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San Leandro Times

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

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SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Guillermo Elenas looks on as Jayden Pruitt and Javier Perez go up for the ball on the new outdoor playground at Assumption School just after the church held a ceremony to mark the completion of the project.

Assumption Opens New Playground

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

It took God seven days to make the world, but it took 10 years to re-do the parking lot, playground and landscaping at Assumption Church and its school. But then God knows how to cut through the red tape.

No matter how many years it took, it was still quite a feat to get the job done, and it's made a big improvement to the look of Assumption. To recognize the job, Assumption held a celebration after the noon Mass on Sunday, Aug. 26. The parking lot doubles as a playground when school is in session, and a small part

of the lot was turned into grass. "Kids had to dodge the potholes when they were playing," said Robert Caruso, a parishioner who helped manage the project. They paved the lot, built new fences, planted trees, added more landscaping with drought-resistant plants, and installed

see PLAYGROUND, page 5

Candidate Gets Involved: Runs For Five Offices

Nick Harvey got no response from politicians, so he's running

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

When Nicholas Harvey moved to the Fairview area two years ago, he saw room for improvement – speeding cars, overgrown weeds, and several blocks without sidewalks. Harvey started attending meetings and speaking to rep-

Harvey is running for East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) Ward 7 seat, the Eden Health District Board of Directors see HARVEY, page 8



Only One Candidate For SLZ School Board

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Nick Harvey moved to Fairview and saw a need for improvement.

representatives on the Fairview Municipal Advisory Council, the county Public Works department, the school district, and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors – but he said they just weren't listening.

So Harvey decided to do something about it. He's running for five separate offices in this November's general election.

"Every time I've spoken about these issues, they've fallen on deaf ears," said Harvey. "I've just become very fed up. No one wants to do anything, so I will."

There are not enough candidates for the San Lorenzo School Board to get the race on the ballot for the November election.

Additionally, San Lorenzo's superintendent announced he's leaving the district less than two months into the school year for a job outside the education field.

Originally, the San Lorenzo School Board race was going to be a "pick-two" election with the top two vote getters earning a spot as board trustees.

But only one person filed to run – teacher and 2012 Arroyo High grad Samuel Medina. The other incumbent, Janet Zamudio, see SCHOOL BOARD, page 8

City Council Extends Airbnb Moratorium

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City Council unanimously approved an urgency ordinance on Tuesday night to extend a moratorium on non-hosted short-term home rentals such as Airbnbs. The ban has now been extended for ten more months, bringing the total length to one year.

In the spring, dozens of North Area residents complained to the City Council that out-of-town owners were effectively operating hotels out of homes, sometimes hosting up to 16 people in single-family homes at rates up to nearly \$2,000 per night.

The speakers complained about the revolving door of

guests and said that the Airbnbs were detrimental in creating a neighborhood since new people were coming in every day and potential buyers were also being priced out by investors who own multiple rental properties where they do not live. The temporary moratorium went into effect just before the City Council's August break and was extended this week when the council came back into session. The ban does not apply to short-term rentals that are hosted, meaning owners can still rent out a room in a home if they're also living at the property. see MORATORIUM, page 5



The Airbnb website has taken down listings for this San Leandro house and others since a moratorium was passed by the City Council at the urging of North Area home owners.

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Pedestrian killed by train near Williams Street. **Page 2**

CRIME

Dutton Avenue man arrested for guns and drugs. **Page 3**

ELECTION

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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.



Pets of the Week



Picasso



Diego

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Picasso the kitten and Diego the kitten.

Picasso is 4 months old and arrived at the shelter motherless. While a bit timid at first, just give her a few treats, some love and lots of patience and she'll be your best buddy in no time. Spayed.

Diego is 4 months old and was timid so volunteers socialized with him and he's blossoming.

While still a bit timid, with some TLC, treats and patience, he'll be your buddy in no time. Neutered.

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



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Police check the area around Williams Street where a man was killed by a train on Friday.

Man Struck and Killed by Train

A man was struck and killed by an Amtrak passenger train near the Williams Street crossing on Friday morning.

The man was seen walking down the middle of the tracks by a bystander just before he was struck.

"I saw him and I yelled, 'Get off the tracks! Get off the tracks! There's a train coming,' but he just kept walking, and then 'Bam,'" said Debbie Alparone. "It's just horrifying."

Amtrak Capitol Corridor train No. 527 was traveling on its route from Sacramento to San Jose at 9:12 a.m. None of the 57 passengers or crew members were injured, according to Amtrak spokeswoman Olivia Irvin.

The incident is under investi-

gation, said Irvin.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau is withholding the name and information about the victim until family members can be reached.

Amtrak urges people to use caution around railroad tracks and crossings. Nationwide each year, about 2,000 people are killed or injured in grade crossing or trespassing incidents, according to Amtrak.

— By Jim Knowles

San Leandro Times

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

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St. Leander's Parish Festival

St. Leander Church will have its 64th Annual Parish Festival, Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 550 W. Estudillo Ave., across from San Leandro BART. Entertainment, games, raffle prizes, international food.

Free admission. Chicken and BBQ pulled pork dinner with all the fixings from 4 to 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. \$25 for adults (13+), children \$15 (4-12). For more information, call the Parish Office at 895-5631.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACPD

Learn How to Prepare for a Disaster at Community Fair

The Alameda County Community Preparedness Fair is this Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3 Crosses Church, 20600 John Drive in Castro Valley. This free event includes exhibits and classes from the county sheriff's office, fire department, and public works department as well as the Red Cross, PG&E, and more. An interactive exhibit called "The Big Shaker" will let guests experience what a 8.0 magnitude earthquake feels like, and there are classes on topics ranging from making emergency kits to caring for seniors in a disaster.

Man Dies of Suspected OD in BART Bathroom

A man died of a suspected drug overdose at the Bayfair BART station last Wednesday evening, causing the station to be closed for over two hours.

Someone called police after they witnessed the man, Kevin

Senesomboun, 26, enter the restroom at the station at around 9:20 p.m. and did not see him come back out.

Police arrived and found Senesomboun on the floor along with drug paraphernalia. Para-

medics tried to revive him, but could not.

The station was reopened at around 11:30 p.m. Buses were used to bridge the gap in service while the Bayfair station was closed.

Man Charged with Gun and Drug Offenses After Accidental Shooting

A man was arrested in his home last month after accidentally firing a gun through his floor, causing the bullet to pierce his downstairs neighbor's apartment. When police arrived, they found he had more guns and drugs.

Minh Huynh, 29, was arrested the day after he allegedly misfired the gun on Aug. 24.

Huynh was inside his second floor apartment on the 100 block of Dutton Ave. on that Friday evening when he was handling a

loaded gun that went off and penetrated his floor at around 11:30 p.m., according to Lt. Issac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

The bullet entered the other apartment, but the neighbor was not harmed. The next day, the neighbor alerted the police to the damage to his ceiling, Benabou said.

Huynh told police that the shooting was an accident and he didn't mean to fire the gun.

"Negligent discharge of a firearm is a crime, even if done

so accidentally," said Benabou in a written statement. "There are no second chances if someone's inattention seriously injures or kills a person. We are thankful in this case that no one was hurt. Firearms must be treated as loaded at all time and should never be handled outside an approved environment."

During a search of the apartment, police found the gun in question as well as several other firearms inside his apartment. A records check revealed that two of the weapons found were reported stolen.

