



60th Anniversary

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ANNIVERSARY..... 4



Festival of Light

RECIPES FOR POTATO LATKES
AND OTHER FAVORITE
HANUKKAH DISHES..... 7

WEEKEND WEATHER
CLOUDY Temperature stay in the mid 60s
HIGHS: 62-67
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 40-45

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 49

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Downtown Lit Up for Holidays

Matteo Perez is held up by his dad Frank as he takes in the view of the Christmas tree lighting in Washington Plaza on Friday night at the annual "It's a Wonderful Night" festival. Horse-drawn carriages paraded around the block, school bands played and a good crowd enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies to start the holiday season and promote downtown San Leandro.

City Breaks Up with Wells Fargo

Council members cite Dakota pipeline; move to switch banks

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City Council has voted to no longer do business with Wells Fargo, citing the bank's financing of the Dakota Access pipeline project as well as the bank's creation of fake accounts that customers didn't authorize.

Last month, the council voted 6-0 (Pete Ballew was absent) to sell a corporate bond issued by Wells Fargo, and to find another banking provider for the city.

On Tuesday, the city sold that \$700,000 Wells Fargo corporate bond, which it owned as part of its investment portfolio. The note was due to reach maturity in January, but was sold at a loss of \$286.

"The city normally holds bonds to maturity," said David Baum, the city's finance director. "It's unusual for us to sell prematurely. It's a way to send a message to the bank that we won't hold the note and that it is extremely unlikely that we'd buy from them again."

Wells Fargo is one of over a dozen banks financing the controversial Dakota Access pipeline project. Wells Fargo is providing \$120 million of the \$2.5 billion of loans for the project (just under 5 percent). In divesting from Wells Fargo, San Leandro joined other cities including San Francisco, Davis, and Seattle.

At a City Council meeting last month, several of the council

members said that the decision to divest from Wells Fargo was important to demonstrate San Leandro's values.

"This is an issue of social
see WELLS, page 14

Armored Vehicle Used Over 20 Times

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro Police Department deployed its armored vehicle 21 times since taking possession of it 14 months ago.

Police call the vehicle an "armored ambulance" because there is space for medical equipment in the back, but the 17,000 pound BearCat is also equipped with a gun turret, battering ram and port holes for weapons.

The BearCat was approved by the City Council in 2015 after months of public debate. The vehicle went into service in the fall of 2016, paid for by a \$200,000 grant from the federal Department of Justice.
see VEHICLE, page 16

San Lorenzo Woman Killed in Toll Plaza Crash

Si Si Han known for sweet smile was filling in on the night shift

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The Bay Bridge toll taker who was killed by a suspected intoxicated driver last Saturday was a San Lorenzo woman.

Si Si Han, 46, was working in booth number 14 at the toll plaza when a box truck driven by Daniel Berk, 32, slammed into the booth and killed her at around 5 a.m. on Dec. 2.

Berk, a Foster City resident, remains hospitalized in serious condition and has been arrested on suspicion of DUI, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Han was a native of Myanmar who moved to America in 2002.



Si Si Han was known as sweet and generous.

She was married and mother to a 10-year-old daughter.

Han's family has created a fundraising page (www.gofundma.com/si-si-han-toll-collector) to help family members from overseas attend her funeral and to benefit her daughter.

On the page, Han's husband Ryan Saw describes his wife was a "nurturing mother, loving wife, and a caring individual to all. Her family, friends, and colleagues will forever remember her sweet smile, generosity, and kindness."

Saw said that Han's death is even more difficult because she wasn't scheduled to work on the morning she was killed and was

filling in for a coworker.

As a Caltrans employee, Han's death was noted by Governor Jerry Brown, who ordered that the flags at the state capitol be lowered to half-staff in her memory.

"Anne and I are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Si Si Han, who died while serving the public," wrote Brown in statement. "On behalf of all Californians, we extend our condolences to her family, co-workers, and friends."

The CHP says that Berk was driving a box truck when he collided with five vehicles before
see CRASH, page 16

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Lenny Williams to sing tonight.

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Dryer starts fire on San Rafael Street.

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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



Sir Edmund



Maxwell

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Sir Edmund the kitten and Maxwell the cat.

Sir Edmund is a 2-month-old sweetheart. While he's initially a bit shy, his purr motor revs up with a game of chase with a feather toy. He forgets all his worries and blossoms into a confident, trusting little buddy.

Maxwell is an affectionate 4-year-old who loves to be hugged and petted. He can become overstimulated and doesn't want you to leave. With more socializing and TLC he'll be an even more perfect cat companion. Okay with older kids.

For more information on Sir Edmund or Maxwell, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

Cherry Sculpture Marks Site Of Hunt's Cannery in Hayward

The Blackstone cherry, once a staple of the old Hunt's Cannery in Hayward, was memorialized Friday during the dedication of a sculpture given to the city by artists Richard Graef and Laura Lengyel of Sausalito.

The four-foot-tall cherry sculpture, made of cast bronze, weighs 200 pounds and took 16 weeks to make.

It was installed on the site of the former Hunt Brothers Fruit Packing Company, an early California cannery.

Started in Santa Rosa by Joseph and W.C. Hunt, the company quickly outgrew its home town and relocated to Hayward in the 1890s.

Besides cherries, the cannery packed peaches, apricots and tomatoes.

It was a huge operation, containing its own glass manufacturing and can-making plants. From the early 20th century until the beginning of the 1980s, Hayward's economy was largely dominated by its food canning industry.



The bronze Blackstone cherry sculpture, above, marks the location of the old Hunt's Foods cannery, now the site of the community of Blackstone. The plaque, below, notes that "There were three canneries operating during the summer months and the aroma of cooking tomatoes permeated the surrounding neighborhoods. The water tower is the last remaining structure from this important period of Hayward's past."

The Hunt Brothers Cannery TRI Pointe Homes. closed in 1981. Today, the land The sculpture is located with- comprises the community of in a city park in the community as Blackstone, a development by a reminder of the past.

San Leandro Times

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

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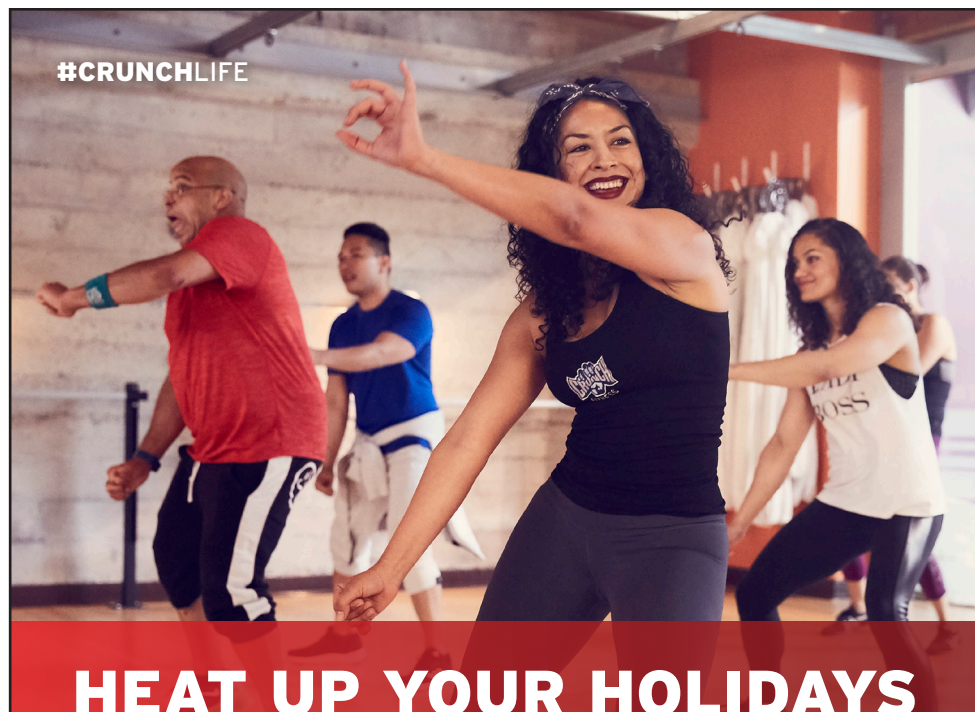
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Lenny Williams to Play Tonight

Keep Music Rockin' Foundation presents Holidays with Lenny Williams on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro High School Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave.

The show includes former

Tower of Power singer Lenny Williams, the final round of San Leandro's Got Talent, and appearances by the SLHS Jazz Band and the Notables. For more information and tickets, go to keepmusicrockin.com/lenny.



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Dryer Sparks Duplex Fire

A one-alarm fire broke out at a home on the 1400 block of San Rafael Street just before midnight on Nov. 28. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze to one side of the duplex, but the occupants of both sides of the home were displaced. A woman living in the unit where the fire originated was treated at the scene for a minor injury. An investigation concluded that the cause of the fire was a dryer fire which spread to the laundry area and kitchen.

Two Teens Charged With Murder In Phone Theft Gone Wrong

Two 18-year-old men have been charged with murder in the death of a man who was trying to sell his cell phone in unincorporated San Leandro last month.

Marcus Fortune of San Leandro and Jordan Patton of San Francisco are accused of killing Daniel Carlos, 32, of Redwood City after Carlos listed his iPhone for sale on an app.

Carlos arranged to meet a potential buyer at a the 76 gas station on the 15800 block of East 14th Street at around 1 p.m. on Nov. 18, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's office.

