



**Longing for Shortcake**  
TRY THE CLASSIC STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE  
OR THE BISCUIT MIX SHORTCAKE ..... 4

WEEKEND WEATHER

CLOUDY

HIGHS: 70-81

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

LOWS: 53-54

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 34 • NO. 25 THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

The Alameda County Fair opened last week in Pleasanton and runs through July 7. A big crowd turned out over the weekend for amusement park rides, horse racing, arts and crafts, entertainment and to see all the animals from farms in the county.

## It's Happening at the Fair



## Council Lowers Speed Limits Around Town

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

Traffic around San Leandro will get a little slower this summer following a vote by the City Council. At its Monday meeting, the council unanimously approved an ordinance reducing speeds on 52 roadways around town—some by as much as 10 miles per hour (mph). The changes are expected to take place in early August. The ordinance is part of a 7-year review required by the State of California to evaluate and establish speed limits, according to city consultant Kenny Zhong. San Leandro's most recent evaluation was completed in 2017, and the city's traffic division completed its survey earlier this year. Most speed limits—such as 25 mph—apply to residential districts, senior centers, and school zones. A new law (Assembly Bill 43) allows cities to reduce speed limits by 5 mph in a business activity district. “This is a data-driven process,” Zhong said during his presentation to the council. “We looked at 67 street segments in San Leandro. What we do is we go out with the radar gun, and we survey the speeds that cars are going. Then we determine whether

see SPEED, page 12

## Teachers, Parents Speak on Grading

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

Teachers and parents in the San Leandro Unified School District continued to debate the district's equity grading system at the school board meeting June 11. Of 14 speakers at the meeting, one supported the system, saying it was more fair and gave parents additional useful information about student performance. The other speakers opposed it on grounds that it was overly lenient to students who did not do their work, or did not do it on time. One speaker did not comment on the plan and asked for additional information. The district prefers to call it standards-based grading, and says it has been in place since 2016. The grading policy

see GRADING page 11

## Burglars Use Car as Battering Ram, Ransack Store on Washington Avenue

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Burglars used a car as a battering ram to smash into Gourmet Liquors on Washington Avenue at 3:45 a.m. last Thursday. The store video camera picked up the break-in as

the car smashed through the front door of the store at 2150 Washington Avenue. The car goes back and forth several times inside the store, ramming the ATM to knock it loose. “Look at this, here it goes again,” said Rinki Singh,

showing the video of the break-in on her phone. Rinki and her husband Tony got an alarm at 3:45 a.m. and came down to their store. They had been cleaning up all morning. Tony Singh said he moved his store from downtown to a

quieter neighborhood a few years ago, thinking it would be better. He said his customers are mostly people in the neighborhood. He sells wine and specialty craft beers, which are fairly expensive. Remarkably, Tony and

see BURGLARS page 11

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## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

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

### SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call 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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California Newspaper Publishers Association member

## Adopt-A-Pet



Chase



Kittens

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are a shepherd mix and many kittens.

Chase is a 9-month-old Dutch shepherd mix.

He's is a energetic boy who would be a perfect family pet to out on adventures, go for runs, and hang out on those perfect evenings barbecuing.

Chase would do best with older kids and is good with other dogs.

It's the season for kittens. The shelter has a good variety of males and females, short hair and long hair, hyper kittens and sleepy kittens – the right kitten for you.

For more information or to adopt Chase or a kitten, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



PHOTO COURTESY EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

## Coyote Warning: Never Feed, Approach or Pet Wild Animals

As visitation to East Bay Regional Parks increases in warmer months, encounters with coyotes become more common.

Coyotes are native to California and are found in various wildland habitats, as well as in rural and urban areas. They

hold cultural and ecological importance throughout the state.

Coyote parents are active and protective of den sites from spring through fall, when new pups are born. It's a normal reaction for them to run away when spotted, although some have become used to human presence and will continue their activities while being watched.

Visitors are encouraged to

keep coyote safety precautions in mind when visiting Regional Parks throughout the year.

### Coyote Safety Tips

1. Avoid hiking alone so you have help in case of emergency.
2. Keep children and pets nearby, and keep your dog on a leash.
3. Be aware of your surroundings as you walk, jog, see COYOTE, page 3

## Bay-O-Vista

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\*Previous members of 12 months or less are not eligible for this promo. Not to be combined with any other offers.

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## Community Calendar

### Mindfulness for Stress Relief

Learn and practice techniques to relieve stress in some of the most challenging areas of life at a workshop on Thursday, June 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Space is limited. Call 510-577-3971.

### Monday Movie Matinees At the Main Library

Come to the family-friendly movie matinees on Mondays at 1 p.m. from June 10 to July 29 in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Check the website calendar for exact movies. [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org)

### Creekside Community Church Annual Day Camp

Creekside Community Church's Camp O' Fun Jr. is coming up this July. Camp O' Fun Jr. is an annual day camp for 3-5 year olds and features games, crafts, Bible stories, snacks, singing, and more. It will meet from July 8 to July 12 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Creekside Community Church at 951 MacArthur Blvd. in San Leandro. The cost is \$55 per camper and camperships are available. The registration deadline is June 24. Register at [creeksidecommunity.org/camp-o-fun](http://creeksidecommunity.org/camp-o-fun) or contact kids@creeksidecommunity.org for more information.

### Drag Story Hour With PerSia

Celebrate Pride Month with Drag Story Hour featuring PerSia at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. on Thursday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a magical experience as PerSia shares captivating stories and spreads love, diversity, and acceptance through the art of storytelling and fabulous performances.

### St. Gerard Women's Club

#### Country Hoedown & Old Time Rock 'n' Roll

The St. Gerard Women's Club will host a Country Hoedown & Old Time Rock 'n' Roll at St. John's Church, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo on Saturday, June 29, starting at 5:30 p.m. Lots of good grub will be served starting at 6pm. provided by Texas Roadhouse. Cost is \$25 per person and all are welcome. There will be a Big Bag Raffle, Door Prizes, Dancing and more. For reservations or tickets call Pat at 510-278-4161.

### Resolve to Lose Weight By Joining TOPS

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?