Additionally, Huynh was found to be in possession of drugs packaged for sale, cash, and drug paraphernalia.

Huynh was arrested and transported to Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and charged by the district attorney's office with felony drug and firearm offenses.

If you are a gun owner and have questions on how to avoid accidents and practice proper gun safety at home, you can call the San Leandro Police at 577-2740.

DA Settles Goop Lawsuit

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office, as a member of the California Food, Drug, and Medical Device Task Force, announced this week a settlement in a consumer protection action against Goop, Inc., owned by actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

The consumer protection complaint alleges that Goop made false and misleading claims regarding the effects or attributes of quartz egg-shaped stones designed to be inserted vaginally

and left in for various lengths of time to balance hormones, prevent uterine prolapse, increase bladder control and prevent depression.

Goop has offered to refund any consumer who purchased the products. Requests for refunds can be made by contacting customerservice@goop.com or 1-844-WTF-GOOP.

Under the terms of the stipulated judgment, Goop agreed to pay \$145,000 in civil penalties.



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NEIGHBORS



Open House at Air Museum on Sunday

Hop into the cockpit of a famous fighter plane at the Oakland Aviation Museum's "Open Cockpit Day" on Sunday, Sept. 9, from noon to 4 p.m. at Oakland Airport's North Field, 8252 Earhart Road in Oakland, just off Doolittle Drive.

On Open Cockpit day mu-

seum visitors are allowed to sit inside aircraft such as the A-3 Skywarrior, A-7 Corsair, or a Harrier jump jet.

Activities include Southern Alameda County Radio Controllers Aircraft Exhibit, Chabot Space and Science Center Activities, an F/A-18 flight simulator,

live music by the Friends of Ken Band, face painting, roller derby demonstrations, and drone demonstrations. The regular hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

For more information, call 638-7100 or see www.oaklandaviationmuseum.org.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ Douglas Morrisson Theatre

The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward, opens the season with *Once Upon a Mattress*, running Sept. 13 through Sept. 30 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. This light-hearted romp is a comic retelling of the classic

Hans Christian Andersen story, *The Princess and the Pea*.

Tickets are \$29 with discounts for students, groups of 10 or more, and for over 60 or under 30. Tickets are \$10 for the preview on Thursday, Sept. 13. For tickets or information, call the box office at 881-6777.

❖ Bill Owens Photo Exhibit

PhotoCentral, 1099 E St. in Hayward, presents *Altamont to America: Bill Owens and the Legacy of Suburbia*, running through Oct. 20. The exhibit celebrates the work of Bill Owens, spanning six decades, for his 80th birthday. The exhibition coincides with the book release of the same title. Gallery hours: Upstairs gallery – Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Downstairs gallery – Monday 5 to 10 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. For more information, call PhotoCentral at 881-6721 or email info@photo-central.org.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Aspects favor new romances for unpaired Ewes and Rams. Already-paired Arian twosomes experience renewed harmony in their relationships. Money matters take a bright turn.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Use that strong Bovine determination to help you keep the faith with your convictions while you move through a period of uncertainty. Things begin to ease by the week's end.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Pay attention to your intuition. It could be alerting you to be more careful about accepting a "statement of fact" simply on trust. Don't be shy about asking for more proof.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Concern for the well-being of someone in need is admirable. But don't forget to take care of yourself as well. Ask a family member, close friend or colleague to help you.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): It's OK to focus on the demands of your career. But try to avoid misunderstandings by also reaching out to family and friends. Your sharp intuitive sense kicks in by midweek.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Keep a rein on that green-eyed monster. Jealousy is counterproductive. Instead of resenting a colleague's good points, concentrate on developing your own abilities.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Spending time on a creative project during this high-energy week can pay off both in emotional satisfaction and in impressing someone who is glad to see this side of you.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Now is a good time to start planning that trip you've put off because of the demands on your time. Be sure to choose a destination that is new and exciting.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): That upbeat mood in the first part of the week makes you eager to take on new ventures. A more serious note sets in later to help you assess an upcoming decision.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): A high energy level gives the Goat the get-up-and-go to finish outstanding tasks before deadline, leaving time for well-earned fun and games with friends and family.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Dealing with disappointment is never easy. But the wise Aquarian will use it as a vital lesson and be the better for it. A close friend has something important to say.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Best bet is not to get involved in an argument between colleagues until you know more about who started it and why. And even then, appearances could be deceiving. Be alert.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ SL Scholarship Foundation Benefit

The San Leandro Scholarship Foundation will benefit from the First Friday event with live music and food trucks on Friday, Sept. 7, from 4 to 9 p.m. at Drake's Brewing Co. 1933 Davis St., behind Walmart in the Westgate Center. A \$5 donation at the entry will support scholarships for San Leandro High School graduates. Open to anyone over age 21 or children under 16 accompanied by parents, but no pets, please.

❖ SL High School Baseball Fundraiser

The 8th Annual San Leandro High School Baseball Fundraiser will be on Friday, Sept. 7, at the Redwood Canyon Golf Course, 17007 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. \$120 per golfer which includes putting contest, 18 holes of golf, driving range balls, golf cart, raffle prizes, awards, and dinner at the golf course. Register this week by calling coach Mike Bungarz at 449-2383 or email bungarz@comcast.net.

❖ St. Leander's Annual Parish Festival

St. Leander Church will have its 64th Annual Parish Festival, Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 550 W. Estudillo Ave., across from San Leandro BART. Entertainment, games, raffle prizes, international food. Free admission. Chicken and BBQ pulled pork dinner with all the fixings from 4 to 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. \$25 for adults (13+), children \$15 (4-12). For more information, call the Parish Office at 895-5631.

❖ San Leandro Readers Roundtable

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable meets Saturday, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The group will discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee, the multigenerational saga of a Korean family in Japan. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the Library's Booktique bookstore.

❖ Hearing Loss Association Meeting

The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Refreshments are at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m. Are there activities you avoid because you can't hear well enough? Steve Sells is a hard of hearing engineer who will share tips and technologies that have helped him make these activities enjoyable. Parking is free in the old garage across from Howe Street. For more information, email info@hearinglosseb.org or call 221-6080.

❖ I.D.E.S. St. John Lunch & Bingo

I.D.E.S. St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will host a barbecue ribs lunch and bingo on Saturday, Sept. 8, at noon. Tickets are \$15 and include lunch and four bingo cards. Extra cards are 25 cents each. For tickets, call Darlene Cornell at 589-6536, Willie Cavo at 635-6326 or Frances Leite at 886-1568.

❖ Free Scratch Art Demo

The San Leandro Art Association will hold a free scratch art demo by artist Shone Chacko at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Sunday, Sept. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Karp Room. Mingling and refreshments at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Molly Dolly at 483-1208.

❖ San Leandro Dahlia Society

The San Leandro Dahlia Society will hold its annual show on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Over a thousand blooms will

be displayed. Admission is free. The dahlia is the official flower of San Leandro. For more information, visit the Dahlia Society's website at sanleandrodahliasociety.org.

❖ Breakfast Fundraiser at Mission Bay

The Mission Bay Men's and Women's Club will have a biscuits and gravy breakfast fundraiser for the Livermore Veterans Hospital on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Mission Bay Club House, 15333 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. Breakfast is \$6 per person and includes biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, ham, hashbrowns, coffee, tea or juice. Fifty percent of net proceeds will be donated to the Livermore Veterans Hospital.

