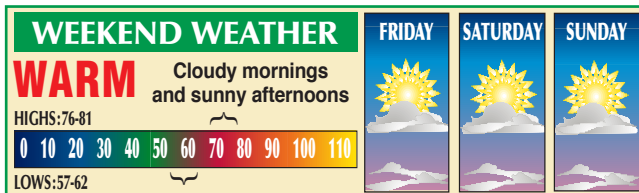




**Cartoon Lessons**  
POPEYE'S MESSAGE TO EAT  
YOUR SPINACH RINGS TRUE  
100 YEARS LATER..... 5

**WEAR YOUR MASK**  
**STOP the SPREAD**



# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 30 • NO. 32

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY STEVE GRODIN

The Grodins looked out the window one morning to a herd of goats eating everything in their backyard, so Steve Grodin began taking pictures.

## Goats Feast in Grodin's Backyard

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Mary and Steve Grodin woke up one morning last week to a sound in the backyard.

"I was just getting up and my husband said, 'Did you hear that?'" said Mary Grodin. "So I pulled up the shade and looked out."

A herd of goats had taken over the

Grodin's backyard, munching away at everything in sight. The goats apparently broke through a couple of boards in the fence and the whole herd came through.

Goats have been used to clear the grass and other plants in the hills for years. They were around the fire trail that leads up to the Dunsmuir House, but they seem to have decided they liked the plants better in Grodin's

yard in Sheffield Village.

"I think if one came through the rest followed," Grodin said. "They eat everything, at least everything low."

A lot of the backyard plants will have to be replaced, but Grodin said she doesn't mind. The company that manages the goats came and herded the goats out of the

see GOATS, page 2

## Second Wave Of Coronavirus To Hit In Fall

State officials predict next round to overlap with flu season

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

Covid-19 is not going to take a break just because we are celebrating the holidays. That's the message from local and state officials warning people not to let their guard down against the spread of the novel coronavirus.

In his weekly update, California Governor Gavin Newsom outlined the state's trends in the fight against the pandemic. While the numbers of infections, admissions to hospitals, and deaths have stabilized in some counties, Newsom was quick to point out that health officials anticipate a second wave will develop this fall and that it will likely overlap with flu season later this year.

"This virus is not going away," Newsom said in his weekly briefing. "It's not just going to take Labor Day off. It's not going to take Halloween off. Or the holidays off."

Newsom also noted that progress against Covid is not even. Central Valley cities in Tulare and Stanislaus counties are seeing a rise by as much as 17 percent in those testing positive for every 100,000 residents – the highest in the state.

"Until we have quality therapeutics, until we have a vaccine, we are going to be living with this virus," Newsom added.

Closer to home, Alameda County is still under state health

watch. Health data on testing including percentage positive and tests per 1,000 persons dropped to just over 5 percent this week.

see WAVE, page 3

## School to Start on Aug. 17

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

San Leandro students will get a few more days of summer vacation so teachers and staff can better prepare for the schools' upcoming year of distance learning.

The first day of the school year will be Monday, Aug. 17, moved back to allow for teacher training.

This new start date gives teachers and staff an opportunity for three full days of distance learning training, said San Leandro Unified School District spokesperson Keziah Moss. The extra time will also give the district an opportunity to distribute necessary materials to the students and their families.

see SCHOOL, page 11

## Census Caravan Rolls through San Leandro

A Census Caravan cruised through San Leandro streets on Saturday, July 25 as a reminder to complete the 2020 Census.

The caravan has been cruising through parts of the Bay Area as a message that everyone counts. The Census Bureau coordinated the caravan and various community representatives responded enthusiastically.

It was important for San Leandro to see a representation of elected officials, agencies and non-profits cruising through their neighborhood sporting Census signs on their vehicles and providing a festive message that their count is important.

The caravan route included neighborhoods and business corridors in the City Council districts of Councilwomen Deborah Cox and Corina Lopez. Additional outreach strategies are being considered for other council districts.

San Leandro has yet to meet an important milestone which is to match its 2010 completion rate of 75 percent. Currently the Census response rate is at 71.2 percent. Counting the remaining people is the most challenging part in completing the census and key for an accurate count.

The caravan included Assemblyman Rob Bonta, Mayor see CENSUS, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

State Assemblyman Rob Bonta and San Leandro City Councilwoman Corina Lopez joined the Census Caravan.

### INSIDE YOUR TIMES

#### MUSIC

Young pianists, saxophonist receive music award. **Page 2**

#### CRIME

County jail employee smuggles in drugs. **Page 3**

#### NEWS

Fire dept. can't find cause of E.14th St. blaze. **Page 4**

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## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

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

### SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



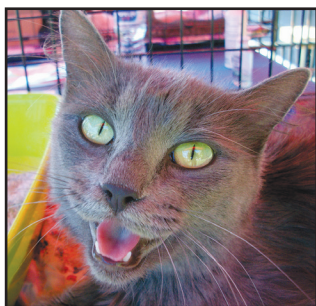
## PETS OF THE WEEK



Nigel

The Pets of the Week from Love All Pawz are Nigel the kitten and Cinder the cat.

Nigel is a sleek, black bundle of sweetness and joy. He is 4 months old, energetic, playful and friendly. Nigel is neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and



Cinder

FIV/FelV negative.

Cinder is about a year old and was rescued with her seven kittens. She's a beautiful, medium hair gray girl who's affectionate and loves attention. Cinder is spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, FIV/FelV negative.

For more information or to adopt Nigel or Cinder, email Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.



Pianist Kyra Batarese, saxophonist Miles Smith, and pianist Elayna Luker received awards from the Music Teachers Association of California.



## Music Students Awarded for their Progress

Congratulations to pianists Kyra Batarese and Elayna Luker, and saxophonist Miles Smith who received the Senior Medallion award from the Music

Teacher's Association of California.

This Senior Award is open to Certificate of Merit high school

seniors at level 7 and above who have successfully participated in evaluations for three out of their four high school years.

## San Leandro Times

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

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California Newspaper Publishers Association member

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## Goats: Foraging in the yard

continued from front page

backyard and will replace the Grodin's plants.

"They were really nice, they came right away," Grodin said. Grodin retired a few years

ago from her company, Grodin Financial Services, which her son David runs today.

Grodin also called her son that morning to tell him about the backyard visitors.

"At first he said, 'Okay, fine.' I think he just thought there were one or two goats in the yard," Grodin said. "And then I sent him the picture and he went, 'Holy Cow.'"

### ANNUAL "OUR READERS REMEMBER" SPECIAL SECTION



# We want to hear your stories!

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

All photos will be returned. Please include your name, address and telephone number on the back of each photo. Items must be submitted by Monday, Aug. 10, at 12 p.m. For more information, call Jim Knowles at 614-1557. For advertising information, call Claudette Morrison at 614-1559 or Linda Nakhai at 915-1513.

## San Leandro Times

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## Free Webinar Offered About Immigration

Officers from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present a virtual naturalization workshop on Thursday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m.

The public is invited to join this webinar. Learn about the naturalization process, and get the latest updates.

These sessions are part of a

larger USCIS initiative to help immigrants better understand their own eligibility and next steps to citizenship.

