West, Letters*, Jan. 26).

Never stops ranting and raving about scabs, political conspiracies, enemies, and, of course, Obama. But forgets to mention that Trump *lost* to a woman by 2,865,000 votes.

54 percent of voting Americans didn't want Trump in charge of anything, while California voted nearly 2-to-1 against him.

Alameda County? 5-to-1 against him, while San Francisco County did even better at 9-to-1.

Even that normal bastion of the right wing — Orange County — didn't want him either.

The only "public mandate" that exists is in Trump's vivid imagination, which, as we've seen, has no limits, while he quickly refills his "drained swamp" with Wall Street's own "swamp monsters"

— **Ken Kellogg**
San Leandro

Trump Ban on Mostly Muslim Countries Called 'Divisive, Destructive, Despicable'

Editor:

It was a stupid campaign "pledge" to block entry to our country for people

from Muslim countries. As a policy, which the inexperienced President just promulgated, it is divisive, destructive, and despicable.

The Bully-in-Chief has now divided law-abiding Americans into "them" and "us." He has confirmed the worst propaganda that religious fanatics abroad say about us: that we are anti-Muslim. He is creating enemies where we once had friends. He is alienating the very people in this country who have been most helpful in combating Islamic terrorism.

Is this the action of a traitorous dictator or a mentally incompetent nincompoop? Either way, when will Republicans in Congress impeach and replace him?

— **Bruce Joffe**
Piedmont

Has Some Questions About Recent Issues in San Leandro

Editor:

I have some questions regarding issues brought up in the last few editions of your paper:

Why does the city manager demand fiscal responsibility for \$1.5 million dollars of public money when it's spent on social services, but not when 3/4 of a million is proposed to be spent on art?

Or, when over 1/4 million was already spent on musical chairs, graffiti electrical boxes and decorative flags?

Why do the new owners of Trailer Haven think we can't do math? If you jack rents by 25 percent, and offer a hardship discount of 10 percent, doesn't that mean even hardship cases will still be paying a huge 15-percent raise?

Why does Councilmember Lopez encourage everyone to support a council vote to make San Leandro a sanctuary city, while ignoring the fact that many of them work in low-wage, no-benefit jobs — or two — and struggle mightily to meet the soaring costs of rent? Does this indicate she's willing to protect these people from ICE, but not from the landlords?

Why does Mr. West (*Letters*, Jan. 26) not know what a "scab" is? I'm a retired union worker, and scabs are persons brought in to work at our jobs — without union wages and with no benefits — if we go on strike or are locked out. It's a tried and true union-busting tactic. Maybe it means something a bit different in the country he emigrated from?

Why does Ms. Choury (*Letters*, Jan. 26) think people like herself are being persecuted for their faith, but doesn't have a single word calling out the injustice of a Muslim registry? She accuses us of being "unfamiliar with the laws of god," while totally ignoring the fact that not everyone holds, nor is required to hold, her beliefs. So now who's the intolerant one?

— **K. Lee-Figueroa**
San Leandro

Something To Be Thankful For In Times of Doubt and Fear

Editor and Fellow Citizens:

In this time of doubt and fear, and angst, let us be thankful.

For what, you say?

I say for the sun that rises faithfully in the east and gives light and life to the Earth. I choose to thank God, the creator of heaven and earth, for where would we be without the sun.

— **Ute Anderson**
San Leandro

Dismayed Over Trump Go-Ahead On Oil Pipeline Projects

Editor:

It is with great dismay that President Trump has committed human rights violations towards American Indians such as the Lakota people by signing an executive order that will renew the building of both the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines that will devastate their homelands in both North and South Dakota.

In the case of the Keystone Pipeline, the oil from it will spill into the water in which the Lakotas drink and bathe in. Also, in the case of the Dakota Access Pipeline, the Texas-based oil

company Energy Transfer Partners rammed through the pipeline over the Lakota sacred sites and will have oil spill into the Missouri River.

During the last two years of his term, President Obama vetoed a bill that would have allowed the building of the Keystone Pipeline and his Army Corp of Engineers in December denied a permit for Energy Transfer Partners to continue to build this pipeline. Now, President Trump has once again given green light to build these pipelines. People who are concerned about the well-being of the Lakota people, should rise up and fight Trump's actions.

