



Prius Primed
TOYOTA REFINES PLUG-IN
HYBRID TECHNOLOGY FOR
ITS PRIUS PRIME **6**



Looking Ahead
PIRATES BASEBALL PLAYERS
LOOK TO THE FUTURE AFTER
2017 SEASON **9**

WEEKEND WEATHER
WARM Temperatures climb through Sunday
HIGHS: 83-88
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 61-66

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 24

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

McKinley students discovered the brand new bicycles waiting for them when they were called out to the front of the school.

Bigge Day for Bikes at McKinley

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

A dozen kids at McKinley Elementary School made it look like Christmas morning as they stepped out the school's front door.

Lined up in front of them were 12 new bicycles, courtesy of the Bigge Crane Co. of San Leandro.

"Oooh, sick!" said one boy, using the

expression of highest praise, as the wide-eyed kids ran down the steps to claim their bicycles.

The Bigge sales department got the bike kits and built the 2-wheelers as part of the company's program, One Bigge Giving. The company contacted the San Leandro Education Foundation (SLED), and SLED Executive Director Morgan Mack-Rose

chose McKinley, saying it's one of the highest need schools.

McKinley principal Grozelia Ward picked the 12 students to receive the bicycles, plus helmets, because they all had perfect attendance from the beginning of the school year till May 3.

Bigge benefits manager Robin Anglin
see BIKES, page 2

Police Say Man Drove Van Toward Them

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The man shot by two San Leandro police officers last week was not armed, though police say the officers feared for their lives as he allegedly accelerated his van toward them.

Police say Steven England, 40, of Hayward was driving a stolen area San Leandro when police tried to pull him over. England drove away at a high rate of speed through a residential area before pulling into a private driveway on the 800 block of St. Mary's Avenue, according to San Leandro police Lt. Isaac Benabou. The driver refused to comply with officers' orders to exit the van.

After a few minutes, England started the van and drove through the front yard of a residence, damaging a tree and retaining wall, police said.

England then steered the van onto the road, which is a dead-end street, and accelerated towards the officers. The officers told him to stop, but England drove towards the officers in what Benabou said was an "aggressive" manner.

The officers then fired their weapons to stop the threat of being run over, according to Benabou.

England was struck by at least one bullet that hit his hand. Neither officer was injured.

No other details about the shooting are being released at this time because the investigation is ongoing, said Benabou. Evidence

in the shooting, including police body camera footage, is being reviewed by the San Leandro police and the district attorney's office.

England was hospitalized
see VAN, page 14

Man Shoots Statue of St. Felicitas

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

A man who shot a statue at St. Felicitas Catholic Church was arrested after a struggle with police Saturday afternoon.

Police say the shooting is being investigated as a hate crime.

Police arrived at the church at 165 Manor Boulevard at 4:50 p.m. and found a person matching that description of the shooter a short distance away, according to Lt. Ted Henderson of the San Leandro police. The man did not comply with orders from the police, Henderson said.

After a struggle, the police pulled a gun out of the suspect's waistband and took him into custody.

Police identified the suspect as Eric Mullen, 34, of San Leandro. Mullen was arraigned
see SHOTS, page 14

Students Paint Downtown Mural

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

A new piece of public art will be installed downtown later this month, a mural painted by students from Lincoln High, San Leandro's alternative school.

The mural "Spacetime from a Breath of Air," featuring a young girl blowing bubbles which turn into planets, will be installed near the intersection on Juana Avenue and East 14th Street and was commissioned by the San Leandro Improvement Association (SLIA).

What sets the mural apart from other public art in San

Leandro is that the young people who worked on it are former graffiti offenders who were given a chance to channel their creative skills into something more positive via the Big Picture Arts Program.

Big Picture was created by artist Andrew Johnstone, who has a studio in West Oakland, where the Lincoln students created the painting.

Johnstone says that the need to create is a primal instinct and he's just giving kids a chance to
see MURAL, page 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW JOHNSTONE

Lincoln High student Maryssela Kidd worked with fellow students and artist Andrew Johnstone on the mural "Spacetime from a Breath of Air," which will soon be installed in downtown San Leandro.

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San Leandro Times

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Author of *Gertrude Stein* to Speak

Library hosts program to celebrate LGBT pride month

In recognition of LGBT Pride Month, the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., will host an author discussion this Saturday from 2 to 3 p.m. with Tirza True Latimer, co-author of *Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories*.

Admission is free.

In this book, Latimer and co-author Wanda Corn analyzed the portraits for which Gertrude Stein posed, the domestic settings she created with Alice B. Toklas, her partner, and the signature



Tirza True Latimer will speak on Saturday at the library.

styles of dress the two women adopted.

Focusing on portraits in a range of media, photo essays, press clippings, snapshots, cloth-

ing, furniture, and other visual artifacts, this pathbreaking study reveals Stein's sophistication in shaping her public image and cultural legacy.

This book served as a companion to an exhibition of the same title and organized by the Contemporary Jewish Museum, S.F., and the National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C. Copies of this book will be sold after Ms. Latimer's discussion.

Latimer is Associate Professor and the Chair of the Graduate Program in Visual and Critical Studies at California College of the Arts (CCA), San Francisco. At CCA, she teaches classes in critical writing, queer and feminist studies and interdisciplinary practices.



A navy Douglas A-4 Skyhawk like this one and other aircraft will be open to the public at the Oakland Aviation Museum on Sunday, Father's Day.

Open Cockpit Day at Airport's North Field

Hop into the cockpit of a famous fighter plane at the Oakland Aviation Museum's "Open Cockpit Day" on Father's Day, this Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. at Oakland Airport's North Field, 8252 Earhart Road in Oakland, just off Doolittle Drive.

Visitors can sit inside aircraft such as the A-3 Skywarrior, A-4 Skyhawk, A-7 Corsair, or a Harrier jump jet.

Activities include Canine Companions for Independence, enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs.

The Santa Clara Masonic Lodge will offer refreshments and The Friends of Ken Band will provide entertainment.

The European Train Enthusiasts will run their scale model trains, Quad City Derby Bombshells roller derby will do a demonstration and Shawn Allison will have drone demonstrations.

The Oakland Aviation Museum educates the public on the development of aviation at the historic North Field. The regular hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Volunteer at Thrift Shop

Treasures Hospice, 1539 Washington Ave. in downtown San Leandro, is looking for volunteers to work at its thrift store.

All the sales at the store benefit George Mark Children's House in San Leandro, which provides care for children with illnesses that can't be cured.

Bikes: Bigge giveaway

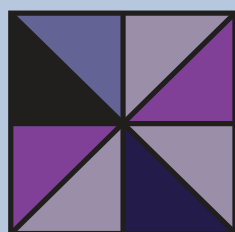
continued from front page

happened to notice the plaque by McKinley's front door that reads "1916-2016." She pointed out that Bigge and McKinley both celebrated their centennial last year - the crane company and the school both opened in 1916.

Bigge has its headquarters here in San Leandro. It sells and leases cranes and heavy equip-

ment nationwide, and has played a part in some of the Bay Area's biggest projects, such as the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge, and the BART connection to the Oakland Airport.

