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San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 34 • NO. 19

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



Dancers from the Ballet Folkorico Costa de Oro, backed by the musicians of Mariachi Femenil Orgullo Mexicano, perform at San Leandro's Cinco de Mayo celebration held at the Marina Community Center on May 2.

PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

City Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Over 300 people jammed the Marina Community Center on Wicks Boulevard last Friday for the City of San Leandro's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

There was music, dance, Mexican pan dulce snacks, and a play area for the many children who attended. Kids watching the performances along with their families probably outnumbered those in the play area at any given time, though.

May 5 every year marks the anni-
see CELEBRATES page 11



City to Pay \$3.9 Million to Disabled Man

City, police dept. admit no wrong-doing in 2019 incident

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

San Leandro will pay \$3.9 million to a mentally disabled man who filed a civil lawsuit following a 2019 incident where the man, dressed as a cartoon ninja and taking a fighting stance, hit his head on the pavement after being Tased by police.

The incident and lawsuit called into question police policies toward the mentally ill and the lack of police body camera footage.

In the pre-dawn morning of October 6, 2019, officers Anthony Pantoja and Ismael

Navarro responded to a 9-1-1 call asking police to investigate two suspicious people walking around Maria Drive near Leonard Drive, just off Davis Street east of I-880.

According to the lawsuit, police encountered 37-year-old Sorrell Shiflett dressed as Naruto, a character from a well-known anime show about a boy ninja. Shiflett and his unnamed cousin told officers they were walking around the neighborhood looking for a friend's house.

see PAY, page 5

Driver Shot, Crashes On Benedict Drive

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

San Leandro police are investigating the death of a man who crashed his car on the 1800 block of Benedict Drive on Sunday, May 5.

Police responded to a call about a solo vehicle collision on the frontage road between Scenicview Drive and Benedict Court around 6:24 p.m.

When police arrived, they found the driver suffering from a gunshot wound.

Police tried to provide lifesaving first aid, but the man was unresponsive and later pronounced deceased by paramedics.

"The shooting is believed to have occurred in the same general area just before the ve-

see SHOT, page 12

Sheriff's Dispatcher Killed on Her Way To Work in Collision with a Drunk Driver

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Antoinette Finau, an Emergency Services Dispatcher with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, was killed on her way to work on Sunday night in a collision with a

drunk driver.

Finau's car was struck in the intersection of East 14th Street and 150th Avenue at approximately 11:14 p.m. Her car was broadsided and rolled over, according to the San Leandro Police Department.

It is unknown whether either party ran a red light, according to San Leandro Police Lt. Jeffrey Walton.

The driver of the second involved vehicle was uninjured. That driver was arrested for driving under the influence

and she was transported to jail. Police did not immediately release her name.

The San Leandro Police Department's Traffic Division is investigating the collision.

In the early morning hours
see DISPATCHER page 5

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

EDUCATION

San Leandro students doing well in college. **Page 2**

NEWS

Fire fighters put out blaze on 167th Avenue. **Page 3**

COMMUNITY

City leaders plant tree at Steven Taylor Pavilion. **Page 10**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL
Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 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.



San Leandro Times

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

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Post Office to Hold Job Fair

The United States Postal Service will be a part of this year's Cherry Festival on Saturday, June 1, with job fairs right after the parade from 1 to 4 p.m., including the Estudillo Post Office in Washington Plaza, 1319 Washington Avenue.

The Postal Service is a great place to work, with job security, career advancement opportunities and benefits.

Applicants must be 18 years or older.

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The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to 167 million addresses six and often seven days a week.

The Postal Service is overseen by a bipartisan board of governors. It is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, "Delivering for America," to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, and improve service across all mail and shipping categories.



East Bay Regional Parks To Celebrate 90th Birthday

The East Bay Regional Park District invites everyone to celebrate its 90th Anniversary with a ParkFest on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lake

Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Road in Castro Valley.

The community festival will have music, performances, a Kids' Zone, hands-on fun, nature exhibits and displays, food trucks, eco-friendly activities, and more. Admission and parking are free.

This year marks nine decades since a group of local leaders, inspired by some of America's first conservationists, brought the creation of the East Bay Regional Park District to residents. It's time

to celebrate the open space, parks, trails, safe and healthful recreation, and environmental education provided by that vision 90 years ago.

"Taking this moment to reflect and commemorate our past will help us flourish in our next 90, even 100 years," said Park District General Manager Sabrina Landreth. "We are the largest regional park district in the nation, we are highly regarded, well loved, and we look forward to growing more inclusive and accessible for our park visitors."

San Leandro Honor Students

Clayton Appleby of San Leandro has been named to the 2023-2024 Winter Term Dean's list at Oregon Institute of Technology. Appleby studies Civil Engineering. Recipients of the honor achieved a 3.30 to 3.69 grade-point average.

Marco Carbajal Gonzalez of San Leandro was named to the Stanislaus State Fall 2023 Dean's List. Gonzalez was among more than 2,000 students named to the Dean's List. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and register for and earn a minimum of 12 units of credit of graded coursework at the University.

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire awarded 648 degrees from in December 2023. Among those earning degrees was Audrey Graff of San Leandro, California – Master of Business Administration.

Emerson College student Anne O'Leary from San Leandro, Calif. was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. The requirement to make Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester. O'Leary is majoring in Creative Writing BFA and is a member of the Class of 2024. Emerson College is in Boston, Mass.

Boey Yuan of San Leandro, Calif. has earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Yuan was among 6,300 undergraduate and graduate students to be presented Georgia Tech degrees during the Institutes 265th Commencement exercises.

The University of Dubuque announced its students who made the Fall Semester 2023 Dean's List, including Chetna Bhusari of San Leandro, Calif. The University of Dubuque, in Dubuque, Iowa, is a private, coed university founded in 1852 that offers undergraduate, graduate, and theological seminary degrees as well as other educational opportunities.

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Community Calendar

Community Chat with Vice-Mayor Fred Simon

San Leandro City Councilman Fred Simon will hold his monthly community chat on Saturday, May 11, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Greenhouse Market Place, in front of Great Clips, 699 Washington Ave. Listen and share ideas on improving our environment and city, and learn how to become a community ambassador.

Church Invites Older Adults to Senior Citizens Club

First United Methodist Church, 1600 Bancroft Ave., invites older adults to participate in a 6-week program of seated exercise, meditation/labyrinth walk and tea time. Join us on Tuesday mornings, May 7 through June 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. No charge. Drop-ins welcome, no need to attend all six sessions. For more information call the church office at 510-483-0606.

Six Free Art Classes for San Leandro Residents

The San Leandro Art Association is offering free art classes, beginning with an introduction to the Zentangle Method. All art materials will be provided free at every class. This first class will be on Saturday, May 11, from noon to 3 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., in The Karp Room. Space for this class is limited to 32 adults on a first-come basis. Contact sanleandroart.contact@gmail.com for more information or to be placed on the guest list. The San Leandro Art Association wishes to thank the Arts, Culture and Library Council for their generous grant which allows SLAA to present these classes for free.