Investigators said that Carlos was with a witness who told them that two men dressed in dark clothing approached the victim.

After Carlos handed the phone to one man, both men turned and ran, but Carlos ran after them until one man turned and shot him, according to the witness.

Other witnesses were able to provide a description of the car and investigators looked at footage

from nearby surveillance cameras.

Police were also able to use information from the app that was used to set up the sale and found Patton's address. On Nov. 19, San Francisco police detained Patton as he went to get into the car the witness described from the scene.

A search of the car turned up dark-colored clothing like the witness described, as well as a phone still in its box.

Cell phone records connected Fortune to the case and police also found surveillance footage that

showed the car fleeing the scene and turning onto the same street where Fortune lives.

On Nov. 30, Fortune was arrested and a search of his apartment turned up a .40-caliber semi-automatic handgun.

Fortune admitted the incident was a planned theft that went wrong, police say.

Both Fortune and Patton are being held without bail at Santa Rita jail in Dublin on homicide and gun charges. Their next court date is scheduled for Jan. 8.

Three Arrested for Armed Home Invasion Robbery

Three men have been arrested for an armed home invasion robbery at a San Leandro home last month.

On Nov. 4, three suspects entered a home on Central Avenue and held the residents – including a 5-year-old boy – at gunpoint while ransacking the place.

The thieves left with cash and other valuables and fled the area, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

Witnesses and neighbors

gave police a description of the car and partial license plate number, which “matched” descriptions given in other armed robberies in other cities, police said.

The suspects have been identified as Jose Mendez, 23; Maurice Moreno, 21; and Jose Gonzalez, 20 – all Hayward residents. On Nov. 30, they were charged by the district attorney's office with felonies including armed robbery.

Late last month, both Men-

dez and Gonzales were located and arrested by ACSO deputies. The suspect vehicle was also located. The third suspect, Moreno, was located and arrested by San Leandro Police detectives last week.

“This was a month-long investigation by our detectives,” said Benabou in a written statement.

All three men remain in custody at Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail in Dublin awaiting their next court appearance.

Avoid Package Thieves this Holiday

The holiday season means that package thieves will be out prowling people's porches for items to steal.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office offers these tips to keep your presents safe.

- Have packages purchased online delivered directly to the local store and pick them up.

- Have packages sent with “signature required.” The package can't be left behind on the porch without a person signing for delivery.

- Track your package online so you see the status, such as “out for delivery” where the package is currently, and an approximate day of delivery.

- Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your package from your porch.

- Invest in a security camera. If your package is stolen, you

may be able to record the suspect and assist the Sheriff's Office in the investigation.

- Report suspicious vehicles following mail or parcel delivery vehicles to the Sheriff's Office.

- Invest in a locking or door-slot style mailbox.

- Avoid sending cash, checks or gift cards via the mail.

- Report any suspicious persons tampering with community mailboxes or following mail couriers.

If you do have a package stolen, immediately report the theft to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and contact the vendor.

If you purchased insurance, the item may be covered by loss from theft.

It is important to be proactive and stay one step ahead of package thieves.

The Alameda County Sher-

iff's Office wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Man Killed In Solo I-880 Crash

A man who was killed in a one car crash on I-880 early last Sunday morning has been identified as Jajuan Morton, 23, of Michigan, according to the corner's bureau.

Morton died after the white Dodge Charger he was driving southbound apparently veered off the freeway just north of the Davis Street exit and stuck a pole and caught fire just before 3 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Live Holiday Performers, Every Saturday through December 23, 1-3 p.m.*

Santa's Workshop:
Free crafts for children!
December 9, 1-3 p.m.

Holiday Story Time:
Tuesday, December 19,
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Donate to the Salvation Army Giving Tree to receive a free gift and be entered to win a \$250 gift card (through December 15).



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*Performers begin in center court. Some will stroll the center



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NEIGHBORS

Bugna 60th Wedding Anniversary

Richard and Barbara Bugna were married on Nov. 23, 1957 at St. Stephens Church in San Francisco. The best man was Bob Anderson, and the maid of honor was Nancy Barrett. The reception was at Fort Mason Officer's Club.

The couple met at San Francisco State and then they lived in San Leandro. In retirement, they have enjoyed traveling with family and friends.

Richard and Barbara have two children: Richard Bugna Jr. who is married to Erin O'Connell Bugna from Vancouver, Washington; and Lisanne Bugna Mueller who is married to Paul Mueller from Lafayette, California. They also have four grandchildren: Brandon Bugna, Eric Bugna, Alyssa Mueller and Julia Mueller.

The couple celebrated their anniversary at a private celebration with family.

Congratulations Rich and Barb.



Richard and Barbara Bugna on their wedding day in San Francisco in 1957.

IN THE SERVICE

U.S. Air Force Airman **Adrian J. Farias** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Commu-

nity College of the Air Force.

Farias is the son of **Adrian Farias** of San Lorenzo. He is a 2017 graduate of San Leandro High School, San Leandro.



U.S. Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Terence J. Jensen** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an in-

tensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Jensen earned distinction as an honor graduate.

Jensen is the son of **Susan C. Jensen** and brother of **Michael J. Fleming** and **Rachelle C. Fleming** of San Leandro. He is a 1999 graduate of San Leandro High School, San Leandro.



Airman 1st Class Terence J. Jensen

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Carlton Senior Living Holiday Boutique

Carlton Senior Living, 1000 East 14th St. in San Leandro, will host their Annual Holiday Boutique on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local vendors and artisans with gifts, crafts treats, and hot cocoa will be served. For more information, call 636-0660.

❖ Smalltown December Gathering

The Smalltown December Gathering will be on Friday, Dec. 8, from 7 to 10 p.m. at 22222 Redwood Road in Castro Valley, highlighting the work of ABO Comix, No Walls Collective, poets from Lyrical Opposition, and band The Straight-Ups. Connect with your community, hear from local artists and advocates, and experience the developing narratives of your neighborhood. Check www.smalltownsociety.com for more information.

❖ Ballet Folklorico Fiestas Navideñas

Ballet Folklorico Costa de Oro presents Fiestas Navideñas on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 a.m. at the San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave. Tickets are \$25 in advance at BrownPaperTickets.com or \$30 at the door. For more information, see bfcostadeoro.com or call 316-3237.

❖ All Saints Winter Wine & Dine Gala

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro, will host a Winter Wine & Dine gala on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. World cuisine, fine wines, belly dancer, silent auction and raffle. Tickets: adult \$45/\$55 (wine/no wine), children \$15. Limited to 125 people, so get tickets now at tinyurl.com/winedine2017.

❖ Holiday Tea at the Alta Mira Club

You are cordially invited to the Lucille Kline Holiday Tea at the Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, on Saturday, Dec. 9, at noon. Tickets are \$25. For reservations call Linda Klass by Dec. 4 at 914-5684.

❖ Meet Your Hindu Neighbors

Eden Area Interfaith Council in conjunction with Badarikashrama presents Meet Your Hindu Neighbors on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the San Lorenzo Library, 396 Paseo Grande in San Lorenzo. The talk will cover origins, beliefs, values, practices of Hinduism, questions and answers. This event is free and open to all. Snacks will be served.

❖ Hearing Loss Association Meeting

The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, Dec. 9, 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. Holiday potluck and social, is the Holiday theme. Please bring a potluck snack and also plan to share any funny or surprising experiences caused by our "silent disability." Parking is free in the old garage across from Howe Street. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.

❖ Estudillo Estates Holiday Stroll

Come for activities, an art show, giveaways and holiday cheer at the Estudillo Estates Holiday Stroll and Charity Gift Drive on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 3 to 6 p.m. on MacArthur Boulevard between Dutton and Estudillo avenues. The event is kid friendly and open to the public. Donate new toys, clothes and blankets for local kids through the San Leandro Davis Street Resource Center. Collection boxes will be available at participating businesses on Dec. 9. Look for free samples, food tasting, demonstrations, art show, kids activities, beer and spirit tasting and more.

❖ Tips for Seniors to Avoid Fraud

Cheryl Poncini from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office will give tips to protect seniors from financial scams and help prevent elder abuse on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 10:30 a.m. at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. The event is free and no registration is required. Light refreshments served. For more information, call 577-7971.

❖ The Eagles Bingo Luncheon

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Eden Auxiliary 1139 will host their charity bingo luncheon on Monday Dec. 11, at noon at the Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. The fare will include ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert, coffee & tea.fun. A donation of \$8 will include one bingo card. For more information, call Glenda at 584-1568.

❖ Oakland Raiders Booster Club

Raiders fans are invited to the 148th meeting of the Original Oakland Raiders Booster Club on Tuesday night, Dec. 12, at Ricky's Sports Theatre and Grill, 15028 Hesperian Blvd. in San Leandro. No host cocktails at 6 p.m., order dinner as you arrive, meeting at 7 p.m. Raffle tickets are \$5. Bring an unwrapped toy for club's annual toy drive.

❖ San Leandro Democratic Club

The San Leandro Democratic Club will host its Second Annual Holiday Party on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. All are welcome.

❖ Holiday Open House at Casa Peralta

Everyone is welcome to attend a free merry and traditional holiday celebration at the Casa Peralta, 384 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro on Saturday, Dec. 16., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The historic Casa will be will be decked with holiday décor. There will be plenty of cookies, music, hot chocolate, and other treats to share with family and friends. Docents will be available to share the Casa's history. The San Leandro History Museum next door will also offer free holiday craft making and a showing of the films "The Muppets Christmas Carol" (11:30 a.m.) and "A Christmas Carol" (2 p.m.).