Bigge has helped build power plants and refineries in Northern California, hauled steel for the Golden Gate Bridge and assisted in the recovery after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

SAN LEANDRO
Connect Monthly

San Leandro City Council

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Pete Ballew, District 6

City Manager Chris Zapata

To receive City Council and Commission agendas and meeting materials, press releases, quarterly newsletters and City sponsored information, you can subscribe at sanleandro.org/mycity

For more information, contact Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton, Communications and Community Relations Manager at 510-577-3372 or swalton@sanleandro.org

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District Town Halls

Residents who attend have the opportunity to provide input to their elected City Councilmembers and ask City-related questions. The Town Hall also features informational tables where residents can learn about new projects and programs. Find your Council District here: www.sanleandro.org

Districts 3, 4 & 6 Town Hall

Monday, July 10th 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Marina Community Center

15301 Wicks Blvd.

(Childcare will be provided)

Vice Mayor Lee Thomas (D3)
Councilmember Benny Lee (D4)
Councilmember Pete Ballew (D6)

Washington Manor Park
to Get Summer Make Over

In partnership with the San Leandro Police Officer's Association and Alameda County Firefighters Local 55, the City will make improvements to Washington Manor Park through a grant from KaBoom!, a national nonprofit dedicated to bringing play to those who need it most. "Build Day" is scheduled for Saturday morning, August 5th. Washington Manor Park is the third local park to receive improvements thanks to the generous contributions of community volunteers and KaBoom!.

New Minimum Wage Requirements Effective July 1st

Beginning July 1, 2017, employers who operate a business or non-profit in the City must pay each employee a wage of not less than \$12 per hour (with limited exceptions). This requirement applies to all local employers regardless of the number of employees. Please visit www.sanleandro.org/minimumwage for additional information. The implementation schedule is as follows:

Minimum Wage	Effective Date
\$12/hour.....	July 1, 2017
\$13/hour.....	July 1, 2018
\$14/hour.....	July 1, 2019
\$14/hour.....	July 1, 2020

San Leandro Library Launches Summer Reading Challenge

The San Leandro Library invites community members to join the Annual Summer Reading Challenge, which runs from June 3 through August 4.

Children participating in the challenge can earn incentives donated by local businesses and the City, such as a scoop of Loard's ice cream, free swimming at the Family Aquatic Center, kids' meal in various local restaurants and more! For detailed information and to register, please visit the Library's website: sanleandrolibrary.org

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

Fire in Cherryland

A fire started at an independent living facility on the 200 block of Sunset Boulevard in Cherryland just after noon on Saturday. All of the occupants were able to get out of the home before firefighters arrived and the fire was contained to the building and extinguished within 10 minutes, according to the Alameda County Fire Department. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Truck Overturns on Fremont Street

A truck carrying pallets of empty wine bottles overturned on Fremont Street in San Leandro just after noon on Monday.

The street was temporarily closed and the driver was taken to the hospital with minor injuries, according to the Alameda County Fire Department.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

Jury Duty Scam

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is warning the public about a scam where the victim is called by someone claiming to be with the department and demanding money as a fine for failure to report for jury duty.

The caller says there is a warrant out for the person's arrest demands a prepaid debit card in order for the fine to be cleared.

The sheriff's office reminds people that the Jury Services unit of the Alameda County Superior Court does not contact citizens by phone for payments of any fines.

Gas Station Clerk Shot in Robbery, Suspect At Large

A man was shot during a gas station robbery last week and is in critical condition. The suspect remains at large.

A suspect entered the Chevron gas station at 15201 Washington Avenue at around 8 p.m. on June 4 and approached the counter with a gun and demanded money from the clerk, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

The employee began to comply and opened the cash register when the suspect shot him. The suspect then grabbed the cash and fled the store.

The clerk was able to call for help and was taken to a local hospital and is listed in critical condition, Benabou said.

Detectives are currently investigating and have video surveillance and other evidence,

Benabou said.

The suspect is described as a black male adult, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-11, about 175-200 pounds, and he was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, dark colored pants, and white shoes at the time of the shooting.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call the San Leandro police at 577-2740.

Car Goes into Water at the Marina, Occupants Leave Before Cops Arrive

People were rescued from a car that crashed into the water at the San Leandro marina Sunday afternoon and were rescued by two passersby.

San Leandro police received reports of a car in the water at around 2 p.m. and when emergency responders arrived at the scene, they found that the occupants of the car had been helped and already left the scene in another vehicle driven by friends.

Witnesses said the car was speeding and the driver lost control before hitting the rocks and leaving the road and going into the water.

The rescuers used a rock to break a car window and help the occupants of the submerged car.

The number of people who were in the car and their identities are not known at this time. Police

are investigating the crash.

Police found another car, likely stolen, submerged in the

marina back in March and no driver was located in that incident.

Information Sought on Death

A reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of a suspect in the January murder of a teen in Cherryland.

Hayward High School student Lamar Murphy, 16, was shot and killed while riding his bike to a corner store near his family home near the intersection of Princeton Street and Smalley Avenue in the unincorporated area just before 7 p.m. on January 23.

So far, the case remains unsolved and the Murphy family and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office are asking for anyone with information to step forward



Lamar Murphy

and call 667-7721 or the sheriff's anonymous tip line at 667-3622.

Volunteer at the Science Center

Sign up now for volunteer orientation Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chabot Space & Science Center. Volunteers make astronomy and science come alive for families through interactive experiences. For more information on the volunteer program and go to chabotspace.org.

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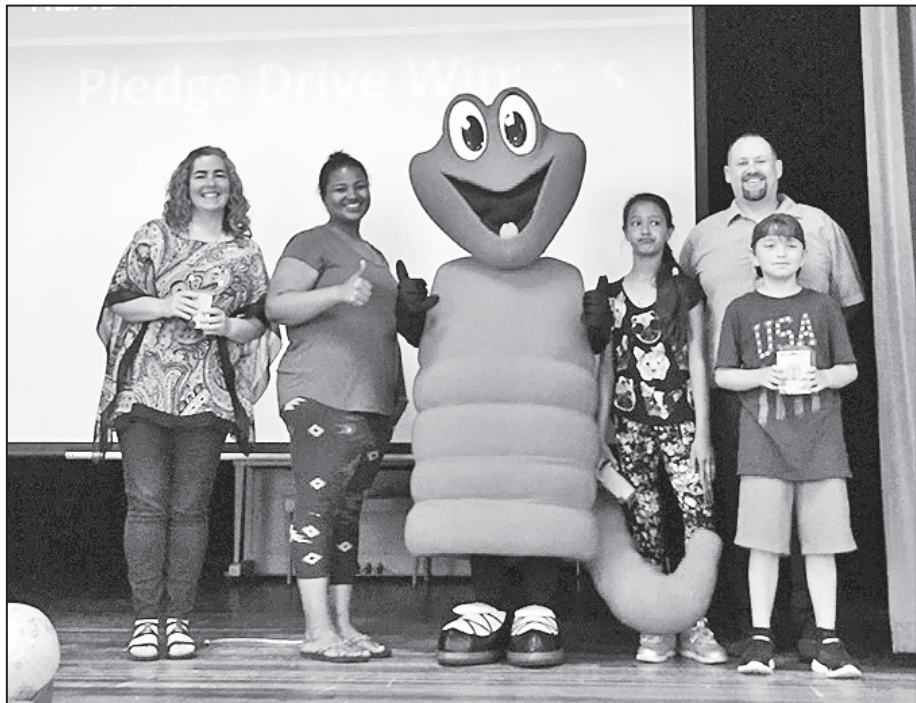
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NEIGHBORS



Hesperian Elementary School in San Lorenzo was recognized for their efforts to go green.

Hesperian Elementary Goes Green

Hesperian Elementary School in San Lorenzo became a model school for recycling natural water and protected waterways. For their effort, Hesperian was recognized by Alameda County StopWaste as a model school for being green.

IN THE SERVICE

U.S. Air Force Airman **Cameron M. Naraval** recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Naraval is the son of **Laai and Rommel Naraval** of Tracy, Calif., and grandson of Myrna and Edgar Naraval of **San Lorenzo, Calif.**

He is a 2013 graduate of Merit F. West High School in Tracy.