Family Fun Night: Bri Crabtree's Silly Circus

Bri's Silly Circus will appear on Wednesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Bri's Silly Circus features juggling, jokes, and sleight-of-hand to keep you asking "how did she do that?" All ages welcome.

Washington Home Owners Association Meeting

The Washington Home Owners Association will host its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. in Room C of the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. Oro Loma Sanitary District General Manager Jimmy Dang will be the guest speaker. This will be your chance to ask about the proposed rate increases and the new garbage and recycling requirements. Washington Manor residents and the general public are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, call Bob Glaze at 510-352-2058.

Kiwanis Club of San Leandro Meets on Tuesdays

The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro meets on Tuesdays at noon, except for the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Barbara Lee Health Center, 2251 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. To attend on Zoom: Meeting ID: 759 9480 8209 Password: 560475.

College and Career Pathways 101

Come to a presentation and Q&A session with high school counselor Vanessa Galaviz on Sunday, May 19, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.; and on Monday, May 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Vanessa will cover the wide variety of post-high school pathways. Open to teens in grades 6-12 and their families. Snacks will be provided. Workshop offered on two days, but the material is the same. Please only register for one session.

It's Boba Time for Pearl Lee Author Event.

Meet Nicole Chen, author of *It's Boba Time for Pearl Li*, on Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. For ages 8+. Boba refreshment provided to all. Register for a free spot and your chance to win a copy of the book. Register at sanleandro.libcal.com

American Legion Post 649 Monthly Meeting

American Legion Post 649 in Castro Valley meets on the last Monday of every month at 1800 (6 p.m.) for dinner, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20385 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. For more information, call Jim Smith at 510-305-2280.



PHOTO COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

House Fire on 167th

The Alameda County Fire Department, responded to a 2-story house fire on the 1600 block of 167th Ave. in unincorporated San Leandro last Friday night, May 3, just after 10 p.m. The fire was contained in under 45 minutes with no injuries reported, according to the fire department. Two adults were displaced and the Red Cross was dispatched to assist the residents. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Expect More Airplanes Monday

Oakland International Airport will temporarily close Runway 12/30 for pavement maintenance work on Sunday, May 12, through Monday, May 13, from 11 p.m. to 4 p.m. The main runway will not be accessible for jet aircraft landings and departures.

The North Field runways will be used for jet departures and landings. Aircraft will overfly residential areas and residents will experience unusual aircraft noise.

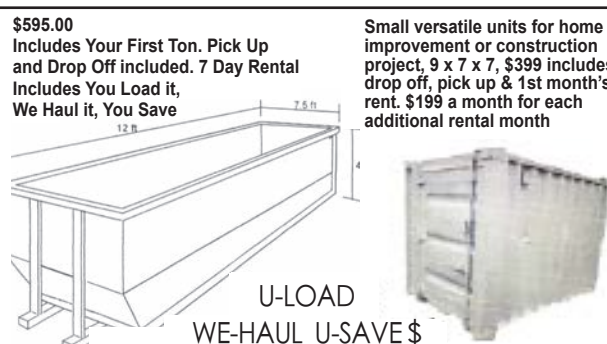
The Port of Oakland apologizes in advance for any disturbances. Aircraft noise concerns may be directed to Noise Hotline at 510-563-6463.

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More Events

Gardening with Nature: "Speed Dating Native Plants"

Homegrown Habitats San Leandro will teach you about finding your perfect garden matches on Saturday, May 11, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro with a presentation, native garden patio tour, and a native plant giveaway.

Film Screening: The Deli Man

See the film *The Deli Man* (2015- 1 hr. 31 min., PG-13) on Sunday, May 12, at 1 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. This funny and mouthwatering documentary about the history of Jewish delicatessens includes a profile of a third-generation deli owner named Ziggy Gruber. In honor of Jewish American History Month, stay after the film for treats and a chat with Chabad of San Leandro. For more information, call 510-577-3971.

San Leandro Art Association to Host Free Paper Cutting Art Demo

The San Leandro Art Association will host a free art demonstration on Tuesday, May 14, at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. At 5:30 p.m. a half hour of socializing begins, refreshments included. The short meeting starts at 6 p.m. and the demonstration begins at 6:30 p.m. Local artist Debra Collins, who creates artwork made with small intricate cuttings in paper, will share a powerpoint and will then demonstrate the technique. She is providing a template for participants who wish to follow along. Supplies needed for demo: Exacto knife with 4, #11 blades, small self-healing cutting board of the type used by quilt makers and a pencil with an eraser. SLAA members will also be displaying artwork for the Artist of the Month Contest. All ages are welcome to participate in this free event. Email sanleandroart.contact@gmail.com for more information.

Resolve to Lose Weight By Joining TOPS

Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) for the support you need to start your weight loss journey. TOPS is a non-profit weight loss support group that meets on Fridays at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria Street in Castro Valley. For more information, call Sandy Montero at 510-299-7312. Join for fellowship and support. What do you have to lose?

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For Mom, a Few of Her Favorite Things

Sunday is Mother's Day. Like you could forget, with all the reminders being trumpeted at you on TV, on the store shelves and, yes, right here in this newspaper. So, after you've gotten the card, the flowers, the chocolates, what can you do that will make Mom feel really special? A lot of people take their Moms out for brunch on Mother's Day. But it can be fun to stay home, too, especially if you use your cooking skills to make something special.

FRENCH CROISSANT TOAST

- French Toast:
4 croissants, split in half lengthwise
4 eggs
1 cup half-and-half
2 teaspoons vanilla
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons sugar



- 3 tablespoons melted butter
Cinnamon Sugar:
1 cup sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon

Combine eggs, half-and-half, vanilla, sugar and cinnamon and mix well. Dip croissants into the

mixture, coating completely. In a large skillet, melt butter. Add egg-coated croissants and sauté until golden brown, turning once. Keep toast warm (for up to 30 minutes) by placing it on a cooking sheet in preheated 300°F oven. To serve, drizzle with more

melted butter, sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Serves 4.

FRESH APPLE MUFFINS

- 1/4 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
2 eggs
1-3/4 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup milk
1 cup chopped peeled apple
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Cream butter and brown sugar in mixer bowl until light. Beat in eggs until smooth. Combine flour, salt, baking powder and cinnamon in another bowl and stir well. Add to creamed mixture with milk, apple raisins and walnuts. Gently beat with spoon until all ingredients are just mixed. Spoon batter into greased or

paper-lined muffin tins, filling each cup about 3/4 full. Bake at 425°F about 15 minutes, or until wood pick comes out clean when inserted in center. Remove from oven and serve warm. Makes about 12 to 14 medium muffins.

