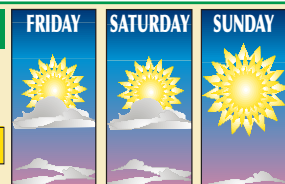




COUPONS *are* BACK

5



San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 31 • NO. 17

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Students returned to class at Washington Elementary School this month and lined up for their classes on the front lawn.

Back in Class Again

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

San Leandro students in all grade levels returned to schools in-person earlier this month, mostly happily, dropped off by equally happy and relieved parents, after a year of going to school online at home.

For some students in lower grades, it was the first time they had ever been physically in a classroom, or in a school building.

About half the district's students, though, opted not to return in-person and continue with online learning, said district spokeswoman Keziah Moss.

Slightly more students in lower grades came back in-person than in middle school and high school, she said.

All the students will do at least some of their work online, under the district's "hybrid learning model," she said.

Students at home participate online
see CLASS, page 12

EBMUD Calls for Voluntary Water Reduction

By Linda Sandsmark
San Leandro Times

The East Bay Municipal Utilities District board of directors unanimously declared a Stage 1 Drought Tuesday afternoon.

Stage 1 calls for voluntary customer water reduction of up to 10 percent.

The conservation request is district-wide, meaning a collective reduction, according to spokesperson Andrea Pook. The board also voted to secure supplemental water supplies via EBMUD's Freeport Regional Water Facility.

The rain this past weekend did little to improve the East

Bay's water supply. EBMUD determined that its current reserves are not sufficient to meet customer demands and storage targets. Actions taken now could help reduce the chance of more severe restrictions in the future.

"I do think that this step is very prudent," said Board president Doug Linney. He added that EBMUD would continue to "hope for rain, but plan for the worst."

Director Lesa McIntosh encouraged outreach to Homeowners' Associations and
see DROUGHT, page 10



EBMUD PHOTO

Pardee Reservoir, the heart of EBMUD's drinking water supply in the Sierra foothills, is currently at 88 percent capacity.

Bayfair Shut Down After Looting Threat

Police warn of potential looting last Wednesday; mall and farmer's market close early

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Stores at Bayfair and other shopping areas closed early last Wednesday, April 21, after police sent out an alert of a potential for looting that evening.

The entire mall at Bayfair was closed by 5 p.m., as some stores put up boards over their windows. Police stood guard at every entrance around the mall, their vehicles blocking the entryways with lights flashing. The shopping areas nearby closed, too.

Even the Wednesday evening downtown San Leandro Farmers' Market was shut down.

For a while, police said they considered enacting a citywide curfew. The memory is still fresh of the night of widespread looting across San Leandro last May 31.

But later that night, the potential for looting diminished, and police decided a curfew wasn't necessary. The potential looting was avoided, and business was back to normal the next day.

But not before the alerts caused much concern around San Leandro.

The San Leandro Police Department posted a message on social media that afternoon that began, "The
see BAYFAIR, page 4

Robustelli Named City Manager

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Fran Robustelli, who has served as San Leandro's Interim City Manager since December, was named to the permanent position at the City Council's April 19 meeting. The council is expected to formally approve her contract at its May 3 meeting.

Robustelli has served as interim or assistant city manager at several Bay Area cities, and headed human resources at the City of Hayward. She started her 25 years of public service as a chemist at a water
see ROBUSTELLI, page 3

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Sun Gallery opens for first time in a year. **Page 2**

FOOD

Spring chicken is inexpensive and flavorful. **Page 5**

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Inner Wheel Honors Role Model Cornelius

The Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro recently honored member JoAnn Cornelius with the Inner Wheel Excellence Spirit Award.

JoAnn has been a dedicated member for over 30 years. She serves as a Foundation Club Coordinator promoting information about the IWUSA Foundation.

She has shown outstanding leadership and dedication to community service, as an excellent role model of the ideals of Inner Wheel, and a much loved member of Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro.

The club congratulates JoAnn on the award. Her en-



JoAnn Cornelius

couragement and friendship continues to inspire and make a difference.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Anpan

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are two bunnies, Anpan and Mary Hoppins.

Anpan is a laid-back male bunny who enjoys lounging on his beds and snacking on parsley. He is good with handling but has very sensitive ears and doesn't like them touched.



Mary Hoppins

Mary Hoppins is a quiet female bunny who keeps to herself.

She enjoys basil and a once-a-week treat of one or two small banana slices.

For more information on Anpan or Mary Hoppins, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



"Monarch Magic," a photo by Claudia Schwalm is part of Sun Gallery's exhibit "Climate Change: a Compassionate Connection" which opened Friday at the Sun Gallery, 1015 E Street in Hayward.

Sun Gallery Opens First Indoor Exhibit in More than a Year

The Sun Gallery in Hayward has opened its first indoor exhibit since the pandemic shelter-in-place orders began more than a year ago.

The 8th Annual Exhibit, "Climate Change: A Compassionate Connection," opened on Friday and will continue through June 5.

An artists' reception will be held outdoors in the gallery's courtyard from 1 to 4 p.m. this Saturday, May 1. The public is invited and admission is free.

The non-profit Sun Gallery is located at 1015 E St. in Hayward. Hours are Friday

and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Guests are asked to please wear masks and practice social distancing. Light pre-packaged snacks and beverages will be served, and all Alameda County health and safety regulations will be in place, along with hand sanitizer stations.

"A Compassionate Connection" is made up of a wide range of additional artists from the East Bay and beyond including Jon Kerpel, Linda Nygard, Hollie Adamic, Claudia Schwalm, Peter and Maureen Langenbach,

Ian and Sarah Sammis, Carrie King, Janet Brugos, Dottie Cichon, Anitta Toivio, Sharon DeVetter, Marjorie Lynne Wagner, Judith Rodriguez, Renea Turner and Dorsi Diaz.

Dragonflies and airborne creatures are a recurring theme in the show as are water, landscapes and disappearing habitat.