❖ Christmas in Oz Chanticleers Theatre

The East Bay Children's Theatre and Chanticleers Theatre are pleased to announce *Christmas in Oz*, through Dec. 17, at Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley. Book, music and lyrics by Ron Lytle. It's Christmas-time again and somewhere in Kansas, Dorothy is lonely for her friends back in Oz. So with the help of kindly Mister Tinker, she builds a magical wish machine and returns to the Emerald City. But the holly is quickly stripped off when a sassy sorceress named Nefariosa kidnaps Santa Claus. Performances are on Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors over 60. For more information, call 733-5483.

❖ A Christmas Carol at the BAL Theatre

The BAL Theatre and the San Leandro Players present Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, a live radio show adapted by Anthony E. Palmero on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 and 7 p.m. at the BAL Theatre, 14808 E 14th St. in San Leandro. Doors open at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. for music and Santa photos. Tickets cost \$10, children under 12 are free and may be purchased at the BAL Theatre online box office at: www.slplayers.org, the Davis Street Resource Center or the Boys and Girls club.

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.



Holiday Food Drive for Local Families

The Lovewell Team with Re/Max Accord will be gathering up food again this year in partnership with the Alameda County Food Bank, to aid those in need. Lovewell team members have distributed 1,000 Food bags to the Bonaire area in San Leandro for its second annual food drive, and will be going back on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 8 a.m. to pick up bags in the Bonaire area. The Lovewell Team are also inviting residents that miss the pickup to drop off food (canned food, non-perishables) to its Castro Valley Office at 3327 Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley throughout the month of December, or call 351-5555 and they can pick it up.

Holiday Open House at Casa Peralta

Everyone is welcome to attend a free merry and traditional holiday celebration at the Casa Peralta, 384 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro on Saturday, Dec. 16., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The historic Casa will be will be decked with holiday décor.

There will be plenty of cookies, music, hot chocolate, and other treats to share with family and friends. Experience a fascinating part of San Leandro history, the world of the Peralta land grant family, and their descendants.

Docents will be available to

share the Casa's history.

The San Leandro History Museum next door will also offer free holiday craft making and a showing of the films *The Muppets Christmas Carol* (11:30 a.m.) and *A Christmas Carol* (2 p.m.).

Raiders Jump into Tie for Division Lead



BY GREG BENSON

San Leandro Times

Captain Jack (Del Rio) called all hands on deck for Sunday's critical contest versus a reeling 2-9 New York Giants.

With both starting receivers, Michael Crabtree (suspension) and Amari Cooper (concussion, ankle), out for the game, the Raiders turned to their reserves for reinforcement.

"That's not an easy thing, when you lose your two starters," said quarterback Derek Carr. "We went into it saying (that) everyone has to fill that role."

Carr targeted nine different receivers in the 24-17 win, throwing for 287 yards and a touchdown. It took a lot of creative calls from offensive coordinator Todd Downing to find ways to get everyone involved, sometimes lining up in a surprising five-receiver set.

"You never know what can happen with Todd. He's a creative offensive coordinator," said wide receiver Cordarelle Patterson, who caught four passes for 97 yards. "Him and Derek do a heck of a job, day in and day out, dialing up plays."

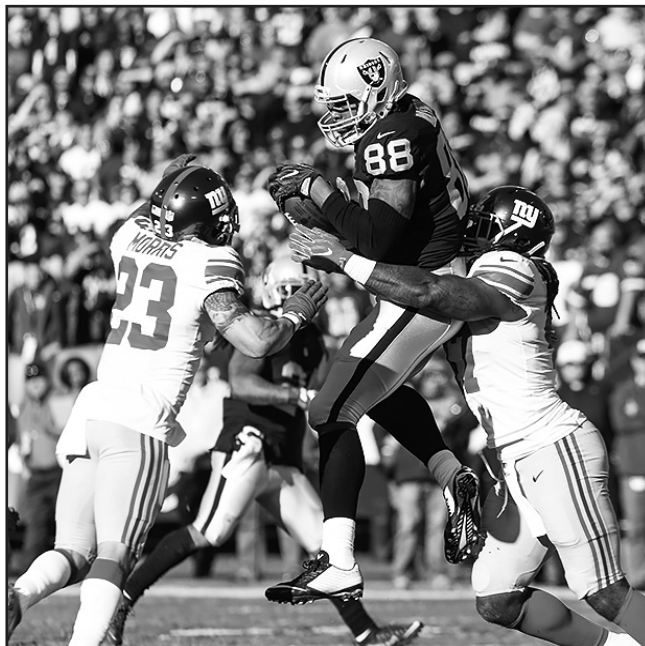


PHOTO BY LARRY ROSA

Oakland Raiders tight end Clive Walford caught all four passes thrown his way for a total of 57 yards in Sunday's 24-17 win over the New York Giants.

Running back Marshawn Lynch contributed considerably with his best game of the season, rushing for 101 yards and a touchdown in true Beast Mode fashion.

Guards Gabe Jackson and Kelechi Osemele opened a gaping hole for Lynch to power through for a 51-yard TD in their first possession to go up 7-0.

The 6-6 Raiders now travel to Kansas City tied for first place in the AFC West with the Chiefs and Denver Broncos. They'll have Crabtree back but Cooper is still listed as questionable for this crucial game. It's time for the team to continue their comeback in this fourth quarter of the season for any hope of getting into the playoffs.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Beetle Convertible Draws Attention

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

Anytime I drive a new Beetle, there's a mixture of old memories and the experience of new tech. And with the Beetle Dune Convertible, Volkswagen adds some features on purpose to evoke the former while enticing you with the latter.

The 2017 Beetle Convertible is the latest in a long line of more than half a million drop-top Bugs. This most recent platform retains the classic cloth top, but incorporates the quick electronic action you expect. Press a button and the top lowers in 9.5 seconds. It only takes 11 seconds to raise it — and you can lower or raise it at up to 31 miles per hour.

The Dune package sits below the top-line SLE but above the S. It boasts a suspension that's raised 0.4 inches and a body that's slightly wider (.06") too. More aggressive bumpers, air intakes and rear spoiler add a bit of macho to a car

often favored for its cuteness. You get LED taillights, too, and the 18-inch Canyon alloy rims are a model exclusive.

Inside my Sandstorm Yellow Metallic 2017 tester, the sport seats wore gray and black cloth with yellow piping, and there was plenty of "Curry Yellow" around as well. For a classic Beetle feeling, there's a second upward-folding glovebox in the hard, body-color dash. The redone Beetle that debuted for the '13 model year returned to a more upright windshield, further evoking the old-time feel. Slim flaps provide a little storage in the doors for, perhaps, an iPad Mini or a small paperback.

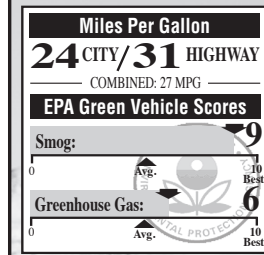
Of course, today's modern mechanicals have nothing to do with the old air-cooled Bugs. They are based on the popular Golf, with its water-cooled engine mounted up front. You won't hear the familiar noise from the rear, but you will have fun. The Dune's 1.8-liter turbo engine puts out 170 horsepower and 184 lb.-ft. of torque, not bad for a compact car.

Transmission choices are automatic only — sorry, classic Beetle fans. My '64's long, skinny transmission lever with its hard plastic knob made every shift an adventure. With 40 horsepower, you downshifted a lot, especially when climbing a hill.

Beetles were economical for their day, mainly because their engines were so small — not because of their efficiency. Today's car earns fuel economy numbers of 24 City, 31 Highway, and 27 Combined. I averaged 24.2 mpg, but the gauges tracked each trip. I learned that one of my commutes into work generated 30.6 mpg, so my accumulated numbers may have trended higher over a longer test period.

The EPA green numbers are a fine 9 for Smog and a middling 6 for Greenhouse Gas. I wonder if they would ever consider putting the e-Golf's electric drivetrain in a Beetle Convertible. We may see something like that... in the next decade.

The old Beetle wasn't the safest car on the road, but the new one is loaded with technological assists to save your life in a crash, and even prevent one. The new Beetle employs a rigid body structure with seamless laser welds and ultra-high-strength hot-formed steel. There's the Automatic Roll-over Support System, which activates two hidden roll-over bars behind the rear bench seat back that deploy along with the airbags in a crash. The Automatic Post-Collision Braking System hits the brakes itself to prevent further trouble. The Intelligent Crash Response System shuts off



Highlighting the 2017 Beetle Convertible's new look up front, the bumper features a large central air intake that widens towards its bottom edge.

the fuel pump, unlocks the doors and switches on the hazard lights under certain conditions. Feel better now?

It's 2017, and there's plenty of brains in this car. The VW Car-Net and App-Connect keep you connected, and you get smartphone integration with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto along with Bluetooth and more. You can enjoy your apps on the road and carry on hands-free text messaging. There are additional options that expand this even further, including some great automated security features.

Pricing for VW Convertibles starts at \$25,545 for the 1.8T S model. The Dune starts at \$30,215. My car's total was \$30,465, because that yellow paint is a \$250 option. You could save that by ordering the Pure White or Deep Black Pearl. With those choices, you'll get piano black inside instead of yellow, which I think



Similar to the original Beetle, the car has an extra glovebox integrated into the dashboard.

would be less fun.

Just for laughs, I found an old ad online for a new 1967 Beetle Convertible from a dealership in Rochester New York: \$2,164.40, with \$35 extra for white-wall tires.

