



**Parents Guide**  
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**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**COOL** Rain returns on  
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HIGHS: 50-55  
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**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 28 • NO. 3

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

One of the new features of the \$11.5 million San Lorenzo Community park upgrade project is a boardwalk around the duck pond.

## San Lorenzo Park Reopens

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

A major overhaul was recently completed at San Lorenzo Community Park and it's once again open for San Lorenzans to enjoy.

"Phase One" of the remodel was finished in late October and included the major task of adding soil to raise the fields up to

five feet in some areas because they were prone to flooding in rainy weather.

"It is a huge project," said Dan Giammona, park superintendent with the Hayward Area Recreation District (HARD).

Giammona said that the \$11.5 million project did not go over-budget, but it did go overtime, largely due to the very rainy

winter last year. When construction began in August of 2015, HARD officials said it would be done in September of 2016, then it was pushed to early 2017, and finally to last fall.

"The delays were mainly weather related but there are always going to be some delays

see PARK, page 14

## City Council Investigating City Manager

City Manager Zapata says accusations are retaliation by Davis Street marijuana interests

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

San Leandro City Manager Chris Zapata has announced that he is "separating" himself professionally from matters relating to the Davis Street Family Resource Center, saying he has been falsely accused of unethical behavior relating to the center, its CEO Rose Johnson and board president Gordon Galvan.

In what appears to be an effort to get in front of unspecified allegations, Zapata wrote 23-page letter to the Davis Street Family Resource Center board of directors (and emailed to the press) denying that he behaved improperly with Johnson and saying that he refused a series of bribes from Galvan.

The full text of Zapata's letter is available at [www.sanleandro-times.com](http://www.sanleandro-times.com).

Galvan has denied Zapata's claim and the City Council has hired an independent party to investigate the matter.

The rift between Zapata and the Davis Street Family Resource Center appears to stem from its involvement in medical marijuana. The Davis Street Family Resource Center is a "partner" of the Davis Street Wellness Center, a medical marijuana business, and Johnson and Galvan are both on the Wellness Center's board.

Zapata says that when the City of San Leandro didn't award the Wellness Center a permit to operate a dispensary back

see ZAPATA, page 14

## Panel Talks On Free Speech vs. Hate Speech

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, a San Leandro community group organized a panel on free speech to an audience of over 200 people of all ages and backgrounds at the Senior Center on Monday afternoon.

Titled "Hiding Racism Behind the First Amendment: Free Speech or Hate Speech?" the program was kicked off by keynote speaker Alan Schlosser, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Schlosser emphasized that the First Amendment of the Constitu-

see SPEECH, page 15

## Rent Hikes Hit Another Trailer Park

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

John Busch grew up in San Leandro, went to Roosevelt Elementary, Bancroft and San Leandro High.

But now he's finding it difficult to stay in the town that's always been home. Busch lives at the Estudillo Trailer Park on Grand Avenue, which was just sold and the new owners are jacking up the rent.

Residents own their trailers, but the property owner charges rent for the space.

"I was paying \$560 a month last year, plus \$40 for sewer and \$55 for electricity," Busch says.

But the residents recently

got a notice. Busch's rent goes up on Feb. 1 to \$845. Plus, the electricity charges seem to have gone up suddenly too.

"I never paid more than \$60 for electricity before," Busch says, showing a current bill for \$236.22.

Another resident at the trailer park says, "It's rent gouging. What they're doing is squeezing out all the folks on Social Security."

The 81-year-old Busch says he just makes do on Social Security and the new rent would take most of his monthly check.

see SAFE DEPOSIT, page 2



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

John Busch and other residents at the Estudillo Trailer Park just got a big rent increase. Busch says the last time he was in the paper was 65 years ago in the Boy Scouts.

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Man arrested for stealing license plates. **Page 3**

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Try this recipe for orange breakfast muffins. **Page 9**

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## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

### SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



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## Assumption Crab Feed Postponed

The Assumption Parish Men's Crab Feed that was planned for this evening (Thursday, Jan. 18) has been postponed due a combination of crab fishermen returning from a strike for better crab rates, as well as a lack of winter storms that create favorable conditions for collecting crab.

For more information, call 703-2871.

## Pets of the Week



Jethro



Duckie

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Jethro the cat and Duckie the cat.

Shy 2-year-old **Jethro** and bonded brother **Duckie** need a family with patience. Through no

fault of their own, they lost their home and family. Now they're re-learning to trust people. Both enjoy having their cheeks rubbed.

For more information on Jethro and Duckie, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

## Mystery Writers to Speak Tonight

Local mystery authors Ellen Kirschman, Mariella Krause, Camille Minichino, Ann Parker and Terry Shames will discuss their fascinating writing experiences and their most recent publications followed by a book-signing session for each author tonight (Thursday) from 6 to 8 p.m. at

the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Add to the fun by entering a character-naming drawing and win a chance to have your name printed in a future book by one of these authors. Admission is free. For more information, call 577-3971.

## Rent: 'We're going to make it look great'

*continued from front page*

"My feeling is you don't push people out who have been here for years," Busch says. "We can't have people come in from out of town and raise rent by a criminal amount."

But the new owner of the mobile home park, Harmony Communities, says the rents are still below market rate, lower than other parks in Castro Valley and Hayward.

"It's still \$150 below market rates in surrounding cities," said Harmony Communities spokesman Matthew Davies. "We tried to keep them down as much as we could. We worked with tenants who want to renew leases to make deals whenever we could to help them."

As for the increase in the electric bills, Davies said the bills are according to PG&E rates. He says the rate hike is due to the previous management not calculating the rates right.

"The electric bills are according to PG&E, we just go by what the rates are," Davis said. "The old owners did it by the seat of their pants. They weren't doing the arithmetic right. I don't know how they came up with their numbers."

Another resident of the park says her rent on modular unit went from \$850 to \$1,495 per month.

"I can survive this but there are people here who can't survive it," said Midalia Lebron. "This rent hike is criminal. Eighty percent of the residents here are on disability or a fixed income. I've heard people say they're going to



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

**A trailer park resident found a way to make a little green space on the paved property.**

camp out on the sidewalk. I don't want to see the police come here and handcuff elderly people."

Two other tenants in a mobile home are electricians from Redding who come to the Bay Area to work on construction projects. They say in addition to their rent hike, similar to Busch's, their electric bill went from \$65 to \$118 a month.

"The new owners said Donna was reading the meter wrong all those years," said the electrician who didn't want to give his name. "Really, she was reading it wrong...all those years?"

Davis with Harmony Communities says the rent hikes will be used to improve the property.

"We've budgeted about \$400,000 over the next 12 months for remodeling, curb appeal, roads, electrical and natural gas system," he said. "This property has been blight and we're going to make it something that looks great, something that San Leandrans will be proud of."

Busch says he doesn't believe the new management company.

And then he adds that he doesn't mind having his picture in the newspaper: "The last time I was in the paper was 65 years ago in the *San Leandro News Observer* when I was in the Boy Scouts. I was the acting police chief and they took a picture of me giving a ticket to the acting mayor."

## Get Tickets for Business Awards

San Leandro Chamber of Commerce will host its Business Awards Celebration, "Spotlight San Leandro: A Maker City," on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th

St. Tickets are \$125, and tables are \$2,000. VIP wine reception, hosted bar and hors d'oeuvres, nightcap and networking. Semi-formal attire.

For tickets, go to [sanleandro-chamber.com](http://sanleandro-chamber.com).

## Send Your Sweetheart & Loved Ones a Special Valentine Message

Published in the February 8th issue of the *San Leandro Times* and the February 14th issue of the *Castro Valley Forum*!

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

## ACFD Helps with Clean-Up Of Deadly Mudslides

An Alameda County Fire department bulldozer and staff to operate it were sent down to Santa Barbara last Saturday morning to help in the clean-up after last week's deadly mudslides.

## Teen's Murder Remains Unsolved

The family of the teen who was shot and killed in Cherryland in January of 2017 is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of his killer.

Hayward High School student Lamar Murphy, 16, was walking near the intersection of Princeton Street and Smalley Avenue in the unincorporated area on Jan. 23 last year at around 6:45 a.m.

when he was shot and killed by an unknown assailant in a possible drive-by.

Murphy played football at Hayward High and aspired to become a nurse.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Alameda County Sheriff's Office at 667-3628 or the anonymous tip line at 667-3622.



Lamar Murphy

## License Plate Thief Arrested

San Leandro police have arrested a transient man from Oakland for stealing license plates from parked cars in the north area.

A witness spotted a man stealing the plates at around 6 p.m. on Jan. 3.

When police arrived they found the 62-year-old suspect riding his bike on the 500 block of Begier Avenue, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

After being spotted by the police, the suspect removed two stolen license plates hidden inside of his pants and discarded them into some nearby bushes.

The man was arrested and both stolen license plates were recovered and returned to their owners.

"License plates are stolen randomly for various reasons," said Benabou in a written statement.

Most thefts — which are misdemeanors if the value of the items totals less than \$950 — typically occur during the night and may not immediately be known to the vehicle's owner.

