

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Chef José Andrés to join Rep. Eric Swalwell on Facebook Live tonight to discuss food security



COVER YOUR FACE

The public is being asked to wear face coverings when within six feet of others, including during outdoor activities



San Leandro Times

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

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SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

A BIG THANK YOU



PHOTOS BY BRIAN CENTONI, ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Healthcare workers at San Leandro's Kaiser Hospital enjoyed a surprise "Thank You" parade of first responders last Wednesday, welcoming the fire trucks, motorcycles and ambulances with shouts, smiles and tears. The event was coordinated by Alameda County Firefighters, San Leandro Police Officers and Falck Emergency Response teams.

Shelter-In-Place Extended Through The End of May

By Michael Singer
SAN LEANDRO TIMES

Get used to staying home a bit longer.

Six Bay Area county health departments have extended their current shelter-in-place orders until the end of May. Included are the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara as well as the City of Berkeley.

The new order is expected to include, "limited easing of specific restrictions for a small number of lower-risk activities."

While other states may be loosening their restrictions, California's shelter-in-place order has been effective with slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus, ensuring local hospitals are not overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases, and saving lives of the 7 million Bay Area residents, health officials said.

As of April 27, Alameda County and Berkeley registered 1,498 cases of infection and identified 52 deaths associated with COVID-19. That's a 20 percent increase in both statistics from a week ago.

However, the number of new infections has dropped to as low as 20 in a single day following this month's spike of 80 reported cases on April 15. Additionally, Alameda County says the number of cases that require hospitalization including intensive care has begun to flatten out over the last week.

"At this stage of the pandemic, however, it is critical that our collective efforts continue so that we do not lose the progress we have achieved together," the counties said in a joint statement. "Hospitalizations have leveled, but more work is needed to safely re-open our communities. Prematurely lifting restrictions could easily lead to

see *SHELTER* on page 7

Schools Won't Let COVID-19 Ruin End-of-Year Plans

By Michael Singer
SAN LEANDRO TIMES

Despite the closed campuses, sports stoppages, and canceled performances, students, teachers, and administrators are not going to let the COVID-19 outbreak put a damper on their end-of-the-year celebrations.

Many schools are preparing for virtual events and other measures to acknowledge the hard work and extra effort accomplished by students.

Administrators at the San Leandro and Castro Valley school districts are working with staff and families to plan for modified commencement ceremonies for the Senior classes and advancement celebrations for 5th and 8th Grades. Events like Senior Awards Night and picnics are also being debated.

"What is clear is that we are not going to be holding graduation on the field as we have always done as all of the public school-run sites in Alameda County are closed and we continue to practice social distancing," says Castro Valley School Superintendent, Parvin Ahmadi. "However, we will do everything we can to give the kind of acknowledgment that the students deserve."

But for those looking forward to celebrating their educational milestones, the impact of the has been especially devastating.

Meanwhile, teachers and staff have spent the last month working with families to make sure all students can participate in distance learning.

"Currently, anyone who needs a device is encouraged to contact see *SCHOOLS* on page 7

MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



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EDITORIAL

Fred Zehnder
Editor and Publisher

Jim Knowles
Managing Editor
jimk@ebpublishing.com

Mike McGuire
City Editor

Steve Schaefer
Auto Editor

Contributing Writers
Buzz Bertolero
Carl Medford
Linda Sandsmark

PRODUCTION

Howard Morrison
Manager

Kayla Steinorth
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OPERATIONS

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ADVERTISING

Display Advertising
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Patrick Vadnaiz

HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times
2060 Washington Ave.
San Leandro, California 94577
Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Office: (510) 614-1555
Newsroom: (510) 614-1557
Sports: (510) 614-1561
Advertising: (510) 614-1555
Classified: (510) 614-1558
Fax: (510) 483-4209
Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com
www.ebpublishing.com



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Surveillance Cameras Draw Fire from Speakers

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Several people spoke up against the plan to install police surveillance cameras at the City Council meeting on April 20.

Most of the speakers also had something to say about Mayor Pauline Cutter's opening remarks where she referred to the shooting death of Steven Taylor by the police as having "passed away." They said it was an attempt to downplay the shooting.

The meeting was conducted under the governor's emergency declaration which allows public meetings where council members and the public connect by teleconference or videoconference.

The council didn't vote on the surveillance cameras because the item was tabled, but the issue still sparked a good number of comments.

The 12 cameras that the city already has installed haven't shown to be effective, some speakers said.

"It makes it uninviting to come to San Leandro, it shows animosity toward our neighbors in Oakland," said one speaker.