News Flash: The 2018 VW Beetle Convertible boasts a slightly more powerful 2.0-liter engine

and offers VW's new six-year or 72,000-mile People First limited warranty.

The Beetle Convertible remains an appealing model and, with its split-folding rear seat, is still a reasonably practical vehicle for daily living. In Sandstorm Yellow, you'll get plenty of attention.

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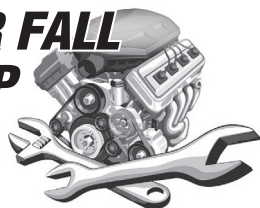
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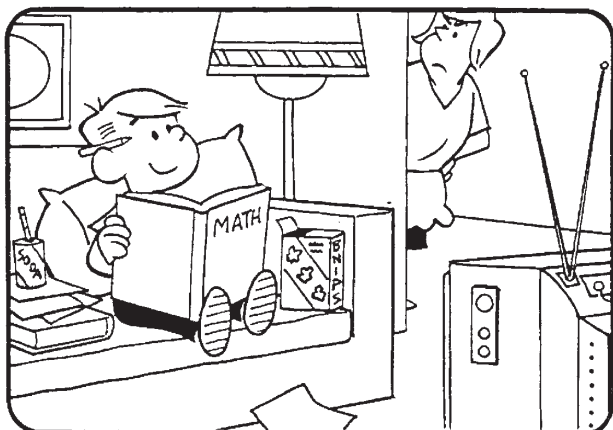
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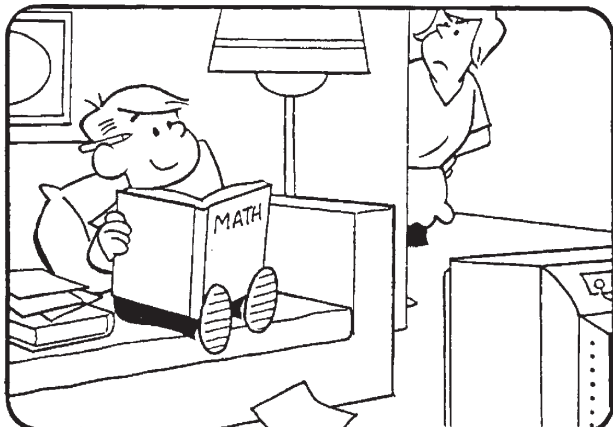
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HENRY BOLTIFF

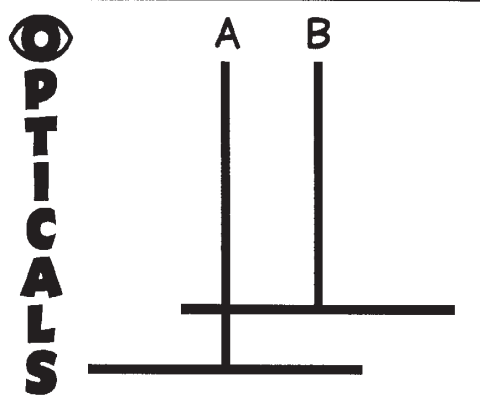


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Can is missing. 2. Pillow is smaller. 3. Lamp shade is different. 4. Box is missing. 5. TV controls are missing. 6. Antenna is missing.

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OF THE TWO figures above, A and B, which one's height and width are equal?

Answers: Figure A.

A CHEERFUL ADDITION! To solve this problem, you must replace the letters in the AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.

Our answer: E=9, G=2, N=8, O=3, X=1, M=7, A=5, S=4, (922 + 832 = 1754).

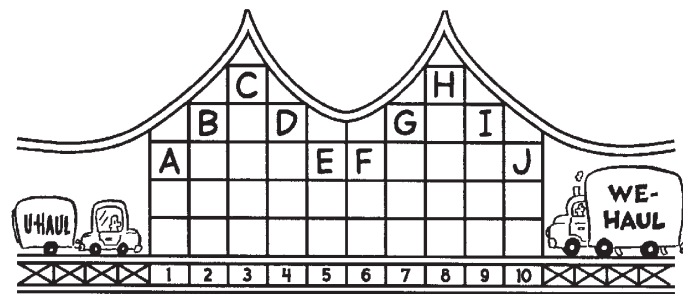
IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 1 through 10 to fill in our Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 37. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you.

	11	17	
16			12
	19		
			18

Answers: First row: 8, 11, 17, 1. Second row: 16, 2, 7, 12. Third row: 3, 19, 9, 6. Fourth row: 10, 5, 4, 18.



A WORD BRIDGE!



Illustrated by David Coulson

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. Commercial announcements.
2. To criticize harshly.
3. Superman and Batman have them.
4. A small dent or nick.
5. A female sheep.
6. To strike out (baseball).
7. To erode away gradually.
8. Disorder or chaos.
9. Mischievous children.
10. Type of bird.

Answers: 1. Ads. 2. Bash. 3. Capes. 4. Ding. 5. Ewe. 6. Fan. 7. Graw. 8. Havoc. 9. Imps. 10. Jay.

SENIORS

Simple Modifications Help Seniors Age in Place

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

There are dozens of small adjustments and simple modifications you can do to help make your home safer and more fit for aging-in-place, that won't cost much if anything at all.

Here are some suggestions to get you started.

■ Eliminate Trip/Slip Hazards

Since falls are the leading cause of home injury among seniors, a good place to start is by arranging or moving furniture so there are clear pathways to walk through. Position any electrical or phone cords along the wall so they won't be a tripping hazard.

If you have throw rugs, remove them or use carpet tacks or double-sided tape to secure them.

And, pick up items on the floor that could cause someone to trip like papers, shoes or clothes.

In the bathroom, buy some non-skid rugs for the floors, and a rubber mat or adhesive non-slip strips for the floor of the tub or shower to prevent slipping, and have a carpenter install grab bars in and around the tub/shower and near the toilet for support.

■ Improve Lighting

Good lighting is very important for safe aging-in-place, so check the wattage ratings on lamps and light fixtures, and install the brightest bulbs allowed.

Purchase some nightlights for the bathroom and in the hallways that are used after dark. And consider adding under-cabinet task lighting in the kitchen, and motion sensor lights outside the front and

back doors, and in the driveway.

■ Hand Helpers

If a senior has hand arthritis or problems gripping, install lever-style door handles (or door-knob lever adapters), which are easier to use than doorknobs. The same goes for twist-knob kitchen or bathroom faucets, which you can replace with a single lever, touch or sensor-style faucet.

And, consider replacing knobs on cabinets and drawers with easier-to-grip D-shaped handles.

■ Easier Living

To help make the kitchen easier to use, organize cabinets so the things used most often are within easy reach without a lot of stooping or using a step stool. Also, consider installing pullout shelves beneath the counter and Lazy Susans in corner cabinets for easier access. And, get a kitchen stool to sit on while working.

In the bathroom for easier and safer bathing, consider purchasing a shower chair and install a handheld shower so you can bathe from a seated position if need be.

■ Accessibility Solutions

If you use a walker or wheelchair, you can install ramps on entrance steps, and mini-ramps to go over high thresholds. You can also install "swing-away" or

"swing-clear" hinges on doors to add two inches of width for easier access.

■ Safety Improvements

To keep safe, set the hot water heater to 120°F or below to prevent scalds. If you have stairs, put handrails on both sides. Also, install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on all levels of the house, and place a lightweight, easy-to-use ABC-rated fire extinguisher in an easily accessible location in the kitchen.

For more tips, get a copy of AARP's "HomeFit Guide" that's filled with dozens of aging-in-place recommendations. You can access it at AARP.org/homefit, or call 888-687-2277 and ask them



There are a number of simple modifications you can make in your home to allow for you to age in place.

to mail you a free copy.

Also note that all the previously mentioned products can be purchased either in local retail stores, home improvement stores, phar-

macies or medical supply stores, or online at Amazon.com.

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

Medi-Cal Expands Home Care Options

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.

Special to the Times

I have been caring for my wife at home for some time, and I could really use help. In the past I was told that our modest savings and incomes were too high to qualify for a Medi-Cal subsidy to enable me to hire care-givers. However, I just heard that these strict requirements may have recently changed. Is this so?

Yes, indeed! Medi-Cal has recently made a welcome gift to couples struggling with care management at home.

In the past, a couple seeking a Medi-Cal subsidy to help with in-home care for an ill spouse would generally not qualify if their savings were greater than \$3,000.

Further, even if under that \$3,000 threshold, yet if their combined monthly incomes were greater than \$1,664, their resulting "co-pay" (aka, 'Share of Cost') would be too high to make hiring

care-givers affordable, as the co-pay requirement would leave couples without enough money to pay for their other living expenses.

These resource and income limits forced many spouses into nursing homes, where the Medi-Cal financial eligibility rules were much more relaxed. This has now all changed.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, and a recent lawsuit to compel Medi-Cal to follow its mandate, Medi-Cal now allows a spouse seeking care at home to take advantage of the same, more relaxed financial eligibility rules formerly only applicable to a spouse receiving care in a nursing home.

These rules are called the "Spousal Impoverishment Rules" ("SI Rules"). As the name implies, the SI Rules were designed by Congress to avoid impoverishing the At-Home spouse by the high cost of nursing home care for the Ill Spouse.

Under the SI Rules, a married couple may now have as much as \$122,900 in savings and still qualify the Ill Spouse for In-Home care, provided a doctor attests on a simple form that the Ill Spouse would otherwise need care in a nursing home.

