



## The Power of Pie

THE ONLY TRICKY PART IS THE CRUST ..... 4

**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**SUNNY** Sunny thru Saturday  
 Cloudy Sunday  
 HIGHS: 71-73  
 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
 LOWS: 46-54

**FRIDAY** **SATURDAY** **SUNDAY**

# San Leandro Times

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

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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO COURTESY US KIDS GOLF

Young golfers from around California and nearby states competed on the Tony Lema Course at the Monarch Bay Golf Club in San Leandro on March 22.

## Kid Golfers Compete at Monarch Bay

Monarch Bay's Tony Lema Golf Course hosted the Monarch Bay Golf Club U.S. Kids Golf Tour Tournament on March 22 with a record 174 young golfers competing.

Golfers traveled from as far as Southern California, Nevada and Oregon for the tourney in San Leandro, one of 115 U.S. Kids Golf Local Tours operating around the world.

U.S. Kids Golf Local Tours is for girls and boys, ages 6 to 18, to enjoy competing, and spending time with new friends.

see GOLF, page 11

## Asian Health Center Opens On East 14th

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

Asian Health Services (AHS), which serves thousands of patients in Alameda County, opened a new dental health center last month to serve San Leandro's Asian American residents.

The facility at 770 East 14th Street, across from City Hall's parking lot, will also house Northern California's first dental residency program to train future dentists.

More health-care facilities are planned for the remainder of the block, between Begier Avenue and Oakes Boulevard, and for elsewhere in San Leandro.

A medical center will

go into the former home of Mike's Feed & Pets at the corner of Oakes and East 14th Street, opening in 2026 or 2027. A year after that, a senior health center will open somewhere else in San Leandro, but an exact location is not yet known, according to Dr. Huong Le, AHS chief dental officer.

"Our board saw a huge need for dental and mental health services here," said Le. "In fact, we found that some 5,000 to 6,000 of our current patients, who sometimes faced long wait times for appointments at other facilities, such

see HEALTH, page 11

## SL Farmers' Market Opens for the Season

The popular Downtown San Leandro Farmers' Market returned this week for its 18th season.

The farmers' market is open every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. through October in the parking lot of the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The market kicked off this week with an opening ceremony and ribbon cutting

with Mayor Juan González III, as the DeWayne Oakley Blues Ensemble provided music.

There will be up to 30 vendors at the 2025 Farmers' Market, including Hummus Heaven of San Leandro. Popular vendors JC's Holey Donuts, Roli Roti, J&M Farms, and Rosa's Bakery will be returning to the market, among

see MARKET, page 12

## SLHS Artists Work on Display

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

The next generation of San Leandro artists went on display this past Sunday at Zocalo Coffeehouse on Bancroft Avenue — some 150 of them, in fact, showing in the exhibit "Self, Sky & Color."

Lee Rosenberg's San Leandro High School art students from several classes created the works in the exhibit, which was curated by Zocalo artists-in-residence Suzette McDonough and James Whitehouse. Financial

support was provided by the San Leandro Art Association.

"The paintings show a lot of interest," Rosenberg said. "Young artists worry about needing to learn technical skills. One of the things we try to get the kids to realize is that the technical skills will come, and don't always even matter greatly, but the interest is what matters."

San Leandro poet and paramedic Joseph Stegner was

see ARTISTS, page 11



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Artist Jordyn Amman and San Leandro High art teacher Lee Rosenberg at the opening of a student art exhibit.

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# MEETING SCHEDULES

## CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

## SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



## San Leandro Times

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

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# Inner Wheel Fills the House at San Leandro Players Show

By Pearl Johnston  
Special to the Times

Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro recently “Sold Out the House” of the San Leandro Players production of *Count Dracula* – buying all the tickets to one of the performances for a club fundraiser.

This Ted Tiller version is a dramedy that entertained us all. Inner Wheel members

were delighted by the performances of a very talented and creative cast.

Each scene delivered humor, special effects, and a healthy fear of the unknown. The wolves howl, the bats fly, the lights flicker, and the legendary story of *Count Dracula* unfolds before your very eyes.

*Count Dracula* continues to entertain the visitors to Tran-

sylvania at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium 320 W. Estudillo Ave. The show runs on weekends until April 13. Don't miss it or beware!

Thank you SL Players for letting us book this performance as one of our yearly charitable fundraising events.

Email: iwclubofsanleandro@gmail.com for more information on Inner Wheel.



Inner Wheel President Amy Nueman and Secretary Jennifer Reed pose for a photo on the stage for the San Leandro Players production of *Count Dracula*.

## San Leandrans Invited to Passover Seder

The San Leandro community is invited to a joyous Passover Seder on Saturday evening, April 12, at 7:30 p.m., hosted by Chabad of San Leandro.

This special gathering will bring together people of all backgrounds for an evening filled with tradition, delicious food, and the timeless story of freedom. Enjoy a delicious 4-course meal with storytell-



ing, songs and discussions about the meaning of Passover.

SVP Required – For more details and to RSVP, visit jew-

ishsanleandro.com/seder2025.

For more information, email [chabadsleandro@gmail.com](mailto:chabadsleandro@gmail.com) or call 510-736-2311.

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**San Leandro Historical Society  
Architecture & Home Tour**

May 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Register by April 4 for Early Bird Special

Discover fascinating architecture and home styles. Explore the rich history of San Leandro's architectural heritage. Get inspired by innovative designs and creative spaces.

On this self-guided tour, you will see four homes and three historical buildings.

For more information and a link to register visit [www.sanleandrohistory.org](http://www.sanleandrohistory.org)

# Community Calendar

## Bay Area Natural Disaster History

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., will present a new program called "Bay Area Natural Disaster History" on Saturday, April 5, from noon to 2 p.m. Learn about some of the biggest natural disasters that affected the Bay Area. If enough people attend there will be a game that simulates what it takes to build community resilience in the face of disaster. To register, go to: sanleandro.libcal.com and scroll down to "Bay Area Natural Disaster History."

## Friends of the San Leandro Library Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will host its semi-annual spring book sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. – Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. is the Bag Sale Day, just \$3 for a grocery-size bag of books. Thousands of quality books, CDs, DVDs, and LPs, as well as collectible and rare books are available at rock-bottom prices. Come early for the best selection. Become a member of Friends of the Library and get early access on Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. All proceeds benefit San Leandro Library programs and services. Credit cards accepted.

## Umpires Needed for HARD Recreation Softball

Hayward Softball Umpires Assoc. is recruiting year round, to work paid HARD Recreation Softball games – men's and women's and co-ed slow pitch. We train all age groups in fast and slow pitch. Call Educational Director at 510-586-8592 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. or email umpire500.61@gmail.com for more information.

## Alta Mira Club Great Gatsby Shrimp Fest

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host The Great Gatsby Shrimp Fest on Saturday, April 12. Social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. \$55 per person, dine in or take out. Includes all-you-can-eat shrimp, pasta, salad, bread and dessert. For tickets and information, call 510-562-7144.

## Apply for a Rotary Club Grant

The Rotary Club of San Leandro provides grants to local non-profit organizations that make a difference in San Leandro. Applications are now being accepted. The application can be found under the "grants" section of the Rotary Club's website - <https://sanleandrorotary.org> Make sure to read the instructions carefully and answer all questions thoroughly. Applications are due by March 26.

## Senior Lunch Program at First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro, 180 Estudillo Ave., will offer a senior "Young at Heart" lunch program the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m., beginning on March 20. Each lunch will be followed by a program ranging from musical groups to information about local charities. On March 20, Peter Small will present an entertaining program about legendary inventor Thomas Edison. Space is limited. Call 510-483-2772 to reserve your spot. A \$5 donation is suggested to help cover the cost of lunch.

