

SENIORS

New Law Makes Major Changes to IRAs and Other Retirement Plans

WEEKEND WEATHER

MILD

Mix of sunshine and clouds

HIGHS: 63-68

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110

LOWS: 46-51

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 30 • NO. 8

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

A 100-year-old oak fell on the house in Hayward where Teresa and Tony DeCoteau live during the wind storm.

Wind Brings Down Oak on House

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

A lot of people heard the wind rattling the windows and trees on Feb. 8, but one couple heard a little more.

Teresa and Tony DeCoteau heard a crack and then a loud crunching sound.

That crack was a big, 100-year-old oak right on the side of their house on Russell

Way in Hayward as the tree came toppling over.

The trunk crushed the roof on the side of the house they're renting, a house that was built in 1918. The branches of the oak fell against a redwood at the back of the house, which may have slowed the falling tree.

"I heard it falling, crunching," said Tony DeCoteau. "Luckily, it fell against that red-

wood or it would have been much worse."

Fortunately, nobody was injured, though the house sustained major injuries. The roof was caved in above the kitchen and a back bedroom that was vacant at the time.

Last week, a tree crew made way for a big crane that was coming to remove the tree. The tree trimmers had to cut down

see OAK, page 8

State Bond Measure Would Fund Construction

Bond to modernize state schools, kindergarten through universities; opponents say cost too high

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

This year's Proposition 13 on the statewide ballot would sell \$15 billion worth of bonds to fund construction, repair and modernization at California schools from pre-kindergarten through universities.

The total cost including interest to repay the measure would be \$26 billion.

The new Proposition 13, which sends money to the schools, has no connection to the famous 1978 Proposition 13, which limited property taxes and thus limited local school spending. In fact, the chief opposition to the new Proposition 13 is the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, whose founder led the effort to pass the old Prop 13.

This year's Prop 13 would give \$9 billion to K-12 schools and \$6 billion to college and universities, but the new Proposition 13 would be repaid out of the state's general fund.

Prop 13 proponents say in the official voter guide that the money would fix school buildings throughout the state that are dilapidated, unsafe and unhealthy.

Some 10 percent of the state's schools and classrooms are at least 70 years old, and some 75 percent are more than 25 years old, Prop 13 proponents say.

Local school districts would get to pick which projects to pursue, but would then have to pay a share of the costs. According

see PROP. 13, page 16

Englander To Close Next Week

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

The Englander Pub in downtown San Leandro will be closing next week.

The pub has been the go-to place downtown since it opened 25 years ago. It's the meeting place for the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club and about every other civic club in town.

The current owners bought the pub from the original owner Jot Mangat in 2014. Mangat opened the pub in the 1990s with assistance in financing from the City of San Leandro, which wanted a sports pub as a downtown attraction.

The pub's owners confirmed

see ENGLANDER, page 5

City Joins Grocery Distribution Program

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

One in five Alameda County residents is hungry or in danger of going hungry, Alameda County Food Bank Program Director Artrese Morrison said at the Feb. 13 kickoff of the Food For San Leandro Families program, held at the Senior Community Center.

The program, a joint operation of the Food Bank and the City of San Leandro, aims at getting food from the food bank distributed to community organizations serving low-income individuals and families, or having those groups pick it up at the Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th Street.

Last year, a pilot program got 10-and-a-half tons of fresh and healthy food to children, seniors and low-income families in the city, according to Jeannette Dong, city recreation and human services director.

The City of San Leandro and the Alameda County Food Bank plan to reach twice as many people next year.

Last year, the program gave shopping bags full of fresh food to those served by the Center for Elders' Independence (CEI), Building Futures For Women and Children, children at library sto-

see GROCERIES, page 14



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Mayor Pauline Cutter, Artrese Morrison of the Alameda County Food Bank, and City Manager Jeff Kay announce the kickoff of Food For San Leandro Families.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

COMMUNITY

Tiki bar donates dollars to Building Futures. **Page 2**

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Fire department saves house on Burkhart Avenue. **Page 3**

INQUIRING

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Timothee



Minnie

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are two senior dogs, Timothee and Minnie. Perhaps they would be a good pair to go to the same family.

Timothee, a 10-year-old chihuahua, is sweet, albeit a bit shy at first. He loves toys, human attention and warms up to you quickly. He's good with dogs

of all sizes and okay with older children.

Minnie is a timid, 10-year-old Min-Pin mix who needs a patient family willing to give her TLC to help bring her out of her shell. She loves treats and does well with other dogs. Okay with teens and older. For more information on Timothee or Minnie, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

Natives Garden Tour Plant Event

Local nurseries specializing in California native plants will be open on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A percentage of all purchases made on Feb. 22 will go to support the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Green Thumb

Works, 20095 Mission Blvd. in Hayward, will host a pop-up sale of hard-to-find California native plants.

Handmade soaps and pottery for sale plus solar oven cooking demonstration. Beekeeper meet and greet at 2 p.m.



PHOTO BY ALAIN McLAUGHLIN

Ana Mahiri, Rob Rich, Jean Hom, Gayle Thomas, Liz Varela, Michael Thanos, Deni Adaniya, Miriam Delagrange, and Autumn Baeza celebrate the gift to Building Futures at Forbidden Island tiki lounge.

Tiki Dollars Donated to Building Futures

Building Futures received a check for \$2,600 from Forbidden Island owner Michael Thanos last week.

Since 2006, tiki enthusiasts at the Alameda bar have taken to pinning dollar bills to the ceiling, a tradition that originated during World War II, when sailors would leave a dollar at their local bar before shipping out to the Pacific—a promise that they would be back to buy a drink.

Having run out of space on the ceiling, patrons even started pinning money to the walls and furniture.

When Forbidden Island owner Michael Thanos decided it was time to take down all the loot, he and his staff found themselves with over \$10,000 in cash. They decided to donate almost \$9,000 of it to local nonprofit organizations and return the remaining \$1,400 to the ceiling, encourag-

ing guests to keep the tradition going.

So while some folks might be disappointed not to find the multiple layers of dollar bills that had become Forbidden Island's signature, Building Futures staff and board members raised their rum cocktails to celebrate the recent sweep.

"We are very grateful that the Alameda community keeps
see DONATE, page 5

5 FACTS about MEASURE N

FACT #1

Measure N is a local school bond measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot to fund essential improvements and address critical facility needs in San Leandro schools, several of which are more than 90 years old.

FACT #2

Every penny from Measure N stays in San Leandro to benefit the children in our public schools, and cannot be taken away by the state or used for administrator or teacher salaries.

FACT #3

The state does not provide funding for school construction and renovation absent a local match of funds. Without Measure N, the district could lose out on obtaining state matching funds.

FACT #4

Measure N will enable the school district to complete the renovation of our schools. Delaying facility improvements will only increase future costs.

FACT #5

Measure N creates an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent audits to ensure all money is spent properly.



Learn more at www.sanleandransforgreatschools.com

POLICE & FIRE

Bill Lets District Attorneys Enforce PG&E Fire Safety

Alameda County District Attorney (DA) Nancy O'Malley is the sponsor of a bill authored by several local legislators that would let local district attorneys as well as the state attorney-general bring actions to enforce fire and safety laws involving electrical utilities such as PG&E.

Currently, only the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has that authority.

AB 2356 is authored by, among others, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) and State Senators Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) and Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo). They joined DA O'Malley in announcing the bill's introduction on Feb. 18.

"California must face the reality that climate change will continue to pose massive threats of wildfires throughout the state. We cannot afford to be complacent.

"This bill allows local District Attorneys and the Attorney General to enforce laws requiring utilities to take all necessary measures to ensure their equipment is safe and well maintained. As District Attorneys, our job is to ensure the safety of our communities.

"This legislation gives us the tools to prevent further catastrophic loss of life and property by ensuring utility companies abide by the laws," stated DA

O'Malley.

"Our state is facing dire circumstances. Four of the five largest wildfires in California's history have happened in the past seven years," said Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan.

"The devastating loss of loved ones, homes and in some cases, entire communities must not be endured again.

"By empowering local jurisdictions to enforce existing safety regulations, we aim to stop the next disaster before it starts. This is a statewide crisis, and this bill will help defend our communities from negligent utilities."

AB 2356 is modeled after the current enforcement authority of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, which also shares enforcement authority with local district attorneys to bring actions against companies and individuals who violate state safety regulations.

"This bill in no way diminishes the primary responsibility or authority of the CPUC to enforce and take action against electrical companies," added Bauer-Kahan. "This bill simply adds the Attorney General and District Attorneys to the enforcement team so they can act to protect and ensure the safety of Californians against utilities that have a long track record of neglecting

our safety."

"We must do all we can to force PG&E to run an electricity grid that protects lives and property from wildfires when the wind blows.

This bill gives California a new tool to keep us safe by allowing the Attorney General and local district attorneys to enforce utility safety standards," added Senator Steve Glazer.

"Bad actors among the utilities that are supposed to serve California must be held accountable, and this important legislation by Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan provides our state with stronger tools to do so," said state Senator Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

"This bill makes it clear that our state attorney general and our county prosecutors can also initiate cases against bad-acting utilities – in addition to any regulatory case pursued by the CPUC. I thank Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan for her leadership on this legislation and am proud to coauthor her bill."

Other Bay Area authors are Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymembers David Chiu (D-San Francisco), Tim Grayson (D-Concord), Marc Levine (D-Marin County) and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland).



PHOTO BY ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPT.