The original plan for the police surveillance cameras – proposed in 2018 – had a lot of the cameras positioned along the Oakland city line. Councilwoman Corina Lopez objected to the plan at the time, saying it was reminiscent of the city's racially segregated past.

The new plan for what the police call "public safety cameras" will be placed on the main roads into town, plus the Marina Park. The police department said the placement of the cameras is "data driven," so they are located in high crime areas.

A couple of the speakers who called into the council meeting said they are in favor of the cameras, because they believe cameras deter crime and there are a lot of burglaries and car thefts in their neighborhoods.

But some said that the City Council should condemn what they called "the police murder," and tied the surveillance camera

issue with the police shooting of Taylor.

As to why the camera item was taken off the agenda was only described as "pulled by staff."

"I resent more surveillance cameras...it all focuses on people of color," said one speaker. "I really take offense mayor that you use the term pass away. That you use that term when an African American man was killed by a police officer, and he was backing up and other people were walking by him, so how much of a threat was he?"

"We don't need cameras, businesses have them," said another speaker. "There's more danger on the speedway of East 14th Street. It would be better to do something about that. And it's

GOING TO THE PARK?

Wear a Cloth Face Covering When Within 6 Feet of Others

In mid-April a "Cover Your Face" order was issued for five Bay Area counties – Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin and Contra Costa – asking the public to carry cloth face coverings and wear them when within six feet of others, including when hiking, running, and biking.

Visitors should be prepared to wear face coverings when in parking lots, staging areas, and around entrance gates since they can be crowded, making it difficult to maintain 6-foot social distancing.

Hikers should also be prepared to put on cloth face coverings when hiking on narrow or crowded trails since maintaining six-foot social distancing may be challenging.

The new order also recommends that runners and cyclists should take extra steps to avoid exposing others, including wearing face covering, avoiding sidewalks with pedestrians, avoiding other runners and cyclists directly in front of or behind others.

Local health agencies are also

a disservice to carefully use the term pass away. He was shot by the police. It's a bit of a sneaky way of dealing with it."

Considering Transfer Tax

In other business, the City Council approved hiring a consultant to conduct polling for possibly placing a property transfer tax measure on the November ballot.

The council unanimously approved spending \$36,000 with Godby Research and \$129,000 with Clifford Moss for "revenue measure feasibility polling services."

The approval doesn't mean it will necessarily be on the ballot, but it keeps it moving so the deadline can be met if the council does put it on the November ballot.

A few council members had

doubts that a tax would pass in the current economic climate.

But all of the council members voted for it, though Cutter said that a tax might have difficulty passing "until we can get a little bit out of this crisis situation we're in."

Covid-19 Response

City Manager Jeff Kay listed actions the city has taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The city gave \$15,000 each to nine different food pantries and food distribution groups, Kay said.

The city had a program for small businesses to get \$5,000 "to stay open and hopefully keep people employed."

There's also a program to get tech devices to people without a way of connecting online, including to seniors who normally

use the computers at the senior center. And sanitation stations have been placed near homeless encampments, and motel rooms have been found for people at high risk of Covid-19.

Testing Needed

Cutter said that testing for coronavirus was the key to getting business running again.

"Until we can get some good testing I don't know how we can get back to business as usual," Cutter said. "Because not only are businesses going to be wary, but people going into businesses are going to be wary."

Cutter wrapped up her comments by saying that food banks need new grocery bags, since reusable bags can't be used during the pandemic.



recommending that those doing strenuous exercise keep further distance when possible.

Parents should closely supervise the use of face coverings to avoid misuse. The order does not require face coverings for children

aged 12 years or less, and children two years or less should not wear face coverings because of the risk of suffocation.

The Park District is updating park signs that will inform visitors about the new "Cover Your

Face" health directive and the recommendation to keep further distance when doing strenuous exercise.

For up-to-date information about park-related closures, visit www.ebparks.org/coronavirus.

Local Restaurants Urged to Apply for \$15,000 Emergency Production Grants

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) is accepting applications from local restaurants and food businesses to apply for \$15,000 grants to support the production of up to 1,000 individually packaged meals for distribution to home-bound seniors, medically vulnerable patients, and families experiencing food insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From May through September, food businesses from San Leandro, Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, and the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Cherryland, and Fairview, are eligible to apply.

Interested food vendors should complete a food vendor

application. Each selected vendor will receive \$15,000 to cover the cost associated with preparing up to 1,000 meals during the time period.

The Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League, ALL IN Alameda County and the Dig Deep Farms Food Hub will distribute and deliver the meals.