The impact can be very time-consuming to the victim,

having to make appointments or wait in long lines at the DMV to obtain a replacement, Benabou said.

"Take precaution by securing your license plate with theft-resistant bolts and scoring the registration tabs with a razor to prevent them from being peeled away by thieves," Benabou said.

Police say people should report license plate thefts immediately.

## Elderly Woman Struck and Killed While Waiting for a Bus

An elderly woman was killed when she was struck by a car early last Friday morning.

Youjian Liang, 82, was at the bus stop at the intersection of East 14th Street and Fairmont Drive when she stepped into the roadway and was struck by a passing car just before 7 a.m. on Jan. 12, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

When officers arrived on

the scene, Liang was suffering from significant injuries and first responders attempted life-saving measures, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Witnesses stated that Liang stepped off of the curb and into the roadway when she was struck by a passing vehicle in the traffic lane.

"This is an active traffic investigation but I can say that

visibility may be a factor in the case," said Benabou in a written statement. "It is dark in those early morning hours but in (this) case, visibility was even more restricted due to the fog. Our sincere condolences go out to the victim and everyone involved in this tragic accident."

The driver of the vehicle remained on scene and is cooperating with the police investigation.

## Hit and Run Driver Caught by Dog

A suspect in an injury car crash was found hiding under a home in unincorporated San Leandro, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

The suspect, Charles Campbell, 38, of Oakland, was spotted by deputies at around 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 11 driving without his headlights on Foothill Boulevard.

### Pipe Burst on 164th

About a dozen customers lost water service in the unincorporated area early Tuesday morning and service was restored by mid-afternoon.

A 6-inch pipe broke shortly before 5 a.m. on 164th Avenue between Gordon Way and Helo Drive. East Bay Municipal Utility crews restored water service around 2 p.m.

The cause of the break is under investigation.

Streets in the residential area were closed to through traffic during the repairs.

When the cops tried to pull Campbell over, he sped away and struck another car at the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and 167th Street, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the sheriff's office.

A woman driving that car was injured and hospitalized and is expected to recover.

Kelly said authorities believe Campbell tossed a large amount of cocaine away as he ran.

After the collision, police

saw Campbell fled and hid under a nearby home and a police dog was used to locate him.

Campbell was treated for a dog bite and arrested. He is currently being held at Santa Rita Jail with a court date scheduled for later this week.

Campbell faces charges including felony hit and run, drug charges, evading an officer, and causing bodily injury to the other driver.

## Cops Seek Help in Cold Case

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in solving a 20-year-old cold case murder.

On Jan. 4, 1998 at just before 8 p.m. Samuel Canaday, 57, was found dead on the center divider of East 14th Street near 148th Avenue in unincorporated San Leandro.

Witnesses told police that Canaday and an unidentified

black male had an argument outside of the Corner House restaurant at around 5:30 that afternoon.

Canaday was last seen alive leaving a trailer park on 168th Avenue at approximately 7:55 p.m. carrying a tool box.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call 667-3661 or the anonymous tip line at 667-3622.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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# NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## A Little Preventative Maintenance

A crew trims a eucalyptus tree on the banks of San Leandro Creek behind an apartment building on Chumalia Street where several big trees have fallen along the creek in the last couple of years.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### ❖ Chanticleers Theatre

*Dial M for Murder*  
Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley, proudly presents *Dial M for Murder*, starting Friday, Feb. 2 through Feb. 25. This thriller by Frederick Knott and

directed by Katina Letheule is about Tony Wendice and his wife, Margot, and how he plans to murder her for her money. He blackmails a scoundrel he used to know into strangling her for a fee of one thousand pounds, and arranges

a brilliant alibi for himself. Unfortunately the murderer gets murdered and the victim survives. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors over 60. For more information, call 733-5483.

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** You might be hurt by a colleague's harsh criticism. But don't let it shake your confidence in what you're trying to do. A more positive aspect starts to appear by week's end.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** You're torn between your sensible self and the part of you that enjoys acquiring lovely things. Best advice: Wait for an end-of-month sale, and then buy something wonderful.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Your artistic side has practical applications this week, such as redecorating your home or redesigning your personal stationery. Whatever you do, someone special will like it.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** You could be drawn into a problem 'twixt friends or family members. Best bet: Ask the questions that go to the heart of the matter, then get them all together for a group hug.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** As much as you love being the center of attention, your big Lion's heart impels you to share the spotlight with a colleague who helped you with that well-praised project.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Your eagerness to act on a challenge is wisely tempered early in the week by a lack of necessary information. Things begin to clear up during the weekend.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** A relationship you'd hoped would keep going seems to be going nowhere. Close it out and move on to a brighter romantic aspect just beginning to manifest itself.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Things don't go completely as planned this week. But enjoy the surprises, even if you have to adjust your schedule. Some of them could be quite delightful.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Making choices is usually easy for straight-shooting Archers. But a new development could deflect your aim. Try to put off decisions until you know more.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** While part of you might prefer taking a more familiar path, let your more daring and — admit it — super-curious self see what the unexplored has to offer.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Those nasty types have slithered back under the rocks and present no more problems. Now's the time to move ahead on that promising new relationship.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** A new offer could clear up that lingering money problem. Also, a more confident attitude on your part might well help get that personal situation back on track.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ❖ SL Main Library Authors Night

Local mystery authors Ellen Kirschman, Mariella Krause, Camille Minichino, Ann Parker and Terry Shames will discuss their fascinating writing experiences and their most recent publications followed by a book-signing session for each author tonight, Jan. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Add to the fun by entering a character-naming drawing and win a chance to have your name printed in a future book by one of these authors. Admission is free. For more information, call 577-3971.

### ❖ SL Girls Softball League Sign-Ups

The San Leandro Girls Softball League will have its final sign-ups on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 2150 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. The league is open to girls age 5 to 14 of all playing abilities. Online registration is also available at [www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com](http://www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com). For more information, call Leo Sheridan at 909-7152.

### ❖ Community of Faith Breakfast

The Bay Area Family Church, 2305 Washington Ave. in San Leandro, will hold its monthly Community of Faith Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. with featured speaker Sri Nithya Poornananda who will speak on "The Journey of Inner Awakening: A Computer Scientist Finds His Path to Enlightenment."

### ❖ Kiwanis Club Annual Crab Feed

The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro is hosting its annual crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Boys and Girls Club, 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and dancing is from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$50, purchase them early for seats are reserved. For more information and tickets, call Terri Neumann at 895-4425.

### ❖ Eden Garden Club

The Eden Garden Club will meet on Monday Jan. 22, at 9:30 a.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road, Castro Valley. Master gardener Colette Castellino will speak about the benefits and enjoyment of edible landscaping. Meetings are free and guests are always welcome. For more information, call 397-1268.

### ❖ San Leandro Democratic Club

The San Leandro Democratic Club is having its 2018 election of officers. Members in good standing can vote or submit their name for an office position on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

### ❖ SL Business Awards Celebration

San Leandro Chamber of Commerce will host its Business Awards Celebration, "Spotlight San Leandro: A Maker City," on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. Tickets are \$125, and tables are \$2,000. VIP wine reception, hosted bar and hors d'oeuvres, nightcap and networking. Semi-formal attire. For tickets, go to [sanleandrochamber.com](http://sanleandrochamber.com).

### ❖ Sons of Norway Snorre Lodge Crab Feed

Sons of Norway Snorre Lodge 6-61 presents its annual crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 1808 B St. in Hayward. No host bar begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and raffle at 8:30 p.m. Make checks payable to Sons of Norway and send to Aunda Arndt, 1016 Apache St., Livermore, CA 94551. Cost is \$50 for Adults, \$17 for children

12 and under. For more information, email [aja469@hotmail.com](mailto:aja469@hotmail.com) or call 925-548-0292.

### ❖ St. James Lutheran Church

St. James Lutheran Church is observing its 90th anniversary in 2018. In celebration of the anniversary, church volunteers, nicknamed "Brew Crew," are inviting commuters in cars and on foot "to stop by for a free cup of coffee, a treat, a smile and God's blessings on the third Thursday of each month in 2018 between 7:30 and 9 a.m. on the sidewalk in front of the church at 993 Estudillo Ave. The first coffee offerings of the new year will be Jan. 18 and Feb. 15. Communion is held at the church every Sunday at 10 a.m. For more information about St. James Lutheran Church visit [www.stjamesl.org](http://www.stjamesl.org) or call 895-2286.

### ❖ American Sign Language Classes

American Sign Language classes will begin on Monday, Jan. 22, at the DCARA Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd., just across the street from the San Leandro BART Station. The level one class meets on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. and runs six weeks. The enrollment fee is \$130. The money goes to classes goes to support services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened and DeafBlind (D/HH/LD/DB) community. For more information and to register for the class, visit: [dcara.org/ASL](http://dcara.org/ASL).

