



**Eat Your Spuds, Bud**  
THE LOWLY POTATO CAN BE COOKED IN  
MANY WAYS, AND IS SIMPLY DELICIOUS..... 4

**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**CLEAR** Partly cloudy Friday  
the sunny thru Sunday  
HIGHS: 71-75  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 57-58

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

# San Leandro Times

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

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## Monarchs Make a Home in Backyard

Segelk home invites the butterflies to come and stay

**By Michael Singer**  
*San Leandro Times*

Carl Segelke says he never thought of himself as a butterfly wrangler, but now his backyard near the San Leandro Marina has become a destination for monarchs and other painted butterfly species.

“We saw about 70 butterflies in and around the yard the other day,” Segelke said. “Just this morning, I counted 20 Monarchs. Some of them have very distinct personalities. All these little guys are special to me, especially Peewee, I kept a log of him as he would come by each day for about a month.”

A few years back, Segelke purchased some milkweed plants from Evergreen Nursery, hoping to attract the majestic monarch butterfly to his home. He says the eggs are about a tenth the size of a grain of rice. In just over a week, the insects get to the caterpillar stage when they go on a massive eating binge.

“I’ve seen them chow down on a milkweed leaf within a few hours,” Segelke

see **MONARCHS**, page 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARL SEGELKE

**Monarch butterflies are know for spending the winter in the Bay Area but they seem to thrive in the Segelke’s backyard all year.**

## Fallen Bridge Removal to Cost \$250,000

Removal first step before replacing Haas-Cary Pedestrian Bridge; replacement time still uncertain

**By Michael Singer**  
*San Leandro Times*

The San Leandro City Council approved a contract to remove the collapsed Haas Avenue-Cary Drive Pedestrian Bridge that crossed San Leandro Creek.

The bridge was knocked down when a pair of eucalyptus trees on school district property fell on it during a storm in March. The timeline for replacing the bridge is uncertain.

By a vote of 6-0 with Council member Fred Simon absent, the Council gave the green light to McGuire & Hester for the demolition and removal of the 100-foot span and associated tree debris. The cleanup is expected to cost the city up to \$250,000.

The bridge was used by a lot of students to get to Bancroft Middle School, as well as people in the neighborhood. Building a replacement bridge is expected to take at least 12 months and the

see **BRIDGE**, page 11

## City Manager Places Police Chief on Leave

**By Michael Singer**  
*San Leandro Times*

Police Chief Abdul Pridgen was put on administrative leave on Monday, San Leandro City Manager Fran Robustelli said this week.

Robustelli said she intends to appoint Kevin Hart as interim chief during Pridgen’s absence. Hart was formerly police chief in the town of Kensington.

Pridgen, who was hired in July 2021, was not immediately available for comment. No specific reason for his removal was given in a statement from the city manager.

Pridgen was formerly the police chief of the town of

see **LEAVE**, page 12

## Supervisors Look at Proposal For Sheriff’s Department Oversight

**By Mike McGuire**  
*San Leandro Times*

Civilian oversight of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) will be proposed soon to the Board of Supervisors, following over two years of meetings, town halls and study by the supervisors’ Reimagining Adult Justice (RAJ) project.

RAJ consultant Wendy Still, who once headed the county’s probation department after leading adult probation in San Francisco, is proposing a civilian review board, to look over past incidents, and an inspector-general, to look over ongoing policies and practices.

Still also made a number of other recommendations about ASO operations.

The sheriff’s department has drawn criticism in the recent past for deaths at the Santa Rita Jail, a federal investigation over mental health services at the jail, and a number of expensive court settlements of lawsuits claiming abuses. Longtime Sheriff Ray Ahern was defeated last year for re-election by current Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez.

The board will discuss Still’s recommendations at an upcoming meeting, though the date has not yet been announced.

The Reimagining Adult Justice (RAJ) project was

see **OVERSIGHT**, page 5

**INSIDE YOUR TIMES**

**ART**  
SL Art Association to host annual ArtFest. **Page 2**

**NEWS**  
Fight, false gun report, send police to school. **Page 5**

**MUSIC**  
Melissa Modifer to perform on Friday night. **Page 10**

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CARL SEGELKE

After the Segelkes planted milkweed in their backyard the monarch butterflies started to arrive. Some of the butterflies have become regulars in the garden and Carl Segelke has given names to a few.

## Monarchs: The butterflies sleep in the trees

*continued from front page*  
said.

Butterflies' favorite plants include the showy and narrow-leaf milkweed, bush monkeyflower, buckwheat, coffeeberry and coyote mint. Recently, volunteers gathered at the city's butterfly garden on San Leandro Boulevard, across from the San Leandro BART Station, to learn more about how to attract butterflies to their garden.