## 24th Annual Arroyo Athletic Boosters Car Show

The Arroyo Athletic Boosters will hold its 24th Annual Car Show, a day of amazing cars and bikes, on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Arroyo High School, 15701 Lorenzo Ave. in San Lorenzo. Free admission. To register a vehicle in the show, visit <https://ahs-car-show-2025.cheddarup.com> Pre-registration: \$15 cars, \$15 bikes. Day of show: \$30 cars, \$20 bikes. Email Arroyo.Athletic.Boosters@gmail.com for more information.

## San Leandro Toastmasters Meet Every Thursday

San Leandro Toastmasters meets every Thursday from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. online through Zoom. Email sanleandrotm@gmail.com for more information. Also, the Toastmasters meet in person at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on the last Thursday of every month from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

# Women's Hall of Fame Announces Its Class of 2025

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame announced its 2025 class of inductees last week.

The 12 women honored include Melanie Dulbecco, CEO of Torani in San Leandro; and Bella Comelo, a member of the San Leandro Senior Commission.

The Hall of Fame, established in 1993, honors exceptional women who have made a lasting impact in Alameda County. The 12 remarkable women join the almost 300 past inductees, recognized for their contributions across a range of fields.

## Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Class of 2025

1. Business & Professions: Melanie Dulbecco, CEO of Torani
2. Community Service: Diane Wong, Executive Director of J-SEI
3. Culture & Art: Lori Fogarty, Director & CEO of the Oakland Museum of California
4. Education: Renee Herzfeld, CEO of Community Child Care Council of Alameda County
5. Emerging Leaders: Maitri Venkat, Manager – Battery
6. Environment: Jennifer Pett-Ridge, Group Leader – Environmental Isotope Systems at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
7. Health: Anne Bakar, President & CEO of Telecare Corporation
8. Justice: Bella Comelo, Commissioner of the Senior Commission of San Leandro
9. Non-Traditional Careers: Bisa Grant, President & CEO of ANCHOR
10. Philanthropy: Brandi Howard, President & CEO of East Bay Community Foundation
11. Science, Technology & Engineering: Monya Lane, CEO of Quest Science Center
12. Sports & Athletics: Tiffany Allen-Vargas, Founder/Coach at Tri City Athletic Center

Cell Engineering at Lucid Motors Inc. V. King/Wilma Chan Youth support the Alameda County Scholarship Fund. Women's Hall of Fame, visit <https://www.acgov.org/whof/>.

# Events at the Library

## Countdown to College: What High School Students & Families Should Know

Learn what you can be doing now to set yourself up for college success on Saturday, April 12, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Geared for high school students. The program will be led by experts from Bound4College, hosted by the San Leandro Education Foundation, the San Leandro Public Library, and the San Leandro Unified School District. Snacks and door prizes.

## Textile Art and Quilting Demonstration

SLAA will host a free textile art and quilting demonstration on Tuesday, April 8, at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Socializing and refreshments at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m., demonstration at 6:30 p.m. Textile artist and quilter Pat Guthrie will share her unique approach to quilting – not your dear aunt Martha's quilts. SLAA members will also be displaying artwork for the Artist of the Month Contest. All ages are welcome. For more information contact sanleandroart.contact@gmail.com

## Art Supplies for Los Angeles Fire Victims

SLAA member Allison Hall will be driving her service dog, Charlie, down to the LA areas affected by the fires at the beginning of the year to bring comfort to those still affected by the tragedy. She is also going to be bringing art supplies to the schools impacted by the fire. Making art will help children process their trauma and remind them of beauty again. SLAA will be collecting art supplies at its meeting on Saturday, April 8, at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. New or gently used supplies of all mediums will be accepted. For more information contact sanleandroart.contact@gmail.com

## Homework Center at the Manor Branch Library

Need help with your homework? Come to the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd., for after-school homework help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. This is for students in grades 1 through 5. Registration needed at [bit.ly/4fD096R](http://bit.ly/4fD096R) or call 510-577-7971.

# San Leandro Scholarship Foundation to Hold Dinner and Silent Auction

The San Leandro Scholarship Foundation will hold its Annual Dinner & Silent Auction on Thursday, April 10, at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St.

Silent auction and live entertainment at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. with alumni speaker Charles Leno, NFL Washington Commanders offensive lineman and SLHS Class of 2009. For tickets, visit [Bit.ly/SLSF2025](http://Bit.ly/SLSF2025).

For more information, email [Sanleandrosf@gmail.com](mailto:Sanleandrosf@gmail.com).

# Fundraiser at Toyon Park For House Fire Survivors

A fundraiser for the survivors of the house fire on Altamont Road last month will be held on Friday, April 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Toyon Park, 14300 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, hosted by City Councilman Bryan Azevedo. Baked goods and other food will be available, along with live music.

# Spiritual, but not religious?

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## Easy as Pie!

Intimidated at the mere thought of making a pie from scratch? You have lots of company. It seems to rank high on the phobia list of cooking techniques.

The only tricky part is the pie crust. (See box at right.) Be sure all of the ingredients are cold.

When rolling out the dough, roll out from the center, never back and forth, and don't roll off the edge of the dough.

Don't overfill the crust. The filling will expand and ooze during the baking.

### CLASSIC APPLE PIE

Pastry for double-crust pie  
1/3 to 1/2 cup sugar  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
8 cups thinly sliced peeled tart apples (8 medium)  
2 tablespoons butter

Heat oven to 425°F. With floured rolling pin, roll one pastry round into round 2 inches larger

than upside-down 9-inch glass pie plate. Fold pastry into fourths; place in pie plate. Unfold and ease into plate, pressing firmly against bottom and side.

In large bowl, mix sugar, 1/4 cup flour, the cinnamon, nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon salt. Stir in apples until well mixed. Spoon into pastry-lined pie plate. Cut butter into small pieces; sprinkle over filling. Trim overhanging edge of pastry 1/2 inch from rim of plate.

Roll other round of pastry into 10-inch round. Fold into fourths and cut slits so steam can escape. Unfold top pastry over filling; trim overhanging edge 1 inch from rim of plate. Fold and roll top edge under lower edge, pressing on rim to seal; flute as desired. Cover edge with 2- to 3-inch strip of foil to prevent excessive browning.

Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until crust is brown and juice begins to bubble through slits in crust, removing foil for last 15 minutes of baking. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or a wedge of sharp Cheddar cheese.

### NUT TREE CHESS PIE

1 cup sugar  
1/3 cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
4 teaspoons flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup chopped walnuts

1/2 cup raisins, plumped in boiling water and drained  
3 eggs  
2/3 cup milk  
4 teaspoons melted butter  
1 unbaked pie shell

Combine dry ingredients, nuts and raisins in mixing bowl. In a small bowl, beat eggs with fork; add milk and melted butter. Stir into dry ingredients, mixing well. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake in a slow oven (315°F) for an hour and 15 minutes. During the long, slow baking, the nuts rise and turn golden brown on top of the rich, firmly jelled filling. Serve cold. The pie cuts best after it stands chilled for 24 hours.

### COCONUT CREAM PIE

1 baked 9-inch pastry shell  
2-1/4 cups whole milk  
3/4 cup sugar, plus 1/4 cup for the egg whites  
3 eggs, separated  
1/4 cup cornstarch  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1-3/4 cups toasted coconut  
1 tablespoon butter

Preheat oven to 400°F. In a saucepan, whisk the 2 cups of milk and 3/4 cup sugar together. Place the pan over medium heat and bring the liquid up to a simmer.