### ❖ SL Rotary Endowment Annual Crab Feed

The San Leandro Rotary Endowment is having its annual Crab Feed on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club, 401 Marina Blvd. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner, starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased by visiting [www.sanleandro-rotary.org](http://www.sanleandro-rotary.org) or by contacting Aisha Knowles at 828-9199. Proceeds from the event support local service projects and non-profit organizations such as the Rotacare Clinic at the Davis Street Family Resource Center, Meals on Wheels and the San Leandro Education Foundation.

### ❖ St. John's Pancake Breakfast

St. John's Catholic Church, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo, invites everyone to an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, including pancakes, scrambled eggs, southwest scrambled eggs, link sausages, fresh fruit, orange juice, milk and coffee. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Funds will benefit St. John School. The event is hosted by Fr. Walter O'Brien Council #3518 of the Knights of Columbus.

### ❖ Harmony Fusion Chorus Open Rehearsal

Harmony Fusion Chorus, an award-winning women's a cappella barbershop show chorus, will host a special open rehearsal night to welcome new singers of all ages, backgrounds and cultures on Monday, Jan. 29, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Hill and Valley Women's Club, 1808 B St. in Hayward. The chorus is open to singers of high school age and above and meets every Monday (except most holidays). For more information about the open rehearsal night, contact Joanne Morrison at (925) 373-0210.

### ❖ Alta Mira Club Shrimp Fest

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host a shrimp fest on Saturday, Feb. 3, starting at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. includes all-you-can-eat shrimp, pasta, salad, bread and ice cream. Tickets are \$40. For tickets and information, call Carol at 305-5393.

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. Only Non-Profit Organizations should submit calendar items.

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# PARENTS GUIDE

## Improve Mental Health Among LGBTQ Youths

As a young boy, James knew that meeting with his therapist should not be making his depression worse. His therapist used conversion therapy — a practice meant to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

These sessions only made him feel shameful and isolated. James had known he was gay since he was very young. But because he wanted to be accepted by his family and friends who were not supportive of a gay identity, he continued with conversion therapy. Unfortunately, denying a piece of his identity was harmful to his mental health.

Now, as an adult, James is a therapist who helps youths who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity (LGBTQ youths) with their mental health and well-being.

LGBTQ youths are more likely to suffer from mistreatment and discrimination, compared to

their heterosexual counterparts. At school, they are more often the target of bullying and harassment than other students.

They are at higher risk for anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and attempt, and mental health problems.

These youths do not struggle with mental health issues because of their identities. They are put at risk for mental health issues because of how people — which may include family members and peers — are unaccepting of LGBTQ identities.

In an effort to improve LGBTQ youths' health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a federal government agency focused on mental health and well-being, has recommended against health professionals using conversion therapy.

Rather than providing the support that LGBTQ youths need, conversion therapy perpetuates outdated gender roles and negative stereotypes that being a sexual or gender minority or

identifying as LGBTQ is an abnormal aspect of human development.

When LGBTQ youths are rejected by their family or peers, it negatively impacts their well-being. Therefore, rejected youths need adults who are supportive, including health care professionals. As a therapist for LGBTQ people, James can give his patients what he was not given as a young boy: an adult who accepts them, regardless of identity.

Researchers have discovered that "connectedness" can help promote healthy development in youths. "Connectedness" is just what it sounds like; feeling connected and supported by important adults and institutions, like schools, leads to well-being.

Here are some important ways that adults can help LGBTQ youths get the "connectedness" they need:

✓ Parents and family members can make sure to express affection for LGBTQ children or

adolescents, showing them that they are accepted regardless of identity.

✓ Talk and listen respectfully, to understand a child's experiences.

✓ Stand up for a child or adolescent if he or she is hurt or mistreated or experiences discrimination. Knowing that a parent or caring adult is committed to ensuring that an LGBTQ youth is safe, and providing an open and accepting place, is a powerful support.

✓ Teachers and other educators can encourage all students and staff to stop any bullying or harassment and make schools a welcoming place for all students.

These simple actions can make a life-changing difference for LGBTQ youths. Learn more by reading SAMHSA's report, titled "Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth," available free at [store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA15-4928](http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA15-4928).

—North American Precise Synd. Inc.



Mental health experts say LGBTQ youths need support from adults in their lives.

## Greater Parent Involvement in the Classroom Could Help Boost Teacher Recruitment Efforts

Parental involvement in the classroom is a well-known strategy to boost student achievement, but according to a recent survey, 62 percent of K-12 teachers say fewer than a quarter of parents get involved in the classroom.

Teachers wish to have more parents involved, especially in elementary school. When asked what would attract more qualified educators to the field, 18 percent of K-12 teachers want more parent involvement in the classroom, with 21 percent teaching K-5 seeing the value.

To improve teacher retention,

almost 30 percent said that programs encouraging parent participation in schools and classrooms was a potential solution.

The survey, conducted by the Harris Poll, highlights the unique opportunity that parents have to become more involved in their children's classrooms and to make an impact on their learning and classroom experience.

"Parents are the first teachers of their children, and they play an integral role in their education both inside and outside the classroom," says Pamela Rogge-

man, Ed.D., academic dean for University of Phoenix College of Education. "Communication between parents and teachers is critical to student success. As a former high school teacher, I saw firsthand how a culture of collaboration improved student outcomes and teacher satisfaction."

### How Teachers Want Parents To Get Involved

When asked about ways that teachers would like parents involved in the classroom, they responded:

• Don't wait until there's an issue to connect with the teacher (68 percent).

• Ask about areas for improvement for their child (65 percent).

• Communicate regularly with the teacher (65 percent).

"The most impactful thing parents can do to stay engaged in their child's learning is to have open dialogue and communication with their child's teacher throughout the year," adds Rogge-man. "This allows parents to have a better understanding of their child's progression and can help parents support the academic growth of their child through at-home activities to supplement

see INVOLVEMENT, page 7

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[www.stjohncatholicschool.org](http://www.stjohncatholicschool.org)



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### Open House

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CITY CORNER

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This program provides preschool children with a variety of play and learning activities designed to provide basic learning skills, develop social and motor skills, independence and positive self-esteem, in a safe and supportive environment. Activities include arts and crafts, circle time, sharing, reading, free play, movement and more. (Children must be potty trained at the start of the class.)

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Parents and toddlers join in the fun and learning as we read, sing and play! Children will learn in both Spanish and English languages to build and improve skills that are essential to school readiness. English language learners welcome. This program is for children 19 months to 5 years old. An adult is required to accompany their child to each class session.

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## Prepare Yourself and Your Kids for Social Media

### Hateful comments can be restricted and even blocked

With the recent discussion about bullying, social media safety has become a prevalent discussion topic for many parents. Safety is always a paramount concern and social media and the internet make it exceedingly difficult to protect children.

Mercury Insurance has compiled Essential Tips for parents when allowing their children on social media.

#### 1. Set Parental Controls and Monitor Internet Usage

While parents need to walk a fine line between respecting their children's privacy and being too nosy, there are many social media monitoring apps available to help them observe their children's online activities.

A few popular parental monitoring apps include: Net

Nanny, My Mobile Watch Dog and Symantec Norton Family Premier. Parents can also use filters to limit internet use to certain sites, read chats and block messages.

Another way to keep tabs on internet usage is to keep the family computers and connected devices, like tablets, in the living room or a common space — this will make things more public. It also might be a good idea to set specific hours for internet usage in order to restrict how much time your kids are spending online.

Knowing who your kids are talking to online and what sites they frequent by checking the devices internet browsing history is similar to knowing who they are hanging out with at school.

#### 2. Set Social Media Age Restrictions

Facebook doesn't allow children under the age of 13 to create a profile, and this is a steadfast rule for most other social media sites as well. However, children with unrestricted internet access can easily lie about birthdates and set up accounts.

Uphold age restrictions on social media channels by blocking access to these websites until your children are old enough and have a good understanding of what is and what is not appropriate behavior.

#### 3. Beware of Catfish

Catfish is a term used for individuals who assume personas online that do not represent who they are in real life. These people could be posing as a real person or create a completely fictitious identity.

Predators often develop personas that make it seem like they are much younger than they actually are in order to connect with children, so coach your children to avoid accepting friend requests from people who they don't know personally.

Make sure they understand the dangers of online friendships — because you never know exactly who is on the other side of those conversations.



One way to keep tabs on internet usage is to keep the family computers and connected devices, like tablets, in the living room or a common space — this will make things more public.

#### 4. Address Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying occurs when children are bullied by their peers on the internet. Bullying can have a profound impact on young people, and it's important to actively

discourage your kids from engaging in this type of behavior.

Let your kids know that they can confide in you if they're being bullied online. Make sure they're aware that hateful

comments and unwanted messages can be restricted and even blocked through settings on their social media profiles to limit this type of unwanted interaction with others online.

## Read at Least 15 Pages a Day

There's a pleasant, easy way parents and teachers can improve their own memory and mental development and help their children do the same.

How? Simply by reading at least 15 Pages A Day in print.

#### ■ Expert Advice

"Reading, like playing a musical instrument or exercising, involves habit," explains Dr. Naomi Baron, professor of linguistics at American University. She studied students in the United States and found students who read digitally are more distracted.