"The Emergency Food Production grants will support local food businesses and their workers while also providing healthy food for food-insecure families and those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19" said Sheriff Gregory Ahern.

The Emergency Food Production initiative represents a

partnership between the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, the Deputy Sheriff's Activities League, ALL IN Alameda County and Supervisor Wilma Chan, and was made possible by a grant from the Stupski Foundation.

"The Emergency Food Production Grants represent one important effort that will allow us to act swiftly, decisively, and compassionately to minimize suffering and promote stability for thousands of Alameda County residents," said Supervisor Chan.

For more information, contact ACSO Crime Prevention Specialist Hilary Bass at HBass@acgov.org or 510-225-5954.

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LIFESTYLE



Quick Breads: Versatile, Foolproof

Unlike traditional breads, which depend wholly upon slow-acting, temperamental living yeasts, quick breads are powered by several leavenings at once, principally by the fast and reliable chemical bang of baking powder, but also by beaten eggs.

Making quick bread is a lot like making muffins. In fact, any quick-bread recipe can be used to make muffins simply by reducing the baking time.

TOMATO BREAD

2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
1 teaspoon dried thyme
3/4 teaspoon sugar
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar

cheese
4 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
3 tablespoons milk
2 eggs, beaten
1/4 cup vegetable oil
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 (14.5-ounce) can stewed tomatoes, drained
1/3 cup sliced black olives

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease an 8x4 inch loaf pan.

In a large bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, salt, the two seasonings, sugar and cheeses. In a separate bowl, mix together 1/2 cup reserved tomato juice, milk, eggs, oil and garlic. Combine liquid and dry mixtures. Fold in chopped tomatoes and olives. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven for 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean.

CHEDDAR-HERB BREAD

4 cups unbleached white flour
1/4 cups sugar
2 tablespoons baking powder
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1-1/2 teaspoons dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon celery seeds
1/8 teaspoon ground pepper
Dash allspice
3 cups coarsely crumbled sharp Cheddar cheese
1 bunch green onions including tops, chopped
1 egg
1-3/4 cups nonfat milk

Combine flour, sugar, baking

powder, salt, thyme, celery seeds, pepper and allspice in large bowl. Add cheese and onions and toss to coat.

Beat egg with milk in separate bowl and pour into dry ingredients. Mix until just blended. Batter will be stiff. Spoon into 2 greased 9x5-inch loaf pans and let rise for 10 minutes. Bake at 375°F for 45 minutes, or until wooden pick inserted in center of loaves comes out clean. Yields 2 loaves.

BUTTERMILK CORNBREAD

1/2 cup butter
2/3 cup white sugar
2 eggs
1 cup buttermilk
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup cornmeal
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease an 8 inch square pan.

Melt butter in large skillet. Remove from heat and stir in sugar. Quickly add eggs and beat until well blended. Combine buttermilk with baking soda and stir into mixture in pan. Stir in cornmeal, flour, and salt until well blended and few lumps remain. Pour batter into the prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

APPLE SPICE BREAD

4 cups unbleached white flour
2 cups oatmeal
1 cup dark brown sugar, packed
2 tablespoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon allspice
6 large, firm apples, pared and chopped (4-5 cups)
3 eggs beaten
2-1/4 cups buttermilk
1/4 cup melted butter or vegetable oil
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Combine flour, oats, brown sugar, baking powder, soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice in large bowl. Add apples and toss to coat.

Beat eggs in separate bowl and beat in buttermilk, butter and vanilla.

Pour egg mixture into dry ingredients, mixing until just blended. Spoon batter into 2 greased 9x5-inch loaf pans.

Bake in 375°F oven 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until wooden pick inserted in center of loaves comes out clean. Yields 2 loaves.

TODAY ON FACEBOOK

Activist Chef José Andrés to Join Swalwell For Live Talk on Food Security and Supply

Chef José Andrés, Rep. Eric Swalwell and Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Illinois) will hold a Facebook Live event to discuss restaurants, food security, and the food supply chain during the COVID-19 crisis, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. today, April 30.

Since the nation has been gripped by the coronavirus pandemic, reliable access to homemade, nutritious food has become an enormous challenge for many.

Chef Andrés' disaster relief organization, World Central Kitchen (WCK), has been working to safely distribute individually packaged, fresh meals in communities that need support.

WCK has facilitated the delivery of over 200,000 fresh meals



Chef José Andrés

a day during the pandemic to children and families, frontline

health workers and to seniors who cannot venture outside.