### Life Skills Camp For Youth Ages 14-22

Join workshops on time management, budgeting, applying for jobs, and more on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. through July 23 at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Registration open now for individual sessions. Door prizes and snacks at every session. [sanleandro.libcal.com](http://sanleandro.libcal.com).

### San Leandro Toastmasters Meet Every Thursday

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

### Calendar Submissions

The Community Calendar is for publicizing nonprofit organizations, charities and community groups. Items can be emailed to [jimk@ebpublishing.com](mailto:jimk@ebpublishing.com) or call 510-614-1557.

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.

Published  
July 18, 2024

Photos and stories can be emailed to [jimk@ebpublishing.com](mailto:jimk@ebpublishing.com). Items must be submitted by Thursday, July 10, at 5 p.m. For more information, call Jim Knowles at 510 614-1557. For advertising information, call Claudette Morrison at 510 614-1559 or 510 614-1560.

### San Leandro Times

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## Alameda County Library Invites Readers To a Summer Adventure

The Alameda County Library invites people of all ages and abilities to join its 2024 Summer Adventure: Engaging the Senses, now through Aug. 1.

Participants will go on an adventure of the senses—from the physical to our

unique sense of humor, pride, and curiosity.

The Adventure Guide and activity sheets will guide our senses as we connect with ourselves, others, and the world around us.

Everyone will complete engaging activities, reading,

and more to receive a book gift and prize drawing entries.

No signups are required. Pick up an Adventure Guide at any AC Library location, Mobile Library stop, or online ([aclibrary.org](http://aclibrary.org)) anytime through August 1.

The San Lorenzo Library is

located at 395 Paseo Grande.

"Engaging our senses not only cultivates curiosity, creativity, and joy but allows us to be fully present in creating memorable and meaningful experiences," said Acting County Librarian Deb Sica.

## Coyote: Never feed or approach wild animals

*continued from page 2*  
or ride.

4. Stay on trails.

5. Never attempt to feed a coyote.

### If You See a Coyote

Keep an eye on the coyote and observe from afar. Do not approach or engage with the coyote. Walk away calmly and leave the area quickly. Do not run. If you have small children, keep them close by. If you have a small dog, keep them on a leash.

### If Approached By A Coyote

It's rare for a coyote to approach you. If a coyote moves

within 50 feet and does not go away on its own, encourage the coyote to move away to help it retain a natural fear of humans.

1. Be as big and loud as possible. Shout in a deep, loud, and aggressive voice.

2. Wave your arms.

3. Keep dogs and children nearby.

4. Maintain eye contact, which can make coyotes uncomfortable and timid.

5. If the coyote continues to approach, do not run or turn your back on the coyote but continue to exaggerate the

above gestures while backing away slowly.

Help protect all wildlife and their environment. Never

feed, approach, or pet wild animals.

For more information, visit [www.ebparks.org/safety](http://www.ebparks.org/safety).

### Adults learn to read free!



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## 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.

**SUNDAY 11:11 A.M.**

We are now livestreaming and meeting in person

at **Unity Church of San Leandro**

20121 Santa Maria Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546



Ultimate Strawberry Shortcake

Strawberry shortcake, one of America's favorite desserts, became popular in the mid-1800s.

Since that time it has gone through many modern variations using sponge cake, angel food cake and pound cake. You'll find many of these pre-made "shortcakes" stacked neatly alongside the strawberries in most supermarkets.

But real shortcake is not cake at all, it's a biscuit and it's really easy to make. The big reward comes in the eating.

Here are some tips for making a light, flaky biscuit.

Cut the chilled butter into the flour until the dough is coarse and mealy. The even distribution of fat makes for a flaky texture. Quickly stir the liquid into the dry ingredients. Overmixing makes for a tough biscuit. Gently knead the dough on a lightly floured surface.

ULTIMATE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

- 4 pints strawberries, rinsed and hulled
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 10 shortcake biscuits
- 2 cups whipped cream,

Cut strawberries in half and toss with sugar. Set aside for 30 minutes.

Split each shortcake while still warm. Spoon plenty of strawberries over the bottom of each

shortcake, top with a generous spoonful of lightly sweetened whipped cream and set top half of shortcake on top. Makes 10 servings.

Shortcake Biscuits

- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon fresh baking powder
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- Dash salt
- 1/2 cup chilled butter, cut into 8 pieces
- 3/4 cup whipping cream

Sift flour, baking powder, sugar and salt into a medium mixing bowl. Rubbing between fingers, or cutting with pastry cutter, work butter into dry ingredients until mixture forms consistency of commel, with a few larger lumps of butter left intact.

Add half of the cream and stir into dry ingredients with fork. Add remainder of cream, bit by bit, until mass forms that pulls cleanly away from bottom and sides of bowl (you may not need all of the cream).

On a lightly floured work space, quickly and lightly knead dough until smooth and cohesive. Gently roll out 1/2-inch thick. Cut out biscuits with a 3-inch biscuit cutter or a lightly floured juice glass. Gather leftover dough together, knead again briefly and roll out again, cutting out remaining biscuits.

Place biscuits on unbuttered

baking sheet and bake at 400°F until light brown and slightly crusty, about 10 to 15 minutes.

Remove from oven and cool slightly before splitting and serving. Makes 10 biscuits.

CLASSIC STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Dash nutmeg
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 eggs, separated
- Additional sugar
- 2 pint baskets of fresh strawberries, stemmed and sliced
- 1 cup whipping cream, whipped and sweetened

Sift flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and nutmeg into a large bowl. Cut in butter to resemble coarse meal.

In a bowl, blend meal and egg yolks with a fork. Stir into flour mixture to make a soft dough. Divide dough into 6 portions, form into balls. Pat balls out on greased baking sheet into 3-inch circles, moistening fingers with egg whites. Brush biscuits with egg whites and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake in preheated 425°F oven 10 to 12 minutes until golden. Remove to rack and cool. Sweet-

en strawberries to taste. Halve biscuits horizontally. On plates, fill and garnish with strawberries and whipped cream. Serves 6.