"Ninety-two percent of U.S. students found it easiest to concentrate when reading a hard copy," said Dr. Baron. "Students tell us they remember more when reading in print, spend more time when reading print and read more carefully than with digital texts."

Adds Daniel Willingham, professor of psychology at the University of Virginia, there's a "cost to comprehension when students read from a screen."

#### ■ What To Do

To exercise your brain, pledge

to read at least 15 Pages A Day in print. Share your involvement and invite friends to take the pledge using #15Pages on social media.

#### ■ Why It Matters

The American Library Association says "students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas, and have greater content knowledge than those who do not."

Reading aloud for 15 minutes a day aids language development, instills a love of reading, and increases understanding of how knowledge is gained and shared.

Current research indicates that taking notes by hand on paper aids memory and recollection.

According to another recent study, "people who regularly read and write have a markedly slower decline in memory than people who don't."

—North American Precis Synd. Inc.



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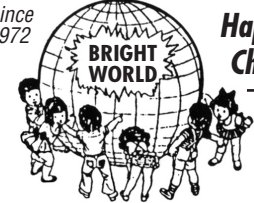
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For more information, please visit [www.stfelicitas-school.org](http://www.stfelicitas-school.org)

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# Prepare Your Child for Success in School

One of the best things you can do for your children is to make sure they attend school every day. After all, we want our kids to have the best possible chance of doing well in school and achieving their dreams.

But getting a child to school isn't always easy. While some absences are understandable, it's important to understand the impact of each absence.

Although most parents understand the importance of getting their child to school every day, many believe that missing three or more days of school each month won't make a difference.

In reality, as early as elementary school, students who miss just two school days per month are more likely to fall behind in school, and less likely to graduate from high school. Even when the absences are excused or understandable, absences add up.

Students who miss just two days of school each month end up missing 18 school days, or 10 percent of the school days in a year.

By following these five simple tips, you can help ensure your child attends school every day. Attending school every day puts your child on the path toward success in school and in life.

## What to Do:

1. Keep track of how many days of school your child has missed.

2. Figure out why your child is absent from school. Is your child dealing with a chronic illness such as asthma? Is he being bullied or struggling at school? Is she staying home to help care for a family member?

3. Ask teachers and community leaders for advice and specific resources. Reach out to other parents, too, to ask for help and share tips.

4. Consider enrolling your child in a mentoring or an after-school program. When kids work with mentors, they learn about the

importance of attending school every day.

With an additional support system in place, kids learn strategies to address their day-to-day challenges. Similarly, when kids get involved in afterschool programs, they are more likely to feel connected to their school communities and are less likely to be absent.

5. Visit AbsencesAddUp.org for information on the impact of absences and resources to help prevent them in the future. On the website, you'll learn how to help children who are struggling in school, being bullied, managing chronic illness or dealing with mental health challenges.

Additionally, the site also provides parents with resources to assist with caregiving, housing and



Many parents may be surprised to learn that even two absences a month can seriously hurt a child's academic progress.

food challenges.

## Learn More

Families can visit AbsencesAddUp.org to find resources and tips that can help them

through many challenges, whether their child isn't feeling well, their family is struggling with housing, or anything in between.

—North American Precip Synd. Inc.

## Involvement: Don't forget to say thank you to your child's teacher for all their hard work

continued from previous page  
what's being done in the classroom."

### Increasing Parent-Teacher Communication

Keeping up regular communication with a child's teacher can be challenging for parents, particularly when balancing work, personal and family responsibilities.

To help, Roggeman suggests four simple practices for parents to increase communication with their child's educators:

1. **Identify the best method of communication.** Today's teachers create numerous ways to stay engaged with parents outside the classroom, including e-mail, a social media group, classroom websites or handwritten notes. Find out the teacher's preferred method of communication for quicker responses and stay engaged.

2. **Ask about classroom activities and feedback on your child's performance.** Learn about current classroom lessons and activities. Ask for constructive feedback on how a child is performing to better understand difficult subjects for your child and areas for improvement.

3. **Don't be afraid to ask for homework help.** It can sometimes be difficult to help children with their homework as curriculum evolves and parents might need to "brush up" on a subject. It's natural — and

not unreasonable — to ask educators for homework help and important to ensure children understand the curriculum.

4. **Don't forget to say "thanks."** Teachers choose the profession to make a difference in students' lives. They may manage more than 100 students a day and act not just as educators but as role models, guardians and caretakers for the na-

tion's students.

So, don't forget to say thank you to your child's teachers for choosing the profession and for all their hard work.

University of Phoenix College of Education has been educating teachers and school administrators for more than 30 years. For more information, visit [www.phoenix.edu/education](http://www.phoenix.edu/education).

—North American Precip Synd. Inc.

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**JANUARY 28**

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## The Three Stages of Retirement

By Jack Teboda

Special to the Times

**P**eople often view retirement as just one more stage of life.

But that's not exactly the case. Retirement isn't just one stage; it's at least three – although all three do share something in common.

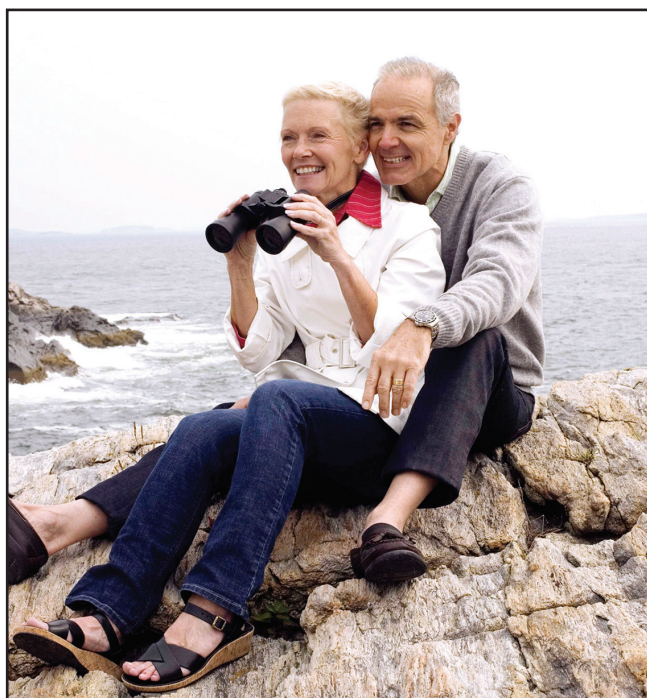
Every stage of retirement requires planning. Otherwise, you could end up running out of money, or your health might take a turn for the worse and negatively impact your retirement savings because you hadn't planned for it in those early years of retirement.

It's not easy to put exact ages on each of the three stages of retirement. That likely will vary from person to person, depending on their finances, health and family situation.

But here's what to look for in each stage:

● **Stage 1** – adjusting to a new lifestyle.

Many new retirees brim with excitement when retirement begins. They can golf, visit muse-



**NAVIGATING THE 3 STAGES: Every stage of retirement requires planning. Otherwise, you could end up running out of money, or your health might take a turn for the worse and negatively impact your retirement savings because you hadn't planned for it in those early years of retirement.**

ums, play with their grandchildren, travel or catch up on their reading.

Not everyone adjusts well, though. It's not easy to flip the switch overnight after you've spent several decades reporting to work every day.

Also, if your retirement income is largely dependent on your savings you'll want to be careful that you don't spend too much in those initial years. Your adviser should be able to help you come up with a plan that will give you income for life so you don't have to worry about running out of money.

● **Stage 2** – staying socially connected.

As the years pass, many retirees move closer to their children or move into a retirement community because it makes them feel more socially connected.

Sometimes at this point, especially if they haven't planned well, people may start to have even more worries that they will outlive their money.

One way they address that is to cut back on expenses. Some people even decide to get a part-time job to bring in extra money, and working becomes another way to stay connected.

● **Stage 3** – realizing you may need assistance.

More than 70 percent of Americans older than 65 will need some form of long-term care at some point in their lives, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. When people map out their retirement, they need to plan for that possibility because the cost of long-term care can be devastating to your finances.

People need to consider a number of factors – taxes, longevity and market risks, among others – to improve the odds of a joyful retirement.

In each stage of retirement, it's important to confer regularly with your adviser and to be ready to adjust your financial plans if necessary.

Jack Teboda is president of Teboda & Associates ([www.teboda.com](http://www.teboda.com)), a financial services firm.

## Retirees Find Volunteer Opportunities

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

**F**or many retirees, finding a volunteer opportunity that satisfies your interests, utilizes your talents and matches your availability can be challenging.

To help you find an interesting and satisfying volunteer opportunity, here are some tips and online tools that can help you search.

### Getting Started

Volunteering is a great way for retirees to make a positive contribution to their community and stay actively engaged, not to mention it's good for your health too. But how can you find the right opportunity for you?

Start by asking yourself some basic questions like: What types of organizations or activities are you interested in? What kind of skills can you offer a volunteer organization? How much time are you willing to give? What do you want to gain from your experience (for example, meet new people, learn new skills, help those in need, exposure to a particular issue)?