Andrés along with Congressmen Swalwell and Davis will discuss food security and assistance to restaurants and small businesses during the crisis.

"Over the past few years, World Central Kitchen has seen the power of a hot plate of food in times of crisis," Andrés said. "Food provides vital nourishment and a message of hope for the community, that we care and we're here to make sure that tomorrow, things will be better."

The Facebook Live event will take place this afternoon at 1 p.m. Members of the public can tune in live at: Facebook.com/ChefJoseAndres/Live

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FOUND - Cat: Tuxedo male, not neutered, quiet. Found on Neptune Drive, near Oyster Bay Park. Call 408-966-1886.

Hearing Aide found on 4/13/2020 at San Leandro Marina Park, south end near restroom. Call 510-357-5192.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD

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Baywood Court Free of Coronavirus to Date

With COVID-19 taking a devastating toll on retirement communities around California and the country, Castro Valley's Baywood Court elderly residents remain Coronavirus-free to date.

Since mid-March, the Baywood Court staff has been working to protect everyone, limiting visitation, screening all individuals at the main entrance, requiring social distancing, and stepping up infection control procedures.

Residents are instructed to remain in their apartments, avoid gathering in common areas, and only venture out to retrieve their mail. The dining room has been closed, and three meals per day are being delivered to all residents in their apartments.

"We know that we have to be extra careful right now," says resident Eleanor Dohmann, who has lived at Baywood Court for six years after moving from San Lorenzo. "Baywood Court has just been great during this time. They work to keep us going and I'm very happy to be here."

Employees who work closely with residents are required to wear additional personal protective equipment. Only community business partners, healthcare professionals, resident family members, and government officials who are required to care for residents are allowed entry into the community



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYWOOD COURT

Six-year Baywood Court resident Eleanor Dohmann receives an ice cream snack at her door.

after completing screening protocols that include temperature checks.

With residents confined to their apartments, staff members are finding creative ways to keep residents' spirits high with engaging activities. At strategic locations outdoors, Baywood's Wellness and Recreation Department staff lead adaptive seated and standing exercises for residents, who participate from their balconies and patios at a social distance. Staff members also provide outdoor musical performances.

Residents receive a daily news-

letter at their doorstep containing word games and puzzles, as well as leisure activities to help them pass the time, including houseplant kits, exercise resistance bands, beading materials, coloring pages and pencils, DVDs, books and magazines, and crafts. Popcorn and ice cream are also distributed through the hallways to residents on select days.

Baywood Court, a nonprofit corporation developed over 30 years ago, is located at 21966 Dolores St. in Castro Valley. For more information, visit www.baywoodcourt.org

School Year Could Open as Early as July

Governor Gavin Newsom yesterday outlined plans for the gradual reopening of California and said he is considering starting the school year weeks earlier than usual because of a learning gap created by COVID-19.

"We are considering the prospect of an earlier school year into the fall, as early as late July, early August," Newsom said. "Our kids have lost a lot with this disruption."

At his noontime press briefing, the governor also said some businesses, such as low-risk offices, manufacturing, child-care facilities and retail stores might be reopening soon.

Newsom continued to decline to give an official

date, but said "we believe we are weeks, not months away, from making meaningful modifications" to the state's stay-at-home directive."

Newsom outlined four broad phases that California is working through during the current COVID-19 pandemic, saying that the current lockdown represents phase one. "As we move into phase two, where businesses can begin to reopen," Newsom said, "we need to make sure that guidance is abided by, and is organized in a very deliberate way."

But nail salons, gyms, movie theaters and in-person church services would still have to wait until another phase in which the state would have more confidence that infection risk is lower.

Hayward Testing Finds 11% Positive So Far

Of a total of 4,497 people tested at the Hayward Test Center between March 23 and April 26, slightly over 11 percent were positive for infection with the coronavirus.

The majority (1,481) were Hayward residents; the other 1,666 resided elsewhere in Alameda County.

The figures include residents and employees of nursing homes and people who are homeless who are being tested by mobile teams in cooperation with the Alameda County Public Health Department.

As of yesterday, April 29, there were 1,533 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Alameda County and 55 reported deaths. California had 46,506 cases with 1,873 deaths. There are now more than a million cases in the United States with 58,529 deaths.

Hayward's COVID-19 Testing Center has shifted to a weekdays-only operating schedule. The new hours of operation at the Center, which is now located in Parking Lot A at Cal State University East Bay, are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Center may shut down earlier on a particular day if demand warrants or the number of available tests for the day are exhausted.