STRAWBERRY BUTTERMILK SHORTCAKE

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup butter, chilled and cut into pieces
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Fresh, ripe strawberries
- Whipped cream

Preheat oven to 400°F.

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Rub in butter with your fingertips until mixture resembles coarse crumbs (or pulse a few times in a food processor).

Stir in buttermilk and vanilla extract until the dough comes together. Add an additional tablespoon of buttermilk if the dough is slightly dry. Drop by 1/4 cups (use a measuring cup) onto a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake for 15 minutes, or until golden. Cool completely on a wire rack. When ready to serve, slice each shortcake in half and top generously with strawberries and whipped cream.

Alternatively, you could simply put out the sliced cakes with bowls of whipped cream and berries and let your friends top the buttermilk shortcakes themselves.



BISCUIT MIX SHORTCAKE

- 2 cups buttermilk biscuit mix
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 baskets fresh strawberries
- Whipped cream

Combine biscuit mix, 1/4 cup of the sugar and milk in large bowl. Mix until dough is formed. Beat by hand for 30 seconds. Drop dough onto paper-lined baking sheet and spread with spoon. Bake at 360°F for 8 or 9 minutes until lightly browned. Cool completely. Set aside.

When ready to serve, sprinkle strawberries with remaining 1/2 cup sugar. Set aside 6 whole berries for garnish and slice remaining berries. Split cooled biscuits in halves. Set top of biscuit aside.

For each serving, place bottom half of biscuit on a cold dessert plate, split side up. Top

biscuit with a serving of whipped cream. Place some of the sugared strawberries over whipped cream. Cover with biscuit top and top with remaining strawberries. Dollop with remaining whipped cream. Serves 6.

STRAWBERRY TRIFLE CAKE

- 2 cups whole strawberries
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1-1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 (9x5-inch) home-baked pound cake in pan, or 1 (12-ounce) frozen pound cake in foil pan
- Whipped cream

Slice berries, reserving 6 for garnish. Place 1 cup sliced berries in saucepan with sugar and water. Bring to boil. Cook 3 minutes.

Remove from heat. Mix cornstarch with small amount of water. Stir into berries. Cook and stir until thick, about 2 minutes. Add lemon juice. Cool to room temperature.

Fold in remaining sliced berries. Cut cake crosswise into 12 slices. Return slices to cake pan, 1 at a time, hold pan on slant and spoon glaze between them. Spread remaining glaze on top. Cover and chill 4 hours or overnight. Carefully remove cake from pan (a foil pan can be cut away with scissors).

Transfer to serving platter and pipe whipped cream around base and top of cake. Garnish with whole berries. To serve, cut cake into diagonal slices. Makes 8 servings.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

John William Baker  
Case Number:  
24PRO72745

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **John William Baker, Aka "Petey" Baker**

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

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

**A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 17, 2024, 10:15 a.m., Dept. 201, at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.**

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

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

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

Petitioner: **Gary Baker**.  
1563 Boxwood Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94579 (510) 332-7705  
**LEGAL 0219-SLT 24PRO72745 06/13/24, 06/20/24, 06/27/24**

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

Willa Clydene Cullum aka Willa C. Cullum  
Case Number:  
24PR079905

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Willa Clydene Cullum, aka Willa C. Cullum**

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

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

**A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 31, 2024, 9:45 a.m., Dept. 202, at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.**

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

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

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Attorney for petitioner: **Ronald W. Hillberg**  
**Ronald W. Hillberg - Attorney**  
630 Crane Avenue, Suite C, Turlock, CA 95380-4549  
**LEGAL 1512-SLT RP21106752 06/20/24, 06/27/24, 07/04/24**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

E	A	R	L	P	H	O	H	T	T	P
C	L	O	T	I	O	N	O	R	E	L
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PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

The American Flag at the San Leandro BART station (top) became shredded at the ends and eventually snagged on the flag pole, so that it didn't fly in the wind. Last week the flag was taken down and the flag pole has been bare for the past week, even on June 14, Flag Day.

## Neglected Flag at San Leandro BART Station Now M.I.A.

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Lately, more attention has been on the American flag – how it's used in political causes and what it means when it's flown upside-down.

The American Flag is the symbol of our country and the one flag that represents every American – from all walks of life and every political point of view.

But the American flag at

the San Leandro BART Station doesn't seem to get much attention at all.

The flag gradually became tattered over the past few months, as flags do. Eventually the outer ends of the red and white stripes became more like streamers.

And then, a few weeks ago, the streamers became snagged on the flag pole. So even in a breeze the flag didn't fly. It just stuck there, hugging the

flag pole.

Last week, the flag was removed altogether. Since then there has just been a bare flag pole – even on June 14, which is Flag Day.

We have state flags and city flags flying. We have MIA flags and LGBTQ flags. We have cloud flags and tree flags.

We have McDonald's flags.

A McDonald's flag has never been neglected.

## SL Students Excel at University of Maryland

The University of Maryland Global Campus named the Dean's List for the spring 2024 term, including three students from San Leandro, Calif. – Rj Ishimaru, Josef

Meier, and Eliud Navarro.

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the

term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5. University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve working adults and military.

## SENIORS

### How to Administer a Trust

**Q:** My father recently died. His home, bank accounts and other assets were held in a Living Trust. His financial advisor said we should now engage a lawyer to help with trust administration. What? I thought if you had a Living Trust that there was little or nothing to do following the death of the trust-maker? Is that not so?

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

**A:** Your father's financial advisor is correct. One of the most common misconceptions among those who have established a Living Trust is that there is little or nothing to do following the death of the trust-maker. In fact, depending upon the nature of the assets, there is often quite a bit to do.

Think of it this way: many people create Living Trusts in order to avoid a formal probate proceeding, which many people correctly understand to be a cumbersome, time-consuming process overseen by a judge in court. By comparison, administering a trust following death involves many of the same processes, except that it is controlled by a trustee in an out-of-court process called trust administration. Further, a probate is a public proceeding, while administering a trust is typically a private matter. Still, even with trust administration there are things to do and laws to follow.