STRAWBERRIES WITH SOUR CREAM

- 4 cups strawberries, rinsed and drained
1 cup sour cream
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1/2 cup brown sugar

In a small bowl, mix sour cream with lemon juice and lemon peel. Serve sour cream mixture and brown sugar as dips one and two alongside strawberries. Serves about 8.

FLUFFY BAKED OMELET

- 3 eggs, separated
1 tablespoon water
1 tablespoon butter
Salt
Freshly ground pepper
2 tablespoons finely grated

Cheddar cheese

Beat eggs yolks until thick. Set aside. Beat egg whites until frothy in large mixing bowl. Add water and continue beating until soft peaks form.

Heat butter in 9-1/2 inch oven-proof skillet until bubbly, but not brown. Tip pan to coat sides. Fold egg yolks into whites. Pour egg mixture into pan and cook, without stirring, over low heat, until egg mixture is puffed, set and golden brown on bottom, 2 to 3 minutes.

Place pan in 325°F oven and bake until knife inserted near center comes out clean, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove pan from oven and loosen sides of omelet with metal spatula. Season to taste with salt and pepper and sprinkle with cheese.

Make score across omelet slightly off center. Fold small side over larger. Makes 1 to 2 servings.

TROPICAL ISLAND SMOOTHIE

- 1 medium-size banana
1 cup cubed and crushed pineapple with juice
1/2 cup orange juice
1/2 cup vanilla yogurt
6 to 8 ice cubes

Combine all the ingredients in the blender container. Blend on high speed for about thirty seconds. Stop the blender and use a table knife or a thin rubber spatula to stir and move any remaining solid ingredients around the blade. Cover and process on high speed for about 30 more seconds or until the ice is completely crushed and the drink is smooth and creamy.



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HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): That anxious feeling disappears with a reassuring gesture from a loved one. In addition, the weekend holds some pleasant surprises for the ever-adventurous Lamb.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): A planetary lineup creates unsteadiness both on the job and in your private life. Stay the course, and you'll soon ride out the worst of the unsettling effects.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Leave nothing to chance. You need to get more involved in working out problems at home and on the job. Meanwhile, a Sagittarian offers romantic possibilities.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): A new relationship suddenly presents unexpected problems. Clear up all misunderstandings now to avoid more serious situations later.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): This is a good time to act on long-delayed projects, both personal and professional. A new job prospect opens up some exciting possibilities. Check it out.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): September 22 Those on-the-job changes continue to bring new challenges. In your personal life, be more flexible in dealing with a loved one who needs your help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A personal problem creates some concern at first, but your prompt attention helps to get things sorted out. Family and friends provide much-needed support.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A strong positive attitude helps disperse a cloud of negativism around you. A friend reaches out to offer loving support when you need it the most.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): A setback in an important relationship results from a misunderstanding. Forget the finger-pointing and take the first step to set things straight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Keep an open mind about changes in your personal life. What seems unacceptable at first might prove to be otherwise when more facts begin to emerge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): It's a good time to start the healing process for bruised or broken relationships. There may be some resistance to a reconciliation, but don't give up.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): During this period of change, the wise Pisces should avoid swimming in rough waters. Take time for things to settle before making a serious commitment.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

C	U	B	I	C	U	P	S	H	O	T		
P	O	T	A	T	O	R	E	T	Y	P	E	
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Dispatcher: 'This is a tragic loss of life... a reminder of the dangers of driving while impaired'

continued from front page

of May 6, Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez, ACSO personnel, CHP Hayward, San Leandro Police Department, and members of Finau's family escorted her body to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau in Oakland in a long procession that lit up westbound Interstate 580.

"The San Leandro Police Department offers our condolences to the family of the victim as well as the men and women of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office," said Lieutenant Jeffrey Walton, "This is a tragic loss of life and a painful reminder of the dangers of driving while impaired."

Finau was recently highlighted during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and loved being a dispatcher. She took pride in her work because helping others gave her great joy, a spokesperson from Finau's family said in a statement.



PHOTO COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Dispatcher Antionette Finau was on her way to work when she was struck and killed in a car collision.

Pay: 'Our commitment to transparency and accountability is paramount'

continued from front page

Shiflett provided his name, and it was revealed that he was on probation, according to the police. Shiflett also informed officers that he was carrying a knife, and he consented to a search. When the officer was about to begin his search, Shiflett fled from the police

“They callously dumped him at a nearby hospital.

— Attorney Adanté Pointer

and they chased after him.

The police say Shiflett then took a fighting stance before Officer Pantoja hit Shiflett one time on the hand with his baton. Officer Navarro deployed his taser and Shiflett fell to the ground and hit his head.

Police found two throwing knives and a large bag of crystal methamphetamine in Shiflett's bag. Paramedics were immediately called to the scene. It was later determined that Shiflett aggravated a pre-existing brain injury

when his head hit the ground after being Tased.

Shiflett filed a federal civil rights lawsuit, accusing the officers of excessive force, unlawful seizure, and violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Attorney Adanté Pointer, an attorney with Oakland's Pointer & Buelna that represents Shiflett, said that police "callously dumped him at a nearby hospital."

"Despite knowing how seriously he was injured the Police Department inexplicably allowed the most critical items of evidence, including two of the responding officers' bodycam videos and a Taser log, to be destroyed in an effort to cover up the officers' misdeeds," said Pointer. "They also failed to conduct a subsequent internal affairs investigation as required by their own policy."

According to the lawsuit, Navarro failed to save his bodycam, and Pantoja did not activate his own camera until well after his use of force.

Pointer added that Shiflett ran because he wanted to get help from his father to explain his disability and the trouble he was having in understanding why police wanted to detain him.

No criminal charges were

ever brought against Shiflett. Neither the City of San Leandro nor any San Leandro police officers admitted liability or wrongdoing. Officer Navarro is still an officer with the San Leandro Police Department, and Officer Anthony Pantoja is no longer employed by the city.

“Our camera recording retention policy was updated.

— Chief Angela Averiett

"Our commitment to transparency and accountability is paramount, so we continually review policies and procedures," San Leandro Interim Police Chief Angela Averiett stated. "As a result, our body-worn camera recording retention policy was updated in 2022 to retain video footage for up to seven years. This updated policy ensures a longer retention of interactions with community members to allow for the future review of potential criminal, administrative, or civil cases."

HEALTH & FITNESS

Exercises to Improve Balance

By Mitch Rothbardt
Special to the Times

One of my clients asked how to improve her balance this week. It's a common question, so let's talk about how it works and how to improve it.

Our bodies work in amazing ways every second of every day, and how we stay upright is one of them. Our body has things all over called proprioceptors. It's their job to sense movement, action, and location. In other words, how and where to move without falling over and hurting ourselves.