The schedule was changed in response to changing levels and patterns of demand and to free up resources for mobile testing of vulnerable populations, including residents and employees of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

During the period of March 23 to April 19, specifically trained Hayward firefighter-paramedics and partner health clinicians had tested 3,758 people at the Center and other locations with found 414 people to be positive for infection with the coronavirus contagion.

Testing at the Center is free and available to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and a fever above 100 degrees. Symptoms include cough and shortness of breath. No referral from a medical doctor is required.

Health-care workers and first-responders may make advance appointments for testing by calling the COVID-19 hotline at 510-583-4949.

San Lorenzo Creek Pathway Plan Now Open for Public Comments

A path for walking and bicycling is being planned along San Lorenzo Creek from Castro Valley to the bay. The path pass through Hayward, Cherryland, Ashland, and along the San Lorenzo Creek Channel in San Lorenzo and San Leandro.

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) and the Alameda County Public Works Agency are planning the creation of a multi-use path. This path, or "creekway," would be available for people to walk and bike, as a safe and healthy alternative to driving. The public is invited to help plan this trail. Share your thoughts on the path in a brief online survey

at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3M9VJQ> that will be open until May 15.

The project is part of a state-wide Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant application. In recognition of the limited ability to meet in person, two virtual meetings have been scheduled:

- Virtual Community Workshop: Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. – RSVP here! <https://bit.ly/2wXsg0R>
- Virtual Coffee Chat: Saturday, May 9, at 10 a.m. – RSVP here! <https://bit.ly/2KqnonT>

Please RSVP on the link or contact HARD to participate. HARD and ACFCD plan to host additional public meetings in the future. Completion of the on-going master plan project is anticipated in Summer 2020. A Virtual Site Tour will be on the HARD website soon. For more information about the project, please contact Project Manager Michael Williams at wmsm@HaywardRec.org, or visit us at: www.HaywardRec.org.

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Library to Hold Friday Night 'Wine Down'

Adults 21 and over are welcome to join the San Leandro Public Library's Virtual Happy Hour from 5 to 6 p.m. this Friday, May 1!

You're invited to bring your favorite snack and beverage to our online video chat while we talk about what people are reading, learning, streaming or watching, and listening to.

To get the Zoom link to this online meet up, check out our Facebook page or request the Friday Wine Down Zoom link by email to libraryinfo@sanleandro.org

Other Virtual Programs:

- Cuéntacuentos con Ms. Molly! Instagram Live @SanLeandroLib on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m.

- Storytime! Join Ms. Kelly on Instagram for storytime! InstagramLive @SanLeandroLib on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m.

- Storytime! Join Ms. Kathleen on Instagram for storytime! on InstagramLive@SanLeandroLib on Thursdays from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m.

- Babytime on Zoom!

Join us on Zoom with Ms. Molly on Thursdays from 9 to 9:30 a.m.. Just right for parents/caregivers

ers with babies up to age 1. During each session, we'll sing songs and look at a board book, then have time for you to connect with each other. You can register by filling out the short form at: bit.ly/zoombaby2020

- Dial-A-Story - Available 24 Hours a Day / Telecuento - Gratis 24 horas al día - 510-577-6067 - Call and listen to Miss Kelly tell an exciting new story every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Telecuento - 510-577-6066 - Call and listen to Miss Molly tell an exciting new story every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Have a question? The San Leandro Library can help! We're available Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For reference and information questions, call 510-577-3971 or email libraryinfo@sanleandro.org

For questions about your library account, or to request a digital library card to get you access to all of our digital resources, please email us at circulation@sanleandro.org

Be sure to check us out on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to find out about more events and fun book talks from friendly librarians!

Millions Eligible for Free Mobile Service

TruConnect, the only California-based provider of free broadband services to low-income participants, is providing a vital lifeline to nearly 225,000 residents most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis across the state.

There are approximately 4.5 million Californians eligible for LifeLine service that are not currently enrolled in the program. Those potential participants are concentrated in the areas of highest unemployment due to the coronavirus.

Even prior to state and local officials' expansion of public health safeguards to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, TruConnect has sought to provide critical resources to its LifeLine wireless customers.

It is currently working to identify ways to use free

wireless service to expand the health and financial safety net for low-income residents, especially for those qualified individuals who have not yet applied.

TruConnect's free mobile phone is now loaded with food security apps to access CalFresh, free lunch programs and foodbanks, while offering links to health resources and e-learning solutions for non-profit charities.

TruConnect continues to offer free mobile telephone and broadband service through its website, www.truconnect.com.