Whisk the egg yolks together. Temper the hot milk into the egg yolks. Whisk the egg mixture into the hot milk mixture. In a small bowl, dissolve the cornstarch in the remaining milk, making a slurry. Whisk the slurry into the hot milk mixture. Bring the liquid up to a boil and reduce to a simmer.

Cook the mixture, stirring constantly, until the filling is thick, about 4 to 6 minutes. Fold in the vanilla, coconut, and butter. Mix well. Pour the filling into the prepared pan and cool the pie completely. Using an electric mixer with a whip attachment, whip the egg white to soft peaks. Add the remaining sugar and whip the egg white to stiff peaks. Spread the egg whites over the top of the pie. Place the pie in the oven for about 3 to 4 minutes, or until the meringue is golden brown.

### BLACKBERRY PIE

Pastry for a double crust pie  
3/4 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons flour  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
4 cups fresh blackberries, rinsed and drained  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
2 tablespoons butter

Preheat oven to 450°F. Line a 9-inch pie pan with half

the pastry, saving remaining pastry for top crust. Chill both while preparing the blackberries.

Combine berries, flour, sugar and lemon juice. Spoon into pie shell, and dot with butter or margarine. Cover with top crust, and slash in several places.

Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°F and continue baking for 35 to 40 minutes, or until browned. Serves 5-6.

### GRASSHOPPER PIE

25 Oreo cookies  
1/2 cup butter, melted  
2 cups marshmallow creme  
1/4 cup creme de menthe  
2 cups whipping cream

Crush cookies and set aside 1/4 cup of crumbs. Place remaining crumbs in a medium bowl and mix in melted butter. Press mixture firmly into bottom and sides of a 9 inch springform pan.

In a large mixing bowl, whip together marshmallow creme and creme de menthe until smooth. In a separate bowl, whip cream until soft peaks form, then fold into marshmallow mixture. Pour mixture into pan and sprinkle reserved cookie crumbs on top. Freeze at least 2 hours, until firm. Remove from freezer 20 minutes before serving to soften slightly.

## Making a Perfect Pie Crust

Making pie crust isn't difficult. With a little practice, anyone can learn to make a picture-perfect pie with a tender, flaky crust.

Unless the recipe directs you to sift the flour, measure by lightly spooning it into a dry measuring cup, then level off with a knife blade or spatula. Measure carefully, being certain not to shake the cup or pack the flour down.

Shortening, lard, butter, margarine or oil, any of these fats will give pie crust flavor and flakiness, in addition to promoting browning.

### BASIC PIE CRUST (For Single-Crust Pie)

1 cup flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt, optional  
1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon shortening, or 1/3 cup lard  
2-1/2 tablespoons ice water

Combine flour and salt in medium bowl. Place shortening on top, then using a pastry blender, cut shortening into flour until particles are about the size of small peas or coarse meal. Use a relaxed flick of the wrist to keep dough mixture from becoming a compact mass. If necessary, run finger across the inside arc of the pastry blender to release shortening.

Sprinkle cold water 1 tablespoon at a time over the mixture, tossing lightly with fork to distribute the liquid evenly. As water is added, flour-shortening mixture will begin to hold together. Mix only enough so dough sticks together. Form pastry into a ball and chill from 30 minutes to 2 days. Double the recipe for a 2-crust pie.

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### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Professional relationships grow stronger, but you still might need to ease some problems with someone in your personal life. One way could be to try to be less rigid in your views.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** You might be too close to a perplexing personal situation to even attempt to make a rational decision about it right now. Stepping back could help you gain a wider perspective.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Being asked to choose between the positions of two friends is an unfair imposition on you. It's best to reject the demand and insist that they try harder to work things out on their own.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** A change of mind about a workplace decision might be called for, once you hear more arguments -- pro and con. A personal event suddenly takes an unexpected (but pleasant) turn.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Romance once again looms large for single Leos and Leonas, with Cupid favoring Taurus and Libra to inspire those warm and fuzzy Leonine feelings. Meanwhile, expect another workplace change.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Avoid repeating yourself. If your first few efforts fail to connect, maybe it's because you haven't found the right way to get your message across. Try changing your approach.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Someone close to you might ask for your support as they face a demanding personal challenge. Offer it, by all means, but be careful that you don't neglect your own needs at this time.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** An unexpected development could put your relationship with a partner or spouse to an emotionally demanding test. But your determination to get to the truth should save the day!



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** A recent agreement appears to be coming apart over the surfacing of unexpected complications. You might need to get expert advice on how to resolve the situation.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Your keen business sense helps you get to the truth about a suspicious business deal. Expect to have many colleagues rally to support your efforts in this important matter.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Someone who once moved in and out of your life through the years might now want to come back in on a more permanent basis. Give yourself a lot of time to weigh your decision.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Showing frustration over a delayed workplace decision might get someone's attention -- but not necessarily make them move any sooner. The best advice would be to be patient and wait it out.

# SENIORS

## Spectrum Offering Fun Fall-Prevention Exercise Class

Fitness class for seniors at the Marina Community Center, and Walk-with-Ease class at San Leandro Senior Center

Spectrum Community Services announced open enrollment for the spring 2025 fall-prevention exercise classes.

Spectrum Community Services invites you to fun classes for older adults to improve their strength and balance, increase energy and alertness. Get more active with the warmer weather.

The popular EnhanceFitness class is returning to the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. Classes start this week.

There are also limited spots still available in the "Walk with Ease" classes held at the San Leandro Senior Center.

**EnhanceFitness Class**  
 • Schedule: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
 • Dates: April 2 to June 27  
 • Location: Marina Community Center  
 • Description: This evidence-based exercise program is proven to strengthen muscles, increase stamina and, most importantly, prevent

future falls. The 1-hour class integrates stretching, aerobics and strength-training. Exercises can be done standing or seated.

**Walk with Ease Class**  
 • Schedule: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays  
 • Times: 9 to 10 a.m., and 1 to 2 p.m.  
 • Dates: April 2 – June 27  
 • Location: San Leandro Senior Center  
 • Description: This one-hour program combines guided walking sessions with fall prevention education. Partici-

pants will build stamina, improve balance, and loosen stiff muscles and joints through practical, self-motivating techniques.

**Registration and Costs**

Advance registration is required, as space is limited. A

voluntary contribution of \$72 for 36 sessions is asked. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

• Walk with Ease: Suggested contribution of \$72 for 36 sessions (12 weeks)

To register or learn more, visit [SpectrumCS.org](http://SpectrumCS.org) or

call 510-876-8809.

**About Spectrum Community Services**

Spectrum Community Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for older adults and low-income families.

## Is a 55+ Community Right for You?

By Matilda Charles  
*Special to the Times*

The first thought we have about those over 55 communities is sure, others will be like us, our every need and want will be taken care of.

But is that always true?

There is, of course, a long list of good things about living in a seniors community. In most cases there will be activities with lots of social opportunities. Depending on the community, there might be a pool, a golf course and tennis courts, a fitness center with classes, scheduled activities, excursions and trips.

For the most part, homes in these communities are smaller since many of us will be downsizing anyway and outdoor maintenance and yardwork will be done by others.

Sounds great, right?

There is another side, though, to the 55+ communities, and some of the negatives

are fairly significant.

Variety in social opportunities may be very limited. After all, everyone there will be our age with few opportunities to interact with younger people. If your family situation changes and you need to move your child and grandchildren in with you, it likely won't be

possible in a 55+ community, and even visits will probably have a time limit. And there's the issue of inheritance: If you want to leave your home to a child in your will, they couldn't live there.