Fire On Burkhardt Avenue Is Quickly Extinguished

Firefighters responded to a fire on Feb. 12 at 12:42 p.m. in the 1100 block of Burkhardt Avenue. They were able to put it out in three minutes with no injuries. Fire damage was limited, but the house suffered smoke damage, said fire department spokesman Brian Centoni.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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D	O	W	N	S	I	D	E	R	O
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NEIGHBORS



Lorraine Zamira, Long-Time San Leandro Resident, Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

Lorraine (Souza) Zamira will turn 100 on March 1, celebrating with her family and friends. Lorraine was born and raised in Oakland and lived there with her husband George Zamira and son Greg. In 1970, the family moved to San Leandro, just a block away from her twin sister Marie.

While she worked for many years as a bookkeeper at Albert's Menswear in Alameda, Lorraine's greatest joy was being a "grammy-nanny" to her grandchildren Alexandria and Jake.

Lorraine remained in her San Leandro home for nearly forty years until she and her sister Marie moved to Baywood Court Retirement Community in Castro Valley.

Although her beloved twin passed away in 2014, Lorraine continues to enjoy her life at Baywood Court.

Lorraine likes to play bingo, listening to music, do crossword puzzles, read, and go on excursions planned by the Baywood staff. She loves to laugh and still has a razor-sharp sense of humor. But most importantly, Lorraine enjoys spending time with her family, and especially treasures visits from her great-grandchildren Leo and Lorraine (Rai).

Leading by example, the greatest gift that Lorraine has instilled in all of those who love her is her conviction that "family is everything."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Deadline for Calendar Items is Friday for the Following Week



❖ Hill and Valley Club Flea Market

The Hill and Valley Club, 1808 B St. in Hayward will hold its annual Flea Market on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring household goods, clothing and accessories, jewelry, linens, appliances and electronics, books, toys, sewing and craft materials, and miscellaneous items. Lunch will be served in the café. Funds raised benefit several local charities. This is an indoor sale with plenty of parking available.

❖ Friends of Library CD Sale

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will hold a CD Sale on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Trustees Room at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Buy three CDs and get one for free. Jazz, classical, R&B, film scores, rock 'n' roll, rap – some of the world's greatest bands, symphonies and recording artists – will all be available at just \$2 per single-disc CD. All proceeds benefit the programs and services of the San Leandro Library.

❖ Castro Valley Center for the Arts

Come see *Chicago the Tribute* on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road. Enjoy listening to "Saturday in the Park," "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?" and their many other legendary hits, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are from \$38 to \$40 and can be purchased at www.cvcfa.com; or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. (phone 510-889-8961), or at the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue.

❖ San Leandro Schools Planning Meetings

The San Leandro Unified School District is planning for the future. Attend one of the district's upcoming Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) community forums. These meetings will also include details about the facilities improvement bond, Measure N, which is on the ballot for March 3. The meetings will be on Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Bancroft Middle School, presented in Spanish; on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at John Muir Middle School, presented in Chinese; and on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., at the Barbara Lee Health Center (2251 Bancroft Ave.), presented in English.

❖ Eden Cancer Support Groups

Eden Medical Center, 20101 Lake Chabot Road in Castro Valley, continues a partnership with Cancer Support Community in 2020 by offering free cancer support groups and quarterly cancer workshops. The Gentle Restorative Yoga workshop will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Learn how breathing and gentle movements promote healing and restores the body. If you are going through cancer treatments, are on the road to recovery, or are a caregiver, this class is for you. Madelyn Kimball is a certified yoga trainer and will share her knowledge in this free workshop. Registration is encouraged by calling 925-933-0107. All Cancer Support Groups are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m., also held at the address above, but no registration is needed for these drop-in groups.

❖ Celebrate African American History Month

The Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro celebrates African American History Month with a fun family event, Samba Samba Kids with music with James Henry on Saturday, Feb. 29, at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 510-577-7971.

❖ I.D.E.S. St. John Crab Feed

I.D.E.S. St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will have its annual Crab Feed on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 6 to 10 p.m. The dinner comes with salad, pasta, garlic bread, and dessert. Tickets are \$55 per person, and \$25 for children 6 to 12 years old. For more information or tickets, call Darlene at 510-589-6536, Willie at 510-207-6326 or Frances 510-886-1568.

❖ Stage 1 Theatre Auditions

Stage 1 Theatre in Newark seeks boys and girls to perform this summer in the musical, *Matilda*, the Musical. Auditions will be held on Sunday and Monday, March 1 March 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Newark Memorial High School. Sign up for auditions on the website: stage1theatre.org. Rehearsals will be held at Newark Memorial High School on Saturdays and on two evenings a week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning on May 18. After June 15, rehearsals will be held four nights a week and will end at 10 p.m. Performances will run from July 11 to July 26 (3 weekends). Evening shows are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Casting four boys and four girls who appear to be between 7 and 12 years old. Double casting the role of *Matilda*. Looking for a diverse cast.

❖ Buon Tempo Club Dinner

The Buon Tempo Club is having a family dinner on Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. at Mt. Tabor Hall, Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. Everyone is welcome. Chef Joseph Sotello and crew will serve a 5-course, family-style dinner of corned beef and cabbage, along with red and white wine. Happy hour is 6 p.m. The dinner is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Make reservations by Friday, Feb. 28, by calling the Buon Tempo dinner line at 510-483-6929.

❖ Volunteers Needed for Family Support

Eden is looking for volunteers to build its Family Support Services group to serve as a liaison between family, physicians and other medical staff and concentrate on providing comfort and emotional support to family members at the hospital. Volunteers will be based in the emergency room. Candidates who qualify will display friendly, positive, helpful and professional attitude; work well with patients, family members and staff; ability to display compassion and have a caring nature; and ability to make a one-year commitment. To apply, contact: Meri Johnson-Wicks at johnswm@sutterhealth.org or 510-727-3124.

❖ Umpires Needed

The Hayward Softball Umpires Association is recruiting year-round to work paid Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) softball games – men's, women's and co-ed slow pitch. The umpires association trains all age groups. It's a great way to earn some extra money. For more information, call the association's educational director at 510-586-8592 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

❖ American Legion 4th Sunday Breakfast

Come one, come all to the American Legion Post 117, 4th Sunday Breakfast, on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the San Leandro Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The menu consists of eggs-to-order, bacon, sausage or ham, hash browns, toast, and coffee, tea or hot chocolate, and fruit. A donation of \$9 for non-veterans and \$7 for veterans will be greatly appreciated. All donations benefit American Legion veteran programs.

HOROSCOPE

by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) There could be some negative reaction to your tough stance when making a recent decision. But overall, your efforts result in well-earned recognition and all that can follow from that.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your financial situation seems confusing, even for the fiscally savvy Bovine. Maybe it's the conflicting advice you're getting. Check it out before things get too tangled to unknot.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A relaxed attitude goes a long way in helping you deal with any of life's irritants that might be popping up this week. You're also a reassuring role model for others in the same situation.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your aspect favors creativity, which should persuade you to work on your artistic projects. If time is a problem, prioritize your commitments so that your work isn't compromised.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) Scrutinize all the job offers that interest you. Most are honest and worth considering. But a few might not be completely forthcoming about what the job is and what the salary and benefits are.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An unexpected snafu could delay the completion of a project you're eager to finish. Find out what's causing it, fix it, and if you need help, don't be shy about asking for it. Good luck.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) An idea that could be helpful to you comes from an unlikely source. Listen to it. Discuss it. If necessary, adjust it. If it looks as if it might work out quite well, go ahead and use it.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be careful about allowing someone to share a very personal secret with you. This could cause problems down the line with others who are involved in that person's private life.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A cooling down of a relationship could be the result of neglect, unintended or not. To save it from icing over, you need to warm it up with a large dose of hot Sagittarius passion.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to get involved with a number of family matters that involve money and other issues that might jeopardize the closeness between and among family members.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Cheer up. That difficult person who appears to be deliberately stalling your project might just need to be reassured of the value she or he brings to it.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Good news! Expect to feel re-energized now that you've gone through that stressful energy-depleting period involving a lot of changes. Now, go out there and show them what you can do.

Chanticleers Theatre Presents *Steel Magnolias*

Steel Magnolias opens at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley, runs through March 1. The show plays on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22 to \$27 and may be purchased online at chanticleers.org or by calling 510-SEE-LIVE (510-733-5483). Group discounts also available.

Steel Magnolias is a stage play by American writer Robert Harling, a comedy-drama about the bond among a group of Southern women in northwest Louisiana. The title suggests the female characters are as delicate as magnolias but as tough as steel. The magnolia specifically references a magnolia tree they are arguing about at the beginning. Harling based this play on his experience with his sister's death. Director, actor, and designer spanning four decades in West Coast theatre, Kendall Tieck will make his Chanticleers Theatre directing debut with *Steel Magnolias*.

Englander: Sun sets on The Englander Pub

continued from front page

this week that the popular spot will have to close. They said they tried to sell the business, but the building's owner didn't agree. Their lease was up and the landlord didn't want to renew it.

Property owner Rob Scribner has yet to be reached for comment. His office said he would be back later this week.

"We had a meeting with our staff on Saturday," said Cheryl Thies, who owns the pub with her husband Rod Thies and her

"I want to thank everybody, all our customers and friends."

— Cheryl Thies, co-owner of The Englander

brother Roy Childress.

Childress has been working at The Englander and tending bar for the 25 years of its existence.

"I've been here since day one," he said.

