

WEEKEND WEATHER

CLEAR

HIGHS: 50-56

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

LOWS: 33-36

Cloudy Friday and Saturday  
Rain Sunday.

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 33 • NO. 9 THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## On the Water

The sky cleared up briefly last week to shed a little light on recent developments along San Leandro Creek caused by the winter rainstorms. Sometimes being “on the water” isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.

## Get Rid of Weeds without Toxic Chemicals

Natural products available that won’t harm the bay

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

Beautiful gardens and lawns are possible without putting hazardous chemicals into our streams and bodies of water, say local experts in what’s called integrated pest management.

The Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program paired with the Our Water Our World nonprofit in a Feb. 16 online webinar on controlling weeds in environmentally friendly ways. Some of these involve no chemicals at all, said co-hosts Suzanne Bontempo and Charlotte Canner.

Anything applied to lawns that is not absorbed eventually flows into storm sewers, see WEEDS, page 12



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

You can still get rid of weeds without toxic weed killers.

## Residents Hear About City’s Proposed Budget

Another budget meeting scheduled for this Saturday

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

San Leandro residents recently spoke about where they want the city to spend tax revenue.

Two meetings last week garnered dozens of in-person and online comments for the City Council to consider as it puts together its proposed budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, starting in July 2023.

More than 20 people attended a meeting on Saturday to discuss the city’s priorities for the upcoming year. The hottest topic was housing, with more than half of the public asking the city to adopt better policies that ensure affordable housing and rent stabilization to prevent families from becoming homeless. Other comments included pleas to improve the maintenance of roads, public safety programs, and community support.

The housing issue has been heightened by the recent deadline for the COVID-related eviction moratorium. According to Housing Secure, San Leandro residents were the second highest per capita in the county to receive rent relief funding, with a total of

\$16.4 million dollars in rental assistance approved out of approximately \$36 million in total assistance requested see BUDGET, page 5

## Supervisors To Fill Vacant Seat

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Tuesday to approve the process to fill the vacant board seat following the passing of Supervisor Richard Valle.

The public application period opened yesterday and will conclude on Tuesday, March 14. The board of supervisors has until April 9, to fill the vacancy by appointment otherwise the right to appoint reverts to the Governor of California.

Applications must be filed in person to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors by 5 p.m. March 14, not by mail, email see SUPERVISORS, page 11

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

THEATER

Blithe Spirit opens Saturday at SL Players. Page 2

OUTDOORS

The Hoopbus is coming to Simpre Verde Park. Page 3

WEATHER

Health and nutrition fair coming to Cherryland. Page 12

38,500 EVERY THURSDAY

THE LARGEST FREE-DELIVERED NEWSPAPER IN THE EAST BAY

Calendar..... 3

Classified Ads ..... 8

Crossword ..... 9

Pets..... 2

Food ..... 4

Homes ..... 6

Home Services ..... 8

Letters..... 10

Obituaries..... 11

Health & Fitness ..... 5



## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

### SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



## San Leandro Times

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

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## Pets of the Week



Finn



Sasha

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are Finn, a German shepherd, and Sasha, a young, German shepherd-Lab mix.

Finn is a 2-year-old male German shepherd and he's the best boy!

He is sweet, social, and just an all-around well-rounded dog who loves walks, people, and playing with tennis balls. He would like a home with older chil-

dren and other dogs.

Sasha is a sweet, 9-month-old, female German Shepherd/Lab mix puppy who loves tennis balls and squeaky toys. Like any puppy, she would benefit from training, but is friendly and loves treats, which makes her a motivated and eager student.

To adopt or for more information on Finn or Shaha, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

## SL Players Production of *Blithe Spirit* Opens this Weekend

San Leandro Players will present *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward, opening on March 4 at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave, San Leandro, next to the historic Casa Peralta.

Shows are on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., March 4 through April 2, plus two Friday shows on March 23 and March 31 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 general; \$15 seniors & under 12 (other discounts may apply).

For tickets or more information, visit [www.slplayers.org](http://www.slplayers.org) or call 510-895-2573. Wheelchair accessible.

Proof of vaccination and masking required.

Charles Condomine is a successful author but is having a bit of writer's block. In order to get realistic evidence and dialogue for the book he's writing he invites eccentric medium Madame



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN LEANDRO PLAYERS

Nina Sundsten, Kenneth Matis, Laura Martin-Chapin and Dawn Cates engage in a seance in the San Leandro Players' production of *Blithe Spirit*.

Arcati to his home to perform a seance.

Charles, his second wife and two neighbors think the seance is a bit of a joke. But the joke's on Charles when Madame Arcati brings Elvira, his first wife, back from the

spirit world. Great fun for the entire family.

Featuring Dawn Cates, Mark DeWeese, Terry Guilory, Laura Martin-Chapin, Kenneth Matis, Gia Mirra, Nina Sundsten. Directed by Dana M. Fry.

## Spring Festival At Eden Church

Eden United Church of Christ, at the corner of Birch and Grove Streets in Hayward, will celebrate the arrival of spring on Saturday, March 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a cultural celebration, including music and dance, food, carnival games, a silent auction, door prizes, information on community services, and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Featured entertainment includes Ballet Folklorico, Winton Middle School, the

Aztec Dance Group, Cherryland Zumba, and local vocalist, musician and songwriter Dawn Coburn. Silent auction includes restaurant and catering gift certificates, theater and sporting passes, services by local merchants, and handcrafted items. All items include a "buy now" price. Silent auction rounds close at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. To donate auction items, call Pat Payne at 510-427-5261.

see *FESTIVAL*, page 5

# Bay-O-Vista

**COMMIT YOUR FAMILY TO BE FIT!**

**Swim Lessons Members Only**

**Yoga w/7 classes a week**

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**Private Family Fitness, Gym, Swim & Tennis Club**

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### Adults learn to read free!



**PROJECT LITERACY**  
San Leandro Public Library  
**510-577-3944**

- Work at your own pace
- Flexible hours
- One-on-one tutoring
- At the Library or online

### Coming Soon

**19889 Carnation Ln, Castro Valley • \$1,210,000**  
**5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 2827 Sq. ft., Built 1976**

Open House Sunday, 3/12, 1-4 pm



### Lovewell Team

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## Community Calendar

### Women's History Month Tiny Art Show

Come view the Women's History Month Tiny Art Show of patron submitted art pieces inspired by women artists to highlight and celebrate women creatives at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., through the month of March. Learn about women's history and enjoy the talent in our community.

### Panel of Speakers on the Bill for Seminar on Ranked-Choice Voting

A seminar on ranked-choice voting will be held on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., hosted by Helen Straughter with keynote speaker Supervisor Nate Miley and emcee Saleem Gilmore. Panelists include Supervisor Lena Tam, former San Leandro City Councilman Benny Lee, and Helen Hutchison from the League of Women Voters. Supporters and sponsors include Assembly member Liz Ortega-Toro, Eden Health District board member Ed Hernandez, former Oakland school board member David Anderson, and the Hayward/South County Black Women Organized for Political Action. Free admission. Continental breakfast served.

### San Leandro History Museum to Screen *RBG*

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., will celebrate Women's History Month with a showing of the award-winning documentary *RBG*, a documentary about the life of renowned Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, on Saturday, March 4, at 11:30 a.m. Then at 2 p.m. we will be playing Women-in-History Bingo game. This is a free event for all to enjoy.

### Resolved to Lose Weight in 2023

Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) for the support you need to start your weight loss journey. TOPS is a non-profit weight loss support group that meets on Fridays at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria Street in Castro Valley. For more information, call Sandy Montero at 510-299-7312. Join for fellowship and support. What do you have to lose?