If you ever decide to sell, your target buyer pool will be *see COMMUNITY, page 12*

## 1st United Credit Union Supports Alameda County Food Bank

1st United Credit Union announced it's the Official Donation Location of the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) drive host for the third consecutive year.

The credit union's members and the community can continue to drop off food donations at any 1st United branch.

According to ACCFB, the need for food continues to increase, with 1 in 4 residents experiencing food insecurity.

Last year the food bank distributed over 60 million pounds of food, which was the highest distribution in history.

With the rising cost of living, food banks are challenged to keep up with the need and are also facing budget cuts.

1st United collected 22,835 pounds of food and donated \$10,000 to the food bank which will provide an estimated 39,000 meals for those in need.

1st United thanked its staff, members, and the community for their support.

1st United encourages the community to get involved. Locate a 1st United Credit Union branch by visiting [1stunitedcu.org/fooddrive](http://1stunitedcu.org/fooddrive).

### YOU'RE INVITED OPEN HOUSE





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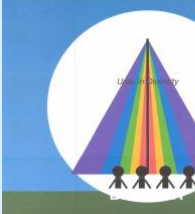
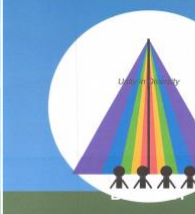
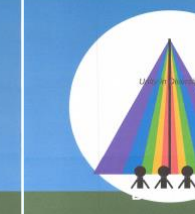
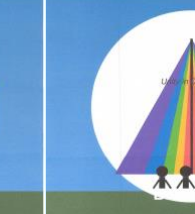
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PRESENTED BY "THE BIG TENT"

**DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH TIME: 11: AM**

**PLACE: FAMILIES UNITED—211 JOAQUIN ST, SAN LEANDRO, CA**

**PRESENTERS:**  
 SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT • ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF • ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT • NOBLE

**WHAT DOES PUBLIC SAFETY MEAN?**

**WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY?**

**HOW IS PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURED AND EVALUATED?**

**WHAT HAVE THE OUTCOMES BEEN OVER THE PAST 4 YEARS BY CATEGORIES?**

THE BIG TENT IS AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF ADVOCATES FROM EDUCATION, HOUSING, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, VETERAN AFFAIRS, HEALTHCARE, AND RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES

# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



# Blacklisted California Condos Rendered Unsaleable

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

What do a foreclosure crisis, a 2015 Berkeley balcony failure, wildfires and a 2021 condo collapse in Florida have in common? They are all factors in a major breakdown in condo sales in California.

To begin, the foreclosure crisis (2007–2010) saw significant condo foreclosures and short sales, resulting in dramatic shortfalls in Home Owner Association (HOA)

dues. This forced some HOAs into foreclosure while others, with limited funds, halted routine maintenance resulting in significant deterioration. While many HOAs levied an assessment to get things back on track, some are still trying to return to normal.

Couple this with the structural failures in Berkeley, CA and Surfside, FL and government-backed lending institutions (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, FHA and VA) began taking a hard look at the inherent risks of lending

in condo developments. This scrutiny included the amount of reserves, percentage of owner occupancy, potential litigation, compliance with laws requiring upgrades or retrofits, overall physical condition and potential assessments. If a condo development failed to meet the requirements, they were put on a 'blacklist' and loans withheld.

As of March, 2025, a list posted by law firm Allcock & Marcus\* reveals 733 blacklisted developments in California. Mercury News states that 168 affected properties are in the Bay Area. Since government-backed loans are not available to potential buyers in these developments, cash purchases, boutique financing at higher rates or seller carry-backs are the only options.

As if this was not bad

## 15094 Alexandria St • San Leandro • \$1,199,888 Open House Friday, 4/4, 5-7 pm & Sunday, 4/6, 1-4 pm

Welcome to this charming and well-loved home full of potential. Sitting at 1,821 Sq. ft and built in 1948, this 3-Bedroom, 2-Bath property has been recently refreshed with new interior and exterior paint, new carpet, and Gaia wood floors. The primary bedroom suite features new flooring, a new vanity, and a new and expanded shower, while the fully renovated kitchen shines with new cabinets, quartz countertops, and GE appliances. An open counter seamlessly connects the kitchen to the family room, affording a perfect space for entertaining while overlooking the expansive backyard. The revamped large laundry room boasts new cabinets also with quartz countertops and a brand new LG washer and dryer. Additional upgrades include updated hall bathroom fixtures, a new furnace and thermostat, all new lighting, and updated electrical components. The extended driveway provides ample parking for multiple vehicles, while the spacious detached garage includes a workshop in back and a storage shed. The backyard also offers a delightful mini orchard with fruit bearing trees, and still ample space for expansion, including the possibility of adding an ADU or multiple units. Conveniently located with easy access to 880 and 238 freeways, this home is perfect for those seeking comfort, convenience, and future possibilities.



For more information call The Lovewell Team, Re/Max Accord, at (510)351-5555

(DRE #00689931, #01912817, #01947503)

## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

21109 Gary Drive #208 94546: \$500,000 [2 BD - 1,041 SF - 1981  
4356 Shamrock Way 94546: \$940,000 [3 BD - 1,481 SF - 1961  
21890 Tanglewood Drive 94546: \$1,682,000 [3 BD - 3,446 SF - 1950

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$500,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$940,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,682,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,040,666

### SAN LEANDRO

1724 141st Avenue 94578: \$718,000 [2 BD - 770 SF - 1941  
335 Bristol Boulevard 94577: \$720,000 [3 BD - 1,451 SF - 1944  
488 Cascade Road 94577: \$730,000 [2 BD - 863 SF - 1948  
630 Victoria Court 94577: \$730,000 [3 BD - 1,104 SF - 1923  
1565 Marybelle Avenue 94577: \$821,000 [3 BD - 1,149 SF - 1944  
1268 136th Avenue 94578: \$835,000 [3 BD - 1,132 SF - 1949  
15289 Upton Avenue 94578: \$860,000 [4 BD - 1,760 SF - 1952  
2144 Pomar Vista Street 94578: \$875,000 [4 BD - 2,139 SF - 1979  
1232 Drake Avenue 94579: \$880,000 [3 BD - 1,081 SF - 1951  
2433 Lyle Court 94578: \$910,000 [3 BD - 1,084 SF - 1952

TOTAL SALES: 10  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$718,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$828,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$910,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$807,900

### SAN LORENZO

1233 Bockman Road #12 94580: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,361 SF - 2017  
16074 Via Toledo 94580: \$900,000 [3 BD - 1,437 SF - 1950

TOTAL SALES: 2  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$800,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$850,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$900,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$850,000

### HAYWARD

1115 Cotter Way 94541: \$710,000 [4 BD - 1,676 SF - 1925  
29321 Hub Court 94544: \$800,000 [2 BD - 1,304 SF - 2020  
1221 George Circle 94541: \$849,000 [3 BD - 1,809 SF - 2013  
27495 Bahama Avenue 94545: \$850,000 [3 BD - 1,404 SF - 1957  
31828 Potsdam Street 94544: \$878,000 [3 BD - 1,643 SF - 1951  
31677 Trevor Avenue 94544: \$885,000 [3 BD - 1,175 SF - 1955  
18863 Meekland Avenue 94541: \$900,000 [2 BD - 980 SF - 1943  
565 Lagunitas Lane 94544: \$960,000 [3 BD - 1,404 SF - 1955  
1231 George Circle 94541: \$965,000 [4 BD - 1,982 SF - 2013  
24808 Mango Street 94545: \$1,000,000 [3 BD - 1,164 SF - 1959  
1267 Denton Avenue 94545: \$1,300,000 [2,551 SF - 1979  
2019 Laguna Drive 94545: \$1,300,000 [4 BD - 2,000 SF - 1994  
2253 Pappas Place 94542: \$1,460,000 [4 BD - 2,720 SF - 1994