Thies said they plan to close



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The Englander Pub on Parrott Street in downtown San Leandro will close at the end of the month with a going away party on Saturday, Feb. 29.

next Friday, Feb. 28, and have a going-away party on Saturday, Feb. 29, from noon to whenever. The comedy show is still on for that night at 8 p.m.

Thies said their lease was up on Dec. 31 and they went to court to try to get another 90 days

before they had to be out.

"But we lost, we don't get the 90 days," Thies said.

Thies said there are about 25 local clubs that meet regularly at The Englander, which has a separate dining hall for private meetings. A painting party is every Monday night, and comedian Michael Booker has his monthly comedy nights at the pub.

"I want to thank everybody in the community who has supported The Englander, all our customers and friends," Thies said.

At the party on the 29th all the memorabilia and TV screens will be on sale. The pub will probably be operating on limited hours through the remaining week, she said.

SL Players to Hold Auditions

Auditions for San Leandro Players Spring production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner* will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 24 and Feb. 25, at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave.

Ensemble cast, no pay, non-AEA. Male and female roles, all ages and ethnicities are encouraged.

Rehearsals will be evenings Monday through Thursday, beginning on Monday, March 2.

Donate: Dollars for women's shelter

continued from page 2

coming out to support us – and we receive a lot of community support from individuals, businesses, and faith communities, this is definitely a first," says Executive Director Liz Varela.

Building Futures was founded in 1986 with the belief that homeless women and children deserve safe overnight refuge. Formerly known as Building Futures with Women and Children, the organization now also serves individuals of all genders through its homeless outreach program, five emergency shelters including Alameda's Midway Shelter for homeless women and children, Alameda Warming Shelter, Besse Coleman Court, domestic violence education and advocacy work, and housing services, in the city of Alameda.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

Barry Lamont Thompson
Case Number:
RP20050801

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Barry Lamont Thompson.**

A Petition for Probate has been filed by **Michael Herrera, Sr.** in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that **Michael Herrera, Sr.** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 18, 2020, 9:31 a.m., Dept. 201, at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: Rachael N. Phillips
Law Offices of Ann Marshall Robbeloth
31 East Julian Street, San Jose, CA 95112 (408)371-5206

LEGAL 0219-SLT RP20050801 02/06/20, 02/13/20, 02/20/20

Lunch Menu at The Senior Center

Lunch provided by Spectrum Community Services

A low-cost senior lunch provided by Spectrum Community Services is served on weekdays at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St.

Everyone age 60 and up can have lunch. A suggested donation is \$3.75, but no one is refused for lack of funds. (\$10 for those under 60.)

Call 24 hours ahead to reserve a lunch (1-510-825-9793) or sign up at the Senior Center.

The menu for lunch next week, Feb. 24 to Feb. 28, is:

Monday – Paprika chicken, potato cabbage soup, lemon

seasoned broccoli, whole wheat roll, apple.

Tuesday – Turkey chili, garden salad, cornbread, fruit mix.

Wednesday – Barbecued chicken sandwich on a whole wheat bun with lettuce, tomato and onion, broccoli cranberry salad and grapes.

Thursday – Baked southwestern cod on a bed of spinach, split pea soup, carrots, brown rice, orange.

Friday – Glazed meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, whole wheat roll, pineapple fruit cup.

Buon Tempo Club Dinner

The Buon Tempo Club is having a family dinner on Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. at Mt. Tabor Hall, Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley.

Happy hour is 6 p.m. The dinner is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Make reservations by Friday, Feb. 28, by calling the Buon Tempo dinner line at 510-483-6929.

LEGAL NOTICE

FILED
JANUARY 29, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 568025

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

The name of the business(es):
BLACK MEN LIFE Insurance Foundation located at 1972 Quebec Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BLACK MEN LIFE Insurance Foundation, 1972 Quebec Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced 1/29/2020.

/s/ BLACK MEN LIFE Insurance Foundation
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 29, 2025

FEB 13, 20, 27, MAR 05, 2020 0222-SLT

FILED
JANUARY 22, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 567713

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

The name of the business(es):
Cummings Construction located at 3937 39th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Constructive Building Services, Inc., 3937 39th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced 11/18/1999.

/s/ Constructive Building Services, Inc.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 22, 2025

FEB 20, 27, MAR 05, 12, 2020 0226-SLT

FILED
FEBRUARY 04, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 568238

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

The name of the business(es):
P.E.A.C.E. located at 1650 152nd Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578, mailing address P.O. Box 32443, Oakland, CA 94604 in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Peoples' Eclectic and Aware Church of Enlightenment, 1650 152nd Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced Feb. 1, 2020.

/s/ The Peoples' Eclectic and Aware Church of Enlightenment
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires FEBRUARY 04, 2025

FEB 20, 27, MAR 05, 12, 2020 0229-SLT

FILED
JANUARY 16, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 567616

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

The name of the business(es):
"E" and "L" Property located at 862 Evergreen Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Christine Soledad Ortega Max (2) Edwin Stanley Barahona, 862 Evergreen Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. This business commenced 01-16-20.

/s/ Christine Soledad Ortega Max, Edwin Stanley Barahona
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 16, 2025

JAN 30, FEB 06, 13, 20, 2020 0215-SLT

FILED
JANUARY 22, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 567719

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

The name of the business(es):
Concrete Rock Stamp Rental and More located at 16530 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wendy Karina Nunez, 424 Pacifica Ave., Baypoint, CA 94565. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Wendy Karina Nunez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 22, 2025

FEB 06, 13, 20, 27, 2020 0218-SLT

FILED
JANUARY 30, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 568102

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

The name of the business(es):
Pediatric Language Therapy Associates located at 2242 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Claire Ibrahim, 8033 Earl St., Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Claire Ibrahim
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JANUARY 30, 2025

FEB 06, 13, 20, 27, 2020 0221-SLT

AUTOMOTIVE

Ford Explorer Hybrid Just a Bit Greener

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

The legendary Ford Explorer is a vehicle that can be either celebrated or blamed for the rise of the SUV, depending on your point of view. The first generation appeared in 1990 as a 1991 model, popularizing the tall, truck-platform-based family hauler that is now ubiquitous on American roads. Although today's "crossover" versions of the sport utility vehicle, including the Explorer, are based on unibody car platforms, they still sit tall, haul a lot of people and stuff, and sell in large numbers.

If you want to have all of the sport and utility of an SUV and still give a nod to its environmental impact, you can opt for the new, sixth-generation Ford Explorer in its Hybrid form. As part of the widest range of offerings in the model's three-decade history, the Hybrid combines an electric motor with a traditional 3.3-liter V6, which increases fuel economy and provides the greatest range of any Explorer you can buy.

2020 marks a major redesign, so while the overall proportions look like an Explorer—and its many competitors—there's much to like from an aesthetic point of view. The sides are attractively sculpted, the face is fresh, and the interior feels up to date. The textured pseudo-wood trim in my Atlas

Blue tester looked obviously fake, but during the trip I took to visit my grandkids over the holidays the Explorer delivered the smooth ride, spacious accommodations, and high-tech interface buyers crave. And the B&O 12-speaker sound system was a joy. The fat leather-wrapped steering wheel was a very pleasant place to touch.

The 10-speed automatic transmission shifts often to keep in the heart of the power band and works through a stylish dial on the center console—an upscale touch.

The driving experience is likely very similar between models, while the emission differences between the Hybrid and the other models are incremental. Looking at EPA fuel economy, for example, the base 4-cylinder-equipped model, with rear-wheel drive, gets 21 mpg City and 28 Highway, with a Combined score of 24 mpg. The powerful 3.0-liter EcoBoost V6-powered model, likely the big seller, gets 18 City, 24 Highway, with 20 mpg Combined. The Hybrid bests them a bit, with 27 City, 29 Highway, and 28 mpg Combined. During my test week, I averaged a disappointing 23.1 mpg, below the EPA official figures, but it would possibly move upwards over a longer period.

Twenty-eight miles per gallon is a little above the average of all cars sold today, but still doesn't approach the 50+ mpg Prius territory or the higher mpg equivalents of EVs.

However, it does represent a 40 percent improvement over the thirstiest version, and the driving experience still delivers the robust power and performance SUV drivers demand.

The Hybrid tips the scales a little above the others, at 4,969 pounds versus the base vehicle at 4,345 and the V6 at 4,727. That's presumably because of adding the electric motor and battery. Two-and-a-half tons is pretty massive no matter which way you slice it.

Range wise, per EPA tests, the Hybrid wins, with 540 miles vs. 461 for the base vehicle and 436 for the popular V6. And with higher mpg, annual fuel costs will be less. The fueleconomy.gov stats show the hybrid costing owners \$250 a year below average while the four-cylinder will cost \$750 above average and the V6 \$2,500 above average.

As with any vehicle with a range of models and options, pricing varies. My tester, with optional 20-inch polished aluminum wheels and a twin-panel moonroof, came to \$55,665 with destination and delivery charges. Explorers start at \$37,770 for the base XLT and head northward to \$59,639 for the Platinum top-level offering.

Considering environmental impact, there are no truly "green" cars with Explorer nameplates on them, but the Hybrid provides a difference, although it's not monumental. In barrels of oil consumed per year, the Hybrid uses 11.8 ver-



The driving experience is likely very similar between models, while the emission differences between the Hybrid and the other models are incremental.

sus 13.7 for the 4-cylinder and 16.5 for the V6. While all three models earn a middling 5 in the EPA Smog rating, the Hybrid collects a 6 for Greenhouse Gas against 5 for the 4-cylinder model and 4 for the V6.