While everyone's situation is different, here is a partial list of things that should be done during a typical trust adminis-

tration:

- Prepare formal, written Notice to Trust beneficiaries and heirs in legal format;
- Identify and protect decedent's assets;
- Lodge decedent's Will with the Court;
- Give formal notice to agencies: Medi-Cal, FTB, IRS, Social Security; VA
- Prepare a trust accounting, if required by the terms of the trust;
- Obtain appraisals for tax purposes and for distribution purposes;
- Ascertain and pay creditors;
- Advise Beneficiaries about any "Disclaimer" option;
- Resolve disputes among beneficiaries;
- Take title to real property in the trustee's name;
- Sell real property where appropriate & distribute the proceeds;
- Handle sub-trust funding if required by the trust;
- File fiduciary income tax returns, if required;
- File estate tax returns for larger estates or to elect / preserve tax portability;
- Arrange care for pets

Sometimes there are problems with a trust which need to be corrected by seeking an appropriate court order. One example would be a trust prepared years ago, when tax laws were different, which should now be revised to comport with new tax law. Another example: where a trust leaves assets to a beneficiary who is now disabled and receives public benefits (such as SSI and/or Medi-Cal), and whose bequest should, instead, now go into a Special Needs Trust for his bene-



fit so as not to disturb the continuation of those benefits. Where these issues appear, the trustee must also consider whether to seek a post-mortem trust modification via a Court Proceeding, or via the newer out-of-court Decanting Process.

While the rules regarding trust administration are generally more relaxed than those governing a probate proceeding, nevertheless it is wise for the successor trustee to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in these matters, so that he or she can be properly advised and avoid tripping over legal requirements. Remember: the successor trustee typically has a fiduciary duty to honor the terms of the trust, comply with relevant law, and deal fairly with designated beneficiaries.

We recommend that all successor trustees seek appropriate legal guidance so that they discharge their duties lawfully, minimize family disputes and avoid creating liability for themselves.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney. email: [Gene@Lawyer-ForSeniors.com](mailto:Gene@Lawyer-ForSeniors.com) or call (510) 247-2555.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Buyer Agent Compensation to Change in August

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

Beginning 08/17/24, homebuyers will be required to sign a representation agreement to have a REALTOR® work on their behalf. Consequently, buyers are raising a few questions. “By signing a buyer broker agreement, does it

guarantee I will have to pay my agent’s fee?” It depends. Many believe the seller-paid compensation model will ultimately prevail. In those situations, the buyer agent’s compensation would be paid by the seller. If the compensation provided does not fully pay the compensation amount included in the

buyer broker agreement, then the buyer would be responsible for paying the balance. “I will get to ask the seller to pay my buyer agent’s commission?” Absolutely. If no compensation is stated, you can always ask and they can choose to say ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ If they agree to compensation, your agent would write this into the offer.

Is it possible to negotiate a commission? Yes. Commissions have always been negotiable. Negotiation happens in two separate situations. First, when engaging the services of a buyer agent, you will have the opportunity to negotiate the representation fee your agent will accept. You will have the right to ask for a specific fee structure and the agent will have the right to state what their fee will be. If agreement is reached, then that fee will be written into the buyer broker agreement. If agreement is not possible, you then have the freedom to go find

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CORY BOLLER

REALTOR® - DRE #02132597

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another agent.

The second negotiation happens during the offer process. Prior to showing any given home, your agent will have determined whether or not the seller is willing to provide cooperative compensation and will share that information with you. You will then be given the choice as to whether you still wish to see that property. Even then, and although the seller has stated no compensation will be provided, you could still view the home and write an offer including your agent’s compensation. Once the seller has an offer in hand, given the other terms of the offer, they may be willing to negotiate the fee. As an example, an option could be to write an offer over list price that would include the fee (make sure the home will appraise at the higher amount).

Come August it will be a whole new world – make sure you interview a few agents to find one that will work for you.

\*Subject to final court approval

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.

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

5840 Cold Water Drive 94552: \$1,050,000 [4 BD - 1,891 SF - 1972  
4126 Moreland Drive 94546: \$1,080,000 [3 BD - 1,218 SF - 1952  
5640 Cold Water Drive 94552: \$1,375,000 [3 BD - 1,504 SF - 1965  
5292 Fairweather Court 94552: \$1,650,000 [4 BD - 2,092 SF - 1998  
5275 Greenridge Road 94552: \$1,770,000 [2,579 SF - 1960

TOTAL SALES: 5  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$1,050,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,375,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,770,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$1,385,000

Hayward

25505 Compton Court #114 94544: \$560,000 [2 BD - 1,040 SF - 1990  
27726 Eucalyptus Court 94544: \$680,000 [1,549 SF - 1977  
735 Lilly Avenue 94544: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,304 SF - 1950  
22611 Sierra Avenue 94541: \$820,000 [3 BD - 1,114 SF - 1952  
27557 Stromberg Court 94545: \$820,000 [4 BD - 1,474 SF - 1970  
26712 Peterman Avenue 94545: \$835,000 [3 BD - 1,238 SF - 1957  
22643 Madrone Street 94541: \$850,000 [3 BD - 1,140 SF - 1942  
1848 Trym Street 94541: \$850,000 [3 BD - 1,211 SF - 1956  
23632 Odom Drive 94541: \$875,000 [3 BD - 1,070 SF - 1951  
27841 Biscayne Avenue 94544: \$929,000 [3 BD - 1,216 SF - 1954  
28851 Hideaway Street 94544: \$1,220,000 [4 BD - 2,022 SF - 2021  
1018 McKeever Avenue 94541: \$1,280,000 [1 BD - 1,858 SF - 1939  
692 Woodchuck Place 94544: \$1,400,000 [4 BD - 2,513 SF - 1972

TOTAL SALES: 13  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$560,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$850,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,400,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$916,846