For sign-on information, please RSVP to Vilaysay.Phavisith@uscis.dhs.gov.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov.

## This Day in History, August 6 ...

In 1945, during World War II, the U.S. B-29 Superfortress dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an

estimated 140,000 deaths.

In 1926, American Gertrude Ederle (20) becomes the first woman to swim English Channel.

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# Jail Guard Supplied Inmate with Phone and Drugs

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office filed multiple felony counts last week against a sheriff's office employee and a county jail inmate.

The criminal complaint stems from an investigation revealing that defendant Alameda County Sheriff's Office technician

Shannon Taylor, on multiple occasions, illegally brought a cell phone and methamphetamine into the jail and furnished it to Leonard Jones, an inmate at Santa Rita Jail. Jones is in jail awaiting trial on murder charges.

It is alleged that the two were working together and that Taylor

was furnishing the methamphetamine for Jones to sell in the jail and sharing in the proceeds of the sales. Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said it is deeply troubling that an employee of the sheriff's department engaged in this degree of criminal conduct. She also commended

**"They not only broke the law, they put inmates and staff at risk."**

— District Attorney Nancy O'Malley

the investigation that uncovered the crimes.

"Shannon Taylor's actions not only violate the law, but also the trust the public places in those working within the justice system," O'Malley said. "My office will ensure that both defendants are held to account. They not only

broke the law, but also put the health and safety of inmates and staff at the jail at risk."

Leonard Jones was due to be arraigned on this new case last Friday. Shannon Taylor was arrested on June 17. She is out of custody and expected to be arraigned on August 14.

## Police Arrest Registered Sex Offender Who Kissed Baby

San Leandro police arrested a 45-year-old man who was registered as a sex offender after a family at Thrasher Park reported that a man climbed into the backseat of their car and kissed their 2-year-old on the lips, according to San Leandro police.

Police say that last Friday the family told them they were putting their 2-year-old in the child seat and the man forced his way into the car. The man was pulled away by a family member and fled the area.

Police began a search based on a description of the man and found him in a homeless camp in San Francisco, according to San Leandro police. They arrested Ralf Peter Schmidt-Dunker, 45, of San Francisco, who is an out-of-compliance sex registrant, according to police.

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, police presented the case against Schmidt-Dunker to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Schmidt-Dunker was subsequently charged with a violation of

288 PC (committing a lewd or lascivious act) and remains in custody at the Santa Rita Jail with no bail allowed.

"Due to the criminal act he committed upon the two year old victim and because he was an out of compliance registered sex offender, detectives believed his acts may become more aggressive towards our younger population and wanted to apprehend him quickly," said Police Lieutenant

Ted Henderson. "We made this case a top priority and located him in a homeless encampment in San Francisco where he was arrested on probable cause without incident," added Lieutenant Henderson.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation or similar incidents that may have happened in the area are urged to call the San Leandro Police Department at 510-577-2740.

## Drivers for Survivors to Hold Virtual Black & White Ball

Drivers For Survivors is a nonprofit organization that provides free transportation service and companionship for ambulatory cancer patients living in East Alameda County.

Since its founding in 2012, it has provided over 21,000 rides for some 600 cancer patients.

To raise funds, Drivers For Survivors will hold a virtual

Black & White Ball from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14, with a VIP pre-event from 5 to 5:45 p.m.

Cost, registration information and details will be announced soon at [www.DFSBall.org](http://www.DFSBall.org).

This year's signature fundraiser commemorates the group's seven-year anniversary serving the community.

## Wave: Numbers need to drop

*continued from front page*

Patients being admitted to the hospital and intensive care units have also declined slightly since last week.

Alameda County's Covid tracker shows the hotspots in the East Bay continue to be in the Fruitvale district, the area around Lake Merritt, East Livermore, Hayward, and the unincorporated areas including Ashland, Cherryland, San Lorenzo, and Fairview.

The Alameda County Board

of Supervisors last week approved the appointment of Dr. Nicholas Moss as Interim County Health Officer. Moss replaces Dr. Erica Pan who took a job as California's disease control expert last month.

During his appointment, Dr. Moss told supervisors that the pandemic could be worse in the fall and winter and apologized for any delays in advising the public to take safety precautions against the spread of Covid.

"As a health department, we

have not done a good enough job to explain the benefits," Moss said of advocating for masks in public.

For Alameda County to revive its re-opening plans, county health officials say they require a significant decrease in the number of infections and related hospitalizations, increasing the county's investigation and contact-tracing staff, and supplying essential workers with a 30-day supply of personal protective equipment.

## County Health Reports 608 Covid Cases in San Leandro

The number of Covid-19 cases in Alameda County reached 12,136 on Wednesday, according to the Alameda County Health Department.

That's 1,503 more cases in a span of a week, the biggest jump since the pandemic began.

The county totals on Wednesday reported 193 deaths in Alameda County from Covid-19, a

1.6 percent fatality rate, and 12 more deaths than the previous week.

The county reports 608 Covid-19 cases in San Leandro, as of Wednesday, a jump of 57 cases in the past week.

The county health department's Covid-19 Dashboard doesn't give the number of deaths in each city. But if the rate were

the same as the county rate, 1.6 percent, there would be about 10 deaths in this city due to Covid-19.

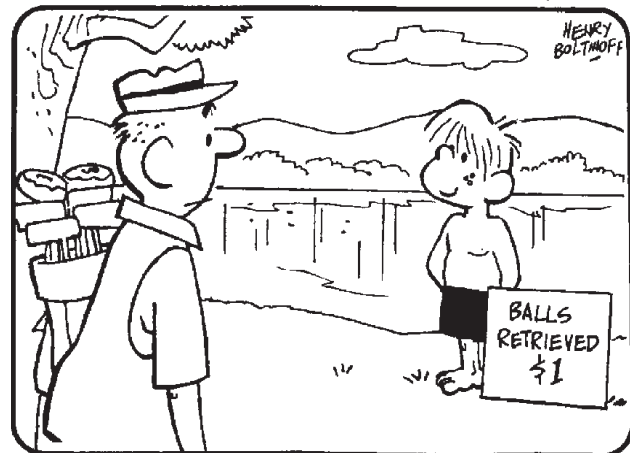
The highest numbers for Covid-19 in Alameda County are Oakland with 4,823 cases (605 more in a week), and Hayward with 1,737 cases. Castro Valley had 338 cases, Fremont 703, Alameda 188, Pleasanton 242, and Union City 359.

### HOCUS-FOCUS

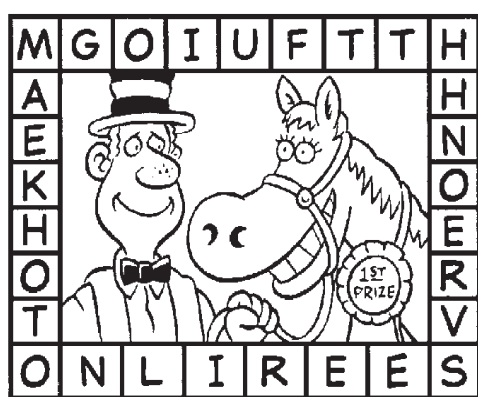
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Golf club is missing. 2. Swim trunks are different. 3. Cloud has moved. 4. Boy's hair is different. 5. Shrub is gone. 6. Hat is different.