The real point, then, is that the Ford Explorer Hybrid provides some improvement, but is still burning a lot of gas every time it hits the road. It puts out 322 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ every mile, against 370 ppm for the four-cylinder and 446 ppm for the big V6. Incremental.

If you truly need a big hauler like this, the Explorer will surely provide a worthy solution. But if you don't there are other options. I expect to see a plug-in hybrid and maybe even an all-electric Explorer some-

time this decade, perhaps with the promising drivetrain from the upcoming Mustang EV. Stay tuned.

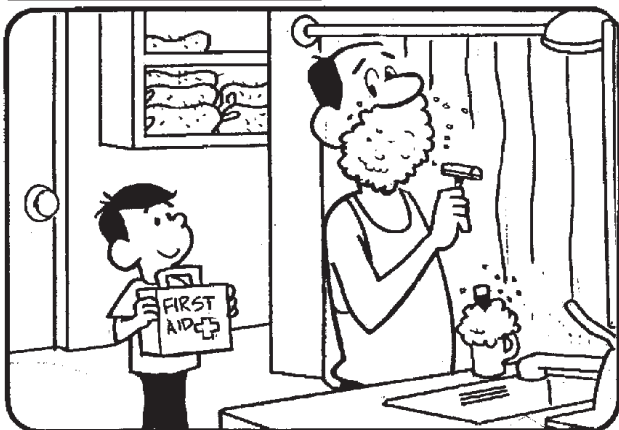
Steve Schaefer lives in Castro Valley. He has been reviewing new cars in the Times for 28 years.



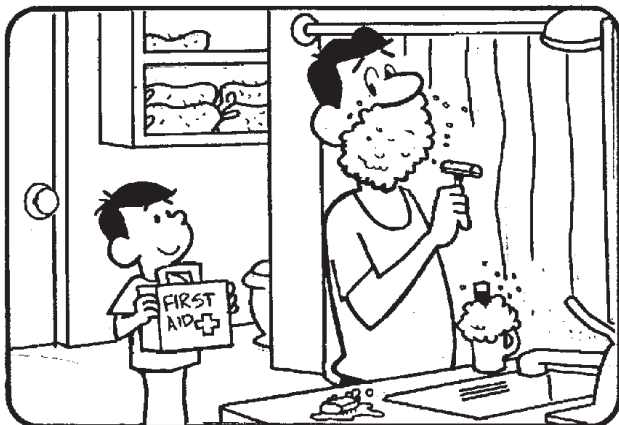
The driving experience still delivers the robust power and performance SUV drivers demand.

HOCUS-FOCUS

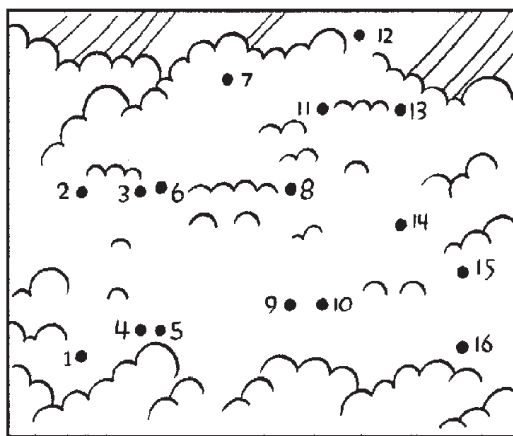
BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Towel is added. 2. Toilet is added. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Hair is added. 5. Pants are different. 6. Soap is added.



RIDDLE-DOTS! Connect the dots and find out what the most beautiful things ever built are.

Castles in the air.
Answer:

A CORNY PROBLEM! A squirrel found nine ears of corn in Farmer Brown's barn. Every day, for nine days, he carried three ears away. Why did it take him so long to empty the barn?

Answer: Every day he removed one ear of corn and his own two ears.

Illustrated by David Coulson



FINGER FLICKIN' FUN! Balance a card, with a quarter on top, on the tip of your middle finger. Bet that you can remove the card and leave the coin balanced on your finger, without touching the coin. **SECRET:** With your other hand, snap a finger against the card edge, sending it spinning. The coin will remain on your finger.



Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

IT'S TEATIME!

SEE IF you can "urn" an "A" on this vocabulary quiz by finding the letters that are missing from the six words pictured here. They all end with the word URN.

DEFINITIONS:

1. To plow the soil.
2. To stir up vigorously.
3. A color.
4. A temporary stay.
5. Habitually untalkative.
6. Result of overeating.

Answers: 1. Turn, 2. Churn, 3. Auburn, 4. Sojourn, 5. Taciturn, 6. Heartburn.

LIFESTYLE



Fluffy Pancakes to Flip Over

Next Tuesday is Mardi Gras, or Shrove Tuesday, the last day to feast before lent. It has also come to be known as “Pancake Day,” so what better way to celebrate than to get out the griddle and cook up a batch of homemade flapjacks.

Making good pancakes depends on only three factors — mixing the batter to the right consistency, heating the griddle properly, and recognizing when to turn the cakes.

The batter should be stirred just enough to moisten the dry ingredients and should remain lumpy. Overmixing makes pancakes tough. For best results, cover the batter and refrigerate an hour or so (or overnight) so the flour expands and absorbs the moisture.

Preheat the griddle over medium heat. It’s ready when a few drops of cold water sizzle and dance when sprinkled onto the surface. If the water sits and boils, the griddle isn’t hot enough. If it evaporates instantly, reduce the heat.

Pancakes are best served right from the griddle, but you can keep them warm in a 200°F oven.

OLD-FASHIONED PANCAKES

- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1-1/4 cups milk
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Make a well in the center and pour in the milk, egg and melted butter; mix until smooth.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium high heat. Pour or scoop the batter onto the griddle, using approximately 1/4 cup for each pancake. Brown on both sides and serve hot. Yields 6 servings.

FLUFFY BUTTERMILK PANCAKES

- 1 cup buttermilk

- 1 egg at room temperature
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Combine buttermilk, egg and melted butter in a mixing bowl. Stir briskly until smooth and blended.

Combine flour, salt and baking

soda; blend well. Add to liquid ingredients, stir only until dry bits of flour disappear. A few lumps are OK.

Heat a pancake griddle or cast-iron skillet to medium-hot. Grease it lightly. Spoon out about 3 tablespoons of batter per pancake. Spread batter with back of spoon to thin it out a little. Cook until a

few bubbles break on top. Turn pancakes and cook briefly. Transfer pancakes to a platter and place in preheated 200°F oven. Continue with remaining batter. Yields about 14 three-inch pancakes.

For blueberry pancakes, immediately after pouring batter onto griddle, sprinkle 1 tablespoon fresh or well-drained canned or frozen blueberries over each pancake.

POTATO, CHIVE & BACON PANCAKES

- 4 thin strips of bacon
- 1 cup + 1 teaspoon of flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/3 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1-1/2 cups buttermilk
- 1 large egg
- 3 tablespoons mild olive oil
- 3/4 cup mashed potatoes
- 1/4 cup snipped fresh chives

Cook bacon until crisp in skillet, drain on paper towels and crumble.

Put the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and pepper into a food processor. Process briefly to mix. Add buttermilk, egg and oil; process a few seconds to blend well. Scrape down the sides. Add mashed potatoes, chives and crumbled bacon. Turn the machine on-off 6-8 times, just until ingredi-

ents are mixed.

Heat griddle or skillet over moderate heat. Lightly grease the griddle. For each pancake, pour 1/8 cup batter onto the griddle. Cook 3 to 4 minutes, until bubbles appear on the surface and the undersides are golden brown. Adjust the heat if the pancakes brown too fast. Turn the pancakes over and cook 1 to 2 minutes longer. Yields about 20 3-inch pancakes, about 6 servings.

BUCKWHEAT PANCAKES

- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoon sugar
- 2-1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups cake flour
- 2 cups buckwheat flour
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

Blend together eggs, salt and sugar in bowl. Stir in milk. Sift together flours and baking powder in large bowl. Whisk in egg mixture. Add melted butter and mix well, but do not overmix. Let stand 15 to 20 minutes. Batter will be thick.

Drop by scant 1/4 cupful onto lightly greased griddle and cook until underside is lightly browned and top is starting to bubble. Turn and cook other side until browned and dry. Makes about 30 pancakes (8 servings).

BLUEBERRY SYRUP

- 1 cup blueberries
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water

Combine ingredients in small saucepan. Bring to a boil. Crush berries with back of spoon. Simmer 2 to 3 minutes. Serve hot.

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City of San Leandro's Home Earthquake Strengthening Course

The City of San Leandro is again offering its nationally recognized and award-winning Home Earthquake Strengthening Course to homeowners. This is a “do-it-yourself” course geared towards owners of older, raised-floor homes. Homeowners will be shown how to identify and strengthen structural weaknesses in their homes. Upon completion of this four-day course, each homeowner will have a customized blueprint for their seismic project.

If you own a hillside home, please contact the Division of Building & Safety at (510) 577-3405.

When: March 5, 10, 12, and 17
This is a four-day course.

Where: The Senior Community Center @
13909 E. 14th Street,
San Leandro, Main Hall B

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Cost for City of San Leandro Residents:

\$30.00 for single / \$35.00 for couples

Cost for Non-Residents / Unincorporated

San Leandro: \$50.00 for single / \$60.00 for couples

Class size is limited.

REGISTRATION BY MAIL OR PHONE

ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS

For more information, please call Division of Building & Safety Services at (510) 577-3405.

