



WEEKEND WEATHER
COOL Sun shines on Saturday
HIGHS: 51-56
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 38-43

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 26 • NO. 51

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Maria Gonzalez helps sort packages on Monday at the Oakland Post Office distribution center. It was their busiest day of the year with all that holiday mail on it's way to friends and family all over world.

Post Office Sets New Record

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Over 611 million letters, packages, and other pieces of mail were processed at United States Post Offices on Monday – the busiest day of the year for mail.

And the Oakland Processing and Distri-

bution Center did its share, sorting though mountains of mail to make sure Christmas cards and holiday presents arrive in time for this weekend's celebrations.

The big Post Office on 7th Street in Oakland is one of two major mail distribu-

tion centers for the Bay Area, the other is in San Jose. The United States Postal Service says the amount of packages being shipped this year is up about 12 percent from 2015.

In Oakland, they have a new Small Parcel Sorting System (SPSS) to handle all those packages people are buying from

see MAIL, page 14

Davis Street Fails to Pay Back Loan

City manager sends notice: 'promises were broken'

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City of San Leandro says that the Davis Street Family Resource Center has failed to pay back a \$1.5 million loan that came due this past summer and they have yet to respond to a letter demanding a portion be repaid by next month.

In 2014, the City Council unanimously voted to give Davis Street a 2-year, \$1.5-million loan to start a health clinic. The loan came due this past summer, at which point the city offered an extension until Oct. 31 – a deadline that also came and went without payment.

On Dec. 9, San Leandro City Manager Chris Zapata sent a letter to Davis Street executive director Rose Johnson expressing concern about the lack of payment.

"These loans involve public money, which legally requires the City to ensure proper use of those funds," wrote Zapata. He went on to say that Davis Street's "promises...were clearly broken or untrue" and that the city has "serious doubt" Davis Street will be able to repay the loan.

Davis Street – a non-profit which provides social services and medical care for the less fortunate of the community – has long enjoyed a close relationship with the city.

City Council members can

often be seen giving out toys and food at Davis Street headquarters during the holidays and the city once declared a "Rose Padilla see LOAN, page 14

County Says Caltrans Neglecting East 14th St.

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

A portion of East 14th Street where it turns into Mission Boulevard in the unincorporated area has gotten so rough that Alameda County is attempting to take control of the road from CalTrans, which currently maintains the road.

The street is a patchwork of potholes and cracks and the county says it has received numerous complaints from the public about condition of the pavement. The bad section of road is East 14th Street in Ashland and where it becomes Mission Boulevard in Cherryland.

see ROADWAY, page 16

San Leandro Rides Out Rainstorm

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

We probably don't need to worry about a drought this year, judging by the healthy rainstorm that swept in from the Pacific last Thursday.

San Leandro received around an inch of rain in a 24-hour span. Gutters turned into small rivers, umbrellas popped out, and drivers had to slow down, at least sensible drivers.

Around town, water backed up on streets as it usually does due to clogged storm drains, but nothing out of the ordinary, according to Public Works Director Debbie Pollart.

There was also a king tide, an unusually high tide, last Tuesday and Wednesday. This causes water to come up from the storm drains in the low-lying west side of town near the bay.

People sometimes mistake this for the sewer backing up, but it's not the sewer, Pollart said. It's just the storm drain that carries off rainwater.

The Public Works Department hadn't heard anything about trees blowing over or anything like that, as of last Friday, the day after the storm.

see RAIN, page 9



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The gutter along East 14th Street looked more like San Leandro Creek last Thursday.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

MUSIC

'70s hit-makers Ambrosia to play at the Bal. Page 2

NEWS

Woman found dead in fire was murdered, cops say. Page 3

SENIORS

Make your home 'age friendly.' Page 8

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Lifestyle	7
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Travel	6

San Leandro Times

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EDITORIAL

Fred Zehnder
Editor and Publisher

Jim Knowles
Managing Editor
jimk@ebpublishing.com

Amy Sylvestri
City Editor
amys@ebpublishing.com

Steve Schaefer
Auto Editor

PRODUCTION

Howard Morrison
Manager

Greg Benson
Art Director

Moxie Morrison
Assistant

OPERATIONS

Claudette Morrison
Business Manager

ADVERTISING

Display Advertising

Claudette Morrison
Jerry Olson

Classified Advertising

Patrick Vadnais

HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times
2060 Washington Ave.
San Leandro, California 94577

Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Office: (510) 614-1555

Newsroom: (510) 614-1557

Sports: (510) 614-1561

Advertising: (510) 614-1555

Classified: (510) 614-1558

Fax: (510) 483-4209

Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com

www.ebpublishing.com



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PHOTO BY JAMES ZAHRADKA

Rainbow Over San Leandro

A rainbow appeared over San Leandro after a recent storm and James Zahradka took a photo of it from the San Leandro BART Station.



Ambrosia will play two shows at the Bal Theatre on New Year's Eve.

'70s Hit Makers Ambrosia to Play Bal on New Year's Eve

Legendary hit-makers Ambrosia will perform live at the Bal Theatre, 14808 East 14th St. in San Leandro, on New Year's Eve with two shows – 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Ambrosia is five-time Grammy nominee with five hit singles and sold out concerts around the world. Their hits include "Biggest Part Of Me," "How Much I Feel," "You're The Only Woman (You and I)," "Holdin' On To Yesterday" and more.

Tickets available online at baltheatre.com.

Trees Will Be Picked Up in January for Recycling at No Charge

Alameda County Industries (ACI) and Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) will collect your holiday tree at no additional charge for composting during the first two weeks of January, from Jan. 1 through Jan. 13.

Place your tree on the curb on your scheduled collection day. Remove all decorations, lights and the stand. The tree should be cut in half if it is taller than 6 feet.

Flocked and artificial trees

can't be composted. Place them in the garbage, or schedule a special collection.

For more information, call Alameda County Industries at 357-7282, or Waste Management of Alameda County at 613-8710.

Bancroft Remembers Irving Berlin

Bancroft Musical Theatre in partnership with Opus Theatre Works presents "Remembering Irving Berlin" on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at The San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave. The free concert features such favorites as: "Stepping Out With My Baby," "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "White Christmas" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." This evening of incredible music features over 50 Bancroft Middle School music and theatre students — directed by Meghan Michelle McGovern, and choreographed by Meghan McGovern and Leo Diaz. Bancroft Middle School Choir is directed by Susan Dent.

New Technology Means No More Back and Leg Pain for San Leandro Man

Technology Now Available in Pleasanton.. And It's Remarkably Affordable...

Poor Max! He has been complaining of back pain that radiates to his right leg for the longest time. He would feel all kinds of sensations on his leg like tingling, pin pricks and numbness.

"I sought medical attention from my Orthopedic doctor. I have tried steroid shots, taking pain medication, have gone to Physical Therapy, Acupuncture and Chiropractic services" said Max.

Fortunately, Max went to see Jerry Hsieh at Intero Chiropractic in Pleasanton. Jerry has helped hundreds of back pain and sciatica patients. He was one of the first in the United States to invest in technology that provides an extremely accurate diagnosis of the back pain.

The technology helps Jerry and his team pinpoint the cause of the back and leg pain. Using this information, Jerry puts into action a treatment program.

Max from San Leandro Gets Back to Enjoying Life

Max is now fully back to enjoying his life. No more back pain and discomfort. His life is back to normal. All thanks to the new technology found at Intero Chiropractic. And Max from San Leandro is not alone.

One patient wrote ...

"He relieved my back pain and symptoms after just one visit."

Another patient wrote ...

"I was shocked that after the first 2 months I was completely pain free. It was amazing how different this type of structural chiropractic care was. Dr. Jerry, I can honestly say has made my quality of life so much better!"

Suzanne from San Leandro had sciatica so bad that she had a lot of pain in her leg, knee and foot for over six months and the pain was becoming unbearable.

Her doctor tried to treat her with medication which initially took the pain away, but came back after 2 days which made her anxious and unable to sleep.

"When my doctor wanted to prescribe another medication for my anxiousness I knew I needed to try a more holistic approach. That is when I found Dr. Jerry at Intero Chiropractic. Now, just one month later, the pain in my leg is about 70-80% gone. I am so glad I found you!!

Hundreds of Patients are No Longer Suffering from Back and Leg Pain

Jerry and his team have helped hundreds of patients deal with the back and leg pain associated with Sciatica.

And the number will increase as it becomes even easier to treat Sciatica — thanks to the new technology.

The team at Intero Chiropractic LOVE helping patients. Many patients were told by their GP, "there's nothing I can really do for you."

Yet Jerry's patients get back to their "normal" lives quickly. That's the power of the new technology at Intero Chiropractic.

Why Do People Visit Jerry and His Team?

Here are 8 reasons... based on my research speaking directly with their patients.