❖ Soup & Salad Bar Bingo Luncheon

The Sisters of the Eden Auxiliary 1139 will serve a soup and salad bar charity bingo luncheon on Monday, Sept. 10, at noon at the Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. There will also be a cold-cut sandwich plate, dessert, coffee and tea. For a donation of \$8 you will receive one free bingo card and as a member, if this is your birthday month, you will receive one additional card. For more information, call Glenda at 584-1568.

❖ 9-Mile Run Fundraiser for Homeless

The Jefferson Service Club at San Leandro High will host a 9-mile run to raise money for a homeless rehabilitation center on Monday, Sept. 10, starting at 12:30 p.m. The run will be over the Bay Bridge from Treasure Island to Oakland. Registration for the run is \$100 with a t-shirt included. To register and for more information, call Jack Nelson at 303-2305 or email SLjeffersonservice@gmail.com.

❖ Redwood 4-H Club Open House

Come see what 4-H is all about at an open house information night on Thursday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. at Canyon Middle School in Castro Valley, in the cafeteria. Boys and Girls, ages 5 to 18 are in the club. Besides animal projects (rabbits, horse, sheep, poultry), the club has needle works, archery, fishing, dog training, camping, hiking, vet science and a few more. For more information, call Karen at 566-3672.

❖ Classic Car Show

A classic car show is held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4 to 7 p.m. through October in the parking lot at Elio's Restaurant, 260 Floresta Blvd. in San Leandro. Cars from a 1915 Model T on up through more modern vehicles are on display. Motorcycles and dune buggies have been shown, too. No fees, just park your car and walk around and see the vehicles on display.

❖ Fun Family Pancake Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of Hayward/Castro Valley will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Hayward Area Senior Center, 22325 North Third St. in Hayward from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Bring the entire family to enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. Sulphur Creek Nature Center will be at the event from 10 to 11 a.m. to share some wild critters. Tickets are available at the door, adults \$5, \$3 for children under 12 and Seniors 60+ are free. For more information, call 881-6766 or visit www.haywardrec.org.

❖ SL High School Class of 1978 Reunion

The San Leandro High School Class of 1978 will hold its 40-year reunion on Sept. 22 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Campos Family Vineyards in Byron. Details and online registration at www.slhsreunion.com or call Ernie at 858-232-5419.

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.

Playground: Finished in the nick of time

continued from front page

LED lights.

At the outdoor ceremony, Father Leonard Marujo thanked the church members who worked on the project. He then asked the congregation to turn around toward the playground and raise a hand to bless the new facility.

The project was finished just in the nick of time. They squeezed the work into the summer recess, with no time left to spare.

"We started on the Monday after school stopped," said Matt Loesch, one of the volunteers who helped manage the project. "And we finished at noon on the day school started at 2 p.m."

The funding came from school tuition, church funds and fundraisers, said school board president Paul Carney who was in charge of the financial part of the project.

Though volunteers organized the work, the job was done by professional companies, pointed out Caruso, who is a project manager by profession.

Caruso got down to the brass tacks. This wasn't just a patch-up of the pavement, they completely removed the blacktop.

"This paving job was monumental – it was dug down to the soil, started from scratch," Caruso said.

Another thing Caruso wanted to point out was that he's managed projects in a lot of cities and that the City of San Leandro was easy to work with.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Father Leonard Marujo recognized the efforts of Assumption parishioners who worked for years to get the playground project done.

The whole idea started 10 years ago when Angele Sweet drew the sketches, said parishioner Faye Clements.

Over the years, church mem-

bers heard enough about the plans, so it's finally good that now everybody can see the results, Caruso said.

"It took us a long time," said

Caruso, adding with a chuckle, "I think people were getting tired of hearing us talk about it."

Moratorium: New ordinance in the works

continued from front page

Now the City Council has until the end of next July to re-write the municipal code, which was originally drafted before these type of short-term rentals were popularized.

The ban appears to have been successful so far – San Leandro rentals have been removed from the Airbnb site.

City code enforcement officers are monitoring short-term rental sites, but most enforcement is complaint-based, according to Andrew Mogensen, the city's planning manager.

During the month of August, the city received six complaints of active short-term rentals. Of those cases, one was found not to have been a non-hosted rental and one was a non-hosted rental whose owner agreed to desist in renting the property after a notice of a violation. The four remaining cases are still under investigation by the city.

The process for penalizing violators is a long one: if an owner is found to be in violation, they'll receive a courtesy notice.

If the violation keeps happening, they get another notice 14 days later, then a \$150 fine 14 days after that, and the fine doubles every two weeks after that. Only two and a half months after the initial notice could they be served with a judicial order to abate, according to Mogensen.

The next step in creating the new ordinance will be a meeting in the Karp Room at the San Leandro Main Library on Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. to get feedback from the public and also present a survey.

After that meeting, a City Council follow-up is expected in late November or early December, with the goal of having a finalized ordinance shortly after the beginning of the new year.

Cherry City Toastmasters

The Cherry City Toastmasters Club meets every Tuesday from 12:05 to 1:05 p.m. in the Trustees Room on the first floor at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Public speaking is said to be the number one fear

in America. Toastmasters offers a safe, supportive environment to grow your public speaking and leadership skills. Come explore what Toastmasters is all about. The club also offers capability to attend online.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Lexus RX 450h Shines as Luxury Crossover

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

As the market moves more and more from sedans to SUVs (or crossovers, as most of them are called), Lexus offers two choices. Luckily, both include a hybrid option. The RX 450h is the larger vehicle and represents a very successful model for the brand for many years.

The fourth generation RX appeared a couple of years ago, so this year's offering features little that's fresh. A new Premium Package adds \$1,110 worth of leather seats, outside folding mirrors, memory for driver's seat, mirror, and steering wheel position, and a rear armrest with a storage bin. Not a big deal.

What's significant here is that the RX 450h delivers more than the popular gasoline-only RX 350, not just in efficiency but in performance, too. With the same engine under the hood, plus two electric motors and a 37-kW nickel metal hydride battery, increased fuel economy is a given. But it also provides an extra 13 horsepower—308 versus the RX 350's 295. There's enough oomph in the hybrid powertrain to push the 4,740-pound five-people-hauling SUV from zero to 60 mph in 7.9

seconds.

The electric motors, one at each end, drive separate axles, enabling an all-wheel-drive platform that's different from the AWD gas-only RX 350.

While the RX 350 with all-wheel drive gets 19 City, 26 Highway, and 22 Combined, the Hybrid boasts 31 City, 27 Highway, and 30 Combined. You can see where the benefit of having those two motors is realized—in town.

I achieved 26.9 mpg during my testing, somewhat lower than the official score. EPA Green scores are a pair of 7's, showing it's lucky for you to have the Lexus Hybrid Drive in your RX. The non-hybrid gets a 5 and a 4 respectively, missing out on the 450h's EPA SmartWay designation (and using an extra 4 barrels of oil in a year's time).

Although the sliced-and-diced Lexus styling is beginning to look more normal now, when the first of these new Lexus models appeared I wondered how long the stylist had been hitting the liquor cabinet. The first-generation RX was a beautiful, elegantly brush-stroked design. Today's is seriously busy to the eye. It feels like someone on the design team said, "If some lines are cool, lots of lines must be cooler!"