### Project Literacy Tutor Training: Spring 2023

San Leandro Public Library's adult and family literacy program, Project Literacy, is currently seeking Volunteer Literacy Tutors. Find out how you can help others in your community learn to read and write by registering for Project Literacy's upcoming trainings. Both required trainings will take place on Tuesday, March 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library; and Tuesday, March 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. at San Leandro Main Library or on Zoom. To register or for more information, call 510-577-3944 or email PROJECTLITERACY@SANLEANDRO.ORG

### The League of Women Voters Eden Area to Host "Meet Your Electeds"

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area (LWVEA) invites you to a free event, "Meet Your Electeds," on Thursday, March 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., in Hayward. The League has invited elected officials from Hayward, San Leandro, Castro Valley, and San Lorenzo to the event. Anyone is welcome, but registration is requested and space is limited. Register using this link: <https://bit.ly/LWVEA-Meet-The-Elected-Mar16>. Light refreshments will be served. We will hear from some of the newly elected officials. The League will also be celebrating International Women's Day at the event.

### San Leandro Scholarship Foundation Dinner and Silent Auction

The San Leandro Scholarship Foundation invites everyone to the Dinner and Silent Auction on Thursday, April 20, at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. Silent auction and entertainment at 6 p.m., dinner and speaker at 7 p.m. To donate or purchase tickets, visit [SanLeandroSF.com/2023-Dinner-and-Silent-Auction](https://SanLeandroSF.com/2023-Dinner-and-Silent-Auction). For more information, email [SanLeandroSF@gmail.com](mailto:SanLeandroSF@gmail.com).

## Senior Meals Serving Lunch on Weekdays

Senior Meals prepared by Spectrum Community Services are available weekdays at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. Join us for a tasty, nutritious lunch Monday through Friday at noon.

Anyone who is 60 years or better is eligible to register to come get a meal. Advanced reservations are required. Spectrum requests a \$3.75 donation towards each meal or get our valued 10-meal ticket for only \$35.

Option to dine-in or take-away is available. To make your advanced reservation, call and leave a message for the San Leandro Spectrum Meals Program: 510-881-0302

Visit our website for more information, [www.SpectrumCS.org](http://www.SpectrumCS.org)

### The menu for the upcoming week is:

Thursday, March 2, Greek cod with potatoes, scallions, tomatoes, cold beet and garlic salad, whole wheat roll, fruit, dessert.

Friday, March 3, Veggie burrito bowl over brown rice, spinach salad with carrots and red onions, fruit.

Monday, March 6, Turkey cabbage roll, entree soup, house salad, whole wheat roll, fruit.

Tuesday, March 7, Cod fish tacos with whole wheat tortilla and Mexican slaw, Aztec soup, black beans, fruit.

Wednesday, March 8, Beef Stroganoff over egg noodles, Italian cut green beans, diced carrots, fruit.

Thursday, March 9, Veggie chili over baked potato, broccoli, cornbread, fruit.

Friday, March 10, Baked lemon chicken with mushroom sauce, bean soup with kale, brown rice, fruit.

### Celebrate Nowruz Festival

Celebrate Nowruz Festival, Saturday, Mar. 11, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Watch Beshkan Dance Academy perform traditional dances, listen to Persian New Year stories and then engage in a workshop to learn a dance. All ages welcome at this celebration of Spring.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Black Joy Parade

The rain didn't slow down a dance troupe that performed in the Annual Black Joy Parade on Franklin Street in downtown Oakland on Sunday to celebrate the Black experience and bring the community together on a positive note.

## Hoopbus Coming to San Leandro

The City of San Leandro invites you to a fun and free Community Play Day, featuring Hoopbus, on Sunday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Siempre Verde Park, 455 Park St. in San Leandro. Hoopbus is a non-profit that aims to leverage grassroots basketball to advocate for an inclusive, regenerative, and equitable society for all. This is a "Jump Shot" opportunity to play and engage with the community. If attending, please register at [www.slrec.org](http://www.slrec.org) with course #20748.

This event has been made

possible by a generous donation from The Optimist Club of San Leandro. Special thanks to partners at Hoopbus, Los Cantaros Taqueria, and the Nike Ambassador Program. For more information, contact Liz Hodgins at 510-577-3473 or [ehodgins@sanleandro.org](mailto:ehodgins@sanleandro.org).

## Spiritual, but not religious?

Watch 11:11am Live-stream at [unitysanleandro.org](http://unitysanleandro.org) or on Facebook Live

- We emphasize spirituality more than religion.
- We believe there are many paths to God.
- We show you how to transform your life through practical spiritual principles.
- Everyone is welcome.

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

SUNDAY 11:11 A.M.

Unity Church of San Leandro  
P.O. Box 2018, San Leandro, 94577

## HIKE for HOPE

Saturday, May 6

Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore

Proceeds help Hope Hospice care for more than 2,000 East Bay neighbors each year. Funds raised benefit patient care and help keep grief support, dementia education, and caregiver resources available to the public at no charge.

Self-paced hike • Barbecue lunch • Lawn games  
Raffle prizes • Silent auction • Fundraising



Register Today!  
(925) 829-8770

[TheHikeForHope.com](http://TheHikeForHope.com)



Sign up  
by 3/31 for an  
event T-shirt  
guarantee





Stuck on Peanut Butter

Peanut butter is a staple in most American homes and for good reason. Besides being tasty, it is an excellent source of protein and healthy fat that comes in natural creamy or

On Sale in March Nature's Way Herbs 25% OFF Since 1969 HEALTH UNLIMITED — NATURAL FOODS — San Leandro 182 Pelton Center (510) 483-3630 Castro Valley 3446 Village Dr. (510) 581-0220

chunky forms. It finds its greatest use in sandwiches where it is usually paired with jam or jelly. But it can be combined with many snacks including apples, celery, carrots, bananas, and many more. And, of course, there are peanut butter cookies, sauces, cakes, pies, ice cream and hundreds of other desserts.

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 sticks butter, at room temperature
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1-1/4 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup creamy or crunchy peanut butter

Position racks in upper and lower thirds of oven and preheat to 350°F. Butter 2 large baking sheets. Whisk together flour, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl. With an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter with both sugars for about 3 minutes, until light and fluffy. Reduce speed to medium and add eggs and vanilla; beat until smooth and well combined. Beat in peanut butter.

Scrape down sides of bowl. Reduce speed to low and beat in flour mixture in 2 batches, until just combined. Form dough into 1-inch balls and place on baking sheets. Flatten each ball by pressing with tines of a fork in a crisscross pattern. Bake, switching pans halfway through, 14 to 16 minutes, or until golden brown on bottom and barely colored on top. Cool on pans on wire racks for 5 minutes. With a spatula, carefully transfer cookies to a wire rack and allow to cool completely. Repeat with remaining cookie dough. Yields about 80 cookies.

CREAM OF PEANUT SOUP

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1/4 cup butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 2 quarts chicken stock
- 2 cups smooth peanut butter
- 1-3/4 cups light cream
- Peanuts, chopped, for garnish

Saute onion and celery in butter until soft. Do not brown. Stir in the flour until well blended. Add chicken broth/stock, stirring constantly and bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Let cool for 10 minutes. Puree in a food processor or blender. Add peanut butter and cream, stirring to blend thoroughly. Return to low heat and heat just until hot. Do not boil.

Serve garnished with chopped peanuts. Yields 10 servings

PEANUT BUTTER PANCAKES

- 1 cup pancake mix
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- 1 (5 oz.) can evaporated milk
- 1/3 cup water
- Honey Butter Syrup:
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons honey

In a large bowl, combine pancake mix and sugar. In a small bowl, beat egg and peanut butter; add milk and water. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Pour batter by 1/4 cupfuls onto a lightly greased medium-hot griddle. Turn when bubbles form on top of pancakes; cook until second side is golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve with warm honey-butter. Yields 10 pancakes.