TOTAL SALES: 13  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$710,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$900,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,460,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$989,000

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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A	G	A	R	R	O	E	E	D	O	M	
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APRIL 6

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDR./BA.	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A		1-4	15094 Alexandria St	\$1,199,888	3/2	Re/Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
A		1-4	868 Serra Dr.	\$829,000	3/2	Re/Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
A		2-4:30	1400 Carpenter St #325	\$425,000	2/2	United Brokers	Tere Lee / Danielle Ewing	510-305-8827

### CITY GUIDE

A = SAN LEANDRO • B = BRENTWOOD • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DUBLIN • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD  
L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • S = SAN RAMON • SLZ = SAN LORENZO • W = WALNUT CREEK • Z = ALAMEDA



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enough, shortfalls in income resulting from the foreclosure crisis initiated significant increases in monthly HOA dues, significantly outpacing inflation. In 2011, of the 2,540 condos sold in Alameda County, the average HOA fee was \$316.45. In 2024, the average HOA fee shot up to \$558.09 with many soaring over \$600/month. Sales also plummeted to 1,589.

Insurance costs have risen due to a surge in natural disasters. Some HOAs have been forced to drop earthquake insurance and insurers are either refusing to underwrite condo developments or have substantially increased their premiums.

The nail in the coffin has been "The Balcony Law" (SB721 and SB326) mandating inspections and repairs of exterior elevated elements (balconies, decks, walkways) in multifamily buildings. Most HOAs do not have the funds required to comply and are consequently adding yet more assessments to owners to cover projected costs.

It has become a perfect storm, rendering many condos virtually unsaleable and stalling the hopes of many trying to sell.

\*www.amcondolaw.com/resources/fannie-mae-blacklist/

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.

# Better to Plant Tomatoes Later in the Season

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** *I won't get around to planting my tomatoes until next month. Are there the varieties that do better when planted late? I want a large slicing variety like Beefsteak.*

**A** May is an ideal month to plant tomatoes, hot peppers, eggplants, and melons. There are no early or late varieties of tomatoes, just determinate and indeterminate. (the March 17 column details the differences) However, some varieties mature earlier than others, more on that in a moment.

The largest selection of

varieties is available from mid-April to mid-May at your independent garden center. It's not unusual to find seventy to eighty different varieties. The variety available is reduced in June.

Tomatoes have a maturity or ripening date that ranges from sixty to ninety-plus days. This is how long a variety ripens when started from seed under optimum conditions. The information is found on the seed package or plant label.

The days associated with each variety should be used only as a guide for which variety matures early or later. Typically, the weather is the variable that affects the ripening. The maturity date remains the same regardless of when the

seed is sown.

This especially true with Beefsteak. It's one of the latest maturing varieties at ninety-six days. So you're better off waiting until late May to plant to avoid having your plants start off slowly due to Mother Nature.

I believe tomatoes are planted too early in our area. Those planted in March and early April often suffer from the cool, wet conditions at the end of the rainy season.

Tomatoes are a warm-season vegetable that likes warm days and nights that are somewhat consistent. Quite often, flowers form and then fall off before the tomatoes form. Tomatoes need warm days and nighttime temperatures above

fifty-five degrees for fruit set.

The early planted tomatoes are widely believed to take off when the weather stabilizes. Unfortunately, they don't, as there is 'No Catch Up' gene with tomatoes. These plants will continue to disappoint all season long. By mid-May, you should have a good idea of how they perform.

At that time, you have two options for those who are struggling. First, you must lower your expectations or start with new plants. It's not too late to plant after Memorial Day.

**Q** *Is now a good time to prune my orange? I'm also seeking ad-*

*vice on how to plant a midget grapefruit tree.*

**A** Now is an excellent time to prune citrus. They're pruned annually to remove the winter damage, eliminate dead wood, and shape the plant. This ensures that fruit production remains pretty constant.

If you prune irregularly, you often must sacrifice the yield to get the plant back in bounds. Hence, you get lots of fruit one year and a few the next.

It's also an ideal time to plant a dwarf orange and any other type of citrus. I would dig a hole twice as wide and six inches deep-

er than the container it's already in and prepare the backfill with half soil conditioner and half native soil.

Plant the new citrus so the original soil ball is one inch above the final grade. This allows the plant to settle without being buried too deep. You then construct a watering basin around it. Citrus is watered two to three times per week.

*Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com), and questions can be emailed to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com) or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero).*

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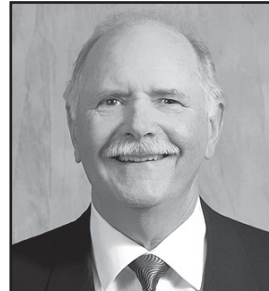
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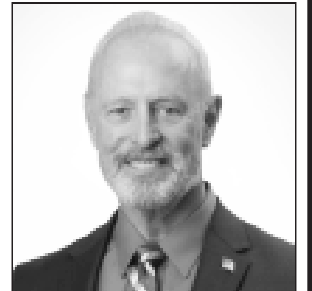
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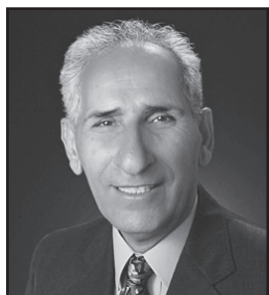
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**LEGAL NOTICES**

FILED March 27, 2025  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 613497

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

The name of the business(es): **Crispy Dents**, located at 16012 Via Cordoba San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): **Christian Marquez**, located at 16012 Via Cordoba San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/Christian Marquez  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires March 10, 2030  
APR 03, 10, 17, 24, 2025  
2015- CVF

**LEGAL NOTICES**

FILED March 4, 2025  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 612867

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

The name of the business(es): **Everprosper Construction & Renovation**, located at 17420 via la jolla San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): **Wenxi Zhang**, located at 17420 via la jolla San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/Wenxi Zhang  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires March 03, 2030  
MAR 20, 27, APR 03, 10, 2025  
2005 - SLT

**LEGAL NOTICES**

FILED March 17, 2025  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 613188

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

The name of the business(es): **Nestops Design Studio**, located at 903 Sienna Loop San Leandro, CA 94579 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): **Weijie Lu**, located at 903 Sienna Loop San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 03/11/2025 /s/Weijie Lu  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires March 04, 2030  
MAR 20, 27, APR 03, 10, 2025  
2007 - SLT

**LEGAL NOTICES**

FILED February 18, 2025  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 612507

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

The name of the business(es): **E5 Limousine**, located at 1161 Kramer St. San Leandro, CA 94579 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): **Josue Estrada**, located at 1161 Kramer St. San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/Josue Estrada  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires February 17, 2030  
MAR 13, 20, 27, APR 03, 2025  
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By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 612915

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

The name of the business(es): **Sunny Bunny Daycare**, located at 16129 Carolyn St, San Leandro, CA 94578 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): **Kevin Cheong**, located at 16129 Carolyn St, San Leandro, CA 94578. / Megan Terada 16129 Carolyn St, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by Married Couple. This business commenced 1/1/24 /s/Kevin Cheong  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires March 04, 2030  
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FILED February 24, 2025  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 612622

