



PAGES
6 & 7

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE TOWN



WEEKEND WEATHER
MILD Temps will be a little higher this weekend
HIGHS: 63-68
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 42-47

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 30 • NO. 49

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Sidewalk Ramps Installed

A construction crew pours concrete this week for the sidewalk ramp and the pedestrian crossing so it's wheelchair accessible at the corner of Harlan Street and Washington Avenue.

Governor Mulls More Restrictions

Stricter shutdown rules may be needed to prevent hospitals from filling up

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Alameda County, and all of California, may see another round of Covid-19 related restrictions unless people take drastic actions to slow the spread, Governor Gavin Newsom said this week.

In his weekly update on Monday, the governor expressed grave concern for public health now that more than 1.2 million people in the state have contracted the novel coronavirus, up 1.2 percent since before the Thanksgiving holiday. Alameda County saw an additional 2,000 cases recorded in just one week, according to the county health department.

Newsom was not specific on the more restrictive plans but hinted that the state could see shelter-in-place orders similar to the ones initially rolled out back in March.

"This is a dynamic week. This is an incredibly important week in the history of this pandemic for this nation, not just this state," Newsom said. "I can assure you that we'll be coming out with some additional information, additional recommendations in the very, very near future."

The biggest concern is that there will not be enough hospital beds for Covid patients. On Sunday, California broke a record with more than 7,400 coronavirus

hospitalizations. Over the past 14 days, Covid hospitalizations have increased by 89 percent and Covid admissions to intensive see **RESTRICTIONS**, page 4

Bicyclist Struck and Killed on Davis Street

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

San Leandro police are hoping a witness can provide information on a bicycle fatality on the Davis Street overpass at I-880 on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Police arrived to find an adult man lying on the ground. Live-saving measures were attempted but paramedics pronounced the man deceased, according to the San Leandro police.

The Alameda County Coroner's Office said that the next of kin has yet to be notified so the man's name is not being released.

see **BICYCLIST**, page 3

Beloved Coyote Goes to CV Veterinary Clinic

By Linda Sandsmark
San Leandro Times

A Castro Valley veterinary clinic had a special patient last week: Jazz, one of the two beloved coyotes at the Sulphur Creek Nature Center in Hayward. Jazz wasn't ill, but he is an older coyote who had some loose and fractured teeth. It was time for him to have a complete medical exam and get the needed dental care.

At Castro Valley Companion Animal Hospital, doctors René Gandolfi and Charlotte Leong coordinated Jazz's anesthesia and treatments.

Coyotes are not just "big dogs," and dealing with wild animals has its issues, specifically safety for the patient and human caretakers alike.

As soon as Jazz arrived, he was given an injection with a

combination of anesthetic and tranquilizer medications. Then, just like human surgery, he was placed on oxygen and an anesthetic gas, and was provided with IV fluids. Dr. Gandolfi, a certified Veterinary Acupuncturist, added to that support with a couple of well-placed needles.

For Jazz it was a relatively peaceful experience, and the doctors and staff were very pleased to see him get through the anesthesia and dental surgery with little aftereffects. They were also quite relieved that no humans were injured in the process.

Dr. Gandolfi has been providing pro-bono veterinary services to Sulphur Creek Nature Center for over 30 years. The center is operated by the Hayward Area see **COYOTE**, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENE GANDOLFI

Jazz got an x-ray along with other treatments last week at the Castro Valley Animal Hospital.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

MUSIC

Children's author pens book for music students. **Page 2**

NEWS

SL woman charged with torturing son. **Page 3**

NATURE

Tips to prevent running into a deer. **Page 16**

38,500 EVERY THURSDAY
THE LARGEST FREE-DELIVERED NEWSPAPER IN THE EAST BAY

Automotive.....	5
Classified Ads	12
Crossword.....	13
Homes	10
Home Services	12
Inquiring Reporter ...	15
Letters	15
Lifestyle	7
Obituaries	14
Pets	2
Seniors	8



MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



PETS OF THE WEEK



Jayden



London

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are both kittens, Jayden and London.

Jayden is a 10-week-old male kitten who is sweet and curious.

He's still learning the ropes for being around people, but he's picking it up quickly.

London is a darling 9-week-old female medium/long haired kitten who is sweet but a little skittish. She allows handling but is still getting used to people.

For more information on Jayden or London, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



Becky Chaffee wrote 'Have Fun With Your Music' to help children enjoy practicing their instruments.

New Music Book Encourages Kids to Practice their Instruments

Becky Chaffee grew up in San Leandro taking every band

and orchestra class she could find. Now Chaffee has written and illustrated a children's book that, in a fun way, encourages kids to practice their musical instruments.

The book includes two pages of music stickers, so Chaffee says it could make a good holiday gift.

Have Fun with Your Music for Piano, Violin, Teachers, Fun on Any Instrument, Empowering and Interactive includes a forward by Alison Maerker Garner. The book can be found on Amazon, starting at \$22 for the hardcover and \$5.99 for the Kindle edition.

Chaffee is an amateur musician, and has listened to about 20 years of music lessons as a result of taking her two children to

classical and jazz violin and piano lessons and then herself to flute lessons. Her children are both now young adults, currently play music for their own enjoyment.

Some of the online reviews say the book is: "Great for Covid times." "Spoiler alert: grownups say it makes them want to practice, too."

Have Fun With Your Music (with stickers) is a 40-page book with color illustrations on every page. Every other page has a small amount of text like a small poem. The illustrations take the form of paintings of animals engaging in activities relating to music, and where the combination of each painting with the text provides a motivational lesson for children.

Born on this Day, Dec. 3 ...

In 1826: General George B. Joseph Conrad.
McClellan.

In 1921: Opera soprano Phyllis Curtin.

COMMIT YOUR FAMILY TO BE FIT!

**We Are Different From Other Fitness Clubs.
We Have A Safe Family Atmosphere!**

Full Gym • Over 40 weekly Exercise Classes outdoors or ZoomFitness • 7 lanes per hour Lap Swimming • Aqua Aerobic Classes - 8 weekly • Swim Lessons • Pro Tennis Lessons • Kids Pool Open ALL Winter 88 degrees • Pickleball Groups & Socials!

All Classes/Facilities require Reservations. We honor all Up to date Health Dept. Requirements/Change for your Safety= Masks, Hand Sanitizing, and Distancing.

Limited Time Offer

NO INITIATION FEE!*

Save \$400 - \$800

& DECEMBER FREE

**When you join early and pay your first 3 months dues.*

Subject to change without notice.

Offer exp. 1/3/21

**Join Our Club Where
Everyone Knows Your Name.
Be A Part Of Something!**

**FREE
KID FIT CLASSES
after school!**



**LIMITED
AVAILABLE SLOTS**

FREE TOURS-No Appointments

**Check Us Out Our Website.
Look for All Features & Benefits.
WWW.BOVSWIM.COM**

**Monthly Dues for
Families = \$237**

**Monthly Dues for
Singles = \$228**

*Membership includes the whole family
up to 6 members. Lockers \$10.*

Located on corner of 1881 Astor Dr. & Lake Chabot Rd., San Leandro

510-357-8366 • swim@bovswim.com



Family Caregiver Education CLASSES NOW ONLINE!

If you're caring for an elderly family member, Hope Hospice is here to help with a free education series, now offered as interactive webinars through Zoom. Recordings of past sessions are on our website, too!

Winter Schedule

DEC 10	<i>Living With Dementia: Understanding Behavior as Communication</i>
JAN 14	<i>Making Decisions About Caregiving</i>
FEB 11	<i>Navigating the Healthcare Environment and Advocating for Your Loved One</i>

Register at [HopeHospice.com/family](https://www.hopehospice.com/family)

San Leandro Times

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

EDITORIAL

Fred Zehnder
Editor and Publisher

Jim Knowles
Managing Editor
jimk@ebpublishing.com

Mike McGuire
City Editor

Steve Schaefer
Auto Editor

Contributing Writers
Buzz Bertolero
Carl Medford
Linda Sandsmark

PRODUCTION

Howard Morrison
Manager
Kayla Steinorth
Art Director
Moxie Morrison
Assistant

OPERATIONS

Claudette Morrison
Business Manager

ADVERTISING

Display Advertising
Claudette Morrison
Classified Advertising
Patrick Vadnais

HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times
2060 Washington Ave.
San Leandro, California 94577
Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Office: (510) 614-1555
Newsroom: (510) 614-1557
Sports: (510) 614-1561
Advertising: (510) 614-1555
Classified: (510) 614-1558
Fax: (510) 483-4209
Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com
www.ebpublishing.com



California Newspaper Publishers Association member

©2019 East Bay Publishing Corporation



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The bicyclist was in the bike lane on the Davis Street overpass when he was struck by a vehicle.

Bicyclist: Police looking for drivers

continued from front page

The bicyclist riding in the bike lane was struck by a vehicle at about 5:20 a.m. Police believe he was first struck by a white van and then possibly by one or two other vehicles, including a dark sedan.

The driver of the van remained on the scene and spoke

with police. But police would like to speak to the drivers of one or two other vehicles — the driver of a dark-colored, early 2000s Ford or Chevrolet pickup truck, and the driver of a dark-colored sedan who was in the area moments after the collision.

Police also said they would

like to speak with a Good Samaritan who stopped to prevent other motorists from hitting the bicyclists before police arrived.

The roadway was blocked for a couple of hours that morning as police investigated.

Police ask anyone with information to call Officer Daryl Paust at 510-577-0464.