Applicants who meet low-income eligibility requirements will receive a free phone through the mail and be able to stay connected throughout the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.



Alameda County Public Health Department announced last Friday that more virus testing centers are open countywide.

Shelter: More Virus Testing Countywide

continued from front page
a large surge in cases.”

Testing Sites Open

Hoping to get a better handle on who has and who hasn't contracted the novel coronavirus, Alameda County Public Health Department announced last Friday that more virus testing centers are open countywide. The goal is to reach 2,500 COVID-19 tests per day countywide, with testing of all symptomatic individuals.

There are now 21 drive-throughs, and walkup testing centers acknowledged by the county. Most are restricted to those with healthcare memberships including Kaiser Permanente, Stanford Health, Dignity Health, and Tri-City Health. There are two testing sites specific for veterans in Livermore and Fremont. Testing hours, procedures, and timing of results vary by site.

Testing at California State University East Bay's parking lot is free and available Monday through Friday to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and a fever above 100 degrees. Symptoms include cough and shortness of breath. No referral from a medical doctor is required, however, priority is given to:

- Staff and residents from long term care facilities,
- Health care personnel, first responders and essential infrastructure workers,
- People living in congregate settings,
- People experiencing homelessness,
- Contacts of reported cases,
- People who are hospitalized

“Our current strategy relies on nucleic acid-based COVID-19 tests as these have good and well-understood performance

and are increasingly available,” a county Public Health Department spokesperson said in a statement. “At this time, serological (antibody) testing is useful for studies exploring the extent of the epidemic but remains unreliable for diagnosing infection and predicting immunity.”

Alameda County's overall COVID-19 response includes investigating every reported case, extensive contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, outbreak mitigation, and protecting high-risk individuals and health care workers.

County Health officials have now broken down the broader unincorporated zones into three sections: Eden Area MAC (Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward Acres, San Lorenzo), Castro Valley MAC, and Fairview MAC. Castro Valley has reported 78 infections of the COVID-19 virus.

Schools: Chromebook, Food Distribution

continued from front page
their school's principal to arrange for pickup,” says San Leandro Unified School District Director of Community and Employee Engagement Keziah Moss. “Our staff is also reaching out to comfort and connect with students during this emergency.

Part of the success of the school year has been the preparation District level. San Leandro distributed almost 4,000 laptops to its students and families helping to bridge the digital divide. Castro Valley sent out close to 2,000 laptops and is providing wireless networks to ensure students can participate online.

The computers were purchased a few years back as part of the 2016 Measure G ballot initiative.

For less fortunate families, San Leandro and Castro Valley both distribute free meals for students several times a week. Castro Valley's local Mom's Against Poverty (MAP) works with local food banks to give out 300 bags of groceries each week.

San Leandro Schools distribute thousands of meals weekly at three sites in San Leandro: Mon-



San Leandro distributed almost 4,000 laptops to its students and families helping to bridge the digital divide.

roe Elementary, John Muir Middle School, and San Leandro High School.

“The amount of work that has gone into both our Chromebook distribution and meal services is herculean, to say the least,” says Moss. “Add to that the incredible efforts of our teaching and support staff to create emergency distance home learning plans for all of our students and it makes SLUSD

feel like a very special place to be during this unsettling time.”

This pandemic has also fallen during traditional school enrollment time, which the districts are now conducting entirely online to ensure community safety. The hope is now that encouraging the online enrollment process that schools can accurately plan for what they will need when they anticipate reopening in the fall.

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.

Easy for Governor to Say 'Stay Home'

Editor:

You have to love the governor. Gavin Newsom who wants you to not go to work and stay at home, Shelter in Place.

The same guy Gavin Newsom who gets 17,000 dollars a month to stay at home. Easy for him to talk. I wonder if we stopped paying him over 200,000 dollars a year and we started to subtract his 17,000 dollars a month, for every month of this Shelter in place, would he still say don't go to work?

Be safe all and stay 6 feet away from friend and family.

—Jon Lilley, San Leandro

Trump Timeline on COVID-19

Editor:

Guess who said:

Jan. 22: “We have it totally under control.”

Feb. 10: “I think the virus is going to be — it's going to be fine.”

Feb. 24: “The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA”

Feb. 28: “It's going to disappear. One day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear.”

Mar. 10: “And it hit the world. And we're prepared, and we're doing a great job with it. Just stay calm. It will go away.”

Mar. 13: “I don't take responsibility at all”

Mar. 21: “I think we're doing an incredible job.

Mar. 22: “I'm really happy with the job we're doing.”