HEALTHY PEANUT BUTTER MUFFINS

- 2 ripe bananas
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/3 cup natural peanut butter
- 2/3 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

- 1 tablespoon ground flax seed
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
- Cinnamon sugar

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Lightly spray muffin tins with canola oil. Mix the wet ingredients together, mashed banana, honey, peanut butter, yogurt, and vanilla. In a separate bowl, combine the dry ingredients (flours, salt, baking powder, baking soda, flax seed, sugar and cinnamon). Add the wet and dry together and stir until just combined. Using a large ice cream scoop or spoon, add the batter into the muffin tin until the cups are 3/4 full, sprinkle with a bit of cinnamon sugar on each muffin, and bake on the middle rack of the oven for 15 to 20 minutes. Yields: 12-16.

CHICKEN WITH PEANUT SAUCE

- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 4 teaspoons soy sauce
- 4 teaspoons white wine vinegar
- Dash crushed red pepper flakes
- 3/4 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch strips
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh gingerroot
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 1 cup hot cooked rice

In a small bowl, combine the first five ingredients; set aside. In a large skillet, saute the chicken, garlic and ginger in oil for 5 minutes. Add peanut butter mixture. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes or until chicken juices run clear, stirring frequently. Serve with rice; sprinkle with thinly-sliced green onions if desired. Yield: 2 servings.

PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3/4 cup natural peanut butter

Put sugar and milk in pan and bring to a boil. Boil for 2-1/2 minutes. Remove from heat and add peanut butter and vanilla. Stir just until well mixed. Pour into buttered pan, cool and cut into squares. The smaller the pan, the thicker the fudge will be.

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED JAN 18, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 594812 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Si Consulting, located at 1167 Begier Avenue San Leandro, CA 94577. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Steve Imai, 1167 Begier Avenue San Leandro. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced 01/17/2023 /s/ Steve Imai This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JAN 17, 2028 MAR 02, 09, 16, 22, 2023 0575-SLT

FILED FEB 14, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 595557 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Crazy Beautiful Mess, located at 699 Lewelling Blvd., Suite 146/244 San Leandro CA 94579. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lauren Ballesteros, 14881 Wiley St. San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/ Lauren Ballesteros This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires FEB 13, 2028 MAR 02, 09, 16, 22, 2023 0576-SLT

FILED FEB 01, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 595223 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Battle Studio, located at 13304 Aurora Drive San Leandro, CA 94577. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Battle Studio A Calif. Corp., 13304 Aurora Drive San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced 01/18/23 /s/ Helena Delia Batle This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JAN 31, 2028 FEB 09, 16, 23, MAR 02, 2023 0565-SLT

FILED JAN 20, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 594876 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): California Bay Electric, located at 1005 94th Ave Oakland, CA 94603. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Venancio Matias Calmo, 1005 94th Ave Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/ Abbas Mohammed Alnaham This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JAN 19, 2028 FEB 23, MAR 02, 09, 16, 2023 0565-SLT

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER 556359 The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: Love for The Creator at 14325 Wake Ave., San Leandro CA 94578, in Alameda County. Full name of registrant is: Sarah Cruz, at 14325 Wake Ave., San Leandro CA 94578. The Fictitious Business Name Statement Love for The Creator, was filed on 09/09/2021 in the county of Alameda. Original File Number 582548. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime). This statement was filed with the County clerk of Alameda County on: top right stamp date. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14400, et seq., B&P Code.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 02/08/2023.

FILED JAN 13, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 594765 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Nyansa Dua, located at 596 Alvarado Street San Leandro, CA 94577. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jahi C. Mirembe, 596 Alvarado Street San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/ Jahi C. Mirembe This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JAN 12, 2028 FEB 02, 09, 16, 23, 2023 0560-SLT

FILED FEB 08, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 595455 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Bold Will, located at 1132 Carpenter Street #209 San Leandro, CA 94577. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kimberly Wilson, 1132 Carpenter Street #209 San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/ Kimberly Wilson This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires SEP 20, 2027 FEB 16, 23, MAR 02, 09, 2023 0565-SLT

FILED JAN 23, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 594916 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Innovated Electric, located at 22524 Byron St., Hayward, CA 94541. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carlos Gonzales, 22524 Byron St., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/ Carlos Gonzales This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JAN 22, 2028 FEB 16, 23, MAR 02, 09, 2023 0575-SLT

FILED JAN 09, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 595474 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Best Laundromat, located at 15401 Hesperian Blvd., Suite CDE San Leandro, CA 94578. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Lloyd Lee, 288 Cherrywood Ave San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced Nov 1, 2017 /s/ James Lee This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires FEB 08, 2028 FEB 23, MAR 02, 09, 16, 2023 0560-SLT

FILED JAN 27, 2023 County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 595064 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930 The name of the business(es): Brown Money Team, located at 955 75th Ave Apt E Oakland, CA 94621. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shanita Rochelle Thornton, 955 75th Ave Apt E Oakland, CA 94621. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/ Shanita Rochelle Thornton This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JAN 26, 2028

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

M	A	P		A	B	C		G	R	I	P
I	L	L	S	F	R	A		L	E	V	I
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## Budget: Ideal budget to require tax increase

continued from front page since 2022.

Property owners see the issue differently. George Wu, who rents a small property in San Leandro, would like the city to help property owners like him.

"For 37 months, we've received no rent, we are owed over \$120,000 and have had to spend all of our savings to pay mortgage, property taxes, and utilities to keep from becoming homeless ourselves," Wu wrote in a memo to city leaders. "By no means am I against the society as a whole to protect our valuables, but mom and pops like me should not be the victims."

An earlier budget meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22, focused on budget challenges facing the city, recent community survey results, and priorities from the community and the City Council. Another 20 participants were asked to provide comments on initiatives and issues and to identify new ideas that they wanted the city to consider. It was the first of three meetings to engage the public during the Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 biennial budget process.

San Leandro resident Sar-

ah Bailey said she supports better transportation and safety issues for bicyclists and pedestrians.

"We need a bike network that works all over the city, but we can't do that yet because we can't yet roll through the city and just put in a bike lane," Bailey said.

Currently, San Leandro is forecasting \$137,163 million in general fund revenues and spending \$135,812 million during the 2023-24 fiscal year, and is expecting \$139,549 in revenue with \$134,667 in spending for its 2024-25 fiscal year.

### Two Budgets Proposed

But city officials say, to do the job right, they really need more staff, among other needs.

If the city spends \$5 million annually to add 40 new full-time staff and spends \$19 to \$22 million every year to tackle overdue repairs and maintenance to roads, parks, and city buildings, the city budget would be in the red exceeding \$20 million in the next few years.

"We can afford the government that we have, but we can't afford the government that we should have," City Financial Director T. Michael Yuen said, adding that the city will need to find a way to either increase revenue or redirect spending.

Surplus or no, San Leandro will need to spend \$146 million to fund retiree health and pensions, which Yuen told the Times would be easy to make up in subsequent budget years. He says he looks forward to the next public input on San Leandro's budget.

"It's likely there will be tradeoffs," Yuen said.

The Council lastly identified several key priorities for the coming fiscal year including building more types of housing, increasing police staff, launching a mental health unit, increase public safety with non-police alternatives, and community clean-up programs.

To help the unhoused in San Leandro, the council plans on working with a non-profit partner to purchase the Nimitz Motel as a housing option and resource center for low and very-low-income people.

San Leandro residents have one more in-person chance to comment on the budget. The next public Budget Engagement meeting will be held this Saturday, March 4, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Surlene Grant Community Room, next to the police station.