TO REGISTER: Please mail your payment and information or call:



City of San Leandro
Building Division
835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 577-3405

City to Host Climate Action Plan Workshop Tonight at Senior Center

The City of San Leandro is hosting a Climate Action Plan public workshop tonight (Thursday) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. The public is invited to learn about the city's Climate Action Plan and help envision a resilient, equitable, and sustainable San Leandro.

The workshop will start with an open house and dinner with time for the public to circulate between several stations and learn about the Climate Action Plan components.

A presentation and small-group discussions will follow to share ideas on how everyone can work together to address local

climate effects.

Dinner will be served. Translation will be provided in Chinese and Spanish. Childcare for children ages 4 and up will also be available. Doors open at 6:30

“We are working very hard to address the threats of climate change.”

— Mayor Pauline Cutter

p.m., and the presentation begins at 7 p.m. RSVP at <https://slcap-workshop.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, contact

Dr. Hoi-Fei Mok, Sustainability Manager at SustainableSL@sanleandro.org or 510-577-3421, or see the City's website: <https://www.sanleandro.org/depts/pw/sust>.

“The City of San Leandro is dedicated to being a sustainable, livable city and we are working very hard to address the threats of climate change by reducing pollutants, conserving precious resources, and strengthening our community's resilience to a changing climate and rising sea levels,” noted Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter. “Partnership and collaboration with a broad spectrum of the public will be a key step as we move forward.”

San Leandro Schools Planning Meetings

The San Leandro Unified School District is planning for the future. Attend one of the district's upcoming Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) community forums.

These meetings will also in-

clude details about the facilities improvement bond, Measure N, which is on the ballot for March 3.

The meetings will be on Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Bancroft Middle School, presented in Spanish; on

Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at John Muir Middle School, presented in Chinese; and on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., at the Barbara Lee Health Center (2251 Bancroft Ave.), presented in English.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Tony and Teresa DeCoteau stood by as a tree crew removed the tree in their front yard to make way for a crane to lift the oak tree off their house.

Oak: Crane called in to lift tree

continued from front page

another tree in the front yard in order to make room for the crane.

This week, the crane lifted the tree off the house. The back bedroom sustained even more damage when the tree was removed because the branches were supporting the ceiling, said Teresa's father, John Quintell of San Leandro.

Teresa DeCoteau said it's been a tough year.

“We lost our mom last March and then Tony had a heart attack the day before her funeral,” she said.

They have renters insurance that will help cover hotel expenses until the house is rebuilt, which might take a while. It's

possible that the house is so badly damaged that it can't be saved.

The house on Russell Street is in a woody area next to a creek,

just across from the Japanese Tea Garden.

“We liked it here, it's just like living in the country,” Teresa said.

Park District Inducts New Leaders for 2020

The East Bay Regional Park District board of directors has inducted Ellen Corbett as president, Dee Rosario as vice president, Colin Coffey as treasurer, and Beverly Lane as secretary.

The additional Board members are Dennis Waespi, who represents Castro Valley, Ayn

Wieskamp and Elizabeth Echols. Leadership positions rotate annually.

Corbett, former mayor of San Leandro and a former majority leader of the state senate and member of the state assembly, was elected to the board in 2016. Her term expires later this year.

Waespi was elected to the Board in 2014. He will serve as chair of the legislative committee. He was a park supervisor at the Park District for 36 years before retiring in 2016. His term expires in 2022.

Mulford Gardens Meeting Feb. 25

The Mulford Garden Neighborhood will host a neighborhood watch meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Frank's Sports Bar and Grill, 2014 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro.

A San Leandro police officer will be speaking about crime and car break-ins in the neighborhood and what to do about it. For more information, contact Rob at rob.trabert@yahoo.com.

Become a Hayward Softball Umpire

The Hayward Softball Umpires Association is recruiting year-round to work paid Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) softball games – men's, women's and co-ed slow pitch. The umpires association trains all age groups. It's a great way to earn some extra money. For more information, call the association's educational director at 510-586-8592 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

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SENIORS

New Law Makes Big Changes to IRA's

Q I heard that there is a new law which makes major changes to IRAs and other retirement plans. Can you comment?

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

A Sure. The new law, signed by President Trump on December 20, 2019, and effective January 1, 2020, is called the "Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act" or the "SECURE Act" for short.

It was designed to promote more saving for retirement, but it may require seniors to rethink some of their estate planning. Following are the major changes:

- **Stretch IRAs Limited.** The biggest change eliminates "stretch" IRAs for many benefi-

ciaries. Under former law, your Designated Beneficiary (DB) could choose to take distributions over his or her lifetime and to pass what was left, after the DB's death, onto future generations (called the "stretch" option).

The required minimum distributions were then withdrawn each year based upon the beneficiary's life expectancy. This allowed the IRA to grow tax-deferred over the course of the beneficiary's life and to be passed on to his or her own beneficiaries, potentially "stretching" the payout over two or more generations.

Unless the beneficiary is a member of one of five (5) favored categories (see below), the SECURE Act requires beneficiaries who inherit retirement accounts to withdraw all the money within 10 years of the original owner's death.

In many cases, these with-

drawals will now occur during the beneficiary's highest tax years, meaning that the elimination of the "stretch" option is effectively a tax increase for many beneficiaries.

This provision will apply to those who inherit retirement plans on or after January 1, 2020.

- **Stretch IRAs Still Available For Certain Beneficiaries:** The "stretch option" is still permitted for the following beneficiaries: (1) the surviving spouse of the account owner; (2) Children of the owner, but only until they reach age 18; (3) Disabled persons; (4) Chronically Ill persons, and (5) Beneficiaries not less than 10 years younger than the account owner.

- **Required minimum distributions.** Under prior law, the owner was required to begin taking distributions from his IRA beginning when he reached age

70-1/2. Under the new law, individuals can now wait until age 72 to begin taking distributions.

- **No Age Cap on Contributions.** The new law allows workers to continue to contribute to an IRA after age 70-1/2, eliminating the former age cap.

- **Annuities.** The new law removes roadblocks that made employers wary of including annuities in 401(k) plans by eliminating some of the fiduciary requirements used to vet companies and products before they could be included in a plan.

- **Withdrawals.** The new law allows an early withdrawal of up to \$5,000 from a retirement account without penalty in the event of the birth of a child or an adoption. Formerly, there was a 10 percent penalty for early withdrawals in most circumstances.



A new law designed to promote more saving for retirement may require seniors to rethink some of their estate planning.

Given these changes, retirement plan owners should review their estate plans, especially if they relied upon "stretch" options as an estate planning tool.

One way some did this was to name a trust as the beneficiary of their IRA. Those trusts should now be reviewed to determine if they need to be reformed to conform to the new law. If an IRA "stretch option" is part of

your estate plan, you may wish to consult with your attorney or tax advisor to determine if you need to make changes.

Gene L. Osofsky is an estate planning and elder law attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com. He wishes to thank Harry Margolis, Esq. of MA for permission to use and modify his original article on topic.

When Should Dementia Patients Stop Driving?

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Q Is there a good rule of thumb on when dementia patients should stop driving? My 82-year-old mom has early stage Alzheimer's disease but still drives herself around town just fine.

A Most doctors agree that people with moderate to severe dementia should never get behind the wheel, but in the early stages of Alzheimer's, driving performance should be the determining factor of when to stop driving, not the disease itself.

With that said, it's also important to realize that as your mom's driving skills deteriorate over time from the disease, she might not recognize she has a problem. So, it's very important that you work closely with her doctor to monitor her driving and help her stop when it is no longer safe for her to drive. Here are some additional tips that can help you.

Watch for Warning Signs

The best way to keep tabs on your mom's driving is to take frequent rides with her watching

out for key warning signs. For example:

- Does she have trouble remembering routes to familiar places?
- Does she drive at inappropriate speeds, tailgate, drift between lanes or fail to observe traffic signs?
- Does she react slowly or make poor driving decisions?

Also, has your mom had any fender benders or tickets lately, or have you noticed any dents or scrapes on her vehicle? All of these are red flags.

If you need some assessment help, hire a driver rehabilitation specialist who's trained to evaluate older drivers. See AOTA.org/older-driver or ADED.net to locate one in your area.

Transition Tips

Through your assessments, if you believe it's still safe for your mom to drive, you should start recommending some simple adjustments to ensure her safety, like driving only in daylight and on familiar routes, and avoiding busy roads and bad weather.

Also, see if she will sign an Alzheimer's "driving contract" (see ALZ.org/driving to print one) that designates someone to

tell her when it's no longer safe to drive.

You may also want to consider getting a GPS car tracking device (like MotoSafety.com or AutoBrain.com) to help you keep an eye on her. These devices will let you track where she's driving and allow you to set up zones and speed limits that will send you alerts to your smartphone when she exits an area, or if she's driving too fast or braking harshly.

Time to Quit

When your mom's driving gets to the point that she can no longer drive safely, you'll need to talk to her. It's actually best to start having these conversations in the early stages of the disease, before she needs to quit driving, so she can prepare herself.

You also need to have a plan for alternative transportation (including a list of family, friends and local transportation options) that will help your mom get around after she stops driving.

For tips on how to talk to your mom, the Hartford Center for Mature Market Excellence offers a helpful guide called "At the Crossroads: Family Conversations About Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia and Driving" that you can get at TheHartford.com/Publications-on-Aging.

Refuses to Quit

If your mom refuses to quit, you have several options. First, suggest a visit to her doctor who can give her a medical evaluation, and prescribe that she stops driving. Older people will often

listen to their doctor before they will listen to their own family.