Once you get a general idea of what you'd like to do, there are dozens of volunteer websites that can help you search for different opportunities in your area.

Most sites work like search engines that let you choose an area of interest and type in your ZIP code or city and state. The sites will then give you a list of opportunities that you can check into.

Depending on your interest and expertise, here are some top websites to help you get started.

● **General volunteer matching sites:** To find a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in your community, check out VolunteerMatch.org, IdeaList.org and AllForGood.org – a Point of Light website (the world's leading volunteer service organization) that lets you search for local volunteer opportunities or start your own project and invite others to help you.

Also see HandsOnNetwork.org, another Point of Light enterprise that connects volunteers to opportunities through more than 250 volunteer centers throughout the U.S.

● **Retiree volunteer sites:** If you're interested in opportunities targeting older adults and retirees, some good options include AARP's CreateTheGood.org, along with SeniorCorps.gov, which matches retirees with community projects and organizations that need experienced volunteer help.

Senior Corps offers three different programs: RSVP, which has a variety of volunteer activities with flexible time commitments; the Senior Companion Program that brings together volunteers with homebound seniors who have difficulty with day-to-day living tasks; and the Foster Grandparent Program that matches volunteers with kids in the community that have exceptional needs.

● **Government-sponsored sites:** A number of government-sponsored websites can help you look for different volunteer opportunities. To locate dozens of general options in your area visit Serve.gov.

To find natural and cultural volunteer opportunities in places like national and state parks, see Volunteer.gov.

If you're interested in emergency preparedness and disaster response volunteer services go to Ready.gov. Or, if you're interested in longer-term volunteer opportunities check out AmeriCorps.gov and PeaceCorps.gov/50plus, which offers a bevy of three-month to two-year programs in the U.S. and abroad.

● **Professional and executive sites:** If you have expertise in areas like business planning and development, marketing, communications, finance, fund raising, web and graphic design, or writing and editing there are sites – like Catchafire.org, TaprootPlus.org and ESCUS.org – that can link you to volunteer opportunities with nonprofit organizations in need.

Or, you can help entrepreneurs and small business owners through the SCORE.org volunteer mentoring program.

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book. Most sites work like search engines that let you choose an area of interest and type in your ZIP code or city and state. The sites will then give you a list of opportunities that you can check into.

Depending on your interest and expertise, here are some top websites to help you get started.

● **General volunteer matching sites:** To find a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in your community, check out Volunteer-

Match.org, IdeaList.org and AllForGood.org – a Point of Light website (the world's leading volunteer service organization) that lets you search for local volunteer opportunities or start your own project and invite others to help you.

Also see HandsOnNetwork.org, another Point of Light enterprise that connects volunteers to opportunities through more than 250 volunteer centers throughout the U.S.

● **Retiree volunteer sites:** If you're interested in opportunities targeting older adults and retirees, some good options include AARP's CreateTheGood.org, along with SeniorCorps.gov, which matches retirees with community projects and organizations that need experienced volunteer help.

Senior Corps offers three different programs: RSVP, which has a variety of volunteer activities with flexible time commitments; the Senior Companion Program that brings together volunteers with homebound seniors who have difficulty with day-to-day living tasks; and the Foster Grandparent Program that matches volunteers with kids in the community that have exceptional needs.

● **Government-sponsored sites:** A number of government-sponsored websites can help you look for different volunteer opportunities. To locate dozens of general options in your area visit Serve.gov.

To find natural and cultural volunteer opportunities in places like national and state parks, see Volunteer.gov.

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Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



### Congressman Swalwell Meets Local Realtors

Real estate professionals assess impact of new tax laws

In a move designed to understand how the new tax bill will affect Bay Area real estate, Rep. Eric Swalwell (CA-15) met with a panel of local Realtors Saturday in Castro Valley.

Interested in hearing East Bay real estate expert's views on the new, Republican-passed tax law, Rep. Swalwell was specifically concerned about how changes to the mortgage interest deduction and state and local tax deduction might affect current and prospective homeowners.

An advisory on the new tax regulations issued by the Congressman's office prior to the meeting stated, "This law

punishes homeowners and discourages home ownership, particularly in high-cost regions like the Bay Area. The ability to deduct state and local property taxes from their federal tax bills is now capped at \$10,000, and interest on mortgages only up to \$750,000 is deductible under the new law, down from the previous \$1 million cap.

A CNN Poll conducted in the days leading up to Congress' final votes on the tax law found 55 percent of Americans opposed it, while only 33 percent said they favored it."

During an interview after the panel, Rep. Swalwell stated, "Today I convened local Realtors to talk about how this tax bill is going to affect them. What I heard is that there is a lot of uncertainty, but what they are certain about is that this is a high-cost area with a number of people trying to aspire to be homeowners."

"When you limit the deductions they can take on their state and local taxes and you reduce the mortgage interest deduction to \$750,000 it's going to make it a lot harder for first-time home buyers to realize that American dream of home ownership."

When questioned about who the tax changes will affect, Swal-

well clarified, "We are a home ownership society. We want people to plan and work hard and be able to buy a home and have roots in a community. This tax bill makes it a lot harder."

He further explained, "I heard a stunning statistic today that in California we have a 29-percent affordability (according to the California Association of Realtors), so it's already a small pool of people who are working very hard that can afford a home."

Concluding, Rep. Swalwell stated, "We want to have as many people as possible that work hard to be able to obtain that dream."

Central County Realtors agree.

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

### Mortgage Rates Bounce Back Up

Average mortgage rates rose across the board last week, according to Freddie Mac's nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.99 percent, up from the previous week when it averaged 3.95 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 4.12 percent.

Fifteen-year home loan rates averaged 3.44 percent, up from 3.38 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.46 percent this week, up from 3.45 percent.



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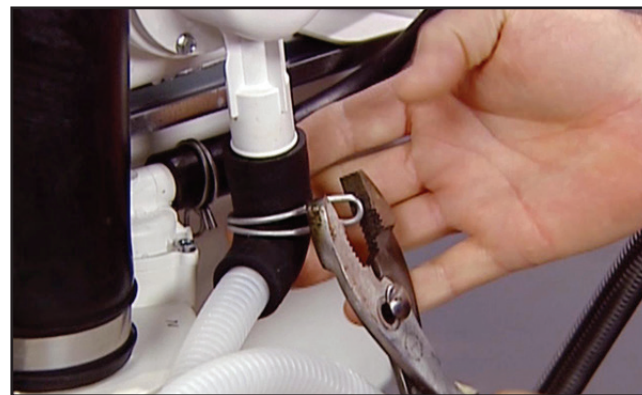
## SOON TO MARKET!



## Replace a Leaky Dishwasher Hose

By Samantha Mazzotta  
Special to the Times

After several days, I finally located the source of a mysterious leak along the inside wall of my basement. The flexible drain pipe from the back of my dishwasher cracked, so that water pours down the kitchen wall behind the cabinet. My dishwasher is pretty old, and I'm not sure I can find a replacement part. Should I just buy a new appliance?



You should be able to find a replacement hose for your dishwasher at your home-improvement store.

at the circuit panel if there is no standard outlet) and gently slide it out of its cabinet so that you can access the hose.

Disconnect the hose from the appliance and from the sink trap or garbage disposal, depending on how it was installed. Take the hose to the home-improvement store to find a comparable size and length. (Don't purchase a shorter length, by the way. The hose needs to be set up so that its middle part is higher than the inlet/outlet connections.)

Connect the new hose, first to the sink trap or garbage disposal, then to the dishwasher outlet. Plug the dishwasher back in (or turn on the circuit). Place a piece of plastic along the floor under the outlet and under the sink trap connection, then run the dishwasher empty for a full cycle

and monitor for leaks from the connections. If you detect any, adjust the connections until the leak stops.

Once the leak is fixed, take a close look at the floor and wall behind the dishwasher as well as the basement ceiling, and note the location and extent of water damage. Damp drywall and flooring may dry without issues, but materials that get repeatedly soaked can develop a mold problem. If you detect mold, the affected drywall or ceiling should be cut out and replaced; flooring may not need replacement, but does need to be treated to remove mold.

Home Tip: Avoid cleaning a dishwasher's interior with bleach or products containing bleach, as it could break down seals and other components.

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# Bromeliad Pups Perpetuate Mother Plant

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** How do I get my bromeliad plant to bloom again? Someone suggested that I put the plant into a bag of cut-up apples. Also, how long can I keep it as a houseplant?

All bromeliads have colorful, long-lasting flowers and some varieties have brilliant foliage. They make an excellent, long-lasting houseplant because they adapt to the unfavorable growing conditions that exist in most homes.

Bromeliad varieties with thick, gray, gray-green or fuzzy foliage withstand the brightest light levels and some direct sun-

light while Tillandsias and other species with soft, green, thin leaves grow best in low light conditions.

At the end of their blooming cycle, they'll need to be divided. The flowering or mother plant usually dies after flowering, but it does produce pups or side shoots first.

You can perpetuate the plant by separating the pups from the mother plant and growing them on as new plants. These new plants then flower. The pups should be a half to one-third the size of the parent before removing them.