San Leandro

13547 Bancroft Avenue #15 94578: \$458,000 [2 BD - 811 SF - 1970  
690 Fargo Avenue #6 94579: \$510,000 [2 BD - 1,020 SF - 1965  
1118 Dutton Avenue 94577: \$570,000 [2 BD - 680 SF - 1925  
15205 Hesperian Boulevard #C 94578: \$610,000 [3 BD - 1,348 SF - 1987  
963 Douglas Drive 94577: \$630,000 [3 BD - 1,137 SF - 1942  
2236 Croyden Place 94577: \$735,000 [2 BD - 1,723 SF - 1977  
1232 Betty Avenue 94578: \$742,000 [3 BD - 1,606 SF - 1948  
2062 Altamont Road 94578: \$760,000 [2 BD - 926 SF - 1958  
744 Arthur Avenue 94577: \$785,000 [3 BD - 950 SF - 1942  
428 Warwick Avenue 94577: \$838,000 [3 BD - 816 SF - 1919  
15158 Norton Street 94579: \$945,000 [4 BD - 1,425 SF - 1949  
14748 Midland Road 94578: \$947,000 [2 BD - 1,320 SF - 1940  
150 Georgia Way 94577: \$990,000 [3 BD - 1,451 SF - 1941  
2078 Whelan Avenue 94577: \$1,010,000 [2 BD - 1,478 SF - 1944  
1048 Cumberland Avenue 94579: \$1,125,000 [3 BD - 1,590 SF - 1950  
1225 Sandelin Avenue 94577: \$1,288,000 [4 BD - 2,446 SF - 1950

TOTAL SALES: 16  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$458,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$772,500  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,288,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT \$808,937

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# Garden Problem Not Sowbugs, which Are Nature's Decomposers

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Times

**Q** Our vegetable garden seems to be facing a challenge with what we believe are Sowbugs. These bugs, which I might be referring to by the wrong name, resemble armadillos and curl up into a ball when touched. They've been nesting and causing damage to our vegetable leaves, leaving them full of holes and attacking the stems at the ground. Can anyone suggest a natural predator that could help control them?

**A** This doesn't sound like a Sowbug problem. Sowbugs are not insects or bugs. They belong to the same group of animals as the crab. They're the only crustaceans to spend their entire life out of water. Contrary to popular belief, Sowbugs do more good than harm and are often wrongly blamed for many problems. Sowbugs never attack living tissue, so they will not shred or eat holes in the leaves

of plants. They are, in fact, Mother Nature's decomposers, breaking down organic matter and debris into nutrients that plants can use. We find colonies of Sowbugs breaking down larger pieces of organic debris like bark and homemade compost. They pose the biggest problems in strawberry, pumpkin, and melon patches. Also, any other crop where the maturing edible touches the ground. The wet ground from normal irrigation and poor air circulation causes the tissue at the resting point to decay and provides an entry point for Sowbugs. You need to lift those crops that touch the ground with small paper cups, drip irrigation clips, or straws to improve air circulation. This prevents the tissue from decaying and gives Sowbugs an entry point. I would suspect snails, slugs, and earwigs as your vegetable garden's primary suspects. Sluggo Plus is the organic control for snails, slugs, and earwigs. It's an



organic bait that is safe for two and four-legged pets. Sluggo should be reapplied monthly during the growing season. Another organic control for Earwigs is to trap them in a paper tube made from rolled-up newspaper. The tubes are pre-moistened and set out at dusk. In the morning, empty the contents into a pail of soapy water. This is repeated daily until the plants have established themselves and matured.

**Q** I have a hibiscus in large pots on a patio with southern exposure. The new growth is very scraggly, and the leaves look deformed. I let the soil dry out before I watered. Is there anything I can do to bring it back?

**A** It seems your Hibiscus is experiencing water stress, but there's no need to fret. You have the power to change your watering habits and correct the issue. With a southern exposure, your Hibiscus is exposed to the full heat of the day, leading to quick drying out. This

is compounded by the wind, which acts as a desiccant. To combat this, when the temperatures are over seventy-five degrees, water them every other day, and daily with temperatures over eighty-five degrees, filling each

container to the brim. Additionally, adding Osmocote fertilizer to every container provides nutrients every time you water. With these changes, you should see dramatic improvements in your Hibiscus in six to eight weeks. You've got

this!

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).

## Mortgage Rates Continue to Move Down

Mortgage rates continued to fall back this week as incoming data suggests the economy is cooling to a more sustainable level of growth. Top-line inflation numbers were flat but shelter inflation, which measures rent and home-ownership costs, increased showing that housing affordability continues to be an ongoing impediment for buyers on the house hunt.

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<b>Sun. June 23</b>	<b>Mr LEO RHYTHM AND SOUL</b>	<b>4PM</b>
<b>Fri. June 28</b>	<b>Re-Wind "That 80's Band"</b>	<b>8PM</b>
<b>Sat. June 29</b>	<b>BLUES ROCKERS</b>	<b>6PM</b>
<b>Sun. June 30</b>	<b>Mark Banning: A Musical Memorial Celebration of Life</b>	<b>4PM</b>
<b>Fri. July 5</b>	<b>Supergroove Santana Tribute</b>	<b>8PM</b>
<b>Sat. July 6</b>	<b>TOUCH OF CLASS</b>	<b>6PM</b>
<b>Sun. July 7</b>	<b>AIRWAVES</b>	<b>4PM</b>
<b>Fri. July 12</b>	<b>DEE COCO &amp; Co.</b>	<b>8PM</b>
<b>Sat. July 13</b>	<b>MASTERPIECE THE BAND</b>	<b>6PM</b>
<b>Sun. July 14</b>	<b>GGBS - Lovelight Blues Band</b>	<b>4PM</b>

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**ACROSS**  
1 -- of Sandwich  
5 Saigon soup  
8 URL opener  
12 Coagulate  
13 Charged bit  
14 Pitcher Hersher  
15 Romantic appointments  
17 Skater Lipinski  
18 Like aspirin, briefly  
19 Ozone, for one  
20 Governing gp.  
21 That chap's  
22 -- Magnon  
23 "Evita" surname  
26 Gym gear  
30 "-- Rhythm"  
31 Chum  
32 Cowgirl's footwear  
33 Spider's traps  
35 Baby collie  
36 Owns  
37 Prohibit  
38 Sound of Washington  
41 Flushed  
42 Aunt, in Acapulco  
45 Skin soother  
46 Donna Summer hit song  
48 Sagan or Sandburg  
49 Ambulance VIP  
50 Luminary  
51 Singles  
52 Horse chow  
53 Prefix with pilot