The inspiration for the show came from Director Dorsi Diaz, who has been reflecting on the disconnect of some humans when considering their own species in the context of a changing climate.

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Community Calendar

SL Teachers' Association Forum

The San Leandro Teachers' Association Human Rights and Social Justice Committee will host an online forum on the SLTA's Youtube channel on Thursday, April 29, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Students, teachers and other speakers will discuss how to best support students as they transition into in-person learning in the upcoming summer and fall semesters. Find the forum on the SLTA-San Leandro Teachers' Association Youtube channel.

#OwnVoices Adult Book Club

Join the San Leandro Library for a friendly and casual adult book club focused on #Ownvoices books on Thursday, May 6, at 6 p.m. #Ownvoices is a hashtag that started in 2015 to promote diverse authors and books. Diversify your reading list, learn about new perspectives and perhaps find aspects of your own experiences in the pages of a book. Come and chat about any #ownvoices books you've read (any genre! any format!) or drop by and get some inspiration for your next read. Register for this free virtual event at sanleandrolibrary.org or call 510-577-3971.

Adult School Virtual Employment Fair

San Lorenzo Adult School will host a Spring Virtual Employment Fair on Thursday, May 6 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Representatives from delivery services/e-commerce, education, business, healthcare, and humanitarian aid relief and development will present their employment opportunities and safety protocols in the COVID era. Language translation in Spanish and Chinese. Go to bit.ly/ef21_reg to register for this free online employment fair.

Basic Gardening Skills

Learn about the essentials to be a successful vegetable gardener at a San Leandro Library virtual event on Saturday, May 8, at 11 a.m. We'll review the importance of selecting the planting site for sun and shade, improving and preparing your soil, watering, mulching, fertilizing, deciding what to plant and keeping pests at an acceptable level. Register for this free virtual event at sanleandrolibrary.org or call 510-577-3971.

Umpires Needed

The Hayward Softball Umpires Association is recruiting year-round to work paid HARD recreation softball games – men's, women's and co-ed slow pitch. We train all age groups. For more information, call the Education Director at 510-586-8592 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

'80s Music Trivia

Join the San Leandro Library for a totally awesome flashback to 1980s music trivia on Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. It's an online event for adults ready to celebrate the best decade of music. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/SLPLTriviaAdults> or email kmandalay@sanleandro.org for more information.

Art at the San Lorenzo Library

To celebrate the post-Covid reopening of the San Lorenzo Library, 395 Paseo Grande in San Lorenzo, the Northern California Decorative Artists filled the library display cabinets with artwork created this last 12 months. The artists invite you to come by the library and take a peek. You will find a range of projects from whimsical to realistic. The display will run through the end of April.

Robustelli: Several tasks ahead

continued from front page
treatment plant.

The council's vote was 6-1, with Councilman Fred Simon dissenting. Though Simon said he supported the choice and his disagreement was only over specific details of the contract being negotiated with Robustelli.

The council members said Robustelli was the best choice for San Leandro out of all the applicants.

"I believe they're all good candidates, but Fran was best for our city," said City Councilman Bryan Azevedo. "She knows our city and knows our issues. She's put her heart into it, and she's been doing a good job."

Robustelli said she was happy to be offered the permanent position.

"I have fallen in love with San Leandro since coming here," she said. "It's such an inviting and warm community."

The most immediate issues she will be tackling would be

police oversight and pandemic recovery, Robustelli said.

Community engagement and trust-building are vital as the city works on police oversight, she said. The search for a new permanent police chief underlines how important it is to find out what the community wants in both a police chief and in policing more generally, Robustelli said.

She said the permanent police chief will likely be hired in the fall, following a community survey on what qualities are desirable and a nationwide search. Luis Torres serves as acting chief, and has expressed an interest in the permanent position.

San Leandro residents can participate in that survey by going to the link on the city's website, www.sanleandro.org.

Robustelli will be looking into using federal stimulus dollars to help the city recover from the pandemic with attention to the needs of businesses, residents and the homeless.

Robustelli also would like

to address other urgent issues such as fixing the city's roads and improving city systems, particularly financial records.

The roads, unfortunately, need a lot of work, she said. While the City Council has made this a high priority, it would take an estimated \$200 million in one-time costs to bring all city streets up to a "high pavement" standard. Robustelli said that looking into sources for that level of funding is one of the major challenges she will confront.

The Budget Task Force's recent report called for a more inclusive budget process for the city, she said. This requires both making the city's budget easily understandable to residents, and also fixing some of the current financial and data systems.

Robustelli said that city efforts all need to take equity into consideration.

"Race and equity work is exciting," Robustelli said. "It's 'forever work' that keeps making things better as we move forward."

Virtual Native Gardens Tour Starts Sunday

Registration is now open for the free, virtual 17th Annual "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tours" on the Sundays of May 2, 16, and 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The award-winning tours will feature 25 beautiful native plant gardens, Q&A sessions with experts, and garden design and plant selection information. Check out the schedule of events at www.bringingbackthenatives.net/ and register for one of the tours now.

Green Home Tour

Join garden tour host Kathy Kramer and electrification advocate Amy Kiser at a free companion event, the 1st Annual Virtual Green Home Tours on June 6 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Learn how to save money and time while combating climate change by ditching natural gas, generating clean electricity from your own home, and installing energy-efficient (and health-protecting) induction stoves and heat pumps.

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Bayfair: Messages on social media send fear through a city

continued from front page
San Leandro Police Department has received reports of planned looting at Bayfair Center tonight. In response, we have brought in additional officers to reinforce patrol and will have a heavy presence at that location."

The message said the police were planning to respond, which could push the group planning to loot to another location.

"Businesses and property owners, particularly those around Bayfair Mall, should remain vigilant and may want to make preparations to safeguard their properties and em-

ployees," the police message continued.

