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INSIDE PAGES 7-13

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FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 22

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTOS BY IRAN RAMIREZ

Breaking ground on the new tech building are San Leandro Deputy Community Development Director Tom Liao, Chief Innovation Office Debbie Acosta, Community Development Director Cynthia Battenberg, City Councilman Ed Hernandez, City Councilman Lee Thomas, City Councilwoman Corina Lopez, City Manager Chris Zapata, and Westlake Urban Marketing Director Sunny Tong.

City, Tech Leaders Break Ground

Officials broke ground last week for the second phase of the San Leandro Tech Campus, and then celebrated at the "Truth Thursday" party under the statue. The new building is available for lease and will be ready for occupancy by the summer of 2018. The new 6-story office building will have about the same amount of space as the first building that opened last October and houses the world headquarters of OSIsoft. The tech campus is connected to the Lit San Leandro fiber optic loop, features LEED Gold design, and utilizes high-performance building systems and materials to lower operating costs and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.



Artful Steps to Host Reception For Artists Tonight at the Library

The Artful Steps program is having its Spring Exhibit and Fashion Show with a reception for the artists and refreshments tonight (Thursday) from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The program is free and open to the public.

Craft booths featuring adult coloring books, bags, jewelry, Artful Steps note cards, and work created by the Artful Steps Teachers will be available to purchase.

Beautiful, multi-media work created by the Artful Steps artists with disabilities fills both the downstairs and upstairs galleries of the San Leandro Main Library through June 30. Special features in this exhibit include digital art,

popular mosaics, original prints and a special "My Little Pony" project.

Artful Step's mission is to enhance both the artistic abilities and the self-esteem of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Report: 10,000 San Leandrans Live in Poverty

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

A new report on human services needs in San Leandro shows that the number of residents living below the poverty line has nearly doubled since the year 2000 – one of several findings that highlighted a gap in social services city and county-wide.

The report found that nearly 10,000 San Leandrans are currently living in poverty.

"The report is stark," said Jeanette Dong, the city's human services director. "There are some facts in there that may surprise you."

The document was prepared for the city by Urban Strategies Council, an Oakland-based research group.

Urban Strategies director Steve Spiker said that San Leandro is in a unique position, as it is a suburb and has less established "safety-net" services than most cities, but an ever-growing number of people in need.

"For one of the first times, we are seeing the majority of people who are living in poverty in suburban areas," said Spiker. "Many people in quiet suburban neighborhoods don't want to face the fact that they are in poverty."

Spiker added that the poverty line is a federally established standard (\$12,000 annual income for individuals, \$24,600 for a family of four), so the news is even more bleak in San Leandro and the Bay Area where the cost of living is so high.

In San Leandro, 5,000 resi-

dents were living in poverty in the year 2000, and the number jumped to 9,400 living in poverty in the year 2015. Of those, mi-

see *POVERTY*, page 5

City Budget Rises by \$40 Million

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

San Leandro's budget for the next fiscal year projects city revenue to be \$200 million in 2017/2018 and expenditures of \$198 million.

The budget is a \$40 million increase from last year's budget of \$160 million in revenue and \$156 million in expenses.

The revenue increase is due in part to voters approving five separate tax measures over the past three years. And the city plans expenditures it put off during the economic downturn. Among them will be street repairs, the promise of which the city campaigned on during the push for the recent half-cent sales tax increase.

But about one-quarter of the anticipated necessary maintenance is not yet funded and the city will likely be asking voters for more money soon. In a city

see *BUDGET*, page 15

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Fallen soldiers remembered on Memorial Day. **Page 2**

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SLHS student receives award from the DAR. **Page 4**

READING

Library hosts summer reading program. **Page 5**

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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.



San Leandro Times

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

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Apply for Vacancy On Alameda County Recycling Board

The Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board has a vacancy in the category of "a Source Reduction Specialist with substantial experience as such."

The appointee must live in Alameda County. Term of the appointment is two years, and Board Members are eligible for re-appointment to one additional two-year term.

The Recycling Board administers the voter-approved Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative, which levies an \$8.23 per ton landfill disposal fee that generates approximately \$9 mil-

lion per year for waste reduction and recycling programs in Alameda County.

Fifty percent of the money is returned to local jurisdictions on a per-capita basis. The balance is appropriated by the Board for countywide source reduction and recycling programs, public education, recycled product procurement, market development and grants to community organizations.

The deadline for application is June 30, at 5 p.m. More information on the application process can be found at www.StopWaste.org.

Pacific High Class of 1967 Reunion

Pacific High School Class of 1967 will have its 50th reunion in June at the Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road in Pleasanton. A meet-and-greet will be on Friday, June 16, followed by a dinner-dance on Saturday, June 17 (the date the class graduated),

and a Sunday breakfast on June 18. No payments accepted at the door.

To register, or for more information, call Sue Ferreira Nunes at 209-830-7415. Information can also be found at PacificHigh-Vikings.com.



PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

Memorial Day at Lone Tree

As red, white and blue banners billowed in the breeze, Lolita Morelli sang Julia Ward Howe's "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" accompanied by the Hayward Municipal Band at Monday's 114th Annual Memorial Day Services at Lone Tree Cemetery. A large crowd was on hand for the ceremony, which featured color guards, guest speakers and the placing of memorial wreaths.

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Pets of the Week



Milo



Komeeko

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Milo the cat and Komeeko the dog.

Milo is a 5-year-old kitty who's a bit shy and would do great in a calm home. When given time to explore his environment, this sweet boy blossoms.

Komeeko is an easygoing 2-year-old gal. She's social with both people and dogs, and is playful without getting too rowdy. Great in an active home. OK with young kids.

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

Petelo Finau (left) saved his younger brother from a fire at their family's Cherryland home last week and Alameda County Fire Department Battalion Chief John Whiting congratulated him on his bravery.

Cherryland Teen Rescues Brother

A one-alarm fire broke out at a home on the corner of Cherry Way and Haviland Avenue last Friday just before 9 p.m.

Before firefighters arrived on the scene, Petelo Finau, 18, jumped from a second floor window and used a ladder from a neighbor to rescue his 13-year-

old brother on the second floor.

The younger brother was taken to children's Hospital in Oakland to be treated for smoke inhalation.

The fire was contained to the first floor but the entire home suffered heavy smoke damage, according to the fire department.

Finau is due to leave for the U.S. Navy in less than two weeks and the Alameda County Fire Department congratulated him and that Good Samaritan for their bravery.

No one else was hurt and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

San Leandro Resident Among the Injured in Crash That Killed Teens

A San Leandro resident is among those injured in a car crash that killed two teens on Memorial Day in Alameda.

Briana Ortega of Hayward and Simon Sotelo of Union City, both 17, were killed in the crash and six other people were injured.

Some of the injured remain hospitalized, according to Alameda police.

The names of the injured people have not been released.

The crash occurred around 8 a.m. Monday morning when the pick-up truck containing Ortega, Sotelo, and five other occupants in their teens and early 20s collided with a minivan driven by a 40-year-old Oakland woman near the intersection of Park Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Alameda police are investi-

gating the collision and preliminarily believe the pick-up driver ran a red light and may have been speeding.

The pick-up truck rolled several times following the impact, and collided with a light pole and a tree police said.

The minivan driver was treated

for non life-threatening injuries.

The other occupants of the truck all remain hospitalized, some in life-threatening condition.

The injured people are being treated at Highland Hospital in Oakland and Eden Hospital in Castro Valley.

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San Leandro Man Allegedly Choked to Death by Nephew

A San Leandro man was killed and his nephew has been named as a suspect following an assault outside an Oakland restaurant earlier this month.

The Alameda County District Attorney's office has charged Trevaughn Soriano, 25, of Concord with the murder of Trevino Thomas, 48. They say that Sori-

ano fought with Thomas outside of a restaurant on the 2700 block of 64th Street on May 17.

The uncle and nephew apparently had coincidentally come to the same restaurant for dinner with their girlfriends, Oakland police said.

The women began arguing and the men intervened and So-

riano choked Thomas to death, according to the district attorney's charges.

Soriano initially fled the scene but turned himself into to police last week.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call the Oakland police at 238-3821 or the tip line at 238-7950.

Man Found Dead at Bayfair BART Station, No Foul Play

A man was found dead near the Bay Fair BART station shortly before 5:30 a.m. last Thursday, May 25.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office coroner's bureau has identified him as Troy Je'Vaughn

Gilbert-Key, 33.

Gilbert-Key was found in the pedestrian tunnel that leads to the station, according to BART police.

Emergency personnel arrived and tried to revive him but he

was later pronounced dead at the scene.

The cause of Gilbert-Key's death is still under investigation, but BART police said they currently do not believe any criminal activity was involved in the death.

Police Brutality Victim Settles Suit

The man who was beaten by Alameda County Sheriff's deputies as he fled the scene of a crime has received a \$5.5 million settlement from the county.

Stanislav Petrov hit a deputy's patrol vehicle while driving a stolen car and led officers on a high-speed chase from Foothill Boulevard in the unincorporated area into San Francisco in November 2015. When deputies caught up with him, two of them beat Petrov with their batons over 40 times as he tried to cover his head with his arms.

Surveillance video of the beating caused outrage when it was released by the San Francisco public defenders' office.

Deputies Luis Santamaria and Paul Weiber were fired from the department and have been arrested and charged with felonies including assault with a deadly weapon.