1. New technology brings relief in days... fast results.
2. Average 88% success rate.
3. No addictive pain-killers.
4. No surgery.
5. Proven results... hundreds of people helped in just one clinic.
6. Amazingly affordable.
7. It's easy to see one of Jerry's team and get on their schedule quickly.
8. Get back to enjoying your life on your terms.

It's Important to Start Your Treatment NOW

People who are experiencing even moderate back and leg pain should go to Intero Chiropractic immediately.

"After a certain point, it becomes harder to treat certain conditions, including Sciatica," said Jerry. "So it's vital to start treatment right away."

The treatment program usually provides relief within a few days. The first step is the initial appointment with Jerry and his team.

**Initial Appointment Only
\$20... Save \$80. Offer is Only
Available for a Limited Time.**

For a limited time, Intero Chiropractic is offering his initial consultation for just \$20. The fee is usually \$100. So you save \$80.

Here's what you receive.

- An in-depth consultation where one of Jerry's team members looks at your full medical history.
- A complete neuro-muscular examination using their new technology.
- Technical and biological analysis of the problem.
- A full follow-up report.
- Full personalized treatment program with no surgery and no prescription drugs.

They only have a limited number of these appointments available. So it's important to call right now.

Take These Next Steps for YOUR Health...

- Phone (925) 255 5805 right now.
- Schedule your \$20 new patient evaluation (a \$100 value).
- Cut out this article and take it to your appointment for the discount.
- Get ready to say goodbye to chronic pain!

Treatment programs are extremely affordable and payment plans are available. Phone (925) 255 5805 and mention discount code LOS49BPSM1.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The sheriff's office says the woman found dead in her garage in the unincorporated area was the victim of a homicide.

Woman Whose Body Was Found in House Fire Was Murdered, Police Say

The woman who died in a fire in her home in the unincorporated area last week was the victim of homicide, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Andrea St. John, 59, was found dead in her burning home on the 1800 block of Grove Way near the Castro Valley/Hayward border just before 3 a.m. on Dec. 13. During the investigation of the one-alarm blaze, authorities determined St. John had been murdered and the fire set apparently to hide the crime.

The victim was found badly burned and covered in debris, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the sheriff's office, who said the fire looked to be set to destroy forensic evidence.

St. John, an optician, lived in her Grove Way home for 30 years and raised two daughters there with her husband. She was widowed earlier this year.

Kelly said an autopsy concluded that St. John was murdered but did not disclose the manner of her death or a possible motive. No arrests have yet been made.

In a statement released through the sheriff's office, St.

John's family remembered her as a devoted mother and grandmother and generous member of the community, calling her loss "unbearable."

Authorities are asking anyone

who lives in the area who has a security camera to review footage from their home video system from the hours of 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Dec. 12 and 13. If you have any information, call 667-3636.

San Leandro Police Offer Some Holiday Safety Tips

The San Leandro police offer the following tips to keep your and your family safe this holiday season.

- Do not walk and text or use your phone, thieves have been known to snatch smart phones right out of the hands of distracted people.

- Don't leave packages in plain view in your car.

- If you won't be home for deliveries, have your packages delivered to a neighbor or your office.

- Put only necessary money and cards in your front pants pocket where it's harder for a thief to grab.

- Don't park in secluded or dark areas of a parking lot.

- Teach your kids to go to a

store clerk or security guard if they get separated from you while shopping.

- Remember that about half of all burglars enter homes through unlocked or open doors or windows.

- If you are traveling, get an automatic timer for the lights on your home so the place doesn't look empty.

Man Leads Police on Chase into San Francisco After Stealing Tow Truck

A man suspected of stealing a tow truck from a tow yard in San Leandro led the California Highway Patrol on a car chase into San Francisco early Tuesday morning.

Just before 3:30 a.m., the man stole the tow truck by crashing it through a fence and driving off. Police spotted the stolen truck on city streets and began a pursuit.

The CHP joined the chase after the driver got on I-580.

The suspect then drove west

on I-80 and crossed the Bay Bridge, according to the CHP. A helicopter aided in the pursuit.

San Francisco-based CHP units took over and the chase went onto city streets at speeds ranging from 30 to 50 m.p.h.

The police used a spike strip, which deflated all of the tires on the tow truck near the South Van Ness on-ramp to the 101 freeway.

At this point, the suspect stopped and reversed the truck into a pursuing cop car.

The suspect then drove the tow truck on flat tires southbound onto the freeway, stopping at the center median at the Sierra Point Parkway exit.

The driver then got out of the tow truck and ran across all of the northbound lanes of traffic and tried to hide in the parking lot of a nearby business, according to the CHP.

The driver, whose name has not been released, was found and arrested. No one was injured.

Fire Warnings Around the Holidays

The holidays are among the most dangerous times for house fires. The Alameda County Fire Department offers the following figures from the National Fire Protection Association.

- The top three days for home candle fires were Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

- Between 2010-2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 210 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an annual average of 6 deaths, 16 injuries, and \$16.2 million in direct property damage annually.

- On average, one of every 34 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported

home fires.

- Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in one-third of home Christmas tree fires.

- About 23 percent of Christmas tree fires were intentional.

- Candles started 38 percent of home decoration fires.

- Half of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to one-third in January to November.

- Cooking equipment was involved in 18 percent of home decoration fires. This can happen when a decoration is left on or too close to a stove or other cooking equipment.

- Ten percent of fireworks fires occur during the period from Dec. 30 through Jan. 3, with the peak on New Year's Day.

- Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created

when fuels such as gasoline, or propane do not burn.

In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. Carbon monoxide incidents are more common during the winter months, and in residential properties.

- Portable generators are useful during power outages, however, many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are CO poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire.

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Christmas Day 11 a.m.
December 24 & 25
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Rev. Mark Oatman, Pastor

NEIGHBORS



Alec and Shirley Mendonca, centered in photo on the left, of San Leandro celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with their two children Andrew on the left and Sarah on the right. Alec and Shirley at right, on their wedding day in 1991.

Alec and Shirley Mendonca Celebrate Their 25th Wedding Anniversary

Longtime residents of San Leandro Alec and Shirley Mendonca celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary hosted by their children Andrew and Sarah with a mass at the church of the Assumption. Fr. Chris Berbena blessed the couple along with their children, followed by a reception in their honor at a restaurant with family and friends.

The couple are immigrants from two different countries. Alec was born in Karachi, Pakistan and came to the United

States in 1981. He met his wife Shirley through an alliance with his parents' close friend with just a photograph exchange and their marriage was arranged and planned on Nov. 16, 1991 in Mumbai, India at the Holy Name Cathedral followed by a traditional Goan-Portuguese reception.

So, 25 years later they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on Nov. 12 here in the United States. Alec says that they have been blessed with

two children who are presently studying in different colleges in the East Bay before pursuing their careers. Alec works in a bank and Shirley is a homemaker and an excellent cook. She misses her mom and twin sister who live back home in India as well as both of their fathers who are deceased. Their family prays that God grant them happiness and good health and have many more years of happy married life along with their beautiful children.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): I know, dear Lamb, that you don't like anyone trying to take charge of one of your projects, but try to be a bit more flexible. A new idea could help hasten a positive result.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): I'm sure, like the time-thrifty Taurus that you are, that you've done much of your holiday shopping. But don't relax yet. Wrap those gifts now to save yourself lots of unwanted pressure.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Be receptive when a family member or friend asks to confide in you. Your positive reaction could ensure that he or she will have a happy holiday experience.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Don't be rushed into wrapping up that workplace problem. Consider leaving it until after the holidays. This way you'll have the facts you need to reach the right resolution.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): You'll get news that will make you glow brighter than the lights of the holiday season. Be sure to use what you learn both carefully and kindly, to avoid giving the wrong impression.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): That frayed relationship could be mended in time for the holidays if you were more flexible. Give a little, and you could get back a lot more than you imagined.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Things might not seem to be settling down as quickly as you would prefer. But it might be just a little holiday time flutter. You'll soon get news that will lead to more stability.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Stop getting so involved in everyone's personal problems that you lose precious time with loved ones. Remember, even the Supreme Court closes for the holidays.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): All signs point to a bright holiday, with all of those pesky problems finally resolved in your favor. Share the good times with people you love and, of course, who love you.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Your plans should not be set in stone and cemented over. Leave some openings in case you need to make changes. Spend the holidays with your nearest and dearest.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Surprise! This holiday finds you on the receiving end of the generosity of those who are usually the recipients of so much that you give so freely and lovingly.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): That piece of good news assures that you'll be swimming in clearer, calmer waters this holiday season. There might be a storm or two ahead, but you'll weather it all in fine style.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Remembering Irving Berlin

Bancroft Musical Theatre in partnership with Opus Theatre Works Presents *Remembering Irving Berlin* tonight, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at The San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The concert is free and features musical favorites such as: *Stepping Out With My Baby*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *White Christmas* and *There's No Business Like Show Business*. Enjoy an evening of incredible music featuring over 50 Bancroft Middle School music and theatre students.