Many businesses followed instructions and made preparations by putting boards over their windows.

The messages are confusing to shopkeepers, because city officials have been urging shops to take down the boards over their windows.

Another message on social media from the police department appeared later Wednesday evening:

"Please prepare to shelter-in-place. We will notify residents of a final decision on this fluid situation."

But by 10:30 p.m., police

announced that the curfew would not be necessary, and gave credit to proactive work, voluntary closing of businesses, and citizens staying home in warding off the potential for looting.

At one point, there was an instance of something starting to develop, which police described on social media:

"This evening at Bayfair Center, a group of about 100 people took over the roadway, and vehicles were observed circling the mall property."

Police said they received information that the group was headed to another nearby city and alerted that city's police



PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

Construction crews quickly arrived to board up windows at Bayfair last Wednesday after police announced a threat of looting.



San Leandro police surrounded Bayfair and blocked off every entrance to the shopping center. Mayor Cutter gave credit to the police for preventing any trouble.

department.

Later that night, looters tried to break into the Best Buy store in Emeryville. When the break-in proved unsuccessful, the group broke into a nearby Game Stop store and stole some merchandise.

The cause for concern could have been, at least part-

ly, due to social media posts that day, retrieved by media maven Mike Katz-Lacabe. The posts announced looting at Emeryville at 7 p.m. that day, at Bayfair at 6 p.m. and at an automobile dealership on Marina Boulevard.

The potential for looting, even if it materialized, was

far less than the widespread looting across San Leandro last May 31, which is the reason that some shops have kept boards up over their windows.

Mayor Pauline Cutter sent a message on Twitter the next morning thanking the police department for preventing any trouble.

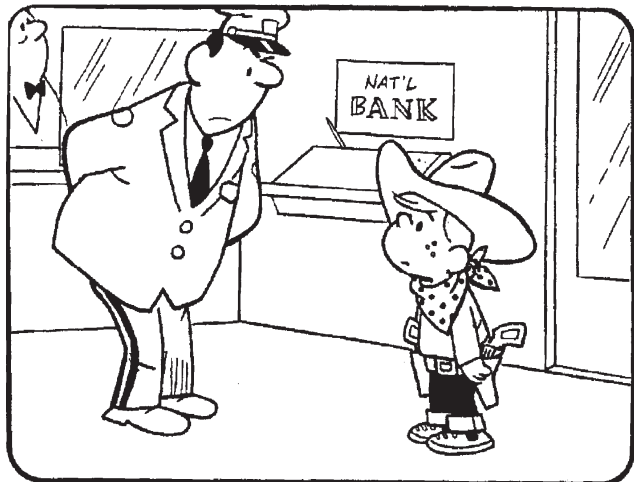
Hearing Loss Association Meeting

The Hearing Loss Association of America East Bay Chapter will meet on Zoom on Saturday, May 8. Greetings at 9:30 a.m., presentation at 10 a.m., discussion from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Margaret Wall-

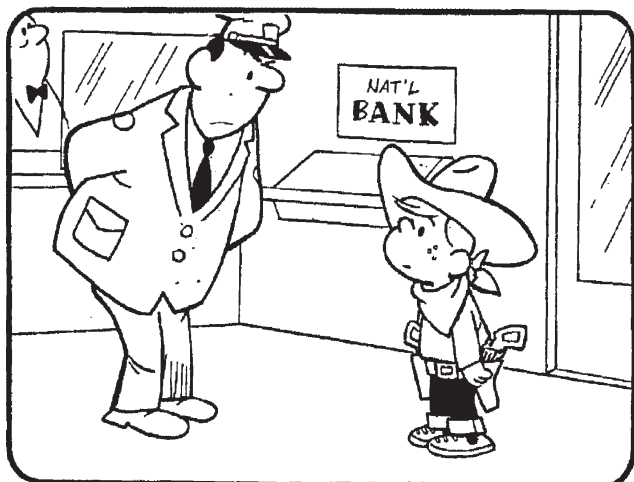
hagen, professor at UC San Francisco. Register via Zoom at <https://www.hearinglosseb.org/> for the meeting.

HOCUS-FOCUS

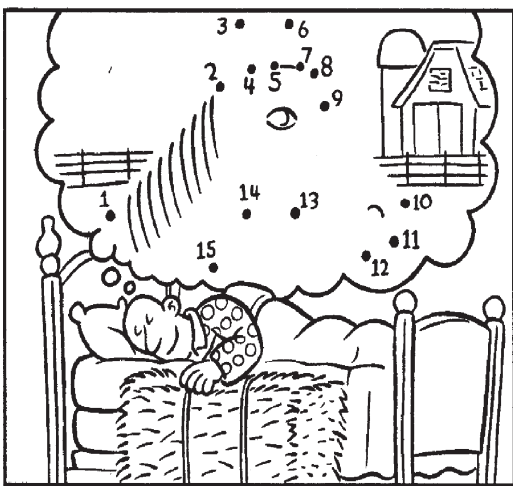
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Badge is missing. 3. Pocket is added. 4. Stripe is missing. 5. Kerchief is different. 6. Pen is missing.

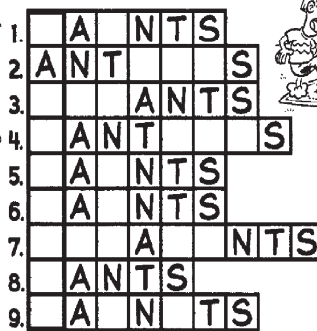


SWEET DREAMS! Why did our pal, above, take a bale of hay to bed? Connect the dots to find the answer.
Answer: To feed his night mare.

NUMBER GAME! The final problem in Professor Flunkum's math quiz: Three times what number gives the same result as eight times what number? P.S.: It's the same number.
The answer is zero.