Do you know how your body naturally reacts when you walk over some uneven ground? That's your proprioceptors working. They let your brain know how to react to the ground. The brain gets the message to your muscles and nerves, and your body reacts accordingly. That happens countless times in mere milliseconds all day long.

The body is truly a fantas-

tical thing.

So, let's talk about how to improve and/or maintain balance.

1. Get your proprioceptors working better. One thing I've noticed is that the more people are attached to their shoes and the softer the soles on those shoes are, the worse their balance tends to be. That's because fluffy soles don't allow the proprioceptors in your feet to work very well. Think of it like wearing gloves all the time. How well would you be able to use your hands?

What do we do about it? Take off your shoes. Start gradually, and work to going barefoot more and more around the house. Also, try to go with more minimal soles on your shoes. Let your feet work. They'll appreciate it.

2. Get stronger. Once your muscles get the signal to do something, they've got to be strong and quick enough to do it. That takes strength and power and that takes strength training.

3. Get more confident. This one's a mind bender. According to a 2019 study in the "International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health," the biggest risk factor for falling is fear. In other words, the more fearful someone is of falling, the more likely they'll fall.

Talk about a self-fulfilling prophecy. How do you get over that fear? Physical activity.

4. Stand on one foot while barefoot. This is my favorite exercise for improving balance. Simple, huh? Start with 5 to 10 seconds per foot and build up. You can do this every day.

I hope this helps clarify a complicated topic a bit. Let me know if you have any questions about customizing balance training for yourself.

Mitch Rothbardt is the owner and head trainer at Castro Valley Fitness. He can be reached at Mitch@CastroValleyFitness.com.

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Sat.	May 18	3 O'CLOCK JUMP		2PM
Sat.	May 18	AUGUST REED BAND		6PM
Sun.	May 19	PATRÓN LATIN RHYTHMS		4PM
Fri.	May 24	Re-Wind, That 80's Band		8PM
Sat.	May 25	IN THE GROOVE TRIBUTE BAND		6PM
Sun.	May 26	BLUES ROCKERS		4PM
Fri.	May 31	MY BLUE SOUL		8PM
Sat.	June 1	TOUCH OF CLASS		6PM
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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY
By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Spare the Air This Summer

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

Flying into Nairobi, Kenya 20 years ago, I wondered what my first impressions of Africa would be. I had grown up reading National Geographic magazines and had watched any number of videos about the continent. As I climbed into our awaiting van and headed into the city, my first impression, however, was nothing I had previously considered. Looking around, the most visible factor I could see was ...

Thick smog.

Fueled by a profusion of vehicles burning low-grade diesel, a lack of emission controls and a vast number of open fires burning garbage, the

yellow pallor that hung over the city reminded me of Los Angeles back in the 1970s. Not much has changed: my most recent trip to Nairobi in 2023 still revealed visibly tainted air hanging over the capital.

Even at their worst, however, neither Los Angeles nor Nairobi hold a candle to the Great Smog of London which occurred in December 1952. As a result of homes and factories burning coal and a bizarre inversion layer that settled over London for 5 days, conditions became so bad that, in some places, it was reported that people standing and looking down could not even see their feet. It is estimated that up to 4,000 people died and an addi-

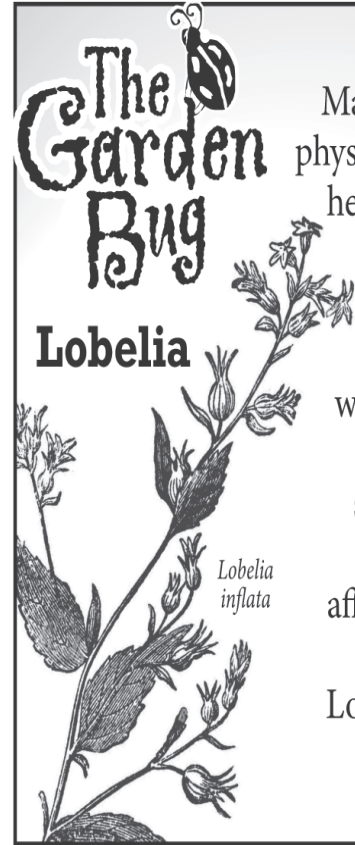
tional 100,000 suffered severe respiratory issues. As a result, the UK, in 1956, established their benchmark Clean Air Act.

Aware of the link between air quality and health, California has made massive strides to improve. "Spare the Air" was created in 1991 by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to alert residents when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy and to share information on ways to reduce air pollution.*

One of the results has been new homes being built without wood-burning fireplaces.

Awareness of the guidelines is even more important now as wildfires from around the region have been known to obscure the air and impact those with respiratory ailments.

Guidelines and alerts can be viewed at www.sparetheair.org. With regard to wood-burning activities, the website states, "The Air District passed its wood burning regulation in July 2008, making it illegal to burn wood, fire logs, pellets, or other solid fuels in



Matthaeus Lobelius (1538-1616) was a Flemish physician and plant enthusiast. Born in Flanders, he studied at the University of Montpellier and became personal physician first to William, Prince of Orange and later to James I. As a member of the Flemish School of Botany, he wrote a series of major treatises on plants, and authored famous publications for botany students. He is credited with the first attempt to classify plants according to their natural affinities, rather than their medicinal uses. The plant genus Lobelia and the botanical family Lobeliaceae are named after him. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: dbpedia.org, prabook.com

fireplaces, wood stoves, outdoor fire pits, or other wood-burning devices when there is a Spare the Air Alert in effect for fine particulate pollution."

We recommend adhering to the guidelines to make breathing easier for us all.

* www.sparetheair.org/about/what-is-spare-the-air

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

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2500 Miramar Avenue #205 94546: \$530,000 [2 BD - 1,133 SF - 1982
21239 Gary Drive #214e 94546: \$690,000 [3 BD - 1,354 SF -]
2513 Lessley Avenue 94546: \$1,015,000 [3 BD - 1,545 SF - 1948
3283 Anita Court 94546: \$1,240,000 [3 BD - 924 SF - 1951
18656 Sheffield Road 94546: \$1,485,000 [4 BD - 2,880 SF - 1964
4097 Krolap Road 94546: \$1,890,000 [4 BD - 2,897 SF - 1969

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$530,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,127,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,890,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$1,141,666

Hayward

23649 Stratton Court 94541: \$780,000 [4 BD - 1,640 SF - 1956
31996 Kennet Street 94544: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,300 SF - 1951
53 Fernridge Court 94544: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,585 SF - 1991
18638 Melrose Avenue 94541: \$810,000 [3 BD - 1,051 SF - 1951
911 Hohener Avenue 94541: \$850,000 [3 BD - 1,104 SF - 1952
164 Newton Street 94544: \$850,000 [3 BD - 1,070 SF - 1952
2208 Rosenblatt Street 94544: \$990,000 [3 BD - 1,938 SF - 2018
2724 Gamble Court 94542: \$1,005,000 [3 BD - 1,920 SF - 1982
23709 Glenbrook Lane 94541: \$1,210,000 [3 BD - 1,928 SF - 1991
3272 Round Hill Drive 94542: \$1,260,000 [3 BD - 1,887 SF - 1969
23646 Glenbrook Lane 94541: \$1,270,000 [3 BD - 2,154 SF - 1992