Likewise, the rules for calculating Share of Cost ("SOC") are now also more relaxed: only the income of the Ill Spouse will count toward their SOC, and then only after (a) an allocation from the Ill Spouse to the Well Spouse to make sure the latter retains at least \$3,023 per month to live on,

and (b) a deduction of at least \$600 for the needs of the Ill Spouse.

To inquire about in-home care options under the SI Rules, contact your county Social Service Agency (Alameda County: 510-383-8523) and ask about "Home and Community Based Services covered under the Spousal Impoverishment Provisions, as outlined in All County Letter 17-25".

If you are already receiving In Home Supportive Services ("IHSS"), ask if you are on the "Community First Choice Option", which would entitle you to the benefit of the SI Rules discussed above and, if not, inquire about your eligibility for that program or another which applies the SI Rules.

Even if you are only placed on a waiting list, you will still be immediately eligible for Medi-Cal and IHSS using the SI Rules, no matter how long the wait.

Note: couples with resources greater than \$122,900 should not despair: there are lawful strategies that may enable them to seek a larger Medi-Cal resource allowance and/or to convert excess resources into exempt, non-countable resources.

The SI Rules should now enable more couples to remain together in their own homes and avoid, or at least defer, the need for nursing home placement. Please visit our website for more detail.

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

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A Christmas Carol Movies To Screen at SL Museum

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., will screen two adaptations of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*, on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992, G, 1:25) will be shown at 11:30 a.m. in the morning and *A Christmas Carol* (2009, PG, 1:36) will be shown at 2 p.m.

Admission is free. Holiday art and craft stations will also be available.

The Muppet Christmas Carol was dedicated to the memory of Muppets creator Jim Henson and fellow puppeteer Richard Hunt, who died during pre-production. In this classic story Kermit the Frog plays Bob Cratchit, the

clerk of stingy Ebenezer Scrooge played by Michael Caine, while other classic Muppet characters weave in and out of this timeless story.

Movie Features Gary Oldman, Colin Firth and Bob Hoskins

The movie features supporting roles done by Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Bob Hoskins, Robin Wright, and Cary Elwes. It is Disney's third film retelling of *A Christmas Carol*.

Rotten Tomatoes states: "It may not be the finest version of Charles Dickens' tale to grace the screen, but *The Muppet Christmas Carol* is funny and heartwarming and serves as a good introduction to the story for

young kids."

A Christmas Carol is a 2009 American, 3D computer animated, fantasy film written and directed by Robert Zemeckis.

Jim Carrey stars in multiple roles - Ebenezer Scrooge, and the three ghosts who haunt Scrooge.

Although it is a comedic film with contemporary songs, the film follows Dickens' original story closely.

The film was produced and directed by Brian Henson for Jim Henson Productions and released by Walt Disney Pictures.

In his review, Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times gave the film four stars (out of four), calling it "an exhilarating visual experience."

Volunteer Drivers Provide Priceless Gift To Cancer Patients

Drivers For Survivors has expanded its service area to Central Alameda County and is sending forth a call for volunteer drivers.

Drivers For Survivors is approaching 5 years of service to the Tri-City area (Fremont, Newark, and Union City), providing free transportation service and supportive companionship for ambulatory cancer patients.

Now the service is expanding into Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, and Castro Valley.

The program relies on volunteers to drive clients to and from oncology-related appointments, while providing supportive and caring companionship at a most challenging time.

Volunteer drivers are only

required to meet a minimum of providing one ride every three months of their choosing. Of course more is welcome.

Drivers For Survivors volunteers understand the need to support those going through cancer treatment quite often based from personal experience or that of a loved one. Many volunteers realize the gift in helping in this way is priceless.

Survivor drivers offer yet another level of hope. The result is showing love and compassion to others and in return being appreciated and looked at as someone's personal hero.

To become a volunteer driver/companion in your area, call 579-0535 or email volunteer@driversforsurvivors.org. The Drivers for Survivors website is: <http://driversforsurvivors.org/>.

Ballet Folklorico Performs Sunday

Ballet Folklorico Costa de Oro presents Fiestas Navideñas on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 a.m. at the San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave.

Tickets are \$25 in advance at BrownPaperTickets.com or \$30 at the door.

For more information, see bfcostadeoro.com or call 316-3237.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Many Landlords Begin Banning Pets

With rental property availability at significant lows, landlords are getting more aggressive in banning pets.

It goes without saying that poorly managed critters can cause substantial property damage. Even infrequent "accidents" can leave marks and property-owners, unwilling to deal with potential problems, are just saying, "NO."

An exclusion are service dogs. Known by their harness and colored vests, service animals are essential to the day-to-day existence of physically disabled individuals. Federal fair housing laws prohibit landlords

from discriminating against service animals and they can enter stores and restaurants.

Additionally, however, the law adds "companion" animals. These animals, virtually indistinguishable from pets, are allowed for emotional or therapeutic support. And there is the rub: how do you distinguish between a "companion animal" and a pet?

Confounding the issue are websites such as www.official-servicedogregistry.com which claim that you can officially register any dog as an official service, emotional support or therapy animal.

The website states, "Any size or breed of dog can be an emotional support or service dog, emotional support dogs do not have to be professionally-trained to perform any task."

Service dogs can be trained by their owners or in any other manner the owner desires." Some believe this opens the door to abuse of the federal laws.

Not just confined to rentals, airlines are befuddled as "phony" comfort pets show up at check-in counters with "official" vests and certificates their owners purchased online. While not wanting to discriminate, they also do not want snakes, pigs or improperly trained animals onboard.

And then there are the Millennials, now the largest group of renters and pet owners. According to a Wakefield study*, while the average age a Boomer got a pet was 29, for Millennials, it's 21.

Since Millennials are having children much later than previous generations, many feel a pet is a great way to start a family and consequently think of their furry friends as "children," including giving them their own social media accounts.

Bottom line, anticipate pets to become an increasingly significant issue. A high percentage of Millennials do not understand why a part of their "family" is not welcome to live with them. Factor in the increasing number of animals categorized as "emotional support" or "therapy" animals and you have a situation quickly spiraling out of control. Landlords are looking to the airlines, hopeful they will force the issue and get the situation back on the ground.

*www.pijac.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2014T2TpttRichter.pdf.

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.



Did Your "New Year's Resolution List for 2016" include "Purchase a Home"? Guess What? There Are But a Few Weeks Left to Go. Finish That List... Now!

Come take a look at 5029 Congress Avenue in Oakland — a "Ready to Move In" Fairfax Neighborhood home located Right off I-580. Features of this 3-bedroom, 2-full-bathroom, 1,732-square-foot home include beautiful hardwood floors, double-pane windows, newer roof, and all appliances stay. The in-law set up at the back of the house features its own kitchen, laundry facility and entrance (might not have permits). **Asking Price \$649,976.** Take a virtual tour of this great property at: www.ListedByAntonio.com and then Call Antonio Cardenas at 510-326-4263 to arrange for a private tour.

Mortgage Rates Inch Lower

Average long-term mortgage rates inched lower last week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.90 percent, down from 3.92 percent the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 4.08 percent.

Fifteen-year mortgages averaged 3.30 down from 3.32 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.32 percent last week, up from 3.22 percent.

Prepare for Power Outages

Understanding backup power supply options is critical to avoiding blackouts this winter.

Widespread outages have caught some homeowners off guard, but preparedness measures now need to include a backup power plan.

Two basic options exist for homeowners: portable generators and home standby generator systems. Both solutions can keep the house lights on, appliances working and, in the event of a weather-related power outage or other emergency, will keep the home the safest place to ride out the storm.

Understanding the differences and capabilities between these two options makes selecting the best backup power plan much easier.

Portable generators: An instant but temporary backup power supply, these gasoline generators are available at just about any home improvement retailer and work well as a quick solution to roll out during an outage.

Generally, a portable unit is low maintenance, but Generac Power Systems reminds users that they should check and run their generator and even refresh the tank of gasoline to be ready for the season. Additionally, for safe operation, these units need to be taken outside and kept 25 feet away from an opening to the home to keep carbon monoxide fumes outside.

Home standby generators: When outages happen, the home standby generator is the automatic solution.

continued on next page

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro

1400 Carpentier Street	94577: \$380,000 2 BD - 977 SF - 1983
400 Davis Street #203	94577: \$475,500 2 BD - 1,431 SF - 1982
2390 Driftwood Way	94577: \$710,000 5 BD - 1,584 SF - 1963
396 Haas Avenue	94577: \$678,000 4 BD - 1,924 SF - 1938
433 Harlan Street #303	94577: \$404,000 3 BD - 1,033 SF - 1964
2264 Heathrow Place	94577: \$560,000 3 BD - 1,659 SF - 1979
2447 Jamaica Way	94577: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,336 SF - 1961
14159 Maracaibo Road	94577: \$651,000 3 BD - 1,230 SF - 1963
12960 Neptune Drive	94577: \$675,000 2 BD - 1,444 SF - 1946
13055 Neptune Drive	94577: \$1,350,000 4 BD - 3,126 SF - 2008
14475 Tiburon Road	94577: \$630,000 3 BD - 1,196 SF - 1963
2475 Easy Street	94578: \$850,000 5 BD - 2,204 SF - 1949
16099 Gramercy Drive	94578: \$732,000 2 BD - 1,390 SF - 1950
732 Hamlin Way	94578: \$600,000 N/A BD - 1,356 SF - 1979
15065 Hesperian Blvd.	94578: \$329,000 2 BD - 771 SF - 1985
16197 Marcella Street	94578: \$567,000 3 BD - 1,054 SF - 1947
13845 Rose Drive #1D	94578: \$575,000 4 BD - 2,117 SF - 1981
16049 Selborne Drive	94578: \$710,000 2 BD - 1,411 SF - 1949
2165 Somerset Avenue	94578: \$637,000 3 BD - 1,463 SF - 1957
1466 Church Avenue	94579: \$625,000 3 BD - 1,241 SF - 1952
1651 Manzanita Avenue	94579: \$460,000 3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1953
15017 Swenson Street	94579: \$529,000 2 BD - 927 SF - 1948