If she still refuses, contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to see if they can help. Some states require doctors to report new dementia cases to the DMV, who can revoke the person's license.

If these fail, consider hiding her keys or just take them away.

You could also disable her vehicle by disconnecting the battery, park it in another location so she can't see it or have access to it or sell it.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



There May Be Trouble Ahead

Along with death and marriage, selling a home is one of life's most stressful events. Now a new Harris poll confirms what many have known all along. It is not only a taxing experience, it can produce conflict.

The survey, using data culled from real estate transactions over 10 years, reveals that 77% of homebuyers and 71% of sellers have argued with a loved one as a result of the buying/selling process.

As an agent who has worked with countless couples, I have seen firsthand how nerve-racking it can actually be.

I've seen couples almost come to blows over disagreements and, in one extreme case, I recommended that a couple stop searching for a home and start looking for a marriage counselor. They took my advice: it would have been a

real tragedy to help them buy a house only to sell a short while later due to a divorce.

The survey also reveals those issues which cause tension.

- 54% of couples disagreed over the style or size of a property,
- 47% clashed over what constituted "must haves" or "deal breakers,"
- 42% argued over location and neighborhood,
- 37% quarreled over budget issues and
- 29% sparred over the condition of the home they were willing to buy.

Age was also a significant factor, with Millennials topping the "Willing to Argue" leader board at a whopping 85%. The numbers were much lower for older couples – either because they had learned to negotiate at a higher level or had previous buying/selling experience and consequently had different expectations.

On the listing side of the equation, the highest percentage disagreement was no surprise at all: 69% of couples disagreed over the list price. Personally, I've lost count of the number of times I've sat through those "animated discussions."

I'm often asked which transactions have the most disagreements. The answer: couples negotiating divorces. Selling a home because of divorce is always a lose-lose proposition: frequently one party either does not want the divorce or wants to stay in the family home.

While some couples manage to keep it civil, others use the selling process to "get back" at the other party. In some cases, both sellers, totally frustrated with each other, turn and vent their frustrations at their Realtor, moving it from lose-lose to lose-lose-lose.

Buying or selling will be stressful. Nat King Cole's advice? "There may be trouble ahead ... let's face the music and dance."

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.

Water Stress Keeps Plants from Growing

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Last spring, I planted two staked Star Jasmine into a container about the size of a 5-gallon pot. I wanted them to climb over and cover an arbor. They were watered weekly, but have shown almost no new growth, and the foliage is a dull green color with brown spots. Boy, was I disappointed! How do I go about pruning them now for more growth this year?

Pruning is not the answer to your problem; increasing the water frequency and nutrients is.

Your watering schedule wasn't adequate last year during the summer and fall months. Water stress, from going dry in between watering, hampered your plants'

growth potential.

When temperatures are over 75°F, new plantings are typically watered every other day. This year I would water daily. The water must flow out the bottom of the container otherwise root rot becomes a problem.

This assumes that the pot size is adequate for the plant. In your case, it's not.

Star Jasmine become root-bound quickly in a 5-gallon pot. The pot size is critical as this is not a short-term planting.

There is a direct relationship between the amount of top growth and the root mass necessary to support itself. The bigger the root mass the less soil there is in a container. With less soil, water stress becomes more severe when the days grow longer and warmer.

I would replant the Star Jasmine into pots the size of a wine

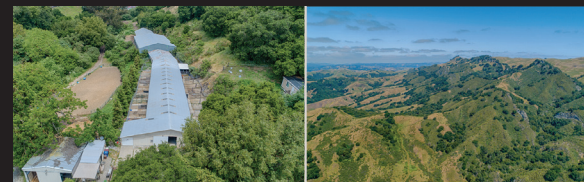
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barrel or larger. A container with detachable sides would be ideal; however, it would have to be custom-built. The removable side container allows you to keep the plants thriving, indefinitely in the same container.

Every two to three years, you would remove the sides, reduce the root mass by root pruning and add fresh soil. It's nearly impossible to root prune a Star Jasmine or any other vining, container plant without cutting off all the top growth. How else would one be able to slide the plant out of the existing pot?

I would also revisit if you need two plants. For nutrient replen-

ishment, I would apply Osmocote twice a year four months apart. Osmocote will release a little bit of fertilizer with every watering.

There are many other fertilizers that will work, but you need to be diligent with the follow-up applications. Nutrients, along with soil, will leach out the bottom of the containers when you water.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advance California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/BuzzBertolero](https://www.facebook.com/BuzzBertolero).

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Tips to Get your House Ready for Entertaining

Whether hosting family and friends for your first or fifteenth time, you want your home to be ready to impress. Here are five simple ways to make sure your home is refreshed and ready for any entertaining occasion.

1. Refresh kitchen counters

Since the kitchen is where people mingle the most, don't leave old, dirty caulk to be the focal point behind your delicious spread! Spruce up your countertop and backsplash by removing and replacing the old caulk. Consider using a caulk that's formulated specifically to ward off dirt and mold.

2. Repair imperfections and paint on walls

It's inevitable that scuffs and scratches will appear on walls over time. A fresh coat of paint in key areas, like the living

room, bathroom and guest bedroom, will help the entire home feel clean and fresh. Be sure to first prep walls by filling holes and cracks with spackling compound for a smooth finished surface. DAP DryDex Spackling takes the guesswork out of drying time with an indicator that goes on pink and dries white so you know when it's ready to sand and paint.

3. Clean and prep the floors

If you have the time, schedule a carpet cleaning before your guests are scheduled to arrive. And, consider applying a fast-drying polish to hardwood floors for a squeaky-clean finish. It's also a good idea to keep a multi-surface vacuum in an easy-to-access location for quick spot cleans and pick-ups.

4. Salvage broken décor

Don't fret when you notice a décor item has cracked or

broken. Instead, grab a strong, fast-setting glue to make simple, long-lasting repairs before guests arrive. DAP RapidFuse All Purpose Adhesive sets in 30 seconds and is two times more durable than other super glues - there's even a plastic primer available that will help with hard-to-fix plastic décor.

5. Update decorative accessories

Small updates like adding plants, rugs and throws to your space are low-cost but high impact. Lighting is another quick change that can really help warm a space. Consider swapping out the shades on your lamps or installing updated light fixtures for an entirely new look, but for a fraction of the cost.

With these easy tips, your home will feel fresh and welcoming year-round.

— Brandpoint



Plant a Tree


Arbor Day is celebrated in California in March, so make a plan—and pick a spot—to plant a tree.

Before it Rains Again

If the weather is nice this weekend, get out and do some serious work. Finish pruning roses, grapes and deciduous fruit and nut trees. (If you want more grape vines, stick a few of the pruned cuttings into the ground—they root easily.) Put any bulbs that haven't been planted into the ground right away. Pull weeds while the ground is still very moist and before they take over everything.

Repot Cymbidiums

If your cymbidium orchids are bulging out of their containers, repot them from now until the end of June. Remove the old bark, discard dead roots and rotted bulbs, and transfer the entire plant into a larger container filled with cymbidium mix or bark. You can also split up the plant into groups of three to five bulbs with leaves and repot each division individually.



The rose has been used throughout history as a powerful symbol for concepts and causes. It is found in writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans. In Christianity the rose became associated with the Virgin Mary; it also is found in poetry and designs of the Middle East and its religions. It figures in cultural traditions, social and political movements, and has symbolised armies in battle and resistance movements against tyranny. — B. Weaver

Source: britannica.com, wikipedia.org

Survey: Many Homeowners are not Prepared for an Emergency

If emergency officials in your community issued a mandatory evacuation order to get out of the path of a wildfire, hurricane or other natural disaster, would you know what to take with you, the evacuation route you would take and where you would go until it was safe to return home?

Do you have a personal evacuation plan in place?

If you answered "yes," you're like 49% of the 1,795 respondents Mercury Insurance recently surveyed for its emergency preparedness quiz. However, if the question was rephrased to inquire about "having an evacuation plan and practicing it at least once a year," the results show only 23% meet this criteria.

"Safety should be your first priority in any situation involving a possible disaster or emergency event, and you should respond to mandatory evacuation orders immediately," said Christopher O'Rourke, vice president of property claims at Mercury Insurance. "Your first instinct might be to panic, so having an evacuation plan in place and practicing it regularly will help ensure you and your family are ready to go at a moment's notice. And it will also help alleviate some of the stress and anxiety that will undoubtedly be a part of such a nerve-racking situation."

The survey also revealed that 39% of homeowners were unsure if they have enough coverage to rebuild if their home is damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster, and 34% don't have a home inventory they could provide to their insurance

company to help get these items replaced. "Homeowners and renters should make a point of touching base with their insurance agents at least once a year to reassess coverage needs," said O'Rourke. "It's a good idea to make sure you have enough coverage as you accumulate more belongings, make changes to your home or your family expands - these details may affect your policy limits, as well as create a need for endorsements

- * A first aid kit;
- * A whistle to signal for help;
- * A can opener;
- * Blankets;
- * Tools to turn off utilities;
- * \$200 in cash in small bills, as power may be out, making ATMs, debit and credit cards unusable;
- * Fully charged battery packs so you can recharge your cell phone; and
- * Prescriptions for you and



you might want to consider adding to your policy."

There is some good news, however, as 88% of respondents said they have an in-home emergency kit stocked with essential items they will need if disaster strikes. If you don't have a kit, here is a list of the items you may want to include in your kit:

- * A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person), non-perishable food items and pet food, if applicable;
- * A battery-powered or hand-crank radio (and extra batteries);
- * A flashlight;

your pets.