DIAMOND SETTING! Did you know that you can use playing cards to create puzzles? Using the diamond suit, remove the cards ace up through nine and arrange them in a triangle as shown at right. Then, rearrange them so that the pips (diamonds, in this case) in the four cards along any of the three sides of the triangle add up to 23. The value of a corner card will be used in two sides.

Starting at the top, and going clockwise, the cards are 7, 2, 6, 8, 1, 5, 9, 3, 4.



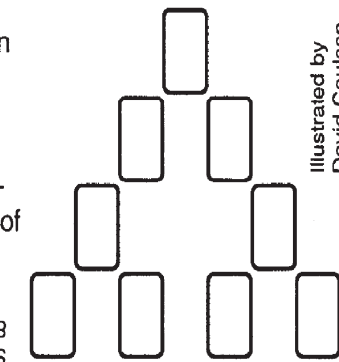
ANTS IN THE PANTS!

THE next time Wally goes to a picnic, he'll watch where he sits! Like the word PANTS, Wally has ANTS. Another place you'll find ANTS is in the dictionary. Below are nine words that contain these little creatures. Use these hints to figure out what they are:

1. What a ghost does.
2. Moose's pride.
3. Little people.
4. Portable lamps.
5. Some statues, maybe.
6. Scornful remarks.
7. Christmas-tree decorations.
8. Loud speeches.
9. Things that attract.

Also, you'll find that the first letters in these words, read vertically, will spell out something you get in the winter up north.

1. Haunts. 2. Antlers. 3. Infants. 4. Lanterns. 5. Saints. 6. Taunts. 7. Ornaments. 8. Pants. 9. Magnets. Vertical word: Hailstorm.



Illustrated by David Coulson

LIFESTYLE



Spring Chicken

We eat twice as much chicken today as we did just a few years ago. So much so that it has become the most frequently served meat on California's tables.

The popularity of poultry isn't surprising when you consider that chicken and turkey are inexpensive and appeal to almost everyone. What's more, the white meats of both are low in fat and calories.

But since a chicken is about half white meat and half dark, you shouldn't ignore the subtle flavors of the legs and thighs. Not surprisingly, it is because dark meat has more fat that it juicier and is—to many—bet-

ter tasting than the drier, less flavorful breast meat. Keep in mind that the fat content is still lower than in many cuts of red meat.

PERFECTLY ROASTED SPRING CHICKEN

- 1 (4-pound) chicken, washed and patted dry
- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large shallot, minced
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh herbs (especially rosemary and thyme)
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/3 cup white wine
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground pepper
Handful mixed fresh herbs

Separate the skin from the meat by inserting an inverted teaspoon between the skin and meat, starting at the breast and working down to the thigh.

Combine garlic, shallot, minced herbs, mustard and white wine in blender and process together. Spoon mixture under skin clear down to the thigh and massage skin to disperse the mixture evenly (easier than it sounds.)

Season the surface and cavity with salt and pepper. Place handful of herbs in the cavity and set chicken, breast side up, on a foil-lined shallow roasting pan. (The chicken

can be baked immediately or covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated overnight.)

To roast, place pan on over rack set in the lower third of a 450°F oven. Roast until juice runs clear rather than pink when thigh is pierced with a knife, about 45 to 50 minutes. Let the chicken stand 10 minutes before servings. Makes 4 servings.

SPICY BAKED CHICKEN THIGHS

- 8 chicken thighs, with skin, pierced all over with a small knife
- 5 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 (2-inch) piece fresh ginger root, peeled
- 1 small jalapeño pepper, seeded, or cayenne to taste
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds or ground coriander

Heat over to 400°F.

Put chicken thighs in a bowl. Mince garlic, ginger and pepper. Toss with all remaining ingredients or put in food processor and grind into a paste. (It is OK if the coriander seeds are not fully pulverized.) Rub mixture thoroughly into the chicken. Put thighs, skin side up, in a roasting pan and roast for 25 to 35 minutes until done. Makes 4 servings.

BREADED CHICKEN BREASTS WITH PARMESAN CHEESE

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 1-1/4 pounds)
- Salt to taste
- Freshly ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 cup fine fresh bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons corn oil
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh tarragon
- 2 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

Cut away and discard any white membranes or traces of fat from the breast halves. Sprinkle each with salt and pepper. Put the flour in a shallow dish.

Dip the breasts in the flour. Coat well and shake off excess. Combine the eggs with water, salt and pepper in another shallow dish, and beat to blend. Combine the bread crumbs with Parmesan cheese in a third dish, and blend.

Dip the breast halves in the egg mixture, coating thoroughly. Drain off excess. Dip the pieces in the bread-crum mixture, also coating thoroughly. Pat the pieces lightly with the flat side of a large knife to make the crumbs adhere.

Heat the oil, preferably in

a nonstick skillet, and add the breasts. Cook over moderately high heat until golden brown on one side, 3 to 4 minutes. Turn and cook 3 to 4 minutes or until golden brown on the second side.

Transfer the chicken to a warm platter, pour the fat from the skillet. Add the butter to the skillet and cook until bubbling. Add the tarragon and lemon juice; blend. Pour the sauce over the chicken and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

CHICKEN CREOLE

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1 (8-ounce) can stewed tomatoes, undrained and finely chopped
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/2 teaspoon chili seasoning
- 1 cup diced cooked chicken breast
- 1 cup hot cooked rice

In a medium skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, sauté onion, green pepper and celery for 6 to 8 minutes.

Stir in undrained tomatoes, ketchup and chili seasoning. Add chicken. Mix well to combine. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.

For each serving, place 1/2 cup rice on a plate and spoon about 1 cup chicken mixture over top. Yields 2 servings.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Some COVID-19 Practices May Remain After the Lockdown

With Covid-19 restrictions loosening, many are beginning to question what real estate might look like post-lockdown.

Much has changed this past year, but not as many had expected. Instead of a pandemic-related slowdown with declining prices, the market reacted to the initial lockdown like a speed-bump: there was a momentary slowing that quickly turned into a pedal-to-the-metal race to new highs.