The Alameda County District Attorney's office dropped charges against Petrov for the incident involving the Alameda

county Sheriff's Office, but he is currently in prison awaiting trial

on unrelated federal gun and drug charges.

Truck Spills Acid on I-238

A truck overturned on the southbound I-238 connector ramp near the I-880 entrance late Wednesday morning, spilling acetic acid and prompting a minor evacuation in the area according to the California Highway Patrol.

Acetic acid is common and can be found in substances including vinegar in low concentrations. It's not known how concentrated the spilled acid was at this time.

The single-vehicle accident happened at about 11:20 a.m. when the trailer of a big rig overturned on the shoulder of the freeway.

Some of the contents of the trailer spilled and leaked into a storm drain.

The state Fish and Wildlife department has been notified about the spill.

A nearby Caltrans building was temporarily evacuated as a precaution. San Lorenzo High was told to keep students out of the area, according to the CHP.

A Sig Alert was ordered and the ramp was closed for a couple of hours while a clean up crew tended the scenes, which caused a traffic back up.

The truck driver was treated for minor injuries. The cause of the crash is under investigation.



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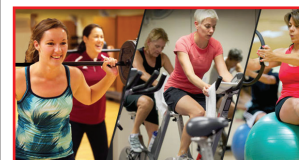


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NEIGHBORS



San Leandro High School senior Omotara Oloye (left), and Piedmont High School senior Hannah Marcus (front right) received the Good Citizen award from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Also in the photo are Valerie Kippen, regent of the Piedmont chapter of DAR, and Chris Hartford, counselor at Piedmont High School.

Good Citizen Awards Presented to High School Seniors

The members of the Piedmont chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were pleased to present two deserving Bay Area high school seniors with this year's DAR Good Citizen award at their annual Good Citizen's Tea.

San Leandro High School senior Omotara Oloye not only received a Good Citizen award but also received a scholarship for

winning first place in the Good Citizen essay contest.

Also winning a Good Citizen award was Hannah Marcus, a senior at Piedmont High School.

Both seniors were nominated by their respective schools because they have displayed the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Artful Steps Exhibit

Beautiful, multi-media work created by the Artful Steps artists with disabilities fills both the downstairs and upstairs galleries of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., through June 30. Special features in this exhibit include digital art, popular mosaics, original prints and a special *My Little Pony* project. A reception with refreshments and a fashion show will be held tonight, June 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Karp Room. The event is free and the public is welcome. Artful Step's mission is to enhance both the artistic abilities and the self-esteem of individuals with developmental disabilities.

❖ San Leandro Art Association Exhibit

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

❖ Readers Roundtable

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable will meet Saturday, June 3, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. There will be a discussion on *The Sympathizer* by Vietnamese American professor Viet Thanh Nguyen. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the library's booktique bookstore.

❖ Read Imagine Design

All ages are invited to join the "Read-Imagine-Design" summer reading challenge to earn prizes for reading and doing activities from Saturday, June 3 to Friday, August 4. Sign-ups start on Saturday, June 3 at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. or participate online at www.sanleandrolibrary.org.

❖ Paradise Community Garden & Lunch

Paradise Community Garden will have an open house and pot luck lunch on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 20095 Mission Blvd. in Hayward. Native plants, handmade pottery, and local honey will be for sale. Bring a pot luck dish to share. Free event sponsored by: Eden Area Food Alliance and Eden Urban Farms. For more information, call Rick Hatcher (909-4077).

❖ Workshop for Democrats

The Alameda County Democratic Party will present a free workshop for Democrats thinking of running for office on Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, 1720 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. Panels will explore personal and family impacts, campaign structure and components, fundraising, legal issues, and first steps. ADA accessible. RSVP required. For more information, call 629-1336 or email info@acdems.org.

❖ Hearing Loss Association Meeting

The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, June 10, refreshments start at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m., at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Attorney Steven Derby will return as guest speaker. This meeting will include a potluck lunch, please bring finger food to share at this last meeting before September. Park free on Saturday in the garage across Howe Street. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.

❖ Japanese Community Bazaar

The Eden Japanese Community Center, 710 Elgin St. in San Lorenzo, will have its annual bazaar on Saturday, June 10, from 3 to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. with barbecued teriyaki chicken and rib dinner, sushi udon, chicken curry and shaved ice, plus raffle, bingo and games. Swing by, have some food and learn more about the programs the community center offers.

❖ St. Gerard Women's Club Luncheon

St. Gerard Women's Club invites everyone to its salad bar luncheon and fashion show, "Hats Off to Fashions," showcasing vintage attire by the models from Goodwill Bags on Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. John's Church Hall, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo. A salad bar luncheon starts at noon with a runway show to follow. There will be door prizes and a raffle. Admission is \$15. To order tickets in advance call Eva Lowe at 586-0376. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

❖ Join the Marines for Coffee

Don't be just a former Marine, join other Marines, past and present, once a month on the second Saturday (except in November) at 0900 hours at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, following the tradition of "Once a Marine, Always a Marine," for coffee, doughnuts and friendship. All are welcome. For more information, call Bobby Ferreira at 460-0636.

❖ A Presentation on Who are Sikhs?

Eden Area Interfaith Council and the Guru Granth Sahib Foundation (Sikh Gurdwara / Temple), Hayward invite you to a presentation on the Sikh faith on Sunday, June 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave. in Castro Valley. A Q&A session will follow the presentation. Tea and Snacks will be provided.

❖ Artist Demonstration

Peggy Milovina Meyer, will demonstrate her method of fine art illustrating on Tuesday, June 13, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Admission is free. Sponsored by the San Leandro Art Association.

❖ Hayward Area Historical Society

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

❖ Bayfair Toastmasters

Bayfair Toastmasters is a small, growing club seeking new members who want to learn the art of public speaking. All are welcome to the club's weekly meetings every Wednesday from noon to 1 a.m. in the Bayfair Mall 2nd floor meeting room above the food court. Come through Entrance 5 facing the Century Theater. For more information, call Noreen at 538-6025 or Wayne at 407-0048.

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

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You might have to turn your Arian charm up a few degrees if you hope to persuade that persistent pessimist to see the possibilities in your project. Whatever you do, don't give up.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): A "tip" about a co-worker's "betrayal" might well raise the Bovine's rage levels. But before charging into a confrontation, let an unbiased colleague do some fact checking.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Although a relationship still seems to be moving too slowly to suit your expectations, it's best not to push it. Let it develop at its own pace. You'll soon get news about a workplace change.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): A continually changing personal situation makes you feel as if you're riding an emotional roller coaster. But hold on tight; stability starts to set in early next week.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Believe it or not, someone might dare to say "No!" to the Regal One's suggestion. But instead of being miffed, use this rebuff to recheck the proposition and, perhaps, make some changes.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): You might find it difficult to make a decision about a family matter. But delay can only lead to more problems. Seek out trusted counsel and then make that important decision.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Concentrate your focus on what needs to be done, and avoid frittering away your energies on less-important pursuits. There'll be time later for fun and games.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Although the conflicts seem to be letting up, you still need to be wary of being drawn into workplace intrigues. Plan a special weekend event for family and/or friends.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Your quick wit helps you work through an already difficult situation without creating more problems. Creative aspects begin to dominate by the week's end.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Be patient. You'll soon receive news about a project that means so much to you. Meanwhile, you might want to reconsider a suggestion you previously turned down.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): There are still some aspects about that new job offer you need to resolve. In the meantime, another possibility seems promising. Be sure to check that out as well.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Opening up your emotional floodgates could leave you vulnerable to being hurt later on. Watch what you say, in order to avoid having your words come back to haunt you.

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Number of Homeless on the Increase

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The number of homeless people in Alameda County has risen by nearly 40 percent in the past two years, according to a census conducted by EveryOne Home, a non-profit dedicated to ending homelessness.

"This problem is growing," said Elaine de Coligny, director of EveryOne Home, at a press conference last week.

A total of 5,629 homeless people were counted in the county in the 2017 "point-in-time" count conducted in January by EveryOne Home. That's up from 4,040 at the last count in 2015.

Men make up 58 percent of homeless people in Alameda County, 49 percent are African American, 30 percent white, and 17 percent Latino.

San Leandro is in the middle of the pack of cities in the county as far as homeless population, with 109 people counted.

The study found 2,761 people in Oakland, followed by Berkeley with 972 and Hayward with 397 and the unincorporated area reported 220. Twenty-one homeless people were counted in Dublin and 18 in Pleasanton, and none in Piedmont.

The county also surveyed 1,228 homeless people in order to find out more about their experience and needs.

According to the survey, the number one cause of homeless is



TIMES FILE PHOTO

Homeless people came to the warming shelter at the First Presbyterian Church on Bancroft Avenue, which is open on cold or rainy nights in the winter.

monetary trouble, with 57 percent saying that is keeping them from a permanent residence. Mental health issues caused 12 percent of the homelessness cases and substance abuse caused another 12 percent.

A total of 47 percent said they had some disability that limited their ability to maintain work or housing. The most common self-reported conditions were psychiatric (41 percent), post-traumatic stress disorder (29 percent), and physical disability

(27 percent).

Of those surveyed, 58 percent said they had been homeless for a year or more and 61 percent said they had more than one period of homelessness in their lives. Over 80 percent said they lived in Alameda County before becoming homeless.

de Coligny says that affordable housing is the key to ending homelessness in Alameda County. The survey found that 98 percent of homeless people would be interested in moving

to permanent adorable housing if they could.