❖ Hayward Area Historical Society

The Hayward Area Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, presents *Local Botanical Beauties, Then and Now* guest curated by Mary L. Harden School of Botanical Illustration in the Community Gallery through Jan. 8, during the museum's hours, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This exhibit of watercolors shows the variety of plant life that once dominated the landscape of the Hayward area as well as plants that are still seen in the foothills and gardens.

❖ Memory Cafe

Memory Cafe, 294 Broadmoor Blvd. in San Leandro, is a comfortable place for people with dementia and their caregivers to come for a cup of coffee and time to share stories and a sense of community every Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. The cafe rents space in the Community Center of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Join volunteers of the nonprofit, Memory DayByDay and help celebrate everyone's history and life. For more information, call 931-9336 or 876-5880.

❖ San Leandro Toastmasters

The San Leandro Toastmasters meet on Thursday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The group fosters improved communication and public speaking. All levels of speakers from novice to seasoned are welcome.

❖ All Saints Christmas Eve & Day Services

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro, will hold two Christmas Eve services on Saturday, Dec. 24, a 4 p.m. family service with Christmas carols (with LED candles for kids) and a 9 p.m. candlelight vigil Mass with carols. On Christmas day, Sunday, Dec. 25, the church will hold one service at 10 a.m. (Holy Eucharist). For more information, visit www.saintsalive.net

❖ Christmas Concert & Vegetarian Dinner

Celebrate Christmas in the serene atmosphere of Badarikashrama with enchanting music and numerous vegetarian dishes on Sunday, Dec. 25, at 3 p.m. at 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro. This year Subhangi Sakhalkar one of the Bay Area's top Hindustani vocalists will be accompanied by Vivek Datar on harmonium and Nikhil Pandya on tabla. For reservations, call 278-2444, space is limited but no one will be turned away. This event is free and open to all.

❖ Bayfair Toastmasters

Bayfair Toastmasters is a small, growing club seeking new members who want to learn the art of public speaking. All are welcome to the club's weekly meetings every Wednesday from noon to 1 a.m. in the Bayfair Mall 2nd floor meeting room above the food court. Come through Entrance 5 facing the Century Theater.

For more information, call Noreen at 538-6025 or Wayne at 407-0048.

❖ Castro Valley Center for the Arts

A comedy show *Lighten Up New Year's Eve with Brian Copeland and Friends* will be presented at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road in Castro Valley, on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m. An all-star lineup of comedians including David Alan Moss, Joe Klosee, Steve Barkley, Mickey Joseph, Irene Tu, Roon Vigh and Maureen Langan, will be part of the line-up. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased online at www.cvartsfoundation.org, at the Center Box Office or at the CV Adult School, 4430 Alma Ave. Purchase tickets in advance. Prices go up when tickets are purchased at the door.

❖ Ambrosia New Year's Eve Concert

Welcome in the New Year with the six members of '70s rockers *Ambrosia*, well-known for their radio hits and multiple Grammy nominations, presented by Curtain Call Performing Arts at San Leandro's Historic BAL Theatre, 14808 E. 14th St. in San Leandro, on Saturday, Dec. 31. There will be two shows at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Smash Hits include *Biggest Part Of Me*, *How Much I Feel*, and *Holdin' On To Yesterday*. Purchase tickets (\$50, \$60, \$100) online at www.BALTheatre.com or call 614-1224. VIP tickets include a meet and greet.

❖ I.D.E.S. of Saint John Crab Feed

I.D.E.S. of Saint John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will have a crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 7. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and raffle at 8 p.m. Cost is \$50 for adults, \$25 for children under 12. Meal includes hot and cold crab, pasta, salad, garlic bread and desert. For more information and tickets call Mr. Helder at 357-5846.

❖ Join the Marines for Coffee

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

❖ Caregiver Support Group

Join Geriatric Care Managers from Sutter Care at Home and peers to exchange ideas, share resources, have a laugh and vent to those who understand what you are going through. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the San Leandro Community Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St., from 9 to 10 a.m. A one-on-one consultation can be arranged after the meeting. For more information, call 577-3462.

❖ Auditions for *The Maltese Bodkin*

The San Leandro Players will hold auditions for *The Maltese Bodkin* by David Belke on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 16 and 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Museum Auditorium, 320 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. Open call, appointments possible. Contact Sage Hindley at bhindley11@gmail.com, or call 895-2573. No pay; non-Equity. Male and female, all ages, ethnicities encouraged. Rehearsals begin Jan. 24, Monday through Thursday evenings. Performances are March 3 through April 9 on Fridays and Saturdays and Sunday matinees. The SLPlayers website is www.slplayers.org.

Calendar items should be submitted at least one week prior to the desired edition of the Times, which is published Thursdays. Space limitations require we print items of the most general interest.

AUTOMOTIVE

Schaefer Tests a Scuba Blue TT Coupe

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

The Audi TT is a delightful little toy for serious drivers. While Audi's array of sedans and crossovers fulfills the needs of families and folks who transport friends, the TT is all about entertaining yourself.

For 2016, the now classic shape is significantly altered. More edges are in the recipe for Audis today, and the TT gets a thorough reworking. Whether it's better, equal to, or not as pleasant as the original iconic Bauhaus model is a question you'll have to answer for yourself.

As before, the TT comes as a coupe or a roadster. I spent an amusing week with a Scuba Blue coupe (\$575 extra for that shade).

The interior was a sporty black on black, with the added charm of a deep, handsomely detailed steering wheel, shiny metallic trim, sporty metal pedals, and the optional fine Nappa leather,

including stunning diamond-stitched seats from the S Sport seat package (\$1,000).

As long as you understand that you'll have to drop down and slide in (the compact TT stands just 4-foot, 5-1/2 inches off the ground), you'll be OK with entry and egress. Once you're situated, everything is perfectly positioned, so it's easy to get comfortable. As a slim person standing 5-8, it was no problem.

Something remarkable is happening inside the TT, though. It has the "Virtual Cockpit." This means that the 12.3-inch TFT display screen in front of you contains pretty much everything you need to know. While some cars are sticking a screen on the dashboard that looks like an iPad Mini, the TT squeezes it all into your line of sight.

Use tabs to select what you want to see. It might be realistic-looking chrome-rimmed gauges or you can shrink them down to dollar pancake size and see a map, phone listings, audio

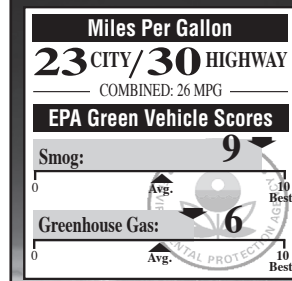
selections, or driving statistics. It's all controlled easily without looking away from the road, and I found it remarkably intuitive, and fun to switch back and forth. The map, dark at night with twinkling lights, sets an intimate, cozy mood when combined with the indirect lighting of the door coves.

There's more. The digital climate controls are placed inside the center circles of the three vents that sit in the middle of the dash. So not only is there no center screen, there are no separate knobs for fan or temperature. It's a remarkable retro feeling, ironically made possible by the latest technology.

I loved the TT's high-tech interior, which includes touch-sensitive reading lamps. My tester also boasted the Bang & Olufsen Sound System (\$950), which cheered up even the longest commute with what Audi refers to as "almost true to life" audio, backed up by 680 watts of Surround Sound emanating from 12 precisely placed speakers. Setting audio presets takes a little thinking, but the imaginative "Last Stations" view lets you choose from what you've recently been listening to, and it takes care of business for most audio searches.

The TT has a 2.0-liter turbocharged inline four-cylinder engine that puts out 220 horsepower and 258 lb.-ft. of torque. That's good for a 5.3-second zero-to-60 time. Your choice of transmission is exactly one — the six-speed S tronic automatic.

The TT is a point and shoot little rocket when you push it but



Changes for the Audi TT in 2017 include a standard rearview camera and power-folding, auto-dimming, heated exterior side mirrors.



The virtual cockpit combines the functions of a central MMI® system with a traditional instrument cluster.

is totally cool and collected when you're ambling along the freeway. You tend to forget how low you're sitting until you look left directly at the 20-inch alloys of a Chevy Tahoe.

As an Audi, the TT comes with the famous Quattro all-wheel-drive system. This newest version varies the torque delivery percentage front to rear by measuring the coefficient of traction at all four wheels, taking 150 readings every 10 milliseconds. That's responsive!

With all the electronics on board, you can select how you want the TT to feel as you drive it, using the Auto Drive Select function. Press the button to cycle through Auto, Dynamic, Individual and Comfort. It works with the Quattro system now. You can feel a significant difference between Dynamic and Comfort.

Choose the former for back roads and Comfort for Highway 5 to

Los Angeles.

EPA fuel economy ratings for the TT Coupe are 23 City, 30 Highway, and 26 Combined. I averaged 23.4 mpg. The EPA green numbers for the 3,384-pound TT Coupe are a remarkable 9 for Smog and a decent 6 for Greenhouse Gas.