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

The name of the business(es): **Kawaii Dream Nails**, located at 15857 Channel Street. San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): **Katherine Ourng**, located at 15857 Channel Street. San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 2/14/2025 /s/Katherine Ourng  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires February 23, 2030  
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- ACROSS**
- "Li'l Abner" creator
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  - Milan money, once
  - PC alternative
  - Sheryl Sandberg best seller
  - Grating
  - Harangue
  - "Rhyme Pays" rapper
  - With passion
  - Monk's title
  - Piquant
  - Tic-tac-toe win
  - Hit song by ABBA
  - Friend
  - Curved lines
  - Jiggly dessert
  - Rum cocktail
  - Pear-shaped fruit
  - Spumante source
  - Agitates
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  - Colorful card game
  - Sleek, in car lingo
  - Salinger girl
  - Journey part
  - Must have
  - Dance move
  - Tourist's chart
- DOWN**
- Half- -- (latte option)
  - Candle count
  - Standard
  - On time
  - Idle or Bana
  - Parcel of land
  - Bogart/Bacall classic
  - Trattoria desserts
  - Valhalla VIP
  - Sushi wrapper
  - Fed. agents
  - Low isle
  - Jealousy
  - Jazz phrase
  - Estate measure
  - Burn somewhat
  - Tears apart
  - Imaginary
  - Toy store buy
  - Lounge
  - Cellist Ma
  - Actress Reid
  - Indigenous
  - Sea off Greece
  - Comic Carrey
  - Like ganders
  - Unrepaired
  - Detail
  - Toad's kin
  - Away from WSW
  - Formerly called
  - Three, in Rome
  - Turf

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF**

**Harry Thompson**  
Case Number:  
**25PR112945**

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

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

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

**A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 28, 2025, 9:45 a.m., Dept. 201, at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.**

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

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner: **S. Samantha Sepehr 257364**  
**SCHOFIELD LAW GROUP 2950 Buskirk Ave, Ste 330 Walnut Creek, CA 94597 925-280-1700 ssepehr@schofieldlawgroup.com**

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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. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: [letters@ebpublishing.com](mailto:letters@ebpublishing.com) or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

### Tree Removal Destroying Neighborhoods

Editor,  
I am writing to make a fervent plea to the City of San Leandro to make it illegal to remove heritage trees in this city. We live on Woodland Park, which was once one of the most wooded, beautiful little streets in this town.

Forty years ago we moved here because there were giant palm trees and gorgeous live oaks in the median, and the houses alongside San Leandro Creek all had giant redwoods, jacarandas, live oaks, yew trees and many more highly valuable trees. Most of these lots did not have eucalyptus. Those were planted in the creek many years ago.

Approximately 20+ years ago our then new next door neighbors, who had the most beautiful and highest value of all the lots on the street, took down two giant redwoods, probably well over 200 years old each, even though they posed no threat to their property, or any of the neighbors. A few years later they removed a giant pittosporum tree and today they removed a giant coastal oak and gorgeous old yew tree. Why is this not legal?

You don't see this happening in Palo Alto or Berkeley or other cities that recognize the value of trees. They have laws that prevent this. Why don't we?

All I can think of is the line from a Joni Mitchell song, "they paved paradise and put in a parking lot."

**Dr. Judith Seidmeyer**  
*San Leandro*

### Applauds Bowen

Editor,  
I commend Councilmember Xouhoa Bowen for sharing a deeply personal event that resulted in misdemeanor battery charges being filed against a Central Valley city council member.

Having been at her side from the beginning, I know how hard this has been. Be it addressing the police investigation, operating in the same professional circles, or hearing people say, "This is another 'he said/she said'" (despite video surveillance), this path has not been easy.

I personally witnessed the immediate aftermath of the incident, and both believe Councilmember Bowen's statement and understand the local district attorney's decision to press charges.

Councilmember Bowen's decision to publicly share this experience

serves as a model for others experiencing personal violations.

I applaud her courage, thank those currently providing her assistance, and encourage the broader community to support her.

**Mayor Juan Gonzalez**  
*San Leandro*

### Headline Downplayed Gravity of the Situation

Editor,  
On behalf of Councilmember Bowen and any woman who finds themselves in this situation with the press, I want to address a serious mischaracterization in your recent front-page story. The State of Florida has charged a former elected official—not a current San Leandro councilmember, as a first glance at your headline implies—with battery. That distinction matters.

One would assume the State of Florida has sufficient evidence to bring these charges against Daniel Parra. Why, then, does your headline downplay the gravity of the situation with vague, misleading language?

Battery is the unlawful use of force against another person or their belongings, resulting in bodily harm or offensive contact. Attempting such an act is considered assault. These are not minor accusations.

Parra's attorney has, unsurprisingly, claimed his client is innocent. And yes, Parra remains legally innocent until proven guilty. But let's not forget: these charges stem directly from Councilmember Bowen's complaint—a complaint the State of Florida found serious enough to act upon.

Back in 2016, at the unveiling of Truth is Beauty, I asked the San Leandro community to imagine a world where women and children could pursue happiness with the same safety and freedom as men. In just 9 years since, American women have lost rights regarding bodily autonomy that we had taken for granted. Which is why Councilmember Bowen's courage in coming forward deserves not just respect, but amplification.

Your headline failed to meet the moment. It should have echoed Councilmember Bowen's powerful words to other women: "You are not alone and powerless." That's the story.

**Deborah Acosta**  
*San Leandro*

### It's Not a 'He Said, She Said'

Editor,  
It is a travesty that the only thing most people in San Leandro will

know about the violation of Council Member Bowen is what they read in the San Leandro Times last week. You should be ashamed of such poor reporting and such "he said, she said" headlines.

The reporting elsewhere has been much more researched and factual—council member Bowen reported the violation to the police in Florida, they investigated the report, evidence was found, and the district attorney there decided to press charges against Mr. Parra. They looked at the police report and the case filed by the DA in Florida and reported on the facts without using headlines or verbiage that make it sound like they don't believe the woman reporting the violation.

Naturally Mr. Parra's attorney would say he is innocent. That is what his attorney is paid to say. Having that be a headline is ridiculous. It would make sense to have that be a headline if the Florida court declares him innocent, but not his attorney.

How about this headline: "Florida DA charges Mr. Parra with violating SL Council Member Bowen"

No wonder more women don't report incredibly common but absolutely unacceptable and egregious behavior like this. I have deep appreciation for Councilmember Bowen being willing to stand up for herself.

**Mitch Huitema**  
*San Leandro*

### Disservice to the Truth

Editor,  
Last week's article, "Bowen Accuses Council Member of Violating Her," is some of the most offensive reporting I've ever seen. A district attorney in Florida charged Daniel Parra, Orange Cove City Manager, Fowler City Council Member (and former mayor), for physically violating our own Council Member and San Leandran, Xouhoa Bowen, but the San Leandro Times uses the same old disgusting tactics of making it about the victim, minimizing and undermining their experience, rather than the perpetrator.

You twisted around a charged crime as if it was a rumor or some "he said/she said" story, while the actual criminal charges made against the accused aren't reported until paragraph 5 on the last page.

This follows on the Letter to the Editor from the week prior, "Military Industrial Complex Needs an Enemy," in which the San Leandro Times knowingly published the blatant propaganda of those currently working to dismantle our democracy. I've become used to the racist diatribes you print week after week, but with the checks gone missing from our system of checks and balances, giving space to these lies and manipulation is unacceptable and dangerous.