Airman Cameron M. Naraval

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): A recent spate of confusion regarding decision-making begins to clear up. But caution is still advised. Continue to check details. An old friend has important news.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): You're anxious to see your ideas move from concept to development. But trying to force the issue right now could backfire. Wait for movement to resume shortly.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Keep your thoughts focused on the positive as you deal with an unexpected turn of events in a personal or professional relationship. This could be the start of a welcome change.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Health matters take on added importance at this time. Deal with them before they interfere with your summer plans. A relationship that cooled off could soon warm up again.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): While a few details involving upcoming decisions still need your attention, you fun-loving Felines can begin to spend more time enjoying your lively social life again.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): That long-sought-after career change could require you to move to another city. Weigh your decision carefully before either accepting or rejecting the offer out of hand.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A workplace situation can be awkward for Librans who prefer to keep their problems private. But you might have to "tell-all" if you hope to see it resolved in your favor.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Although your financial situation starts to improve this week, you still need to be cautious about money matters. Avoid major obligations, for now.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Your overall aspects continue to brighten, allowing you to tackle long-deferred challenges. A change in travel plans could work to your benefit.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Things seem to be slowing down for the usually restless Sea Goat. But wouldn't a bit of respite be just what you need right now? Activity picks up by the weekend.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Personal relationships take a positive turn for both married and single Aquarians. Professional commitments, however, could be complicated by newly emerging events.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): A decision you thought was final might be reopened as new facts are discovered. This could lead to a short-term problem, but ultimately might prove beneficial.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Toastmasters Open House

Toastmasters Division A is having an open house on Friday, June 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Ave. in Alameda. Learn about the Toastmasters, enjoy a speech marathon, meet Toastmaster members and network. No charge for admission. Toastmasters has local chapters in San Leandro and throughout the East Bay. For more information, contact Faz Binesh at fbinesh@aol.com or 760-8400, or email Justin Paras at Justin.Paras@gmail.com.

❖ Open Cockpit Day at Oakland Airport

Hop into the cockpit of a famous fighter plane at the Oakland Aviation Museum's "Open Cockpit Day" on Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 18, from noon to 4 p.m. at Oakland Airport's North Field, 8252 Earhart Road in Oakland, just off Doolittle Drive. Visitors can sit inside aircraft such as the A-3 Skywarrior, A-4 Skyhawk, A-7 Corsair, or a Harrier jump jet with live music, refreshments, and roller derby and drone demonstrations.

❖ SL Democratic Club Fundraiser

The San Leandro Democratic Club is having a fundraiser on Thursday, June 22, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 302 Davis St. in San Leandro. The club is having the fundraiser this month instead of its regular monthly meeting.

❖ Dimension Barbershop Chorus

The New Dimension Barbershop Chorus will hold an open house on Thursday, June 22, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Calvary Lutheran Church, 17200 Via Magdalena in San Lorenzo. The chorus has no religious affiliation. All are welcome. Currently, the members come from Hayward, Castro Valley/Eden area, Pleasanton, Oakland and Kensington. Watch, learn or participate as the chorus rehearses, performs and explains the a cappella, barber-shop style of singing.

❖ San Leandro Toastmasters

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

❖ I.D.E.S. of Saint John Hosts Dance

I.D.E.S. of Saint John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will host a dance on Saturday, June 24, at 7 p.m. with music by Victor Silva. Presentation of the queens will take place at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, June 25, a parade will line up in front of the hall at 10 a.m. Mass will be at 11 a.m. at St. Leander's church, 550 West Estudillo Ave. For more information, call Willie Calvo at 635-6326.

❖ Soroptimist International Flea Market

Soroptimist International of the East Bay will host its fundraiser flea market on Saturday, June 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3841 Somerset Ave. in Castro Valley. Shop and get a great bargain which will support Soroptimist scholarships and local programs that help women and their families. For more information, call 593-7377.

❖ SL Improvement Association

The San Leandro Improvement Association hosts Truth Thursdays on the fourth Thursday

of the month under the "Truth Is Beauty" statue at the OSIssoft building on the San Leandro Tech Campus, 1600 Alvarado St. Food trucks, beer, wine, and live entertainment will be on hand from 5 to 9 p.m. Bocce ball and other recreational games will be played out on the grass.

❖ Marina Women's Golf Club Play Day

The Marina Women's Golf Club invites all women interested in making new friends and improving their golf game to a "Play Day" on Tuesday, June 27, at the Marina Golf Course, 13800 Monarch Bay Drive in San Leandro. The day starts with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. and tee-off time for the free game of golf starts at 9 a.m. To sign-up call Alice Edmondson at 483-6836 or email edmondsons62@comcast.net, or Elaine Chen-Ramirez at 352-1098 or email chenrame@pacbell.net. All levels welcome.

❖ SL Freshman Football Tryouts

Incoming freshmen at San Leandro High School are invited to join the Freshman Football Team. Attend tryouts on Monday and Tuesday, June 26 and June 27, and Friday, June 30 at 3 p.m. at the San Leandro High School weight room. More information can be found online at slhs.net under the athletics tab or by calling coach Ballew at 846-6058.

❖ Artful Steps Artists Exhibit

Beautiful, multi-media work created by the Artful Steps artists with disabilities fills both the downstairs and upstairs galleries of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., through June 30. Special features in this exhibit include digital art, popular mosaics, original prints and a special *My Little Pony* project. Artful Step's mission is to enhance both the artistic abilities and the self-esteem of individuals with developmental disabilities.

❖ San Leandro Art Association Exhibit

Paintings by members of the San Leandro Art Association will be on display through July 31, at Zocalo Coffeehouse, 645 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro.

❖ Hayward Area Historical Society

The Hayward Area Historical Society (HAHS) presents *Unmentionable: The Indiscreet Stories of Artifacts* through October at the HAHS Museum of History and Culture at 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. This original exhibition explores all the unusual, icky, scandalous, disturbing, awful, discriminatory artifacts in the HAHS collection. The artifacts in this exhibition tell some not-so-great, but very important stories. Other items may not seem so scandalous now but were at one time. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

❖ Chanticleers Theatre

Elvis Has Left The Building opens on Friday, June 30 and runs through July 23 at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and twilight matinees on Sundays at 6 p.m. (No show on July 2). This funny story will keep you guessing until the end. General admission is \$25; admission for seniors (60+), students and military is \$20. On Bargain Night, July 1, all tickets are \$18. For more information or tickets, call SEE-LIVE 733-5483 or go to chanticleers.org.

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

Eric Swalwell Makes a Name for Himself in Washington

By Randy Shandobil

Special to the San Leandro Times

Just four years ago Eric Swalwell was an almost unknown congressional newbie with zero clout on Capitol Hill.

But now, the 36 year old is a driving force in the House Intelligence Committee's Russia-Trump investigation and network news anchors interview the East Bay Congressman nearly

“I remember they called us ‘Scrublin.’”

— Congressman Eric Swalwell

every night. Indeed, Swalwell's star is on the rise.

Swalwell, a Democrat, was born in Iowa, raised in nearby Dublin, and when he's not in session, he lives in Pleasanton. But his congressional district office is tucked behind Kentucky Fried Chicken on the Boulevard in Castro Valley.

Swalwell wasn't always enamored with life in the East Bay. After graduating from Dublin High School in 1999, he, like many young people born and raised in the suburbs, wanted to leave his hometown after graduation. He wanted to live and work in a big city with more opportunities.

Back then, Swalwell was a competitive soccer player. He says players from other soccer teams in more upscale East Bay towns such as Pleasanton and San Ramon, were dismissive of Dublin. “I remember, they called

us ‘Scrublin.’”

The oldest of four brothers, Swalwell grew up in a working-class family. His father, Eric Sr. is a retired police officer. His mother Vicky is an administrative assistant.

As a high school student, Swalwell was interested in journalism, government and law. But it was his skills as a soccer goalie that made higher education affordable and helped Swalwell become the first person in his family to go to college.