TOTAL SALES: 11
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$780,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$850,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,270,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$965,909

San Leandro

14833 Lark Street 94578: \$580,000 [2 BD - 992 SF - 1945
2321 Fairway Drive 94577: \$610,000 [2 BD - 1,270 SF - 1977
712 Hutchings Drive 94577: \$765,000 [4 BD - 1,266 SF - 1942
637 Tiffany Road 94577: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,116 SF - 1948
1593 Thrush Avenue 94578: \$800,000 [2 BD - 768 SF - 1942
1169 Louise Street 94578: \$870,000 [3 BD - 1,340 SF - 1948
220 Lorraine Boulevard 94577: \$875,000 [2 BD - 1,178 SF - 1938
856 Sybil Avenue 94577: \$890,000 [2 BD - 1,515 SF - 1947
715 Portola Drive 94578: \$899,000 [3 BD - 1,142 SF - 1956
16225 Calypso Court 94578: \$960,000 [4 BD - 1,626 SF - 1994
2069 Hillside Circle 94577: \$1,050,000 [2 BD - 1,772 SF - 1975

TOTAL SALES: 11
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$580,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$870,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,050,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$827,181

San Lorenzo

1098 Elgin Street 94580: \$935,000 [4 BD - 1,560 SF - 1900

Soil Preparation Can End Blossom Rot

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q I'm getting ready to plant pumpkins again. This will be my third year, and I have yet to be successful. The pumpkins form, but they turn yellow, shrivel up, and die, or they remain small and never mature. Each spring, I add animal manure to the soil and then fertilize it with a liquid fertilizer for the rest of the year. What else do I need to do?

A You'll need to change your cultural practices. The basic problem is Blossom End Rot. Blossom End Rot is a disease that attacks many summer vegetables, like cucumbers, squashes, melons, tomatoes, and peppers. The problem starts at the bottom or end of the species and progresses upward, hence the name Blossom End Rot. Tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers develop brown, sunken spot(s) or botches. With cucumbers, squashes, melons, and pumpkins, it's a bit different. The immature fruits turn yellow and die, just as you described. Blossom End Rot is caused by a lack of calcium in the soil,

excessive nitrogen during the growing season, and irregular watering. You correct the Calcium problem by adding 2 1/2 lbs. of Oyster Shell Lime or Agricultural Lime per fifty sq ft. Besides the animal manure, you should also include two cu. Ft. of organic matter per fifty sq.ft., like soil conditioner or homemade compost. Soil preparation with clay soil and be generous is crucial when planting vegetables. Vegetable Food at the time of planting is also recommended. If necessary, fertilize with a low-nitrogen organic liquid fertilizer during the growing season. There are several brands widely available. The most difficult problem gardeners face is correcting the irregular watering issues. Pumpkins like to be kept moist but not soggy wet. Because our summer weather changes from cool to hot, you need to adjust the watering pattern so the soil remains moist but not overly wet or too dry. The soil prep or lack greatly influences the soil drainage in clay soils. We tend to be creatures of habit and water with the same frequency and volume from April through September, regardless of the weather conditions. Mastering the watering schedule is the key to curing Blossom End Rot. Water more often more when it's warm, with temperatures over 90 degrees. And less with cool temperatures below 80 degrees. The volume generally remains constant; Mulching is recommended to converse moisture.

Q I have several terracotta pots in which plants have died. Before replanting them, should I sterilize the pots? If so, how would I do so?

A I think you want to disinfect them instead of sterilizing them.

It is easily done by soaking them in a solution of equal parts distilled water and white vinegar for thirty minutes. This applies to plastic and ceramic containers. Then, discard the solution and let the pots air dry in a sunny location. You replace the soil with new potting soil or rejuvenate the old soil. Homemade compost, soil conditioner or potting soil is mixed at 50 50 ratio. This slow-release, organic fertilizer then added to the mix.

Buzz Bertolero, an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional, is here to provide you with expert gardening advice. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com, and you can send your questions to buzz@dirtgardener.com.

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A	1-4		651 Elsie Ave	\$945,000	3/2	Re/Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
S	2-4	2-4	276 Marlow Dr	\$880,000	3/1.5	Red Oak Redalty	Greg Novak	510-472-4770

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Rates Increase Again and at a Key Moment for the Housing Market

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage increased for the fifth consecutive week as we enter the heart of Spring Homebuying Season. On average, more than one-third of home sales for the entire year occur between March and June. With two months left of this historically busy period, potential homebuyers will likely not see relief from rising rates anytime soon. However, many seem to have acclimated to these higher rates, as demonstrated by the recently released pending home sales data coming in at the highest level in a year.

WEEKEND GARDENER

• Corn

Plant corn in blocks of at least four rows in each each direction to assure good pollination (by wind). Make successive plantings through the end of June, because later plantings usually suffer from smut problems when the corn matures.

• Lawns

If water runs off your lawn after just a few minutes, it's time to aerate, which relieves soil compaction. Aeration allows air to pass more freely into the soil, reduces thatch and allows more water and nutrients to enter the soil. Just spiking the soil with a pitchfork probably isn't enough. You may need to remove quarter-inch plugs that are 3 to 4 inches deep and about 4 inches apart, a process called coring. Water heavily a couple of days before coring so that the process is easier.

• Cosmos are Carefree

For colorful blooms all summer, plant daisy-like cosmos which come in a wide variety of colors and grow about 4 feet high with fernlike foliage. Plant cosmos once and—like nasturtiums—you'll have them year after year, because they reseed freely.

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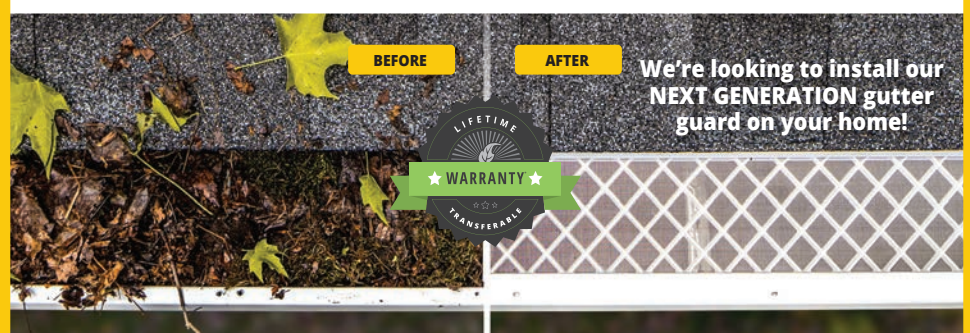
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WORTH THE TRIP GARAGE SALE Fri. 5/10-Sat. 5/11, 9am-1pm. 17764 Columbia Drive, C.V.