On April 23: Confirmed US Cases: 855,525, Deaths: 47,992, 5.6% death rate

May 1: “This is all Obama and Hillary's fault”

—Ken Kellogg, San Leandro

Turn Off the TV

Editor:

Leo West: In your letter, you revealed your bias by comparing Governor Newsom's press conferences to President Trump's. You (mis)quoted Newsom, who when referring to re-opening the state has actually said that “... the decision will be based on science, not on political pressure.”

Clearly, a science- and fact-based argument is beyond your grasp, hence your reference to Trump's “...masterly handled press conferences.” Why, just today, our president displayed his oft-confused mental state by suggesting that sunlight and heat could have an effect on the virus. He went on to claim that disinfectants could work to combat the virus if — wait for it — they are used “...by injection inside or almost a cleaning.” Doctors have had to stop their actual, you know, jobs to publicly refute such nonsense.

This is a president who apparently doesn't know that the cameras focused on him are actually able to record what comes out of his mouth. He has touted the drug hydroxychloroquine several times during his press “briefings,” (an oxymoron if ever there was one) at one point saying “what have you got to lose?” He was mentioning the drug almost daily, but now, as reports of its complete ineffectiveness are in the public consciousness, he's gone a week without saying the name it must have taken him hours to learn how to pronounce.

I would have attributed your point of view as yet another case of the other affliction damaging our country, commonly known as “too much Fox News-itis.” However, the analogy you used to conclude your letter indicated that a misinterpretation of the facts has seemingly been a lifelong aspiration. Claiming “If the Russians had sheltered in place when the Nazis invaded, the Nazis would be ruling the world today” is like suggesting that if one was to walk in a rainstorm, they might get wet. What does that have to do with... anything?

By the end of October 1918, over 200,000 American lives had been lost due to the influenza

pandemic. Some estimates claim it was over three times that number. Between 20 and 50 million people died worldwide. What exacerbated the problem? WWI escalated the transference of the flu on a global scale.

Furthermore, some shortsighted individuals people probably didn't want to look like, as you so tactfully put it, “crybabies.” Well, Philadelphians wanted their freedom back, and in September of 1918 tens of thousands showed up to watch a celebratory parade. Within two weeks, 200,000 more Philadelphia residents were sick, and over 1,000 more died. They just couldn't stay home.

Bravado isn't going to defeat Covid-19. Neither is a denial of science, a rush to return to normalcy, or a president who uses his daily press conferences to berate a press corps that has the audacity to ask questions that demand factual answers. Patience and facts will ultimately allow us to get back to normal, and a lack of patience and facts is something you and our president have in common. Please, stay home, turn off your television, be well, and read a good book.

—Ken Maas, San Leandro

Or, We Could Wait for the Movie

Editor:

In response to the desperate appeal for Funds to keep the San Leandro Times solvent, I would like to suggest a potentially monumental, unrealized, source of income ... already at hand.

The San Leandro Times should consider publishing “The Collected Letters of Leo T. West: Public Intellectual.”

His Searing Insights, “Tell It Like It Is” style of Prose, and “Take No Prisoner” style of verbally executing anyone who dares to challenge his Intellect, would guarantee a runaway Best Seller.

Current residents and future generations of our fair city, and the world at large, will marvel that such a blindingly brilliant Mind lived, unappreciated, among us in San Leandro.

Staggering income for the San Leandro Times.

A small fortune for Leo T. West which he might use to finally move into the prestigious “Home for Terminally Disgruntled”

How much more Win - Win can it get?

—Tom Schuessler, San Leandro

Supporting a Switch to Healthier Food

Editor:

Massive slaughterhouse closures are driving U.S. consumers to plant-based meat products, as sick workers pay the price.

Tyson Foods, JBS USA, and Smithfield Foods, the largest meat processors, have closed 17 plants, devastating rural communities and threatening the nation's meat supply. Production is already down by 25 percent.

In reaction, U.S. sales of plant-based meats surged by 265 percent, according to consumer data group Nielsen. Shares of Beyond Meat, a prominent plant-based meat brand, rallied by 60 percent.

A Washington Post investigation found that coronavirus outbreaks in more than 48 U.S. meat packing plants have sickened at least 3,300 workers and killed 17. The companies failed to provide adequate protective gear to the workers and forced some with Covid symptoms to keep working. USA Today reports that more than 150 of U.S.'s largest plants operate in counties with the highest rate of coronavirus infection.

In addition to the generally accepted consumer health argument for avoiding animal food products, the pandemic has now added the worker health element. Production of plant-based meats requires much less labor and allows for ample physical distancing.