## SENIORS

# What to Do When Your Most Valued Assets Are Not Covered by Your Will

**Q:** My wife and I hold title to her home as joint tenants, and most of our cash assets are in the form of two large IRA accounts and one big annuity. We have basic wills which leave everything to the other and then on to our children. Our son suggested that our wills may not control what happens to our assets when one of us dies. Should we be concerned?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

**A:** Perhaps, in the sense that your wills will not control what happens to your assets when one of you dies. Rather, the form of title will control as to your home, and the beneficiary designations on your IRA's and annuity will control what happens to those assets. Here is the way it works:

**Your Home:** Since you and your wife hold title to your home in joint tenancy, when one of you dies the other will automatically become the owner by right of survivorship. The right of survivorship is the primary feature of joint tenancy.

In essence, the form of title overrides your wills. It is only when the survivor later dies that his or her will then control who ultimately gets the home.



While many couples in California do hold their home in joint tenancy, it is often not the best form of co-ownership.

**One principal reason:** it does not optimize the tax benefits that go along with holding title as "community property" where the home has appreciated significantly in value since the time of purchase.

**Your IRA Accounts:** Each of your IRA accounts will, upon the death of the IRA owner, go to the primary beneficiary named in the account agreement signed when you created your IRAs.

The pattern of distribution very much depends upon who you designated as primary and contingent beneficiaries when you created your accounts.

Presumably, the primary beneficiary for each of you is the other spouse and, if deceased, your children. It is always wise to review these designations and retain in your permanent file a copy of the documentation you signed when you created your accounts.

As a lawyer, I have been involved in at least one case where the IRA custodian lost the paperwork on a very large

IRA account, almost costing the designated beneficiary a six-figure tax bill because of the resulting delay in distribution. The IRS has strict rules about handling inherited IRA accounts, and these must be observed on a timely basis to avoid unnecessary tax.

**Your Annuity:** the person or persons to receive your annuity would, just like the IRA, depend upon who are named as beneficiaries on the annuity contract, itself.

The same would be true if you owned any other insurance products or policies. Where you have designated named individuals to be primary or contingent beneficiaries, the contract or policy controls and not your will.

In view of the above, whenever clients come in to see us for estate planning, we always urge a review of all beneficiary designations associated with IRA and other retirement accounts, as well as annuities and other insurance products.

Where appropriate, the beneficiary designations can then be corrected, so that the plan design accomplishes the clients' goals and everything works together.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in the East Bay. Visit: [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).

## Festival: Games, prizes, tacos and burgers

continued from front page

Games include 16 activities and over 500 prizes for attendees of all ages. Refreshments include homemade tacos, tamales, and burgers. Game and food tickets are available at the door (40 for \$20) or can be obtained for a discount in advance (50 for \$20) until March 17.

Community organizations will provide local civic and health information as well COVID-19 vaccinations for people of all ages.

This family-friendly Spring Fiesta is a fundraiser for Eden Church's "Our Turn to Shine" Campaign to replace the leaky 75-year old sanctuary windows so the church can continue its 158-year tradition of serving the spiritual and physical needs of neighbors.

For more information or to obtain discounted game and food tickets, call 510-582-9533.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## Lack of Diligence Can Lead to Trouble

As the market appears to be heating up once again, it is critical to reflect on a practice that is too often ignored in a high pressure, multiple offer environment.

Due diligence.

In a nutshell, this is the practice of meticulously pouring over all disclosures, reports and related documentation to ensure that there are no issues that might spell trouble down the road. Added to this is the misconception that when homes are being sold with no contingencies, the buyers have no recourse for issues that emerge after escrow has

closed. That is simply not the case, and sellers, in increasing numbers, are beginning to find themselves locked in disputes with buyers after the close of escrow.

Case in point: a Bay Area home recently went into escrow and everything seemed to be proceeding smoothly until the next door neighbor contacted the seller and stated that the property lines were not where everyone assumed they were. This was news to the seller who, after owning the home and maintaining it for over 35 years, had assumed, along with everyone else, that his entire

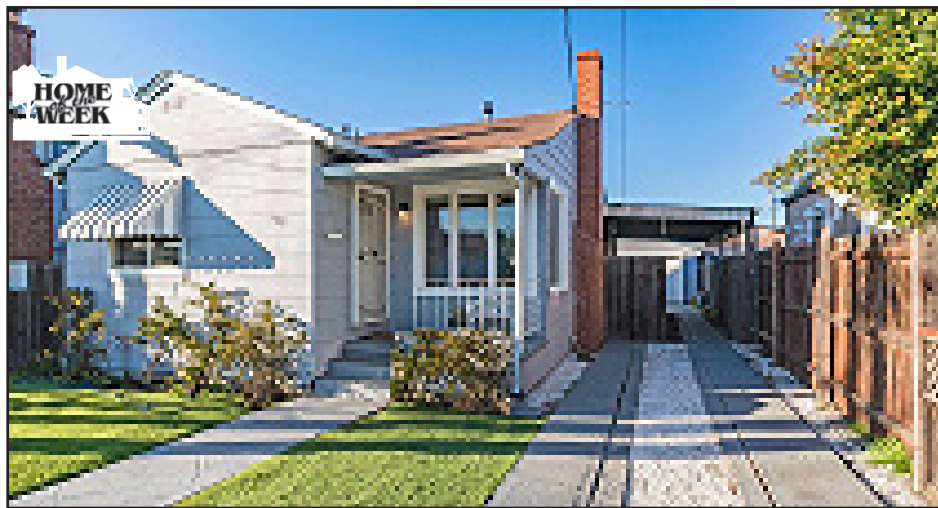
yard was, in fact, his.

A careful review of the plat map provided by the title company along with a site visit revealed that the neighbor was correct: the actual property line crossed the seller's front yard in a diagonal, effectively decreasing the purported front yard by approximately 25%! At this point, the listing agent contacted an attorney to see if the seller had a claim to a prescriptive easement. In the end, after negotiation, the situation was resolved, documentation was drawn up by an attorney protecting all parties involved and the property closed.

The primary fault in this situation occurred when the property was purchased 35 years ago and the buyer (later the seller), for whatever reason, was not made aware of the fact that the actual property boundaries were different than visually represented by the existing lawn and shrubbery in the front yard. Had these facts been known, a prescriptive easement could have been recorded and been a part of the public record.

The bottom line is this: when buying a home, carefully read all the documentation. The actual property lines were included in the preliminary title report as a part of the disclosure package – it just so happened that apparently, no one on either side of the transaction had bothered to read the reports.

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.



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## RECENT HOME SALES

Home sales information is compiled and provided by CalREsource and includes Bedrooms, Square Feet and Year Built when available

### CASTRO VALLEY

Total: 8 - Average Price: \$1,005,625  
High: \$1,700,000 - Low: \$282,000

21872 Baywood Avenue 94546:

\$895,000 [3 BD - 1,700 SF -

1941

19096 Santa Maria Avenue 94546:

\$1,000,000 [3 BD - 1,368 SF -

1940

5010 Foxboro Drive 94546:

\$1,180,000 [3 BD - 1,800 SF -

1961

19615 Barclay Road 94546:

\$1,300,000 [3 BD - 1,758 SF -

1963

4531 Hillsborough Drive 94546:

\$1,320,000 [4 BD - 2,622 SF -

1965

4638 Lockridge Way 94546:

\$1,450,000 [4 BD - 2,092 SF -

1950

1960

16991 Grovenor Drive 94546:

\$1,550,000 [3 BD - 1,925 SF -

1962

### HAYWARD

Total: 14 - Average Price: \$787,785

High: \$1,100,000 - Low: \$425,000

20449 Meekland Avenue 94541:

\$375,000 [2 BD - 982 SF - 1943

675 Newbury Lane #244 94544:

\$412,000 [1 BD - 643 SF - 1988

22530 3rd Street #306 94541:

\$550,000 [2 BD - 1,200 SF -

1994

22562 Hennings Court 94541:

\$685,000 [3 BD - 1,560 SF -

1947

280 Elmwood Lane 94541:

\$700,000 [2 BD - 1,051 SF -

1950

23510 Wright Drive 94541:

\$735,000 [3 BD - 971 SF - 1951

109 Sunswept Court 94544:

\$799,500 [3 BD - 1,594 SF -

2019

31638 Medinah Street 94544:

\$840,000 [3 BD - 1,597 SF -

1956

31108 Chicoine Avenue 94544:

\$935,000 [3 BD - 1,371 SF - 1955

1073 Central Boulevard 94542:

\$950,000 [3 BD - 1,814 SF -

1953

3013 Woodroo Court 94541:

\$1,170,000 [4 BD - 2,049 SF -

1985

### SAN LEANDRO

Total: 7 - Average Price: \$782,500

High: \$1,050,000 - Low: \$188,888

1888 Vining Drive 94579:

\$420,000 [3 BD - 1,111 SF -

1956

1677 140th Avenue 94578:

\$750,000 [3 BD - 1,200 SF -

1947

429 Linnell Avenue 94578:

\$816,000 [3 BD - 1,828 SF -

1952

1581 138th Avenue 94578:

\$818,000 [2 BD - 1,548 SF -

1947

1519 Sayre Street 94579:

\$878,000 [3 BD - 1,190 SF -

1956

### SAN LORENZO

Total: 3 - Average Price: \$604,125

High: \$940,000 - Low: \$838,333

556 Doane Street 94580:

\$136,500 [3 BD - 1,618 SF - 1950

920 Lynn Court 94580: \$690,000

[3 BD - 1,048 SF - 1950

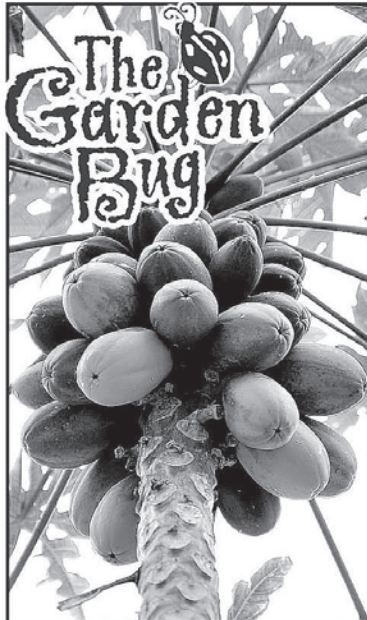
1751 Via Redondo 94580:

\$790,000 [3 BD - 1,078 SF -

1954

16179 Via Owen 94580:

\$800,000 [3 BD - 1,452 SF - 1955



### Growing papaya

For these plants you will need a frost-free climate, lots of sunlight, water and very good soil. Cut a papaya in half, scrape out the seeds, and sow them in the location you've chosen. Some will be "male" (long, thin stalks with several small blooms) or "female" (single blooms, bigger, and very close to the trunk); you only need one male for every 10-15 female plants. They flower at about 3 feet tall. You may be picking the first ripe fruit within 10 months.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.tropicalpermaculture.com](http://www.tropicalpermaculture.com)



**March Jobs**

Take time to get caught up on the chores you skipped during the rainy days. Yellow oxalis plants are blooming all over the East Bay. Pull them while the soil is still very moist, being

careful to remove the root. Oxalis often broken off at the soil line and will be up again before you know it. And don't forget those snails and slugs. The recent rains brought them out in force. Hand pick them in the evening, or use copper barriers or crushed eggshells around newly transplanted flowers and

vegetables.

**Strawberries**

Remove strawberry blooms through May to concentrate the plant's energy into big, sweet berries.

**Roses**

Check roses and trees for

suckers, those little shoots that grow from the rootstock. Cut them off with shears or a spade, since they sap the plant's energy.

**Wildflowers**

Wildflowers still can be sown and are excellent for erosion control on hillsides in the East Bay.



By MarcEGottlieb - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=67516232>

THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING? CONTACT ONE OF THESE...

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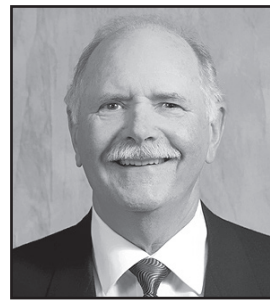
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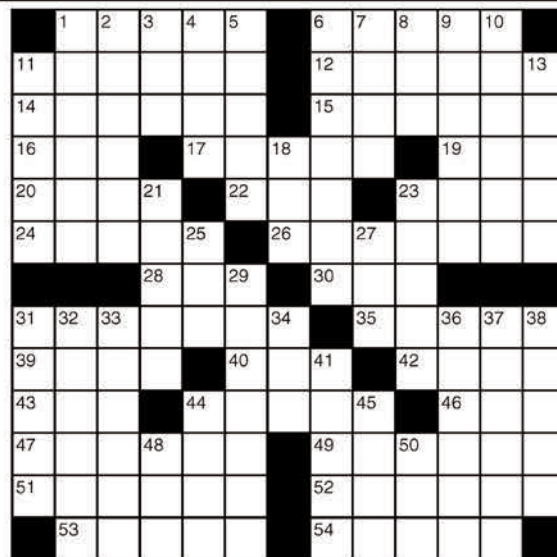
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- 1 Pirate's chart
- 4 "Shark Tank" network
- 7 Clench
- 11 Misfortunes
- 13 Monk's title
- 14 Jeans maker Strauss
- 15 Grabbed
- 16 Sailor
- 17 Opposite of "sans"
- 18 Lukewarm
- 20 Soft shoes, for short
- 22 Egg quaff
- 24 Give
- 28 Limo alternative
- 32 Orange variety
- 33 Online auction site
- 34 "Kapow!"
- 36 Traditional tales
- 37 Winter woes
- 39 Lauded
- 41 Balloon filler
- 43 Little rascal
- 44 Beseech
- 46 Speak one's mind
- 50 Big swig
- 53 Profit
- 55 Alike (Fr.)
- 56 Sheltered
- 57 -- Jima
- 58 Activist Parks
- 59 Twinkler in the sky
- 60 Venomous viper
- 61 Campaigned

DOWN

- 1 Catcher's aid
- 2 Skin soother
- 3 Fall into a soft chair
- 4 Astern
- 5 "Dracula" author Stoker
- 6 Ersatz chocolate
- 7 Fairy-tale footwear
- 8 Speed (up)
- 9 "-- had it!"
- 10 Photo, for short
- 12 Swimmer without a suit
- 19 Medico
- 21 Biz bigwig
- 23 Prattle
- 25 New Mexico resort
- 26 Shrek, for one
- 27 Garden intruder
- 28 Georgia or Cal
- 29 Bassoon's kin
- 30 Humpty's perch
- 31 Knock
- 35 Hosp. scan
- 38 California's Big --
- 40 I love (Lat.)
- 42 Craze
- 45 Evergreen trees
- 47 Mr. Stravinsky
- 48 "Apollo 13" org.
- 49 Panache
- 50 Tank filler
- 51 Last (Abbr.)
- 52 Meadow
- 54 Spinning toy

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

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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.

### Ashcraft's Live Dedicated to Public Service

Editor,

Bernard Ashcraft has been a drum major for social and economic justice for over 50 years. First, as a navy corpsman protesting racism in the military, then as a Civil Rights Movement leader in San Diego. Since moving to the Bay Area, he has made extraordinary achievements tackling inequality in employment contracts for BIPOC workers, anti-Black vandalism, and national hate groups like the KKK.

In San Leandro, he remains a driving force for expanding affordable housing, improving healthcare outcomes, as well as implementing police reform. The accolades he has received from elected officials, community-based organizations, and academia speak to a life dedicated to public service at great personal cost.

On a personal level, Bernard has been my mentor in community organizing, advocacy, and activism for years. He has taught me the value of listening to others, having the courage of my convictions, leading movements based on shared values, and what it truly means to care about other people.