The EveryOne Home report indicates that in Alameda County 15,000 units of housing for homeless people will be necessary in the next 15 years. Another key, according to de Coligny, is to shore up "safety net" services in the community to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place.

Poverty: 14 percent of people under age 18 live in poverty in SL

continued from front page

norities had the most individuals in poverty with about 12 percent of African American, Asians, and Latinos below the poverty line, compared to about 7 percent of whites, according to the report.

And the age group with the highest percentage in poverty are those under age 18, with 14 percent under the poverty line. It was also estimated that 228 students in San Leandro schools are homeless, meaning they don't have an adequate and fixed place to stay at night.

The biggest social service needs in San Leandro are affordable housing and mental health, according to Urban Strategies.

San Leandro residents make up 6 percent of the county's residents but 12 percent of all psychiatric hospitalizations, a number that Urban Strategies researcher Sarah Marxer called "disproportionately high."

Marxer said that in San Leandro 35 percent of the population are immigrants, of those 60 percent are Latino and 30 percent are Asian. Alameda County is second only to Los Angeles County as receivers of unaccompanied minors from Central American countries.

The report also indicated that many San Leandrans speak English "less than very well." The report indicated that almost 80 percent of Asian language speakers over the age of 65 don't speak English fluently, and neither do almost 60 percent of Spanish speakers in that age group.

"Obviously language access is a key consideration in human services," said Marxer, who added if people don't speak English fluently, they need information and services available in the languages they do speak.

There are no easy answers for solving the problems the study outlines, but once the issues have been identified, the next steps are strategizing between service providers, making a prioritized list of needs and looking for funding sources, Striker said.

The City Council said they were surprised at the depth of need in San Leandro.

"Quite honestly, I'm just overwhelmed," said City Councilwoman Corina Lopez. "We have a lot of work to do and we have to do better. This is very important information to us. This should be impactful for us as we get into a discussion of our budget."

Library Invites All to Summer Reading Challenge

Signups start Saturday for reading program

All ages are invited to join the library's "Read...Imagine...Design" summer reading challenge to earn prizes for reading and engaging in fun summer activities. Complete all the activities by August 4 to earn an invitation to a special event to celebrate your success.

Sign up starting Saturday, June 3, at the library or participate online at www.sanleandrolibrary.org — it's free and fun for all ages. The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all ages, from babies to adults, with different incentives for each age group.

Last summer, more than 4,000 youth and adults joined the Library's summer reading program. This summer, the Library hopes to encourage 5,000 or more readers to participate. If the community reaches the goal of 5,000 summer readers by Aug. 4, every participant will earn fine forgiveness of up to \$10 during the week of Aug. 14 through Aug. 20.

Summer Reading isn't just for fun — it helps prevent the

"summer slide", which refers to the months of summer vacation when many kids lose some of the valuable skills learned during the school year.

Library Director Theresa Mallon says "Summer reading loss is cumulative — children don't catch up in the Fall. By the end of sixth grade children who lose reading skills over the summer are two years behind their classmates. Joining the Summer Reading Challenge is a free and easy way to stay engaged in reading and learning over the summer."

Kids participating in the Summer Reading Challenge can earn incentives donated by local businesses and the Recreation and Human Services Department, including a scoop of Loard's ice cream, free swimming at the Family Aquatic Center, a round of junior golf at Monarch Bay Marina course, and a free Mini Murph Pizza and Chipotle kid's meal, as well as admission passes to attractions such as the Oakland Zoo, Lawrence Hall of Science,

Fairyland and the Lindsay Wildlife Experience.

Library branches will host a wide range of free programs for all ages, including family fun nights featuring puppet and magic shows, as well as craft programs, movie matinees, science programs, and weekly storytimes. Teens can learn magic, watch movies, and have fun with some DIY crafts. Adults can design a healthy lifestyle with Zumba and meditation classes and design a green lifestyle by attending an Eco Resource Fair.

Registration for the Summer Reading Challenge begins on Saturday, June 3, at the San Leandro Public Library branches, and online at www.sanleandrolibrary.org. The Main Library will also host an ice cream social on Saturday, June 10, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Sign up for summer reading and enjoy free ice cream. For more information, visit your local branch library, call the Main Library Children's Desk at 577-3960, or visit our website at www.sanleandrolibrary.org.

Our Readers Remember...

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

**Published
July 13, 2017**

All photos will be returned. Please include your name, address and phone number on the back of each photo. Items must be submitted no later than Friday, July 7, 2017 to San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. For more information, call Jim Knowles at 510-614-1557. For advertising information, call Claudette Morrison at 510-912-1490, Linda Nakhai at 510-915-1513 or Mary Florence at 510-861-3270.

AUTOMOTIVE

Chrysler Re-imagines the Minivan

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

Chrysler invented the minivan way back in 1984. Today, they face stiff competition from other manufacturers, particularly Honda's Odyssey and Toyota's Sienna. That means Chrysler needs something special to compete, particularly because minivans still get a bad rap as "soccer mom" cars.

With the Pacifica, Chrysler has transferred the name of a specialty product sold from 2004 to 2008 to what formerly was called the Town and Country. This is a transformed vehicle, re-engineered on a new platform and boasting 115 innovations. It's also won a bunch of awards already.

The styling is carlike, spread on a larger canvas. Lines that look good on the Chrysler 200 sedan expand into something very unlike the competition's offerings.

The Pacifica is truly a NAFTA

poster child, as an American brand assembled in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, with a Mexican engine and a transmission from the U.S. That's today's industry reality.

My tester arrived wearing a Dark Cordovan Pearl Coat, complemented by a Black and Deep Mocha interior. These conveyed more richness than you might expect from a minivan, but this was the Limited model. As such, it behaved more like a luxury sedan than a people-hauling appliance.

My Pacifica boasted many upgrades, including a huge panoramic sunroof, heated front and second-row seats, and third-row seats that fold electrically. The front-row chairs have eight dimensions of power adjustment, too, and are firm and supportive in a way you didn't see in American vehicles before.

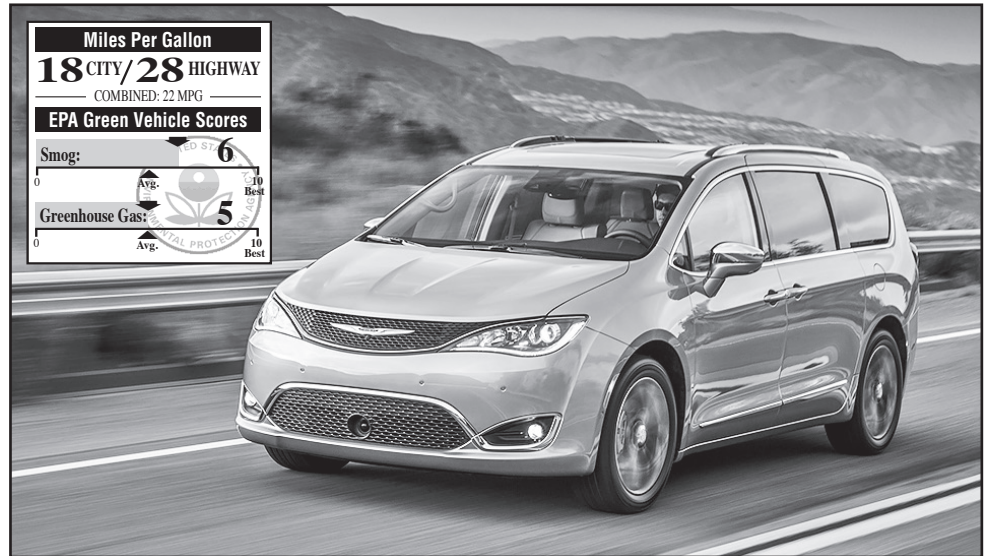
The interior, like the body, is the antithesis of the Lexus design philosophy of loading as many edges and lines into the mix as possible. Instead, it's an organic flow. Inside the car, that

means a sweet, smooth, comforting presence. You still get the handy flip-down internal wide-angle mirror that's been in Chrysler minivans for decades and is ideal for monitoring from the driver's seat who's picking on whom back there.

Noteworthy features include the Stow 'n Vac integrated vacuum, which hides in the left rear panel and is a great idea if you're carrying little people to whom you're handing crackers to pacify them on long trips. It would work great for hauling loads of bark from the garden center at Target, too. With up to 140.5 cubic feet of cargo capacity, it's big enough back there to carry 4 x 8 sheets of plywood, so feel free to start those home improvement projects.

My car entertained lavishly with a Harmon Kardon audio system featuring a mind-boggling 20 speakers and a 760-watt amplifier. There's a small theater in back for the crumb creators, with seatback video screens and a high-definition media interface with Blu-Ray, a DVD player and a USB port for your own personal device. Listen with three-channel headphones and change programs with a remote. This is part of the Uconnect Theater and Sound Group (\$2,795).

The Pacifica gets its motivation from the corporate 3.6-liter V6, with a robust 287 horsepower and 262 lb.-ft. of torque through a nine-speed automatic. It runs on regular fuel. Despite its 4,330-pound bulk and high 0.30 coefficient of drag from pushing a box through the air, the



The 2017 Chrysler Pacifica was re-engineered from the ground up on an all-new platform, delivering reduced noise, vibration and harshness.

minivan earns a respectable 18 City, 28 Highway, and 22 Combined in the EPA fuel economy tests. I averaged 18.7 mpg. Green scores are 6 for Smog and 5 for Greenhouse Gas.