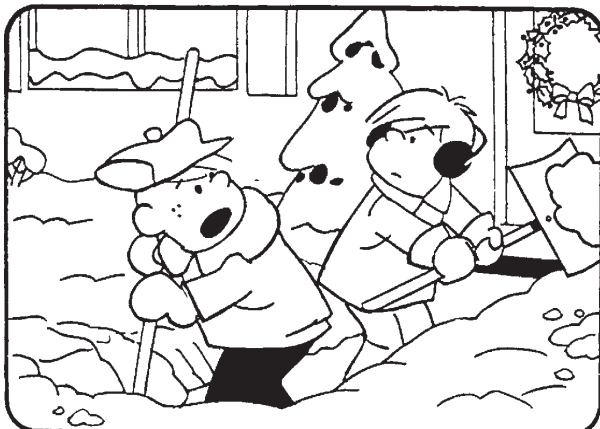
This imported vehicle has a German brand name, but it contains 52 percent Hungarian

parts (most of the rest is German, though, including the transmission).

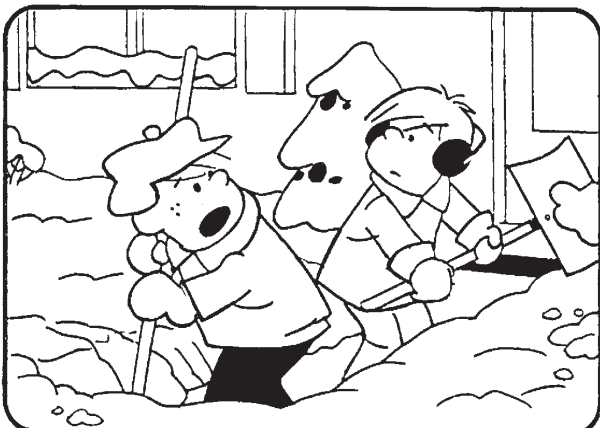
The TT's virtues don't come cheap. The base price for my tester was \$43,825, including a \$925 destination charge. My tester, with the optional paint, fancy seats, 19-inch wheels (\$1,000), and the Technology Package (\$3,250), came to \$50,600. That's one pricey toy.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTIHOFF

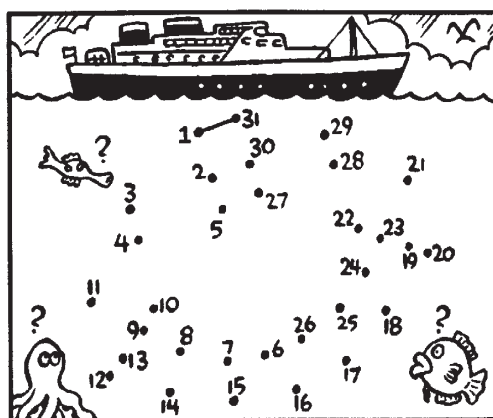


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Ear flap is missing. 2. Collar is smaller. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Wreath is missing. 6. Shovel full of snow is smaller.

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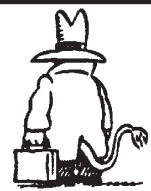
WHAT DOES a fully loaded 50,000-ton container ship weigh just before leaving port? Connect the dots and find out.

Answer: It weighs anchor.

HIDDEN ANIMALS! Can you find the three animals that are hidden in these three sentences?

1. The whippoorwill's song filled the night.
2. A tempura tsunami of terrific tastes.
3. Sumo lessons are from nine to one.

Answers: 1. Hippo. 2. Rats. 3. Mole.



IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 3 through 12 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 44. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error — and a good eraser!

	13	18	
17			14
	20		
			19

Our answer: First row: 10, 13, 18, 3. Second row: 17, 4, 9, 14. Third row: 5, 20, 11, 8. Fourth row: 12, 7, 6, 19.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FRUITS & VEGGIES PUZZLE!

E	C	U	T	T	E	L	B	C	I	Y	N	O	M	L
C	G	B	E	G	N	A	R	O	H	R	T	T	A	E
N	P	A	R	S	N	I	P	Y	O	E	O	O	N	N
I	K	K	B	A	B	E	K	C	I	L	R	A	G	T
U	U	E	N	B	B	A	P	P	L	E	R	R	O	I
Q	E	A	A	V	A	U	G	A	M	C	A	K	Y	L
T	U	N	O	C	O	C	H	I	R	U	C	O	E	Y
H	C	A	N	I	P	S	L	R	T	G	P	E	A	R

Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 26 fruits and vegetables. They can be found reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the names you're looking for.

APPLE	GARLIC	PARSNIP
BANANA	GRAPE	PEA
BEET	GUAVA	PEAR
CABBAGE	LENTIL	PUMPKIN
CARROT	LETTUCE	QUINCE
CELERY	LIME	RHUBARB
CHERRY	MANGO	SHALLOT
COCONUT	OKRA	SPINACH
CORN	ORANGE	

Swalwell Visits Korea and Japan, Meets with Troops

Rep. Eric Swalwell (CA-15) returned this weekend from a congressional delegation trip to Japan and South Korea, undertaken in his role as a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Swalwell, who is the Ranking Member on that panel's CIA Subcommittee, felt the visit was timely.

“North Korean aggression not only threatens our ally South Korea, but also our homeland, given its nuclear capability.”

— Congressman Eric Swalwell

“With South Korea having just impeached its president, and with revelations that Russia committed cyberattacks to interfere with our 2016 election campaigns, this would be a prime time for North Korea’s rogue re-

gime to rattle its saber,” Swalwell said. “North Korean aggression not only threatens our ally South Korea, but also our own homeland, given its nuclear capability. So this was an important time to get on-the-ground updates about our affairs and interests on the Korean peninsula, as well as to visit with our troops serving there.”

Swalwell represents California’s 15th Congressional District which covers eastern Alameda as well as Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and a small part of San Leandro.

After a stop at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Swalwell proceeded to Seoul for meetings with U.S. military officials; Mark Lippert, the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea; other U.S. diplomats and personnel; and South Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He had lunch one day with service members who hail from California’s 15th Congressional District.

Swalwell also visited the Korean Demilitarized Zone, where he received an orientation briefing and met with service members.

This trip caps Swalwell’s first term on the Intelligence Committee, which has also included visits to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONGRESSMAN SWALWELL'S OFFICE

Congressman Eric Swalwell had lunch in South Korea one day on his trip with soldiers who hail from the 15th Congressional District of California. Swalwell traveled to Korea and Japan as part of his role on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The congressman’s district covers San Lorenzo, Castro Valley and a part of San Leandro, as well as Dublin, Livermore and a large part of eastern Alameda County.

Raiders Wide Receivers Host Holiday Bike Giveaway

Sometimes it’s better to give than receive, as the Oakland Raiders receiving corps discovered Monday night at Jefferson Elementary School.

Although they are usually on the receiving end, Oakland Raiders wide receivers switched roles to bring 50 bikes to boys and girls of Davis Street at Jefferson — just in time for the Christmas holiday.

Veteran Michael Crabtree led the group that included fellow starter Amari Cooper, Andre Holmes, Johnny Holton and K.J. Brent. The players happily mingled with the kids and their families during a pizza party before the big reveal of the new bicycles in the school’s multi-purpose room.

All the kids huddled together in front of the room dividers as the players and staff revealed the brightly colored bicycles perfectly aligned behind them — each one labeled with a youngster’s name.

In addition, the Jefferson students also received helmets and locks so that each would have everything they need to enjoy a safe and secure ride on their new bikes.

The kids quickly found their new bicycles and were excited to hop on and try out their new wheels.

Parents and family members also enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Raiders players, taking pictures and getting per-



PHOTO BY GREG BENSON

Jefferson Elementary School student Juan Cerda is all smiles upon receiving a brand-new bicycle, helmet and lock at the Davis Street Bike Giveaway hosted by the Oakland Raiders on Monday night. Raiders wide receiver Andre Holmes (pictured) was on hand along with fellow receivers Michael Crabtree, Amari Cooper, Johnny Holton and K.J. Brent. Also in attendance was the Oakland Raiders Walter Payton “Man of the Year” nominee, defensive tackle Dan Williams. Juan was accompanied by his mother, Sonia; father, Jose; and brother, Daniel. All of the attendees, decked out in their best Raiders gear and eye black, enjoyed a fun night of pizza and personal attention paid by Raiders players and staff.

sonal autographs.

“Last year, they (the Oakland Raiders) donated about 20 bikes to our bike giveaway, and this year they decided to host it for us,” said an elated Amy Chappelle, Associate Program Director for Children Services at Davis Street Family Resource Center.

“She (Amy) made this connection with the Raiders and it’s been growing ever since,” said Davis Street Family Resource Center Children Services Director Alice Bedinger.

Bedinger has been with Davis Street for 39 years. Chappelle joined the center two years ago.