He won an athletic scholarship to Campbell University in North Carolina. He played there for two school years, but soccer injuries (two broken thumbs) squashed his dreams of becoming a professional athlete. Those broken bones changed the direction of Swalwell's life.

Swalwell applied for a summer internship in Washington, D.C. and landed one in the office of former Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, who represented Dublin at the time. His main duties: the relatively menial tasks of opening mail and leading constituent tours. Still, Swalwell caught the bug.

He transferred to the University of Maryland and was about to earn his law degree in 2006 when he reached a turning point. Swalwell had also been working on Martin O'Malley's campaign for governor.

“I had to decide, do I stay and continue to work for O'Malley. Or do I come home?”

Swalwell reached out to his Dublin High School economics teacher, Tim Sbranti.

Sbranti's advice: “No, you come home. We need you. We need younger leaders in the city. Try to make where you grew up a better place.”

Sbranti would go on to become the Mayor of Dublin and Swalwell took a job as a prosecutor for the Alameda County

District Attorney's Office. He prosecuted domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking and murder cases.

In 2010, with Sbranti's encouragement, Swalwell ran for and won a seat on the Dublin City Council. Then, at only 31 years old, Swalwell took a leap some thought was crazy. He decided to run for congress against a 20-term incumbent, Pete Stark.

“I had to decide, do I stay and continue to work for O'Malley, or do I come home?”

— Congressman Eric Swalwell

The 15th Congressional District, which includes Castro Valley, Hayward, Danville, Dublin, San Ramon, Livermore and parts of San Leandro and Fremont, had just been redrawn, and was a bit more moderate than it had been in the past. That made the district a better fit for Swalwell than Stark, because Stark was one of Congress' most liberal members.

In November 2012 Eric Swalwell defeated a man who had served in the House eight years longer than Swalwell had been alive.

And today, Swalwell's former teacher, Tim Sbranti works for Swalwell as his Deputy Chief of Staff.

“You've got to be nice to your students,” Sbranti says. “You never know, you might work for



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

Congressman Eric Swalwell on one of his almost daily live appearances on national television.

them one day.”

In January, Swalwell consolidated his Pleasanton and Hayward offices into one bigger office in Castro Valley. With so many communities within the district to choose from, why locate in Castro Valley?

“Geographically it sits in the middle of the district,” says Swalwell “But also Castro Valley is kind of the politically centrist part of the district.”

Deputy Chief of Staff Sbranti elaborates: “Sometimes in the Tri-Valley, the voices tend to be

a little more conservative. You go a little further west (Hayward, Union City, Fremont) the voices tend to be a little more progressive. Castro Valley has the perfect blend. A mix of voices on both sides.”

Which gets back to Swalwell's work on the Russia-Trump investigation. Swalwell says he knows that traffic and housing are the two issues his constituents worry about the most, so he was concerned that some constituents might object to time spent on the investigation. But so far, he says

they haven't.

When he writes or talks about something not Russia related, he says “I get emails, tweets and posts on my Facebook account: you're off topic. Stay focused on Russia.”

And so, whether he's in the Capitol or in his district office behind the KFC in Castro Valley, Swalwell does.

Randy Shandobil hosts the podcast *ThisGoldenState.com* and leads *Shandobil Communications*. Previously, he was KTVU's longtime political editor.



PHOTO BY RANDY SHANDBIL

Rep. Swalwell during a recent meeting at the IBEW Union Hall in Dublin.

Our Readers Remember...

We invite our readers to share their stories and photos — old and not so old — of life in San Leandro.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Toyota Ups Prius Prime Performance

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

As “Kleenex” is to tissues, or “Google” is to search engines, “Prius” is to hybrid cars. It’s surprising that “priusing” hasn’t become a verb for “driving efficiently.”

The original Prius had an engine and an electric motor sharing duties to extend the range and efficiency of the gas engine. Braking regenerated the electricity for the small motor. Then, about five years ago, Toyota introduced the plug-in hybrid, which permitted limited all-electric driving, but the EV range was small — about 11 miles. Other manufacturers have since offered cars with a greater range.

So, when the Prius was reimagined for its latest version, not only did the stylists go crazy with the design, they upgraded the plug-in version. Today, renamed the Prius Prime, Toyota’s plug-in hybrid can go up to 25

miles in all EV mode.

That significantly bigger number is the key to getting real value out of a plug-in hybrid. With the Prime, I could drive 18 miles to work on a charge, fill the battery back up there, and head home equally gas free. Charging time from empty is about 5-1/2 hours on standard household current or just 2 hours on a Level 2 240-volt charger, such as the ChargePoint system at my office.

Where a plug-in really shines is when you want to go on a longer trip. I tried this out with a 170-mile round trip to visit my grandkids. We cruised along on electrons until the car switched to hybrid mode and then it swapped power sources the rest of the way. We plugged in at our destination and reclaimed some pure EV miles for the trip home.

The Hybrid Synergy Drive System mates a 1.8-liter four-cylinder gas engine with two electric motors, for a total of 121 horsepower. The 8.8 kWh lithium ion battery pack, more than double

that of the previous plug-in, hides beneath the cargo area, leaving 19.8 cubic feet of cargo capacity.

The official EPA numbers are 54 mpg without plugging in at all. When you do charge up the car, you can get up to 133 MPGe (EPA), which ranks nicely in the world of battery-powered cars (compare to others). You’ll get a nice 8 for Smog and perfect 10 for Greenhouse Gas in the EPA green ratings, too.

For my week, I averaged 70.5 miles per gallon — a truly wonderful achievement. The car, with about 5,000 miles on it, showed an overall average of 100.6 mpg — likely from a lot of electric driving.

The Prius Prime rolls along about as silently as you’d expect in EV mode — and it’s not a whole lot louder in hybrid mode. Extra insulation keeps road and wind noise out.

Select from three levels — Plus, Premium and Advanced. My Magnetic Gray Metallic tester was the Advanced, so it came with a long list of features for efficiency, comfort and enjoyment. See Toyota’s website or visit your dealer to study the details.

The Prime’s styling is significantly different and perhaps a bit more aesthetically pleasing than the regular hybrid’s. The nose gets a sparkling row of headlamps that come with automatic dimming, and features two massive grilles at the lower corners that relates to the look of its hydrogen-powered Mirai brand-mate. The rear swaps the regular Prius’ bizarre vertical taillamps for more integrated horizontal



The 2017 Prius Prime measures 6.5 inches longer, 0.6 inches wider and 0.8 inches lower than the model it replaced.

ones, and adds a friendly wave to the rear glass and hatch panel. Still quirky, but undeniably a Prius all the way.

Inside, the center-mounted instrument panel controls appear to float above the dash. Most notable is the new 11.5-inch vertical display, which borrows from the Tesla design school. There’s a wealth of information displayed, from navigation to audio selections from the Entune system to loads of data on the environmental performance of this decidedly high-tech ride.

Ignoring the massive screen, essential data is all tucked into the slim center strip just below the windshield. Ironically, the colored head-up display repeats some information right above it.

The seats, in Softex artificial leather, were comfortable for hours of travel, and the black-and-white ambiance of the interior proved restful and easy to live with.



The centrally mounted gauge panel, a Prius hallmark since the model’s inception, appears to float above the dashboard.

As overall vehicle prices rise,

hybrids don’t seem so expensive anymore. The Prime Plus starts at \$27,965, the Premium at \$29,665, and the Advanced at \$33,965, including shipping. My tester had seven extra items, including a universal tablet holder, wheel locks, illuminated door sills, paint protection film, and a glass breakage sensor, and hit

\$36,305.

While I believe that pure electric vehicles are wonderful, if you live a daily life that combines moderate weekday commuting with occasional longer trips, the Prius Prime may be the ticket. You do have to live with the weird looks, but with up to 640 miles of range, travel opportunities are limitless.