San Leandro Woman Charged With Torture, Abuse of Son

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

A San Leandro woman is facing felony charges of torture, mayhem, and child abuse after police discovered her 9-year-old son locked in a bathroom, lying on the floor with broken ribs and multiple internal injuries.

Shawanda Black made a court appearance Tuesday at the East County Hall of Justice in Dublin. The court deferred her plea hearing until Dec. 15. A pre-trial hearing has been set for Jan. 14.

Black was arrested on Jan. 30 following a report by the boy's father of abuse in the home. Black, 25, has been held at Santa Rita County Jail on \$500,000 bail since that time.

Court filings show the abuse

reached a peak between Dec. 25, 2019, until the end of January 2020 when Black was arrested. The charges include injuries to the boy's vertebrae, ribs, liver, and head.

The boy was discovered with multiple external injuries and he was unable to stand fully or rotate his head because of the injuries to his spine, ribs, and head.

Back in January, police responded to reports of abuse at the home in San Leandro to find the 9-year-old barricaded in the bathroom. They found the boy laying on the floor. He was taken into the custody of Child Protective Services.

The charges also note that Black inflicted verbal and mental abuse on her son including "willfully and unlawfully inflict[ing]

cruel and inhuman corporal punishment and injury, resulting in a traumatic condition..."

Neither the Alameda County District Attorney's office nor Public Defender provided comment on the case.

Black was previously arrested for a string of auto burglaries and convicted for possession of stolen property and second-degree burglary in San Mateo County in February 2019, according to the charges filed by the District Attorney.

Court records also show Black had been arrested and convicted in a string of unspecified misdemeanor cases back in 2013.

If convicted and sentenced for torturing her son, Black could be sent to state prison.

Join the Holiday Lights Caravan

Say farewell to a challenging year and welcome the holiday season with some joy and fun on Saturday evening, Dec. 5.

The Castro Valley-Eden Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a new event, the "Eden United Holiday Lights Caravan," in partnership with the CV Rotary and other local organizations.

The caravan will run from 5 to 7 p.m., leaving from Don Castro Park in Fairview, visiting Castro Valley, Ashland, Hayward Acres and San Lorenzo, and ending at the Meek Estate in Cherryland, with many lit cars, local leaders, trucks and, of course, Santa.

This will be a tightly-regulated, safe caravan following

all County Health Department orders, which means participants should sign up quickly as there will be limited space. Individuals, families and business are all invited to join this light-up caravan.

Email ABChan411@gmail.com to enter and receive your registration number for your car.

Visit www.edenareachamber.com for more information.

The Power of Manifesting Workshop with Mani

The San Leandro Public Library invites the community to a free Zoom Workshop: The Power of Manifesting led by Mani, on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The event is currently booked to capacity, but the recorded program will be available to the public after the event. Visit www.sanleandrolibrary.org to see the program.

"The Power of Manifesting"

is a workshop designed for the person searching for an understanding of manifesting and all it encompasses. This workshop provides the keys to manifesting so you can cultivate the reality you desire.

Melanated Momma (@melanatedmomma), also known as Mani (mahn-ee) is a spiritual healer, psychic medium, and astrologer. Identifying as a spiritual with few labels, Mani believes in

connection to higher self and intuition.

She currently follows an African Traditional Religion, emphasizing connection and honoring of her African ancestors.

Find out more about Mani at <https://www.melanatedmomma.com/>

For more information, call the Information Desk at 510-577-3971.



Don't throw out your holiday lights — **RECYCLE** them!

Where: Public Works Service Center
14200 Chapman Road

When: **November 16, 2020 – January 15, 2021**
Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

SAN LEANDRO RESIDENTS ONLY

Lights accepted: Light strands of all lengths and colors, from any holiday. Lights can be working or non-working. No CFLs, pre-lit trees or lighted garland. Please remove all packaging.

San Leandro Recycling Program • (510) 577-6026 • www.RecycleSanLeandro.org



San Leandro Hospital

A Treasured Community Resource

Serving our community for more than 60 years



Emergency Services

Acute Care

Diagnostic Services

Rehabilitation

Did You Know?

Alameda Health System has made significant investments in San Leandro Hospital to ensure quality care close to home.

Your support is needed.

To meet the need for top-quality diagnostic and imaging services, we're raising funds for modern equipment.

Join the Campaign for San Leandro Hospital.

Help ensure that our community has the services we need now and for generations to come.



Contact Marc Rovetti at 415-310-9703 or mrovetti@alamedahealthsystem.org

BART Testing Air Filters, UV Light for Better Ventilation

By Melissa Jordan
Special to the Times

BART is about midway through a pilot program that is testing new, denser air filters and UV light to create even safer ventilation on trains, as the region rebounds from the pandemic and ridership ticks up.

"Based on everything we've seen so far, it's looking very promising," said Ben Holland, BART Manager of Vehicle Systems Engineering.

Crews removed some of the new filters and spot-checked them for clogging. Denser filters trap more particles, up to a point; if they're too dense, they can become clogged and overload the train's operating systems. Now, Holland said, the filters are being sent out for a more scientific analysis of the amount of air pressure drop they allow.

Because coronavirus spreads through the air, such as when a person coughs or sneezes, air filtration has an important role in preventing transmission, along with vigilant mask-wearing. BART cars already have air that is very well filtered; an entire train car's air is replaced about

every 70 seconds.

Filters are rated by their ability to block different-sized particles, a rating known as their minimum efficiency reporting

“Based on what we've seen, it's looking promising.”

— BART engineer
Ben Holland

value, or MERV, on a scale from 1 to 20. BART cars currently use MERV-8 filters, which can trap particles between 3 and 10 microns in size.

"The pilot program uses MERV-14s, which can capture particles between .3 and 1 microns, which is obviously a huge improvement," Holland said. The filters weren't notably more clogged, however, and on-board tests showed good airflow. (For comparison, a human hair is about 75 microns across.)

More good news came from

testing of ultraviolet (UV-C) light rods that can zap particles. The concern was that the train's motion could jostle around the rods, which are housed in the HVAC unit under the cars. So far, there's no sign of that.

"We put it over a pit, looked at the inside, and it was working just perfectly," he said. "The UV light comes on when it's supposed to. The safety features that are in place are working well."

If the good progress continues, both of these features could become standard on BART train cars in the future. Thus far, the pilot has been on legacy cars because Fleet of the Future trains are under warranty. In consultation with the manufacturer, the goal will be to outfit all cars already at BART and to include the upgrades on the assembly line.

— Melissa Jordan is a BART Senior Web Producer.



BART PHOTO

The MERV-14 filter, at left, compared to the MERV-8 filter on right. MERV-14 has more folds and are denser.

Restrictions: Stricter Covid rules on the horizon, but will politicians practice what they preach?

continued from front page

care units (ICUs) went up 67 percent.

California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said the majority of hospitals in 51 of 58 counties will reach or exceed capacity in the coming weeks if they do not take decisive action to stem the spread of Covid.

"We are looking at inten-

sive-care-unit capacity as the primary trigger for deeper, more restrictive actions," Dr. Ghaly said Monday. "Because when that capacity goes away, we know the

“We expect unprecedented numbers of Covid-19 patients in the next two weeks.”

— Carmela Coyle, president of the California Hospital Association

quality of care sometimes takes a dip and we see outcomes we don't want to see."

Local hospitals such as Eden Medical Center and Kaiser San Leandro say they are able to accommodate an influx of new

Covid-19 cases but health officials are being cautious. Data released from the governor's office this week forecasts ICU capacity at 91 percent by early January, up from the current 72 percent capacity in the Bay Area.

"We expect unprecedented numbers of Covid-19 patients in the next two to three weeks that will further strain limited resources, like PPE, testing supplies, and our frontline health care workers," said Carmela Coyle, president and CEO of the California Hospital Association.

To help already suffering businesses buffer themselves from additional restrictions, the state authorized \$500 million in new Covid-19 Relief Grant funding for small businesses. The

Covid Numbers

Confirmed Cases:

San Leandro: 1,697
Castro Valley: 822
Alameda County: 29,939
California: 1,212,968

Deaths

Alameda County: 512
California: 19,141
as of Nov. 30

temporary tax relief allows for an automatic three-month income tax extension for taxpayers filing less than \$1 million in sales tax.

Holiday Trivia Contest for Teens

Join the San Leandro Library for a fun winter holiday trivia contest on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Open to teens in 6th through 12th grades. We'll meet

on Zoom to test our knowledge of winter and holiday celebrations. The winner gets to select a prize. Email kmandalay@sanleandro.org to sign up.

Embrace the warmth of family and create

PERFECT HOLIDAY Moments

YOU WILL LOVE IT!
100% GUARANTEE
Always
OUR FAMILY PROMISE

THE BUTCHER'S DELUXE PACKAGE

- 4 (5 oz.) Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins
- 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 8 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 8 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Franks
- 8 (3.8 oz.) Individual Scalloped Potatoes
- 8 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Steak Seasoning (1 oz.)

\$298.87* separately

INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$129.99

FREE PORK CHOPS & CHICKEN BREASTS

Get even more for the holidays when you buy this package today!