**OUR FRIEND HAS WON A HORSE!**  
Hidden in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "N" in the right rail: "Never look a gift horse in the mouth."

### THE PUZZLING POET!

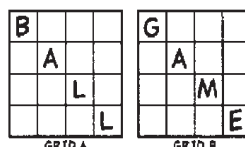
Can you tell us what this word is?

A WORD I KNOW, SIX LETTERS IT CONTAINS; TAKE AWAY ONE AND TWELVE REMAINS.

Answer: The word is DOZENS. Remove the "S" and a DOZEN (12) remains.

**TAKE ME OUT TO THE WORD GAME!** Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

- To be boastful.
- Healing agent.
- Part of hand.
- Face covering.



- Form of dress.
- Young sheep.
- Generates light.
- To exist.

Answers: 1. Brag-garb. 2. Balm-lamb. 3. Palm-lamp. 4. Veil-live.



by Charles Barry Townsend

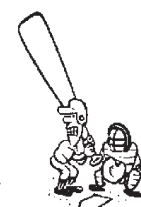


### SHAKE 'N BAKE!

In this puzzle, one word must be changed into another word in a series of moves. You must change only one letter at each move. Can you change the following five words in four moves?

- FALL to RISE
- DOCK to HAND
- CAME to WENT
- CAMP to FIRE
- DEAD to BOLT

Answers: 1. FALL, FILL, FILE, RILE, RISE. 2. DOCK, HOCK, HONK, HANK, HAND. 3. CAME, CANE, WANT, WENT. 4. CAMP, CARP, CARE, FARE, FIRE. 5. DEAD, BEAD, BEAT, BELT, BOLT.





## Fire Cause Remains Unknown

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

A year-long investigation into the cause of a multi-store commercial fire on East 14th Street near Dutton last June has failed to uncover what started the blaze.

That June 21, 2019 fire at 460-464 East 14th Street at Georgia Way closed Sweet Fingers Restaurant, Fashion City, Knops Upholstery and a duplex at 21 and 27 Georgia Way. There was an estimated \$2 million in damages, but nobody was injured.

Alameda County Fire Department fire investigator Andrew Lee, also a deputy chief with the department, did rule out a number of causes. These included a lightning strike, ignition by nearby vehicles catching fire, power lines or electrical transformers

catching fire, incendiary devices outside the building, or damaged gas meters or lines. There were no signs of forced entry into the buildings.

Lee found that the fire had started in a mezzanine area at Knops Upholstery and then spread to the other businesses and the duplex. The floor collapsed near the fire's origin point, making it impossible to conduct an investigation of the interior, where electrical equipment would have been located. The presence of asbestos in the older building also would have required any examination be done by a specialized firm, Lee wrote.

Neighboring businesses, including Bluebell Pizza, Gaitan Upholstery and Metro PCS, were spared damage from the

first itself, but closed briefly to clean up fire-related debris and, in the case of Bluebird, replace food that spoiled when the power was cut off to fight the fire. Those businesses quickly reopened. Gaitan, however, is temporarily closed during the pandemic.

Sweet Fingers remains closed, with city having declared the building unsafe to occupy. Fashion City moved around the corner to 19 Dutton Avenue, while Knops Upholstery is temporarily sharing quarters with Gaitan Upholstery, owned by family friends.

The duplex was repaired and reoccupied, and there is a vacant lot at the corner of East 14th Street and Georgia Way where Knops and Fashion City used to be.

## Longtime San Leandro Political Figure Charles Gilcrest Dies

Eden Health District board member Charles Gilcrest passed away on Monday night, Aug. 3, from complications due to a heart attack.

Gilcrest was involved in San Leandro politics for most of his life. He recently helped oversee the opening of a free Covid-19 testing center in San Leandro sponsored by the Eden Health District.

"Charlie Gilcrest was tireless in his efforts to support the people and causes he believed in," said Gordon Galvan, chair of the Eden Health District board of directors.

Gilcrest was a lifelong resident of San Leandro and engaged in community affairs his entire adult life and possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of San Leandro's history.

Among the positions Gilcrest held were President of the Business Association of South San Leandro (BASSL) and of the Halcyon Foothill Neighborhood Association, chair of the Joint Project Area Redevelopment Advisory Committee and of the Board of Zoning Adjustments, and member of the City's Human Services Commission.



Charles Gilcrest

Gilcrest was present at nearly every San Leandro community festival, volunteering for Davis Street and other nonprofit organizations participating in or organizing the festival.

When San Leandro Mayor Pauline Cutter declared Nov. 7, 2018, as Charles Gilcrest Day in the city, she said, "Charlie has mentored and guided both aspiring and veteran political leaders and continues to be a loyal, beloved friend and community advocate who ardently dedicates himself to San Leandro."

Former San Leandro Mayor and State Senator Ellen Corbett remembers Gilcrest as kind and generous.

"Charlie Gilcrest was a kind-hearted soul," Corbett said. He was generous, sharing his political wisdom and his positive outlook freely. He deeply cared about his San Leandro community and he showed it through his volunteerism and civic engagement."

Former mayor Shelia Young

**"Charlie has mentored both aspiring and veteran political leaders."**

— Mayor Pauline Cutter

said Gilcrest will be missed by many, especially her husband, Irish.

"Charlie never forgot to check on him even during his own health concerns," Young said. "We are both touched by Charlie's personal caring style."

Former San Leandro Mayor Stephen Cassidy added, "Charlie had a brilliant mind and gentle nature. Charlie used his gifts to make our city and the Eden Area better."

The public is invited to share memories of Gilcrest on the memorial page of GatheringUs: [www.gatheringus.com](http://www.gatheringus.com).

## Census: Everyone must be counted

continued from front page

Pauline Cutter, Council members Lopez and Cox along with Assessor Phong La and staff, AC Transit board member Elsa Ortiz, Davis Street Community Center staff and the Census Bureau.

Assembly member Bonta echoed key messages shared by

those in the caravan.

"The Census only happens once every 10 years and that means everyone must be counted because billions and billions of dollars for communities depend on it," Bonta said. "It's easy, safe and important. Do your part and complete the census at 2020census.gov."

sus.gov."

"Now that we are weeks away from the Census deadline, it is imperative that the 30 percent of the uncounted residents in our city submit their household counts," said Mayor Cutter. "Essential government funding depends on individual counts."

## Connolly's Closing: Shutdown Takes Toll on 75-Year-Old Store

By Linda Sandmark  
San Leandro Times

Connolly's Furniture and Mattress store in Castro Valley will be closing its doors after 75 years in business, due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

"Unfortunately, because of Covid we have to close," says store manager Danielle Connolly.

Connolly's has been a favorite with local residents. Past customers received notices from owner Steve Connolly about the

closing and liquidation.

"My great, great grandfather first opened in 1945 in Fremont," says Danielle. "We expanded, but the area in Fremont where we were located was re-zoned. We came to Castro Valley in 2013 and also opened another store in Livermore. We're having a sale in both locations, and we'll be open as long as we have inventory."

Connolly's friendly design staff specialized in custom orders



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE CONNOLLY

Connolly's original furniture store opened in 1945 in Fremont. It was called Walter Connolly's Appliances and Furnishings.