Talking to other Realtors, many agree some changes have been for the better. As we begin moving into a relaxed phase, some are hoping some of the new

practices stick for good.

ZOOM Meetings

While many real estate companies had virtual capabilities prior to the pandemic, clients frequently wanted in-person touches. The pandemic forbade most in-person visits, and so listing presentations moved online to ZOOM, along with updates, offer discussions and more.

Many clients now feel more comfortable with ZOOM, and it is anticipated that a higher percentage of future meetings will be online.

Scheduled Showings

In order to funnel as many buyers as possible through properties with COVID-guidelines in place, visits were limited to 15-30 minute tightly scheduled appointments. Additionally, a PEAD form had to be sent in advance.

Both listing agents and clients alike liked this approach, since it gave a very clear idea of activity and made sure full contact info was available for follow up. Buyers and their agents appreciated it as well since they knew no one else would be in the home with them. It has been suggested that this format be retained

instead of returning to open houses.

Restricted Showings

Sellers, worried about excessive exposure with people touring their homes, limited access to those who were pre-approved and could actually buy the home. This meant that looky-loos just touring for fun were not allowed in. This trend may continue in the future, with curious non-buyer access being limited to their mobile devices.

No Children Allowed

One clear Covid directive was "No children allowed." If you ever attended an open house and experienced unattended children running rampant through the home, this rule is highly appealing and might be worth keeping in place going forward.

3D Tours

Considered a luxury item before the pandemic, usage has dramatically increased and has made virtual showings much more effective.

These are a few of the changes we have seen with Covid-19 – the jury is out to see which may become permanent practices.

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.



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Change Tomato Plant Location

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

We've been planting a vegetable garden for a long time, but the tomato plants have looked very sad in the past few years. The garden is in the same spot, but we always add fresh soil and mix it with the old soil. How often should we be watering the tomato plants?

The vegetable garden location doesn't need to change from year to year, but where you plant your tomatoes does.

Verticillium Wilt is a soil-borne vascular disease that can't be treated. Rotating the location of the plants and planting resistant varieties, are the two cultural practices recommend.

There is no simple answer as to how often to water tomato plants. There are far too many variables that influence the frequency, like temperature, size of the plants, soil type, and how quickly the soil drains.

This is compounded by the multitude of microclimates we have. Also, we fall into a rut and water our tomato plants in August as we did in May.

Since watering tomatoes is an inexact science, here is one method you can use to determine what is the best watering schedule for your tomatoes: Water your plants thoroughly like you usually would do, mark the date on a calendar, and record the afternoon temperature. The plants are not watered again until they begin to wilt. When the plant's wilt, you again mark the date and temperature on a calendar, water the plants, and wait for them to wilt.

You now take the data and average the length of time it took for the plant to wilt and the average temperatures. This information answers



the question of how often do I water my tomato plants. I water my plants' 'X' (number of days before the plant's wilt) minus one day when the temperature average is 'Y.' 'X' and 'Y' become the norm for your yard.

You then adjust the watering schedule based on the norm. When it gets hotter, you shorten up the frequency or lengthen it out when it gets cooler. In small vegetable gardens, combining tomatoes with peppers, squash, and cucumbers can be a problem. Tomatoes are overwatered more times than not.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.



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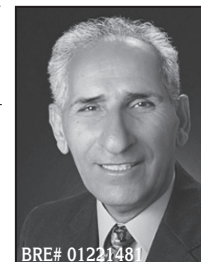
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BRE# 01221481

Germinating Seeds

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Q I've been unsuccessful in getting flower seeds to germinate. Seeds were placed in peat pots loosely filled with potting soil about a quarter of an inch deep and watered. The pots were re-watered about every other day. After three weeks, no signs of life. What am I doing wrong?

A I'm not sure exactly what's going on, but I have a couple of suggestions when you attempt this again.

Dry, loose soil can be hard to wet. So before sowing the seed, I'd pre-moisten the soil. But first, press or tamp down the soil in the pots, so it's firm. This will remove any of the large air pockets. Also, you will find that it's easier to wet the soil. I'd use

a pencil to sow the seed to create a hole in the moist soil and then drop in the seed.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)



Mortgage Rates Dip Below 3%

Mortgage rates unexpectedly dropped last week for the third week in a row, this time dipping below 3% for the first time since February, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

Thirty-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.97 percent for the week ending April 22, down from the previous week when it averaged 3.04 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.33 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.29 percent, down from 2.35 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.83 percent, up from 2.80 percent.

"The drop in mortgage rates is good news for homeowners who are still looking to take advantage of the very low rate environment," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "Our research suggests that lower income and minority homeowners have been less likely to engage in the refinance market. Low and declining mortgage rates provide these homeowners the opportunity to reduce their monthly payment and improve their financial position."



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Propagate Plants

This is a good time to root cuttings of carnations, fuchsias and geraniums in moist sand, or a mixture of sand and vermiculite. If you are pruning these plants, use the tips for new plants.

Yellowing Foliage

Look for signs of chlorosis—yellowing leaves on azaleas, gardenias, rhododendrons and star jasmine. Wet soil or a pH that is too high or too low renders iron unavailable to the plants, yellowing the leaves between green veins. Now's the time to take quick action. Spray water-soluble chelated micronutrient fertilizer on the foliage. This works best on young leaves that are still growing. For longer-lasting results, work iron sulfate or sulfur into the top layer of soil.

Snails and Slugs

These slimy little devils are out in force this spring. Protect seedlings by sprinkling the garden just before dusk. Then, after dark, take a flashlight and handpick them of the leaves and put them in a plastic bag. Crush the bag and put the dead snails and slugs into your compost pile. This is a way to get rid of them without using chemical baits that eventually find their way into the Bay.