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FILED March 16, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
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By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 604863

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
1. The LockerRoom 2. The LockerCast, located at 17265 Via Primero, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Kid 'n Crew, located at 17265 Via Primero, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced N/A
/s/Raine Godfrey
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 14, 2029

FILED March 18, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 604873

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
General Mrehandise, located at 27516 Tampa Ave., Hayward, CA 94544. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arturo Landers Andrade, located at 27516 Tampa Ave. Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 04/04/2023
N/A/s/ Arturo Landeros Andrade
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 17, 2029
APR 18, 24, MAY 02, 09, 2024
1292 - SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED March 25, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605074

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Pilas Cloud Solutions, located at 2181 E 14th street, Unit 10, San Leandro, CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peter Lasode, located at 2181 E 14th street, Unit 10, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 02/07/2024
/s/Peter Olumuyiwa Lasode
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 24, 2029
APR 18, 24, MAY 02, 09, 2024

FILED March 28, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605181

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Chabot Car Wash, located at 20735 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daryl Strom, located at 18416 Center Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 03/ 01/2010
/s/Daryl Strom
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 27, 2029
MAY 02, 09, 16, 23, 2024
1328 - SLT

FILED March 12, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605525

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
The Lonchera Deli, located at 2109 Mac Arthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94601. / 20325 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley, CA 94542. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Lonchera Deli, located at 20325 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced N/A
/s/Gerry Mendoza
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 11, 2029

FILED April 18, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605665

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
CTR Diesel Performance, located at 1375 Manor Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94579. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jorge Alberto Barrientos Matute, located at 1375 Manor Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94579. / Jorge Barrientos Rosales, located at 1552 Oriole Avenue San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by Co-partners. This business commenced 04/18/2024
N/A/s/ Jorge Barrientos Rosales
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires April 17, 2029

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED March 16, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 604863

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
1. The LockerRoom 2. The LockerCast, located at 17265 Via Primero, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Kid 'n Crew, located at 17265 Via Primero, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced N/A
/s/Raine Godfrey
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 14, 2029
APR 18, 25, MAY 02, 09, 2024
1295 - SLT

FILED April 09, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605443

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Eluney's Boutique, located at 1600 Thrush Ave., San Leandro, CA 94578 / 1212 Coe Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Natali Serrano, located at 1212 Coe Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579. Jonathan Serrano 1212 Coe Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by Married Couple. This business commenced N/A
/s/Natali Serrano
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires April 08, 2029
MAY 02, 09, 16, 23, 2024
1300 - SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED March 12, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605525

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
The Lonchera Deli, located at 2109 Mac Arthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94601. / 20325 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley, CA 94542. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Lonchera Deli, located at 20325 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced N/A
/s/Gerry Mendoza
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 11, 2029
APR 18, 25, MAY 02, 09, 2024
1283 - CVF

FILED April 19, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605698

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
DAL, located at 15367 Betty street San Leandro, CA 94579. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karina Arevalo, located at 15367 Betty street San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A
N/A/s/Karina Arevalo
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires April 18, 2029
MAY 02, 09, 16, 23, 2024
1315 - SLT

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53 -- jiffy

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED April 11, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605484

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
New Day Community Church, located at 180 Lewelling Blvd, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. / PO Box 525, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San Lorenzo Baptist Church, located at PO Box 525, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced 03/ 31/2024
/s/Michael Ovaton
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires April 10, 2029
MAY 02, 09, 16, 23, 2024
1321 - SLT

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LEGAL NOTICES

FILED March 25, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 605074

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Pilas Cloud Solutions, located at 2181 E 14th street, Unit 10, San Leandro, CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peter Lasode, located at 2181 E 14th street, Unit 10, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 02/07/2024
/s/Peter Olumuyiwa Lasode
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 24, 2029
APR 18, 24, MAY 02, 09, 2024
1296 - SLT

FILED March 12, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 604747

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Banejad & Haddad Properties San Francisco. LLC, located at 3716 Oakes Drive Hayward, CA 94542. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Banejad & Haddad Properties San Francisco. LLC, located at 3716 Oakes Drive, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced 02/28/2024
/s/Hani Haddad
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires March 26, 2029
APR 18, 24, MAY 02, 09, 2024
1282 - SLT

PLEASE RECYCLE

City Officials Plant Tree at Steven Taylor Memorial

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

San Leandran Steven Taylor was remembered on April 18 with two different memorials on the fourth anniversary of his death at the hands of a San Leandro police officer. Officer Jason Fletcher later resigned and was charged with voluntary manslaughter.

City and county officials and members of Taylor's family gathered in the morning at the Steven Taylor Sanctity of Life Pavilion at Marina Park. The family members and some of the officials returned at 5 p.m. for a memorial in the same place held by the Social Justice Academy at San Leandro High School.

"Thank you to the City of San Leandro for the beginning of the healing process," said Taylor's grandmother Addie Kitchen at the morning event, which was held to plant trees in Taylor's memory at the pavilion and which drew about 50 people.

"I am thankful San Leandro sees the need to heal not only me but all the families that have lost members to not only police violence, but to violence in general," Kitchen said.

Kitchen praised the

then-members of the City Council and former mayor Pauline Cutter for initiating the idea for a memorial.

"She heard and she listened," said Kitchen of then-Mayor Cutter. "I think that's the most important thing, that we listen to each other."

Assemblymember Mia Bonta, whose district formerly included San Leandro, said that families have had to give family-member's lives to bring awareness to what people with mental health issues live with. She called for a mental-health-first approach to people in crisis.

That approach is coming soon to San Leandro, said City Councilmember Fred Simon and Alameda County Fire Chief Willie McDonald, who said the fire department and the city will partner in the months ahead to deploy mental health response teams to handle nonviolent mental health emergencies. McDonald said several nearby cities are already finding the teams effective.

Kitchen was joined at the memorial by Steven Taylor's mother, Sharon Taylor, and one of his three sons, Sammarion. Sharon Taylor said



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Audience members and presenters gather together at a commemoration of Steven Taylor's life early in the evening of April 18 at the Steven Taylor Sanctity of Life Pavilion in Marina Park.

after the official event that she missed her son but remembers him fondly.

"He was just funny, a character," she said. "He was the kindest person. He played piano, just like I did. We live in Vallejo now, but Steven spent his whole life in San Leandro. He went to McKinley School, then Bancroft, then San Leandro High School."