You may begin to see roots on pups, but even if they haven't formed roots, mature pups can survive since they are epiphytic.



Bromeliads can be separated and grown as new plants.

Epiphytic plants can grow without roots. In their natural habitat, they grow in the canopy of trees where they anchor themselves by their roots to the tree trunks. They don't have extensive roots, so they are adaptable to being grown in relatively small containers.

The longer pups remain on the parent, the earlier they will reach maturity and flower. That means tolerating a dying parent plant whose leaves will yellow and eventually turn brown. If necessary, you can trim back the parent plant's leaves, allowing more room for the pups to grow.

Once they are big enough, it is time to remove the bromeliad pups. You'll need a sharp knife, and it's often best to remove the mother plant from the container to better see where to make the cuts. You'll cut the pup away from the parent, taking a small amount of the parent along with the offset.

The container should be twice as big as the base of the pup, and you can use any of the commercial potting soils. The

pups may need support for the first few weeks until more extensive roots form. A straw is a sufficient stake to support the new pups. The straw is removed after enough roots have formed.

You can force bromeliads into bloom by exposing the plants to ethylene gas. Many fruits, such as apples and pears, release ethylene naturally.

To encourage your bromeliads to bloom, place the plants inside a clear plastic bag with sliced apples for 10 to 14 days. You need to tie the bag securely to trap the ethylene gas. As the apple slices age, they emit the ethylene gas that, in turn, induces the formation of flowers.

Depending on the variety the new plants should be in bloom again in 6 to 14 weeks.

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



## WEEKEND GARDENER

### Rainy-Day Chores

During January's rain, take time to reassess your garden's "grand plan." Take a look at your yard in the winter grayness. If it looks too bleak, visit your local garden center to get ideas for what plants and shrubs look good during the winter season. And, if you enjoy growing plants from seed, this is the perfect time to get out those seed catalogs and start ordering. Spring will be here before you know it. Catalogs generally offer a greater variety of flowers and vegetables that you'll find on store racks.

### Lawns

On dry days, rake up leaves and debris from the lawn so a buildup won't flatten the grass. Be careful about walking on the grass too much during rain storms.



Coordinated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada, this winter-long survey tracks birds that visit feeders in backyards, nature centers and other locations in North America. Participants are sent research kits and instructions, then provide data to the project about the number and kinds of birds visiting their feeders. This helps scientists track bird populations and their movements, and changes in their wintering ranges. Anyone, even children, can apply to take part in this study.

Source: [feederwatch.org](http://feederwatch.org)

- Brenda Weaver

## OPEN HOMES SATURDAY & SUNDAY JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup>

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
S	2-4:30	2-4:30	149 Marlow Dr.	\$649,000	2/1	Marvin Gardens Real Estate	Greg Novak	510-472-4770
D	1-4	1-4	7755 Squirrel Creek Cir.	\$995,000	4/3	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Lisa Ferraris	925-251-2583
C	—	1-4	33803 Palomares Rd.	\$1,295,000	3/2	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy Peixoto Team	925-251-2536

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### San Leandro

2808 Marineview Drive	94577: \$950,000	3 BD - 2,108 SF - 1964
14159 Outrigger Dr	94577: \$505,000	1 BD - 962 SF - 1985
770 Victoria Avenue	94577: \$705,000	2 BD - 1,001 SF - 1930
958 Woodland Avenue	94577: \$610,000	2 BD - 1,108 SF - 1926
328 Anza Way	94578: \$620,000	3 BD - 1,078 SF - 1954
908 Dillo Street	94578: \$625,000	2 BD - 1,042 SF - 1948
759 Majestic Way #28	94578: \$385,000	2 BD - 918 SF - 1987
1539 Oriole Avenue	94578: \$495,000	2 BD - 1,072 SF - 1926
16680 Winding Boulevard	94578: \$685,000	3 BD - 1,380 SF - 1963
14854 Acacia Street	94579: \$400,000	3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1953
1286 Mersey Avenue	94579: \$610,000	3 BD - 1,351 SF - 1953
2213 Wigeon Court	94579: \$660,000	3 BD - 1,471 SF - 1999

**TOTAL SALES:** 12  
**LOWEST AMOUNT:** \$575,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$862,500  
**HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$975,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$862,000

### San Lorenzo

1550 Bancroft Avenue	94577: \$479,000	3 BD - 1,680 SF - 1976
791 Dolores Avenue	94577: \$725,000	3 BD - 1,381 SF - 1948
1081 Douglas Court	94577: \$605,000	3 BD - 1,234 SF - 1942
2456 Driftwood Way	94577: \$690,000	5 BD - 1,584 SF - 1963
351 Kenilworth Avenue	94577: \$640,000	2 BD - 1,121 SF - 1926
14263 Seagate Drive	94577: \$480,000	2 BD - 904 SF - N/A
1563 136th Avenue	94578: \$750,000	3 BD - 1,834 SF - 1947
1722 140th Avenue	94578: \$550,000	4 BD - 1,604 SF - 1947

**TOTAL SALES:** 18  
**LOWEST AMOUNT:** \$431,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$617,500  
**HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$800,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$605,306

### Castro Valley

19694 Bernal Street	94546: \$755,000	3 BD - 1,600 SF - 1961
18489 Center Street	94546: \$935,000	3 BD - 1,683 SF - 1956
19068 Clemans Drive	94546: \$905,000	3 BD - 1,699 SF - 1952
5166 Crane Avenue	94546: \$880,000	4 BD - 1,792 SF - 1959
18577 Doris Court	94546: \$765,000	3 BD - 1,448 SF - 1963
4522 Edwards Lane	94546: \$680,000	3 BD - 1,275 SF - 1963
20177 Forest Avenue	94546: \$505,000	N/A BD - 1,402 SF - 1962
4227 Mabel Avenue	94546: \$720,000	3 BD - 989 SF - 1950
4758 Proctor Road	94546: \$1,010,000	3 BD - 1,332 SF - 1952
18345 Redwood Road	94546: \$479,000	2 BD - 1,094 SF - 1950
21348 Rizzo Avenue	94546: \$545,000	2 BD - 1,100 SF - 1947
18830 Sandy Road	94546: \$862,000	3 BD - 1,233 SF - 1947
2345 Star Avenue	94546: \$625,000	3 BD - 1,119 SF - 1947
4945 Vannoy Avenue	94546: \$550,000	[N/A BD - N/A SF - N/A]

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### ACROSS

- 1 Nasty insect
- 5 Badly lit
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- 12 Chills and fever
- 13 Kreskin's claim
- 14 Docket entry
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- 17 Anger
- 18 Dine
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- 23 Augment
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- 32 Concept
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- 35 Pry
- 36 Singer Winehouse
- 37 Droop
- 38 Cut corners
- 41 Huge
- 42 Greek cross
- 45 Actress Gilpin
- 46 "... twilight's last \_"
- 48 Privy to
- 49 Boxer
- 50 Pedestal occupant
- 51 Chinatown gang
- 52 Witness
- 53 Say it ain't so

### DOWN

- 1 Test the waters
- 2 City of India
- 3 Fat
- 4 Pod denizen
- 5 Treat as a god
- 6 "\_\_\_ It Romantic?"
- 7 Gasoline stat
- 8 Very conspicuous
- 9 Cafe au \_
- 10 Capri, e.g.
- 11 Equal
- 16 Shark variety
- 20 Modern-day evidence
- 21 Like some video on the Web
- 22 Praise in verse
- 23 Spring mo.
- 24 Buck's mate
- 25 One of the Seven Dwarfs
- 26 High card
- 27 Commotion
- 28 Modern (Pref.)
- 29 Spigot
- 31 Wall climber
- 34 Mischievous one
- 35 Long story
- 37 Prolonged attack
- 38 Skewer
- 39 Gambling game
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- 41 Sad
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- 43 In due time
- 44 Homely
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 3



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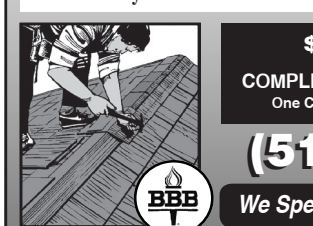
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# Zapata: Marijuana business comes in and city hall goes to pot

continued from front page

in 2015, he became a target of Johnson and Galvan's ire.

Davis Street Wellness was eventually awarded a permit to operate a pot dispensary in 2016 but they still need to pay the city back on a \$350,000 loan before the Wellness Center can open its doors.

The relationship between Zapata and Johnson was further strained in late 2016 when Zapata released a letter demanding that the Family Resource Center pay back an overdue \$1.5 million loan from the city.

Zapata says he believes that Johnson was angry and embarrassed that Davis Street's financial issues were made public and retaliated against him.

Mayor Pauline Cutter said that Zapata's actions are being investigated. The City Council held four separate performance reviews of Zapata in closed sessions on Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18, and Jan. 8.