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RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

21468 Outlook Court	94546: \$508,500	4 BD - 2,321 SF - 1958
1718 Knox Street	94546: \$775,000	3 BD - 1,116 SF - 1941
22245 North 6th Street	94546:	\$845,000
22243 North 6th Street	94546:	\$850,000
19065 Carlton Avenue	94546: \$1,007,000	2 BD - 1,385 SF - 1960
3218 Lenard Drive	94546: \$1,025,000	3 BD - 1,508 SF - 1967
TOTAL SALES:	8	
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$508,500	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$847,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,025,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$838,187

San Leandro

1502 136th Avenue	94578: \$300,000	2 BD - 811 SF - 1970
14820 Wake Avenue	94578: \$650,000	2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1945
2439 Ranspot Drive	94578: \$750,000	1,959 SF - 1975
1999 Wayne Avenue	94577: \$765,000	3 BD - 1,115 SF - 1952
1838 Arena Street	94579: \$860,000	3 BD - 1,169 SF - 1956
2027 Gulfstream Way	94579: \$1,100,000	5 BD - 2,820 SF - 1997
2001 Clipper Court	94579: \$1,100,000	4 BD - 2,820 SF - 1996
972 Estudillo Avenue	94577: \$1,156,000	3 BD - 2,126 SF - 1939
965 Lee Avenue	94577: \$1,270,000	3 BD - 2,489 SF - 1927
TOTAL SALES:	9	
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$300,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$860,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,270,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$883,444

San Lorenzo

891 Videll Street	94580: \$650,000	3 BD - 1,034 SF - 1951
463 Crespi Place	94580: \$731,000	4 BD - 1,814 SF - 2004
765 Delano Street	94580: \$800,000	4 BD - 1,890 SF - 1952
TOTAL SALES:	3	
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$650,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$731,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$800,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$727,000

No Soft Drinks for Plants

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Q Is it advisable to water plants with left-over soft drinks? Are there any beneficial nutrients for plants?

A Basically, sugary sodas do not aid in a plant's development and, in fact, high sugar content retards the absorption of nutrients and water. So, frequent applications are

discouraged. Diet sodas may help stimulate plant growth since the lack of sugar will easily allow the water molecules to move to the roots. However, the effects of diet soda and plants are generally negligible over tap water and far more costly.

Club soda and carbonated flavored water seem to benefit from their high concentration of nutrients favored for plant growth. While water is the best choice for

plants, carbonated water or soda will certainly not harm your plants and may even result in larger, healthier, and more vividly green plants. (The internet was helpful in answering this question.)

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.

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PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

A stolen car crashed into Root Park on East 14th Street on Sunday and damaged the wooden canopy next to the Statue of the Portuguese Immigrant.

Stolen Car Crashes into Root Park

A stolen car crashed into Root Park and damaged the wooden canopy on Sunday. Luckily, the vehicle didn't damage the Statue of the Portuguese Immigrant, but came within a couple of feet before hitting the wooden supports of the canopy. The stolen car was involved in a robbery pursuit, according to Lt. Ali Khan of the San Leandro police. The pursuit started near Washington and 139th avenues, but police called off the chase due to unsafe speeds. The vehicle later turned up in the collision at Root Park at East 14th Street and Dan Niemi Way.

— By Jim Knowles

Armed Robber Hits Gas Station

The U.S. Gas station at 1995 Washington Avenue was robbed by a man with a gun on Sunday. The suspect pointed a handgun at the clerk and demanded money, according to Lt. Ali Khan of the San Leandro police. The clerk opened the drawer and the suspect removed the money and fled. The suspect was described as a white male in his 50s, 6 feet tall and thin build. The suspect fled to a vehicle parked next door at the car wash, Khan said. There was no description of the vehicle.

— By Jim Knowles



Scouts Pitch In on Manor Cleanup

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts helped with the Manor Boulevard clean-up on March 27, organized by City Councilman Bryan Azevedo. The scouts said they enjoyed being a part of improving the neighborhood and town. The scouts in the picture are with Boy Scout Troop 5555, plus a member of Girl Scout Troop 30099 – Michael Silva, Justin Kwan, Spencer Darone, Avery Darone (Girl Scout), Adriel Macapagal, Christopher Bradshaw, and Wyatt Turner.

Drought: Just the first stage

continued from front page municipalities to reduce usage by those who may not have individual water meters. EBMUD's drought guidelines have 5 stages. We have been in "Stage 0," meaning there was no drought. Stages 2, 3, and 4 require increasing mandatory reductions.

Hayward Arts Council Features Variety of Media in Online Exhibit

Thirty-two members of the Hayward Arts Council are featuring a variety of media including poetry, photography, mixed media, digital print, paper cut art, and ink. To view this exhibition, visit haywardartscouncil.org.

INQUIRING REPORTER

Would you go into outer space?

— Asked around town

No, because I don't know what's out there. I deal with what I know. Plus, if something goes wrong, there's nothing, no air. There's no room for error.

Teresa Cooley
Oakland



Yes, I think I would, because I think we could start all over and show concern for one another. We're all the same, the same organs, kidneys, heart. We should all get along. It's God's plan.

Elna Lethridge
Oakland

I don't think so. I'm not a young guy anymore. I keep my feet planted on Earth.

Gary Green and Bella
San Leandro



No, because we watched the Challenger launch when I was in the third grade and it was traumatizing.

Charleen Cohen
Oakland

I guess so, if it was possible. But I'm thinking that a younger person has a better chance of going.

George O'Neill
San Leandro



Bay Area Man Develops Blood Clot after J&J Shot

A Bay Area man who developed a rare blood clot two weeks after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is recuperating at University of California, San Francisco.

The man, in his 30s, was admitted last Wednesday after suffering back and leg pains. UCSF said he is making good progress and is expected to be discharged in a few days.

This is the first case in which a man has experienced rare blood clots after being vaccinated with the J&J vaccine.