TOTAL SALES: 22	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$329,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$627,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,350,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$627,614

San Lorenzo

868 Elgin Street	94580: \$524,000 3 BD - 1,342 SF - 1988
15984 Mills Avenue	94580: \$575,000 3 BD - 1,041 SF - 1951
907 Via Enrico	94580: \$675,000 3 BD - 1,323 SF - 1956
17261 Via San Ardo	94580: \$635,000 3 BD - 1,031 SF - 1951
1672 Via Sarita	94580: \$585,000 3 BD - 1,031 SF - 1952

TOTAL SALES: 5	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$524,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$585,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$675,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$598,800

Castro Valley

21130 Aspen Avenue	94546: \$805,000 3 BD - 1,660 SF - 1954
3124 Barrett Court	94546: \$911,000 4 BD - 2,024 SF - 1991
20191 Catalina Drive	94546: \$640,000 3 BD - 1,030 SF - 1950
20977 Center Street	94546: \$570,000 3 BD - 1,268 SF - 1956
21157 Elm Street	94546: \$660,000 3 BD - 978 SF - 1948
4622 Lawrence Drive	94546: \$744,000 N/A BD - 1,815 SF - 1965
3874 Link Court	94546: \$605,000 3 BD - 990 SF - 1955
1853 Riverbank Avenue	94546: \$630,000 2 BD - 1,174 SF - 1947
18768 Sydney Circle	94546: \$780,000 4 BD - 1,901 SF - 1992
3719 Boulder Canyon Dr	94552: \$1,065,000 4 BD - 2,352 SF - 1998
7825 Crow Canyon Road	94552: \$1,265,000 3 BD - 3,762 SF - 1957
5957 E Castro Valley Blvd	94552: \$750,000 N/A BD - 2,208 SF - N/A
6430 Ridgewood Drive	94552: \$1,100,000 4 BD - 2,240 SF - 1990
5478 Troost Court	94552: \$800,000 3 BD - 1,712 SF - 1980

TOTAL SALES: 14	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$570,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$765,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,265,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$808,929

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Power: Have standby generators installed professionally

continued from previous page
solution. Some units, like the Generac Guardian, plumb into the home's existing natural gas or propane line and are installed just outside the house like an air-conditioning unit. They can be set to exercise weekly and can even send the homeowner updates about its successful exercise, change in status or low battery, as well as maintenance reminders or fault alerts. Unlike portable generators, home standby generators need to be professionally installed, so homeowners should allow for an installation process.

— North American Precip Synd., Inc.



Portable generators can help keep the lights on.

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CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	—	1-4	1653-1657 Graham Way	\$615,000	3/2	Re/Max Accord	Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
C	12-3	12-3	9150 Crow Canyon Rd.	\$1,250,000	3/2	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Peixoto Team	925-251-2536
D	—	1-4	5655 Bruce Dr.	\$2,999,888	5/3.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Debra Allen	925-251-2536

One-Line Open Home Listings run Wednesdays in the Castro Valley Forum (22,500 circ.) and Thursdays in the San Leandro Times (38,500 circ.) for \$25. For more information and a listing form, call 614-1558. DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT NOON.

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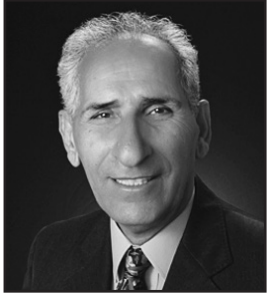
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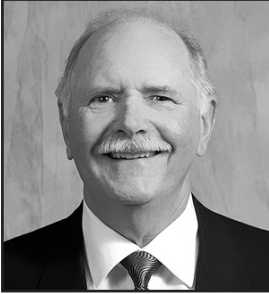
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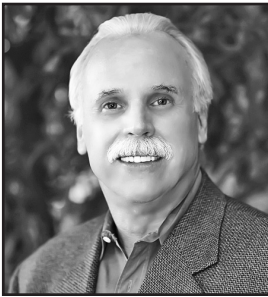
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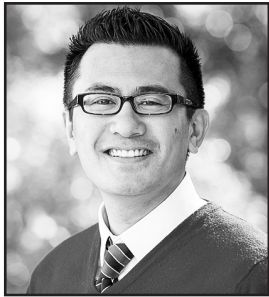
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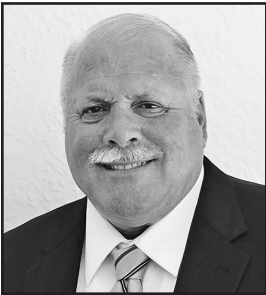
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Wells: City doesn't know what switching banks will cost

continued from front page

justice, of protecting the environment," said Councilwoman Corina Lopez. "It's an issue that speaks to our core values and who we are."

Councilman Benny Lee brought up Russell Means, the Lakota activist and graduate of San Leandro High. Lee said support of the pipeline project was like "supporting apartheid."

The decision to divest from Wells Fargo came before the City Council in part due to the urging of grassroots group Our Revolution San Leandro.

Maureen Forney of the group

told the Council that breaking away from Wells Fargo and banks which invest in fossil fuels will ultimately prove financially as well as morally beneficial.

"It's good stewardship of constituent dollars to invest in the technology of the future, not the past two centuries," said Forney.

But the city's decision may end up costing taxpayers money.

Wells Fargo has been the city's primary bank since 2008. Before then, the city used Bank of America. When the city made that switch, the finance department estimated that it saved 31 percent in using Wells Fargo over Bank

of America.

The city currently has \$5 million deposited with Wells Fargo for daily operational expenses. Bank fees are about \$80,000 a year – which is less than around \$115,000 the city was paying Bank of America a decade ago.

"We found that Wells Fargo's fees are very competitive," said Baum.

Baum said that they won't know how much switching banks may cost the city until a replacement bank is chosen.

Baum added that the banks that tend to bid on contracts with municipalities all tend to be the

same large institutions – Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Bank of the West, JP Morgan – and all of those are involved in funding the pipeline. So the new bank could also be a financial backer of the pipeline.

The City Council told the Finance Department to put out a request for bids from new banks, but Baum said no timeline is in place for that to actually happen because they are currently short staffed.

"It takes hundreds of hours to go through the (bidding process)," said Baum. "It will happen as soon as possible, but there is no timeline."

• NEWS BRIEFS •

Raiders Boosters Club

Raiders fans are invited to the 148th meeting of the Original Oakland Raiders Booster Club on Tuesday night, Dec. 12, at Ricky's Sports Theatre and Grill, 15028 Hesperian Blvd. in San Leandro. No host cocktails at 6 p.m., order dinner as you arrive, meeting at 7 p.m. Raffle tickets are \$5. Bring an unwrapped toy for club's annual toy drive.

San Leandro Democratic Club

The San Leandro Democratic Club will host its Second Annual Holiday Party on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. All are welcome.

Temple Beth Sholom Hanukkah Activities

Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave. in San Leandro, presents a free class that will answer many of your questions about Hanukkah from its origins to how to light a hanukiah on Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 6:30 to 7:30. Child care provided and Hanukkah refreshments will be served.

Also, Temple Beth Sholom will host the following events during Hanukkah:

- Share the Warmth Coat Drive (Tzedakah) on Friday Dec. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a new or gently worn coat to the Musical Shabbat (or any time during the holiday).

- Hanukkah Carnival (Torah School), Sunday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Torah schoolers come together for the annual Hanukkah Carnival. Games, prizes, and fun. Free.

- Build-a-Menorah (Families) on Monday, Dec. 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Home Depot in the West Gate Shopping Center, 1933 Davis St. A free do-it-yourself Menora clinic for 3 to 12 year olds and anyone who feels like a youngster. Hanukkah gifts while supplies last.

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FD 442

DEBONE, Michael
ERICKSON, Naomi V

■ **Barbara J. Miller**, of San Leandro passed on November 30, 2017. Visitation was held on

Wednesday Dec. 6, 2017 from 12 – 8 with a vigil beginning 6:00 PM at Santos- Robinson Mortuary. The Funeral Mass will be on Thursday December 7, 2017 10:30 AM at St. Felicitas Church on Manor Blvd.

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Arlene Lucy Martina (Rugaard) Goldsborough



Arlene Lucy Martina Goldsborough, was 90 years old and was born in Bronx, New York to Oswald Rugaard and Barbara (Marino) Rugaard. Arlene graduated from San Leandro High school class of 1945, worked at Chrysler parts depot, and married her high school sweetheart Frank on September 1, 1946. They made their home in Hayward then returned to San Leandro in 1971. Arlene retired after 37 years from Chrysler.

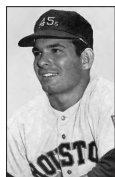
She is preceded in death by her parents Oswald and Barbara Rugaard, brother Ozzie (Nola), brother Lawrence (Shirley), and brother in law Dick. She is survived by Frank her beloved husband of 71 years, her daughter Diane (Rich), sister Marlene, four grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, nine nieces and nephews their families, and dear friends and neighbors.