The bottom line is that extreme weather events are anticipated to increase, and you can never be too cautious or over-prepared to protect against Mother Nature. "It's a bit alarming to discover that, although natural disasters are in the news on a seemingly regular basis, many Americans still aren't properly preparing themselves if one happens in their neighborhood or city," said O'Rourke. "These events can have serious repercussions and adopting a wait-and-see attitude is not an option."

— Brandpoint

Use Specific Moss Control Product


By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Q I have moss growing in my lawn. Will a weed killer be effective in killing it?

A If the moss is mixed in with desirable grass, then the answer would be no. If it's in open or bare spaces then you could use a non-selective herbicide and spot treat the areas. You'll need to protect the desirable grass with a cardboard plant shield.

The best option is to use a specific moss-control-for-lawn product. There are several available, but be sure to read the label. You want one that can be applied to turf. Buzz Bertolero is an Advance California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)





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Published March 18 & 19, 2020

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CITY GUIDE

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Groceries: Food given out at several locations

continued from front page

rytelling programs, students at the city's Kiddie Kollege pre-school at Halcyon Park, the CALICO abused-child nonprofit, and La Clinica at the REACH Ashland Youth Center, according to Dong. The latter is just outside the city limits, but serves many city residents, she said.

Those who attended the kickoff got to help bag some food and

“Given how expensive it is to live here it's a big help that you can get a healthy meal someplace.”

— Kiddie Kollege teacher
Linda Garcia

load it into vans waiting to take it to some of those local nonprofits.

“Given how expensive it is to live here, it's a big help that you can get a healthy meal someplace,” said Kiddie Kollege teacher Linda Garcia.

Artrese Morrison gave some details on that. It costs a family of four some \$90,000 a year just to meet basic needs in Alameda County, and many residents earn far less than that.

“I thought people might be too proud to take anything, but people saw that their dignity was respected, and were quite thankful,” Linda Garcia said.

City Manager Jeff Kay, who emceed the event, asked CEI client Edward Barnett to say a few



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Bags of food were prepared for local nonprofits at the Feb. 13 kickoff of the Food For San Leandro Families program.

words, and Barnett did.

“Thank you. This is a big help,” Barnett said.

Andrew Hays, activity and volunteer programs manager with CEI, said that elders had been delighted with the fresh food help last year and have kept asking for more of it this year.

“We found how important it was for seniors to be able to make a contribution to their families,” Hays said.

“Seniors often worry about being a burden, after a lifetime of contributing, and with this program they're able to contribute fresh, healthy food to their families and to their grandchildren. It's great to give them these moments of joy,” Hays said.

Mayor Pauline Cutter said the city was proud to partner with the food bank to get more food to those who need it.

According to Jeannette Dong, the only expense to the city for the program is use of city vans for some food deliveries to nonprofits.

Both community members and city staff on their own time pitch in as volunteers to do much of the work involved.

CEI's Hays lauded the program for being aware of the practical side of fresh food for older people.

“Raw vegetables require a

lot of preparation,” he said. “But healthy eating is part of their health.”

“Food insecurity was something we're aware of and have tried to combat with our own nutrition program, but there's only so much we can do about such a big problem,” Hays said.

When the city contacted them last August about the pilot program, Hays said, they joined it right away.

“This program is addressing the health needs of the most underserved people in society. We want to be part of that,” Hays added.

Swalwell Book on Trump Due Out in April

Abrams Press has announced the April 7 publication of “Endgame: Inside the Impeachment of Donald J. Trump” by Rep. Eric Swalwell, who represents the 15th Congressional District.

According to the publisher's announcement, the book will take readers behind the scenes of Congress' courageous defense of the rule of law, following the investigation and impeachment of a rogue president.

With details and stories from inside the Democratic caucus and



Eric Swalwell

the Intelligence and Judiciary committees, “Endgame” follows this remarkable, historic march toward justice as it unfolds.

Swalwell describes the book as “the story of courage triumphing over corruption to impeach President Trump.”

“It's my inside account of America's public servants stepping up and Congress taking action to rein in a president who put his own interests over national security and our elections' integrity.”

“And while Donald Trump's Senate fixers rigged his 'acquittal,' our effort to hold him accountable was the beginning of the end for his corrupt presidency.”

The 256-page hardcover book is listed at \$27.

Early Voting and Vote By Mail for March 3 Primary

Early Voting for the March 3 Presidential Primary Election is available at the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Vote by Mail period for this election is from Monday, Feb. 3, through Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Voters may request a Vote by Mail ballot at any time from Feb. 3 through Feb. 25 for the March 3 Presidential Primary Election by one of the following ways: completing the application on the back of their Voter Information Pamphlet, sending an email, send a written request via fax to 510-272-6982, by mail to the Registrar of Voters' Office, or call the Registrar of Voters at 510-272-6973, to re-

quest for a ballot to be mailed to you.

Voters may also complete the online Vote by Mail application at www.acvote.org/vbm. All Vote by Mail ballot requests must be received no later than Tuesday, Feb. 25, by 5 p.m.

Only the registered voter himself or herself may apply for a Vote by Mail ballot. An application for a Vote by Mail ballot that is made by any person other than the registered voter is a criminal offense.

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office is located at: 1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1, Oakland.

For more information, visit acvote.org or call the Registrar of Voters at 510-272-6973.

Flood Maps for Lake Chabot Now Available

Inundation maps for East Bay Municipal Utility District's Lake Chabot and Lafayette reservoirs are now publicly available on the California Division of Safety of Dams' website.

The maps provide information about a hypothetical failure of a dam or its spillway to assist in emergency preparedness and planning.

As part of state regulations enacted following the Oroville Dam spillway failure in 2017, California dam owners are required to submit these maps showing potential flooding that could result from a dam failure.

EBMUD relies on 26 dams to store much of the water it supplies to customers, and regularly assesses, upgrades and improves its East Bay and Sierra foothills dams to

ensure they are safe.

Engineers monitor dams using instruments, monthly visual inspections, and periodic dam safety reviews to protect the public, prevent personal injury, and prevent property damage from dam failures.

The 135-foot high earthen Chabot Dam was initially constructed in 1875 and subsequently upgraded and re-graded in 1892, 1967, and 1980.

EBMUD releases water from the Chabot reservoir into San Leandro Creek below the dam. Two emergency spillways drain into San Leandro Creek in the event of high lake levels after heavy rainfall.

To learn about EBMUD's Dam Safety Program, visit: ebmud.com/damsafety

‘American Pickers’ Coming To the East Bay in March

The reality TV show on the History channel, “American Pickers,” will be coming to California and will film episodes in this area in March.

The pickers hunt for valuable antiques and they are interested in finding unique collections and learning the interesting stories behind the items.

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and their team hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way. They're always looking to discover something they've never seen before.

American Pickers is looking for leads and would love to



Mike and Frank

explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to: americpickers@cinetflix.com or call 855-OLD-RUST.

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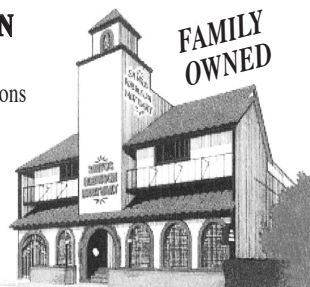
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CEI Names Dr. James Mittelberger as Chief Medical Officer

James Mittelberger, MD, a nationally known physician leader in geriatric medicine, hospice and palliative care, has been named Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Center for Elders' Independence (CEI), on Fairway Drive in San Leandro.

Mittelberger has brought a depth of experience and dedication to serving vulnerable populations, especially senior patients, for more than 30 years.

"I am thrilled that Dr. Mittelberger has joined CEI's leadership team during these challenging times in health care," said Linda Trowbridge, CEI chief

executive officer. "His genuine passion for improving the lives of seniors coupled with an exceptional commitment to geriatric care will be outstanding contributions to our continued success in providing quality services for seniors."

"I am extremely excited to join CEI and its exceptional PACE model of care," said Mittelberger.

His extensive leadership experience began as Medical Director at the Over 60 Health Clinic in Berkeley, followed by 20 years in a variety of roles at Oakland's Highland Hospital (Alameda

County Medical Center).

Prior to joining CEI, Dr. Mittelberger served as CMO of Hospice by the Bay. He also has



worked nationally as CMO for Ovarations/Medicare Solutions within the United Healthcare Group, where he was responsible for oversight of all Medicare programs throughout the Western United States. He later became CMO of Optum Center for Palliative and Supportive Care where he developed programs for vulnerable elders in multiple states across the country.

In addition to his physician executive positions, Dr. Mittelberger maintained a geriatric clinical practice for 25 years and is currently a Clinical Professor at the UCSF School of Medicine as

well as Secretary of the California Coalition for Compassionate Care. Now in its 37th year in the East Bay, CEI helps at-risk seniors live at home, rather than in nursing homes, through its national model of care known as

PACE (the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly). PACE has been replicated in 263 PACE centers in 31 states. For more information about Center for Elders' Independence, visit elders.org or call (510) 433-1150.

Adult School Art Students Showing Watercolors at the Main Library

The San Lorenzo Adult School Watercolor Class, Studio 820, will exhibit students' watercolor paintings at the San Leandro Main Library from Feb. 1 to March 27.

Many of the artists are long-time residents of San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, Hayward and Fremont, and many of their original watercolor paintings will be for sale.

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.