The spindle grille, which has proliferated through the brand's of-

ferings now, is pretty extreme, but here it is integrated well into the entire car, so it looks ferocious but properly contained. With blacked-out rear pillars, the roof appears to be floating; this is a popular design trend today and looks no better or worse on the RX.

The interior is angular too, but a little less polarizing. The huge center screen provides lots of information and is controlled by the older joystick style gadget on the console rather than the newer finger touchpad.

In my Silver Lining Metallic sample, profoundly appealing music poured forth from the optional Mark Levinson 15-speaker premium audio system (\$3,200). With that kind of sound, it almost doesn't matter what the inside looks like, or where you're going.

In true luxury car form, the names given to the interior fitments are part of the experience. You can choose between Matte Bamboo, Espresso Walnut, Matte Linear Dark Mocha Wood, Striated Black Trim, or Gray Sapele wood. Just like reading color samples at Sherwin-Williams.

There are head-up displays in many cars, but the one here (optional, \$600) is colorful and offers more than just the speed while keeping your eyes on the road.



An independent rear-mounted electric motor drives the rear wheels when needed to help maintain optimal traction.

As a crossover, the RX has plenty of capacity to haul things like upright basses and amplifiers, and would surely be at home for your Costco and Home Depot runs.

Pricing of the all-wheel-drive RX 350 and RX 450h is surprising close. The hybrid's \$1,025 price premium seems like little to pay for the benefit of economy and occasionally running on battery power only. That small difference also shows that you're not paying extra for a giant battery that would make it into an essentially different car.

My test car had a base price of \$45,695, but with upgraded wheels, sound system, a moonroof, head-up display, and the premium package, came to \$54,620. That's a luxury price but in today's market,



A new Premium Package adds \$1,110 worth of leather seats.

no longer a scary number.

Luxury crossovers, especially with hybrid or all-electric power, are going to be even more popular in the future, so Lexus has a pair of competitors with the RX and NX. The new 2019 compact UX hybrid

arrives shortly and will give Lexus three shots at making crossovers a little more efficient. It would be nice to see a pure electric Toyota or Lexus soon, but the company seems intent on stocking its arsenal with hybrids.



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Harvey: Mellon drops off load of documents at challenger's door

continued from front page

tors, the Fairview Fire Protection District Board, the Hayward School Board, and AC Transit Board Ward 4.

Harvey admits that he'd most like to take the AC Transit spot, as he questions opponent incumbent Mark Williams' financial honesty. Williams did not file campaign finance reports between 2012 and 2016 and was fined \$60,000 earlier this year by the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

Harvey says the transit system is just plain badly run, with AC Transit's per-ride operation costs at roughly twice that of MUNI in San Francisco. And he would know — Harvey is reliant on public transportation, taking buses, trains, and his bike everywhere.

"I've never owned a car, but I do own a house," said Harvey, who has a degree in chemistry and now runs his own real estate consulting business.

But Harvey says he would be content to win any — or all — of the five races.

"If I win all five, I'll serve all five," said Harvey. "When I filed



EBMUD board member Frank Mellon criticized Harvey's candidacy.

(to become a candidate) it was my intention to serve, so I will. I have the breadth of knowledge to serve on all five."

Incumbent Mellon Complains That Challenger Makes Election Cost More

EBMUD Ward 7 incumbent Frank Mellon has been openly critical of Harvey casting a wide net when it comes to the election.

Mellon has been on the utility board for 24 years and has often run unopposed for reelection. He last faced an opponent 8 years ago.

But Mellon says it's not the fact that he'll have to campaign that he's worried about, it's the cost of Harvey's gambit.

Elections cost the county (and therefore the taxpayer) hundreds of thousands of dollars and the cost is based on the number of voters. If a race is uncontested, it doesn't appear on the ballot and so doesn't cost taxpayers money.

Mellon said that Harvey's five-race election was superfluous.

"I couldn't care less if someone is running against me; my concern is waste," said Mellon. "Am I really running against someone who stands for something or just a guy that wants some sort of Guinness record? I've worked really hard for our rate payers and I have a record of that."

But Harvey said if that's Mellon's concern why is the cost being pinned on Harvey's candidacy and not Mellon's?

"How is the cost to the county from me running and not him?" asked Harvey.

Harvey says he does have a platform. His scientific background will help him grasp the work of the utility and that he intends to reform the tiered rate paying system to help lower-income residents. He also wants

to focus on water conservation efforts.

In August, Mellon went to Harvey's home and dropped off a load of EBMUD staff reports and other documents.

"I dropped off the documents to show him what kind of work he'd have to do," said Mellon. "Apparently, he took umbrage

with that."

Harvey called Mellon's action "unprofessional" and added that he would like people to look at him as a serious, well-rounded candidate for each of the offices, not just a novelty.

"Before people criticize me, I'd say they should reach out and get to know me," said Harvey.

School Board: Brill resigning

continued from front page

did not run for reelection. Zamudio didn't respond to a request for comment.

So with only one candidate, Medina automatically gets a spot on the school board and the race won't even appear on the ballot.

To fill the second spot, the school board will have to appoint a new member sometime after the election.

The San Lorenzo School District last had to appoint a new member in April of 2017, when trustee Helen Randall stepped down mid-term due to her health and the death of her long-time partner. Her replacement was Medina, 23, who was unanimously appointed by his fellow members to take over Randall's term.

Dr. Fred Brill, the district's superintendent, said he didn't think it was a lack of interest in local education that has led to a dearth of candidates, but a frustra-



Samuel Medina is the only candidate running for two openings on the San Lorenzo School Board.

tion with the state of education in general.

The lack of candidates is not just in San Lorenzo. In all

of San Leandro's school board races the candidates are running unopposed, guaranteed victory.

As for Brill, he announced that he is resigning as superintendent of the district as of Oct. 8, saying he's leaving for a job with a non-profit. Brill came to the district in 2014 and did not want to elaborate on his decision to leave.

"I would say that I think it is interesting that you are seeing a short tenure for superintendents, a lack of interest from candidates and that is certainly a trend in California and I think probably beyond," said Brill. "There are a lot of difficult decisions being faced in education. For example, last year the board had to identify \$5.2 million in cuts. That's hard."

Closed session discussions to find Brill's replacement were scheduled for this week's school board meeting.

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Followed by Kiddush Luncheon

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Morning Services - 10:00a
Shofar service - 11:30a
Followed by Kiddush Luncheon

YOM KIPPUR
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Kol Nidrei Service - 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
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The Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley, presents "Elevate," the work of over 20 artists, through Sept. 29.

A silent auction and closing

party will mark the last day of the exhibit on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Gallery hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11

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SENIORS

Confused By Blood Pressure?

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

If you're unsure what your blood pressure levels should be, you're not alone.

Recent changes in the hypertension guidelines made by the American Heart Association mean that roughly 30 million more Americans than previously thought are now considered to have high blood pressure (hypertension).

According to the new guidelines, anyone with a blood pressure reading above 130/80 is considered to have high blood pressure.

Previously, those with a blood pressure reading between 120/80 and 139/89 would have been put in the prehypertension category and wouldn't have been considered hypertensive until 140/90.

But the new guidelines eliminate the prehypertension category, putting everyone with systolic pressure readings (top number) between 120 and 129 and a diastolic reading (bottom number) below 80 in a new "elevated" category. And those with a reading of 130/80 or higher fall in some stage of hypertension.