Over the past two years, the Raiders have greatly supported the efforts of Davis Street by providing game tickets and sponsoring about 60 of the center’s children to attend the team’s Play 60 event at their Alameda training facility. The team has also participated in the center’s Mexican Heritage Month activities as well.

Davis Street Community Center was founded by Reverend Homer Richardson in 1970 as a ministry of the First Christian Church in San Leandro.

In 1991, Rose Padilla Johnson, the center’s current executive director, envisioned the expansion of the center’s services to incorporate a wide range of family resources.

For more information on the Davis Street Family Resource Center, call 510-347-4620.



PHOTO BY FRANK POWERS

Just Like Yellowstone

A geyser broke out on Leelling Boulevard near I-880 in San Lorenzo at about 2 p.m. on Tuesday after a truck apparently took a corner too closely and knocked down a fire hydrant. The fire department arrived a short time later to turn off the water.

SENIORS

Create an Age-friendly Home to Stay in Place

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Many retirees want to stay living in their own house for as long as possible. But being able to do so will depend on how easy it is to maneuver around your home as you get older.

Here are some helpful resources you can turn to, to get an idea of the different types of features and improvements that will make your house safer and more convenient as you grow older.

■ Home Evaluation

A good first step in making your home more age-friendly is to do an assessment. Go through your house, room-by-room, looking for problem areas like potential tripping or slipping hazards, as well as areas that are hard to access and difficult to maintain.

To help with this, there are several organizations that have aging-in-place checklists that point out

potential problems in each area of the home, along with modification and solutions.

Rebuild Together, for example, has a two-page "Safe at Home Checklist" that's created in partnership with the Administration on Aging and the American Occupational Therapy Association. Go to AOTA.org and search for "Rebuilding Together Safe at Home Checklist."

The National Association of Home Builders also has an "Aging-in-Place Remodeling Checklist" that offers more than 100 suggestions to help homeowners age 50-plus live safely, independently and comfortably. Go to NAHB.org and search for "Aging in Place Remodeling Checklist."

Also check out AARP's excellent resource called the "HomeFit Guide" that's filled with 28 pages of tips and diagrams to make your entire home safe and easier to live in as you age. You can access it at AARP.org. Search for "HomeFit,"



Make your house safer and more convenient as you age.

or call 888-687-2277 and ask them to mail you a free copy.

■ Personalized Advice

If you want more personalized help, consider getting a professional in-home assessment with an occupational therapist.

An occupational therapist, or OT can evaluate the challenges and shortcomings of your home for aging in place, recommend design and modification solutions, and introduce you to products and services to help you make improvements.

To find an OT in your area, check with your physician, health insurance provider or local hospital, or seek recommendations from family and friends.

Many health insurance providers, including Medicare, will pay for a home assessment by an OT if

prescribed by your doctor. However, they will not cover the physical upgrades to the home.

Another option is to contact a builder who's a Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS).

CAPS are home remodelers and design professionals that are knowledgeable about aging-in-place home modifications, and can suggest ways to modify or remodel your home that will fit your needs and budget. CAPS are generally paid by the hour or receive a flat fee per visit or project.

To find a CAPS in your area, visit the National Association of Home Builders website at NAHB.org/capsdirectory where you can search by state and city.

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

New Law Empowers Disabled

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.
Special to the Times

Q I hear that President Obama just signed a new law that makes it easier for disabled persons to create their own Special Needs Trust. Know anything about this?

A Yes. With strong bipartisan support, just last week President Obama signed a comprehensive piece of legislation called the 21st Century Cures Act, primarily designed to find a cure for cancer, Alzheimer's, opiate dependence and other diseases.

Included was a short provision known as the "Special Needs Trust Fairness Act", designed to correct a decades-old error in the law that presumed that all persons with disabilities under age 65 lacked the mental capacity to handle their own financial affairs.

Background: In 1993, Congress passed legislation to help ensure that individuals with disabilities could use money they had saved, or received by gift or inheritance, in order to provide for their own supplemental needs not covered by public benefit programs, while still maintaining their eligibility for Medi-Cal and SSI.

Congress did so by creating the "Special Needs Trust" (SNT). So long as these funds were held inside a properly established SNT, they were not counted against the

individual and did not impair their eligibility for public benefits.

In essence, the SNT allowed persons with a disability to live a better quality of life above the bare-bones minimum subsidized by public benefits. There were, however, two "glitches:"

(1) The law made an artificial distinction between those individuals under age 65 and those over age 65; only the younger group could benefit from an individually customized, stand-alone SNT.

The older group was limited to joining an existing Pooled SNT, created and managed by a non-profit association; and

(2) The law presumed that the younger individuals lacked the capacity to create their own SNT, instead requiring that the SNT be established by a "parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or the court".

For the younger individuals under age 65, this requirement presented problems for individuals who did not have qualifying family members willing or able to act; alternatively, the law required court proceedings with unnecessary legal fees, delayed implementation, and other legal obstacles.

For the under age 65 group, that "glitch" has now been corrected, so that those with capacity may now create their own SNT without the need to rely upon a qualifying family member or the court.

Unfortunately, the law still limits those over age 65 to the option of joining a Pooled SNT.

President Obama signed the law on December 13, 2016, and it became effective on that date. So, if you are under age 65, you can now sign your own Special Needs Trust and plan your financial affairs without worrying that you may jeopardize your Medi-Cal or SSI and fall further into poverty.

You should, however, seek out a knowledgeable Elder Law or Special Needs attorney to assist you in creating your SNT.

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

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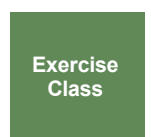
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Rain: EBMUD's Pardee Reservoir is ninety-nine percent full

continued from front page

When trees blow over, it tends to happen in the days following a storm – after the ground is soggy and the wind picks up, Pollart said.

EBMUD Reservoirs Filling Up

As for our drinking water, the Mokelumne River basin has received 167 percent of average precipitation for this date in the rain season, according to East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) spokeswoman Andrea Pook. The Mokelumne basin supplies most of EBMUD's water.

Mokelumne River water is stored in the Pardee and Comanche reservoirs in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. From there the water runs through EBMUD's aqueduct 85 miles to reservoirs in the East Bay.

Lake Chabot is an EBMUD

reservoir, but it's not used for tap water, only as an emergency supply. Right now the water level at Lake Chabot is at 80 percent of capacity.

Overall, EBMUD's water supply is 81 percent full. The Pardee Reservoir – by far the biggest reservoir in EBMUD's system – is 99 percent full, and Comanche is 70 percent full with most of the rainy season remaining.

So those reservoirs are filling up, even with water being released down the Mokelumne River.

The Mokelumne River basin gets an average of 14 inches of precipitation by this date in an average year, and this year it's 23 inches, Pook said. But the precipitation has been rain, not much snow so far.

"But it's still early in the season," Pook said.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Last Thursdays rainstorm was the best storm so far this season. Some drivers drove through the puddles slowly and carefully, and some just had to make a splash.

Singer to Perform at Christmas Day Dinner At Badarikashrama

Badarikashrama, 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro, will have a Christmas concert and dinner this Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m.

At 3 p.m. there will be a Hindustani concert by Shubhangi Sakhalkar, followed at 5 p.m. by an international

vegetarian dinner.

Shubhangi Sakhalkar is a brilliant musician who is one of the leading Hindustani vocalists and Bhajan singers in the Bay Area. She has developed a dynamic yet thoughtful vocal style that remains rooted in tradition while being uniquely her own.

SLZ Cookie Company Sale to Benefit Charity

A family-owned San Lorenzo cookie company is baking up some tasty treats in time for the holidays – and for a good cause.

Award-winning bakery Too Good Gourmet will be donating a

portion of the proceeds from their holiday sale to Abode Services, a non-profit that works to end homelessness.

Too Good Gourmet was started by mother and daughter Jen-

nifer Finley and Amie Watson, who turned childhood baking memories into a \$9 million gourmet cookie company.

Too Good's production facility at 2380 Grant Avenue is

open to the public now though Christmas Eve from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also buy their cookies and other products on their website, www.toogoodgourmet.com.

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By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Increasing Home Prices Provide Holiday Cheer

It doesn't seem possible, but Christmas is just a few days away.

It's been another crazy year in the California real estate market, and with all of the frenetic activity, it's a bit of a shock to look up and realize the year is practically over.

Another shock is a year-end evaluation of where home prices have ended up after five consecutive years of upward market gains.

A seller's dream since the market tuned around in February, 2011, prices have surged higher and higher each consecutive year. With the local economy booming and people moving here in hordes to fill job vacancies, there has been a severe shortage of available homes, both to purchase and to rent.

In a classic display of supply-and-demand economics, prices have spiked towards the stratosphere.

As an example, the average price for a Castro Valley single-family home in 2011 was \$468,000. In 2016? ...\$685,000, an increase of 64.93 percent. San Leandro did even better, beginning with an average of \$323,000 in 2011 and rounding out 2016 at \$544,000, up 88.97 percent. Faring better yet is San Lorenzo, with a 94.35-percent same-period boost from \$289,000 to \$515,000. Coming out on top is Hayward, where prices more than doubled: homes that averaged \$288,999 in 2011 were selling this year for \$591,000 — a staggering 101.99 percent average gain.