Arlene loved to travel, enjoyed thousands of trails, the annual Marine Corp reunions across the country, Danish sisterhood picnics in Petaluma, living at Mission Bay mobile home park, and sending cards to family and friends. She was very generous to all. We will miss her.

Services will be held Saturday, Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro. Interment to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

Ernie Fazio

Jan. 25, 1942
Dec. 1, 2017



Ernest Joseph Fazio also known as "The Faz" passed away at the age of 75.

Ernie was born and raised in San Leandro, California. He was best known for his many athletic accomplishments.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, Dec. 15 at Saint Isidore Church in Danville at 10:30 a.m.

Ralph Raymond Prime

Ralph Raymond Prime was born April 23, 1928, in Sandwich, Illinois, passed November 20, 2017, in Oakland, California.

Loving husband of Mary Ellen Vines Prime for 63 years. Beloved dad of Marian Elizabeth, Lynn Frances, and Monica Jean, and grandpa of Asa Nicole. A dear second father to Genevieve, Masako, and Yoshiko. Dear brother of Nancy, Jimmie, and Ben. A favorite son-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle, and cousin to his many relatives in the Prime and Vines families.

Ralph grew up in Torrance, California. A child of the Great Depression, he knew grief at age 15 when a drunk driver struck his father's car and killed him, a loss Ralph felt all his life. When his brothers Ben and Jimmie were away at war, Ralph became the man of the house for his mother and his sister, Nancy.

After high school, Ralph worked every job he could to earn money for college, including washing dishes for a huge man named Tiny in the Santa Catalina Island cafeteria, and trying a brief and undistinguished career as a door-to-door salesman. He studied sociology and graduated from Chapman College. Ralph met Mary Ellen while they were both graduate students at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. They married on May 1, 1954.

As an associate minister and a minister of music, Ralph took his young family to postings in churches throughout California. A sudden decision to pursue a master's degree in music at San Francisco State College took his wife by surprise but led to the career that proved most fulfilling to him.

From 1968 until his retirement, Ralph shared his love of music with countless students at San Joaquin Delta College, where he led award-winning choirs. An exacting choral director, he guided his students into better sound and expression, and his conducting brought out hidden talents in his performers.

A punster and lover of the written word — from Robert Frost, Shakespeare, and Wendell Berry to Ogden Nash and Tom Lehrer — Ralph could make you laugh until you cried, and he helped you share your burden when you were sad. He always had a kind word for those in pain.

We love and will forever miss his bear-sized hugs, his laughter, his bright spirit, and his kindness. In keeping with Ralph's wishes, there will be no memorial service. Contributions in his memory may be made to Mercy Retirement and Care Center Charitable Care Fund, 3431 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, CA 94601 or to Doctors Without Borders (<http://doctorswithoutborders.org>).

THE TIMES CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Use an old phone
- Plastic user's accumulation
- Yon bloke
- Resting
- Neighborhood
- Expert
- Shipwreck site
- Ancient Briton
- Say it's OK
- It's right on the map
- Shell game need
- Took the bus
- ___ canto
- Mainlander's memento
- Flower cluster
- Heckle or Jeckle
- Baking potato
- Any of four that chase Pac-Man
- Aberration
- Last syllable of a word
- Ultra-modernist
- Meadow
- Dressed
- State of matter
- Infamous lyre player
- Fond du ___
- Abrupt
- Fed
- Bonfire residue
- Soft cheese
- Dryer collection
- "How come?"
- Celeb
- Therefore

DOWN

- Tragic
- Concept
- Hearty quaffs
- Forgotten, maybe
- Spotted horse
- Huron neighbor
- Soothe
- Body art, for short
- Good ring?
- On the rocks
- Apportion (out)
- 90 degrees
- Overact
- American emblem
- Carnival city
- Throw in
- Scoundrel
- Luau bowlful
- Doctrine
- Greek H
- Dairy-section item
- Overcoat named for a region of Ireland
- Talon
- Whip
- Sore
- Bocelli showstopper
- Eastern bigwig
- Pealed
- Aware of
- Letterman's employer

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

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.

Times' Report on Bancroft Site 'Seems Only Half Correct'

Editor:

Amy Sylvestri's statement that "Most speakers said they support housing in general, but not at the Bancroft site" in her page one article in the Nov. 30 San Leandro Times ("Commission Deadlocks on Apartment Plan") seems to us to be only half correct.

Almost all of the speakers opposed to the project stated that, while they support developing the Bancroft site within the guidelines of the existing zoning regulations (maximum of 31 units), they were opposed to the size and density of the proposed development.

Amy's reporting appears to paint the residents who oppose this project as anti-development, anti-growth NIMBY's. Shall we be charitable and say that was not her intent?

News writing should strive to provide all the facts in a certain case or story; not only to be fair to all sides in the matter, but to appear not to be biased towards one side or the other. Otherwise, perhaps articles like this should be labeled as opinion pieces rather than presented as news.

—David and Laurie Harbeck
San Leandro

Concerned Over Lack of Plans to Calm Traffic on Bancroft

Editor:

A point of agreement on both sides of the divide is careful planning to create a vibrant, walkable urban environment. "Missing Middle" housing typologies do aim to balance and transition to greater density. I think this is an ideal design approach in San Leandro at single family residence boundary locations; however, I have significant questions about whether this approach pencils out at the site. I hope it does. Construction, land, and municipal costs and fees to build housing are so high in California's coastal area cities that it severely restricts supply of new, badly needed housing in our region.

A primary concern I have is that Bancroft Ave. and Estudillo Ave. are not bicycle and pedestrian friendly. To my knowledge, currently there are no plans to calm traffic on Bancroft, though community feedback at public meetings has asked for it.

This is especially true of bike and pedestrian advocacy organizations. Exactly how marketable are units with porches and stoops that butt up against fast moving traffic and high vehicle volumes? Asked another way, is the current street design and lack of traffic calming mitigation significantly driving the current building proposal as the most rational design response?

Today, "planning" principals such as this one, pontificating against density, are included in the zoning section of San Leandro's latest iteration of the General Plan: "protect residents from the harmful effects of population density"

This seems like an historic 'code phrase' from a different, inappropriate, and horribly racist era in zoning and urban planning. It simply has no rational or justifiable place in our community today.

—Leah Hall
San Leandro

Why the Discussion on Housing When Zoning Laws are in Place?

Editor:

Unbelievably Ridiculous!

What are we doing with regard to this "controversy" over the proposed construction at Bancroft and Estudillo? We have zoning laws in place for a reason. One of them is to prevent the nonsense that is going on right now. Why are we even wasting time and money discussing this?

There is a law in place that clearly states what can be developed on this location. Why is Silva even proposing this? Why is the city of San Leandro discussing this? Shame on all of you! Stop this nonsense and put up the building somewhere else that is properly zoned. Hello. This entire affair is unbelievably ridiculous!

—Chris Morreale
San Leandro

Urges Support for Moratorium on Zoning Changes

Editor:

There are several important considerations regarding the proposed zoning change out the corner of Bancroft and Estudillo:

- City staff have already expanded the Downtown area to include parts of the Estudillo, Broadmoor, Davis, and Cherryland neighborhoods without community awareness or approval. This means that 50-foot high density housing can be built in those areas without community or discussion.

- The entire length of Bancroft, from the Corner of Dutton to Victoria Circle across from Safeway and up to Kenilworth, has already been "redefined" to allow for the same 50-foot high density development.

- Because zoning allows for nearby developments to be "in conformity" with existing properties there is a domino effect and any other future developments on Bancroft, Estudillo, or Dutton can build to the same height and density levels with little to no community input or approval. We can assume that similar changes have been made in other parts of town without the residents being informed or consulted.

This amounts to significant city re-engineering by unelected city officials many of whom do not live in the impacted neighborhoods and are not answerable to those of us who do.

If you agree that changes of this magnitude need to take place out in the open, and only with the knowledge and consent of community residents, please call (510) 577-3200 and tell our City Manager Chris Zapata and Mayor Pauline Cutter that you support a moratorium on any large developments or zoning changes without community approval. That is not Nimbysism, it is Democracy.

—Rose Riskind
San Leandro

Planners Will Show Bias if They Change Zoning Laws Despite City Council's Opposition

Editor:

Regarding the proposed apartment

complex at 1388 Bancroft Avenue, this is not a NIMBY issue as has been charged, since many of us in the neighborhood support a 31-unit apartment complex that meets the requirements of the existing zoning code.

The San Leandro city staff did a complete, fair, unbiased study of the proposal to build a 73 unit, 4 to 5 story apartment complex on the site, and recommended that it NOT be built as proposed due to its negative impact on the surrounding area.

This 73-unit apartment complex would take three years to build. It would be situated next to Bancroft Middle School, separated only by Estudillo Avenue, a two lane residential street east of Bancroft Avenue.

The deafening noise of construction and heavy machinery would make it nearly impossible for teachers to effectively teach and students to learn. Three years is the length of time a child attends Bancroft Middle School before moving on to the High School. A critical period during a child's education.

Another matter of concern is the fact that, although he does not live in San Leandro, Mr. Silva is the chair of the four member San Leandro Rent Review Board. He is therefore in a position to greatly influence rules and regulations which apply to landlords in the city.

If the Planning Commission fails to heed the recommendation of the city staff and votes to change the zoning code in favor of the developer, it would be impossible not to question the motives and integrity of those at the highest levels of city government.