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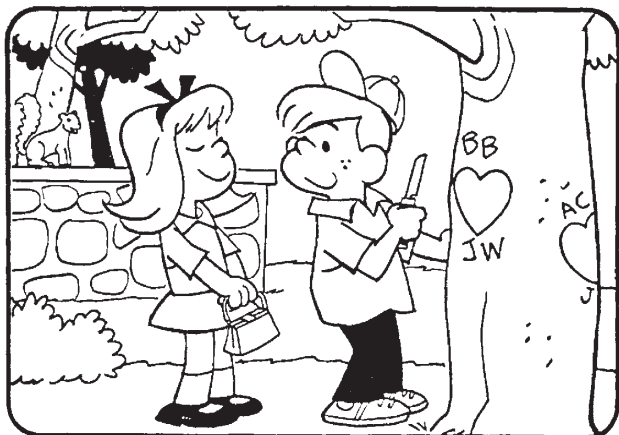
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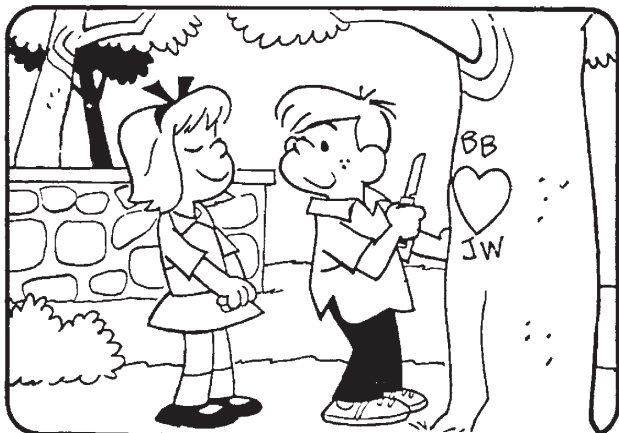
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BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF

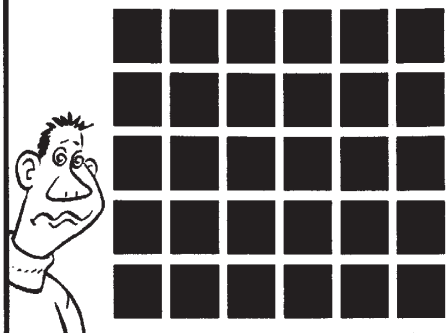
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Squirtle is missing. 2. Hair is different. 3. Purse is missing. 4. Cap is missing. 5. Shitall is different. 6. Carving is missing.

OPTICALS



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WHAT DO YOU SEE when you look at the intersections of white lines above?

Answer: You see gray dots. If you look at any one dot, it will disappear.

8
FIG. 1

HERE'S ANOTHER BETCHA! Bet your friends that you can prove that half of eight is three. When they give up, print the number “8” on a sheet of paper (fig. 1). Then cover the left half of it with another sheet of paper (fig. 2). The “8” has now been changed to a “3.”

3
FIG. 2

THE “G” PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the G’s. Here are some hints from the top down.

1. \$1,000 (sl).
2. A Monopoly square.
3. A ship’s diary.
4. Of great duration.
5. A strange language.
6. Charitable giving.
7. A computer getting data.
8. A slanted line.

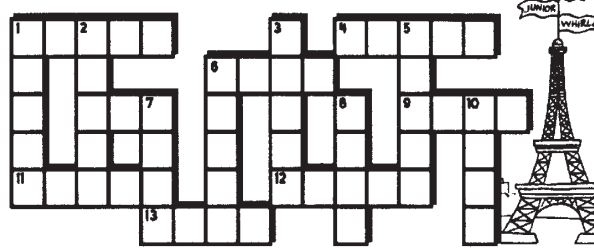


Answers: The words are: G, go, log, long, lingo, doing, loading, diagonal.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SHORT-NAME EUROPEAN CITIES!



Illustrated by David Coulson

Below are the names of 15 European cities that you will need to complete the puzzle above. Use the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy.

ARLES	DEAL	PALMA
BADEN	EDAM	PARIS
BERN	LILLE	RYDE
BREST	METZ	SIENA
DERBY	ORLY	SELBY

Answers: (Across) 1. Palma. 4. Baden. 6. Bern. 9. Ryde. 11. Siena. 12. Selby. 13. Metz. (Down) 1. Paris. 2. Lille. 3. Arles. 5. Derby. 6. Brest. 7. Edam. 8. Orly. 10. Deal.



Congratulations to San Leandro High School Class of 2017

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Patrick Acholonu
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Alicia Maxine Acosta
Natalia Maria Acosta
Adolfo Acosta Jorge
Jacob Fabian Aguilar
Roberto Alexander Aguilar
Glenn Francis Gonzales Agustin
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Tenora Shron Allen
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Adonney Joshua Bramah
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SL Dodgers Swing into Summer Season

The San Leandro Dodgers youth baseball team (18 and under) are now 6-4 for the summer season after sweeping the California Warriors in a double-header on Sunday, followed by a loss on Tuesday night to Alameda.

On Tuesday night at San Leandro Ballpark, the Dodgers lost to the Alameda Merchants, 8-4.

The Dodgers got key hits by Josh Tanguma and Jacob Marples. Noah Amaral pitched four innings for the Dodgers, with Marples, Daniel Pasillas and Adrian Enriques pitching in relief.

In the Sunday double-header, the Dodgers won the first game, 5-4, with a double by Jimmy Silva and hits by Adrian Enriques, Noah Amaral, Rudy Avila and Cameron Weatherford.

Weatherford pitched six innings for the Dodgers, and Amaral pitched the final frame.

In the second game of the twin-bill, Silva doubled for the Dodgers, and Mike Pulido and Weatherford each had a pair of hits to lead the Dodgers to a 12-7 win.

Jakob Bouhuys pitched four and two-thirds innings for San Leandro and Pulido pitched in relief.

On Saturday, the Dodger split a double-header against the Dawgs. The Dodgers took the first game, 6-3, with Coco Sanchez pitching three innings and Daniel Pasillas pitching four innings in relief – with Jimmy Silva catching the full seven innings.

Jacob Marples hit a pair of singles for the Dodgers who got a total of eight hits against the Dawgs.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

San Leandro High pitcher Jordan Woods, shown pitching in a game this spring, will be going to San Francisco State next fall.

Future Looks Bright For San Leandro's Graduating Seniors

San Leandro High baseball coach Mike Bungarz announced that seven seniors on this year's Pirates team all have big plans for the future.

The Pirates baseball team didn't make the playoffs this year for the first time in the last six

• **Cris Delgadillo** will attend Laney College and pursue baseball.

• **Josh Campuzano** (2nd team all league) will play baseball at San Joaquin Delta College.

• **Alex Perreira** (1st team all league) will play baseball at Chabot College.

"We will miss these seniors who have meant so much to our program."

— Pirates coach Mike Bungarz

seasons, as the Pirates had a lot of new faces on the team this year.

"We coached them hard and the boys gave a great effort," said Bungarz. "The boys were and are a close group and the coaching staff truly enjoyed each player."

"We will miss these seniors who have meant so much to our program," Bungarz said. "Our freshman and sophomore class had a nice year on the junior varsity so the future looks bright."

The seniors' plans for next year are:

• **Tyler Hidalgo** will attend Cal State East Bay and study psychology.

• **Jordan Woods** will attend SF State and major in ethnic studies.

• **Ethan Rich** has an academic scholarship to UC Santa Barbara.

• **Alex Simas** will attend San Jose State and major in civil engineering.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Noah Amaral slides into home plate to score a run for the Dodgers against the Alameda Merchants on Tuesday evening at San Leandro Ballpark.

In the second game, the Dawgs came back to win, 5-4, even though the Dodgers collected 11 hits.