I also recognize that he's a human, just like the rest of us, capable of mistakes and missteps that require apologies and amends. However, I believe there's a difference between legitimate disagreement and petty grievances. I have seen real conflicts between Bernard and other local BIPOC leaders on how to address discrimination subverted by racial resentment to undermine the broad-based movement to fight systemic racism. I have seen reactionaries in our community attack Bernard as a proxy for tearing down progressive politicians they don't like. I have witnessed the mess that comes from separating the facts of those who were there from the lies spread by others solely seeking payback, profit, or power.

This isn't about whose name goes on a building. This is about accepting our failures so that we can try again. This is about rejecting campaigns of bad faith. This is about the life and legacy of an imperfect man who has spent decades building a better world for

all of us.

Bernard Ashcraft is a figure that I am proud to celebrate during this Black History Month. I am thankful that we have someone like him in San Leandro fighting to ensure all of us have access to justice and an equal opportunity to succeed.

**Stephen Michael Tow**  
San Leandro

### Community Should Decide on Library Name

Editor,

I support Mr. Lee Thomas on rethinking of naming our library after Mr. Ashcraft. What has he done for our city?

If we are to rename our library why not ask the public for recommendations and we can all agree as a community.

**Maria Palos**  
San Leandro

### Opposes Renaming Library

Editor,

I would like to express my concern regarding Bernard Ashcraft's name for the San Leandro Library.

This was one of my experiences with him. When I started the San Leandro Democratic Club in 2016, the bylaws I developed said "you have to be a paid club member in order to vote."

I organized the District Attorney Candidate Forum. The members at the registration table told him he could not vote because he was not a member. Afterward, he came complaining to me and I told him the same thing. He said, "You ain't shit." After that, to this day, Bernard Ashcraft does not speak to me but I still make attempts to speak to him.

Who came up with this idea and if people think it was Bryan Azevedo, I don't think so even though he presented it at a City Council meeting. It's Bernard's idea. Bryan only thinks when people bring something to him.

**Helena Straughter**  
San Leandro

### Can't Resist the Name Game

Editor,

The San Leandro library should remain named the San Leandro library. Meeting rooms, reading rooms, etc do not need a name added. Adding a name insults someone whose name is not acknowledged,

and is devious and does not bring the community together. If the city cannot resist the naming game I was going to suggest a native American name of person or group, but just learned of the name Halkin is being used. So how about the names of those who fought for us on Iwo Jima, Omaha Beach, or other locales, and never came home? I would think some of those heroes came from our community, or nearby.

**Raymond Puleo**  
San Leandro

### City Council Taking the Wrong Path

Editor,

The San Leandro City Council needs to focus on reducing crime, spurring housing development, restoring the cleanliness and vitality of our downtown, and improving the health and wellness of our residents, including the unhoused.

Instead, Council members Bryan Azevedo, Fred Simon, Celina Reynes and Victor Aguilar are seeking to undertake a series of symbolic actions and create new social programs without paying for them. Azevedo wants to rename the main library after one of his most vocal political supporters. Simon wants new, "friendlier" uniforms for police officers. These proposals waste city funds and do nothing to address the critical issues facing San Leandro.

Furthermore, this group of council members have mandated that all landlords provide free rent for the next year to any tenant still claiming financial hardship due to Covid-19. No other City in Alameda County or California has adopted as 'progressive' an eviction moratorium extension as San Leandro.

If a renter has not paid any rent since March 2020, when the moratorium was originally adopted, they will not be able to suddenly pay four years of overdue rent. In the meantime, many mom-and-pop and small unit landlords will be driven out of business, making the housing crisis worse. The East Bay Times recently profiled a San Leandro landlord who is teetering on the edge of bankruptcy because a tenant in his triplex has accumulated over \$120,000 in rent debt.

So, who is going to end up losing? It is us, the San Leandro residents. The City Council has no funds reserved, nor intent, to pay for the losses landlords will suffer and no long-term solutions for the families that will lose their homes. Expect a new tax measure to re-pay landlords, cover attorney fees and hopefully fix a few potholes.

**Ed Hernandez**  
San Leandro  
Ed Hernandez is a former City Councilman and current Eden Health District board member

### The Bernard Ashcraft Library?

Editor,

Here we go again. Sure City Council member Azevedo has been the butt of many jokes. Many have questioned his maturity, intelligence and ability to lead our city during his campaign for mayor. His own biggest opponent has been himself, his own statements and actions in public have spawned criticism he has received.

Recently, council member Azevedo proposed naming a public library after Bernard Ashcraft. Who is he? I had the same question. After some digging on Azevedo's own social media and campaign finance reports, it turns out Ashcraft was a vocal supporter and contributor to Azevedo's campaign. Over \$1,600 contributed as well as working his campaign.

It's things like this, with the air of nepotism that makes me count my blessings every day that we avoided what could have been a huge mistake had he won the mayoral election.

What is even more scary to me, is the fact that three other council members supported this ridiculous idea. It makes me wonder what is next. This group of council members have expressed their desire to push a super progressive agenda.

What's next? Stripping the budget to build a homeless navigation center? Cut the police budget or take away tools used by the police?

I hope everyone is paying attention. I hope everyone is talking. We need to hold these people that were elected to represent us accountable.

**Lawrence Andrews**  
San Leandro

### Mom and Pop Landlords to Pay for Council's Stupidity

Editor,

You have got to be kidding me! San Leandro council members Aguilar, Azevedo, Bowen, Reynes and Simon have voted to extend the renter's eviction deadline because of Covid for another year until February 2024. The only sane members of the council that voted NO on this proposal were Mayor Gonzalez and Ballew, at least we have two normal people on the current council.

Haven't the harebrained five picked up on the fact that President Biden ended the Covid relief subsidies a few months ago? I'd be willing to bet dollars to donuts that none of the numskull five own rental property and only think that this is a way to stick it to the "big guy" when in fact most of the rental properties are owned by mom and pops.

These mom and pops worked very hard to succeed and get ahead – call it the American

dream, and these knucklehead five can't relate to that dream. Apparently the five yo-yos don't realize that the banks, utility companies and government entities who assess property taxes are not going to waive their monthly obligations as they demand "show me the money."

The halfwit five's logic for waiving the monthly rent payment is that it is still due and will be paid back when the exemption ends. Yeah right, who's kidding who? When the final bill is due it's going to be the biggest case of musical chairs (apartments) that you have ever seen when the renters just move to a new place and get a chance to start over, which leaves mom and pop once again holding the bag for governmental stupidity.

FYI – I'm not biased as I don't own any rental property.

**Brent Heath**  
San Leandro

### Rent Exemption Extended Without Supporting Evidence

Editor,

Under the guise of the Covid 19, the San Leandro City Council has extended the exemption to pay rent for people affected by Covid. At the first reading not a single tenant showed up in support of the ordinance, while more than two dozen people spoke against it. To speak in favor, was only showed up La Raza Centro Legal, beneficiary of 1.1 million dollars and expecting more.

Tom Liao couldn't show any data on how many people were affected or how many are still not paying the rent. Millions have been spent without any accounting for it. However the four that voted for it were joined at second reading by wishy-washy Bowen, and evidently don't care about the evidence.

The ordinance also states that it "serves the public peace, health, welfare and safety in San Leandro." A clear blackmail. It only serves to demonstrate that city officials are willing to carry on with the objectives of the Sanctuary City for illegals and criminals.

An interesting situation developed in the discussions. Council member Reynes proposed an amendment to review the situation every 60 days. It was then changed when Mayor Gonzalez, who was posturing as opposed to the ordinance, entered an amendment to review it every 120 days. Either way it's totally irrelevant because the four who voted for it are going to continue to do so no matter what. They're cooking up these ordinances behind closed doors. San Leandro is the only one in the Bay Area that still maintains the Covid scam, at the expense of taxpayers.