ORDER NOW! 1.510.963.4202 ask for 66762NDN
www.OmahaSteaks.com/dinner444

*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2 pkgs. Free gifts must ship with #66762 Standard S&H will be added. While supplies last. Other restrictions may apply. Expires 1/31/21. ©2020 Omaha Steaks, Inc.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

T	H	O	U	C	B	S	A	M	O	K
H	A	N	G	H	O	E	S	A	G	E
O	R	C	A	A	N	C	E	S	T	R
R	E	E	N	T	R	I	S	I	T	E
D	O	M	B	A	G					
N	O	W	A	Y	C	O	U	N	T	R
A	B	A	F	O	X	A	Y	E		
B	I	G	O	T	R	Y	Y	E	M	E
C	O	O	D	O	N					
D	E	B	U	G	P	O	U	L	T	R
I	D	O	L	A	T	R	A	R	I	A
A	G	R	A	W	O	E	C	A	L	L
L	E	E	R	O	W	N	E	P	E	E

CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA

ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR RENT BECAUSE OF COVID-19?

If you are a low-income tenant in Unincorporated Alameda County, you may be eligible for up to **\$18,000** in rental assistance.

Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

QUESTIONS? CALL CENTRO LEGAL @ 510-422-5669 OR TEXT @ 510-738-3906

AUTOMOTIVE

Luxury SUV with Some EV Cred

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

BMW's midsize plug-in hybrid SUV lives in the trendy part of the marketplace. In the BMW stable, the X3 is "right-sized," with the smaller X1 as the entry point and the larger and more expensive X5 and X7 above it.

You can get the X3 xDrive30i, with a gasoline-only powertrain, but opting for the xDrive30e means your vehicle combines a 2.0-liter turbo-charged four-cylinder gasoline engine with an integrated electric motor and a 12-kWh battery. Officially, you can plug in your car and then drive about 18 miles on electricity alone, making a big impact on local trips.

Getting more specific, the X3's 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine and electric motor together generate 288 total horsepower and 310 pounds-feet of torque, good for an under-six-second time to push the 4,586-pound SUV from zero to 60. So, although it's taller than a 3-Series sedan, it still gives you the performance you seek from a vehicle that wears the blue-and-white BMW roundel.

My tester came in a typical BMW gray shade called "Dark Graphite Metallic." Numerous other colors are available, including the Phytonic Blue Metallic I'd likely choose. The twin

kidney grille sits prominently up front, and the styling is typical of today's BMWs.

You can get the gasoline-only X3 with rear-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive, but plug-ins are all-wheel-drive only. This isn't so much for climbing rocks as providing extra traction in inclement weather and heightened security on the dirt road to your summer cabin.

You'll know you're entering a BMW the moment you open the door. The traditional two-tone theme prevails, the nickel-finish metallic trim gleams softly, the Cognac Vernasca leather smells great, and the Fineline Cove Matte Finish wood trim is bumpy and fake-looking. In my tester, the black headliner helped create a cozy feeling while the fat leather wheel was great to grip. BMWs have to look and feel like BMWs or what's the point?

There's little downside to adding the electric powertrain, although the base price for the plug-in is \$4,600 higher and you lose 1.5 cubic feet of cargo space, since the battery protrudes a little from the cargo hold where it lives. The cargo reduction shouldn't be a deal breaker, but it's something to be aware of.

The seventh generation of iDrive delivers a 12.3-inch high-res screen that you can interface with using voice, touch, and haptic controls. There's all the

tech you could want, with some of that complex German engineering that means you have to figure out things rather than just learning them intuitively.

As a luxury brand, BMW follows the "but wait, there's more" approach to options. My \$48,550 test vehicle topped out at \$65,020 when all was said and done. Large pieces of this included the M Sport design upgrade (\$5,000) and 15-item Executive Package (\$4,500), and there was plenty more. Check out the website for details. An upgrade to double-spoke bi-color 20-inch wheels added another \$950. I certainly enjoyed the audio upgrade to the Harman Kardon surround sound system (\$875).

The whole purpose of having a plug-in hybrid is to increase efficiency, so how do the numbers stack up? The xDrive30e earns 60 MPGe combined city/highway when using gasoline and electricity. If you don't charge up, the combined number is 24 mpg. If you opt for the all-wheel-drive version of the gas-only xDrive30i, it's 24 City, 29 Highway, and 26 Combined. The EPA Green scores are 7 for Smog and 9 for Greenhouse Gas for the plugin and 7/5 respectively for the standard gas model. The plugin earns the EPA's SmartWay designation, while putting out 204 grams of CO₂ per mile versus 345 grams for the gas model. That's not insig-



The twin kidney grille sits prominently up front, and the styling is typical of today's BMWs.

nificant.

The point being, make sure to plug in the car to get maximum benefits. With the small battery, you should be able to use regular household current in your garage to fill it up overnight—you don't need to install a more expensive (but faster) 240-volt Level 2 charger.

Cars are meant to be driven, and I hate to say it, but during a pandemic, not a lot of driving gets done. I put few miles on this car but tried to make most of them electric. The motor is responsive, smooth, and silent, as expected. The driving experience is not especially sporty, but the BMW ambiance makes it seem so.

If you like BMWs and want a crossover, this is a good option. Competition is fierce in this mar-



The driving experience is not especially sporty, but the BMW ambiance makes it seem so.

ket segment, and plug-in hybrids are likely to be popular in the 2020s until full EVs take over.

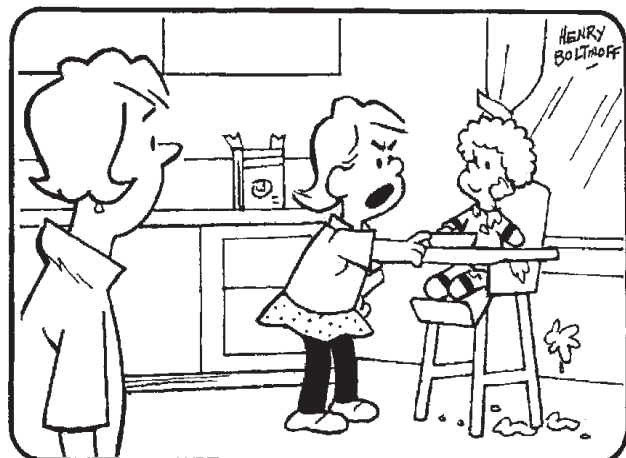
This car can give you unlimited travel options with zero range anxiety, however, it is only incrementally helping to solve our

climate crisis. It is a good way to learn about plugging in and visiting the gas station less.

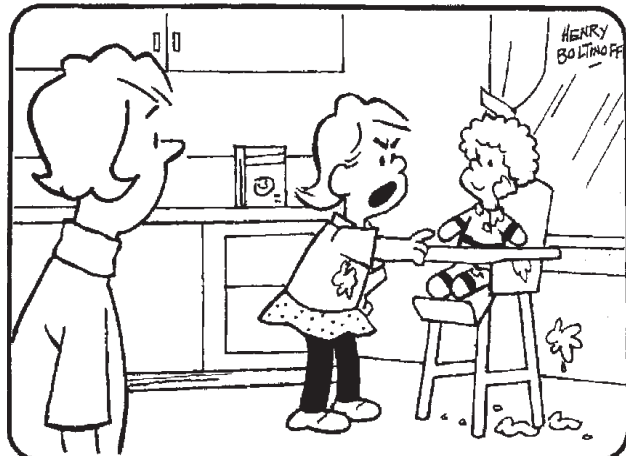
Steve Schaefer lives in Castro Valley. He has been reviewing new cars in the Times for 27 years.

HOCUS-FOCUS

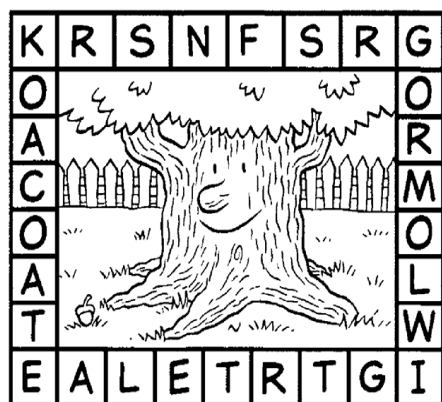
BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Earning is missing. 2. Box is closed. 3. Doll's dish is missing. 4. Cabinet handles are added. 5. Mom's collar is different. 6. Girl's shirt is stained.



THIS PUZZLE WILL GROW ON YOU! Hidden in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

oaks from little acorns grow.
Answer: Starting with "G" in the bottom rail: "Great Oaks from little acorns grow."

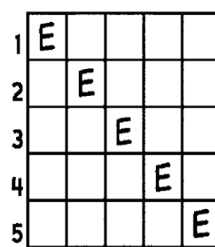
THE ONE IN A MILLION PROBLEM!

Professor Flunkem challenges you to create a mathematical expression that is equal to 1,000,000 using eight digits. However, the digits can only be 3's and 1's.

Answer: The Professor's answer is: $(333,333 \times 3) + 1 = 1,000,000$.

HERE'S AN EEEEEASY PUZZLE FOR YOU! Each of the five words needed to fill in our "word power grid" contain the same five letters. We give you one letter and plenty of hints below.

1. Famous western sheriffs.
2. Found in fruit trees.
3. An ancient weapon.
4. Reduces by cutting.
5. A bowling score.

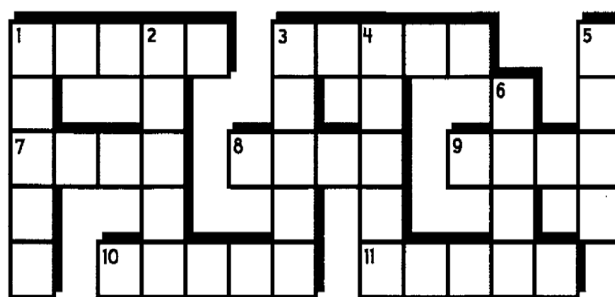


Answers: 1. Earps. 2. Pears. 3. Spear. 4. Pares. 5. Spare.



by Charles Barry Townsend

DON'T FALL ASLEEP SOLVING THIS ONE!