Starting pitcher Enriques was relieved by Tanguma after one

and two-thirds innings, and Silva pitched the final three innings.

Both Pasillas and Weatherford hit a pair of singles, and Silva hit a double for the Dodgers.

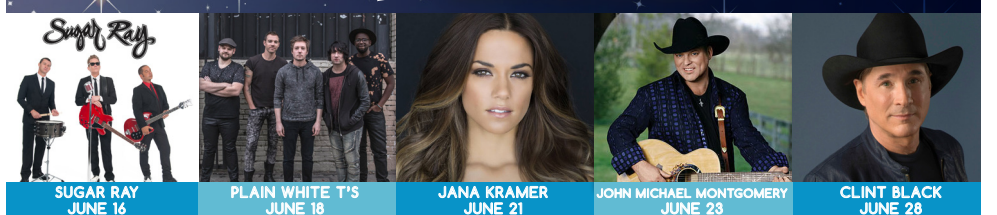
On Saturday, the Dodgers

will host the Watsonville Aggies in a double-header starting at 5 p.m. at San Leandro Ballpark on Teagarden Street.

Next Tuesday, The Dodgers host Redwood City at 7 p.m.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



Avoid These 5 Failures for Buyers

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

It's no secret it is hard for buyers to compete in the current market. We are still seeing limited inventory across the Bay Area and, with the local economy in top gear, the market remains geared towards sellers.

While we all know a market shift is coming, and while many Realtors agree it appears to be imminent, it hasn't happened yet.

Consequently, buyers that want to get into a home now must still be aggressive.

Here are five epic buyer fails to avoid if you want to complete a purchase in the next few months:

1. Failure To Respond

While some agents deliberately put homes on the market and keep them there for a couple of weekends to get maximum exposure, others are content to allow offers to come in immediately.

Buyers that have not been pre-approved and have all their documentation in place will miss out on the latter types of listings. In fact, we recommend that you

don't look at homes until you are actually ready to write an offer.

See a home you like? Don't hesitate — if you take time to think about it, it will most likely be gone.

2. Failure To Impress

We recommend buyers write a letter to the sellers if they want to land a specific home. While some sellers are only interested in the bottom line, others want their home going to buyers they believe will care for it the way they did.

I've seen buyers land properties even though they were not the strongest offer because the sellers were impressed with their heartfelt letter.

3. Failure To Compete

In hot markets, set your sites lower because multiple offers push prices upwards.

Want to write a lowball offer on a hot property? It's a total waste of everyone's time. We recommend that you not look at properties at the top of your price range, but rather 10-15 percent lower. That way, you can compete in a bidding war.

4. Failure to Inspect

While many sellers want to see offers with all contingencies removed, if the seller did not provide current Inspection Reports from reputable inspectors, *do not* write offers with no inspection contingency.

5. Failure to Persevere

Buyers that succeed often write many offers before landing a contract. Don't give up! Figure out why you didn't get the previous property, adjust as necessary and push on. In the current market, Persevere, Persevere, Persevere.

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

Fixed Rates Fall

Mixed economic data and increasing uncertainty are continuing to push rates to the lowest levels in nearly seven months.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.89 percent last week, down from 3.94 percent the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.60 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed rate mortgages averaged 3.16 percent, down from 3.19 percent a week earlier.



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Single-hung Windows Won't Come Clean

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Times

Q I clean my apartment windows every week, but I can't clean the outside. If I lift the window and reach around outside, I can just get the bottom part of the window. We're in an upstairs unit, so I can't reach them from outside. Any solutions?



Use dishwashing liquid to better loosen dirt on windows.

much the same.

A It sounds like you have single-hung windows, which have a bottom sash that can be lifted up, while the top window is sealed into the frame. Double-hung windows can be opened at either the top or bottom.

Single-hung windows are designed so that the bottom sash can be removed for cleaning or replacement. How they're removed varies slightly from manufacturer to manufacturer, but there are a couple of methods that are pretty

The simplest type to remove, in my opinion, is a sash that has slide-backs along the top so you can easily pull in its top retainer clips and lever the top of the sash out of the frame toward you. From there it can be disengaged from the slider connections at the bottom and maneuvered out of the frame. Or, if you're just going to clean the outside, you can lever it out until it lies flat, clean it and put it back into place.

The other common type is a sash held in place by removable hardware, like sash stops at the top of the track. After removing or shifting retaining clips, the sash is lifted past its normal opening point and away from its bottom balancers or guides, and then levered out from one side and then the other.

Confused? Do an internet search for videos of single-hung window sash removal until you come across one similar to yours.

With the bottom sash out of the way, you can more easily reach the outside top of the window to clean it. Doing this weekly may not be fun — lifting the sash out of some windows can be somewhat frustrating, and there's always a risk of damaging the hardware, like the balancers or sash stops. So, clean the outside windows only a couple of times a year, or when they are noticeably dirty.

What's the best way to quickly clean windows, especially the grimmer outside? Add a little bit of dishwashing liquid to a lot of warm water, and use a big sponge to apply the suds. This loosens dirt much better than ammonia cleaner and paper towels. Swipe away the suds with a window squeegee (available at home-improvement stores or in many home-goods stores), cleaning the blade after each swipe, and wipe the corners of the window with a lint-free rag.

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Can Redwood Trees Affect Azaleas; Neighbor's Permission Needed to Access Mother Plant

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q My husband removed the ivy growing under a large redwood tree and planted azaleas. Unfortunately, he has had to replant them several times as they keep dying. The leaves on the plants wilt, turn brown and then die. He dug small holes with a pickaxe because of the heavy clay soil and the tree roots. The area is watered every other day by automatic sprinklers. Do redwood trees affect the soil so that azaleas can't grow?

A Redwood trees do not produce any type of natural toxins that would affect the growth of azaleas or any other plants. This also applies to every other conifer and many shade trees.

With automatic irrigation systems, mature trees tend to be surface rooted and redwoods are typically shallow rooted anyway. Their extensive root system makes planting and growing plants under them difficult as they compete for water and nutrients.

Ivy thrives while more desirable plants suffer because ivy can root everywhere it grows. This is not the case with other ornamental plants whose roots are located in a central root ball. Also, this makes digging holes for new plants difficult but not impossible.

Azaleas don't thrive in heavy clay soil without the planting holes being amended. I'd plant away from the tree trunk to avoid the largest tree roots. The planting holes should be twice as wide or wider than the con-

tainer and six inches deeper. I'd replace the native soil with an Azalea or Acid Planting Mix or mix it at a 50/50 ratio with the native soil.

Before planting, be sure the plants are wet and slice through the root mass to break the circular pattern so they root into the backfill. The top of the root ball should be above the soil surface, so they don't sink and get buried. This is all easier said than done.

I think an easier solution would be to plant the azaleas in containers and sink them part way in the ground and then cover the balance of the area with some type of non-vegetative ground cover.

My biggest concern now is whether or not the irrigation system will be able to water the containers. If not, maybe a drip system will work and as a last resort water by hand.

there something I can use or do to rid myself of this problem?

A I'd spray the foliage with Brush-B-Gon or a similar herbicide. However, I'd be concerned about the desirable plants growing on the other side of the fence as they could suffer some damage.

I'd limit my spray to the foliage by using a "ready-to-use" (RTU) product or a tank sprayer, and make repeat applications as necessary.

However, this solution will not eradicate the problem as you can't get to the mother plant.

A more successful option would be to access the fence from your neighbor's side. With their permission, you could then pen up the section of the fence and spray the mother plant.

Now, it's a war of attrition which you should win.

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



Make sure to amend the native soil with at least a 50/50 ratio of planting mix prior to planting azaleas.