An 11-day pause on the single-shot vaccine was lifted this past Friday after scientific advisers decided its benefits far outweigh the rare risk of blood clots, opening the way for resumption of the vaccine in California.

Eight Bay Area counties have issued a statement in support of local health providers resuming their use of the vaccine.

Meantime, Stanford, the University of California and Cal State University announced last week that they will require Covid vaccinations for all on-campus students, faculty and staff this fall once the

FDA gives formal approval to the vaccines, and supplies are sufficiently available.

Currently, the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are being distributed under emergency use authorization. Health experts expect full approval of at least one of them

by the fall.

CDC researchers have found no evidence to date that either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines posed serious risks during pregnancy.

Vaccinations are 10 percent higher for women than men nationwide.

Hayward Library to Re-open Monday

The downtown branch of the Hayward Public Library, 888 C St. in Hayward, will reopen for limited walk-in services on Monday, May 3.

Through the new Express walk-in service, library users will be able to enter the downtown branch during 2-hour, limited-capacity sessions and will be required to follow all

safety protocols, including social distancing and mask requirements.

Express services include self-service check-out of materials and hold pick-ups; new library cards and payment of charges; computer use for a maximum of one hour per day; browsing the collection; reference assistance; self-ser-

vice copying, scanning and printing; and Wi-Fi access. Express hours at the downtown branch are:

- Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

LOCAL DEATHS

Dusan Velebit

Dusan Velebit, a resident of San Leandro, passed away on April 17, 2021 with his loving wife Anita by his side. Dusan was born in France. He met his wife in Croatia and they came to the United States in 1969.

He was a loyal member of The Carpenter Union Local 2336 for 51 years. Dusan enjoyed music, traveling and barbecuing with friends.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Anita and his brother Miloraol Velebit he is also survived by Anita's family in Europe, and many family and friends in Croatia and Europe. Dusan was a wonderful husband and friend and he will be missed tremendously.

A private funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Arrangements by Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 510-483-0123.



Lois J. Ackroyd

Lois J. Ackroyd, 98, passed away of natural causes in her home on April 7, 2021. Lois was born in Oakland and resided most of her life in San Leandro. She was employed by Caterpillar for close to 40 years. During her retirement, Lois found joy in bowling, dancing at the Hayward Senior Center, taking group bus trips to casinos, getting together monthly for lunch with her sisters, and pampering her much loved cat, Callie.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Harold, and sister, Helen Knowles. She leaves behind her step-daughter Conley Sakas, sisters Dolores Jones, Margie Joaquin (Lee Scott) and a number of nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding service provided by her caregiver, Kalisi Toli, which allowed Lois to remain in the comfort of her own home.

At Lois' request, there will be no services.



TIMES OBITUARIES may be submitted online at ebpublishing.com, emailed to obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number. For further assistance, call 510-614-1555.

Marie Watson

March 13, 1921 ~ April 18, 2021

Meta Marie Watson passed away on Sunday, April 18, 2021 surrounded by her daughters. She had recently celebrated her 100th birthday with family.

Marie was born in Oakland, California and graduated from Castlemont High School. She met Jack Watson during high school and they later married in 1941. They lived with her mother in Oakland while starting their family of two daughters. During this time, Jack was busy working and building their home on Cherokee Avenue in Oakland. The house was perfect because it included a large garden – Marie's favorite activity. She was known for spending her time tending the garden and flowers. Later a third daughter joined the family and they moved to San Leandro in 1963.

Marie later became the office manager at First United Methodist Church and worked there for over 25 years. She became active around San Leandro, especially after she retired. She volunteered at city hall in several departments, participated in the San Leandro Historical Society, Estudillo Homeowners' Association, and Friends of the Library as well as many other activities. Gardening was still her favorite hobby and she enjoyed gardening at her home along with her church and one of her favorite places – the Little Brown Church behind the Casa Peralta. She would take slips of plants, create starters, and transplant them anywhere that needed plants. Many of the flowers still growing there today were planted by Marie.

Marie found the greatest joy in her family. She lived her life simply and she loved her independence. She enjoyed driving her stick shift car and only stopped driving when she had to have surgery at 94 years old! She loved driving to Yosemite and hiking for days. Her "special friend" was the enormous tree that grew in her front yard. She lived on Glen Drive and later became known as the "Glen Drive Grandmother" and was honored as the July 4th parade marshal one year. And even in her 90s, neighbors would see her outside tending her garden every day. She will be remembered by so many for her love of Sunday dinners, martinis on Christmas Eve, her apple pie, dark chocolate, endless pots of coffee, and her roses, Fuchsias and Coral Belles growing in her garden.

Marie is survived by her daughters JoAnn Horton (Phil), Barbara Maroni, and Jacqui Diaz (Loren), her grandchildren Philip Horton (JulieBeth), Kim Cirincione (Mark), Joseph Diaz, Marie Diaz and Juliana Diaz, and great grandchild Hazel Horton. She was deeply loved and cared for by Ana Luti Kula and her family (Ana, Pauline, Mary, Lita).

Plant a garden, raise a glass of wine, toast to a life well lived, and be grateful for all that you have been given. She would tell you to go "make your own fun" and enjoy your life!

Thanks Mom, you'll always be in our hearts.

This Day in History April 29

1429 - Joan of Arc led Orleans, France, to victory over Britain.

1661 - The Chinese Ming dynasty occupied Taiwan.

1813 - Rubber was patented by J.F. Hummel.

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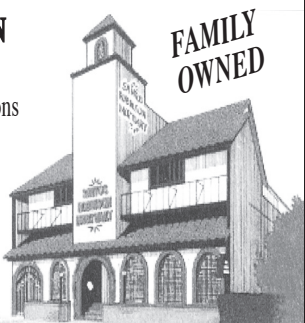
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MELISSA WILK
MARCH 12, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 577165

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
DrySwings located at 492 Mitchell Avenue,
San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County,
is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Joshua Nathaniel Silva, 492 Mitchell Avenue,
San Leandro CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Joshua Nathaniel Silva
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 12, 2026

APR 08, 15, 22, 29, 2021
334-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
MARCH 17, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 577274

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Cherryland Grocery located at 688 Blossom way, Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
John Anh Duong, 19049 Hampton Place, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 02-23-2016.