Below are words pertaining to winter, animals and hibernation that you will need to complete the puzzle grid above. Use the trial-and-error method. Try to finish before the first snow arrives!

4-letter words:

DOZE
NAPS
SAFE
SNOW
WOLF

5-letter words:

BEARS
BEAST
BIRDS
BISON
FROST
RAWER
RESTS
SLEEP

Answers: (Across) 1. Bears. 3. Birds. 7. Snow. 8. Naps. (Down) 1. Bison. 2. Rawer. 3. Beast. 4. Rests. 5. Safe. 6. Doze. 9. Wolf. 10. Frost. 11. Sleep.

Coyote: Coyote gets a little dental work done

continued from front page

Recreation and Park District. Veterinarian Leong does all on-site veterinary care at Sulphur Creek. Animals requiring more extensive care are brought to Dr. Gandolfi's Companion Animal Hospital at 2509 Lessley Ave. in Castro Valley by Sulphur Creek staff.

Sulfur Creek Nature Center, 1801 D St., Hayward, is a licensed and permitted native wildlife rehabilitation facility serving Castro Valley, Hayward, San Lorenzo. It is temporarily closed to the public due to Covid-19, but continues to care for its resident animal population with limited staffing. More information is available at www.facebook.com/sulphurcreeknaturecenter/.

1801 D St., Hayward, is a licensed and permitted native wildlife rehabilitation facility serving Castro Valley, Hayward, San Lorenzo. It is temporarily closed to the public due to Covid-19, but continues to care for its resident animal population with limited staffing. More information is available at www.facebook.com/sulphurcreeknaturecenter/.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RENE GANDOLFI

Jazz had an acupuncture treatment at Castro Valley Animal Hospital last week. He was given anesthetics and a tranquilizer and placed on oxygen (left) before his dental surgery. Jazz seemed to get through the procedure with little or no aftereffects.

Virtual Children's Christmas Show Invites Performers

The San Leandro Church of Christ is inviting children to participate in a virtual Christmas performance this year.

Kids will be filmed by someone in their household performing pre-selected actions to a Christmas song. The video clips of all the different kids will be put together into a seamless

production and shown during the zoom worship service on Sunday morning, Dec. 20, starting at 10:15 a.m. There may be some voiceover readings included.

Email Woody and Judy Square at woodysquare@sb-cglobal.net by Dec. 1 if you would like your child to participate.

Internet Puppy Scams Soar During Pandemic

Some families obeying stay-at-home orders have turned to the internet to look for a pet for the holidays, thinking they would have plenty of time to help the pet adjust to its new surroundings.

Many have come across scammers who advertise on websites for animals that don't exist and are never shipped, according to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) in Oakland.

Puppy scams were the subject of an investigation by the BBB and new data from its Scam Tracker show incidents have spiked since Covid-19 took hold in the U.S.

The BBB's study found that for these types of frauds to be successful they are usually dependent on bogus, often sophisticated advertisements to hook unsuspecting consumers. Experts believe that at times 80 percent of the sponsored advertising links that appear in an internet search for pets may be fraudulent.

Many victims who contacted BBB's Scam Tracker reported they wanted to adopt a puppy in order to ease their isolation and brighten their lives during the pandemic and that cash apps are being used for this scam.

A Hayward woman reported losing more than \$5,000 in March 2020 by using a website that said

it had been in operation since 1998. The scammers kept contacting her with various reasons for needing more money like the need for an insulated pet carrier, an interstate permit, medicines, insurance, and quarantine.

Avoiding puppy scams:

- Consider reaching out to a local animal shelter. Especially during this time of quarantine, many shelters are looking for fosters to help relieve the animal's stress and reduce overcrowding at their facilities.

- Don't buy a pet without seeing it in person. If that isn't possible, conduct an internet search of the picture of the pet you are considering. If the same picture appears on multiple websites, it likely is a fraud.

- Don't send money by Western Union, MoneyGram, and a cash app like Zelle or a gift card. These payment methods offer no recourse and no way to get your money back if it's a fraud.

If you think you have been scammed, report it to the BBB at 510-844-2000 and the Federal Trade Commission. You also can report it to petscams.com, which catalogues puppy scammers, tracks complaints and tries to get fraudulent pet sale websites taken down.

HOLIDAYS AROUND the TOWN

Orange Spectacular

ONLY \$19.99*
Special limited time offer!

SAVE \$15!
Reg. Price ~~\$34.99~~

WOW! Healthy, handpicked fresh from the grove!

3 unique varieties. 12 delicious oranges!

Handpicked and hand packed. our fresh, juicy oranges are **delivered** to your door fresh off the tree! Twelve plump, delicious oranges in 3 favorite varieties. Plus our famous Chocolate Chip Cookies, Foil-Wrapped Milk Chocolates, all packed in our Vine Print Basket Box.

- 4 Navel Oranges
- 4 Tangerines
- 4 Petite Navel Oranges
- Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Foil-Wrapped Milk Chocolates

Call 1-855-544-1553 to order item 442X or Visit HaleGroves.com/ME187

Only \$19.99* (reg. \$34.99), plus \$5.99 shipping & handling. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. This gift ships in December at the peak of freshness. Order by Dec. 18, 2020 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. AZ, CA, TX & LA order by Dec. 15, 2020.

Call now and SAVE 43%!

IC: HNVH-E187

Hale Groves

Since 1947, Hale Groves, Vero Beach, FL 32909

YOUR *New* HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

CASTRO VALLEY NATURAL GROCERY

100% Organic Produce
Special Diet Foods
Supplements & Body Care

Locally Crafted Food
Artisan Cheese
Prepared Foods & More

Open Daily 8:00 - 7:00

3295 Castro Valley Blvd. (in the Castro Valley Marketplace)
510-925-4749 // CastroValleyNaturalGrocery.com

Comfort Meets Function

LIFT TOP STORAGE BENCH WITH PULL-OUT BED

This multi-functional piece meets the need for extra sleep space, storage and seating all in one cleverly designed bench. Available in 4 colors.

ON SALE NOW

ONLY \$199

SAVINGS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS!

Dupree's FURNITURE

"Make your house a Dupree's home"

48 Years Experience

EASY LAYAWAY & FINANCING AVAILABLE

1900 E. 14th St. • San Leandro
357-3000

www.Duprees-Furniture.com

Dupree's Furniture CREDIT

OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10AM-5PM • CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

THERE ARE ONLY

22 MORE DAYS

UNTIL CHRISTMAS

FIND SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST

LIFESTYLE

December's Cookies

December is inevitably associated with cookies, the joy of baking them at home, and nibbling one the moment it is cool enough to be consumed without scorching either your tongue or fingers.

So tie on your apron strings and be prepared to put good intentions about self-control on hold till January.

THUMBPRINT COOKIES

3/4 pound butter
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
3-1/2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water, for egg wash
7 ounces sweetened flaked coconut

Your favorite jam or preserves

Cream together the butter and sugar until just combined, and then add the vanilla. Separately, sift together the flour and salt. With the mixer on low speed, add the flour mixture to the creamed butter and sugar. Mix until the dough starts to come together. (Do not overmix.) Dump on a floured board and roll together into a flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes.

Roll the dough into 1-1/4-inch balls. Dip each ball into the egg wash and then roll it in coconut. Place the balls on an ungreased cookie sheet and press a light indentation into the top of each with your finger. Drop 1/4 teaspoon of jam into each indentation.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes at 300°F or until the coconut is a golden brown. Cool and serve. Makes about 2-1/2 dozen cookies.

TURTLE SHORTBREAD COOKIES

1 cup butter (no substitutes)
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 (1-ounce)squares semi-sweet chocolate, melted,

cooled 5 minutes
2 cups flour
1/4 cup cornstarch
1 (14-ounce) package Kraft Caramels
2 tablespoons cream
6 ounces (1-1/2 cups) pecans, chopped

Preheat oven to 300°F.

Mix butter, brown sugar and vanilla thoroughly using an electric mixer. Beat in melted chocolate. Gradually blend in flour and corn starch.

Form into 1-inch balls and place on ungreased baking sheets. Gently press down on each cookie to flatten using fingers or a flat bottomed drinking glass (dipped in sugar to prevent sticking).

Bake at 300°F for 25 to 30 minutes, or until bottoms begin to brown. Cool for 5 minutes; remove to a wire rack to cool completely. Melt caramels and cream in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly.

Dip cookies in caramel sauce; roll dipped portion in chopped pecans. Place cookies on wax paper to cool before serving. Makes about 3-1/2 dozen cookies.

SPICY GINGERBREAD COOKIES

1 cup butter
2 large eggs
1 cup dark-brown sugar, packed
1 cup unsulfured molasses
6 cups sifted flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
4 teaspoons ground ginger
4 teaspoons cinnamon
1-1/2 teaspoons ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon finely ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt

In a large bowl, beat together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and molasses.

In another bowl, sift together flour, baking soda, baking powder, spices and salt. Stir flour mixture into butter mixture. Divide dough into thirds and wrap each third in plastic wrap. Chill for about 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 35°F. Roll dough 1/8-inch thick between two pieces of waxed paper. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters. Transfer shapes to ungreased cookie sheets.