WEEKEND GARDENER

Flowers

Root wood cuttings of azalea, chrysanthemum, carnation, fuchsia and hydrangea. Choose growth that is somewhat wood, not still bright green and pliable. Cut a 5- or 6-inch piece, strip all but the tiny young leaves at the top of the cutting and place it in light, sandy soil or potting mix up to the bottom leaf. Sprinkle foliage and thoroughly wet the soil mixture. Provide filtered light in a sheltered location and keep the soil mix moist until the roots are established, usually about a month. Then they can be transplanted to the garden.

Vegetables

Feed tomatoes with a fertilizer rich in phosphorus (the middle number, such as 5-10-5 or 5-10-10). Stake or cage the plants. Tomatoes allowed to sprawl will generally produce more fruit, but some of it is likely to rot on the soil. Also, some gardeners like to plant herbs, marigolds and allium in the vegetable garden to help repel insects.

Spraying

When spraying plants for insects and diseases, be sure to spray the underside of the leaves where pests usually concentrate. Bugs on bushes and shrubs can often be effectively removed with a strong spray of water from the garden hose.

Using Shade

Hot weather is on its way, so when transplanting, space seedlings so that the leaves of the mature plant will shade the soil between plants. This keeps the soil cooler and cuts down on evaporation. When transplanting, gently loosen the rootballs of the seedlings before planting them so roots can quickly reach out into surrounding soil to establish themselves.

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CITY GUIDE

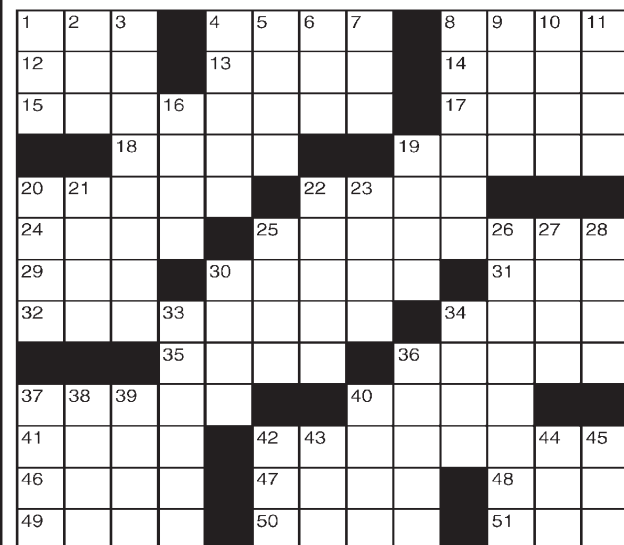
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Shots: Parishioners pray for person who vandalized

continued from front page

Tuesday on charges including gross negligence, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and resisting arrest. His next court dates is set for today, Thursday, June 15, at the Hayward Hall of Justice.

After Mullen's arrest, officers searched the area and found that eight rounds had been fired into a statue of St. Felicitas on the church grounds, near the entrance to the school. An additional two rounds ricocheted into a church building, according to police.

Henderson said that no further details will be made public at this time because the investigation is still active.

"There is simply no place and no excuse for vandalism aimed at a place of worship in our society," said Henderson in a written statement. "The person responsible for this act is in custody and we have no information or evidence that there are any additional threats directed at the church or their congregation."

The police ask anyone with information about the incident to call the San Leandro Police Department at 577-2740.

Father Eddie Castanas of St. Felicitas said he didn't want to comment on the shooting until the investigation is complete. He added that the church hasn't made any decisions on repairs to the statue.

"It's unfortunate," said Castanas. "But we are waiting to see



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The statue of St. Felicitas in front of the school had eight bullet holes in it. St. Felicitas herself endured even worse at the hands of some Roman emperor because she refused to renounce her faith.

how the investigation turns out."

Worshippers at the morning Mass on Tuesday were philosophical and forgiving of the perpetrator.

"It's sad, I just can't believe it," said parishioner Evelyn Macabago. "Some people need help."

Lela Hernandez said it's usu-

ally quiet around the church in the Washington Manor neighborhood.

"I was surprised there was a shooting, but at least no one got hurt," said Hernandez.

The real St. Felicitas went through much worse than her statue. According to *The Lives*

of the Saints, Felicitas of Rome was martyred around the year 165 when she refused to renounce her Christianity. But before she died, she watched her seven sons be executed by various means including flagellation, beating, beheading, and being thrown off a precipice.

Historical Society to Host Wood Window Workshop

The San Leandro Historical Society will host a free wood window workshop on Saturday, June 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Little Brown Church, 384 W. Estudillo Ave. (behind Casa Peralta), in San Leandro. Learn from the experts how to maintain and repair

your old wooden windows. The class will discuss energy efficiency, repair options and perform live demonstrations on windows. The historical society welcomes donations. For more information, call 969-0975 or email SLHS@sanleandro.org.

Van: Suspect in jail

continued from front page

following the shooting but has since been released and is now being held at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin in lieu of \$205,000 bail.

Charges against England include assault with a deadly weapon (the van), evading an officer with willful disregard, and grand theft. His next court date is June 26 at the Hayward Hall of Justice where he is set to

enter a plea.

Benabou said that the police have seen an increase in suspects driving their cars towards officers in an attempt to escape.

"We've seen a pattern in town," said Benabou. "There have been four cases recently of people driving in cars towards officers. One person in a stolen car hit a police car last week."



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Artist Andrew Johnstone completed a mural with the help of Lincoln High students.

Mural: Being creative

continued from front page

be creative in a way that benefits the community.

"A lot of kids think the only art materials they can use are spray cans and sharpies," said Johnstone. "This is a new experience for them. My job is to act like a safety net. I take away their fear of failure."

Johnstone says there's always been a debate about whether graffiti is art, and people can have any opinion on that, but he tries to teach the kids that destroying property is the opposite of being creative.

"I think graffiti is as valid as any other art style, but vandalism is making a victim from their art and it is not okay," said Johnstone.

Johnstone is the head designer of "the Man" at the Burning Man art festival and built last year's Man in part at the Gate 510 on Davis Street in San Leandro. He and a team of volunteer artists guide kids from all over the East Bay on public art projects, stressing that they aren't there as cops or teachers or social workers, but as fellow artists.

"The idea is treating a social problem," said Johnstone. "These kids are rebellious and looking for identity. A lot of graffiti is

people just writing their name over and over because we are an animal that demands self-expression. But this mural will last for years and years. I told the kids that they'll be able to take their own kids past it one day and tell them 'I made that.' That's a cool, wonderful thing."

SLIA was created as a "community benefit district" in 2013 when downtown property owners voted to assess themselves an additional tax to pay for things like street cleaning, security, and public relations. The SLIA collects about \$470,000 in tax assessments annually and received a \$300,000 loan from the City of San Leandro earlier this year.

The SLIA says they plan on creating more murals downtown using the artistic talents of San Leandro students.

And Johnstone says that the experience doesn't end for the kids when the projects are completed.

"They are always welcome to come back and paint or hang their art at one of our shows, maybe sell a piece," said Johnstone. "I'm not saying every one of them is going to become a professional artist, but some just might."

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Joe, a longtime resident of San Leandro, was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Finis Waldo and Josephine Ewing.

In 1950, during the Korean War, he joined the Navy and was stationed at Hunters Point in San Francisco.

Joe is survived by his wife, Colleen, of 63 years; 4 sons, Joe Jr. (Diane), Ted (Sharon), Don (Sally) and Jim (Michelle); 9 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren.

Joe led a full and happy life. He will be deeply missed.

EWING, Joseph E.
JOURNEY, James Warren

James Warren Journey passed away peacefully at home on June 4th with his wife and dog by his side. He was 76. Jim was born in Berkeley, grew up in Oakland, graduated from Castlemont High School and served in the Army. A resident of Castro Valley for over 50 years, Jim worked at the East Bay Regional Park District where he retired as Fire Captain. A memorial service will be held at Lone Tree Cemetery, 24591 Fairview Ave., in Hayward on Friday, June 16, at 1 p.m. in the open pavilion.