Excitingly, the Pacifica also comes as a plug-in hybrid — the only one of its kind in the industry. You can get up to 33 miles of pure electric range before the engine kicks in. I recently sampled this model briefly, and it is nothing short of awesome. I'll test it and report on it this summer.

Models start with the LX and move up to the Touring, Touring +, L and L+ before topping out with the Limited. The latter actually feels unlimited, with its lengthy list of comfort, convenience and safety features. Besides the usual safety regimen of cameras and alerts, the Advanced Safety Tec Group (\$1,995) adds in ParkSense Front and Rear Assist with Stop, the amazing 360-degree sur-



The thoughtfully designed interior mixes high-tech elements with a sculpted, muscular feel.

round view camera, Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop & Go, fully featured Full Speed Forward Collision Warning Plus, Lane Departure Plus, rain-sensitive wipers and automatic high-beam headlamps.

If you want a Pacifica like my test car, you'll need to finance or write a check for \$48,280. However, if you're willing to go without some of the vast array of premium features, the base LX starts at \$29,990, including the destination charge. That puts it in the heart of most family budgets in 2017.

Chrysler has delivered a worthy and competitive descendant of the original minivan. With the exclusive plug-in hybrid model as well as a range of gas-only models, this is an automotive event worth celebrating.

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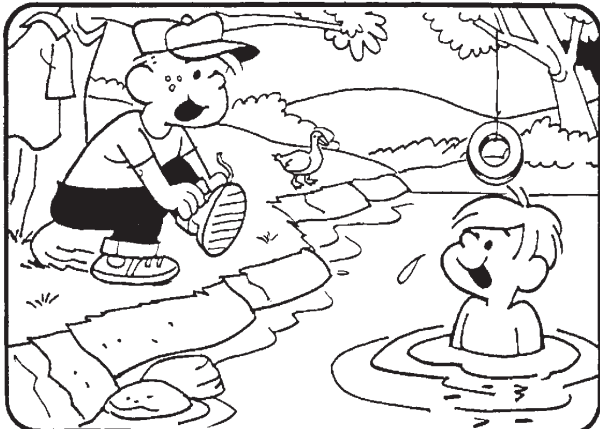
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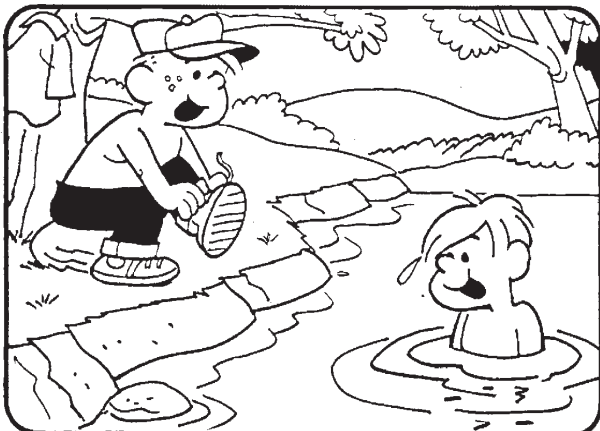


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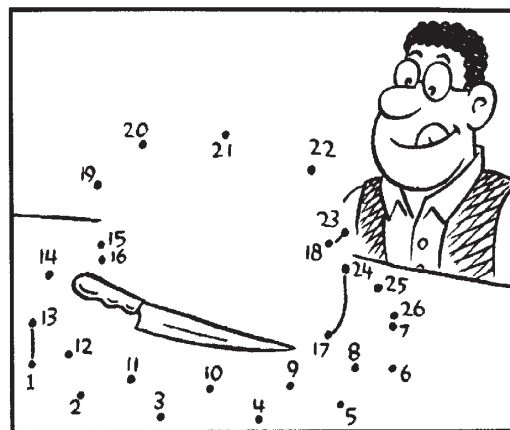
BY
HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shirt on tree is smaller. 2. Undershirt is missing. 3. Rock is missing. 4. Duck is missing. 5. Swing is missing. 6. Head is tilted.



WHAT MOST RESEMBLES HALF A CHEESE?
Connect the dots and find out!

Answer: The other half.

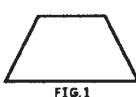


FIG. 1

A BETCHA PUZZLE! Place an odd-shaped piece of paper (fig. 1) on the table and challenge your friends to cut it into four equal pieces, all the same size and shape. The solution is shown in figure 2.

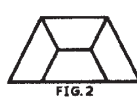
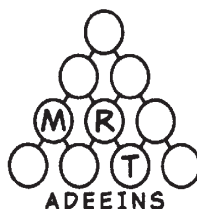


FIG. 2

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Dams, damre, dare, dare, damre, damre, damre, damre.

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108TH ANNUAL

Cherry Festival



JUNE 3, 2017 • 11AM - 6PM
DOWNTOWN SAN LEANDRO

PARADE AT 10AM • SAN LEANDRO BLVD.



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FARMERS' MARKET • FREE BIKE VALET



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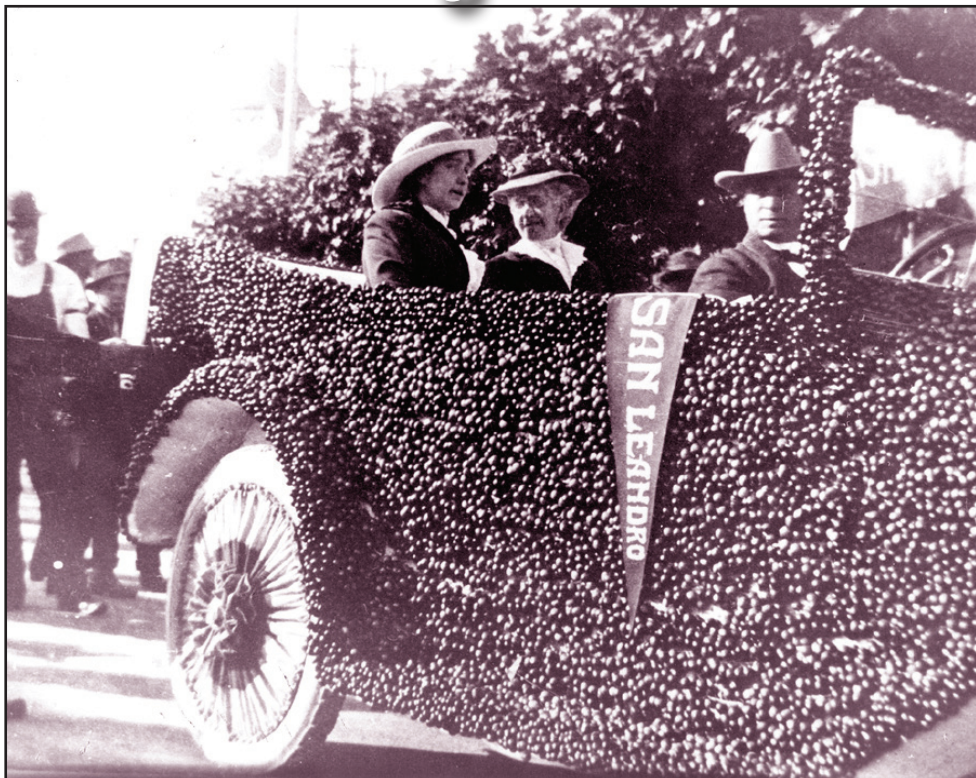


SANLEANDRO.ORG • NO DOGS ALLOWED



SAN LEANDRO Cherry Festival

8 THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017



San Leandro held its first cherry festival in 1909, a year the orchards produced a bumper crop. Back in the old days they decorated a car with cherries and the town celebrated with music, dancing, drinking, parades and races.

Today's San Leandro Sprang Out of the Orchards

The first cherry tree planted in the San Leandro area was at Souther Farm in 1856. So great was the cherry production in San Leandro that the city became known as the "Cherry City." To this day a cluster of cherries grace the center of the city's emblem.

The first Cherry Festival took place in 1909, when cherry orchards covered much of San Leandro. Anticipating a bumper crop of cherries for that spring, the Board of Trade and the city's luminaries decided to hold the community's first cherry festival on Saturday, June 5, 1909, to promote the city.

Miss Bessie Best, the second daughter of Daniel Best (a prominent San Leandro businessman and inventor),

was voted as Queen of the Festival. An estimated 25,000 visitors attended that year – a remarkable figure given the population of San Leandro was just under 3,500 people at the time.

A total of three parades were held throughout the day and 15 tons of cherries were given away. The festival ended with a grand ball.

Cherry Festivals were held throughout most of the early years of the 20th Century, with the exception of the years leading to, during and after WWI.

From 1922 to 1931, San Leandro's Cherry Festivals included music, dancing, parades and races, and the young woman who sold the most festival tickets earned the title of Cherry Queen.

The festival also had a carnival atmosphere and included a three-ring circus, side shows and four blocks of concessions.

In some years, there was even a Ferris Wheel and a merry-go-round. From 1932 to 1971, the Cherry Festival ceased to exist as San Leandro's once-extensive cherry orchards slowly gave way to industrial and housing development.

Then, in 1972, the Cherry Festival was revived as the city proudly celebrated its Centennial. The next Cherry Festival was held in 1986, and others were held regularly until 2005.

In 2015, approximately 25,000 people attended – a mix of residents and visitors. The city's current population is around 89,000 people.