If desired, decorate with raisins, dragées, or red hot candies. Refrigerate about 15 minutes. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until crisp but not dark. Allow to cool on the cookie sheet for 1 minute, then remove to wire racks to cool completely.

HOLIDAY MOLASSES COOKIES

1 cup molasses

1/2 pound butter
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup hot water
4 cups flour
2 teaspoon salt
1-1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon allspice
2 teaspoons cinnamon

Heat the molasses to a boil. Remove from heat and add butter, stirring until melted. Place the sugar in

a deep bowl and add soda to the hot water; pour water into the molasses. Pour the molasses mixture into the bowl of sugar and thoroughly mix. Add spices, flour and salt and mix with molasses and sugar. Pour into a loaf pan lined with parchment paper or waxed paper and refrigerate.

Preheat oven to 325°F. Cut dough as thin as possible and bake on a non-stick surface or a greased sheet for 15 minutes. Cool on a rack as soon as done.

HOLIDAYS AROUND *the* TOWN

KIM BROS. JEWELRY • 357-4069

14393-A WASHINGTON AVE. • SAN LEANDRO (NEAR PAK 'N' SAVE)
OPEN WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY: 11AM-3PM • CLOSED SUN., MON. & TUES.

Christmas Sale

20%-50% OFF Jade • 14k & 18k Watches

\$800 NO LIMIT! **20% OFF**
Battery Replacement
REGULARLY \$11.00 • EXCEPT LITHIUM
With this ad. Expires 12/31/20.
Jewelry & Watch Repair
With this ad. Expires 12/31/20.

Holiday BAKERY SALE

COOKIES • COCOAS • GREAT GIFTS

WEEK OF THANKSGIVING-Christmas Eve

Begins at 8:30am Daily - 7 Days A Week

**2380 GRANT AVE.
SAN LORENZO, CA**



**www.toogoodgourmet.com
(510)317-8150**

TooGoodGourmet

**WEAR A
MASK**

**STOP
THE
SPREAD**

**SHOP
SMALL**

GHIRARDELLI
FOUNDED IN 1892
CHOCOLATE
**THE ANNUAL
Chocolate
Warehouse Sale**

IS GOING VIRTUAL!

DECEMBER 1ST-31ST

GHIRARDELLI CHOCOLATE FACTORY OUTLET
1111 139TH AVE. SAN LEANDRO

STORE HOURS
MON-SAT 9AM-6:30PM & SUN 10AM-6PM

**10%
OFF**

WHEN YOU ENTER CODE
SLTCVFWS10 AT CHECKOUT**

**SPEND \$50 ONLINE AND RECEIVE
A FREE GIFT WITH PURCHASE***



Scan here for more
details or to shop now!

DISCLAIMERS:

*Valid for virtual sale pick up only from December 1st - 31st 2020 or while supplies last. Grand total must meet \$50 after all discounts applied to qualify for the free gift. One gift per transaction per guest. Ghirardelli reserves the right to cancel or alter the promo at any time. Not valid for in store purchases or delivery on Ghirardelli.com

**Valid for virtual sale pick up only from December 1st - 31st 2020 only or while supplies last. Not valid for in store purchases or delivery on Ghirardelli.com

SENIORS

Keeping a Watchful Eye on an Aging Parent

Q: Can you recommend any services or technology that help me monitor my elderly mother who lives alone? Since the coronavirus pandemic started last March, my sister and I have noticed that my mom's health has slipped a bit, so we would like to find something that helps us keep tabs on her when we're not around.

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

A: Depending on how closely you want to monitor your mother, and what she's comfortable with as well, there are check-in call services along with some new monitoring technology devices you can turn to for help. Here are several to consider.

Check-In Calls

If you just want a simple check to make sure your mom is OK every day, consider signing her up with a daily check-in call service program. These are telephone reassurance programs run by police or sheriff's departments in hundreds of counties across the coun-

try and are usually provided free of charge.

Here's how they work. A computer automated phone system would call your mom at a desig-

didn't pick up or if the call goes to voice mail after repeated tries, you (or her other designee) would get a notification call.

If you are not reachable, calls

your mom, provide companionship and make sure everything is OK. And, they'll let you know if they detect a problem.

Monitoring Technology

Technology also offers a variety of new ways to help you keep an eye on your mom when you can't be there.

One nifty new option is the Electronic Caregiver's (electronic-caregiver.com) "Premier" product, which is a wearable wrist device that provides activity monitoring, a 24/7 emergency help button, medication reminders and a GPS locator so you can determine your mom's whereabouts at any time.

It's also linked to a family caregiver app to keep you and other loved ones in the loop. The device is free with a monthly subscription that costs \$40 to \$60 a month, depending on the level of monitoring.

If your mom is primarily homebound, another option to consider is a sensor-monitoring system like Caregiver Smart Solutions (caregiversmartsolutions.com).

This uses small sensors (not cameras) placed in key areas of your mom's home to track her activities – everything from whether she used the coffee pot to how much she's watching TV – and will let you know if something out of the ordinary is happening. For instance, if she went to the bathroom and didn't leave, it could indicate a fall or other emergency.

You can also check up on her patterns anytime you want through the system's website or app. And for additional protection, it offers emergency call buttons that can be placed around the house. Caregiver Smart Solutions starts at \$99 for their activity sensors, plus a \$29 monthly service fee.



Be 'Tax Wise' When Making Large Gifts

Q: My wife and I are considering making large gifts to our two children and four grandchildren, and we would like to do so in a way that is "tax wise". Do you have any advice for us?

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

A. Yes. Many people mistakenly believe that one cannot gift more than \$15,000 per year/person without incurring a gift tax. Not so. In fact, an individual can actually currently gift more than \$11 million during lifetime without incurring a gift tax. Here is the way gift taxes work:

Annual Exclusion Gifts:**No Gift Tax Return Required:**

1) \$15,000 Per Year: You and your spouse can each gift up to \$15,000 per year per recipient without the need to file a Gift Tax Return.

Such gifts are called Annual Exclusion Gifts and you can make such gifts to as many individual persons as you wish each year, provided that you make only one such annual gift to each recipient.

2) "Doubling Up": If you and your wife are in a position to do so, together you can actually double that amount for each gift recipient. So, together, you could gift a total of \$30,000 to each recipient for a total of \$180,000 to your loved ones (\$15,000 x 2 donors x 6 recipients), again without the need to file a Gift Tax Return or incur any actual gift tax.

3) Year End Straddle: On or after January 1, 2021, you and your wife could do the same thing once again, as you would then be in a different tax year.

So, over the course of a period as short as a calendar week – provided that the week straddles both the last days of this year and the early days of next year – the two of you could gift a total of \$360,000 (\$180,000 x 2 Donors) to your 6 recipients without the need to file a Gift Tax Return or use any of your lifetime exemptions. I call this strategy the Year-End Gift Straddle.

Gifts Above Annual Exclusion: Gift Tax Return Required

1) Lifetime Exemption: If you choose to make gifts above the Annual Exclusion Amount ("AEA"), then you can still make the gift tax free by using a portion of your Lifetime Exemption (also called the "Unified Credit").

That Lifetime Exemption is currently \$11.58 million per person for U.S. citizens, and increases to \$11.7 million per person next year. AEA gifts do not count against this exemption, and they can be made in addition to Lifetime Exemption gifts.

Also, by making a timely election after the death of a spouse, the surviving spouse can opt to preserve the deceased spouse's unused Lifetime Exemption for the survivor's own later use, thereby effectively doubling it. This is called "portability".

2) Gift Tax Return: To the extent that your gifts exceed the Annual Exclusion Amount, you must file a Gift Tax Return even though no actual gift tax would be due, so long as less than the Lifetime Exemption.

Reason: the IRS wants to track your use of your lifetime exemption, so that it knows how much you have left to use upon death.

Example: if you used \$1 million of your lifetime exemption to make excess gifts during life, then your remaining exemption to apply against estate taxes upon death would be \$1 million less.

Cautions: Before making large gifts, be sure that you can afford to do so. Lastly, if there is a possibility that either of you may need to apply for a Medi-Cal subsidy for nursing home care in the near future, you should consult a professional with special knowledge about the Medi-Cal program before making those gifts: Gift transfers may adversely affect your ability to qualify for a Medi-Cal subsidy unless those gifts are handled in a very special manner.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in the East Bay. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com. He wishes to thank Harry Margolis, Esq., of MA for permission to revise and publish this article.

Landmark Villa
Senior Residential & Assisted Living



- 24 Hour Care • Socializing
- Activities • Chef Prepared Meals
- Housekeeping • Laundry
- Quality of Life • Independence
- Legacy

Private and Shared Apartments Available!

Call today for a Free Lunch & Tour
510-276-2872
License#015601501



Yes, we are Pet Friendly!

21000 Mission Blvd., Hayward CA 94541

INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSISTED LIVING

QUALITY SENIOR LIVING



- Month-to-month rentals
- Restaurant style dining
- Heartland Assisted Living program
- Specialized events and activities

Phone now to schedule your tour and learn more about the Pacifica experience.

510-400-7290
License #015601394



PACIFICA SENIOR LIVING
SAN LEANDRO
Independent • Assisted Living

348 West Juana | San Leandro, CA 94577 | PacificaSanLeandro.com

SENIORS



How to Choose a Safe, Healthy Senior Living Community

It's understandable for anyone seeking a retirement community to have concerns about health and safety right now. Today's unprecedented situation leaves many wondering - is it safe to live in a retirement community during a pandemic?