Here's a complete rundown of the new five category blood pressure ranges:

- Normal: A top number less than 120 and a bottom number less than 80.
- Elevated: A top number between 120 and 129, and a bottom number less than 80.
- Stage 1: A top number between 130 and 139, or a bottom number between 80 and 89.
- Stage 2: A top number of 140 or higher, or a bottom number of 90 or higher.
- Hypertensive crisis: A top number over 180 or a bottom



number over 120.

Get Checked

Millions of Americans with high blood pressure don't know they have it because it usually has no outward signs or symptoms. But high blood pressure, over time, can damage your arteries and increase your risk for heart disease, stroke, kidney damage and even dementia.

To guard against this, everyone over the age of 40, as well as those younger with risk factors for hypertension should get their blood pressure checked at least once a year.

If you find that your blood pressure numbers fall in the "elevated" category, you should take steps now to get it under control. Lifestyle changes like eating a healthy diet, losing weight, exercising, watching your salt intake, quitting smoking, and cutting back on alcohol is often all you need to get it back to normal.

Even if your blood pressure numbers are in the "stage 1" category, lifestyle changes are recommended first, unless you've had a heart attack or stroke, or you're at high risk for cardiovascular problems because you smoke, have high cholesterol or type 2 diabetes. Then medications may

be prescribed.

But if your blood pressure falls in the "stage 2" or higher category, the new guidelines suggest medication, regardless of age, plus lifestyle changes.

There are several different kinds of drugs used to lower blood pressure. It usually makes sense to start with the oldest, safest, and least expensive drug: diuretics, or water pills, such as chlorthalidone or hydrochlorothiazide.

But these meds can drive up blood sugar levels, so if you have type 2 diabetes or are at risk of it, your doctor may prescribe another drug, such as an ACE inhibitor, ARB or calcium channel blocker.

You should also be aware that blood pressure drugs could cause side effects including dizziness, gastrointestinal problems, fatigue and headaches. They can also cause a decline in kidney function so make sure your doctor monitors your potassium levels.

For more information, visit: Heart.org/HBP.

Send senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070. Visit SavvySenior.org.

Proposed Medicare Payment System May Affect Beneficiaries

Q I hear that Medicare is proposing a new payment arrangement for doctors that may dramatically impact access to care by seniors and other beneficiaries. Do you know anything about that?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

A Yes, and you heard correctly. Medicare is proposing a new flat rate reimbursement system for doctors who treat Medicare patients.

Some worry that the plan may reduce payments to specialists and cause fewer doctors to accept Medicare patients.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") claims the proposed changes are designed to reduce paperwork by combining four levels of forms required for reimbursement into one form and one fee paid to doctors.

However, under the new system, doctors who see generally healthy patients and doctors who see more complicated patients would receive the same flat fee.

According to a report by National Public Radio (NPR), the

flat fee would mean doctors who specialize in complex medical areas would receive a smaller reimbursement than under the current system. Doctors would receive the same amount regardless of whether they spent 15 minutes with a patient complaining of a head cold or an hour with a patient with stage 4 cancer.

As NPR reports, doctors are worried the new payment system will cause more specialists to refuse to see Medicare patients.

In addition, doctors who do see Medicare patients may spend less time with them. And the implications extend beyond Medicare because private insurers often fol-

low Medicare's lead.

Due to the possible implications of the flat fee, advocates are asking CMS to start with a demonstration project rather than changing the entire reimbursement system for all physicians at once.

CMS is accepting public comments until September 10, 2018. The new fee structure would go into effect in January 2019.

To learn more and/or to submit a public comment, you are invited to go to our website and click the links in the article on the same topic for more information.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com. He wishes to thank Harry Margolis, Esq. of MA for permission to revise and republish this article.



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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Smart Home Challenges

As smart technology increasingly invades homes, buyers of "smart" properties are facing an uphill struggle to keep pace.

Agents showing the enhanced homes are also encountering a steep learning curve. Factor in federal privacy laws along with an increased risk of being hacked and you have the ingredients for a malodorous tech-oriented soup.

Smart home features have

exploded over the past couple of years. No longer confined to devices like a connected thermostat (eg. Nest), current gadgets include locks, cameras, lighting, entertainment systems, appliances, landscaping control, garage doors, window shades, fire/smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, virtual assistants, pet care and more.

The uses are almost endless; as an example, in colder climates, heat tracking devices can monitor temperatures and shut off water when there is a danger of pipes freezing.

In warmer climates, automated systems can monitor your proximity to the home and turn on the A/C when you are close to arriving.

All is well and good, but there are some current challenges that need to be resolved. These include:

Privacy. Many states require that notification be provided when conversations are being monitored and/or recorded.

Many buyers object to the idea that a seller might be monitoring their conversations when they are previewing a home.

Learning curves. While there are some amongst us who can quickly figure out how to manage any smart system, I know countless others who cannot master a TV remote control. I've encountered buyers who have faced challenges getting the smart systems in the home they just purchased to function properly.

Transferring control: Most smart systems are connected to an app on someone's phone. At what point does the seller transfer control of a device to a new owner? If access is not transferred correctly, the old owner can maintain access to home's systems, including interior cameras, listening devices, climate control, electronic doors and so on. Very creepy.

Hackers: While most home wireless networks have decent security, many smart devices do not, meaning a hacker intent on getting access can do so through devices such as cameras, smart refrigerators and more. If you can access your devices remotely, there is always the chance that others can as well.

Marketing: What actually



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makes a home "smart?" We can expect a baseline standard to emerge as more and more properties include smart devices. A

couple of controllable lightbulbs does not make a home "smart."

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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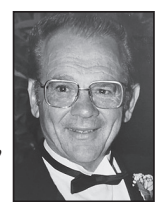
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Tips for Setting Up or Improving a Home Office

If you work from home, you know how important it is to turn your home office into an efficient workspace. And these days, making improvements with that goal in mind rests on keeping up with the trends and times.

Separation: While smartphones and tablets make it nearly impossible to totally tune out sometimes, it's important to at least try to separate your work space from your living space to the best of your ability.

Not every smaller home or apartment may allow for a complete physical separation, but the more you can psychologically disassociate the two, the better work you will do during work hours and the better living you will do the rest of the time.

If you can't separate your office with a door, try dividing your room with a bookshelf, oriental screen or other room divider.

Ergonomics: The design of your workspace can have a tremendous

impact on how you feel, and ultimately, your productivity.

There are steps you can take to reduce your chance of on-the-job stress injuries like back pain and carpal tunnel syndrome. Experts advise setting up your desk so that all the items on it are within easy reach, your feet touch the floor, and your eyes are at the same level as the top of your monitor.

There are ergonomically designed keyboards, chairs, desks and foot rests on the market that

can help too. If possible, use a headset or speakerphone to prevent that bad habit of cradling your phone between your ear and shoulder.

Data Protection: New technology is making investing in data protection easier and more affordable. Because these systems back up computer files automatically, you'll have access to your backed-up data from any computer, smartphone or internet-connected device.