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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.

Time to Put the Brakes on City's Current Expenditures

Editor:

The city budget proposed expenses for 2017/2018 are going up 27 percent (\$156 million to \$198 million) over 2016/2017 and we still have \$174 million in unfunded pension liabilities that will "be addressed in the future"

per City Manager Chris Zapata.

It's time to put the brakes on these current expenditures and deal with these future obligations that are not going away and will only increase over time.

My employer gave me a 3 percent increase for 2017/2018 to deal with the cost of living and I think its high time the city council do the same thing and only increase

the expenses 3percent from \$156 million to \$161 million (instead of \$198 million) to help deal with the unfunded pension liabilities.

—Brent Heath
San Leandro

Thanks to All Who Made Cherry Festival Parade Such a Success

Editor:

It has been my pleasure to serve as the volunteer Cherry Festival Parade Coordinator for the last four years.

I want to thank all the community groups, businesses, and individuals who contribute so much time and energy to make the parade a success.

I also want to thank the parade spectators. I love seeing the videos and pictures posted

on-line, especially the videos of the children screaming in delight as they catch sight of a Disney character or a particularly kid-friendly parade entry.

The parade highlights all the positive energy in our community. Thank you again to everyone who helped make the parade an engaging community event.

—Evelyn Gonzalez
Cherry Festival Parade
Coordinator, San Leandro

Trump 'Creating Damage Between a Disaster and a Catastrophe'

Editor:

In pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Accord on Global Climate Change, and even by threatening to do so, the current president is creating damage somewhere between a disaster and a catastrophe. Obviously, refusal to curb its greenhouse gases by the world's second biggest polluter (us) will accelerate global warming's impacts — sea level rise, severe storms,

droughts, floods, and extinctions of endangered species.

But that's not all. The environmental denier is also ceding America's leadership in the world. No more will other countries follow our lead, or even agree to cooperate with us, having seen that at any time our serial bankruptee can pull out, rescind, and cancel our agreed-upon responsibilities.

But wait, there's more. We are losing the competition to lead the next technological revolution, that of sustainable energy production. China now leads in solar, Denmark in wind, Netherlands in tides. America leads in turning backward and inward.

As our planet's temperature increases, we will suffer more destruction from hurricanes, flooding, drought and fires. The productive jobs not created by committing to sustainable energy will require jobs to clean up debris, fight fires, build seawalls and bury victims.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

Says Trump's Budget Cuts Are Not Good

Editor:

President Trump has just released his budget and it is not good. It calls for cuts in Medicare, Meals on Wheels, Social Security, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and UNICEF.

However Trump's budget does allow oil drilling at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The refuge is home of the Gwich People who live their way of life. They care about the water as well as taking care of the animals.

It is a shame that President Trump will support desecrating the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to put the interest of the oil companies over the health of the Gwich People.

—Billy Trice Jr.
Oakland

Time to Adopt an Eco-Friendly Plant-Based Diet

Editor:

Are you, too, fighting mad about Trump pulling the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord? Then let's fight back three times a day by adopting an Eco-friendly plant-based diet.

Yes, our diet is pivotal. A 2010 United Nations report blames animal agriculture for 19 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, 38 percent of land use, and 70 percent of global freshwater consumption.

Carbon dioxide is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by fossil fuels combustion to operate farm ma-

chinery, trucks, factory farms, and slaughterhouses.

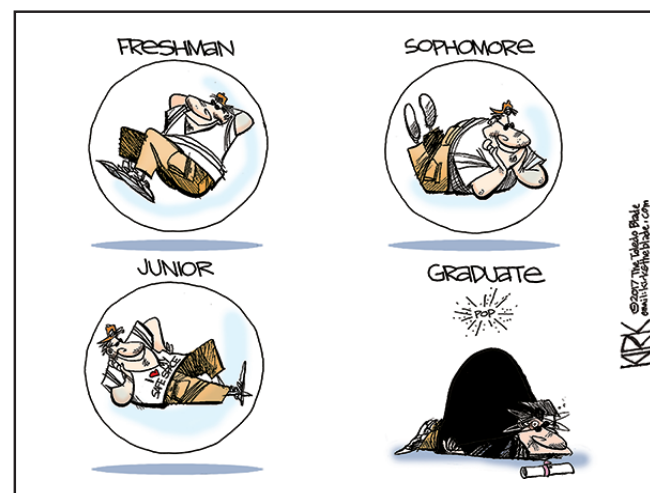
The more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are released from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

In an environmentally sustainable world, meat and dairy products in our diet must be replaced by vegetables, fruits, and grains,

just as fossil fuels are replaced by wind, solar, and other pollution-free energy sources.

Each of us has the power to protest Trump's failure to maintain America's leadership in moderating climate change, simply and effectively, by what we choose at the grocery store.

—Dennis Roth
San Leandro



INQUIRING REPORTER

Is America in trouble?

— Asked at the Bancroft Safeway

Most certainly. We're being lied to. Washington is a nightmare. Every day I wake up and something different is happening. My only hope is four years goes by quickly.

Judie Ware
San Leandro



I think so with Trump as president. He doesn't sound intelligent to me.

Sylvia Hughes
Oakland

Oh, America's been in trouble for a long time. People care about clothes and material things and so many people are hungry and homeless. We talk about the homeless but nobody wants to do anything. We go poking around the world and we're not taking care of people right here.

Tiffany Covington
Oakland



It has been for a long time. Things are just coming to light now, but the politicians have been lying for a long time.

Laura Barnett
Oakland

No, America is in a great awakening. Given the current political situation we're forced to look at things we don't want to look at. Communities are unifying to support one another. You gotta have the dark to have light.

Danielle Kaya
Oakland



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Pets of the Week



Man Man



Arden

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Man Man the kitten and Arden the cat.

Man Man is a sweet, playful 3-month-old kitten who started out a bit shy when first arriving at the shelter. He'll do great in a home where he can play, explore

and be loved.

Arden is 2-year-old brown tiger who's friendly and just wants to be loved. He's talkative and enjoys being with people. He's a big fan of string on wand toys, and he loves treats.

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



PHOTO BY IRAN RAMIREZ

The next "Truth Thursday" party under the Truth Is Beauty statue at the San Leandro Tech Campus will be on Thursday, June 22.

'Truth Thursdays' Meets at SL Tech Campus

The San Leandro Improvement Association hosts "Truth Thursdays," on the fourth Thursday of the month under the "Truth Is Beauty" statue at the OSIsoft building on the San Leandro Tech Campus, 1600 Alvarado St.

Food trucks, beer, wine, and live entertainment will be on hand from 5 to 9 p.m. Bocce ball and other recreational games will be played out on the grass.

Everyone is invited to the event, said San Leandro Improvement Association president Gordon Galvan.

"We invite all of San Leandro, BART commuters, Bay Area residents,

and visitors to come and unwind after a long day with some good food, drink and music under Truth is Beauty," Galvan said.

The San Leandro Improvement

Association (SLIA) is a non-profit corporation that's run by a board consisting of property owners, residents, community members and businesses

to improve the downtown. Its operating budget comes from a special tax on downtown property owners that raises around \$400,000 a year.

Toastmasters to Host Open House on Friday Night

Toastmasters Division A is having an open house on Friday, June 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Ave. in Alameda.

Learn about the Toastmas-

ters, enjoy a speech marathon, meet Toastmaster members and network.

No charge for admission.

Toastmasters has local chapters in San Leandro and through-

out the East Bay.

For more information, contact Faz Binesh at fbinesh@aol.com or 760-8400, or email Justin Paras at Justin.Paras@gmail.com.

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