PHOTO BY LINDA SANDMARK

Connolly's Furniture and Mattress Store is located at 20600 Redwood Road in Castro Valley.

FILED  
JULY 17, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 571443

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): CM Therapeutix located at 613 Minaret Way, Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cynthia M. Green, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Cynthia M. Green  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires JULY 17, 2025

AUGUST 06, 13, 20, 27, 2020  
275-SLT

FILED  
JULY 20, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 571500

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): (1) Tequila Bar & Grill and (2) Tequila Grill, located at 1350 E. 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, are hereby registered by the following owner(s): KKROS Inc, 28304 Hayward Blvd., Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ KKROS Inc  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires JULY 20, 2025

AUGUST 06, 13, 20, 27, 2020  
276-SLT

for indoor, home entertainment, office, and outdoor living spaces. Now the inventory is being offered at up to 75 percent off.

"We've loved being in Cas-

tro Valley. This town has been such a delight," says Danielle. "It's been sad for our customers here, because they want to shop locally. We have top quality

designers, and we always try to make our customer's house a home. We want to thank the Castro Valley community and our customers for treating us

so well."

Connolly's Furniture and Mattress is located at 20600 Redwood Road. The Livermore store is located at 2193 First Street.

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**Wear Your Mask!  
Stop the Spread!**



## LIFESTYLE



## The Best Thing That Ever Happened to Spinach

POPEYE first appeared in the King Features comic strip in 1929 and quickly became the most famous Sailor Man to ever smoke a pipe and extol the virtues of spinach.

*"I'm strong to the finish, 'cause I eat me spinach."*

He was the best thing that ever hit the spinach industry. Kids in the 1930s and '40s who wouldn't eat lima beans or peas, begged for spinach, especially if it came from a can.

Fresh spinach is available year-round. Look for bright green, unwilted leaves.

Once at home, wrap spinach in paper towels and store in a plastic bag in your refrigerator's crisper. Whether prebagged or home-bagged, spinach should last about three to four days. Spinach goes well with all kinds of foods.

## SAUTEED SPINACH

2 large bunches of spinach (about 1 pound)  
Olive oil  
3 cloves garlic, sliced  
Salt to taste

Cut off the thick stems of the spinach and discard. Clean the spinach by filling up a large pan with water and soaking the spinach to loosen any sand or dirt. Drain and then repeat soaking and draining. Put the spinach in a sal-

ad spinner to remove any excess moisture.

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large skillet on medium high heat. Add the garlic and sauté for about 1 minute, until the garlic is just beginning to brown.

Add the spinach to the pan, packing it down a bit if you need to with your hand. Use a couple spatulas to lift the spinach and turn it over in the pan so that you coat more of it with the olive oil and garlic. Do this a couple of times.

Cover pan and cook for 1 minute. Uncover and turn the spinach over again. Cover the pan and cook for an additional minute.

After 2 minutes of covered cooking the spinach should be completely wilted. Remove from heat. Drain any excess moisture from the pan. Add a little more olive oil, sprinkle with salt to taste. Serve immediately. Serves 4. Grate a little nutmeg and black pepper over, if you like.

## SPINACH &amp; BACON QUICHE

6 large eggs, beaten  
1-1/2 cups heavy cream  
Salt and pepper  
2 cups chopped fresh baby spinach, packed  
1 pound bacon, cooked and crumbled  
1-1/2 cups shredded Swiss cheese  
1 (9-inch) refrigerated pie crust, fitted to a 9-inch glass pie plate

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Combine eggs, cream, salt, and pepper in a food processor or blender. Layer the spinach, bacon, and cheese in the bottom of the pie crust, then pour the egg mixture on top. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes until the egg mixture is set. Cut into 8 wedges. Yields 8 servings.

## SPINACH &amp; CHICKEN CASSEROLE

1 (10 3/4-oz) can Campbell's Condensed Cream of Celery Soup  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves, crushed  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
1 (10-oz) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well-drained  
2 cups cubed cooked chicken  
2/3 cup orzo pasta, cooked and drained  
1/2 cup shredded Italian cheese blend

Stir the soup, water, oregano, black pepper, spinach, chicken and pasta in a 2-quart shallow baking dish. Cover the baking dish.

Bake at 375°F for 30 minutes or until the chicken mixture is hot and bubbling. Sprinkle with the cheese. Serves 4.

## BAKED SPINACH

1-1/4 pounds spinach  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
3 eggs, beaten  
3/4 cup shredded Cheddar

cheese  
1/2 cup dried bread crumbs  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley (optional)  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
1 cup milk  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 2 quart baking dish.

Clean spinach thoroughly. Remove all excess water. Chop spinach. Arrange spinach and flour in layers, nestle beaten eggs about midway between the layers.

Combine cheese and bread crumbs. Mix in optional parsley, if desired. Sprinkle over top of spinach. Mix butter or margarine, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over all ingredients. Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes to one hour. Serves 8.

## WARM SPINACH SALAD

1/2 cup pecan halves  
6 slices bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces  
1 red onion, halved and thinly sliced  
2 cups grape tomatoes  
1/3 cup white-wine vinegar  
1 tablespoon sugar  
2 to 3 bunches (1-1/2 pounds

total) flat-leaf spinach, trimmed, cleaned, and dried  
Coarse salt and ground pepper

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spread pecans on a rimmed baking sheet, and toast in oven until golden and fragrant, 10 to 15 minutes. Set aside.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, cook bacon, stirring occasionally, until browned and crisp, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer to a paper-towel-lined plate. Pour off all but 3 tablespoons fat from skillet. Add onion to skillet; cook, stirring occasionally, until crisp-tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Add tomatoes, vinegar, and sugar; simmer until liquid thickens slightly and tomatoes are heated through, 1 to 2 minutes.

Place spinach in a large bowl, and pour hot tomato-onion mixture over; toss quickly to coat and wilt spinach. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with reserved pecans and bacon.

## SPINACH WITH NUTMEG

20 ounces fresh spinach  
2 tablespoons extra-virgin

olive oil  
Salt and pepper  
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
Lemon wedges, for serving

Trim, rinse, and drain spinach. In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high, then add as much spinach as will fit. Season spinach with salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Cook, tossing and adding more spinach as room becomes available, until just wilted, 3 to 5 minutes. Serve with lemon wedges.

## SPINACH &amp; COTTAGE CHEESE CASSEROLE

1 cup cottage cheese  
3 eggs  
3 tablespoons flour  
1/4 pound Cheddar cheese  
1 package frozen spinach  
3 tablespoons butter  
Salt to taste

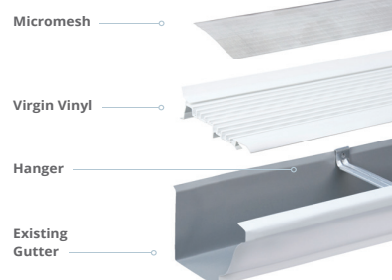
Mix cottage cheese, eggs, flour, salt and half o cheddar cheese and stir. Pour into greased casserole dish. Thaw leaf spinach only long enough to cut into 4 pieces, triangle shape. Put the rest of cheese on top, being sure to spread cheese along edges and between spinach. Dot with butter. Bake 1 hour and 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves 4.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## COVID-19 Prompting New Round of Real Estate Questions

Growing up in a lower-income home, mealtimes were an adventure to see what cost-effective solutions hit the plate. Occasionally we'd splurge and visit a buffet: for us kids, it was a yearly highlight.