Sculpture to Be Added To Memorial

Another element of the memorial is coming into focus, said city Public Works Director Sheila Marquises. Landscape architects have continued design work while waiting for a recommendation for a central artwork, most likely a sculpture. Finalists

have now been chosen, and the City Council will likely choose amongst them at a meeting in May, she said.

SLHS Students Hold a Second Ceremony

The afternoon event featured students from the Social Justice Academy at SLHS, who have been prominent in the Justice For Steven Taylor

movement. Speakers gave brief statements, along with students performing poems they had written, and by crowd chants such as "Steven Taylor! Say His Name."

The Justice for Steven Taylor group has urged prosecution of Fletcher as well as a second officer, Stefan Overton, who fired his Taser

see MEMORIAL, page 12

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Three City Council Members Wasting Time

Editor,

City manager Fran Robustelli has left for St. Pete Beach, Florida, which has a population 90% less than San Leandro's population. We have been told Robustelli wanted to return to the state she was raised in. Was that really her motivation? What role did council members Azevedo, Simon and Aguilar play in Robustelli's departure, and the ninety other city employees that have left San Leandro in the past year and a half?

I would not be surprised if Robustelli was sick and tired of being constantly second guessed and having to respond to absurd requests by Azevedo, Simon and Aguilar. This group has wasted city resources

and divided our community by pushing pet issues that are completely divorced from the concerns of the people of San Leandro.

Azevedo, Simon and Aguilar had an entire year to come up with proposals for the city to prioritize at the annual city council planning session two weeks ago. None of their proposals addressed skyrocketing crime, homelessness, road and street repair or blight in our city.

Instead, Aguilar asked to decriminalize hallucinogenic mushrooms. Simon wanted to spend millions constructing an equestrian center. Azevedo's one and only proposal was to require business owners to lock up their dumpsters at night which most already do. I guess that is better than Azevedo's

proposal last year to name our main library after his top political supporter.

At the planning session, council member Xouhoa Bowen presented 13 substantive proposals on public safety and quality of life in San Leandro. In response, and before the public, Azevedo and Aguilar tried to shut her down and cut off discussion. In essence, they were upset that Bowen had done her homework prior to the meeting and was making them look bad.

I suspect the real reason Robustelli left San Leandro was that she wanted to work in a city where the elected officials make decisions based on the needs of the community as a whole and trust and support the city manager in doing her job.

Lee Thomas
San Leandro

Lee Thomas is a former member of the City Council

More Taxes and Deteriorating Conditions

Editor,

I was born and raised in this part of Alameda County. I have been through more than a few drought cycles. Years of drought

are followed by winters of heavy rains. The rains came last year and continue this year. The city officials say the storm drains and drainage system requires much needed maintenance that has been deferred for many years. My question is, what was being done in years of little rain when budgets were fat?

Now the rains come in lean times and the city proposes a parcel tax on all property owners. The city needs the money, so the property owners must bear the brunt of the lack of foresight and poor planning. I like San Leandro, but how much more should citizens expect to endure?

The Marina, down the street from me, is in shambles. There are itinerant motorhomes in front of El Torito and Horatio's everyday dumping their bags of raw sewage in dumpsters and garbage cans. For months boats continued to illegally dock at the launch ramp and had to be physically moved by fire fighters so they could launch their boat. All this with screeching tires of sideshows down the street almost nightly.

I have been waiting for 30 years for the promise of improvements

on the west side of the city. Now they propose a rain tax. Downtown looks great, if you can endure getting hit up by homeless as you walk from your car to Sons of Liberty or Fieldwork. The most common conversation at my workplace these days is, "Where are you moving when you retire?" There's a lot I love about San Leandro, but a new rain tax, with deteriorating conditions, is starting to make me wonder.

If I decide to sell, the city may just get its tax revenue from the new owner. Then someone else will live here who is unfamiliar with the weather patterns or has not seen the city's decline. They will not know what a beautiful place this used to be.

Steve Kidwell
San Leandro

Call It What It Is

Editor,

Mayor Juan Gonzalez isn't calling it what it is in his recent State of the City speech. His "Mayor's Working Group on Revenue Enhancement" should be called "The Tax and Spend Committee."

George Z. Banks
San Leandro

Celebrates: People dance as band plays for Cinco de Mayo

continued from front page

versary of the 1862 Battle of Puebla, where Mexican troops defeated a French attempt to recolonize the country. It's an occasion for Mexicans and Mexican-Americans to celebrate their pride, joined by Americans of all ethnicities. Mexico celebrates its independence day on September 16, to commemorate breaking away from Spain in 1810.

Every seat was taken, and some people stood, to see first the Mariachi Femenil Orgullo Mexicano, which was all women and included a harp along with horns, guitars and other stringed instruments. Their name translates into English as Women's Mexican Pride.

The band was the Bay Area's first all-female mariachi



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

People got up to dance to the music of the Mariachi Femenil Orgullo Mexicano at San Leandro's Cinco de Mayo celebration held at the Marina Community Center on May 2.

band, founded in 2007. The 10 women members range from a current high school student to a holder of a doctorate degree, according to their website.

The crowd clapped along,

“Every seat was taken and some people stood to see the Mariachi Femenil Orgullo Mexicano.

sang along to some songs, and some people got up to dance.

The mariachi band was then joined by the Ballet Folklorico Costa de Oro, as well as students of the Mexican Folk Dance Class of San Leandro in a colorful and extensive dance program featuring traditional dances of Mexico.

The Ballet Folklorico has been performing in the Bay

Area since 2006, and in recent years has taught dance classes for ages 13 and up at the San Leandro Senior Community Center.

For more information on those classes, you can call the Recreation and Parks Department at 510-577-3462.

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FD# 1327

Sheriff's Dept. to Cease Sharing Driver Locations

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office has stopped sharing automated license plate reader (ALPR) information that includes driver locations with out-of-state law enforcement agencies, complying with state law to protect people's privacy including the rights of abortion seekers and providers, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the ACLU of Northern California announced last month.

An EFF investigation involving hundreds of public records requests revealed that many California police departments were violating a 2016 state law, SB 34, by sharing records containing residents'

detailed driving profiles with out-of-state or federal agencies, including agencies in states with restrictive abortion laws.

EFF and the ACLU of Northern and Southern California wrote to more than 70 such agencies in May 2023 to demand they comply with state law. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office was later found to be out of compliance as well, prompting the EFF and the ACLU of Northern California to send an additional demand letter in March 2024.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta agreed with the position of EFF and ACLU and issued a legal interpreta-

tion and guidance in October 2023 clarifying that SB 34 prohibits out-of-state sharing of ALPR information. After some police agencies disputed this interpretation, Bonta confirmed the guidance in a January 2024 letter. Nonetheless, some agencies still refuse to comply.