**DOWN**  
1 Canyon sound  
2 Oodles  
3 Campus mil. group  
4 Old Ford model  
5 Pocket breads  
6 Works the soil  
7 Carry-- (travel bags)  
8 Frank holder  
9 Streetcar  
10 Actress Hatcher  
11 Scheme  
16 Opposite of "fer"  
20 Onassis nickname  
21 Toy car brand  
22 Cartoon frame  
23 Photo, for short  
24 Conceit  
25 Steal from  
26 Existed  
27 Jump  
28 Pinnacle  
29 Hog haven  
31 "Nova" aier  
34 Nosh  
35 Cushions  
37 White of "The Golden Girls"  
38 Designer Rabanne  
39 -- Bator  
40 Slasher film fare  
41 Capital of Italia  
42 Ballet attire  
43 "-- first you ..."  
44 Roundish do  
46 Devilish laugh  
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**ANSWERS ON PAGE 4**

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LEGAL NOTICES

FILED June 7, 2024  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 606166

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

The name of the business(es): Aurea Learning L.L.C., located at 1311 Park Street #1239, Alameda, CA 94501 / 1064 Fredrick Road San Leandro, CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aurea Learning L.L.C., located at 1064 Fredrick Road, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limitrd liability Company. This business commenced N/A /s/Paulina Alicia Gonzalez Rojas This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires June 6, 2029 JUN 20, 27, JUL 04, 11, 2024 1511 - SLT

FILED May 20, 2024  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 606574

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

The name of the business(es): VW Golf, Inc., located at 5011 Preston Ave. Livermore, CA 94551 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VW Golf, Inc., located at 5011 Preston Ave. Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced 08/30/2019 /s/John Bearden This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires May 16, 2029 MAY 30, JUN 06, 13, 20, 2024

FILED June 6, 2024  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 607010

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

The name of the business(es): Eshtan Studios, LLC., located at 1313 Advent Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eshtan Studios, LLC., located at 1313 Advent Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced N/A /s/Shawn Dulaney This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires June 5, 2029 JUN 20, 27, JUL 04, 11, 2024

ABANDONMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NUMBER. 558882  
The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: **The Mighty Pen**, at 2128 Longview Drive San Leandro, CA 94577. Full name of registrant is: **Tanya Daly**, at 2128 Longview Drive San Leandro, CA 94577. The Fictitious Business Name Statement **The Mighty Pen**, Eshtan Studios, LLC was filed on 05/13/2004 in the county of Alameda. Original File Number 558882. 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 04/23/2024 JUN 13, 20, 27, JUL 04, 2024 1511 - CVF

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED June 3, 2024  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 606917

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

The name of the business(es): 9JAGRILLS, located at 258 Haas Ave, San Leandro CA 94577-3720 / 1319 Washington Ave Unit 1231, San Leandro, CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Load Support Enterprise LLC., located at 1319 Washington Ave Unit 1231, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limitrd liability Company. This business commenced N/A /s/Omotoyosi Quadri This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires June 2, 2029 JUN 20, 27, JUL 04, 11, 2024 1512 - SLT

FILED June 13, 2024  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 607279

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

The name of the business(es): Boot Collector, located at 1271 Washington Avenue Apt 797, San Leandro, CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tiffany Whitfill, located at 1271 Washington Avenue Apt 797, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/Tiffany Whitfill This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires June 12, 2029 JUN 20, 27, JUL 04, 11, 2024 1511 - SLT

FILED June 5, 2024  
MELISSA WILK County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 606992

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

The name of the business(es): Peek-A- Buddy Lids, located at 19951 Forest Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jacob Schultz, located at 19951 Forest Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/Jacob Schultz This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires May 4, 2029 JUN 12, 19, 26, JUL 03, 2024 1510 - CVF

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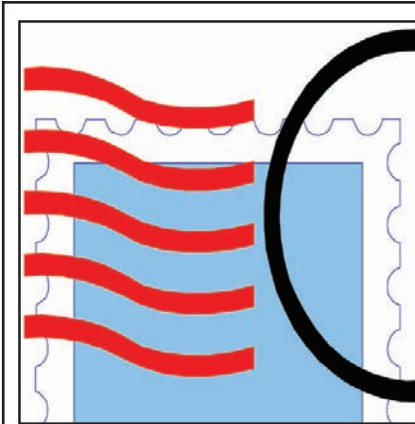
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# OPINION

## 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.



Send a letter to the editor to  
[Letters@ebpublishing.com](mailto:Letters@ebpublishing.com).

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

### Support for Stormwater Fee Amendment

Editor,

The Floresta Villas Home-owners Association (Association), via a unanimous board vote at its April 30, 2024 annual meeting, expressed its support of the City of San Leandro's Stormwater Fee Amendment.

The Association is a planned unit development (PUD) of 45 single-family dwelling units, located near the Outdoor Supply Hardware at Floresta Boulevard and Fremont Street.

We believe the \$1.97 additional per month fee (Single Family Equivalent) is quite reasonable given that the fee has remained unchanged for 30 years (1993). We believe "penny wise" would actually be unwise for homeowners. Indeed, the fee should have been increased years ago.

As homeowners we hate to see standing water remain on city streets for an extended period after the winter rains. It will only lead to rapid deterioration of the streets. We experienced a very bad street surface for many years, on Fremont Street just outside our development.

**C. John Chan,**  
secretary, FVHOA  
San Leandro

### Hold Up on New Grading Policy

Editor,

The San Leandro Unified School District tells us that removing traditional grading practices helps students. It even provides a list of districts which have removed those traditional practices.

What SLUSD doesn't tell us is that New Haven Unified in Union City recently rescinded major elements of the controversial Grading for Equity program, returning teachers to traditional grading in the fall, not practices in which answering 20 of 100 questions is a passing grade or in which a student gets 50 percent credit for turning in no work. Both are realities under San Leandro's new (in terms of enforcement) policy.

SLUSD's mandate troubles me (by the way, I have gone through the training). I am convinced it ill-prepares students for college and for the workplace. I believe it lessens accountability, rigor and effort. It seems contrary to the

district's mission statement of "academic excellence."