Not to waste the opportunity of all-we-could-eat food, we never went to simply eat a meal: we attacked the tables with the mentality of bears storing up for the winter.

Recently passing a buffet, I was startled to see a "Permanently Closed" notice. A Google search of buffets revealed a trend: due to COVID-19, national buffet chains are permanently shuttering locations and laying off thousands.

It is no surprise restaurants are suffering, along with hotels, sports and performing arts venues, home furnishing stores, movie and recording industries, dentists, laundry services, clothing stores, casinos, amusement parks, sightseeing tours and the travel industry.

With no end in sight, it is difficult to imagine what will be left once restrictions lift and harder yet to visualize what changes will be forced on businesses to allow re-engagement. Quoting one buffet executive, "Bans on restaurant self-serve operations may spell the permanent demise of buffets as we have known them."

While many segments of our economy are reeling and thousands have permanently lost jobs, the stock market has recorded its best comeback in over 80 years as values have rebounded into pre-collapse territory.

It is hard to imagine how this is possible, given the fact that our economy is reinventing itself on the fly. Some are predicting even larger gains as reopening begins.

Real estate is another conundrum with values soaring across the country. Propelled by inventory shortages that predate the pandemic, we saw a momentary Covid-related hiccup in hous-

ing values before grabbing their footing again and continuing upward. Multiple offers have again become commonplace as buyers duke it out for their piece of the American dream.

All of which prompts a few questions.

What happens when job losses and the corresponding inability to make loan payments means thousands will be forced to sell their homes?

What about those unable to repay loan forbearances when banks demand?

What will happen to rental housing stock as tenants are increasingly unable to pay rents, local municipalities continue forbidding evictions and landlords consequently choose to liquidate assets?

What happens if companies allow employees to permanently work from home and they no longer need expensive housing within commute distance to their jobs?

Inquiring minds would like to know.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association.

## HOME of the WEEK

4 Bedrooms / 2 Baths /  
2 Kitchens / 2 Car Garage

Lovely home in great Castro Valley neighborhood features refinished hardwood floors, fresh interior paint and a view of Lake Chabot rolling hills. Downstairs possible 4th bedroom or ADU which has full bath, additional kitchen, large bonus room with closets, and separate entrance. Large 6500+ sq.ft. corner lot on cul-de-sac. Grapes and lemons grow in the nicely landscaped backyard. Enjoy nearby Lake Chabot Regional Park.

See a video of this home here: <https://3473BrookdaleBlvd94546.f8re.com>



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## The Hot Take on Peppers

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Times

What has happened to my hot peppers? They get about a foot tall and stop

growing with no peppers. This happened last year, so I changed the location with the same results. What do I need to do to



solve my dilemma?

This is not an uncommon problem here in the Bay Area with hot peppers and tomatoes. Both like warm days and nights to grow and produce. So they thrive inland more than they would next to the coast.

It's the nighttime temperatures that are the most critical. The plants stagnate or stop growing when the temperatures dip below 55°F for several days. Once the plants stop growing, they are very slow to recover when the temperatures warm up.

It's more likely to be a problem with plants set out in March and April than in those planted in May. Cool nights in July and August affect production. The plant flowers, but there are no tomatoes or peppers.

My suggestion is to plant your peppers in mid-May next spring to avoid those early-season temperature changes. The most desirable location is the one with the warmest afternoon temperature.

Another option is to plant at your regular time and be prepared to replace any plants

that begin to struggle. Peppers can be planted right through June, although the selection becomes limited. Bell or the sweet peppers don't require as much heat, so they will grow in a cooler location.

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 sent by email to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com) or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/BuzzBertolero](https://www.facebook.com/BuzzBertolero).



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# Thoughts on Butterfly Gardens; Moving Bougainvilleas Difficult, Not Impossible

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Times

**Q** I'd like to plant a butterfly garden. I have a list of plants and am looking for some other suggestions as to what to include. Do you have any other thoughts?

**A** Here are some other things to consider with a Butterfly garden. Plants that attract Butterflies are divided between larval food varieties and adult nectar plants.

Butterflies go through four different stages or metamorphosis – egg, larvae, pupa, and adult. Both types of plants are crucial, so the garden must include each type.

The larvae are a type of caterpillar that eats foliage, so I'd arrange the larva plants in the center or towards the back, so the damaged foliage is somewhat hidden.

Also, include an eastern-facing flat rock or two, as butter-

flies will use the rocks to start their day. They will spread their wings like a solar panel to use the reflected heat to warm themselves. And finally, you visit a public demonstration garden like the Hummingbird and Butterfly Gardens at Coyote Point Museum, now called CuriOdyssey at [www.curiodyyssey.org](http://www.curiodyyssey.org) in San Mateo, Heather Farms at [www.gardenshf.org/](http://www.gardenshf.org/) in Walnut Creek, or the UC Botanical Gardens at [botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/](http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/) for additional ideas.

**Q** I need to move an established bougainvillea so we can enlarge our family room. Can it be transplanted at this time of the year? I really would like it to survive.

**A** Bougainvilleas can be successfully transplanted from containers, but this is not always the case with established plants.

They have a very fine root system that doesn't knit tightly to form a solid rootball. When they're moved, the root ball breaks apart, reducing the survival rate.

This is not an ideal time to move with the warm days and nights. You'd be better off if you waited until October, but that may not be an option. So, here is how I'd go about moving it now.

I'd try to do this during the early morning or evening, avoiding the heat of the day. The first thing to do is prune the canopy back severely. This reduces the demand on the roots.

Then dig around the plant to form the root ball and support it by lining it with cardboard secured with ties. I'd use several bungee cord ties available at any home improvement store and secure it tightly.

Next, carefully tip the root ball over, cutting the roots as you go. The rootball is then picked up or slid carefully to a new location and placed upright in the new hole.

As the backfill is added, remove the ties but not the cardboard (it will decompose naturally). Cut off any cardboard that extends above the soil.

Proper planting techniques are employed by amending the backfill with soil amendments, and be sure not to bury the root ball too deep. Finally, take a few digital pictures of it for the refrigerator before you start. In this way, you avoid the last memory of your favorite plant, collapsing, turning brown, and then dying.

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



## Mortgage Rates Decline a Little

Long-term mortgage rates slipped back below 3 percent last week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.99 percent for the week ending July 30, down from 3.01 percent a week earlier. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.75 percent.

Fifteen-year mortgages averaged 2.51 percent and five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged

2.94 percent.

"It's Groundhog Day in the mortgage market as rates continue to remain near historic lows, driving purchase demand over 20 percent above a year ago," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "Real estate is one of the bright spots in the economy, with strong demand and modest slowdown in home prices heading into the late summer. Home sales should remain strong the next few months into the early fall."