If you're a homeowner who

has owned the same home since 2011, those price increases are the best Christmas present you could hope for. And, as we end 2016, the economy remains strong and prospects are good for 2017.

While no one can predict the future, based on the current metrics, we do not see the market taking a significant dip any time soon.

The Realtors of the Central County want to wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday Season, and specifically, a Merry Christmas. As a family that has been blessed with so much, my wife and I, along with our adult children, have adopted the tradition over the past few years of foregoing Christmas gifts to the adults, and instead donating the funds to organizations like World Vision, the Salvation Army and others. Many of our friends have picked up the idea as well. It's so easy to forget that we are so blessed here in the Bay Area.

Let's make this the season we remember others who, through no choice of their own, cannot experience the blessings we take for granted.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association at www.ccmgtoday.com.

Mortgage Rates Move Higher

Average fixed mortgage rates moved higher last week for the seventh consecutive week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.16 percent, up from 4.13 percent a week earlier.

Fifteen-year home loans last week averaged 3.37 percent, up from 3.36 percent.

Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) were also higher last week, rising to 3.19 percent from 3.17 percent the previous week.



This Year, Don't Get a Present from Under the Tree... Get the Whole Tree Inside Your Christmas Present!

In real estate parlance, we consider a piece of real property a gift or a present. So, consider this single-level, 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse with 2-car garage at **13857 Rose Drive in San Leandro** a Christmas present to yourself and your family. Everybody will be happy unwrapping this gift. Only 10 units in this complex with low HOA fees. Take a **Virtual Tour** of this great unit at www.ListedByAntonio.com. Presented by "The Realtors In Motion", Antonio & Alexia Cardenas, who wish you a very Merry Christmas! **Call us at 510-326-4263... We'll come and TANGO with you.**

Make Your Appliances Last Longer

By Nathaniel Sillin
Special to the Times

It is the season for overflowing refrigerators and never-ending loads of laundry.

Many people ask their appliances to work a little harder than normal during the holidays, and proper maintenance throughout the year might be the key to avoiding an untimely breakdown.

Here are a few maintenance tips for refrigerators, dishwashers, laundry machines and dryers. Each of these major appliances has an average lifespan of 10 to 13 years and you might want to start budgeting for your next purchase around the nine-year mark.

Regular maintenance could help ensure your appliance's longevity, let you avoid expensive service calls and lead to lower utility bills.

The most important part of refrigerator maintenance is keeping the condenser coils clean. A dirty coil won't release heat as well, causing the compressor to work harder, which in turn shortens its life and can cost you money in higher utility bills. Luckily, the process takes about 15 minutes and only needs to be done once or twice a year.

Start by unplugging your refrigerator. Units that have coils underneath them will likely have a cover that needs to be removed and a condenser fan that should be cleaned. Other units have uncovered coils on the back. Using



Handling household appliances with care and keeping them clean can greatly extend their lifespan.

a brush or vacuum carefully clean off the dirt and dust. If you use a vacuum, check for and empty or dry out the drip pan, which is common on units with a built-in defroster.

The inside of a dishwasher needs cleaning as well. Mineral deposits and leftover food scraps can build up, leading to clogged or leaky components. Running an unloaded dishwasher on a cleaning cycle with white vinegar could do the trick.

Next, gently wipe down and inspect the plastic gasket around the door, a break or leak could lead to an expensive mess. While gaskets cost about \$10, labor costs can be between \$75 and \$150 an hour and damage from the water could be significantly more.

Respect the load limits of your washer and dryer. Too much weight can cause parts to wear out and break prematurely. Plus, you could wind up with detergent residue on clothes and need to rerun the cycle (a waste of time, water and energy), or damp clothes that

still need to be dried.

Also, gently close washer and dryer doors. Too much force could break the switch — the small part that signals to the machine the door is closed. The average cost to fix common washing machine problems is \$50 to \$150, while dryers' more expensive parts push repairs costs to about \$100 to \$400.

Even with proper maintenance, appliances can break. Unless you have a repairman in the family, you will likely spend \$75-plus an hour to hire one. You might consider trying to save a little money by doing the repairs yourself.

Appliance manufacturers, appliance parts dealers and independent handymen post helpful video guides with step-by-step instructions that you can follow.

Bottom line: While every appliance will eventually need to be replaced, keeping the components clean and handling machines with care can help extend their lifespan.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs.

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Spray Now for Peach Leaf Curl; Bolero Appears Two-toned

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q Is now the time to start spraying for peach leaf curl? What is the best dormant spray to use?

A Peach leaf curl is a perennial problem on peaches and nectarines only. Curly leaf on plums, cherries, apples and pears is caused by aphids and treated later in the early spring.

Now is the time to apply your first application of a copper dormant spray, starting around Thanksgiving or when 50 percent of the leaves have dropped, instead of waiting until next year. The rest of the deciduous trees can wait until January; however, it wouldn't hurt to spray them now, too.

The copper fungicide is an organic spray used on ornamentals, edibles and turf for fungus diseases. The late-fall application of a copper spray gets to the overwintering fungal spores before the tree's bark covers them over as temperatures drop.

A second application is suggested in early February when peach and nectarine buds are in the pink bud or popcorn stage.

Peach leaf curl is a water-activated fungus that washes into the open buds and infects the leaves. So, wet and rainy conditions during flowering is a problem. The spores insert themselves among the leaf cells where they stimulate cell division. The emerging leaves are a reddish color, distorted, thickened, and blistered looking before turning yellow or brown and dropping off.

A new set of leaves will develop, but with a prolonged rainy season, like in 2012, the next set of new leaves may be affected as the fungus continues to be active until the rainy season concludes.

Q I relandscaped my front yard with water-wise plants but I kept an area for grass. It was reseeded with a dwarf fescue called Bolero. It germinated without any problems but it is not a dark-green color. Instead, it's two-tone, dark-green with light-green scattered throughout it. What happened to cause this problem?

A No problem here, the grass is just immature. Bolero, like other dwarf



Now is the time to spray peach and nectarine trees with copper fungicide to prevent peach leaf curl.

fescues, is slow to establish itself, especially when sown in the fall.

If seeded in the spring and/or summer, the long and warm days will hasten the growth so the two-tone color isn't as apparent. In the fall, the opposite is true.

Bolero grass seed doesn't usually have a uniform color until after the fourth or fifth mowing. It normally takes 8 to 10 weeks; however, it can be longer, depending on when it

was seeded.

So, the two-tone color would be typical now, if you seeded in October. It will even out with time; so, be patient and don't lose any sleep over it.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. His web address is www.dirtgardener.com. Email questions to dirtgarden@aol.com or go to [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero).



WEEKEND GARDENER

Prune

Prune fruit trees and vines this month and next, but only after all of the leaves have fallen. Pruning plants that are not fully dormant leads to disease and damage to the tree tissue. Don't prune roses until mid-January.

Vegetables

Transplant globe artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, horseradish and rhubarb. Dig the soil when it's not waterlogged. If you squeeze a handful of soil and it stays in a lump, it's too wet to dig.

Flowers

Transplant azaleas, camellias, ornamental cabbage and kale, cyclamen, primroses, and pansies. Be on the lookout for snails. If you prefer not to use pesticides, use a flashlight to handpick them just after dark. If the plants are dry, sprinkle them at dusk which will encourage the snails to come out of their hiding places.



The first written record of a decorated Christmas tree dates from 1510 in Riga, Latvia. Local merchants' guild members placed a tree in the marketplace and decorated it. They danced around it while feasting and drinking and then set fire to it. The city still holds traditional winter celebrations in its Dome Square.