What an incredible disservice you do to Councilmember Bowen, your readers, journalism, and the truth.

**Tim Holmes**  
*San Leandro*

### Kissing Without Consent

Editor,  
In a story in the March 20th issue of the San Joaquin Valley Sun, Fowler City Councilman Daniel Parra is accused of kissing San Leandro Councilwoman Xouhoa Bowen without consent, which is a misdemeanor criminal charge for battery in Florida. Parra is not only a Councilman in Fowler, Calif., he's the City Manager of Orange Cove, and a past president of the League of California Cities.

**George Z. Banks**  
*San Leandro*

### Feel Good Law Provides Little Benefit

Editor,  
In last week's article about the ban on natural gas water heaters (Homes: "Bay Area to Ban Natural Gas Water Heaters," by Carl Medford, March 27, 2025), there was one highly relevant fact not mentioned.

It costs at least twice as much to heat water with electricity compared to natural gas. I do appreciate that the article mentions the variety of other complications and additional costs, such as the fact most electricity is ironically generated using natural gas, and many houses in San Leandro do not have electric service adequate to power the typical electric water heater.

According to this data, the return on investment is highly negative. That is, it will never pay for itself, and also provide little environmental benefit. I wish the people at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) agency had a degree in economics, like our Mayor Gonzalez. If they did, they might have moderated their feel-good rule a bit.

**Gary Baker**  
*San Leandro*

### City's Infrastructure Neglect

Editor,  
For years, San Leandro has failed to meet its fundamental obligation as a chartered city—to prioritize and consistently fund infrastructure maintenance, year after year.

Instead of ensuring the integrity of our roads, public buildings, sewage systems, parks and playgrounds, etc., the city has relied on stopgap measures, deferred maintenance, and now, a plea to the public for a \$61 million infrastructure bond to cover five years of way-overdue work.

This pattern of negligence, followed by crisis-mode appeals, places undue burden on residents—especially the middle class and low-income households—already grappling with inflation, federal program cuts, and rising costs of living. When over half our streets fall below acceptable standards (16% more "may not even be fixable," so says the mayor), and basic infrastructure is crumbling, it's not just a financial problem—it's a failure of long-term planning and fiscal discipline.

To have our newest mayor rubber-stamp past budgetary negligence

is at the very least unacceptable if not outright shocking in its irrationality. Blaming high costs or external economic pressures is not enough.

Every city administration is tasked with making infrastructure its top annual budget priority, ahead of non-essential programs (characterized as "quality of life" improvements) misses the mark. The current "structural deficit" is a result of years of misaligned spending and short-sighted budgeting, and now the community is being asked to foot the bill once again. When will it stop?

Accountability and transparent fiscal planning must replace these cycles of neglect. Infrastructure isn't optional—it's the backbone of a functioning "clean" city and continuing to place responsibility upon its overburdened citizenry is the hallmark of fiscal negligence at its highest.

**Peggy Heubel**  
*San Leandro*

### Local Politicians Need a World View

Editor,  
San Leandro is going broke says San Leandro Mayor Juan Gonzalez in his State of the City Address. The city won't be able to pay its bills if the taxpayer won't borrow money to fix things. He makes a point of directing some blame at retirees whose pensions are 68% of salary costs for city workers.

Our infrastructure and facilities are in bad shape and \$19 million is needed to cover the next five years.

All the campaigning, to "fight for you" at election time goes by the board when crunch time comes and the voter is asked to pay more for basic social needs.

No individual or local council like San Leandro, can stop the national government shifting the crisis of capitalism on to the backs of US workers and the middle class through local bodies. We are paying for the \$17 billion sent to Israel since the Gaza war began and much more as the US hegemon loses its global position. Our \$92 million is a pittance by comparison.

The cause of the false promises is the narrow political outlook of the candidates. Anyone running for municipal office must start from a position that they alone cannot prevent the declining services and rising costs without having a national and world view. It must be made clear that the power that affects our life is greater than a local politician or city council can overcome as the source of our local problems is global.

So a council seat can be used to build a movement in our communities that can make progress and candidates can be supported in neighboring cities and a national movement built that way.

As it stands, Mayor Gonzalez's appeal proves in the end they are merely agents of big business in our community.

**Richard Mellor**  
*San Leandro*

## Artists: 'Their friends are looking at their art and telling them what they thought'

*continued from front page*

more direct. Looking at the self-portraits by the artists did, he exclaimed, "I love these! The eyes! The emotions!"

Besides the self-portraits, students painted clouds from many different perspectives, working from photographs they chose from among those gathered by the Art Association's Marcia O'Kane.

O'Kane had helped pull together the \$3,000, some of it from grants, that helped the Association put on the show.

"Those boards were expensive," said Association president Kat Kelly, referring to the Velcro boards that made it possible to fit so many artists' work into Zocalo's medium-sized space.

San Leandro High School principal Maite Barloga was there to encourage her students, joined by her mother Mary Beth Barloga, now-retired longtime San Leandro teacher and principal whom Maite called "the real Mrs. Barloga."

Among other accomplishments in the San Leandro schools, the "real" Mrs. Bar-



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

**Allison Gomez with her clouds painting at lower left, part of the current "Self, Sky & Color" exhibit at Zocalo Coffeehouse.**

loga had been the principal who first hired Mr. Rosenberg in the district some 20 years ago.

Some of the students had just started painting and drawing, some just for their current class, while others had been doing it for years before high school.

"I've been painting my whole life," said 11th grader Myca Barbieri. "My mom's an artist, Jaime Barbieri."

Barbieri said the part of the project that took the longest was picking the photo to work from. Ironically, actually painting the painting took the least time, Barbieri said.

Stephanie Lopez, now studying Advanced Painting and Drawing with Mr. Rosenberg, took up painting two years ago.

"I see it as a hobby to relax into, very peaceful," Lopez said.

Eleventh-grader Jordyn Amman, when asked to paint

a cloud, picked the ones that come with hurricanes. "I guess that's a good title: Hurricane," she said.

The hurricane in the painting is just about to enter a valley in between mountains, looking dark but so far still peaceful.

Amman's been painting for five or six years, originally at the suggestion of her grandmother who thought she should explore all things that could enrich her life. Her mother, the painter Brandy Douglas, encouraged her as well.

"The show exceeded my expectations," said Rosenberg. "The most important thing

for me is that their friends are looking at their artwork and telling them what they thought. And lots of students, with their families, came out on a Sunday to see art."

The exhibit is on display at Zocalo coffeehouse at Bancroft near Dutton Avenue.

The San Leandro Art Association meets monthly at the Main Library, at 5:30 p.m. on the second

Tuesday of the month. Meetings are free and open to the public, and always include a demonstration of a particular variety of art by a local artists.

More information is available on their website, [www.sanleandroart.org](http://www.sanleandroart.org).

## Health: More medical offices planned

*continued from front page*

as in Oakland, actually lived in San Leandro."

"Those numbers have also grown. More Asians are moving into the area, and they seem to be moving into San Leandro and southern Alameda County in general," she said.

"There are only a few dentists who take Medi-Cal here, and not that many dentists overall," said Le. Many of the patients who AHS serves are covered by Med-Cal, she said.

Le said the AHS staff had noticed that some of their dental patients had unmet mental health needs, too. So there will be mental health counselors at the center.

"There will also be dental specialists at our dental and wellness center," Le said. They will also screen for diabetes, and begin treatment for those who have developed it.

AHS Chief Executive Officer Julia Liou welcomed the crowd of about 100 officials and well-wishers to the ribbon-cutting. The AHS mobile health care van arrived for the ceremony, too.