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San Leandro Times

SAN LEANDRO

Cherry Festival

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

C3

9

2017 Cherry Festival Royale Anne Stage

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

11 a.m.	Mayor's Welcome
11:10 a.m.	The San Leandroids
12:45 p.m.	Bayfire Band
2:20 p.m.	Best Intentions Motown Tribute
3:10 p.m.	Announcements, Band Setup,
3:30 p.m.	Morris Knight announces co-headliner The Mango Kingz Band
5 p.m.	Morris Knight announces Legendary Rock Band The Romantics

Community Stage

(Hays St. and W. Estudillo)

MC and DJ by Beto Navarro 'DJ Bumpnbet'

10:30	Altered Egos Band
11:20 a.m.	Fit Aerobic Dance Fitness
11:40 a.m.	Ballet Folklorico Costa de Oro
12:30 p.m.	DC Dance Center & Dance Therapy
1:35 p.m.	Destined 2 Dance
3:35 p.m.	Ramana Vieira and Ensemble

Parade Kicks Off Cherry Festival

Parade Starts the Day
The Cherry Festival Parade will kick-off the day at 10 a.m. Saturday, starting at the Boys and Girls Club parking lot, and proceeding down San Leandro Boulevard to Estudillo Avenue at the Cherry Festival.

The parade will include floats, music, youth groups, elected officials, and representatives from local schools.

Bike to the Festival & Free Valet Bicycle Parking

Free valet bicycle parking will be available at the festival.

Bike Walk SL will host free valet bicycle parking on Hays Street to encourage you to ride your bike and avoid the hassle of driving and parking.

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market will have lots of cherries, stone fruits, and cherry-baked goods will be for sale.

BARTable

The Cherry Festival is BARTable with easy access to the San Leandro BART Station

just a block away.

Arts and Crafts

Unique and hand-crafted cherry themed items will be available in the artisan section of the festival. Check out the goods for sale from local and specialty artisans.

PUBPARC

The San Leandro Chamber of Commerce will host a PUBPARC with a variety of food trucks from Food Truck Mafia, paired with local craft beer.

Kids' Zone

Things to do for the kids, including rides, games and face painting and other activities.

Parking

Free parking is available at the Downtown Parking Garage, 122 Estudillo Ave. and the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Directions

The San Leandro Cherry Festival is conveniently located downtown by the historical Casa Peralta.

Cherry Facts

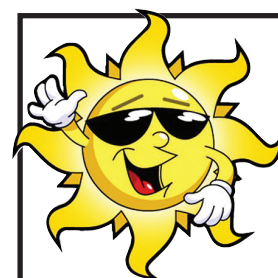


- The first Cherry Festival was held in San Leandro in 1909 in celebration of one of the city's most successful crops. At the time, the city's population was around 4,000 but over 25,000 attended from all over the Bay Area, most traveling via electric streetcars.
- Cherries belong to the same family as almonds, peaches, plums, and apricots.

Let the Judges Decide



Homemade cherry pies, both traditional and non-traditional will be judged and the winners will be announced on the main stage.



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ONLY \$199*

*New students only. Not valid with any other offer.

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August 7-11	9AM-3PM (M-F)

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Cherry Facts



- Cherries have to be picked ripe, they don't ripen at all once off the tree.
- Cherries were brought from their native Persia to the Western world by the Roman army.
- Cherry trees are among the most favorite foods of caterpillars.
- All cherry pits contain a trace of cyanide.

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Event Starts 11am

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Additional strips can be purchased the day of the event (2 for \$5 mix and match).

Buy-In includes strips, a barbecue lunch and a raffle ticket for a chance to win a themed prize basket.

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Postcard from San Leandro's Past

A postcard from 1915 gives a glimpse of San Leandro a century ago. At the time, San Leandro's population was 4,500. It had five churches, three schools, a library, and was served by two transcontinental railroads. The principal products were cherries, apricots, rhubarb, peas, tomatoes and corn.

Mango Kingz Bring Home Aloha Spirit

Mango Kingz

Mango Kingz is a group of Bay Area guys that joined together to put their own spin on the island reggae sound that has spanned generations.

Through the years, the Mango Kingz have evolved and so has their distinct style. They strive to bring a little bit of that aloha spirit to the mainland, all for the love of a music that they fell in love with on a family vacation.

Over the years they have created their own buzz with their unique mixture of island, roots, and pop reggae, inspired by life on the "island" of the SF Bay Area. With

the help of their loyal fan-base, they are now looking to share their positive vibes with the rest of the world.

Their first single, "You Got Me" was released in 2012, blowing up the radio waves in Hawaii. Their follow ups, "Givin It Up," "Lady Sublime," and "All Over Again" and their newest "Thumpin'" are introductions to the type of feel-good music you can expect from the Mango Kingz.

The Best Intentions

The Best Intentions is comprised of five talented vocalists. Their unique har-

monic, soulful tones and their smooth choreography, have come to be recognized as the signature of the group. Presenting the Original Motown classics, old school, and R&B sound from the '60s, '70s, and '80s on up.

Chuy Gomez

A Bay Area legend, Chuy Gomez is spinnin' the big- see *MUSIC*, page 11



The main stage MCs will be Bay Area DJs Chuy Gomez (above) and (below) Morris Knight.



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San Leandro Times

SAN LEANDRO

Cherry Festival

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017 **11**

The Romantics Cut Teeth on Detroit Sound

continued from page 10

gest hits on the airwaves. He knows all types of music ranging from the classics to today's hits.

Morris Knight

A love for music has always been the driving force in Morris' life. This California native was raised in San Diego then moved to Sacramento where his radio career began.

Morris started as an intern then moved to a regular shift working overnights. This gave him enough experience to move to middays on KWIN in Stockton.

His life really changed in 1997, when he got the call from KISS 98.1 and was asked

to move to San Francisco to become the PM drive host. Today Morris can be found weekdays, from 3 to 8 p.m. on iHeart80s@103.7. He calls it "the greatest job in the world."

The Romantics

The original members of The Romantics—Wally Palmar, Jimmy Marinos, Mike Skill and Rich Cole—formally became a band on Valentine's Day, 1977.

Bred on the mean streets of Detroit's east side, they were inspired by the British punk invasion and their hometown rock scene. Nearly 30 years later they are still known for having created some of the most influential

and beloved rock and roll of all time.

The Romantics cut their teeth on the Detroit sound characterized by the MC5, the Stooges, Bob Seger and the Last Heard, Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, the Rationals, SRC, the Underdogs, and infused it with sincerity, irony, spontaneity and, of course, volume. They favored short hair, short songs and popularized red leather suits.

Their musical credo, then and now, was a simple, joyful affirmation, epitomized by the "Hey!...uh-huh!" intro to "What I Like About You," the unforgettable, high-energy track that still bridges generations, times and musical



The Best Intentions harmonize with soulful tones and smooth choreography. Below, the Mango Kingz bring their unique mixture of island, roots and pop reggae to the festival.



The Romantics started as kids escaping hard work in the factories.

genres. Their storied history goes something like this:

Wally Palmar, Jimmy Marinos, Mike Skill and Rich Cole – the original Romantics – weren't punks. They were a response to the nihilism of the U.K. punks.

2011 brought the re-emergence of original bass player, vocalist, Rich Cole. With his addition, the band is able to expand their set list and include more songs from their first two albums, as well as new and unreleased material.

They are now able to focus in more on harmonies and getting back to their original rock sound that established The Romantics from the very beginning.

Currently, Palmar, Skill, Cole, and Elvis are touring and writing songs. In the works are new releases and some surprise unreleased, live recordings.



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San Leandro Times

SAN LEANDRO

Cherry Festival

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017 **C7** 13

San Leandro Musicians to Take the Stage

Talented musicians The San Leandroids and Ramana Vieira proudly hail from The Cherry City

The San Leandroids

Long-time San Leandro residents, The San Leandroids, play all your favorite danceable pop, rock, and new wave hits from the Eighties.

Ramana Vieira Ensemble

Ramana Vieira was born and raised in the Bay Area and a graduate of San Leandro High School.

She received her formal voice and acting training at the American Conservatory of Theater in San Francisco. She has traveled internationally, and was invited to Madeira, Portugal, her parents' homeland, to perform for the annual wine festival.

When Mariza, the "Voice of Fado" in Portugal, was making a rare West Coast appearance on her spring 2002

tour, Ramana was chosen as her only opening act.

According to the "Mundo Portuguese," an international Portuguese magazine, Ramana was called the "new voice of Portuguese World Music" and was featured on the front cover of their Jan./Feb. 2001 issue.

Ramana composes her music on the piano and is accompanied by some of the Bay Area's finest musicians.