**Leo T. West**  
San Leandro



# Tips for Growing Beautiful Dahlias, San Leandro's Flower

By Melinda Myers  
Special to the Times

Growing beautiful dahlias is easier than you think. Proper planting and care will result in an abundance of beautiful blooms for you to enjoy in your garden and summer bouquets. Use these strategies to boost your dahlia growing success:

## Start Early for a Long Season of Flowers

Dahlias grow from sweet-potato-like tuberous roots often called tubers that are usually planted in late spring. For earlier blooms, start your dahlias indoors about four to six weeks before the last spring frost.

Use one- or two-gallon pots with drainage holes. Fill them with a damp growing mix and cover the tip of the tubers with one to two inches of soil. Water sparingly until the sprouts emerge, which can take two to four weeks.

## Plant Outdoors in Late Spring

Grow dahlias as you would tomatoes. Choose a sunny location with fertile, well-drained soil. To encourage healthy root growth, take

time to loosen the soil in the planting area at least 12 inches deep.

Don't be in a rush to plant your dahlias. Wait until the soil is warm and all danger of frost has passed.

Good air circulation encourages strong, healthy growth. Space border dahlias 15 inches apart from the center of one plant to the next. Taller types should be spaced at least 18 to 24 inches on center.

Plant so the top of the tuber is no more than one to two inches below the soil surface. It can take several weeks for the first sprouts to emerge, but once they do, the plants grow very quickly.

## Pinch for Fuller Growth And More Blooms

When your dahlias reach a height of 10 to 12 inches, use scissors or sharp pruning shears to remove the top two or three sets of leaves. Pinched plants produce more side branches, resulting in sturdier growth and lots more flowers. Pinching will set the plants back by a week or two, but they will come back quickly.

Dahlias that grow more

than three feet tall benefit from staking. This is especially true for varieties that produce large flowers. Staking helps plants stay upright, minimizes damage from wind and rain, keeps the flowers more visible, and makes it easier to deadhead. To avoid damaging the tubers, add the stakes at planting time or soon after.

## Feed Your Plants and Don't Let Them Go Thirsty

Dahlias perform best when they receive a consistent amount of moisture throughout the growing season. Too much or too little water causes stress and can reduce flower production. When the weather is dry, water deeply once or twice a week, using drip irrigation, a soaker hose, or a watering wand.

Keep the foliage as dry as possible to minimize disease. Mulching the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic material will conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.

Dahlias perform best when they are well-fed. Enrich the soil with compost and add a low-nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer at planting time. Fol-

low the label directions for the timing and application rates of the fertilizers you select.

## Pruning and Deadheading

The more flowers you cut, the more flowers you'll get. Harvesting flowers twice a week will encourage a plentiful supply of blooms. Spent flowers should be removed immediately (deadheading) to minimize pest and disease problems.

Always use sharp bypass pruners or snips to make clean cuts. If you want flowers with long stems, be willing to sacrifice some side buds. Stems come back longer and stronger when you cut deep into the plant and close to a main branch.

Dahlias require a little more time and attention than many other flowering plants. But your efforts will be handsomely rewarded with a bounty of beautiful blooms and a sense of accomplishment.

Melinda Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF LONGFIELD-GARDENS.COM

The more dahlias you cut for bouquets, the more flowers the plant will produce.

## Obituaries

### Joe DiGiordano

February 6, 1934 ~ February 21, 2023

Joe DiGiordano passed away February 21, 2023 surrounded by loving family and friends. He was 89.

Joe was born in Daly City, CA, to Michele and Ida DiGiordano, the oldest of three children. Joe attended San Leandro High School before enlisting in the United States Navy in November 1952. He met his soul mate, Faye, while in school and they married on December 19, 1953. In 2003, they renewed their vows on the beach in Maui, a favorite vacation spot many times over. Joe served in the Navy until October 1956. During his enlistment, he served at Moffitt Field in Mountain View, CA. He also served aboard the USS Shangri La (CVA-38), an aircraft carrier assigned to the Pacific Fleet. His tour took him around the Pacific and to areas including Hawaii and Japan. While stateside, they made their home in San Jose, CA.

After the Navy, Joe worked as a corrugator operator at Western Corrugated (later Western Kraft) in San Leandro. The company was a subsidiary of Willamette Industries and as the name changed again, Joe moved up in management, staying with Willamette until his retirement in 1994.

He loved fishing and playing golf. He could often be found dancing with his wife on Saturday nights at Dino's in Castro Valley and socializing with great friends.

Joe is survived by two children, Michael and his wife Debbie, of Chico; and Terrie Walker of San Lorenzo. He was blessed with five grandchildren. Joe DiGiordano and his wife, Marisa, Kenny DiGiordano, Marc Walker and his wife, Jennifer; Katie Rivera and her husband, Chris, and Adam DiGiordano and his wife, Brianne. He had seven beautiful great-grandchildren, Mikey, Bobby, Miranda and Lucas DiGiordano, Faye and Olivia Walker, and CJ Rivera as well as a new step great-grandson, Anthony.

He is also survived by his brothers, Jerry DiGiordano, of Magalia, CA; Donald DiGiordano, of San Leandro and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Faye, and his youngest daughter, Sharon Carothers.

Friends and family are invited to a memorial service on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 12 p.m. at San Leandro Funeral Home, 407 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro, CA 95077-4907. A reception will follow the service at a family home in San Lorenzo.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to St. Jude Cancer Research or a favorite charity.



## Health and Nutrition Fair in Cherryland

Looking to keep up with your New Year's resolutions and connect with your community? There's a Health and Wellness Fair this Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hayward Adult School, 22100 Princeton St. in Cherryland.

The event is open to all ages and is a way for residents to get involved in their own health plans and find ways to live healthier and happier lives.

Representatives from multiple public and private agencies will be on hand

to lead hands-on activities. The groups include Alameda County Health Care Services, La Familia Health Services, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, La Clinical, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.), Deputy Sheriff's Activities League (DSAL), Dig Deep Food Hub, ACSO Youth and Family Services, REACH Ashland Youth Center, and Kaiser Permanente.

The event is novel in that the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) is hosting. The group has provided other community outreach opportunities, including last year's "Dogs and Deputies" at Meek Estate and the "Halloween Comic Fest" at Crush Comics. But this is the first time the

CPU has assembled a support team focused on people's health.

"These are not just pop-up booths where people walk by and grab a flier. We want people to get involved in their own health and wellness," said Deputy Ruben Pola. "The Sheriff's Department is evolving. It's important for us to reach out to the community and work with them so they can see law enforcement as a service provider. As deputies, we are familiar with these services. It is important to have them all in one place where residents can sign up for these resources."

The fair is broken into three focus areas: healthy body, ability-appropriate fitness, and simple nutrition strategies.

## Supervisors: Apply by March 14 for seat on board of supervisors

continued from front page

or fax. Within 48 hours after the close of the application period the clerk will make the applications publicly available, including on the county's website ([www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org)).

At a regular or special meeting the Board of Supervisors will select the candidates to be interviewed.

Nate Miley, President of the Board of Supervisors released the statement below following Board of Supervisors' approval of the process and schedule:

"Today, my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors approved a public process to

begin the appointment for the District 2 vacancy on the Board of Supervisors. While we will meet our statutory requirements to fill Supervisor Valle's seat, we will never be able to replace his tremendous role on our Board. As President of the Board of Supervisors, I am committed to a robust public appointment process that allows District 2 residents, stakeholders, community groups and our partners in organized labor an opportunity to provide their input on who best to represent them on the Board of Supervisors," said President Miley.

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## The Weather and You

# Rainy Season Making a Serious Dent in the Drought

By Mike Pechner  
Special to the Times

So far, Mother Nature has thrown the kitchen sink at us but she is not done.