- Brenda Weaver

Sources:
www.reachchristmastrees.org
www.liveriga.com

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro

256 Bowling Green St	94577	\$540,000	2 BD - 1,260 SF - 1941
14197 Doolittle Drive	94577	\$380,000	2 BD - 1,047 SF - 1973
2475 Dundee Court	94577	\$542,000	2 BD - 1,723 SF - 1978
632 Dutton Avenue	94577	\$585,000	3 BD - 1,158 SF - 1918
367 Farrelly Drive	94577	\$545,000	2 BD - 999 SF - 1942
433 Harlan Street #105	94577	\$235,000	1 BD - 680 SF - 1964
516 Joaquin Avenue	94577	\$405,000	2 BD - 1,409 SF - 1980
1110 Lucille Street	94577	\$485,000	2 BD - 969 SF - 1946
517 Monogram Road	94577	\$708,000	4 BD - 2,124 SF - 2000
229 Myers Court	94577	\$480,000	3 BD - 1,469 SF - 1926
171 Thornton Street	94577	\$525,000	2 BD - 987 SF - 1920
509 Victoria Court	94577	\$700,000	3 BD - 1,594 SF - 1924
16058 Berkshire Road	94578	\$615,000	2 BD - 1,756 SF - 1949
1480 Thrush Avenue #31	94578	\$323,000	2 BD - 820 SF - 1994
14968 Western Avenue	94578	\$510,000	3 BD - 1,330 SF - 1946
14681 Acacia Street	94579	\$530,000	3 BD - 1,076 SF - 1953
1042 Devonshire Avenue	94579	\$750,000	5 BD - 3,058 SF - 1950
670 Fargo Avenue #10	94579	\$385,000	3 BD - 1,136 SF - 1965
1689 Lawndale Avenue	94579	\$600,000	3 BD - 1,379 SF - 1957
14559 Wiley Street	94579	\$535,000	3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1953

TOTAL SALES: 20
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$235,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$750,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$532,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$518,900

San Lorenzo

16160 Hesperian Blvd	94580	\$475,000	4 BD - 2,088 SF - 1944
17932 Via Arriba	94580	\$585,000	4 BD - 1,310 SF - 1948
772 Via Mariposa	94580	\$550,000	3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1944
1952 Via Sarita	94580	\$570,000	3 BD - 1,031 SF - 1954
17505 Wickman Place	94580	\$374,000	2 BD - 1,168 SF - 1971

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$374,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$585,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$550,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$510,800

Castro Valley

4136 Arcadian Drive	94546	\$925,000	4 BD - 2,393 SF - 1976
18546 Carlyn Drive	94546	\$782,500	3 BD - 1,580 SF - 1954
4298 David Street	94546	\$690,000	4 BD - 2,017 SF - 1991
5224 Proctor Road	94546	\$770,000	3 BD - 1,518 SF - 1947
2273 Reading Avenue	94546	\$523,500	2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1948
20917 San Miguel Avenue	94546	\$610,000	3 BD - 1,277 SF - 1948
3145 Terry Court	94546	\$745,000	3 BD - 1,476 SF - 1961
22037 Vergil Street	94546	\$490,000	2 BD - 864 SF - 1949
17823 Walnut Road	94546	\$835,000	4 BD - 2,607 SF - 1951
20111 West Ridge Ct #1	94546	\$458,000	2 BD - 1,467 SF - 1977
6498 Boone Drive	94552	\$940,000	3 BD - 3,068 SF - 1986
16912 Columbia Drive	94552	\$900,000	4 BD - 2,098 SF - 1987
17716 Columbia Drive	94552	\$872,000	4 BD - 2,098 SF - 1986
17749 Columbia Drive	94552	\$878,000	3 BD - 1,890 SF - 1984
4627 Crow Canyon Road	94552	\$784,000	3 BD - 1,776 SF - 1995
25630 Gold Ridge Drive	94552	\$1,020,000	5 BD - 2,475 SF - 1997

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$458,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,020,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$783,250
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$763,938



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ACROSS

- 1 Final
- 5 Recipe meas.
- 8 Foolproof
- 12 Eastern potentate (Var.)
- 13 Carnival city
- 14 Slaughter of baseball
- 15 Parks at a bus stop?
- 16 Japanese sash
- 17 Gallon fraction
- 18 Hands-on-hips
- 20 Small combo
- 22 Women's wear
- 26 Wander off
- 29 Height of fashion?
- 30 Bother
- 31 Addict
- 32 Supporting
- 33 Cruising
- 34 Aries
- 35 Despondent
- 36 Square dance group
- 37 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- 40 Hearts, for one
- 41 Phone function
- 45 "Simpsons" creator
- 47 Yoko of music
- 49 Nervous
- 50 Help a hood
- 51 Debtor's letters
- 52 Early period
- 53 Indiana city
- 54 CD successor
- 55 Verve

DOWN

- 1 Zhivago's love
- 2 Out of control
- 3 Emphatic assent in Acapulco
- 4 It gets a load from a lode
- 5 Scout group
- 6 Bro or sis
- 7 "Lilies of the Field" actor
- 8 Brown tone
- 9 Norma Rae, for one
- 10 Paul of politics
- 11 Superlative ending
- 19 Chesapeake, e.g.
- 21 Spinning stat
- 23 "Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff
- 24 Genealogy chart
- 25 Old card game
- 26 Look for a website
- 27 Despot
- 28 Digitize an old LP, e.g.
- 32 Bit of trivia
- 33 College life
- 35 Tackle moguls
- 36 4-Down contents
- 38 Eccentric
- 39 Pleased with oneself
- 42 "American —"
- 43 City in India
- 44 Loretta of country music
- 45 Periodical, for short
- 46 Lawyers' org.
- 48 Thanksgiving mo.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

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Wooden student 3-drawer computer desk and chair (2' x 4 1/2') \$50, - also Craftsman Chipper 6 1/2 hp 3" maximum diameter \$150 o.b.o. Call 510-581-4582.

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Mail: Number of packages shipped is up 12 percent over last year

continued from front page
Amazon and other online shopping stores.

"It's busy – it's just non-stop," said Kirandip Dhaliwal, distribution supervisor.

The packages fly off the conveyor belts into mail bags labeled with cities all over North-

"It's busy. It's just non-stop."

— Kirandip Dhaliwal, distribution supervisor

ern California. The SPSS will handle about 11 million packages this month all at lightning speed.

Moving a bit slower was the line at the Post Office on East 14th Street in San Leandro Tuesday morning, but most customers knew they'd be in for a wait so

close to Christmas.

Lines Run Long at Post Offices this Month

"I expected a line, but this has to go out, so I have to deal with waiting," said Greg Peterson, who was sending presents to his nephews in Fontana, California.

The line was about 20 people deep and it seemed like as soon as one person left, two more joined the back of the line.

So you might have to wait a bit to get your presents off in the mail, but don't wait too long – the last day to ship a package priority express mail and expect it to arrive in time for Christmas Eve is Friday, Dec. 23.

Of course, that will cost you. For example, if you want to overnight a 10 pound package by priority express mail from here to New York City, it'll run about \$75.



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The line was long this week with people mailing presents at the post office on East 14th Street in San Leandro.

Watercolor Exhibit at the Hayward Historical Society

The Hayward Area Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, presents *Local Botanical Beauties, Then and Now*, guest curated by Mary L. Harden

School of Botanical Illustration in the Community Gallery through Jan. 8, during the museum's hours, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This

exhibit of watercolors shows the variety of plant life that once dominated the landscape of the Hayward area as well as plants that are still seen in the foothills.

Loan: Property used for collateral was also used for other loans

continued from front page
Johnson Day."

And earlier this year, the city awarded a lucrative pot permit for the Davis Street Wellness Center (a partner agency of the Davis Street Family Resource Center for which Johnson is on the board of directors) to operate a medical marijuana dispensary.

When Johnson came to the

"These actions represent violations of the loan's terms and bad faith."

— City Manager Chris Zapata

city for the loan, she said it would be used on start-up costs for a health clinic. She assured the council that state and federal funding would come in once the clinic was running and the loan would be easily repaid.

Davis Street also used its property at 1190 Davis Street as collateral on the loan. In Zapata's letter he says that Davis Street leveraged that same property for an \$800,000 line of credit just weeks before using it to secure the city's loan without telling the city it had done so.

Zapata said that Davis Street also put the same property up for

sale earlier this year without notifying the city and also used the property as collateral to secure another \$500,000 loan from a third party.

"Concern is heightened when contractual deadlines are missed, property to secure the loan is repackaged, and written communications stating that payment is forthcoming are not honored," wrote Zapata.

In the Dec. 9 letter, Zapata offers Davis Street another extension on the loan to June 30, 2017, provided that Davis Street meet certain requirements.

"When your organization agreed to the loan with the City, the City and Davis Street had always been partners in advancing the needs of the City's more vulnerable residents," wrote Zapata. "The aforementioned actions are not within the spirit of this relationship. At worst, these actions represent direct violations of the loan's terms and bad faith."

Zapata requested that Davis Street undergo a forensic audit of their finances from the past five years by an auditor or accountant of the city's choosing and Davis Street must pay for the audit.

The second condition is that Davis Street make a "good faith" payment of 25 percent (\$375,000) by Jan. 6, 2017.

So far, the city has not gotten a reply from Davis Street, according to deputy city manager Eric Engelbart.

Johnson has yet to return calls for comment on this story.

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FD 442

APODACA, Maria H.
MARINI, William F.