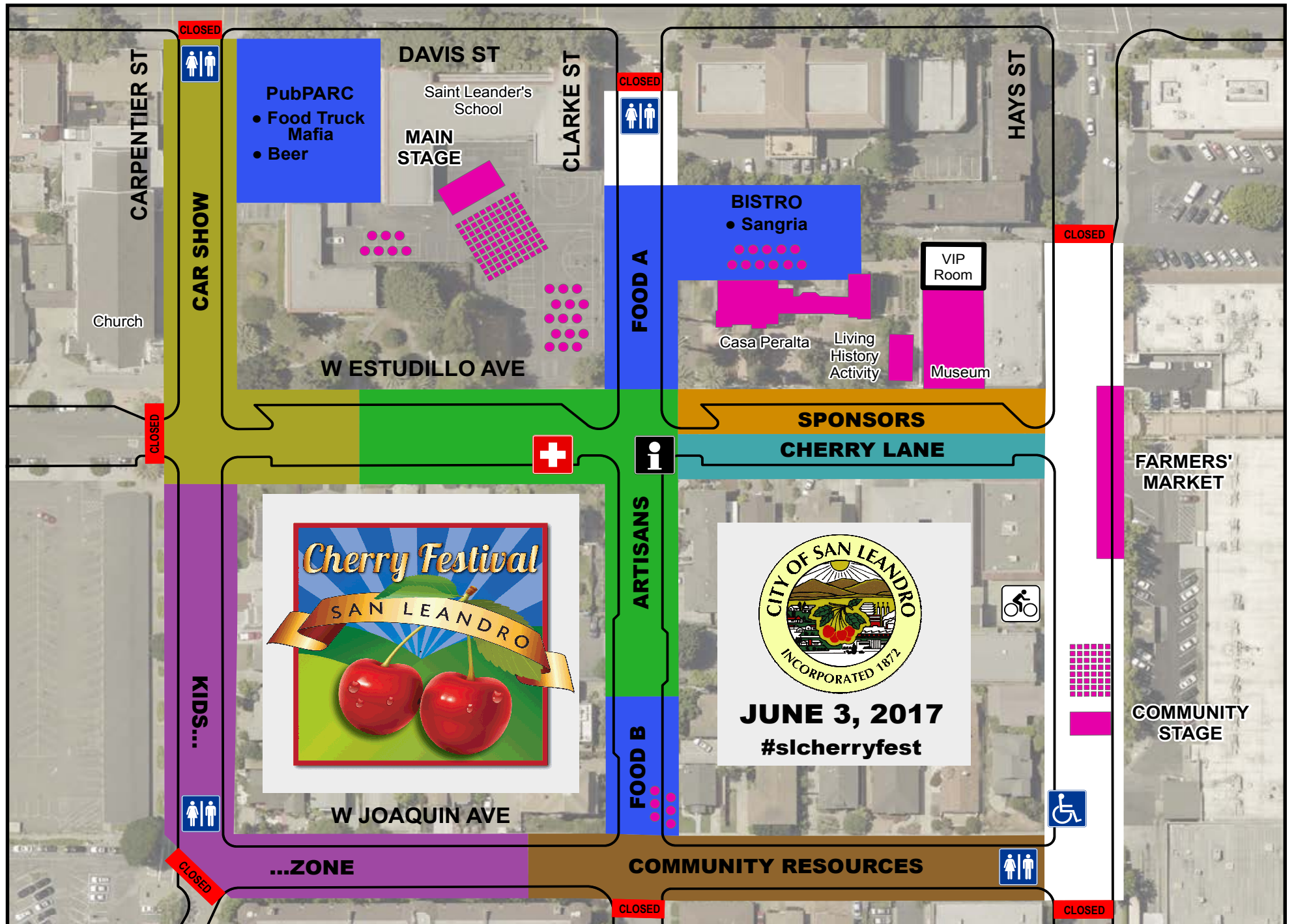
Her music is a combination of Portuguese Fados (traditional songs about "fates") a splash of Flamenco guitar, and captivating rhythms.

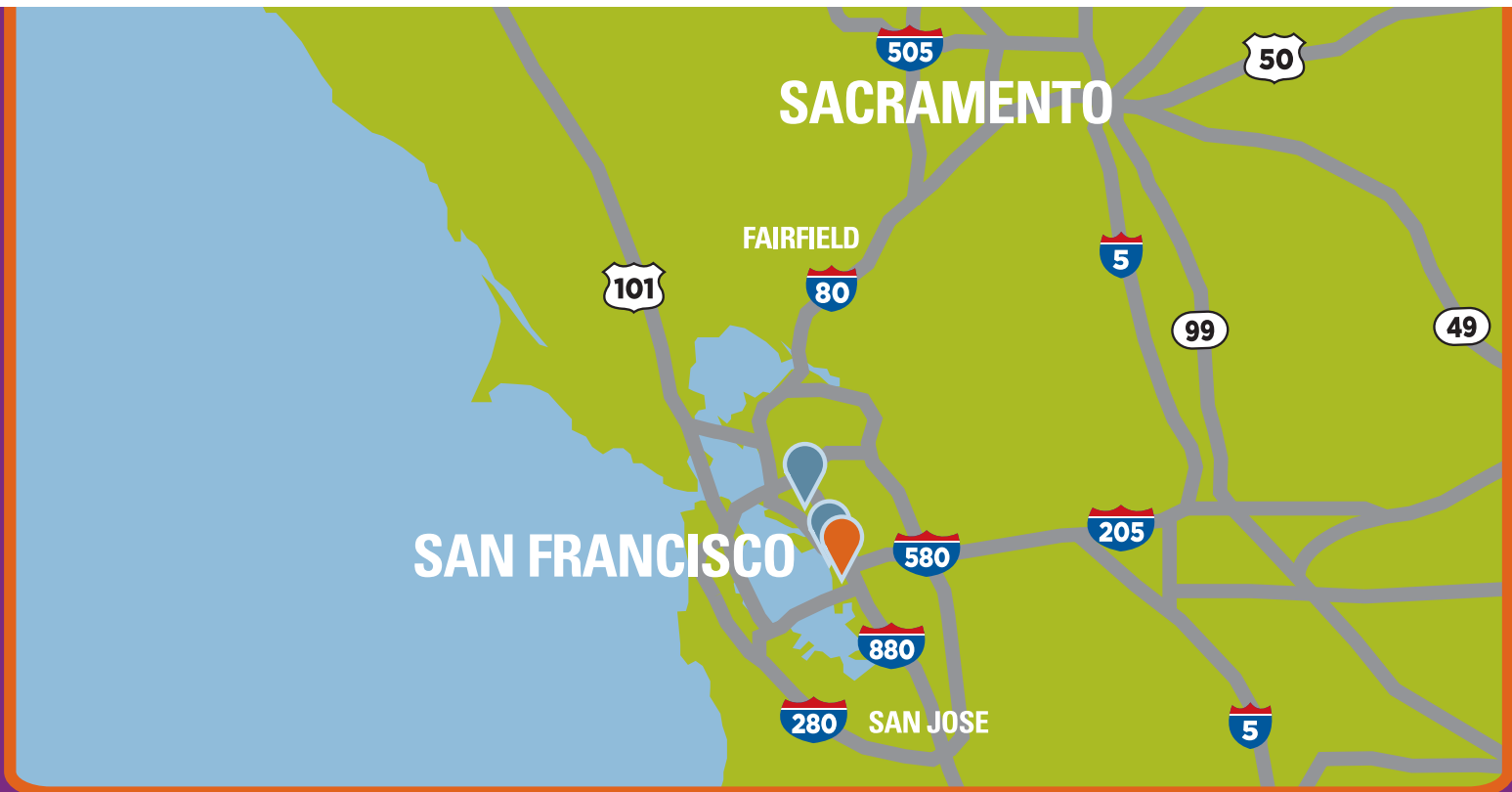


The San Leandroids play danceable '80s hits.



Ramana Vieira composes her own music on piano and her ensemble includes some of the Bay Area's finest musicians.





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Budget: Employee costs, pensions called 'a growing concern'

continued from front page

budget report authored by City Manager Chris Zapata, he says that the city may ask voters to approve a \$20 million bond sometime during the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

"The city faces operating deficits in the future, due primarily to staffing costs," Zapata writes. "However we will begin planning now so that the City Council may make informed decisions."

Employee costs do remain one of the largest expenditures in the budget. Finance Director David Baum called the city's pension obligations "a growing concern." The city estimates that there are currently \$174 million in unfunded pension liabilities.

Of the \$200 million budget for next year, \$65 million will go to salaries and benefits for current employees.

The city gets over 16 percent (\$33 million) of its revenue from sales tax and nearly 15 percent from property tax (\$29 million).

About 5 percent (\$9.3 million) of the city's budget this fiscal year will go to debt service. The city has a number of

outstanding debts ranging from major contraction projects to LED street lights and leases on cop cars.

Paying Back Loans Plus Interest a Large Part of Budget

Among the debts gradually being paid back are a \$43 million loan at 2.6 percent interest for the waster water treatment facility, a \$18 million pension bond accruing 4.7 percent interest, and a \$27 million bond to fund projects including building a new downtown parking garage and building the senior center.

The city department that takes up most of the budget is the police with 19 percent (\$38 million), and the fire department accounts for 12 percent (\$24 million), and capital improvements accounts for about 16 percent (\$31 million).

In addition to the street repairs, major capital improvement projects in the budget in the new fiscal year include \$4.7 million to decommission the marina and \$2.3 million to rebuild Farrelly Pool.