The good news is, many Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) are taking extraordinary precautions to keep residents healthy, following up-to-date recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), plus local and state authorities.

Recently retired couple Stuart and Anita Smith examined the measures being taken at The Spires at Berry College - a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Rome, Georgia - before making their decision to move in. Because Stuart is a retired physician, he looked closely at their health and safety protocols. He was happy to learn that they followed recommended CDC guidelines stringently, prioritizing the well-being of their residents.

"The community was up front with us about how they were handling it - using masks, a lot of cleaning, safe dining procedures," explained Stuart. "I think they've done everything really well, including daily temperature checks and not letting people bring guests or family members to visit now. I'm very confident in their health and safety protocols."

If you or a loved one are considering a senior living community, here are important safeguards to look for.

* Mandatory social distancing in public areas - CDC officials and public health experts agree: Keeping people a minimum of six feet apart helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.

* Mandatory facial coverings required in public areas - Face masks have been shown to reduce the spread of the virus, protecting both mask-wearer and anyone near that person from excessive exposure to airborne particles.

* Mandatory regular COVID-19 testing for all team members, and testing for residents - Testing ensures that any infections are quickly identified so staff or residents who test positive can quarantine.

* Required temperature and oxygen level checks for all residents, team members and guests - Elevated temperatures and decreased oxygen levels have been identified as common COVID-19 symptoms.

* Proper hand washing encouraged throughout the day for residents, team members and guests - As with many viruses including colds and flu, frequent, thorough hand washing can reduce the spread of disease.

* Frequent sanitizing of common areas throughout the day - The presence of the virus on surfaces can be reduced by regular disinfecting.

* Virtual tours encouraged - To limit visitors to a community, providing virtual online tours is essential.

The Spires at Berry College follows all of these procedures to help keep all residents, staff and visitors safe. The community is also in constant contact with affiliated CCRCs nationwide to share information about improving procedures as more is learned about what works best to successfully reduce risk of illness.

Social and emotional well-being

One of the greatest challenges to retirement communities during this difficult time is the emotional and social isolation many residents are feeling. Look for locations that have amenities such as outdoor areas with walking trails, and have access to digital devices like tablets to stay in touch with friends and family.

The Smiths agree that while they've had to remain apart from family right now, they're still able to socialize to some degree. "We are so comfortable and enjoying the relationships we're forming," said Anita.

"Two couples can do 'socially distanced' dining together, calling back and forth across the dining room. People are finding safe ways to communicate and socialize."

"And I'm a lot more physically fit than when I came here," adds Stuart. "We do a lot of walking."

Safety and comfort at a CCRC

Unlike at home, where outside factors offer unknown risks, residents and families can rest easy knowing there is a team dedicated to keeping them safe and well. Contact is minimized, and there are few reasons to leave the community. For example, doctor visits are conducted on site, so there is no risk of infection sitting in waiting rooms, and groceries or medications are delivered straight to residences.

Exploring a move to a retirement community? Learn more at www.RetireAtBerry.com or call 706-784-7644.

-Brandpoint

Dementia Behaviors Webinar

Hope Hospice in Dublin is presenting its popular Family Caregiver Education Series in the form of interactive webinars that will be presented over Zoom for the duration of the pandemic.

The next program, titled "Living With Dementia: Behaviors as Communication" will be held on Thursday December 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

As the conditions that cause dementia progress, communication becomes challenged and persons living with dementia increasingly

rely on their behaviors to express their needs.

In this webinar, family caregivers will gain an understanding of how to assess, interpret, and respond to dementia-related behaviors in a manner that can improve communication and promote meaningful connections.

The Series is a free public service; participants do not have to have a loved one on our hospice service. To register, visit HopeHospice.com/family. For more information, call 925-829-8770.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

© 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.



ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You might feel that you have all the answers right now. But it might be wise to listen to other ideas before you decide to close the lid on other possibilities.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Bovines give and expect loyalty, so it might not be easy to reconcile with someone you feel let you down. Why not ask a neutral party to set up a clear-the-air meeting?



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Anticipating the holidays with family and friends fuels your must-do Gemini energies. But try to pace yourself so you'll be up for whatever comes along later.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): More background information might come through regarding a decision you expect to make. Be sure to check the source carefully before you move.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): The strong, nurturing nature of the Lion comes through this week as you reach out to family and friends in need of your warm and loving support.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A relationship that has almost totally unraveled could be close to being restored with more effort on your part to be more patient and less judgmental.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Your sense of fair play is strong this week, which can cause a problem with a longtime relationship. But in the end, you'll know what decision to make.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): You might not know all the facts behind an unwelcome development, so keep that Scorpion temper in check and resist lashing out at anyone.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): This is a good time to reinforce relationships -- family, friends, colleagues -- that might have been overlooked in recent years.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Family situations continue to thrive. Business associations also improve. Some holiday plans might have to be shifted. Be flexible.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Avoid any influence of negative energy in this week's aspect by not allowing small problems to grow into large ones. Work them out immediately.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): A friend might need advice on how to deal with a challenge to his or her moral values. And who better than you to give the honest answer? Good luck.

It's Time to Take Advantage of the Lowest Mortgage Rates in Years EVER!

If you are 62 or older, and qualify, a reverse mortgage may be able to provide greater financial flexibility, for things like:

- Turn Home Equity into Cash or a Stand-by Line of Credit
- Refinance & pay off existing Mortgage(s) and or Other Debt
- No Monthly Mortgage Payments required

Serving the Bay Area!



REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
510-583-8123

LORI REISFELT NMLS ID 291773
LICENSED LOAN OFFICER

"I pledge to provide straight forward information and excellent service."



Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. #4130937 NMLS#7147. Equal Housing Lender. NMLS Consumer Access: www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. This Material is not from HUD for FHA, and was not approved by HUD, FHA or any other government agency.

ROSE GATE LIVING

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CARE

Extraordinary Times Call for

Extraordinary Care

✓ PET FRIENDLY ✓ PRIVATE ROOMS

SAFE VISITATION PROVIDED

We take pride in offering some of the safest visiting and admission standards



SAN LEANDRO HISTORICAL DISTRICT

510-483-0150

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.RoseGateMemoryCare.com

RCFE# 015600148

REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Staging to Fit Any Budget

It is no secret staging a home for sale has a positive impact on price and time on the market.

While staging is optional in some parts of the country, locally it is understood and expected by both sellers and buyers.

Having watched hundreds of buyers while showing homes, I can unequivocally state staging makes a positive difference.

While becoming commonplace for listing agents to cover the cost of staging, there are still regions in the Bay Area where the seller is expected to pay. Fortunately, there is a level of staging to fit every budget. Levels 1 and 2 apply to occupied homes, levels 3 through 6 are for vacant homes.

1: Organizational

This is Staging 101 and includes two steps. First, the home is extensively decluttered with all personal pictures, collections, knickknacks and so on removed. The rule is "No more

than 3 items on any horizontal surface." Second, the home's belongings are moved around to optimize the look and feel of the home.

2: Partial

This level also starts with decluttering, but includes a stager bringing in additional pieces from their inventory to upgrade the overall look of the home. This could include pictures, plants or pieces of furniture as needed.

3: Vignette

This is the entry level for vacant homes. Rather than bringing in extensive furniture and accents, key areas are highlighted with groupings of objects. As an example, a collection of objects on a kitchen counter or fireplace mantel.

4: Symbolic

Instead of using real furniture, "prop" or "faux" furniture made of plastic or cardboard is used to define a space. Rather than a moving truck pulling up with real furniture, the stager shows up in a car with flats or bags of "furniture" that are assembled on site. For examples go to www.cubiqzusa.com.

5: Virtual

With the advent of COVID-19, many of us were forced to look for alternatives to staging. We turned to companies such as www.boxbrownie.com/virtual-staging - we take pictures, send them off and they are returned with furniture photoshopped in. The cost is dramatically less than full staging.

6: Full

This is still the gold standard,

and the one that resonates the most with buyers. When they see a gorgeously staged home online, they fully anticipate being able to visit and experience the home with the staging in place.

Shakespeare stated, "All the world's a stage." Staging brings the show 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.



775 Dowling Blvd • San Leandro • \$710,000

Nice 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in great location near Roosevelt School. Upgraded Stucco and Foundation. Ready for your viewing.

Offered by Robert Jones & Associates
Celebrating Our 37th Year At Our Downtown Location
142 Joaquin Avenue • Call 510-357-0120



Matt Jones
DRE# 0137894

Traumatized Apple Tree

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

My Apple tree was traumatized last year by black aphids. I kept cutting off the affected leaves, but the trees looked bad all summer long. I had controlled the Aphids in the past by putting a ring of the sticky stuff around the trunk. This year it didn't help at all. Would dormant spray help in creating an Aphid-free season next year?

Aphids are a spring pest problem on apple trees and other fruit trees and plants. They come in different colors; green and black are the most common.

Aphids cause the leaves to curl up like one of those Italian cookies. The leaves then dry up

and remain on the tree until the fall when they drop off.

Many gardeners confuse this curly leaf with peach leaf curl, but they are not the same. Peach leaf curl is a fungus that attacks only peach and nectarine trees. Copper spray applied in the fall and in January and February is the recommended control.

Copper spray and other types of dormant spray don't prevent aphids from returning. They are mobile and are present year-round so the barrier alone will not prevent the problem.