In a written statement, Mayor Pauline Cutter said: "Allegations regarding misconduct have been made against San Leandro's City Manager, Chris Zapata. The City (Council) immediately hired an independent investigator to investigate the allegations and is fully cooperating with the investigation. The investigation is confidential, so at this time, the City does not have additional information about the investigation. The allegations are allegations at this point. The City does not know when the investigation will be complete, but will update the community when there are developments in the investigation."

Zapata says he pledges "full cooperation" in the investigation.

In Zapata's letter he writes that immediately upon becoming City Manager in 2012, he was in-



**City Manager Chris Zapata replied to accusations that led to an investigation.**

roduced to Johnson and Galvan and shortly thereafter Johnson and Galvan began attempting to ingratiate themselves with him.

Zapata says Galvan offered him Giants tickets, the use of Galvan's personal tailor, free meals at restaurants Galvan owns, and rent on a four-bedroom San Leandro home for \$1,900 a month – all of which Zapata says he refused. Zapata believes that Johnson and Galvan acted paranoid and seemed to believe there is a conspiracy against them. When Harborside, not Davis Street Wellness, got the city's first lucrative pot permit, Zapata says that Galvan immediately texted him "I will not forget, I will not forget, I will not forget."

Zapata says that the Davis Street Wellness Center has plans for a potentially lucrative expansion into multiple dispensaries around the East Bay, so they were frustrated that they didn't have immediate success in getting the permit from the City of San Leandro.

In May of 2016, the Wellness Center made a proposal for

a dispensary to the El Cerrito City Council, which was not approved.

Zapata says that the Wellness Center has also made "overtures" to the cities of Hayward and Alameda. And if the dispensaries eventually start selling recreational marijuana, even more money would be coming in.

Zapata says that Galvan told the Davis Street Family Resource Board that they "lost the dispensary because the City Manager probably had a deal" with Harborside, which Zapata denies. Zapata said that later he was told by a third party that there was a rumor that Harborside was building him a house in Mexico.

After it came out that Davis Street failed to pay back the \$1.5 million city loan of public money, Zapata said he was castigated by people about his treatment of Johnson, including a call from former state senator Don Perata who wanted to know "why the City Manager of San Leandro was treating Rose Johnson so badly."

Zapata said that once he explained via a third party the failure to pay the loan, he was never contacted by Perata again.

The city manager also said that City Council members Pete Ballew and Ed Hernandez have both implied something improper happened during a series of meetings Zapata had with Johnson which took place in Johnson's Lexus SUV in the Foster's Freeze parking lot.

"Other than a business handshake, I never had and never attempted physical contact with Johnson and never requested or ever saw her socially other than community events," writes Zapata, later adding, "I am highly suspicious of the timing of this new allegation: The white hot



TIMES FILE PHOTO

**Gordon Galvan and Rose Johnson are both on the board of directors of the Davis Street Wellness Center. After the Wellness Center failed to get the city's first permit to operate a medical marijuana dispensary, City Manager Chris Zapata says Galvan and Johnson retaliated against him.**

movement sweeping the world involving men sexually harassing women, the upcoming San Leandro Mayor and City Council elections and the many stories about the billions of dollars involved in the cannabis movement are three reasons."

Galvan responded Wednesday

to Zapata's letter with an email of his own to the same recipients, saying Zapata's letter "baffles" him.

"I have received your 23-page missive and I am disturbed by your recollection of various meetings and conversations between you and I over the past six

years," writes Galvan. "I have neither filled a complaint against you nor harmed you in any way. You seem to be obsessed with destroying my reputation. I will tell my side of this sad story, but I will do so in court."

A call to Johnson for comment was not returned by press time.

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### MOSCHETTI, Suzanne

■ MOSCHETTI, Suzanne, was born Assunta Maria La Spina on January 10, 1925 in San Leandro and passed away on January 13, 2018. Visitation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18, at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave. from noon to 8 p.m. with a vigil service beginning at 7 p.m. The funeral mass will be held on Friday January 19, 2018 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church 3433 Somerset Ave. Castro Valley, CA beginning at 11 a.m. Burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward

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PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The duck pond is smaller now at San Lorenzo Community Park.

## Park: Geese overran the park

continued from front page

in construction," said Giammona.

The 31-acre park, located on Via Buena Vista near the Skywest Golf Course, was known for its large duck pond.

Before the remodel, the pond attracted dozens of ducks and geese that virtually took over the park, leaving goose droppings everywhere.

Now the pond is one-third of its former size and features a pedestrian boardwalk, which separates people from the ducks to discourage feeding.

A lot of people visit the park just to feed the ducks, but HARD wishes they wouldn't. The district says that feeding the ducks bread and other food meant for humans

makes the birds too fat to fly and also encourages them to stay in the same place year-round, deviating from their natural migration pattern.

On Tuesday, a handful of waterfowl enjoyed a swim, but it was nothing like the dozens of large geese that used to inhabit the park.

"They used to come right up to you if you sat and had your lunch at the picnic tables," said Janette Rocha, who lives nearby and visits the park often. "There were fences up on the fields (during construction) for over a year and it's nice that they finally came down."

The next step will be to construct a "community green" on

some of the space where the pond used to be. Right now, it's a large patch of mud and HARD is waiting for the rainy season to be over before then install a lawn, Giammona said.

Phase One also included a new playground area with a climbing wall for kids, reconstructing three softball fields, new restrooms, and a new concession stand.

Giammona said a "Phase Two" is in the planning stages but not a lot is known about what it will include because that depends on the budget they are allotted. The Phase Two will be paid for as part of a \$250 million bond measure for parks that HARD passed in 2016.

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# Speech: 'Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right'

continued from front page

Constitution is there to put limits on the government, not give people a platform to incite racial violence. But it's equally true that someone's ability to speak shouldn't be shouted down just because they say something you disagree with, Schlosser said.

The irony would be for people who held up King as a hero for speaking his mind against tremendous opposition would also want the people they disagree with to be prevented from speaking, he said.

"The key principle of the First Amendment is that you can't regulate speech based on what its message is," said Schlosser. "Hate speech isn't a legal term. Hate speech isn't an exemption of free speech and hate speech is protected no matter how vile, odious and hateful that viewpoint is."

Schlosser gave the example of the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia last August where one woman was killed by a car driven by a man linked to a white supremacist group. The national outrage sparked by her death lead to a much larger counter-protest days later.

"Did Charlottesville help or hurt equality?" asked Schlosser. "It made people afraid. On the other hand, that march of maybe 100 people brought national attention to the fact that racism is alive and well. Do you want racism under a rock or do you want it out in the open?"

Panelist Norman Brown is a community organizer who has been working



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

A panel of speakers discussed free speech, hate speech, and the First Amendment at a "Unity in the Community" event on Monday at the Senior Community Center. Speakers included Derrick Bedford, an expert in "emotional intelligence;" Aaron Brown, a recent graduate of San Leandro High; Norman Brown, a community organizer who has worked on Civil Rights since the 1960s; Jamie Knox, a San Leandro police officer; Stephanie Murphy, vice president of San Leandro High's African American Student Union; Pamela Price, a civil rights attorney and Alameda County District Attorney candidate; Alan Schlosser, the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union; and Anthony Tate, president of San Leandro High's African American Student Union.

on social justice since the 1960s. He was pragmatic about hate speech and said that transparency isn't a bad thing, especially when dealing with people you disagree with.

"People can be racists or ignorant or maybe both, but that doesn't mean I want to shut down their speech," said Brown. "I'd rather have it out there so I know

what I'm dealing with."

The panel also included San Leandro police officer Jamie Knox. He said that hate speech may be legal, but that doesn't mean it goes unmonitored by the police.

Knox said there is a check box on every police report that officers can use to indicate if any hate speech has been

used in an incident. For example, if someone gets into a fender-bender and starts screaming racial epithets, that could be noted in the report even if no crimes have been committed.

King gave a hint of his views on the First Amendment when he delivered his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech just hours before his assassination in Memphis 50 years ago. King was in town to support striking black garbage workers and the City of Memphis had just petitioned a federal court to deliver an injunction preventing him from speaking and holding a protest march, saying his words could incite rioting.

"If I lived in China or even Russia, or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand some of these illegal injunctions. Maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic First Amendment privileges, because they haven't committed themselves to that over there," said King. "But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so just as I say we aren't going to let any dogs or water hoses turn us around, we aren't going to let any injunction turn us around."

## INQUIRING REPORTER

### What book changed your life?

— Asked at the San Leandro Main Library

I'd say two books, Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* because of the undying friendship between people who go to any lengths to help each other; and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, because of the simplicity of the fact that we don't live forever and so you do what you can to help those around you.

**Todd Miller**  
Oakland



A biography of Steve Jobs. It inspired me to be an entrepreneur, and I got the book from here – at the library. The main thing is persistence, to just keep going at it. Don't give up.

**Nolawi Temesgan**  
San Leandro

*Exodus*. I was half Jewish but never understood what being a Jew was about. *Exodus* was given to me by a roommate in college and it tied me to my Jewish roots. I saw the hardship they went through, the bravery, and finally the triumph of having a new state.