"We have an unwavering commitment that everyone deserves access to dental health regardless of your income, age or language," she said. "And demand for oral healthcare has increased so much."



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

**Wielding the scissors at the ribbon cutting are CEO Julia Liou of AHS (in white) and AHS President Thu Quach. To Liou's left is county Supervisor Lena Tam, and to Quach's right is San Leandro Mayor Juan Gonzalez III.**

Liou said AHS looked forward to serving the thousands of their patients who live in San Leandro, and to expanding the level of dental specialty care here.

"Together, we can build a community that's healthier, stronger, more resilient," Liou said. She noted that it was Dr. Le who suggested making the new facility a mental health as well as dental clinic.

Alameda County Supervisor Lena Tam, who represents San Leandro, spoke and presented AHS with a \$100,000

check from Measure A funds supporting health care.

"My family grew up with Asian Health Services. It was one of the first community agencies where Asians could get services in their own language," Tam said.

Tam said about 500,000 Asians live in Alameda County. In San Leandro, Asians make up about 31 percent of the population and about 61 percent of that group are foreign-born, often primarily speaking languages other than English.

Figures from the AHS website show 25 percent of San Leandro residents are Limited English Proficient and that Asians in San Leandro have the fourth lowest median household income out of 19 cities in the county.

Tam invited everybody at the opening to visit her at her San Leandro district office, only a few blocks away at 101 Callan Avenue.

Congresswoman Lateefah Simon, who had planned to attend, canceled due to illness but sent an aide to the opening.



PHOTO COURTESY US KIDS GOLF

**The young golfers practiced on the putting green before competing in the tournament at the Monarch Bay Golf Club.**

## Golf: Age group winners

*continued from front page*

The World Championships, now held in historic Pinehurst, North Carolina, are premier events in golf. Together, these events combine to annually host more than 2,300 players from more than 50 countries, and serve as two of the largest golf championships in the world.

**The winners in each Age Group at the San Leandro Tournament:**

Boys 15-18: Justin Hu, Saratoga-70

Girls 15-18: Cynthia Liu,

San Ramon-73

Boys 13/14: Dillon Stone, Alameda-71

Girls 13/14: Zigning Wang, San Jose-72

Boys 12: Evan Ho, Dublin-74

Girls 11/12: Janal Reese Galo, Brentwood-70

Boys 11: Jai Ranganathan, Danville-75

Girls 9/10: Aditi Deviredy, Los Altos-34 (9-holes)

Boys 10: Albert Li, Palo Alto-38 (9-holes)

Girls 8 & Under: Olivia Villajoquin, Dublin-40

*see GOLF, page 12*

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# Market: Music and friends

*continued from front page*  
several others. Live music will return on a weekly basis, coordinated by the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association. Free street parking is available on Callan and Estudillo avenues and paid hourly parking is available at the Downtown Parking Garage at 122 Estudillo Ave. (Visit [www.parksl.com](http://www.parksl.com) for more information).

Adjacent to the library parking lot, there is also ample street parking on both Callan Street and Estudillo Avenue. Entry to the library parking lot will be closed on Callan Street, and partially closed on Santa Rosa Street. The entry on Estudillo Avenue will remain open.

The Farmers' Market is made possible by partnership between the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association and the City of San Leandro.

The Downtown San Leandro Farmers' Market



hosts an average of 2,500 patrons weekly. It's been a great place to meet family and friends, enjoy live music, eat fantastic food and listen to family-friendly entertainment. The seasonal market will occur weekly on Wednesdays from 3. to 7 p.m. through October 8, 2025.

# Community: Fees

*continued from front page*  
limited to other 55+ seniors. Even renting, if that's allowed in the community, will be limited to senior occupants.

Then there are the high fees to cover all the amenities, HOA and taxes — expenses that can go up at any time. Even in the beginning,

your monthly costs could be in the thousands of dollars.

Before buying into a 55+ community, get advice — a lot of it. Ask questions, get feedback, visit a potential community more than once and talk to people who live there, if possible.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN HEWITT

The San Leandro High Lady Pirates JV softball team: Front row, Lindy Harter, Alliana Cabrera, Mia Poe, and Jasmine Briones. Middle row, L.Q. Jenkins, Delaney Torres, Kaytlin Zavala, Mari Ramirez, and D.J. Chavez. Top row, coach Lorenzo Lopez, Lana Mason, Gia DeLaLuz, Marisol Garcia, Jaylyn Oseguera-Hov, Mayaleya Lopez, coach Kevin Hewitt, and coach Lance Simpson.

# Pirates JV Softball Takes Second Place in Tournament

By Kevin Hewitt  
Special to the Times

San Leandro High School JV softball placed second in last weekend's San Leandro High JV tournament.

The Lady Pirates reached the championship game Saturday by beating Kennedy of Fremont, 12-2, on Thursday night.

Mia Poe hit a triple and homered with 4 RBIs, Lana Mason was 3-for-3 with 3 doubles and 2 RBIs, and Alliana Cabrera was 2-for-3 with 2 runs scored.

Gia DeLaLuz was on the mound and pitched six brilliant innings with six strikeouts, a walk and gave up just 2 earned runs.

On Friday night, San Leandro beat the Berkeley Yellowjackets, 10-2.

Mari Ramirez opened the game with a triple to deep right field as the Lady Pirates went on to score 5 runs in the top of the first inning and never looked back.

Pitcher Jaylyn Oseguera-Hov got the win, chalking up 5 strikeouts and allowing 2 earned runs over three innings.

Mia Poe stayed hot and tripled, singled and knocked in 2 runs. Marisol Garcia had two hits and 2 RBIs.

On Saturday's championship game, SLHS faced a tough Benicia team.

Freshman Gia DeLaLuz

took the mound and pitched great, allowing 8 hits and only 2 earned runs.

A few costly errors in the first 2 innings allowed 3 unearned runs. But the Lady Pirates scored a single run in the third and the fifth innings to cut Benicia's lead to 3-2, but a 2-run double by Benicia increased their lead to 5-2 going to the top of the seventh.

After the first batter grounded out, Gia DeLaLuz, Lana Mason and Marisol Garcia all singled to load the bases.

The Pirates out-hit the Panthers with 11 hits to 8, but went down swinging as the Benicia pitchers struck out the last two batters to end the rally.

# Golf: More tourneys coming up

*continued from page 11*

(9-holes)

Boys 9: Rory Chen, San Mateo-33 (9-holes)

Boys 8: Walker Hoursels, Danville-41 (9-holes)

Boys 7: Jeremy Jin, Union City-39 (9 holes)

Boys 6: Caden Calanoc, Foster City-60 (9-holes)

Monarch Bay, American Golf Corporation and the City of San Leandro Recreation and Parks Department will host five major Junior Golf Tournaments with over 1,000 junior competing in 2025. The Tournaments Are:

March 22-US Kids Golf Tournament

April 19-IMG Junior World Qualification

August 7-San Leandro City Junior Tournament



Golfers practice on the driving range at Monarch Bay.

September 27- US Kids Golf Tournament

October 11&12, Monarch Bay Fall Junior Tournament

Monarch Bay is also home to the San Leandro High Girls and Boys teams, Arroyo High Girls and Boys teams, and Redwood Christian Boys team.

The City of San Leandro and American Golf Corporation have worked together for nearly 30 years to promote

junior golf competition that has seen over 7,500 youths competing. This summer, the City's Park and Recreation Department, in conjunction with American Golf, is planning to provide programming to youth ages 5 to 17.

More information will be provided in the City of San Leandro's Summer Activity Guide to be released later this spring.

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