Your best method of controlling them is being diligent and checking trees for curly leaves in the spring as the leaves are emerging.

Once you see a few curly leaves, pick them off and spray the tree with insecticidal soap,

making three applications a week apart. That prevents the problem from continuing.

I would still apply the sticky stuff (also known as Tanglefoot or Pest Barrier). Aphids are ferried around by ants which feed on off the clear sticky residue called "honey dew." The early detection and preventive action will keep the apple tree aphid

free. step-by-step pictures are great.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtygardener.com.



Mortgage Rates Hold Steady for the Holiday

Long-term mortgage rates were unchanged heading into last week's long holiday weekend, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage remained at 2.72 percent for the week ending Nov. 25. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.68 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.28 percent, also unchanged from the previous week.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.16 percent, up from 2.85 percent.

"Mortgage rates remain at record lows and while that has fueled a refinance boom, it's been driven mainly by higher income borrowers. With about 20 million borrowers eligible to refinance, lower- and middle-income borrowers are leaving money on the table by not taking advantage of low rates," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "On the homebuying side, demand continues to surge, and it has created a seller's market where inventory is at a record low and home prices are rising, beginning to offset the benefits of the low rates."

Village Properties
 & ASSOCIATES
PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT &
REAL ESTATE SALES
Sam & Jessica Medina
510.481.8400
DRE #01838297
"Your Neighbor & Realtor!"

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

2252 Farley Street	94546: \$725,000 2 BD - 996 SF - 1947
19212 Center Street	94546: \$810,000 3 BD - 1,344 SF - 1941
19547 Eagle Street	94546: \$925,000 3 BD - 1,345 SF - 1955
18334 Joseph Drive	94546: \$1,088,000 4 BD - 1,588 SF - 1956
18530 Carlwyn Drive	94546: \$1,100,000 2 BD - 2,449 SF - 1954
20228 West Ridge Ct	94546: \$1,200,000 4 BD - 2,575 SF - 2001
19523 Mount Jasper Dr	94552: \$1,267,000 4 BD - 3,022 SF - 1988

TOTAL SALES: 7

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$725,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,088,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,267,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,016,428

San Leandro

757 Majestic Way	94578: \$465,000 2 BD - 918 SF - 1987
655 Macarthur Blvd	94577: \$635,000 3 BD - 1,732 SF - 2008
768 Sybil Avenue	94577: \$650,000 2 BD - 1,053 SF - 1940
1934 Sundberg Avenue	94577: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,092 SF - 1953
15977 Windsor Drive	94578: \$681,000 2 BD - 969 SF - 1947
1077 Martin Boulevard	94577: \$735,000 4 BD - 1,741 SF - 1942
16904 Los Reyes Ave	94578: \$745,000 3 BD - 984 SF - 1944
1450 Glen Drive	94577: \$900,000 2 BD - 1,951 SF - 1940
302 Broadmoor Blvd	94577: \$910,000 2 BD - 1,921 SF - 1917

TOTAL SALES: 9

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$465,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$681,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$910,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$711,222

Antonio & Alexia Cardenas
"Realtors in Motion"
Ballroom Dancers
"The Agents with the Visual Tours"
(510) 326-4263
Visit us @
www.ListedbyAntonio.com
R.E. eBroker Inc. • A Virtual Real Estate Brokerage

Robert Jones and Associates
Selling San Leandro Since 1964 • www.RobertJonesandAssociates.com

Robert Jones DRE# 00276097	Matt Jones DRE# 0137894	John Chovanes DRE# 01853764	Ron Trentler DRE# 02068317

See Our Home of the Week!
142 JOAQUIN AVE. • SAN LEANDRO • 357-0120

Sales ~ Property Management ~ Leasing

DEADRICH
REAL ESTATE

581 E. 14th St. • San Leandro • 632-1234
www.deadrch.com CBRE #00360465

Forcing Bulbs in Containers

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

Q How would I force bulbs in containers? Should a novice gardener attempt this?

A Forcing bulbs in a container is a gardening project for people of all ages and skills. It's simple to do with a high degree of success. Paperwhite narcissus and hyacinths are the best bulbs for forcing. Water is the primary medium, while commercial growers use sand.

You will need a shallow

container, like a saucer, and polished rocks, pebbles, or gravel. The bulbs are set on the pebbles, and water is added. You need to be sure that the water level is just below the bulb's base to avoid rotting. The bulbs are placed next to one another. Although they're loose to begin with, roots will form quickly and anchor the bulbs in the container. They can grow in direct or indirect light. You should see shoots developing within four to six weeks and flowers after that.

To extend the blooming period, stagger your planting by

starting new ones every three weeks. Once they finish blooming, the bulbs are discarded. Bulbs are a storage chamber, so they recharge themselves for the following year by storing nutrients from the soil, but hat's not possible in water or sand.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.



WEEKEND GARDENER

Frost Protection

Freezing nighttime temperatures have already hit most parts of the East Bay. The coldest time is from 4 a.m. to sun-up. If you haven't already done so, here's what to do right away:

Move tender container plants under the eaves of a roof, on the porch, or even in the house if necessary.

Cover anything you can't move with an old sheet, a tarp or cardboard boxes. The covering should be anchored by stakes above the plant so there is an air gap between the plant and the covering. Cloth gives more protection than

plastic. Remove the covering in the morning.

Mist garden plant foliage at night and again in the morning. The thin layer of water on the

foliage helps to insulate the leaves. The morning sprinkling washes away the frost before the sun hits it when most of the actual damage is done.

1760 View Drive • San Leandro



Bay-O-Vista • Asking \$980,000
3 bedrooms • 2-1/2 baths • 1,619 sf approx.
Almost 1/4 acre lot • Sweeping Tahoe-like views • Top of the hill. Hardwood floors
<http://www.1760View.com>

Laurie Pfohl

CRS • DRE # 00866660

LauriePfohl@gmail.com



Coldwell Banker • 510-851-3551 • www.LauriePfohl.com

Realtor Associate Since 1984

Thinking of Selling a Property?
Call me for a ZOOM meeting to discuss your Real Estate needs.

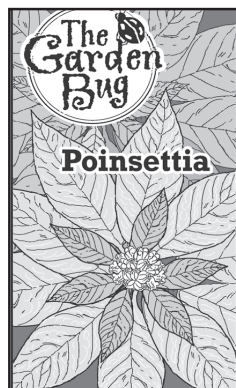
Dave Adams

510-637-8136

Dave.adams@cbtnorcal.com

Coldwell Banker

BRE # 01740758

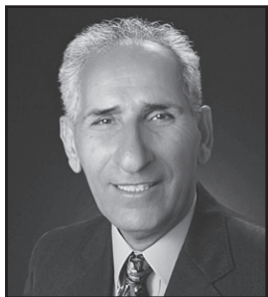


The plant called "Flor de la Noche Buena" grows in the wild as a shrub from Mexico down to South America, covering the hills with its bright red foliage. Dr. Joel Poinsett, a United States minister to Mexico in the early 1800s, was visiting an area south of Mexico City and noticed this plant's showy mid-winter color. Cuttings of it were sent to a nursery in the United States, and by 1836 the plant was widely known as the "poinsettia" and sold as a Christmas houseplant. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.sundaygardener.net, wikipedia.org

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

AGENTS IN ACTION



Nasser Haghighi
Alliance Bay Realty
510-415-1612
nasserhag@att.net
San Leandro Resident Since 1976



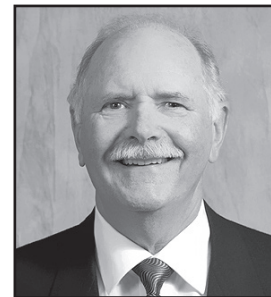
Cindy Kellar, Realtor
Personal Attention/Professional Results
Legacy Real Estate & Associates
c_kellar@comcast.net
510-301-3456



Tere Lee, CRS
"Trust A Professional Who Cares"
United Brokers Real Estate
www.tereleehomes.com
(510) 305-8827



Carrie Miles
Realtor®
RINETTI & CO. REALTORS
milescarrie@yahoo.com
510-735-5223



Robert Jones
Serving San Leandro since 1964
Robert Jones & Assoc.
142 Joaquin Ave. • San Leandro
357-0120



Matt Jones
Realtor
Robert Jones & Assoc.
142 Joaquin Ave. • San Leandro
357-0120



Wayne Gregori
The Gregori Group RE, Inc.
Broker/Owner
510-219-3887
GregoriGroup.com



Judy Rose - CRS, SRES
ReMax Accord
Serving the East Bay 38 Years
judy@judyrose.com
510-220-6206



Lynn Levin
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
(Getting The Job Done Right)
510-593-7377
www.lynnlevin.com



Jessica Medina
Village Properties, Realtor/Owner
"Your Neighbor & Realtor"
JessicaMedina@VillageProperties.net
510-750-0216



Dave Adams
Realtor
COLDWELL BANKER
dave@davecadams.com
(510) 637-8136



Bob Frey
Broker Associate
Re/Max Accord
BobFreyHomes@gmail.com
510-220-8459



Sam Chiu 趙
Active in the East Bay since 1989
Berkshire Hathaway
Home Services
510-305-5767



Matt Wilhite
Intero Real Estate
www.MattWilhite.com
510-329-0728



Suzanna Chew Realtor®
Serving the East Bay Since 2004
J. Rockcliff Realtors
schew@rockcliff.com
510-326-4125



Greg Novak, DRE# 01721382
SanLeandroRealtor.com
Red Oak Realty
greg@redoakrealty.com
510-472-4770



Louis Heystek
Better Homes and Gardens RE
Bay East Achievement Club
510-928-5501
Louis.Heystek@BHGHome.com



This Could Be You!
To advertise here call
614-1555



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Downtown Colors

Autumn leaves decorate the musical chairs in downtown San Leandro this week and temperatures hovered up around 70 degrees in the month of December.