ALPRs operate as dragnet surveillance systems, collecting and storing location information about drivers, including dates, times, and locations. This sensitive information can reveal where people work, live, associate, worship, or seek reproductive

see COMPLY, page 12



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Barbeque Following Program 12 noon

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RETIRED) STEVEN JOHNSON

OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

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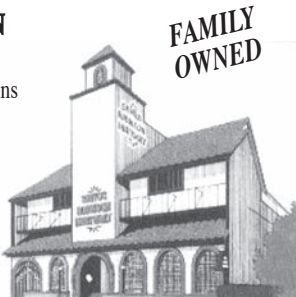
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Georgia McGregor

Also known as "RED"

Sept. 2, 1942 ~ March 17, 2024, St. Patrick's Day

Georgia worked at Banchemo's Italian Restaurant from 1986 until its closing in 2012.

She enjoyed her job and all the customers and they loved her. She enjoyed decorating the whole restaurant every season. Everyone always commented on how great it looked and how cheery it felt. That was her passion and she put her whole heart into it.

Surviving daughters — Leslie Hilton and Stacy McGregor and many grand/great-grand children. Georgia will always be in our hearts and memories. Till we meet again she will be greatly missed by all who entered into her life.



Alice Marie Vesterfelt

July 23, 1930 ~ March 14, 2024

Alice Marie Vesterfelt passed away at 93 years old on March 14, 2024 at Kaiser Hospital in San Leandro.

Alice grew up in Oakland where she graduated from Oakland Technical High School (Alice Feutren).

Alice retired from the San Leandro Unified School District and continued to enjoy times with the "Little Wheels."

Alice and her husband Dale were original homeowners in the San Leandro Bonaire Neighborhood where Alice distributed the Bonaire Breeze newsletter for the Bonaire Civic League.

Alice enjoyed gardening, especially orchids, and in recent years participated in Pieced Together Quilters Castro Valley.

Alice is survived by her sister: Dianna Corralejo, three daughters: LaRon (Jim) Golden, Rebecca Vesterfelt (Louis Cohen), Janele Vesterfelt; 4 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren and 2 nieces.

Alice was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years Dale Henry Vesterfelt who passed away on November 27, 2020.

Alice desired no funeral services thus her wish was honored by the family.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Sliding into Second

San Leandro High second baseman Lorenzo Charles forces out Encinal base runner Evan Furuichi and throws to first for a double play in a game won by Encinal last month. Last Friday, the Pirates beat Hayward, 8-2. In the last game of the regular season on Tuesday, San Leandro lost to Mt. Eden, 2-0, to finish the season with a 13-13 record.

Comply: Sharing data with other states violates privacy rights

continued from page 11

health services and other medical care.

Sharing this data with law enforcement in states that criminalize abortion undermines California's extensive efforts to protect reproductive health privacy, including a 2022 law (AB 1242) prohibiting state and local agencies from providing abortion-related information to out-of-state agencies, said the EFF. The UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy has estimated that between 8,000 and 16,100 people will travel to California each year for reproductive care.

"Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez has acted with wisdom and compassion by bringing her office, which serves California's seventh most-populous county, into line with state law to protect residents' and visitors' privacy," said EFF Staff Attorney Jennifer Pinsof. "We hope the attorney general will take action against any police agencies still violating SB 34, a brazen defiance of law that imperils marginalized communities across the country and puts abortion seekers, providers, and facilitators at greater risk of undue criminalization and prosecution."

"California police should not be sharing detailed maps of people's lives with anti-abortion states," said Matt Cagle, Senior Staff Attorney at the ACLU of Northern California. "As civil rights are attacked nationally, mass surveillance systems like license plate readers undermine California's goal of being a refuge for those seeking safety and care."

This article is from the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

Shot: Police ask for information in shooting

continued from front page

hicle collision," San Leandro police said in a press release.

Police said the investigation is being handled by Criminal Investigations Division detectives. Police said they will not release any more information at this time, including the name, age, or other

er details about this shooting.

Anyone with information about the shooting or the crash is asked to call San Leandro Police Sergeant J. Vincent at 510-577-0656, leave an anonymous tip by calling 510-577-3278, or text-a-tip at 888777 (keyword: TipSLPolice).

Memorial: Poems read in Taylor's memory

continued from page 11

at Taylor. The district attorney did not charge Overton. Another key issue for the group at its founding was to have mental health teams, not police, answer most mental health emergency calls.

Maricela told the audience that students at the academy had last year chosen Artivism as a chief way to honor Taylor's memory, which combines art and activism.

"Artivism holds so much power, because it directly connects to the emotions and imaginations of creatives within the community," she said. "I believe there is no better place or time to exemplify Artivism than right here and right now."

Poems in memory of Taylor were read by a half dozen more students.

Sophomores Briana, Ellie and Victoria in their poem "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" contrasted San Leandro's slogan of being a "City of Kindness" with how quickly Taylor was shot once the police officer entered the Walmart.

The same point was made in Symaia and Salam's poem, "City of Kindness."

Jacob, also a sophomore, read his own poem, along with a letter to the Taylor family from Lawrence who couldn't attend.

Addie Kitchen said at the afternoon memorial, "Justice



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

One of three trees planted at a morning commemoration of Steven Taylor's life on Friday, April 18 at the Steven Taylor Sanctity of Life Pavilion in Marina Park. From left, Steven Taylor's mother Sharon, his son Samarion, his grandmother Addie Kitchen and City Councilmember Fred Simon.

for Steven will be justice for many, hopefully."

She spoke of how devastating losing a family member to violence was, and said the families of people who fell to violence try to support each other as they heal. She singled out the family of Oscar Grant, shot to death by BART police on New Year's Day 2009, for being immediately supportive when they heard of her grandson's death.

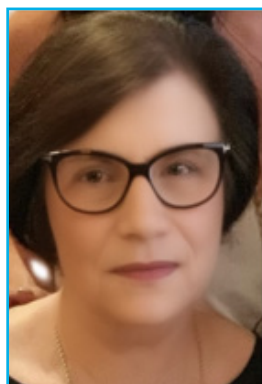
A special guest at the memorial was Oscar Grant's

"Uncle Bobby," who returned the thanks in an emotional speech, saying Justice for Steven Taylor immediately lent its support to his family upon its founding.

Taylor was 33 when he was shot to death on April 18, 2020 at the Hesperian Boulevard Walmart after police were called on a report of a disturbance. Taylor was holding a baseball bat and had allegedly threatened some people in the store.

Fletcher entered the store,

ordered Taylor to put down the bat, tried to grab it from Taylor when he didn't, and within 40 seconds of entering the store had shot him to death, according to official accounts and Fletcher's body-camera video. A city-sponsored outside investigation concluded Fletcher acted hastily and did not do enough to de-escalate the situation. Similar assertions are the basis for the criminal case now being pursued by the district attorney.



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