San Leandro's Marina neighborhood is only one of two places in Alameda County that Monarch butterflies migrate to where people can see them cluster, according to San Francisco Bay Wildlife (Ardenwood farm in Fremont is the other location).

"Our backyard is always green, and we have fruit trees," Segelke said. "The butterflies tend to sleep in the trees not in the plants. When neighbors and friends show up, the butterflies hover around us. It's

very enjoyable."

For the last four years, generations of monarchs have returned to Segelke's yard.

He built a 10-by-10-foot popup tent with screens and tables and paver stones inside to protect them from outside predators like wasps and spiders. He moves the milkweed plants in and out of the tent as needed.

### Butterfly Loses Leg But Keeps on Going

"One day I needed to put Peewee back into the habitat for his safety," Segelke said. "Some of the monarchs play a bit rough and get territorial. He even lost a leg while mating with a female, but he did just fine with three legs. Some of the males would knock Peewee to the ground as he got older, but he'd get right back up and do the monarch dance with his friends. Some of the new monarchs are his children as I keep the female in the habitat with him."

And while the majority of butterflies in his garden are monarchs, Segelke says he's also seen yellow swallowtails and white cabbage butterflies.

"It's a fun hobby and makes me feel good to help these guys out," Segelke said. "Butterflies are a smart species. They know what to do and where to go. When they get to a certain size, they look for a place to attach for the best spot to put their cocoon."



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Carl and Michelle Segelke in their backyard.

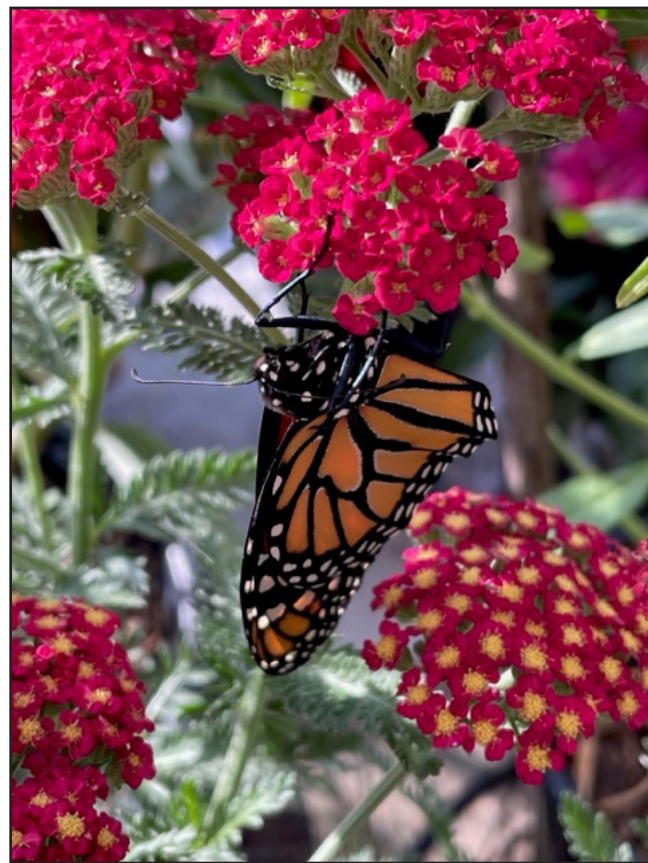


PHOTO COURTESY OF CARL SEGELKE

# Bay-O-Vista

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## Leave: Assistant chief Torres to fill in until Hart takes the job

*continued from front page*

Seaside in Monterey County, and Fort Worth, Texas. He was hired as San Leandro's police chief in 2021 in the aftermath of the Steven Taylor shooting to help repair relations between the public and the police.

"While the city completes the necessary POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) background requirements (for Hart), Assistant Chief Luis Torres will step in as Acting Chief, to ensure the department continues to run smoothly," Robustelli said in a statement to the press. "During this time, Kevin Hart will serve in an administrative capacity, allowing him to swiftly familiarize himself with the department before formally assuming the role of Interim Chief."

Hart brings over 35 years of experience in sworn law



**Police Chief Abdul Pridgen**



**City Manager Fran Robustelli**

enforcement to this position, including 15 years in leadership roles with city and county governments and previous experience as the Chief of Police in two other police agencies, including the Alameda County Sheriff's Department and the City of Kensington. Hart was

also Chief of Law Enforcement for California's State Hospitals.

"His extensive background and proven leadership skills make him an excellent candidate to lead the department while Chief Pridgen is on leave," Robustelli said.