—Jeanne Kinkella
San Leandro

Neighborhood Supports Housing, But Not a 73-Unit Building

Editor:

An important point that sometimes gets lost in the coverage of the proposed 73-unit apartment complex at 1388 Bancroft Avenue is that the neighbors, by and large, actually support the construction of housing at the site.

All we are asking is that it be of an appropriate size, the scale of which was decided on by our City Council just last year with substantial community input.

A 31-unit complex is the maximum size allowed under the Zoning Code. We support a project of this size.

However, a 73-unit building is entirely out of character with the adjacent single family residences and small apartment buildings in the area, as well as being significantly taller than even the middle school just across the street.

The San Leandro General Plan states that "design guidelines should be used to protect the historic elements of the City's "pre-war" (e.g., 1900-1940) neighborhoods and business districts [which includes Estudillo Estates]. Design guidelines and zoning standards for older neighborhoods should ensure that future changes reflect the valued features of the neighborhood."

The key to achieving this neighborhood preservation is through the City Zoning Code. Last year, the City Council considered amending the Zoning Code to extend a Downtown (i.e. high-density housing) zoning designation up Estudillo all the way through 1388 Bancroft.

In response to overwhelming commu-

nity opposition, city staff pulled the proposal and the City Council instead approved a compromise to balance competing interests, setting an upper limit of 24 units per acre. (It is noteworthy that even under the pulled proposal, Mr. Silva's 73-unit structure would have violated the density limitations.)

Again, the community recognizes that growth is inevitable. But for San Leandro to thrive and prosper for its residents of today and tomorrow, growth must be managed in a sustainable, sensible fashion that protects existing neighborhoods.

I urge the Planning Commission to please stand up for the compromise

already made, and do not modify rules for the financial gain of a single person to the detriment of the community.

—Aaron Bukofzer
San Leandro

'It's a Wonderful Night' was A Wonderful Night in San Leandro

Editor:

Congratulations to Downtown Business Association for putting on the It's a Wonderful Night event.

It was so nice to see young families downtown and to see all enjoying the event.

—Robert Jones - Broker/Owner
San Leandro

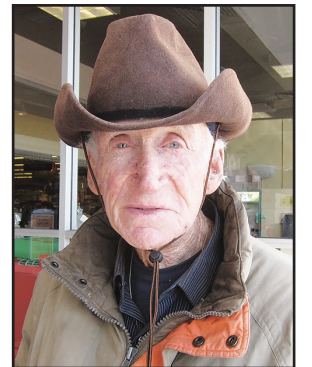
INQUIRING REPORTER

Prediction for economy in upcoming year?

— Asked at the Greenhouse Marketplace

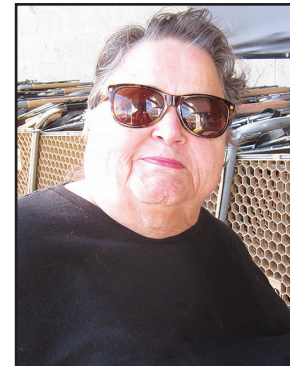
I think we're going through some hard times right now, and now North Korea is trying to fire a damn rocket over here and wipe this whole place out. For the poor man, it's not so good. For the wealthy, I guess it's good.

Chester Bostwick
San Leandro



Great, as long as Trump is president. I think he's good for the economy. All the talk is politics, all the news media. Sore losers.

Gail Faria
San Leandro



Probably worse, because of who we have as president, and a Republican Congress. I hope he doesn't get is into a war, and I hope we don't have another 9-11.

Bryan Kolen
San Leandro



I'm hoping for the best. Things have to get better before they get worse, right? I'm a hopeful person.

Tina Medina
San Leandro



I think it's going to stay the same, but there should be more jobs for people who need a job and more help for the homeless, and for the poor in Africa and all over the world, and for kids in the hospital. We need to support them.

Emilie Eaves
San Leandro



Library Adds 500 New Bilingual Books

The San Leandro Public Library has added more than 500 bilingual children's books to its collection, thanks to a grant from the California State Library.

New languages now available include Arabic and Tagalog, in addition to bilingual books in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. With these additional books and languages, the Library now offers more than 3,000 children's books in foreign languages as well as over 5,000 books for adults in three languages: Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

A robust collection of children's bilingual books promotes family reading, literacy, and language skills.

According to both the San Leandro and San Lorenzo schools districts, the top five languages spoken at student's homes, other than English, are Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Arabic and Tagalog, said Library Director Theresa Mallon.

Children's books in all six languages – English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Arabic – are available at

all branches of the San Leandro Public Library.

The California State Library provided the San Leandro Public Library with \$7,500 to spend on these new bilingual books. The intent is to increase children's opportunity to learn English through reading with their native/preferred language included, and to engage parents who are more fluent in the native language in family reading.

California is home to more than 10 million immigrants and the latest available data show that nearly 27 percent of California's population is foreign born, about twice the US percentage overall. The Immigrant Alliance Project was created to support libraries as they create, enhance, and extend services to immigrants and their families.

The California State Library, founded in 1850, is the central reference and research library for the Governor's office, Legislature, state employees, and the public. It promotes innovative library services by providing and managing state and federal funding programs.

Vehicle: Used 15 times so far this year

continued from front page
ment of Homeland Security.

In 2016, it was deployed a total of 6 times, once in San Leandro and five times in other cities as requested by outside police agencies.

In 2017 (through the month of October), the armored vehicle has been deployed 15 times, eight in San Leandro and seven by request of other police departments, according to San Leandro Police Chief Jeff Tudor.

The City Council requires the police department to keep it informed on the use of the vehicle. Tudor said he sends the council members an email each time the Bearcat is used. He also gave a brief summary of the vehicle use at a November council meeting.

Tudor said that the armored vehicle is used only in potentially violent and life-threatening scenarios.

Two of the times the BearCat left San Leandro were at the political protests at UC Berkeley, Tudor said. The vehicle was not actually used either time.

The police have said the BearCat would never be used in a non-violent protest. Tudor said the armored vehicle was staged nearby in case the protest escalated into violence.

"The potential for violence was there in the intelligence that law enforcement was gathering," said Tudor of the right wing vs. Antifa protests.

Tudor said that in many cases, the use of the BearCat is planned, such as with the protests or if they are serving a warrant on a suspect who is thought to be armed.



TIMES FILE PHOTO

The police department's Bearcat armored SWAT vehicle was put on display at a public meeting on the vehicle in 2015. Police appropriated the Red Cross symbol and call the truck a medical evacuation vehicle.

Crash: Others injured

continued from front page

striking Han's booth.

A passenger in the truck was also injured and a five other motorists involved in the collision were taken to Highland Hospital for treatment of injuries ranging

from minor to moderate.

Five toll booths, the bus lanes, and the carpool lane at the toll plaza were closed during the CHP investigation and the booth that Han was in was badly damaged and remains closed.

ב"ה

CHANUKAH

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CHANUKAH CELEBRATION on The Boulevard!

Thursday, December 14
5:30 PM

at the CASTRO VALLEY CREEK
(on Castro Valley Blvd. near Fremont Bank)

With the Participation of Dignitaries,
including Alameda County Supervisor
NATE MILEY

- Latkes!
- Doughnuts!
- Dreidels & Coins!
- Live Music!
- Arts & Crafts!

FREE OF CHARGE!

The Ferris Wheels band with the 'Rock & Roll Rabbi' Yehudah Ferris will perform!

CHANUKAH in Legoland!

Monday, December 18
5:30 PM

at the PALOMARES HILLS CLUB HOUSE
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Castro Valley, CA 94552

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- LIVE MUSIC!
- FACE PAINT!
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And much more!

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION & Public Menorah Lighting

Tuesday, December 19
5:30 PM

at SAN LEANDRO CITY HALL PLAZA
901 E 14th St, San Leandro

With the participation of city officials & dignitaries, including San Leandro Mayor PAULINE CUTTER

- Latkes & Doughnuts!
- Dreidels & Coins!
- Arts & Crafts!

FREE OF CHARGE!

public safety tool."

Tudor said that, so far, no shots have been fired on the vehicle and no bullets have been shot from the BearCat's weapons ports.

Tudor said that the vehicle gives officers a place to negotiate and operate from when dealing with an armed person. He added that with the mass shootings occurring frequently around the country in the past few months, he feels that the BearCat is more necessary than ever.

"It seems like there is a mass casualty every other week," said Tudor. "We understand the concerns that the community has about armored vehicles but we are using it very diligently and we are very critical in examining where to use it."

Tudor provided a list the newspaper requested of when the BearCat was deployed this year, but said he couldn't give dates or other specifics because of confidentiality concerns with ongoing cases and because several of the instances involved outside departments and he didn't know how much information they wanted to make public.

The SLPD's BearCat was used 15 times in 2017:

- 1) January: a call for a suicidal subject in San Leandro
- 2) January: a call about an assault with a deadly weapon in San Leandro
- 3) January: a search warrant served in San Leandro
- 4) February: a search warrant served in San Leandro
- 5) March: a search warrant served by the Hayward police
- 6) April: a man with a gun reported to the Fremont police
- 7) April: standby at UC Berkeley protests
- 8) June: a search warrant served in San Leandro
- 9) July: a report of an armed suspect in a backyard in San Leandro
- 10) August: pursuit of an armed suspect in San Leandro
- 11) August: used by the Fremont police and Sheriff's Dept. to serve a warrant in Livermore
- 12) September: standby at UC Berkeley protests
- 13) October: incident with an armed person in San Leandro
- 14) October: a search warrant served by the Hayward police
- 15) October: a barricaded suspect in Fremont

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