**Start in summer for fall harvest**

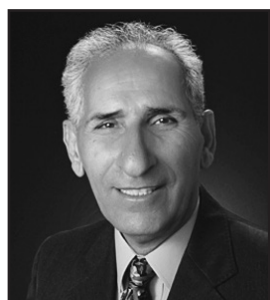
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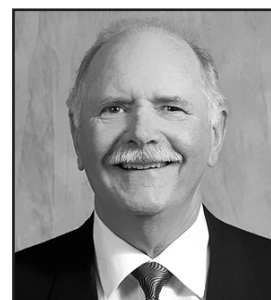
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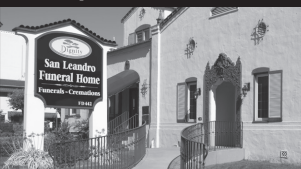
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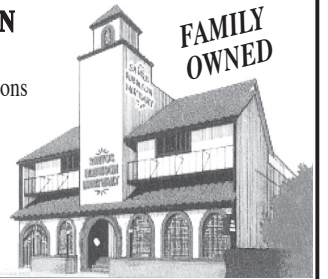
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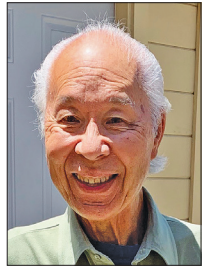
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## LOCAL DEATHS

### L.W. "Rick" Quon

L.W. "Rick" Quon - Former owner of the Terrace Market in San Leandro passed away peacefully on July 29, 2020 at age of 88. Born in Canton, China in 1931, he immigrated to the United States in 1939 and grew up in Lemoore, CA. In 1950, he joined the U.S. Navy and served four years during the Korean war. In 1960, he bought the Terrace Market and retired in 1993.



Rick was a life member of the Wa Sung Chinese Service Club and a member of the Moose Club in Castro Valley. After retirement, he enjoyed traveling with the Gold Key Club of San Leandro, gardening, and being with his family.

Rick is survived by his loving wife, Tootsie of 62 years, beloved father of Julie Brandt (AJ) and David Quon (Ana), proud Papa to Nicole (Mike), Ali (Marlin), Stephanie and Sara, and Great Papa to Lincoln and Kelsey. He was well respected by his family and friends, and will be remembered by all who knew him for his kind and generous spirit. He had a smile for everyone and will be truly missed. We picture him now with a glass of Crown Royal toasting all of us! He had requested no services. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested any donations to go to the Disabled Veterans of America.

## LOCAL DEATHS

### Ralph Dwayne Holcombe

March 20, 1930 – July 22, 2020

Ralph Dwayne Holcombe, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away July 22, 2020, in his sleep at his Castro Valley home, after struggling with illness for several years. He was 90.

Mr. Holcombe was born March 20, 1930, in the Kansas farming hamlet of WaKeeney, the first child of the late Ralph E. and Stella Holcombe. Living through hardscrabble times of the Great Depression and World War II, he was greatly influenced by his loving stepfather Carl Samuelson and his kind uncle Ray Holcombe, who played pivotal roles in teaching him lessons of kindness, respect, and resolve, helping make a teenager a man.

He graduated in 1949 from North Kansas City High School and for a time was a clerk at an A and P Market in North Kansas City. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1949, serving with distinction during the Korean War in the Pacific as an aircraft carrier aviation mechanic, including aboard the U.S.S. Coral Sea. He was honorably discharged in March 1952 as a Petty Officer 3rd Class.

He would later enthrall his children and grandchildren with tales of high seas and port-of-call adventures, while always emphasizing hard work, service, and duty.

He joined Trans World Airlines in 1952 as a mechanic at its Kansas City headquarters, before transferring to TWA's San Francisco International Airport facility in 1957.

He acquired A and P mechanic licenses, became a master mechanic in 1960, an equipment mechanics lead in 1968, and had management roles before retiring in 1992 after 40 years with TWA. A fond memory was former TWA owner Howard Hughes flying in to settle labor disputes.

He lived in Union City, CA, for many years. After losing his first wife of 34 years, Catherine Holcombe, in 1985, he found love again, marrying Ardis Holcombe in 1987 and settling in Castro Valley.

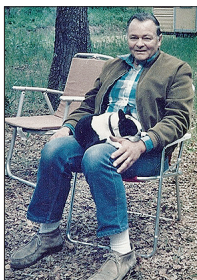
When younger, Mr. Holcombe enjoyed water skiing, classic cars, and building high-performance engines – leading to numerous lake races in his green-fire Cheetah boat and occasional stop-light challenges to unsuspecting motorists.

A great joy was traveling and cruises with Ardis throughout North America and Europe, and memorable summer trips with their beloved grandchildren across the American West and Canada.

Mr. Holcombe is survived by his wife of 33 years, Ardis, a half-sister, Ethyle Rae Vercruyssen, of Chico, CA, a son from his first marriage, Carl Holcombe, of Iowa City, IA, a step-daughter, Susan Hall, and a step-son, James Anderson (Kelly), of Castro Valley, four grandchildren, Trevor Hall (Morgan) of Portland, OR, Jordan Hall of Castro Valley, Alexis Azevedo (Tony) of Oakland, and Hayley Hall (Ryan), of Hayward, a great-grandson, Jayden Azevedo, of Oakland, and several nieces and nephews in Kansas, Texas, and Northern California.

He was preceded in death by his kid sister, Irene Decker, of Phoenix, in 1999, and a son-in-law, David Hall, in 2016.

He was a good, honest, and decent man, who will be forever missed by family, friends, and the lives he graced along his life's journey.



**TIMES OBITUARIES** may be submitted online at [ebpublishing.com](http://ebpublishing.com), emailed to [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com) or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number.

### Jean Audrey Turner

August 27, 1926 ~ July 5, 2020

Jean was born in Manila, Philippines. Her father, Don Biddinger, was stationed on an army base there with her mother, Goldie Uffelman Biddinger, when Jean was born. Jean had two sisters, Winifred and Patricia, who predeceased her.

Jean spent her younger years in Pennsylvania, San Diego, and Alexandria, VA. One highlight of her young life was marching in the third inaugural parade for Franklin D. Roosevelt in early 1941. Jean graduated from high school in 1942 and went onto San Diego State College and then to U.C. Berkeley for an undergraduate degree in Foreign Languages. She became a middle school teacher in Santa Cruz right after graduating in 1946. She only kept that job for one year before deciding to move to Oakland. Over the years, Jean worked as a substitute teacher, for the YWCA, as an office manager and more. She met her husband, Robert (Bob) Lynn Turner, in 1947 while they were both living in a boarding house. They married in 1949. Bob and Jean had five children over the course of 15 years as the family moved back and forth across the country with Bob's career.

Jean was passionate about her family, crossword puzzles, reading, travel, and volunteering (PTA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, AAUW, League of Women's Voters, and H.I.S. House to name a few). Jean served as an elected official to the Placentia Library Board, as President of the Placentia-Yorba Linda AAUW branch, PTA President, Girl Scout troop leader, plus as an elder and deacon at Placentia Presbyterian Church. She was an independent woman who also loved being part of a couple. Jean and Bob loved to dance and shared that joy with their kids.