I remember growing up in Novato, in Marin County and it seemed to me before I knew anything about weather that there were just two seasons, winter and summer. Winter began in October and ended when the last rain fell around Memorial Day weekend and then it was hot until winter began.

This year, winter started early with rain in October and except for the two weeks of dry weather at the middle of this month, Mother Nature has blessed us with rain and snow. In fact, the low elevation snow last Friday was the heaviest and most widespread since the first week in February of 1976.

Hang onto your hats and wadders folks because Mother Nature is not done yet. I have said in an earlier post that we

will make a serious dent in the drought. I think we have done that and then some, but the current mid- and long-range forecast models are very bullish for winter to continue at

“The pattern of cold air flowing south is likely to continue for another week or so.

least through mid-March and beyond.

Despite longer days, it's natural that we begin to warm up but the current pattern of cold air flowing south on the jet stream is likely to continue for another week or so. It means you have more time to go up Mt. Diablo and play in

the snow. The ski season in the High Sierra will go well into May.

The caveat is a very warm spring that could melt an incredible Sierra snow pack and cause low land flooding near the rivers that drain the Sierra. The East Bay Municipal Water District wants to keep all the water now stored up in the Mother Lode reservoirs and not have to let it out.

In the mean time, rain begins late Saturday and continues into Tuesday. Some forecast models predict 6 to 8 feet of new snow above 6,000 feet! That would equal the amount of snow we normally see from this point on until late spring. The snow pack is near record depths for this late in the winter in the Sierra foothills.

Lastly, morning lows will continue 10 to 15 degrees below seasonal average with the likelihood of near to below freezing morning lows late this week before rain returns.

## City of San Leandro's Home Earthquake Strengthening Course

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

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

**When:** March 9, 14, 16, and 21

This is a four-day course.

**Where:** The Senior Community Center @

13909 E. 14th Street,  
San Leandro, Main Hall D

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

**Cost for City of San Leandro Residents:**

\$30.00 for single / \$35.00 for couples

**Cost for Non-Residents / Unincorporated**

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

Class size is limited.

**REGISTRATION BY MAIL  
OR PHONE**

ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS

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

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



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

## Weeds: Removing weeds naturally

continued from front page

which then deliver their contents unfiltered into streams and creeks, which flow into bodies of waters such as the bay, said Bontempo.

Your children and pets are better off not ingesting chemical lawn-care products by walking or playing on the lawn, either, she added. Information on alternatives is on the Our Water Our World website <https://ourwaterourworld.org/>. Bontempo is a certified Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advocate who works with the group.

Meanwhile, there are ways to prevent having those weeds in the first place, rather than having to use chemicals to get them out

“Vinegar will also kill weeds, but you need to use horticulture vinegar which is much stronger.

— Charlotte Canner

once they've established themselves, said Canner, a certified Gardening & Composting Educator who works with Earth Ally and Our Water Our World.

You probably want to start by finding out just what kind of weed you're fighting, as weeds vary in what makes them flourish or wither, Canner said. That's most easily done by looking it up on the University of California's Weed Photo Gallery at [ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/weeds](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/weeds). The “ipm” is for integrated pest management, something UC promotes statewide.

Then consider various kinds of barriers to keep the weeds out in the first place. Canner suggests using layers of cardboard with mulch on top to kill off weed roots before planting or replanting what you want to grow.

Some weeds like acidic soil, while others thrive in alkaline soil, so changing your garden's pH might prevent some weeds from ever visiting, she said. That's assuming the new pH is OK with the plants you're trying to grow. The same goes for dry soil versus wet, although few plants other than weeds like wet, slow-draining soil.

On lawns, many people water shallowly rather than deeply, which helps weeds with their typically shallow

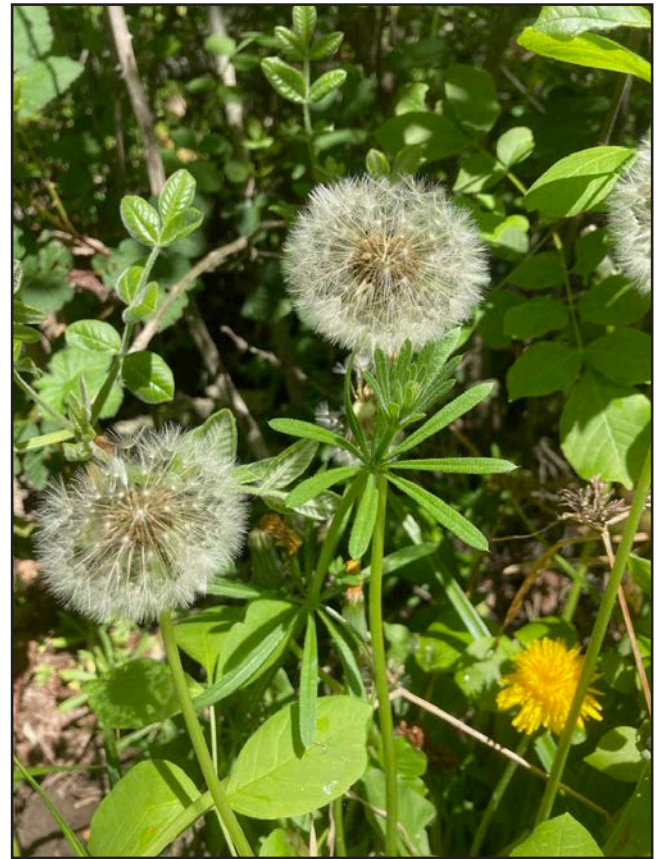


PHOTO BY SUZANNE BONTEMPO

**The best way to remove weeds is to pull them out and there are specialized tools for almost any weed.**

roots more than it does grass. The advantage nature gives grass over most weeds is potentially deep roots, so encourage your lawn to send its roots deeper, Bontempo said.

weeds, she said, but you need to use horticultural vinegar which is much stronger than the household variety. Warning: it can burn you badly if you spill it on yourself.

### Watering Methods that Discourage Weeds

One way to do this is to water less frequently but for longer. Lawns should be aerated one or twice a year also, she said. Over-seed with grass relative to what you might think is needed, and then mulch to keep weeds down.

If they do pop up, unfortunately the best way to remove them is by pulling them out. But there are specialized tools to remove almost any specific weed, including dandelions, Canner said. You can get them in hardware stores, garden shops and in the farm supply stores that still dot the Bay Area.

Take heart if you try but fail to get the whole weed out, she said. Every part you remove weakens the weed and repeating this will eventually kill the plant.

Don't punish your body unnecessarily, Bontempo said. Not only are kneepads sold for gardening, but there are even gardening benches you can buy.

Torches, more safely used in rainy season, and steamers can kill weeds, especially in cracks. Even pouring boiling water on weeds will kill them, but our houses tend to have boiling water at a distance from the garden. Be careful not to scald yourself, Canner said.

Vinegar will also kill

There are do-it-yourself remedies that can kill weeds, but do your homework first. Salt indeed kills weeds, but also most other plants. Dishwashing “soap” is really detergent, Bontempo cautioned, and not good for the environment at all.

### Some Natural Remedies Are Even Approved for Organic Agriculture

Some natural remedies are even approved for organic agriculture, but read labels carefully, she said.

They will tell you how they work, which affects how and when they are best used, and also which weeds they actually kill. If the weed you're trying to kill isn't listed, it will probably be ineffective against it.

There is information available on natural products from the Organic Materials Review Institute at [www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org).

More information about safer gardening and lawns is available on the internet. The Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program has information at <https://cleanwaterprogram.org/yards-and-gardens/> and it has its own YouTube channel.

The Feb. 16 seminar, for those who missed it, is available on the Clean Water program YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@cleanwaterprogramalameda-co3232/videos>.