We can all support the switch to healthy food.

—Dennis Roth, San Leandro

REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Is the Real Estate Sky Falling?

As the COVID-19 shelter-in-place (SIP) continues, the real estate market is morphing to meet the new norms. As it does, myths are sprouting like dandelions in spring and some are echoing Chicken Little's warning that the sky is falling.

There is no denying that COVID-19 has wreaked substantial havoc and changed the way we will live going forward. It has created significant heartache from the lives lost, jobs furloughed, stock market devaluations and resulting economic hardships.

We have seen a dip in homes coming to the market since the SIP began. County regulations make it impossible for buyers to view occupied homes and some sellers are waiting sell until the SIP is lifted.

This has contributed to significant inventory shortfalls and correspondingly, pending sales are down sharply from last year same period. Some transactions have canceled due to COVID-19 fears, inability of lenders to complete loans or the loss of down payments.

We have seen some price reductions as sellers, needing to sell homes immediately, have adjusted prices downward for a quick sale.

In the midst of the tragedy, however, some things are true, especially in our region.

This is not a "normal" disaster.

Those remembering the 1989 earthquake know the extensive time required to get infrastructures such as the Bay Bridge repaired and back in service.

A review of the 2009 economic collapse reminds us it took years for the economy to recover.

Our current crisis is still a disaster, but is based on limits placed on behavior (SIP) that will be lifted in stages over the

coming weeks and months. While we will see some long-term effects, the primary COVID-19 restrictions will be short-lived and recovery will begin once restrictions are lifted.

We still face a statewide housing crisis.

If anything, COVID-19 has made the housing crisis more severe and, once the SIP is lifted, we anticipate buyer activity to ramp back up to normal levels. There are many buyers who still need homes and many of them have been steadily employed through the crisis.

Homes are still selling.

Although some prices are declining, we are seeing multiple offers driving prices upward. Some buyers have assumed the crisis gives them an opportunity to write lowball offers, however, in most cases, sellers are ignoring them.

Some may believe the sky is falling. We believe once the SIP is lifted, a healthy recovery will be the reality.

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.

HOME of the WEEK

- Hit the Market on 4/14/20
- Multiple Offers received on 4/17/20
- Currently Pending



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Lilacs Easy to Prune; Taking Precautions for Tomato Diseases

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

Q: I haven't had any luck finding out how to prune lavender lilac. I've always taken the old or dead wood off, but I need to find out how to get longer stems with the more abundant blooms?

A: Lilacs are not that difficult to prune, and they don't require any special technique, as they are pruned to shape. They're pruned in the spring after flowering.

Stand back and eyeball the plant to see what needs to be done. It is very subjective. Lilacs bloom on the current year's growth.

Pruning and when it's done shouldn't have any effect on the stem length or the size of the blooms. These are genetic characteristics.

Lilacs propagated from another plant cutting will be identical to the parent. Those started from seeds will not. So, long stems and larger flower clusters may not be in this plant future if the original plant didn't have them to start with.

To encourage growth, feed after pruning with an all-purpose



organic fertilizer, and then see what develops next spring, as there isn't much else you can do.

Q: How would I go about cleaning or disinfecting my Tomato Cages from previous years? I want to do this before placing them around my new plants. Can tomato diseases or the 'virus' be on them?

A: I don't believe you should be overly concerned about any diseases that might carry over from year to year or the virus. The surface of metal or painted tomato cages is quite sterile, so it's doubtful the right environment exists for any problems.

With wooden supports or if there is organic debris still on the cages, there might be issues. Early and late blight are the primary diseases you're looking to prevent. Cool to mild temperatures and wet conditions create the right condition for these diseases.

The last time this could have been a problem was in 2010. That being said, it certainly would not hurt to disinfect your cages along with any plastic and or wooden containers.

You'll need to remove any of the leftover debris from last year, as the blight diseases require

visible plant residue to over-winter. Next, wipe the supports down with a mixture of water and household bleach. The ratio for this simple disinfectant is nine parts water to one part bleach.

You also could apply the solution with a pump spray bottle and then wash it off. The disinfectant should be dripping off the cages. If you're using bleach, wear gloves and old clothes.

The cages should then be left to air dry in the afternoon sun, overnight. Clorox Disinfecting Wipes can be used for those cages

already in place.

And finally, a thick layer of mulch can prevent the fungal spores from splashing on the plants. With tomatoes, we don't have to worry about planting them too deep. They will produce roots off the buried portion of the plant.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced April 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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