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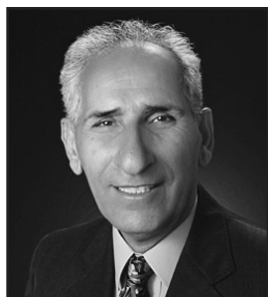
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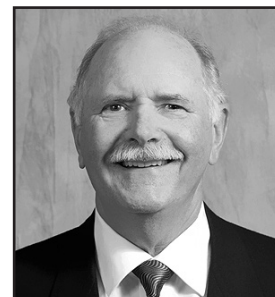
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\$35 10 words
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California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State Law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. Advertisers appearing on this page without a license number indicate that the contractor is not licensed. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800) 321-2752. Unlicensed contractors taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

LANDLORDS - Advertise your units!
- A vacancy day is money lost forever -
R. Bowman

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE:
Monday 5:00 p.m.

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Check the **Help Wanted** ads on the next page of this newspaper.
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San Leandro Times / Castro Valley Forum

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HOME SERVICES DIRECTORY
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We Specialize in Residential Roofing

FREE - Bed Liner for 2016 Ford F-250 with 6 1/2' bed. Like new. Call 510-589-6081

FREE - Italian leather sofa in good condition and also **electric scooter** in good condition (just needs batteries). In good condition. Call 510-575-7366

FREE Firewood - Redwood from replaced deck. Call 510-825-8412.

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DANNY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. Concrete, Painting, Tree Service, Tile, Fences, Lawns/ Sprinklers, Hauling. 510-757-7598.

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HELP WANTED

GENERAL

WANTED: Someone familiar with older movie theater's ventilation systems (needs maintenance). Call 510-517-3351.



The City of San Leandro is now accepting online applications for:

Account Clerk -
\$4,596 - \$5,586/month

Public Safety Dispatcher -
\$5,866 - \$7,130/month

For more detailed information, please visit www.sanleandro.org
EOE



The City of San Leandro will be accepting online applications starting September 6, 2018 for:

Human Services Specialist III -
\$6,012 - \$7,309/month

For more detailed information, please visit www.sanleandro.org
EOE

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE:
Monday 5:00 p.m.

HELP WANTED

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MISC. FOR SALE

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ELECTRONICS

AEG Olympia ES 95 electric typewriter in good condition. \$50. Call 510-538-9196.

MISC. FOR SALE

FURNITURE

Kids solid maple bed frame. Like new. \$150. Call 510-714-9950.

VARIOUS ITEMS

Adult 3-wheel bike w/2 baskets (new condition). \$400. 510-886-3904, Castro Valley.

MISC. WANTED

WANTED: Old toys, pedal cars, license plates, fishing tackle, etc. 510-886-3195.

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EAST BAY MUSICIAN - Lessons. Good with Kids. Call 510-427-3955.

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MISC. FOR SALE

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APARTMENTS

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RENTALS

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www.bartplazaapartments.com

Hayward 1-bedrooms \$1,425 - \$1,525, 2-bedrooms \$1,695 - \$1,795 (check availability). Patios, balconies, pool, ample parking, storage, spacious. 510-887-6633.

LANDLORDS - Advertise your units! A vacancy day is money lost forever ... R. Bowman

RENTALS/WANTED

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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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YOUR INFO

LANDLORDS - Advertise your units! - A vacancy day is money lost forever - R. Bowman

VIEW the CLASSIFIED Ads Online at sanleandrotimes.com or castrovalleyforum.com

For help or for more info call **510-614-1558**. E.B. Publishing

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CastroValleyForum.com

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PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE!

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FREE ESTIMATES
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FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
Over 25 Years Experience
Reroofs • Repairs • Inspections
Dry Rot Repair • Seamless Gutters (Pre-painted)
FREE ESTIMATES

\$200.00 OFF
COMPLETE REROOFING WITH TEAR-OFF
One Coupon Per Customer Expires 10/31/18

(510) 538-1530
We Specialize in Residential Roofing



We truly appreciate all of our advertisers!

San Leandro Times / Castro Valley Forum

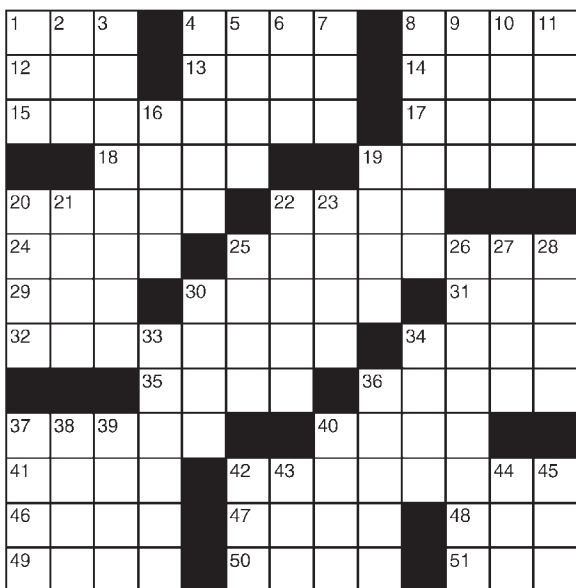


Aqua Exercise Class to Begin Fall Session in Mid-September

The aqua exercise class taught for decades by retired teacher Erika Silva, is alive and well at the San Leandro Family Aquatic Center at 14900 Zelma Street. Participants come not only to strengthen muscles and manage joint pain, but for fun and friendship, ac-

companied by lively music. The summer session ended on Aug. 31, but classes resume mid-September on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Drop-ins are welcome. Check www.sanleandro.org for more details.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Handle roughly
- 4 Dog bane
- 8 Back talk
- 12 Past
- 13 Peruse
- 14 Clarinet's cousin
- 15 Mansion staff
- 17 Smolder
- 18 Catches some rays
- 19 Playful water critter
- 20 Moral standard
- 22 Own
- 24 Destroy
- 25 Peace
- 29 Inseparable
- 30 Permanent inmate
- 31 "Golly!"
- 32 Snakes
- 34 Chew away (at)
- 35 Gross
- 36 Dentist's suggestion
- 37 Coarse
- 40 Funeral stand
- 41 Sea flier
- 42 Pepper or York
- 46 Kill a bill
- 47 Hexagonal state
- 48 Fresh
- 49 Anytime now
- 50 Huff and puff
- 51 As well

DOWN

- 1 -- de deux
- 2 Census statistic
- 3 More deserving
- 4 Swiss money
- 5 Periscope part
- 6 Dine on
- 7 Billboards
- 8 Cushion
- 9 Touch
- 10 A few
- 11 Palm reader, maybe
- 16 Futile
- 19 Finished
- 20 Love god
- 21 Melody
- 22 Substantial
- 23 War god
- 25 Go under
- 26 Unknowing
- 27 Earl Grey and kin
- 28 Some evergreens
- 30 Poland's Mr. Walesa
- 33 Urban bird
- 34 Merriment
- 36 Battle
- 37 Guns the engine
- 38 Black-and-white snack
- 39 "Do -- others ..."
- 40 Cereal choice
- 42 Dine
- 43 Greek vowel
- 44 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
- 45 Pair

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5

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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.

Marion Kappler

December 24, 1929 ~ August 31, 2018



Marion Kappler, a long-time resident of San Leandro, died peacefully Friday, August 31, at Avalon Health Care in San Andreas, CA.

Born in 1929 in Richmond, CA, she lived in Sacramento until she was 10 and then moved to San Leandro, where she graduated from San Leandro High School in 1948, married and raised her family.

Marion was active with her children and a big volunteer thru Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. She volunteered at their schools and she held many positions in PTA including PTA President. She also volunteered with the Band Parents and chaperoned many events. She could always be found at her children and grandchildren's sporting events rooting them on. Marion was active with her husband for over 40 years with the Skirts & Flirts Square Dance Club. They also loved to travel domestic and abroad, enjoyed their travel trailer camping all over the Western US and having fun with their friends in the Road Ranger Club.