According to the San Leandro Times of June 6, a district spokesperson said there is widespread support for the program. However, a survey of secondary teachers by our union in early June showed that a slight majority OPPOSE the district's changes to grading.

While I don't doubt some parents support the policy, not one parent I spoke to (and many are highly involved parents) was aware of the change in grading policy. Once made aware, not one supported it.

Putting the mandate on hold to gather more information is not a bad thing. SLUSD, please take a step back, talk to parents and teachers on both sides of the issue and, by all means, find out why New Haven Unified turned its back on the program you now desire.

**Dave D'Antonio**  
Oakland

*Dave D'Antonio is a longtime teacher and coach at Bancroft Middle School*

### That's What Newspapers Do

Editor,

Tim Holmes writes (Letters to the Editor, June 13, 2024) that the San Leandro Times "should be ashamed of their May 30th headline," above the story on Councilmember Bowen's \$18,000 for an Ivy League Seminar.

On the contrary, that's what great newspapers do. Tell us, inform us. Let us debate the issue. The Times is a great newspaper because it tells us what we need to know, like when an ex-mayor has financial ties to the San Leandro Unified School District. Keep up the great work and be proud of your headlines.

**George Z. Banks**  
San Leandro

### Military Funding Should Go Elsewhere in Budget

Editor,

For Fiscal Year 2025 the president has submitted a budget that directs \$850 billion to the Department of Defense. This is a little over 13% of the federal government's total expenditure. For comparison, other allocations include natural resources and agriculture 1%, education less than 3%, housing less than 1%, and transportation 2%.

On top of this \$850 billion there is an "ask" for an additional \$16.4 billion for the military's unfunded priorities lists. These funds reduce the budgets of other departments and increase unnecessary spending.

One million California children live in homes facing food insecurity, California accounts for 1/3 of the nation's homeless population, 1 million California residents are out of work, and almost 3 million, under the age of 65, are medically uninsured. We have the need for additional funding in other areas besides defense.

There is currently a bipartisan bill in the House, H.R. 4740 Streamline the Pentagon Budgeting Act, which calls for the repeal of the mandatory reporting requirement related to the unfunded priorities list. I call on my representative, Eric Swalwell (Calif. Congressional District 14) to co-sponsor this bill. Let's work towards building a better future for our children now.

**Robert Behr**  
San Leandro

### Making Your Energy System Safer and More Affordable

Editor,

At PG&E, we recognize that like many goods and services, energy prices are increasing.

Those increases are essential investments to help build a safe, reliable, and clean energy system for everyone and support the growing need for new service connections and infrastructure upgrades in our communities.

For example, in the Bay Area region, we've connected nearly 500 new services so far this year for both residential and local businesses across San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Investments like this are necessary, but we are also working every day to ease rising energy costs.

We're reducing our own operating costs in dozens of ways and working to lower the costs of state policies and programs that affect your bill.

Through these actions, we're working hard to reduce your bill in 2025 and 2026.

**Jake Zigelman,**  
PG&E Vice President,  
Bay Area Region

### Get Rid of Vice Mayor Title

Editor,

Larry, Moe and Curly are up to it again. This time making a huge fuss over the use of the "Vice Mayor" title on ballots.

Come on! Don't we have more important issues to argue about? I don't see this much squabbling going into how to address crime or homelessness. I don't see the shroomed-out council member threatening to sue the city over not dealing with blight or litter.

And to suggest that is a shot across the bow because this was agendized during Pride Month is laughable.

Here is a suggestion, get rid of the vice mayor title all together, clearly the Three Stooges cannot handle it anyway. Let the city manager run the meetings in the mayor's absence.

It's time to get back to business and deal with real issues that the citizens of San Leandro care about. No one gives a rat's ass who the vice mayor is.

**Lawrence Andrews**  
San Leandro

### Stormwater Pipes Need to Be Maintained

Editor,

I encourage property owners to support the increase in the stormwater fee the City of San Leandro has proposed.

First, the tax proceeds will be deposited into a restricted fund that can only be used for city stormwater projects. Importantly, the City Council does not possess the discretion to use the funds as it wishes.

Second, the cost of maintaining the City's stormwater pipes and pump stations exceeds (by over \$2 million annually) the amount currently collected. As a result, the City must take money from its general fund to cover stormwater maintenance projects.

The general fund pays for our police and fire services, along with the library and park systems. It is in all of our interests that there not be any cuts to city services due to needed stormwater projects.

Third, having a robust stormwater system is vital to having a well-run city. None of us want flooding during a heavy rainstorm on our

streets. In addition to the danger from fast moving water, flooding damages pavement, requiring expensive street repairs.

Fourth, it's been over 30 years since the stormwater fee was last raised. I wish we were not having to deal with inflation now, but we all received a "good deal" for 30 plus years by not having any fee increase.

One final note, it was my deepest honor and privilege to serve as your mayor. I am not receiving compensation in any form from the City for speaking in favor of the stormwater fee increase. My wife and I remain San Leandro residents. We hope our daughters will live in San Leandro after they complete their education. We would like them, and all young adults in San Leandro, to live in a safe, vibrant and well-maintained city.

**Stephen Cassidy**  
San Leandro

*Stephen Cassidy is a former mayor of San Leandro*

### Voting Yes on Stormwater Fee Increase

Editor,

San Leandro property owners are being asked to approve an increase in the stormwater fee. While the stormwater fee has not been increased in over 30 years, the number of government mandates and regulations governing stormwater has. The cost of labor to maintain the existing system has increased over 30 years and as we all know, the cost of buying equipment and materials today are significantly different than they were 30 years ago.

The typical single-family residence will experience a \$24 increase in the annual fee which is about \$2 per month. While no one wants to pay more taxes, property owners, including the most vulnerable residents, will likely suffer from the damages caused by an underfunded stormwater system.

I'm writing to ask my fellow property owners to vote "yes" to the proposed fee amendment so the City can have a chance to take care of the highest priority capital projects of the stormwater system.

**Basil Wong**  
San Leandro



# Burglars: Store owner thought quiet neighborhood would be better

*continued from front page*

Rinki were still open for business as they were cleaning up the damage from the car on the morning of the break-in.