— **Billy Trice, Jr.**
Oakland

INQUIRING REPORTER

Is the press biased against Trump?

— Asked around town

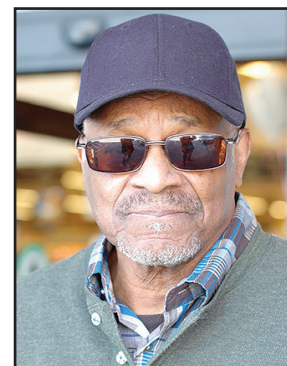
Yes, because he's just a businessman with no political experience. He doesn't have political background.

Gwen Love
San Leandro



I don't know if it's bias. They're alarmed and alerted. So the media is operating on that basis, which I'm glad of — to keep him in check. That's what they're supposed to do. Not biased as in out to get him. Just let the public know what's going on.

Ron Williams
Oakland



No, I don't think so. They're just being honest.

Eddie Page
Hayward



I think there's a lot of coverage but I don't know if it's biased. He's becoming like a celebrity president. I think he should be given a chance. At least watch his first 100 days and see if it's good or bad.

Navin Victor
Mountain House,
works in San Leandro



I don't think the media are being unfair, because when he speaks it doesn't make sense. So he just gets what he deserves.

Ramona Hendrix
San Leandro





PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTR

The Main Library received new furniture and carpets.

Library Re-Opens With New Furniture

The Main Library re-opened last week after being closed for more than a month for renovations.

The library got a fresh coat of paint, new carpeting and flooring, and new furniture. The total cost of the renovation was about \$795,000.

About \$590,000 came from revenue from Measure HH – the 2014 sales tax increase that brought sales tax in the city to 10 percent.

The remainder came from the San Leandro Public Library Foundation, a non-profit that was established during the major renovation and retrofit

of the Main Library back in the year 2000.

Tickets on Sale for 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;

SL Museum to Screen Two Documentaries on Authors Walker and Morrison

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 West Estudillo Ave., will screen two documentary shorts about authors Margaret Walker and Toni Morrison on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Both movies will be shown twice, at 11:30 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. There's no charge for admission and you can bring your own snacks.

For My People: The Life and Writing of Margaret Walker (1998, 28 min. NR) combines conversations with Walker, commentary from leading scholars and readings of her poetry to explore why she is often referred to as the "most famous person

nobody knows." Walker's poem, "For My People" set a tone and a level of commitment which African American literature has been responding to ever since.

Sheer Good Fortune: Celebrating Toni Morrison (2014, 39 min. NR) shares highlights from an extraordinary evening that brought African American writers together in celebration of Morrison (America's only living Nobel Laureate in literature) to pay tribute to her lifetime achievements and its meaning in their lives and work. Speakers include Maya Angelou, Edwidge Danticat and Sonia Sanchez as well as Morrison herself.

Pets of the Week



Jersey



Oreo

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Jersey the dog and, Oreo the kitten.

Jersey is a young pup who plays with toys and does well with other dogs. She loves to be by your side and make you happy. Good with kids 8 years

old and up.

Oreo is a playful 6-month-old kitten who's a bit shy. He's very gentle and looking for a family who will give him love, affection and lots snuggle time to help him blossom.

For more information about Jersey or Oreo, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

Chicago Steppin' Dance Comes to San Leandro

The San Leandro Recreation & Human Services Department announces the launch of a new dance class, Chicago Steppin' for adults ages 50+, beginning on Feb. 3.

Three-year award winning principal instructor Ron Brown of "Just Steppin'" is bringing Chicago Style Steppin' classes for adults to the San Leandro Senior Community Center.

Ron Brown is well known

in the Steppin' dance arena and has taught classes throughout California and beyond. He will teach participants how to Step, beginning with the fundamental patterns for the 8-count.

The class will include the history of Steppin', along with the initial start, the elegant turns, the lead and follow, lane etiquette, footwork and much more. No partner is required and all levels are welcome.

Register with the San Leandro Recreation-Human Services Department online, mail-in, or walk-in at the San Leandro Senior Community Center or Marina Community Center. Registration for residents is now available; non-residents may begin registering on February 2.

For more information, call 577-3462 or visit www.sanleandrorec.org.

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