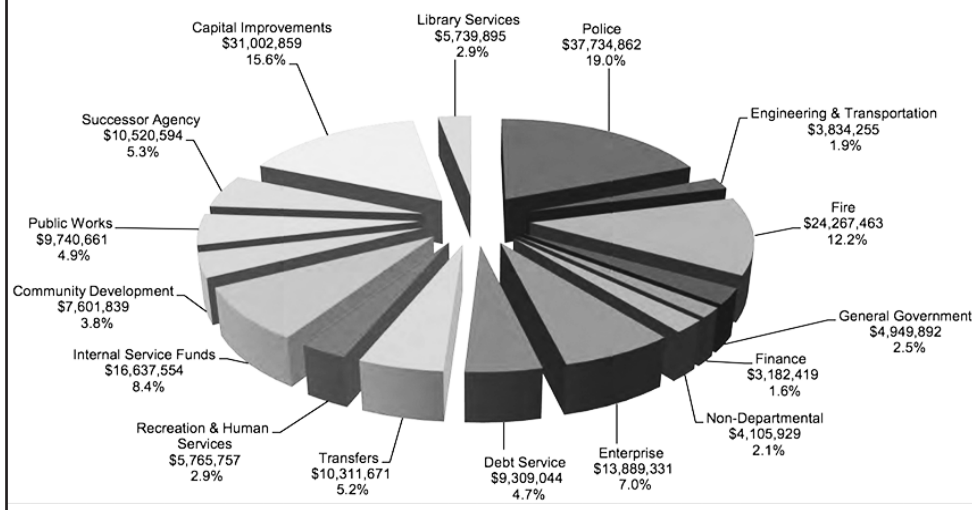
Baum's budget included holding about \$32 million in re-

serve. Revenue exceeds expenses in the current budget, though that is projected to change over the next few years as spending overtakes revenue in the 2019/2020 fiscal year and beyond.

"The next two years are balanced, but beyond that expenditures exceed revenue," said Baum. But he added that the city is "pretty conservative" in their revenue estimates and may end up with more money than currently projected.

A detailed look at the city budget is available on the city's website, www.sanleandro.org. The City Council is expected to discuss the budget further and vote for its approval at their next meeting, June 5 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 835 East 14th Street.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY 2017-18 All Funds \$198,594,025



LOCAL DEATHS

SAN LEANDRO TIMES OBITUARIES

may be submitted online at ebpublishing.com, emailed to obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number. Brief death notices are published free. Longer-length obituaries, including pictures, are available for a fee. For assistance, call Patrick at 510-614-1558.

HIDALGO, Ignatius "Mickey"
MENDOZA, Thomas Jordan
PEREIRA, RoseMarie
SOUZA, Manuel E.
YOUNG, George Geronikakis

■ **Ignatius "Mickey" Hidalgo** (February 9, 1923 – May 11, 2017), a resident of San Lorenzo, passed at age 94. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. with a chapel service beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 3, at Grissom's Chapel and Mortuary, 267 E. Lewelling Blvd., in San Lorenzo (510-278-2800).

■ **Thomas Jordan Mendoza** passed away May 11, 2017. He was 70. A memorial service will be held at the Biblical Gardens in Alta Sierra on Sunday, June 11,

at 11:30 a.m. A casual reception will follow at Tom and Karen's home in Lake of the Pines. Arrangements are under the care of Hooper and Weaver Mortuary in Nevada City.

■ **Manuel E. Souza** passed away on May 26, 2017 at the age of 89. He worked for Caterpillar Tractor for many years. He leaves his wife, Veronica; his 2 daughters, Janice and Loreen; and 2 granddaughters. A Funeral Service will be held at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro on Saturday, June 3, beginning at 11 a.m.

RoseMarie Pereira

77, died Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at her daughter's home in San Leandro following a long illness.

She leaves behind her three children, daughters, Laurie Zimmerman (Mark) and Donna Northcut (Woody), and son, Donnie Pereira Jr.; 9 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and many close family and friends.

RoseMarie was born in Oakland, the daughter of Franklin and Dolores (Augustine) Sequeira. After graduating from Bishop O'Dowd in 1957, she married her high school sweetheart, Don Pereira, in Reno, Nevada. They were married 58 years.

A celebration of her life will be held at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro on Friday, June 2, beginning at 6 p.m. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

George Geronikakis Young

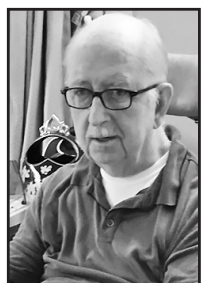
George Geronikakis Young, 89, of San Leandro peacefully passed away May 24, 2017.

George was married to his loving wife, Maria (Patrikios), for 60 years. They were inseparable. Together, they dedicated their lives to their daughters, Stamata (Yannis) Sgouros and Anastasia (Dan) Gellepes; and loving grandchildren, Christina, Angelo (Lainie) Sgouros and Maria Gellepes; and great-grandchildren, Alexander Sgouros, Daniel, Sgouros and Yannis Nickolopoulos.

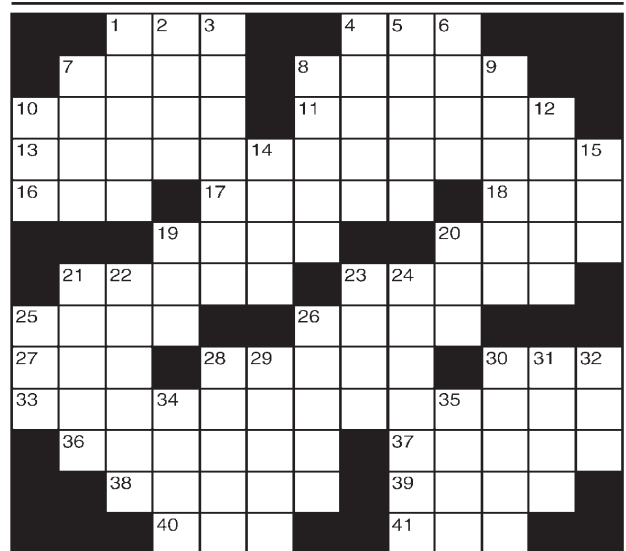
He cherished his phone calls from his loving brother, Tom. George was always willing to help anyone who came across his path be it with a loving smile, a joke (for which he will forever be remembered), and the sound and supportive advice he gave to so many. He loved spending time with family, automobiles, gardening and home repair projects.

He preceded in death by his parents, Stamata and Spiro Young; and infant grandson, Constantine John Gellepes. May he rest in peace and may his memory forever live in our hearts!

Services were held in Castro Valley.



THE TIMES CROSSWORD



ACROSS

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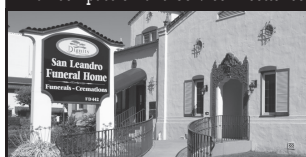
ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

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REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Relocation Moves Anxiety to the Next Level

Of all the activities that occur while buying or selling a home, the most feared is the actual move.

Whether the issue is the act of picking up belongings and carrying them to and from the truck, questions about whether your belongings will fit in your new digs or trying to figure out the best way to facilitate everything... no one I've met enjoys the actual move.

Moves can be broken into

five basic components: packing, loading, driving, unloading and unpacking. In its most basic form, you do all five steps yourself.

For those who can either afford it or simply don't have the muscle to handle it themselves, help can be hired to facilitate any of the components.

Pack as much as possible before moving day. Boxes should all be labeled and items you will need first on the other end should be clearly marked. You can either hire packers to help or do it yourself: professionals will assume the liability should something break. Pack it yourself and the responsibility is all yours.

While some like foraging through local stores to get boxes, it's smart to purchase proper moving boxes. To minimize damage to your belongings, each box should stack properly on top of each other in the truck. The better the boxes fit in the truck, the less likely you will end up with damage, especially on long moves.

Furniture items such as beds need to be broken down into parts and any screws or assembly hardware placed in a Ziploc bag and fastened to the furniture in a fashion that will not cause damage.

If you hire professionals, it's a simple matter of watching them do it all. If DIY, whether renting a moving truck or rounding up a collection of vehicles, you and anyone you can tempt with free pizza shows up at the appointed time and starts hauling items to the vehicles.

Careful packing is critical: most damage happens while belongings are in transit due to moving about as the vehicles go around corners and encounter bumps.

Once you arrive at your destination, unload the vehicles. Move every box or item directly to the room where it will end up. If you did everything correctly, there will be no damage and, as soon as everything is unpacked and set up, you can settle in and get on with life... in your new home.

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 at www.ccmgtoday.com.



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1453 Gardner Boulevard	94577	\$600,000	3 BD - 1,458 SF - 1942	
1810 Hilding Avenue	94577	\$590,000	3 BD - 1,488 SF - 1952	
377 Kenilworth Avenue	94577	\$580,000	2 BD - 1,071 SF - 1935	
415 Maud Avenue	94577	\$700,000	4 BD - 1,521 SF - 1914	
509 Olive Court	94578	\$568,500	3 BD - 1,014 SF - 1950	

TOTAL SALES:	8			
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$441,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$574,250	
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$700,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$562,313	

San Lorenzo				
1390 Culver Place	94580	\$430,000	3 BD - 1,040 SF - 1972	
536 Heritage Circle	94580	\$545,000	4 BD - 1,451 SF - 2003	

Castro Valley				
5319 Camino Alta Mira	94546	\$902,000	3 BD - 2,421 SF - 1966	
18910 Carlton Avenue	94546	\$775,000	3 BD - 1,563 SF - 1952	
20377 Summerglenn Place	94552	\$757,000	4 BD - 1,666 SF - 1998	
TOTAL SALES:	3			
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$757,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$775,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$902,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$811,333	

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CITY GUIDE: A = SAN LEANDRO

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Author of *Seeing Gertrude Stein* to Speak at Library

Library hosts program to celebrate LGBT pride month

In recognition of LGBT Pride Month, the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., will host an author discussion on Saturday, June 17, from 2 to 3 p.m. with Tirza True Latimer, co-author of *Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories*.

Admission is free.

In this book, Latimer and

co-author Wanda Corn analyzed the portraits for which Gertrude Stein posed, the domestic settings she created with Alice B. Toklas, her partner, and the signature styles of dress the two women adopted.