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■ APODACA, Maria H., a resident of San Leandro, passed away on December 19, 2016. Visitation will be at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro on Thursday, Dec. 22, from noon to 8 p.m. with a vigil service beginning at 6:30 p.m. The funeral Mass will be held on Friday, Dec. 23, at St. Leander Catholic Church, 550 W. Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro beginning at 10 a.m. Interment to follow at Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Fremont. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

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FD 1505
FDK 651

William F. Marini

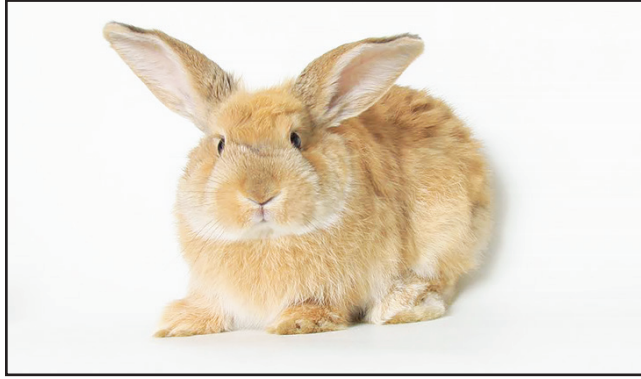
December 21, 1946 – December 18, 2016

William F. Marini passed away peacefully on December 18, 2016, in San Leandro. Bill graduated from St. Mary's College and Golden Gate Law School. After passing the state bar, he had been a sole practitioner in San Leandro for 41 years. Bill always enjoyed a challenge and took great pride in his work. He had been known to call himself a "frustrated engineer". He had an avid desire for drag racing, whether it be working on a team racing super eliminator for Division 7 or watching the Nationals at Sonoma or Las Vegas. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, boating on the Delta and Lake McClure. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Lou and Lucille Marini of Oakland. He is survived by his wife, Kay; son, Christopher, and daughter-in-law, Jen, of Las Vegas, Nevada, and their son, Bill's "Little Man", Lukas Marini. He is also survived by his twin brother, Robert Marini (Yvonne) of Danville; 4 amazing nephews; and cousins, friends, colleagues and neighbors who have all enjoyed his friendship. A visitation and vigil were held Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro, and a funeral liturgy will be held today, Dec. 22, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Leander Church, 550 W. Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

PETS OF THE WEEK



Reeses



Duchess

The Pets of the Week from at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Reeses the bunny, and Duchess the bunny.

Reeses is a sweet, young bunny who just wants to relax and snack on timothy hay and cilantro. He's neutered and ready to go home with you.

Duchess is a shy young bun who's getting used to people and to being handled after a hard life on the street. With a

loving, patient family, she will blossom.

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

The Hayward Animal Shelter opened in 1975. The shelter is open for adoptions, turning in stray animals, recovering lost pets, and other services.

The volunteers, staff, and animals welcome you to stop by the shelter and see them.

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and *must be under 300 words*. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or fax to: 483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Open Letter to Vernon Burton On Sanctuary Cities

Dear Mr. Burton:

I have read your letter, "*Demographic Change in U.S. Not Going to Change Under Trump*," (*Letters*, Dec. 15) regarding whether or not San Leandro becomes or is already a Sanctuary City.

What bothered me is that you believe that Katy Steinle is being used as a political football and to what end.

Here is my take on her horrific death, by being shot in the back by Juan Francisco Lopes-Sanchez. Like you, I was not there to witness this horrific crime. What I do know is that her family is permanently fractured and broken, especially since her father did in fact witness the shooting and his daughter Katy died in his arms.

Juan Francisco Lopes-Sanchez is here without permission, without being a citi-

zen and is truly illegal and was protected in San Francisco, which is a Sanctuary City. Good for San Francisco!

The argument is that we all come from somewhere else and have relatives and ancestors from other countries. The difference is that they came here to make a better life, not to gain access to free medical care, welfare, entitlements and housing, while the homeless are so neglected and dismissed, because they cannot and do not vote.

Illegal aliens do vote because our politicians want their votes, and heaven forbid any one of them coming forward and being a voice for Katy Steinle.

If any one of these morons would dare to make a statement and admitting that Juan Francisco-Lopes Sanchez was illegal, it would be political suicide. So, they toe the line, keep their mouths shut and as you so poetically put it, Mr. Burton, we

are masking racism. Really!

—Anita Imazumi, Hayward

Says City Should Not Get Involved with Trailer Haven Sale

Editor:

I'm in total agreement with John Clouston's letter ("*Wants the City to Stay Out of Private Business at Trailer Haven*," *Letters*, Dec. 15). The San Leandro City Council should not get involved with the private sale of Trailer Haven.

If the council votes to grant some or all of the transfer fees or any other kind of subsidy or rebate to the renters, then they would be opening up the biggest can of worms and setting a precedent for other property transfers to request the same consideration, and if not granted it would cause a never ending steam of lawsuits.

In addition to the purchase price the new owner had to do upgrades and deal with deferred maintenance.

When I lived in San Francisco, the landlord was allowed to pass on those costs so the rent increase is not just based upon the new purchase price. Transfer fees should be spent on all the people and businesses in San Leandro not just a select few.

—Brent Heath, San Leandro

INQUIRING REPORTER

What do you want for Christmas?

— Asked at Greenhouse Marketplace

I think I would like a gift coupon to get a massage. That would be a nice present.

Celina Nunes
San Leandro



If it could be anything – a new car, a Jeep Cherokee. I've always liked that car since my sister got one.

Michelle Matafeo
San Leandro



It would definitely be money. But just to be with family, that's what it's all about – that's the main thing on Christmas.

Robert Flores
San Leandro



I want my kids to be obedient and to follow God's path. Just to know that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Julie Draper
San Leandro



I just want my family to be happy. I have four kids and two grandkids. We're all going over to my son's new house in Estudillo Estates.

Linda Ruiz
San Leandro



Notes of a REPORTER AT LARGE

By Mel Lavine

But We Didn't Call It Christmas

Mel Lavine wrote a weekly column for the Times for more than 20 years. He died this past July at age 88. This was his favorite column. It ran every year just before Christmas. We are repeating it one last time.

My mother came to this country in the early years of the last century from Lithuania where Jewish people lived pent-up in ghettos and where she knew little of the outside world. Her worst nightmares, which continued into old age, were of the Russian police swooping down on her neighborhood on horseback, ransacking stalls, shops and houses and attacking innocent people.

She was eleven when she arrived here, speaking no English, knowing nothing at all about the strange, new land called America. The third of eight immigrant children, she was inspired by the progressives of the day, led by Theodore Roosevelt, a man ahead of his time, and perhaps of our own as well.

"There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americans," Theodore Roosevelt said. We were all one people, newcomers and native-born alike.

The openness of the new country won her confidence. She was eager to be accepted, taken as just another American.

When her boat docked at Ellis Island she had no birth certificate, no legal document attesting to a date of birth.

The world was a lot looser then. People moved about with far fewer restrictions than they do today. The immigration officers could not spell most of the strange names, let alone pronounce them; so they gave people new names.

Once she was settled in Boston with her family, my mother took note of the fuss made over the Christmas holiday, saw the world around her take on new life with evergreen trees decorated with lights and ornaments, department store windows a profusion of color and fantasy, people singing carols, and on Christmas morning children setting out in a town blanketed in snow, with shiny new boots and coats, caps and sweaters and skates and sleds, and all because of Christmas.

But my mother's family didn't celebrate Christmas. Her father was ultra orthodox, a fan of Teddy Roosevelt to be sure, but he would have raised hell, fire and damnation if my mother or any of his children dared commit such a sacrilege.

And so my mother faced a quandary. She wanted to honor her father but she wanted to be in step with the rest of her splendid new country, especially on this most wondrous of days.

And so it came to pass that my mother resolved her problem by taking December 25 for her birthday. That's how she got around the taboo, and got her presents and parties on this special day. But we never called it Christmas. Not even after my grandfather died. Not ever, not in all my mother's years, and she lived to a ripe age of eighty-seven.

Roadway: County wants to step in

continued from front page

Last month, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors authorized the county Public Works department to begin a relinquishment process for a 2.4 mile stretch of the road, which is maintained by CalTrans because it is a state highway – State Route 185.

Normally, a county or town would want street maintenance paid for and done by the state, but Alameda County Public Works director Daniel Woldesenbet told the Board of Supervisors that the conditions were deteriorating to the point that the county needed to take over.

So the Public Works depart-

ment requested that the CalTrans relinquish the stretch of road due to deterioration of the street and ongoing issues with graffiti and garbage.

If the county takes over, they plan a street-scaping project that would include putting telephone lines underground and repairing the street and sidewalk, according to county civil engineer Art Carrera.

The county says CalTrans hasn't responded to their request to take over yet.

If CalTrans doesn't voluntarily give up the road, the county can go through a legal relinquishment process which would require working with a legislator in

Sacramento.

The move to take over the roadway isn't unprecedented. In 2005, Alameda County began doing the maintenance on East 14th Street from Thrush Avenue to 162nd Street and the utilities have since been placed underground and the street repaired and landscaped.

Carrera says the county has already allocated \$10 million to do repairs on the East 14th Street/Mission Boulevard segment that runs through Ashland and into Cherryland.

The first segment of road from 162nd Avenue to the I-238 entrance would be completed in 2018.



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTR

The county wants to take control of street repairs on a nearly 3-mile stretch of East 14th Street where it becomes Mission Boulevard in the unincorporated area.

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