**Leah Scheibe**  
San Leandro



*A Dog's Purpose*. It's inspirational, about a dog who went through multiple lives. It's kind of what I believe about people – that we're here for a purpose and if we don't achieve that we're reincarnated. So I want to be the best I can because I don't want to come back. I want to move on – and go wherever dogs go.

**Lisa Bonato**  
San Leandro



*Gone with the Wind*, because I saw what people went through. The scene where all the bodies were lined up of the soldiers from both sides made me think of how awful wars are.

**Alice Doolittle**  
San Leandro



## OPINION

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

#### City Council Leadership Requires Decisiveness, Setting Priorities

Editor:

What is the core measure of leadership by a mayor and city council?

Timely resolving significant community problems is my answer.

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018, the San Leandro City Council had the opportunity to address a significant community concern pertaining to the zoning of Professional Office Districts which affects not only the Estudillo Estates neighborhood but also the Broadmoor, the Manor and South San Leandro.

Instead, the City Council deferred to staff to develop a proposed course of action without a timeline or a defined process. One Council member voiced concern that taking any other action would be "micro managing staff."

Leadership requires decisiveness. It also requires setting priorities for staff and even disagreeing with staff on some occasions. The City Council has the fiduciary responsibility of acting in the best interests of the people of San Leandro.

Case in point: also on January 16, 2018, the CEO of San Leandro Hospital gave a presentation to the City Council on all the good that the new San Leandro Hospital is doing and plans by the Alameda Health System to invest millions of

dollars in the renovation of the hospital to provide expanded healthcare services for the community.

None of this would be occurring if I and the then-City Council followed the City Manager's recommendation which was to not provide any city funds to save the hospital. The deal reached with Alameda County to save the hospital and preserve its emergency services would have collapsed.

We are now in year three of the controversy over the zoning of Professional Office District properties with no resolution in sight. Again, the essence of leadership by a Mayor and City Council is timely solving significant community concerns.

—Stephen Cassidy  
San Leandro

#### Leo West on 'Winning Side' of Decision on Apartments

Editor:

On "Zoning Board OK's Apartments Close to BART," (Page One, The Times, Jan. 11), you chose to only mention the people who opposed that construction; however, you ignored that I was the only person who spoke in favor of affordable housing for seniors and I was on the winning side of the decision.

The NIMBYs took one in the chin this

time, even if you ignore who helped in delivering it.

—Leo T. West  
San Leandro

#### Al Franken Just the Latest in Litany Of Unfaithful Democrat Spouses

Editor:

In his letter to the editor, Bruce Joffe ("Appreciating the Social Mores of Baby-Boomers' Coming-of-Age," Letters, Jan. 11) is upset that his Democratic buddy Senator Al Franken resigned because Leeann Tweeden a Republican woman (say it ain't so) came forward and charged him with sexual misconduct.

Well, Franken didn't resign because one woman came forward, it turns out that seven other women have also come forward so far and accused him of sexual misconduct, so enough said for "lets blame the Republican party for the Franken downfall." He did it all on his own.

Apparently Joffe doesn't remember the extramarital affair between Democratic President John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe, Democratic Presidential Nomination Gary Hart and Donna Rice, Democratic President Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, what about Democratic NY Governor Eliot Spitzer's extramarital affair with call girl Ashley Dupre, and let's not forget North Carolina Democratic Senator and Presidential Candidate John Edwards' extramarital affair with Rielle Hunter which resulted in her having his baby which at first he denied.

Is Joffe really backing the right party? I don't think so.

—Brent Heath  
San Leandro



# Campbell Leads San Lorenzo Basketball to Win Over Jets

By Andrew Joseph  
San Leandro Times

The San Lorenzo High basketball team was victorious at home last Friday night in a 45-34 league win against Encinal at the Mangin Pavilion.

Shooting guard Saveon Campbell finished the night with a game-high 20 points.

"Saveon plays really hard, almost with a chip on his shoulder," said Rebels head coach Nick Koury. "No matter what, if we are up or down, he always gives it 110 percent and that energy and demeanor is something you can't coach."

"This was an important game because this was only our second league game," said Campbell. "Our focus is to keep the momentum going."

The opening tip was won by the Rebels' star sophomore point guard Dionte Hill, who created the game's first points with a three-pointer on San Lorenzo's second possession.

Six-foot-1 senior San Lorenzo center Patrick Poncho finished the first quarter by helping the defense with two crucial blocks that added to multiple steals by the Rebels.

"Confidence with each other

throughout the coaching staff and the players and focus in practice is what it takes to win," said Koury.

The score remained close throughout the first two quarters, with the Jets pushing it to a two-point 20-18 San Lorenzo lead at the half. In the third period Campbell came up with a steal that led to the offense picking up and pulling away from Encinal to head into the fourth quarter up by 10 points.

"We have a real good team," said junior point guard Quran Lubin. "If we play together and stand ground on defense like we did tonight we will be all right. Our goal is to win league, right now we're not worried about the playoffs just yet."

In addition to Campbell's 20 points, Hill scored 17 and senior point guard Elmor Arciaga finished with six. The Rebels improve to hit the 10-game winning record for the 2018 season and also become undefeated in league play.

"The most positive thing that we take away from tonight is that we now go to 2-0 undefeated in league," said Koury. "We have four games at home, but we're just focusing on them one-by-one."

San Lorenzo is looking for yet another win against Hayward,



PHOTO BY ANDREW JOSEPH

Junior Rebels' shooting guard (No. 24) Saveon Campbell reaches the basket above Encinal defenders to score in the third quarter.

who are well below the .500 mark for the 2018 season and see San Lorenzo twice this season.

"We have to come out in the

first quarter against Hayward with intensity," said star junior Campbell.

The Rebels defeated Hay-

ward by a score of 58-34 last season. This week, San Lorenzo travels to Hayward for a game on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

## City Council to Hold Planning Session on Saturday

The City Council's annual planning session will be on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East

14th St. The meeting will also include opportunities for public comments and questions.

Other agenda topics will include an in-depth overview

of city finances, a review of accomplishments over the past year, along with updates on various major projects and policy initiatives.

**San Leandro Little League**  
Official Little League since 1992  
**BASEBALL SIGN-UPS**  
2018

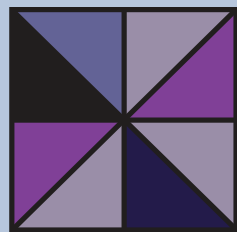
**Online REGISTRATION and Information:**  
**www.sanleandrolittleleague.com**

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**In Person Registration:**  
**Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Monday, Jan. 22, 2018 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**Location:**  
**MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA**  
**2150 Marina Blvd., San Leandro CA 94577**

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**MUST LIVE IN 94577 or 94605 (SHEFFIELD VILLAGE)**  
**OR GO TO SCHOOL in the 94577 Zip Code**



# SAN LEANDRO Connect Monthly



## San Leandro City Council

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter  
Vice Mayor Lee Thomas, District 3

Deborah Cox, District 1

Ed Hernandez, District 2

Benny Lee, District 4

Corina N. López, District 5

Pete Ballew, District 6

City Manager Chris Zapata



**EARTHQUAKE  
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## Earthquake Brace and Bolt Program

For the fourth year in a row, San Leandro homeowners are eligible to receive up to \$3,000 to help strengthen their homes in the event of a major earthquake. Qualified homeowners in the 94577, 94578, and 94579 zip codes can apply for the program from January 23 through February 23.

For more information or to sign up, visit  
**www.earthquakebracebolt.com**  
or contact the Building Division  
at (510) 577-3405.

## Warden Park to be Spruced Up

Thanks to a \$164,000 grant from the state along with matching funds from the City, Warden Park in the Davis West neighborhood will soon receive some significant upgrades. New playground equipment has now been selected following community input, and is expected to be installed in the coming months. For additional information, contact Breyana Brandt at **bbrandt@sanleandro.org**

*Save the Date • Save the Date • Save the Date*

## City Council Annual Planning Session

**Saturday, January 20 • 8:30am - 2:00pm**  
**Senior Community Center**  
**13909 E. 14th St.**

The public is invited to attend and offer input at the City Council's annual planning session. The meeting will include an update on City finances as well as accomplishments from the past year and Citywide goals for the upcoming year.

For more information, contact Eric Engelbart, at  
**eengelbart@sanleandro.org**

*Save the Date • Save the Date • Save the Date*

## Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, January 23 • 6:30pm - 9:00pm**  
**Senior Community Center • Main Hall A**  
**13909 E. 14th St.**

The public is invited to offer input and learn about bicycle & pedestrians projects that are now in progress across the city. The meeting will also include an update on the latest version of the bicycle & pedestrian master plan, along with an overview of recent public comments. For more information, contact Reh-Lin Chen at **rchen@sanleandro.org**

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Community Development.....(510)577-3423  
Engineering & Transportation... (510)577-3428  
Alameda County Fire.....(510)577-3317  
Finance.....(510)577-3376  
Human Resources.....(510)577-3396  
Police Department  
(Non-Emergency).....(510)577-2740  
Library Services.....(510)577-3970  
Public Works.....(510)577-3440  
Recreation & Human Services....(510)577-3462

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