Marion loved her family. She is survived by her loving husband of 68 years Edward (David) Kappler, her 3 children Marcia Jordan (Robert), Donald Kappler (Renee), Barbara Neville (Linus); 6 Grandchildren: Kathleen Gustin (Kevin), Scott Jordan, Kristopher Neville (Danielle), Steven Neville (Elizabeth), Christina Kappler (Cora), Michelle Bruntz (Jake) and 6 Great Grandchildren Meghan and Dylan Gustin, Aiden Neville, Rylee Neville, Dylan and Abigail Bruntz. She was a loving Aunt to many including Lisa Tener and Bob Anderson.

A celebration of her life will be held at the convenience of the family at a future date. Memorial gifts in Mrs. Kappler's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

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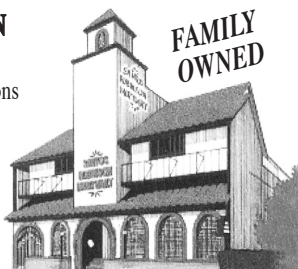
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OPINION

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: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Accuses Columnist Medford of Name-Calling, Not Educating

Editor:

Carl Medford ("Needs Versus Your Wants," Page 6, The Times, Aug. 30) continues his attack on home buyers looking to negotiate the price of a home. A few weeks ago the term was "sharks sniffing blood" and now it is "ingrate." Carl's Boomer, chip-on-shoulder for the next generation shows through while he also attempts to protect his wallet.

It is true that some buyers want move-in-ready options. But no less worthy are the buyers looking for the fixer-upper so that they can just afford the house. No less worthy are those young families that don't want to live with someone else's hasty paint job, flashy upgrades, and bark-mulch-over-weeds yard.

If you fall into one of these groups however, Carl has made it clear he doesn't want to hear from you. And this after his early rant about housing affordability. Remember this flip-flop?

Why does Carl say these things? When Carl convinces a seller to spend bucks to fix up a house just before selling, Carl stand to makes more money and without any personal risk. For it all to work, seller and buyer have to play Carl's game. When they don't, he writes an opinion piece and does some name-calling. It is his last resort response to a changed population of buyers.

To me, Carl's recent submissions to the San Leandro Times appear to be more about protecting his pocket and, sadly, his Boomer sense of superiority. His columns are no longer about educating sellers and buyers.

Please join me in urging the Times to find a new, local, non-Boomer real estate professional to write these valuable articles. We can't stand for another round of attacks, and name-calling is the last resort of the out-argued. Call Jim. Call your agent.

—John Clouston
San Leandro

Hopes San Leandro 'Wakes Up Soon' to Plight of East 14th Street

Editor:

The story about the pavement of East 14th Street is just like – the ball is in who's court? I am surprised to see that the same street, which changes it's name from International Boulevard in Oakland to the north, and to the south is Mission Boulevard in Hayward.

On International Blvd., Caltrans is spending a lot of money in improving the road conditions, sidewalks and beautification (e.g. dividers, planting plants, sidewalks, handicapped ramps). On the south side of East 14th (Mission Blvd.), Caltrans has beautified it in downtown Hayward.

It looks like San Leandro City Council members don't care for their city's main road. The former city official worries about MTC's assessment of the street. East 14th Street is the main street of San Leandro, which carries heavy traffic at any time of

the day. The condition of the road is so bad ... and the city is waiting for a dangerous accident to happen.

I hope the City of San Leandro wakes up soon and tells Caltrans to fix this road ASAP.

—Jai Naidu
San Leandro

Letters Got Action on Parking Problems Around Town

Editor:

Thank you, San Leandro Times. After publishing several of my Letters to the Editor regarding parking problems in the Downtown Plaza and neighborhoods, the city has now taken action. I must assume that the city staff also reads the Times and does respond to your reader's input.

—Frank Tomasello
San Leandro

US Must Remember 'Inconvenient Truths' to Solve Immigrant Issues

Editor:

We are often called a nation of immigrants. When Europeans came to the United States, they had to pass a three-part test. They couldn't be a criminal, they couldn't have an infectious disease and they had to be mentally stable.

If immigrants today were given that same Euro Test, it's safe to say that almost all would pass with flying colors, so we have a double standard with millions denied a path to citizenship because of the color of their skin.

Millions migrated from Mexico to the U.S. in recent decades mostly for economic reasons. Millions of corn farmers in Mexico were driven off their farms where they had been corn growers for centuries. NAFTA is why. Big U.S. farm corporations drove them from their livelihood, making the corporations rich and the small farmers destitute. So their sons and daughters came north.

Worldwide, there are 65 million refugees and many victims of civil war. Forty million move from one region of their own country to a safer region. Many of the civil wars began because of US meddling in their country's affairs. Large numbers come from places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria where US fingerprints can be found all over these conflicts.

Many poor, small countries are hosting large numbers of refugees including Turkey (3 million), Lebanon and Jordan (1.5 million each). Lebanon has 6 million people so it's an increase of 20 percent of their population.

In Central America many of the refugees are from counties which have been involved in internal turmoil for decades including Honduras, which recently experienced a US-backed coup, Guatemala, and El Salvador, which have both been involved in civil wars for decades. One global civil war expert quipped that we are exporting a lot more civil war than we are democracy.

Yet US citizens are generally oblivious to this history. A common Latin American expression about the violent

history is that "They (the US) can never remember and we can never forget." Once we start to remember some of these inconvenient truths we will have a much better understanding about the immigrant issue and how to solve it.

—Craig Williams, San Leandro

Calls for Replacing California Congressman Nunes

Editor:

Our country is under attack. Russia interfered in our 2016 elections and continues interfering with voting software in over 20 states, including California, as we approach mid-term elections this November.

All of our national intelligence agencies agree, "red flags" are waving. Nevertheless, the President continues to soft-pedal and minimize this cyber-attack. He has not organized FBI, Homeland Security, and other experts to resist the hacking of county election software. Instead, each county is on its own to come up with a defense against the Russian military.

Republicans in Congress are unwilling to override Trump and call him to account for his apparent treasonous dereliction of duty. One Congressman in particular, Devin Nunes, has been caught on tape telling supporters that protecting Donald Trump is his first priority.

To defend our democracy, we need Andrew Janz to replace Nunes in Congress. Fresno's prosecutor kowtows to no one. Support Andrew at www.andrewjanzforcongress.com/.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

One Way to Help Reduce Global Warning: Changing Our Diets

Editor:

After scorching heat and raging wildfires in the West and torrential downpours and massive flooding in the East, global warming is not just about a gentle sea rise any more. These tragic consequences of dumping greenhouse gases into our atmosphere call for drastic remedies.

For starters, we should re-join the Paris Climate Accords and actually become a world leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. One of the most effective ways is by changing our diet.

Yes, that. Last fall, Oxford University's prestigious Food Climate Research Network concluded that solving the global warming catastrophe requires a massive shift to a plant-based diet. A 2010 United Nations report blamed animal agriculture for 19% of greenhouse gas emissions, 70% of freshwater use, and 38% of land use.

Carbon dioxide is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by transporting animals.

The more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are released from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

In an environmentally sustainable world, we must replace meat and dairy products in our diet by vegetables, fruits, and grains, just as we replace fossil fuels by wind, solar, and other pollution-free energy sources. Let's start with our next supermarket visit.