/s/ John Anh Duong
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 17, 2026

APR 08, 15, 22, 29, 2021
337-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
APRIL 07, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 578016

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Grace Cleanings located at 1600 Grand Ave Apt 23, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Tania Alejandra Orozco Mares, 1600 Grand Ave Apt 23, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 03/12/2021.

/s/ Tania Alejandra Orozco Mares
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires APRIL 07, 2026

APR 22, 29, MAY 06, 13, 2021
340-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
APRIL 14, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 578140

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Evana Music located at 1522 Dennis Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Chelsea Randall, 1522 Dennis Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Chelsea Randall
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires APRIL 14, 2026

APR 29, MAY 06, 13, 20, 2021
345-SLT

Class: Students have their temperature taken before entering school

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in their class along with students in the classroom.

"I'm happy they're going in. The classrooms are safe," said mom Davy Cunningham as she dropped her son off at Washington School on Dutton Avenue. "It was his first day inside an actual classroom. He's really excited."

At McKinley School on East 14th Street, Victor Toledo watched his two daughters join the lines outside the school. It was his younger daughter's first day ever at a school.

"I feel good, after all the distress of Covid to go back to living a normal life," Toledo said.

He said his children had missed friends, and the playground.

"They were good at home. They paid attention to lessons, took a break, got a snack, did more lessons, and did PE online," Toledo said of his daughters.

For the families that chose to return in-person, said Moss,

"Cohort A" students attend in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays, attending online on other days. Cohort B students attend in-person on Thursdays and Fridays and attend online

"I feel good, after all the distress of Covid, to go back to living a normal life."

— McKinley School parent Victor Toledo

the other three days of the week.

Everybody attends online on Wednesdays, when the schools are deep-cleaned. On other school days there is a thorough but less intensive cleaning, Moss said.

The schools keep track of

who sat where, according to Moss, so that students never sit in a seat recently occupied by another student.

Moss said that every school had an up-to-date heating and ventilation system, purchased through school bonds, that used the highest-standard air filters.

Before lining up with their class and entering the school, students get a quick health check in front, answering questions about any symptoms of exposure to Covid. Parents submit each student's temperature every day, and school staff take temperatures if the record isn't current.

Those safety precautions satisfied one parent who might be more health-conscious than most. Dr. Christina Johnson, a physician, said "We know it's safe inside, and everyone's been vaccinated, my husband, myself and everyone inside."

She and husband Ian Johnson were picking up their two children from Washington School on Thursday. Rickie



PHOTO BY MIKE McGUIRE

The Johnson Family – Ronnie, Rickie, Christina and Ian – goes back to school, in front of Washington School, 250 Dutton Ave., on April 15.

had just finished the first day of in-person kindergarten. Ronnie, in first grade, had previously attended in-person before the pandemic hit last year.

While vaccines for children have not yet been approved, Dr. Johnson said she hoped their children were

among the first to get shots.

Johnson said the last year had been tough, with her going in to work in especially stressful times for physicians. Ian Johnson, who had worked from home, ran the "daddy day school," he said.

Both children said they en-

joyed their first day of in-person school this year. Ronnie said his favorite part of the day was watching an educational video.

Christina Johnson sighed and said, "A year of screens and his favorite thing was a video!"

Reservations Due for Castro Valley High School 50-Year Class Reunion

Make your reservation now for the Castro Valley High School 50-year Class Reunion to be held on Thursday, Sept.

23, at the Wedgwood Event Center, 9430 Fircrest Lane in San Ramon, with a social hour and no-host bar at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6.

RSVP by next Wednesday, April 28, with check (\$75 per person) and dinner preferences (fish, vegetables or beef/chicken combo) to: Ginger Rolf, 14564 P.G. Volcano Road, Pine Grove, CA 95665.

Also, let the planners know what you want to see at the reunion by taking a brief survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PS78ML5>.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Temper your typical Aries urge to charge into a situation and demand answers. Instead, let the Lamb's gentler self emerge to deal with a problem that requires delicacy.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): You are aware of what's going on, so continue to stand by your earlier decision, no matter how persuasive the counter-arguments might be. Money pressures will soon ease.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): By all means, have fun and enjoy your newly expanded social life. But don't forget that some people are depending on you to keep promises that are very important to them.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): You need to wait patiently for an answer to a workplace problem and not push for a decision. Remember: Time is on your side. A financial matter needs closer attention.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): You now have information that can influence that decision you planned to make. But the clever Cat will consult a trusted friend or family member before making a major move.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Good news: You're finding that more doors are opening for you to show what you can do, and you don't even have to knock very hard to get the attention you're seeking.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Your gift for creating order out of chaos will help you deal with a sudden rush of responsibilities that would threaten someone less able to balance his or her priorities.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Congratulations. Your energy levels are coming right back up to normal – just in time to help you tackle some worthwhile challenges and make some important choices.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): The sage Sagittarian should demand a full explanation of inconsistencies that might be cropping up in what had seemed to be a straightforward deal.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): A conflict between obligations to family and to the job can create stressful problems. Best advice: Balance your dual priorities so that one doesn't outweigh the other.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Don't guess, speculate or gossip about that so-called mystery situation at the workplace. Bide your time. An explanation will be forthcoming very soon.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Boredom might be creeping in and causing you to lose interest in a repeat project. Deal with it by flipping over your usual routine and finding a new way to do an old task.

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Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36-month monitoring contract ranging from \$45.99-\$59.99/mo. with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,439.76), enrollment in ADT EasyPay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.
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