The burglars were going for the ATM machine with the car battering ram. They knocked down the ATM but one side was still bolted to the floor, so they couldn't get away with the cash machine.

Singh said they just took some cigarettes, but the damage to the store is the biggest cost.

## Outer Wall Leaning, Extensive Damage Inside Store

The entire walls of the building around the front door are leaning.

"And these are strong walls," Rinki said.

And there's damage inside the store to a freezer, shelves and cases that hold wine and a lottery machine. Even the floor is badly scraped up from the car.

Rinki said the building is insured, but not the inside.

"Business has been slow so I don't have insurance for the inside right now," she said. "I was just thinking about it and then this happens."

The same car was later found to have tried to smash into a pot shop a few miles away, near the Oakland Coliseum, NBC Bay Area reported. The owner of the dispensary said they did \$100,000 in damages.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

**Tony Singh kept his store open while he cleaned up from the break-in a few hours earlier. Top, the burglars car smashed into the ATM inside the store. At right, damage to the wall of the building around the door frame.**



# Grading: Teachers, parents debate school district's grading policy

*continued from front page*

applies to the district's high schools and middle schools. Teachers are given three different grading models they can follow, but none of them are the traditional one where an A equals work at or above 90 percent, an F is below 65 percent, and work not handed in gets a zero.

The district has told teachers in workshops and emails that all grading "bands" — a grade such as an A or an F — must be the same width. If there are five grading bands — A, B, C, D and F — then each would need to be 20 points "wide," meaning an A and an F could not cover different numbers of points, as they have done traditionally.

Mathematically, that would force an A to go to its maximum of 100 percent from a minimum of 80 percent, not the traditional 90 percent. Conversely, an F could only cover from its minimum of zero to a maximum of 20 percent.

"What was once considered failing is now considered average," speaker and Bancroft Middle School teacher Dave D'Antonio complained.

D'Antonio was referring to the C grade traditionally given for average-quality work now extending from 40 to 59 percent, below the traditional cutoff grade of 65 percent for passing.

Gaia Pine, a teacher and instructional coach for the district who has worked with teachers to implement equity grading, defended the system. She said it recognized that students do not all learn at the same rate, and that some students may learn some material later than others.

Pine passed along statements from several other teachers saying the newer grading system was a substantial improvement over traditional grading and that it helped students learn better.

Parent Lisa Dasinger, who has two children in the San

Leandro schools, warned of multiple negative effects of the grading switch. She warned of effects on college acceptances, as students put less effort into their classes, and as colleges begin to doubt how much applicants have actually learned.

"The new system breeds mediocrity, not excellence," Dasinger said.

George Zuber, a former San Leandro teacher now at another school district, said that two area high schools that switched to a similar system, James Logan and Alameda high schools, soon saw one of the state's steepest declines in math scores.

Zuber warned against "one size fits all" grading standards. "The teachers are the experts in the classroom," he added.

Parent Jennifer Chaves asked where the policy had come from, not remembering any open meetings with parents to discuss it before it was implemented.

"In real life, workers don't

get chances to redo work if they didn't get it the first time," Chaves said.

Teachers who spoke at the meeting, and who had earlier contacted the San Leandro Times, say that the push to make sure all teachers follow

some version of equity grading is new. But they admit that workshops promoting it and

showing how to apply it using the district's computerized see GRADING, page 12

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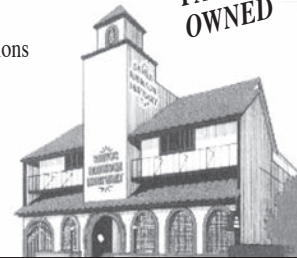
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FD# 1327



# Speed: Some streets to have lower speed limit

*continued from front page*

or not the street qualifies for a 5-mile per hour reduction.”

The biggest speed reductions will be dropping from 35 mph to 25 mph along Catalina Street from Fairway Drive to Farallon Drive, Estudillo Avenue from MacArthur Boulevard to Chabot Terrace, and Westgate Parkway from Wal-Mart Driveway to Williams Street.

Lastly, the speed limit will drop from 30 mph to 25 mph on many other streets.

San Leandro police say lowering the speed limit can help deter chronic speeders and enhance public safety.

“Reducing the speed limit doesn't just help the motorist, but it allows the pedestrians to see that cars are moving slower and react accordingly and prevent crashes that we've seen that turn into fatalities,” said San Leandro Police Sergeant Ryan Gill. “Sometimes it's the pedestrian's fault, some-



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The sign on East 14th Street near Sybil Avenue says the speed limit is 25 mph but many drivers exceed the limit.

times it's the motorist, but it's always because of speed. The speed limit reduction gives us a little bit more time to gauge where auto-pedestrian and

auto-bicycle crashes are and gives us a little more data to get out there and again when we go to court. Having a good speed survey helps us.”

The staff report said the city will take \$2,100 from its Capital Improvement Fund account for the new speed limit signs.

# Grading: Survey

*continued from page 11*

grading software have been going on for years.

A survey taken by the San Leandro Teachers Association whose results were announced a few days before the board meeting, showed 54.6 percent of high school and middle school teachers opposed the board's changes to grading system.

The district said that upwards of 80 percent of teachers support equity or standards-based grading, and that those opposed must not have attended the numerous workshops explaining the newer grading system. But teachers who contacted the newspaper said that they had been to all the workshops and read all the supporting materials.

District spokesperson Keziah Moss provided comments from seven teachers who all supported the policy and said it had helped student learning.

## School District Budget

The school board also heard the Original Budget Proposal for the 2024-25 school year from Assistant Superintendent For Business Services Kevin Collins, in which he stated that the budget for next year was balanced and no layoffs or other drastic cuts were anticipated.

However, he said that pandemic-related revenues and expenditures often came in different budget years, making it look like some costs weren't covered in a particular year when actually money had been put aside for them.

State funding for next year was “as good as it gets,” Collins said.

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Sonal Patel also presented her 2024-27 budget for locally controlled funds, known as the LCAP, for Local Control Accountability Plan.

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