—Kurt Champller
San Leandro

Wants Nevada Secretary of State Ousted for 'Voter Suppression'

Editor:

I urge the majority of Nevada voters to reject their Secretary of State Barbara Cegauske for committing voter suppression against American Indians in the state.

For example, she placed poll locations on areas which make it harder for American Indians to vote. Cegauske's action shows how undemocratic she is and why she needs to be rejected on November 6.

—Billy Trice Jr.
Oakland



Send a Letter to the Editor
Letters@ebpublishing.com

INQUIRING REPORTER

Last time you got a compliment?

— Asked around town

I get them pretty often – about my toenails and my eyes, they're hazel, and when I get dressed up and wear sheer and satiny dresses and shawls.

Juliet Boxdell
San Leandro



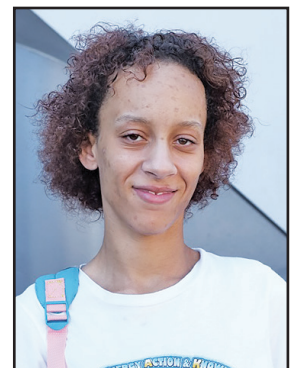
All the time. I'm told how nice I look and that I have a beautiful smile. When I'm walking I always have a smile on my face.

Edna Lewis
Oakland



I can't remember when I last got a compliment. Chivalry is dead. People aren't as friendly as they used to be.

Maliaka Hill
Oakland



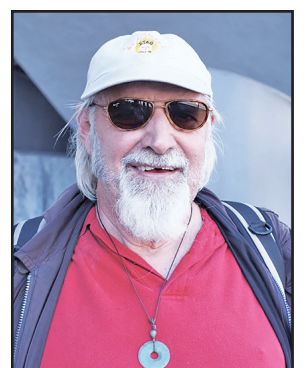
Yesterday. Just being told I did a good job. I'm an IT consultant. The project wasn't going well and I figured out what needed to be done and got it fixed.

Matt Forney
Walnut Creek



I think this week about the piece of jade I wear. People say they like it. It represents a friend of mine who passed away.

Mike Riley
San Leandro



Juggling Comedian Oliver To Headline Comedy Show

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Comedian and producer Brian Copeland has been doing a juggling act, presenting a variety of comics in his "Lighten Up for Summer," series of comedy shows in San Leandro.

But this Saturday, Copeland will just have to step aside and let Frank Oliver handle the juggling. Because when it comes to juggling, Oliver is about the best there is.

Oliver's been called:

"Wickedly funny." *New York Times*

"Must be the world's best juggler. He's certainly the funniest." *San Francisco Chronicle*

"An absolute riot." *Seattle Times*

Sure, that might just be the fake news, lying, disgusting media talking, but it's a good bet Oliver will put on quite a show at 8 p.m. Saturday at the San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave.



Sandy Stec is a comedian and morning radio personality every weekday from 6 to 10 a.m. on Star 101.3, "Marcus and Sandy." Frank Oliver, below, combines comedy with juggling, magic, sword-swallowing and much more.

Lighten Up For Summer

- Sat., Sept. 8 at 8 p.m.
 - San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Avenue
 - Tickets: 800-838-3006, brownpapertickets.com
- Featuring: Frank Oliver, Dr. Gonzo, Sandy Stec, Ronn Vigh, Tramane Webb, Steven Pearl



Oliver has appeared on *The Tonight Show* and *America's Got Talent*. He lived in Berkeley most of his life, but he and his family moved a couple of years ago to San Leandro. So he's a hometown guy, just like Copeland.

Oliver has the comedy talent of a headliner, plus the juggling, knife-throwing, unicycling, and magic skills to keep an audience in suspense.

Also on the bill, Dr. Gonzo, the Doc of Comedy, will return, along with Steven Pearl, Sandy Stec (Finalist in the San Francisco International Comedy Competition), and Ronn Vigh from *Fashion Police* on E!. And Bay Area favorites Tramane Webb, and Carla Clay.

Tickets are \$42 for general admission in advance, or \$50 at the door, \$18 for students 15 to 20, or \$20 at the door.

For tickets, go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3594793 or call 1-800-838-3006.



Dahlias Go on Display Saturday

The San Leandro Dahlia Society will hold its annual show on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Over a thousand blooms will be displayed. Admission is free.

The dahlia is the official flower of San Leandro.

Candidates to Speak at Forum Next Wednesday at the Library

Learn more about the candidates running for San Leandro mayor and City Council, and Chabot-Las Positas Community College Board at a candidate forum on Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Karp Room at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The audience will have the opportunity to submit questions to the candidates. The event is free and open to the public.

The Forum is co-sponsored by the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters Eden Area. For more information, contact Janice Friesen, League of Women Voters Eden Area, at jfriesen5490@yahoo.com.

Readers Roundtable to Meet Saturday

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable meets Saturday, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The group will discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee, the multigenerational saga of a Korean family in Japan. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the Library's Book-tique bookstore.

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170 Beverly Avenue	94577: \$989,000	4 BD - 2,419 SF	- 2001
652 Billings Boulevard	94577: \$632,000	3 BD - 1,233 SF	- 1943
802 Broadmoor Boulevard	94577: \$721,000	2 BD - 1,097 SF	- 1924
722 Callaway Street	94577: \$933,000	6 BD - 2,806 SF	- 2004
1126 Camellia Court	94577: \$820,000	3 BD - 1,604 SF	- 1994
1769 Eveleth Avenue	94577: \$665,000	3 BD - 1,028 SF	- 1951
2513 Galleon Place	94577: \$520,000	2 BD - 1,033 SF	- N/A
2602 Lakeview Drive	94577: \$1,010,000	3 BD - 2,437 SF	- 1963
14237 Trinidad Road	94577: \$695,000	3 BD - 1,126 SF	- 1962
3749 Anza Way	94578: \$633,000	3 BD - 1,108 SF	- 1954
1090 Dillo Street	94578: \$670,000	2 BD - 1,417 SF	- 1948
2070 Joan Drive	94578: \$716,000	2 BD - 860 SF	- 1953
1277 Margery Avenue	94578: \$628,000	2 BD - 1,274 SF	- 1947
457 Olive Street	94578: \$710,000	2 BD - 1,303 SF	- 1947
2219 Prosperity Way	94578: \$750,000	4 BD - 1,440 SF	- 1956
2551 San Leandro Blvd	94578: \$433,000	2 BD - 982 SF	- 1980
15292 Upton Avenue	94578: \$520,000	4 BD - 1,760 SF	- 1952
16094 Wellington Way	94578: \$740,000	3 BD - 1,229 SF	- 1947
3847 Yorkshire Street #8	94578: \$450,000	2 BD - 918 SF	- 1987
1427 Abbey Avenue	94579: \$700,000	3 BD - 1,241 SF	- 1952
15203 Farnsworth Street	94579: \$618,000	3 BD - 1,274 SF	- 1950
1775 Hubbard Avenue	94579: \$695,000	3 BD - 1,121 SF	- 1954
14986 Norton Street	94579: \$575,000	4 BD - 1,335 SF	- 1949
2337 Overlook Court	94579: \$860,000	3 BD - 2,225 SF	- 2000
TOTAL SALES:	26		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$433,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$697,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,010,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$702,346

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