Jean is survived by her children: Linda Slater, Nancy Turner (John Hendry), Alane Gaver, Don Turner (Dinah), and Diana Turner (Ivan Kreger). Grandchildren: Emily, Brian, Elizabeth (Jason), Naomi (Erin), Nili (Jeremy), David (Karley), and Samantha (Dresden). Great-grandchildren: Angelica, Olivia, Ashton, Cheyane, Jacob, Abigail, and Jack. Nieces: Susan and Donna. Great-niece and nephew: Miranda and Rich. Rebecca Hendry predeceased her grandma.

A memorial service will be held on Zoom via the First Presbyterian Church of Hayward on Sat., August 15 at 1 p.m. The Zoom link will be on [firstpresheyward.com](http://firstpresheyward.com) by Aug. 10. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Placentia Library, [www.placentialibraryfriends.com](http://www.placentialibraryfriends.com) or make a gift to AAUW in memory of Jean Turner, [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)



### Hilda Dolores Jones

Hilda Jones was born in Oakland, CA on August 16, 1922 and she went to be with the Lord on July 25, 2020.

Hilda was married to the love of her life John Owen Jones, Jr. (Jack) who passed away on March 4, 2020. Hilda and Jack were married in 1942 and celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary on August 5, 2019. Hilda and Jack raised their family in San Leandro, CA where they lived for over 50 years. They moved to Bakersfield in 2014.

Hilda is survived by her daughter, Dolores Robison of Bakersfield, CA and son Robert Jones of Florida. Besides Jack, she was predeceased by two daughters, Linda Jones and Darlene Roderick. Hilda was loving grandmother to 6 grandchildren and had 9 great-grandchildren.

Hilda was a caring mother and attentive homemaker. Hilda's main priority was always her home and family. Hilda enjoyed traveling with Jack and their many friends and was especially fond of cruises. She was also known to enjoy trips to casinos and could typically be found at a Wheel of Fortune slot machine, where she always seemed to be a winner! She enjoyed bowling and also excelled at "bean bag baseball" and was on a championship team when she and Jack lived at The Carriage House (now Solstice). Hilda had a special close relationship with her twin sister Clara, who also predeceased her.

Although she will be missed by her family, we are all taking comfort in knowing that Hilda and Jack are together again in heaven with Jesus, where they always wanted to be.

Funeral service was held in Bakersfield on Monday, August 3rd with Internment at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Hayward on Tuesday, August 4.





# School: 'Health data will determine when a school can be physically open'

continued from front page

"You will hear more details from your school's principal about how materials will be distributed, which will include Chromebooks for any students who do not have one and hotspots for those families who do not have internet service," Moss said.

Last month, the school board announced plans for a distance learning model for the upcoming school year. The format is based

on students learning at home with teachers instructing and assigning work with a combination of on-line video, web-based activities, and discussion boards.

The decision to move forward with distance learning was based on the Covid-19 pandemic guidelines and a new 12-point guidance plan released Monday by California's Department of Public Health.

"The virus will be with us

for a year or more, and school districts must provide meaningful instruction in the midst of this pandemic," Governor Newsom said on Monday. "In California, health data will determine when a school can be physically open, and when it must close, but learning should never stop."

The guidance means San Leandro schools could remain in distance learning longer than anticipated if Alameda County

remains on the state watch list due to elevated disease transmission. San Leandro Teachers Association president Tom Morse says the district made the right move to start the year with a distance learning model.

"The San Leandro Teachers Association will continue to advocate for the highest health and safety standards for students, the community and for our members," Morse said via email. "We

are also working with the District to develop a realistic plan that allocates sufficient resources to do our work under these conditions."

As the district begins its distance learning training, Moss noted that meal service will be suspended the week of Aug. 10 through 14 as the staff must prepare for the start of school. The summer meal program schedule will continue until Friday, Aug. 7. Meal service will reopen on

Aug. 17 and in more locations, Moss added.

Moss says the district will also be holding some community forums before the start of school.

"These meetings will provide you with the opportunity to hear more about the details about how we will orient students and families to the distance model of teaching and learning for the 2020-2021 school year," Moss said.

## OPINION

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and **must be under 300 words**. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: [letters@ebpublishing.com](mailto:letters@ebpublishing.com) or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

#### Unless We Take Virus Seriously...

Editor:

While progress is being made on the development of a vaccine and physicians have better techniques and medications for treating Covid-19 than they did at the beginning of the pandemic, the coronavirus is a larger threat to Californians today than at any time previous during the pandemic.

Deaths take roughly a month to increase after cases increase. By the end of May, much of the state had reopened and many people assumed open meant safe.

In June, confirmed cases increased rapidly leading to a surge in deaths in July. The number of deaths increased from 1,767 in June to 3,025 in July. Cases continued to rise rapidly through much of July. That sets up August for a higher, perhaps far higher, death toll than in July.

The only silver lining, if there is one, is that the number of coronavirus cases started to decrease at the end of July. If this continues, we should see the number of persons that die from Covid-19 in September be less than in August. But the number of daily cases is still at a high level. The death toll in September could be similar to the July's death toll.

One well-regarded model projects 19,277 total deaths in California from the beginning of the pandemic through November 1, 2020. Unless we truly take mask usage and physical distancing seriously and clamp down on crowds in indoor settings, we may exceed even this terrible number of deaths in our state.

—Stephen Cassidy  
San Leandro

#### Accuses Council of Provocation

Editor:

In the July 23 issue of the San Leandro Times, Aaron Baldwin writes, in reference to my letters: "I'm certain that he has no idea what work looks like. Obviously, his idle hands have little better to do than concoct alarmism and harass City Council workers. San Leandro Times must be incompetent if they permit this to continue as they do. If they do not act soon, I fear the situation could spiral out of control."

Are you out of control, Aaron Baldwin?

This is why any little twerp feels emboldened and goes from insults to threats, in a display of Democrats' "democracy."

The San Leandro City Council is a precursor of street vandalism since painting those rainbow crosswalks, with total disregard for the opinions of the majority of the citizens who voted in the majority in California against gay marriages; a real provocation.

Today the City Council joins the vandals and their supporters in yet another provocation by painting Black Lives Matter in the streets of this city. All of those who cared about black lives should be denouncing the criminals who leave dozens dead every week in the streets of U.S. cities. Hypocrites!

Cities like San Leandro whose police departments are soft on criminals, are the preferred target of the vandals who ransacked stores and stole some 100 cars and the San Leandro police were nowhere to be seen. Oh, but the San Leandro police descend in mass on the neighborhood barbecues on National Night Out; under the leadership of Jeff Tudor.

This City Council is following the guidance of a goofy governor whose idea of fighting the Coronavirus is by releasing up to 10,000 criminals into the streets. Actually, the real purpose is to beef up the Democratic Party's army of vandals, in order to continue creating chaos and terrorizing the population for political gain.

—Leo T. West  
San Leandro

#### POTUS 'Not a Reality Show'

Editor:

Confidence Man Extraordinary: Featuring Donald Trump and his Republican Cohorts. Soon at fine book stores everywhere.

Live ubiquitous daily tweetings, and a bird in a cage of its own making. President Trump speaking in tongues only he and his dwindling minions can justify. Trump now dons a mask as his approval rating sinks to 36. A near unrecoverable loss.