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



Tirza True Latimer will speak on June 17.

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

Book Serves as Companion to Exhibit

This book served as a companion to an exhibition of the same title and organized by the Contemporary Jewish Museum, S.F., and the National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C. Copies

of this book will be sold after Ms. Latimer's discussion.

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

For more information, call the San Leandro Main Library at 577-3971.

San Leandro Toastmasters Meet Thursdays

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

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

Supports Medical Marijuana Store At Davis Wellness Center

Editor:

I am a San Leandro resident writing to express my support for the proposed Davis Wellness Center medical cannabis dispensary.

The dispensary location on Teagarden Street is in San Leandro's "Green Zone," established as acceptable areas for medical cannabis dispensaries. Having a medical cannabis dispensary next to a health clinic makes perfect sense to allow card-carrying patients easy and safe access to medical cannabis.

Finally, as an active member of San Leandro's community and parent of a grade-school child, I know how tight our city budget is and appreciate the potential influx of tens of thousands of dollars in taxes this dispensary will generate for the city of San Leandro to support community programs.

—David Egan, San Leandro

Calls Eden Area MAC Survey 'Misleading'

Editor:

Don't be misled!

Look in your mail for a critically important survey from the county arriving before June 12. There is a very misleading statement on the survey that says, "Members of the Eden Area Livability Initiative... considered whether there was a need for a Municipal Advisory Council in the Eden Area," which would lead you to believe that it was just one idea that somebody threw out there.

The truth is that *over the last 10 years*, many citizen volunteers in EALI's Governance Group put in countless

hours of research, discussion, painstaking debate, and attempts at other alternatives. In March of 2016, we reached a *unanimous decision* that an Eden MAC is the best step to improve our local government representation in the unincorporated Eden area.

Do not let those in positions of power and influence deny us of what we have needed for a very long time. We need a local official government forum for our community to have a voice in our future. We need a Municipal Advisory Council like the one Castro Valley has had for over 35 years.

It's time to turn things around. This is finally within our grasp, so let's get it done. There are only six questions on the survey. The last two will ask about a MAC. Those of us who have been working on this ask you to please vote "Yes" on question 5 for a single unifying MAC.

—Keith Barros, San Lorenzo

San Leandro Should Take Action On Age Friendly Initiative

Editor:

As the U.S. population ages and people stay healthy and live longer, communities and cities will have to adapt to cater to the growing older population.

According to AARP data, one in three Americans is now 50 years or older and by 2030 one out of every five people in the U.S. will be 65 and older. To cater to the growing older population, communities and cities will have to be prepared to meet their needs.

For this reason, the Age Friendly Initiative is important. Some of the domains that will need to be addressed in this initiative are (1) Senior-friendly housing; (2) Safe outdoor spaces for seniors;

(3) Community and health support; (4) Respect and social inclusion; (5) Social participation; and (6) Programs to watch for elder abuse, neglect and fraud.

The World Health Organization, along with AARP, is encouraging cities to pass the Age Friendly Initiative. The cities of Fremont and Berkeley are good examples of cities that are taking action on the initiative.

The City of Fremont has been recognized by AARP for inclusion of some of the domains in its programs for seniors. Additionally, the Age Friendly Berkeley Initiative was born after the Ashby Village Project members and other community members had a number of discussions on the popular book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande.

San Leandro, being a city having a large percentage of older adults, should join other cities in taking action on the Age Friendly Initiative and being forward thinking in its approach to support the growing senior population.

—Bella Comelo

Senior Commissioner, San Leandro

Appreciated Quick Response to Fainting Spell at Library

Editor:

On the morning of Saturday, May 20, I suffered a fainting spell while visiting the San Leandro Public Library. When I opened my eyes, I saw I was surrounded by an array of faces that resembled a meeting at the United Nations. The one thing they all had in common was showing me concern and offering assistance. I want to thank you all.

—Vernon S. Burton, San Leandro

Accuses Democrats of Lacking Courage on Housing, Wages

Editor:

It's a great satisfaction to witness the bleeding of democrats like Bruce Joffe, Vernon Burton, Guillermo Elenes, Richard Mellor, Kenneth Kellogg, Billy Trice Jr. and others on the pages of the San Leandro Times. These people feel miserable: All of their ridiculous accusations don't stick on the constitutionally elected President of the United States.

They gather in the San Leandro Democratic Club, or Oakland, to lick their wounds and to listen to Assemblyman Rob Bonta, or other scab-drivers in the State's Congress, but these writers don't have the courage to ask the politicians what are they going to do about the housing and the low wages situation in California.

These hypocrites speak and write as if some alien entity was in control of the state; these writers have no shame, their logic is the same logic of Berkeley's "free-speechers."

—Leo T. West, San Leandro

INQUIRING REPORTER

What gives you the blues?

— Asked downtown

When my wife has the blues.
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Damon Soo
San Leandro



Back in the day, you could find a job in the canneries. Right now, it's called temporary service – you don't get full-time work. I worked in construction, the shipyards and drove a forklift. I'm retired now.

Reginald Bullock
San Leandro

Not having enough time in the day to do everything I want. I would like more time because I'm writing a book.

Travis Knoll
San Leandro



Thinking too much, and doing less.

Cleo Protopappas
Oakland

The bombing in Manchester and when that boy got shot. And the rent, that gives me the blues. What are people thinking? You have to be a millionaire to pay the rent. But as my mother always told me, count your blessings.

Paulette Powell
San Leandro





PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Cigarette Store Robbed

Two armed men robbed the Cigarette Max in the downtown plaza last Friday morning and sped away. An employee said the suspects' faces were partially covered. No one was injured in the robbery. Police said the getaway car was seen heading north on San Leandro Boulevard and the suspects got away.

Hayward Museum Puts Remarkable Artifacts on Exhibit

The Hayward Area Historical Society (HAHS) presents "Unmentionable: The Indiscreet Stories of Artifacts" now through October at the HAHS Museum of History and Culture at 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward.

This original exhibition explores all the unusual, icky, scandalous, disturbing, awful, discriminatory, uncomfortable and surprising artifacts in the HAHS collection.

Museums, like the Hayward Area Historical Society, collect a wide assortment of artifacts that tell a story about a moment in time, a place, person or idea. While the physical artifact stays the same, the meaning and significance of that artifact can change depending on what's happening in the world.

With that thought in mind, the artifacts in this exhibition tell some not-so-great, but very

important stories.

Some of the items themselves are difficult to look at while others represent an idea or moment in time that is hard to comprehend in relation to our modern society and modern thinking.

Other items may not seem so scandalous now but were at one time.

For more information, call 581-0223 or visit www.hayward-areahistory.org.

City Engineer Wins State Award

The League of California Cities - Public Works Officers Department honored Keith Cooke, San Leandro's Director of Engineering and Transportation, with the prestigious James L. Martin Award in March for his significant contributions towards the public works profession.

The James L. Martin Award has been presented annually since 2003 to individuals who demonstrate outstanding contributions to the public works field, including fostering professional development, mentoring others, and active participation in League activities.

"We are so fortunate to have Keith Cooke as our Engineering and Transportation Director," said San Leandro Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter. "Virtually every neighborhood in San Leandro

has benefitted from the important work he has helped execute over the past 22 years."

Cooke began practicing civil engineering in 1984 and has been with the City of San Leandro since 1994 and became director of the city's Engineering and Transportation Department in 2015. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis and a master's degree in structural engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He also holds licensure as a professional engineer and represented San Leandro on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Alameda County Transportation Commission from 2003 to 2015.

"Keith is a highly talented and committed San Leandro resident who is respected locally as well as

regionally for his professionalism and dedicated public service," added City Manager Chris Zapata, who appointed Keith to his current position in 2015 after a nationwide recruitment following the retirement of his predecessor, Uche Udemezue. "Keith also has a great track record of shepherding major projects to completion in partnership with community stakeholders, including the development and expansion of the Lit San Leandro fiber optic network."

"I am humbled that my colleagues at the League of California Cities have honored me as the 2017 James L. Martin Award recipient," Cooke said. "I hope my service inspires others to volunteer their time and efforts to this worthy cause as we all work to make our cities a better place for everyone."



TIMES FILE PHOTO

City engineer Keith Cooke spoke at a ceremony for the re-opening of San Leandro's Water Pollution Control Plant in 2016.

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Free Booster Seats For County Residents

Five hundred vehicle booster seats and 500 bicycle helmets will be given away at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 10., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2017 Alameda County Safe Kids Day & Booster Seat Giveaway will take place at lot 8 of the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, just inside gate 12 (2100 Valley Ave., Pleasanton). The giveaway is hosted by Safe Kids Alameda County with Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, in partnership with AAA of Northern California.

The event will be open to the public, but booster seat/helmet eligibility requires proof of Alameda County residency.

Parent/guardian, child and vehicle must all be present to be eligible. Booster seats and helmets accommodating children 5+ years of age, weighing approximately 50 to 110 pounds

and measuring approximately 40-57 inches in height, will be available free of cost. Education and installation will be provided by certified safety seat technicians.

In addition to the booster seat and helmet giveaway, the event will also feature an interactive safety fair comprised of over 20 local agencies, family fun, and live entertainment and safety activities.

A free barbecue lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food and safety equipment will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, and only while supplies last.

"It's truly an honor to be able to bring a program of this magnitude to the residents of Alameda County," said county Supervisor Scott Haggerty. "When all is said and done, we will walk away with peace of mind."