The Cost of Measure N

Editor:

Yes, as advertised Measure N may do some good for schools, but its cost is way too high at \$45 per \$100,000 assessed value against your house, and the financing sucks.

No adjustments were made for assessment disparity, so that a \$700,000 home pays an additional \$315 while a \$100,000 assessment only pays \$45.

Since the California treasury surplus is now said to exceed \$10 billion it only makes sense that had our mayor driven our city lobbyist to Sacramento rather than flying him off to Washington all the time, that \$198 million would be sitting in our general fund by now instead of gnawing a hole in our pockets as a bond issue.

While elected officials acquire wealth, power, and position, the average working citizen has watched his wages slide downhill against accelerating taxation and inflation. Distressed citizens always find avaricious politicians such as Mayor Cutter or Ellen Corbett cluttering up their mailboxes when votes or money are needed but never around when they are threatened by the loss of a home or business.

Even the most jaded San Leandran knows that over the past five years more of his neighbors have been forced to pack up and leave town than over the course of the past 30 years. Instead of allowing these politicians to hitch up a vacuum cleaner to your bank account, you could put in a no vote this time and demand a better deal before you say yes to the next bond go-round.

—David F. Sigel
San Leandro

Money, Money, Money

Editor:

Unfortunately I just can't support voting yes for Measure N on March 3. Measure N is for \$198 million, wow that's a lot of moolah.

I assume it's go big or go home and it looks like they are trying to hit one out of the ballpark and land it on the moon.

Including this proposed tax with the

other four that we are already paying for, this new school tax will increase to \$515 million or \$58,000 per student. This new tax will add \$179 per \$100,000 in assessed value and with the average value in San Leandro being \$358,735 the total will rise to \$642 per household per year in school taxes alone.

Using the same assessed value of what other cities are currently paying in school taxes, the city of Sunol is paying \$416 a year, Pleasanton \$323 and Antioch \$215. Why are we being asked to pay double of what Pleasanton is paying and three times more than Antioch?

A recent editorial in the East Bay Times reviewed five cities with school bonds on the upcoming ballot and the only one that they said should be voted down is San Leandro. It is out of line with what others in the East Bay are paying in school taxes.

San Leandro was one of the first cities in California to raise the sales tax to 9.75 percent when the current average sales tax in California is 8.37 percent. Who out there has been drinking the Kool-Aid and listening to Abba sing their top tune Money, Money, Money and think this should become the theme song of San Leandro residents?

—Brent Heath
San Leandro

Taking Care of Least Fortunate

Editor:

I was greatly impressed and fascinated by what Brent Heath wrote in his letter "Expensive Shuttle" (*The Times*, Jan. 30).

My personal efforts failed on July 11, 2013 when I first wrote requesting elimination of the enrollment fee of \$20 for seniors riding the Flex Shuttle. It would really be a great gratification for all seniors in San Leandro because they really deserve it.

Brent's article deserves our city's utmost attention. There is no doubt that San Leandro should take good care of the least fortunate that need assistance.

—Alfred Kwok
San Leandro

The Diet of Lent

Editor:

February 26th marks the beginning of Lent, the period leading up to Easter, when devout Christians abstain from animal foods in remembrance of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness.

The call to abstain from eating animals is as traditional as Genesis 1:29, yet as current as the teaching of evangelical leader Franklin Graham. Earlier religious leaders like Methodist founder John Wesley, Salvation Army pioneers William and Catherine Booth, and Seventh-day Adventist Church founder Ellen White, all abstained from animal flesh.

A plant-based diet is not just about Christian devotion. Dozens of medical studies have linked consumption of animal products with elevated risk of heart failure, stroke, cancer, and other killer diseases. A United Nations report named meat production as the largest source of greenhouse gases and water pollution. Undercover investigations have documented routine mutilation, deprivation, and beating of animals on factory farms.

Today's supermarkets offer a rich array of plant-based meats, milks, cheeses, and ice creams, as well as traditional vegetables, fruits, and grains. Entering "vegan" in our favorite search engine provides lots of suitable products, recipes, and transition tips.

—Kurt Champller
San Leandro

Pipeline Opposed

Editor:

An oil company wants to build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline on Indigenous homelands in North Carolina as well as the African American community of Union Hill, Virginia. The pipeline carry gas up to 67 million tons of pollution which can harm both of these groups. I urge the majority of Americans to stop the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline on both Indigenous and African American communities.

—Billy Trice Jr.
Oakland



Send a Letter to the Editor
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INQUIRING REPORTER

Which presidential candidate will you vote for?

— Asked downtown

If I vote I will vote for Sanders. My grandmother was an immigrant. He's trying to make sure everybody is equal in some way. He makes me feel like there is going to be hope. Hope for every race, everybody.

Destiny Uribe-Garcia
Oakland,
works in San Leandro



Anybody but Trump. He has no redeeming qualities whatsoever. I haven't made up my mind yet, but I'm leaning toward Buttigieg or Sanders.

Paul Morris
San Leandro

Definitely not for Trump. I think I'll vote for Buttigieg or Warren. Buttigieg because I would like to see a gay president in my lifetime, and Elizabeth Warren because of all her plans.

Julie Castle-Scott
San Leandro



Bernie Sanders, because he is part of a big political revolution. I like his plans to cancel student debt, and health care for all, and he makes an effort to stay connected with younger people.

Jameson Vinoya
Alameda

I don't know. I don't like any of the candidates. I guess after Trump I don't trust anybody. Hopefully there will be a better candidate. I'll decide before the election, probably one of the Democrats.

Shamiki Rew
San Leandro





The California Teachers Association supports Proposition 13.

March 3 Ballot Measures

Measure D to Renovate Fire Houses in Unincorporated Area

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Measure D on the March 3 ballot aims to replace or renovate aging firehouses in unincorporated areas of Alameda County by issuing \$90 million in bonds.

To repay the bond, the average homeowner's property taxes in the unincorporated communities would rise by an estimated \$63 per year for the next 31 years.

According to county Fire Chief David Rocha, all of the stations being replaced or renovated are at least 30 years old, and two are over 70 years old.

Voters in such unincorporated

communities as San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland and Castro Valley will vote on the measure and pay the additional tax if passed.

Rocha said in a statement on the department's website that 80 percent of fire department 911 calls are now for medical emergencies, not structure fires. He said that upgraded fire stations would help reduce 911 emergency medical response times.

Rocha said that the department would also use the funds from the measure to address priorities identified by the public, such as enhanced wildfire protection and disaster response.

The estimated total cost to repay the bonds over their estimated 31-year life would be about \$160 million, according to Alameda County Counsel Donna R. Ziegler in the official county voter guide.

There was no argument against Measure D submitted for the voter guide. Those signing the argument in favor of the measure in the voting guide included firefighters, homeowners and businesspeople from the unincorporated areas.

More information on the measure is available at www.acgov.org/fire.

Prop. 13: State bond on ballot

continued from front page

to the legislative analyst, some districts would meet this cost by seeking to pass local bond issues. While state-issued bonds are repaid out of the state's general fund, local bond issues are usually repaid by raising property taxes.

According to the legislative analyst, the measure also allows school districts to issue more debt in the form of bonds than is currently allowed. New rules would also be set by the measure for which university projects could be funded by state bonds. In particular, they would have to

prioritize "life-safety and certain other deficiencies with existing facilities."

The argument in favor of the proposition in the voters' guide was signed by the presidents of the California Professional Firefighters, the California Teachers Association and the California School Nurses Association.

Opponents of the proposition question why schools are still dilapidated, unsafe and unhealthy after several statewide bond measures were passed to fix those problems. They also question why one would need to borrow \$15 billion to fix school

problems, with added interest costs, when the state currently has a \$21 billion surplus that could be spent directly to solve those problems.

The voter guide's argument against passage of the proposition was signed by retired teacher Larry Sand, State Senator Brian Jones from El Cajon and Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Alameda County Sales Tax Measure Would Fund Child Care

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Alameda County sales tax issue, Measure C, would levy a half-cent sales tax for 20 years – to raise \$150 million a year – to fund more child-care openings for children of low-income families.

The measure designates 20 percent of the money raised to pediatric health care and the other 80 percent to child care, preschool and early education programs.

Backers of the measure, whose website is www.care4ourkids.org, include health care professionals, parents, early childhood educators and senior citizen advocates. In their ballot argument, they say that over half of Alameda County children do not get the high-quality care they need to arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.

Proponents say that Measure C will expand access to high-quality early education and child care; attract and retain excellent early childhood educators; increase access to pediatric health care; and ensure that Children's Hospital's Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center stays open and

fully staffed.

Measure C would also provide money for higher pay for early childhood educators.

"Low compensation of early educators drives turnover and hampers the ability to attract and retain skilled educators, which in turn undermines stable, continuous relationships essential to children," states one passage in the measure's text.

"Early educators' pay has not kept up with the rising cost of living in the Bay Area," another section reads. Some one-third of full-time early childhood education teachers use some form of public assistance to get by, the measure's text says.

No argument against the measure was submitted for the voter guide.

A "detailed investment plan" is on the proponents' website, www.care4ourkids.org.



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Main Library to Screen 'Last Black Man in SF'

The San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., invites the community to enjoy some soul food from local restaurant Southern Café and a free screening of the film, "The Last Black Man in San Francisco," on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Adults 18 years old and over

may attend this after-hours event in celebration of Black History Month. Refreshments will be provided from 5:30 to 6 p.m., and the film runs from 6 to 8 p.m.

"The Last Black Man in San Francisco" (Rated R), won the 2019 Sundance Film Festival Best Directing award.

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