Lest you've forgotten: Trump lowered the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% adding 1.5 Trillion to the federal deficit over the next decade. Rewarding the super rich who gave big donations to his 2016 election. Promoting socialism for the rich and detrimental capitalism for everyone else. You really think Trump is a President Of The People. By The People, For The People? Never!

If you're not with Trump you're part of the grand conspiracy to destroy him. It's the democrats, the very many he's hired, abused and fired, Coronavirus, CDC, The World Health Organization, Dr. Fauci, States Governors and Mayors, New York Times, Washington Post, China, and now the Supreme Court has ruled against him. His lies and nondisclosures soon exposed through 8 years of Trump and the Trump Organization subpoenaed tax returns—revealed and prosecuted in early 2021. Trump is exceedingly desperate and will do what ever it takes for him to remain in power.

President of the United States is not a reality TV show. It's an exceedingly important position not to be trifled with in the U.S. Senate, International Politics or Civil Rights. An effective leader is capable of leading people through and out of the worst of disasters, standing tall and worthy of respect. Sadly there is no such qualification with which President Trump can aspire.

—Dwight Pitcaithley  
San Leandro



### INQUIRING REPORTER

#### Has anything good come out of the pandemic?

— Asked downtown

Being closer to family. Even though everything is shut down, you stay in touch. Just appreciating your family.

**Nancy Garcia**  
Hayward



From a financial standpoint, companies finding ways to do business – doing take-out, selling products without contact, just being creative.

**Alberto Garcia**  
Hayward



Learning to appreciate medical workers a whole lot more. They're our heroes. They're just wonderful, and so are our police and firefighters.

**Michelle Harris**  
San Leandro



I think people are really deciding what's important in their lives – that it's people, not things.

**Leslie Byrne**  
San Leandro



Less people in the stores, and it makes people a lot more aware of future issues, other pandemics or disasters. This isn't going anywhere soon. This is the new normal and we just have to get used to it.

**John Payne**  
San Leandro





## SENIORS

## What Happens If I Die Without a Will?

*Q: If I die without a will, do my assets go to the state?*

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

**A:** Generally, no. The state would be the last potential recipient, and then only if your successors or next of kin could not be located.

Here is how your assets would be handled under California law:

**Joint Tenancy Assets:** Assets held in joint tenancy form, such as "John Jones and Mary Jones as Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship" (sometimes abbreviated JTWSR), or merely as "joint tenants") would go to the surviving joint tenant, and this would be the result even if you had a Will; in essence, the Joint Tenancy overrides a Will.

If you are the survivor, then they would go to you and, upon your later demise, would go as your separate property as noted

below.

**Beneficiary Assets:** Assets titled in a manner which designates specific beneficiaries would go to those beneficiaries. Examples: Financial accounts with "Pay on Death" or "Transfer on Death" designations, insurance and annuity policies, and retirement assets such as IRA's and 401(k) accounts. Again, the named beneficiaries would take even if you had a Will.

**Other Assets:** other assets, including those held in your name, alone, would go to your next of kin under the California law of Intestate Succession. Dying intestate means dying without a Will. In this situation, California law sets out a plan of distribution as follows:

• **Community Property:** all would go to your spouse or Registered Domestic Partner

("RDP") if he/she survived you.

If you, yourself, were the survivor, the assets would go to you as your separate property, but subject to the special 15 year rule for a predeceased spouse, as noted below;

• **Separate Property:** assets would go to your surviving spouse/RDP and to your children. The allocation would depend upon the number of children you have: (1) if you are survived by a spouse/RDP and only one child, they would each split 50/50; (2) if you are survived by a spouse/RDP and two or more children, your surviving spouse/RDP would receive only one-third and the children would divide the remaining two-thirds.

• **The 15 year rule:** if you had a former spouse/RDP who died less than 15 years before you, but left his/her own children sur-

viving, then the portion of your estate attributable to your predeceased spouse would go to his/her surviving children.

If none of the above provisions direct distribution of your estate, then the law looks to your family tree: Ownership would first to your parents if alive, then to your brothers and sisters, then to your nieces and nephews, then to more remote family members in a prescribed order based upon consanguinity.

Only if no one in your extended tree can be located, would your assets escheat to the state.

However, this comment is not an invitation to forego making a Will or a Trust, because you would then give up some advantages that they offer, such as: the right to (1) designate your own beneficiaries, (2) name the overseer of your estate, (3) do tax



planning, (4) protect the inheritance of children from former marriages, (5) create protective trusts for minors or persons on public benefits, (6) provide management in event of your own incapacity and long term care, (7) the option of avoiding probate by creating a Living Trust,

and more.

So, do make that Will or Trust. Remember that a Will, unlike a Trust, generally requires a probate.

*Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).*

## How to Help Friends Vote Absentee

For military members and their families stationed away and U.S. citizens living abroad, family and friends are vital connections to life back home. For the 2020 general election, those friends can be an important source of voting information, especially for young people voting for the first time. And this year it's even more important to register and request an absentee ballot early to avoid potential mail delays or other disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

An easy way to help loved ones in the military or abroad vote absentee is by referring them

to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), which provides tools and resources to ensure that American citizens can vote from anywhere in the world.

Voters can visit FVAP.gov to find state-by-state official registration and ballot request deadlines, as well as information on completing a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which is the registration and ballot request form, and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), the backup ballot. Both forms are available at FVAP.gov and can be filled out with the online assistant or by hand. For additional infor-

mation, visit FVAP.gov, email [Vote@FVAP.gov](mailto:Vote@FVAP.gov) or call 1-800-438-VOTE (8683).

Important things to remember:

1. Submitting your FPCA early is the best way to help ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible.

2. Using the FPCA provides our Service members, their families and overseas citizens with an option to receive balloting materials electronically.

3. Using the FPCA early grants voters the ability to use the FWAB as a backup ballot, if needed.

*-Statepoint*

## Getting Up Off the Floor

**By Matilda Charles**  
*Special to the Times*

With aging, we lose muscle. With all the staying home we're doing now, we're losing more muscle. We have to fight against that.

One serious result of losing muscle at our age is the simple task of getting up off the floor. It can happen to anybody our age: You look for something at the back of the bottom shelf of the refrigerator, and suddenly there you are, sitting on the kitchen floor, unable to get up.

Even if you can reach the phone to call for help, think about what happens next. The EMT crew will show up, but they won't come rushing in. Not nowadays. Now they want to determine whether or not you're likely to have the COVID virus. If there's any risk at all, they're likely to suit up with all their biohazard gear before they even come in the house.

The best way to avoid all that drama is to not lose those mus-

cles and to know a few techniques for getting up again.

Ordinarily I'd say to ask your senior center to hold a few classes on muscle-building and how to get up off the floor. But it's likely they're closed. YouTube, however, never closes.

Put these search words into YouTube or even your browser: "seniors get off floor muscles."

Some specific YouTube channels you can search through for helpful exercises and techniques are "Elder-gym Fitness for Seniors," "Ernie Schramayr" and "Bob & Brad." (These last two guys are physical therapists with a great sense of humor. In fact, click Videos and look through all their offerings.)

When you find something you like, bookmark it.

Then, when you have the muscles and the technique, test it once a week. Get down on the floor, get up. Even if you're certain you'd have no problems, test it anyway. With aging you never know.

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