One Day Flu Shot Clinic For San Leandro Residents

The Alameda County Public Health Department is giving a free flu shot clinic on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St., co-sponsored by the City of San Leandro and Supervisor Wilma Chan.

"It is important to get a flu shot every year, especially for seniors, pregnant women, and those with chronic medical conditions," said Supervisor Wilma Chan. "This flu vaccination event is a perfect example of the City and County coming together to fight the flu and keep our community healthy and resilient."

Older adults who have not yet received a flu vaccination are strongly encouraged to participate. The regular dose vaccine is available to individuals, 3 years and older, including pregnant women. Children under 3 years old should be seen by their pediatrician. Walk-in and drive-through appointments are available.

Each flu shot recipient will

receive a free ready to heat frozen classic turkey meal. Please call 510-577-3462 to register for a flu shot appointment.

"We are in the midst of flu season and another wave of Covid-19 cases. This year it

is more critical than ever for everyone to get a flu shot," said Mayor Cutter. "We must avoid a 'twindemic' and surges that compromise our hospital and health care system along with flu symptoms that mimic Covid-19."

Chanticleers to Present *It's a Wonderful Life* Radio Play on Saturday

The Chanticleers Theatre will present *It's a Wonderful Life*, performed radio-style and available via streaming on Saturday, Dec 5.

Streaming access is available any time for 24 hours on Dec. 5 only. Tickets are free for Chanticleers Flex-Pass holders and \$10 for general admission.

For reservations, tickets and access to the internet link, go to chanticleers.org. Flex-Pass holders should contact the Chanticleers

directly for the discount code.

This production is directed by Bill Chessman, a longtime Bay Area producer, director, actor, and author.

"This is a wonderful adaptation of the film that retains all the warmth and drama, and it has long been a sentimental favorite of mine," Chessman said. "We

"A wonderful adaptation of the film that retains all the warmth and drama."

have an excellent and versatile cast who bring their own loving spin to each of the characters that they portray. And, as I always say, the secret to directing is good casting!"

The show includes live sound effects. A cast of seven actors plays 44 different characters.

The talented cast plays the main characters, plus several other characters each: Roger Caetano plays George Bailey, Rhonda Taylor plays Mary Bailey, Conrad Cady plays Clarence the Angel and Uncle Billy, Barbara Perry plays Rose Bailey, Carson Campbell plays Joseph the Angel and Potter, Suzan Lorraine is the producer, performs live sound effects and plays four characters, and Bill Chessman is the director and plays two characters.

Chanticleers Theatre is a non-profit community theater that began in 1948. Today, Chanticleers Theatre is a 99-seat playhouse, serving Castro Valley and the East Bay, located in the Castro Valley Community Park.

LOCAL DEATHS

Geraldine Leyba

February 23, 1925 ~ November 7, 2020
Longtime Resident of Oakland

God called Gerry home at the age of 95 after a heroic challenge with Alzheimer's for several years. She was a very proud woman, all that knew her would say she was beautiful and a perfectionist.

She loved sports and her family; she obviously outlived her generation. She enjoyed sewing, she made her grand-daughter, Jocelyn an adorable red and white gingham dress (toddler) which Jocelyn has passed down to her daughters, Coco and Giselle. She was an accomplished artist, making several sketches, some of her daughter, Sherry, Jocelyn and Kenny, a darling puppy for her sister Irene, and an abundance of record jackets of musicians from the 40's and 50's.

Gerry loved school! She was proud to be the 1st female President of Lockwood Jr. High School!! She belonged to the GAA (Girls Athletic Association), the Block C, the LKAC (The Ladies of King Arthur Court), secretary of the 10th grade, and also played night basketball and night softball. She toured CA playing softball at Army Camps and Naval Bases. She loved driving around at Christmastime to enjoy all the lights and décor. Her insides lit up and a warm smile glowed upon her face! Some of her other interests included being a member of the Bogey Brigade Golf Club, 600 Club Bowling, bowling in National and State Tournaments, playing cards, water aerobics, and she loved to dance (especially with Chester). On the week-ends she enjoyed watching ice skating, Oakland A's (any-time), bowling, tennis, and football. It was so much fun watching the Warriors with her, she would have her jersey on and rooting for them all the way!! Gerry was well known for her spaghetti sauce (which her son now is well known for too) and her Veal Scallopini. Her favorite movie of all time was the Sound of Music and her favorite author was Nora Roberts.

One Thanksgiving she and Frank hosted in their beautiful home up on the hill. The family had grown so much we had to setup 3 long tables in their living room, adorned with festive decor to celebrate their family, who all were her pride and joy.

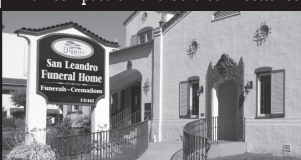
She is survived by her 2 children, Mark (Vickie), Sherry and stepdaughter Wendi, 7 adored Grandchildren, Aaron, Jeff, Missy, Noah (Adela), Dustin, Jocelyn (Nicholas), Kenneth (Rebecca), 17 Lovable Great-Grandchildren, Lorelei, Finnegan, Becca, Chris, John, Isabel, Bryce, Bailey, Isis, Emilio, Isabella, Neena, Coco, Emmanuel, Giselle, Emma, Benjamin and many nieces and nephews, and dear friends along the way. Gerry was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Frank, her loving parents Joe and Lucy Freitas, brother, Harold (Bev), sisters Beverly Freitas and Irene (George) Pavao and her dancing partner, Chester (Wendi's partner of 25 years).

Her family would like to extend pure gratitude for all of the excellent care she received, especially from Hope Hospice. Also, all of the staff at Graham-Hitch Mortuary who took excellent care of her, including Chloe who made her look so beautiful for her daughter Sherry to see her for the last time.

A Private Family Service will be held at a later date. Mom, you blessed all of us in so many ways, your spirit and love will live in our hearts forever.



Serving Families In Our Community
With Compassion and Service Excellence



San Leandro Funeral Home

407 Estudillo Ave.,
San Leandro, CA 94577
510.483.5300
www.sanleandro-fh.com

(Formerly Guerrero Mortuary)
Serving All Faiths

- Large Chapel
- Reception Room & Kitchenette



FD 442

SARA L. ENNOR LAWYER

- Wills & Trusts
- Benefits, ERISA
- QDROs

510-633-9985

SANTOS-ROBINSON MORTUARY

— Supporting Local Churches and Families for Over 80 Years —

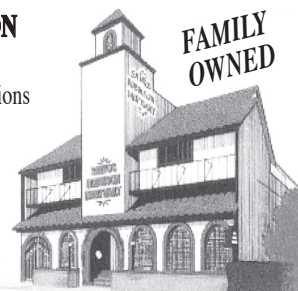
FUNERAL AND CREMATION PROFESSIONALS

Traditional Services • Cremation Options
Pre-Arrangements

Serving All Faiths and Cultures

510-483-0123

www.santos-robinson.com
CALIC. FD-81



LONE TREE CEMETERY

24591 Fairview Avenue, Hayward, CA 94542

PRE-PLAN YOUR CEMETERY ARRANGEMENTS

- Unburden Your Loved Ones from Decisions and Cost
- Let Family and Friends Focus on What Matters Most
- Pre-Plan: Make your Wishes Known and Save Money



BEN COHN

Advanced Planning Specialist
Family Service Counselor

510-584-9622

Ben@LoneTreeCemetery.com



DEERCREEK

FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE

Jay Spencer
Director

Stanton House
Castro Valley

510-317-7890

FD 1505 FDK 651

PG&E Offers Free Annual Safety Checks to Its Customers

With winter right around the corner and the pandemic enduring, PG&E is reminding customers to call and schedule a free in-home safety inspection of their in-home gas appliances. Schedule an inspection by calling the customer helpline at 1-800-743-5000.

During the visit, PG&E will also relight pilot lights for customers who have heaters or other

appliances that have been turned off during warmer months.

Inspections help ensure that gas appliances—including water heaters, furnaces and ovens—are operating safely and efficiently, reducing the risk of carbon monoxide exposure within the home.

Carbon monoxide is especially dangerous because it can't be seen, smelled or heard. According to the Center for Disease Control,

every year in the U.S. at least 430 people die from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and approximately 50,000 people will be sent to the hospital.

In-Home Protocols

During the current pandemic, PG&E frontline employees are adhering to strict safety protocols when visiting customers' homes, including mandatory daily health checks, wearing masks and nitrile

gloves and maintaining at least six feet of distance.

Customers are asked to do the same when an employee visits, and if anyone inside the home is ill, that they isolate themselves away from the room where work is being performed.

Gas Safety Tips

Install carbon monoxide detectors to warn when concentration levels are high. All California

single-family homes are required to have carbon monoxide detectors.

Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed on every floor, near sleeping areas and common areas. These devices should be tested twice a year, and batteries replaced if necessary.

Never use products inside the home that generate dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, such

as generators, outdoor grills, or propane heaters.

Never use cooking devices such as ovens or stoves for home heating purposes.

When using the fireplace to stay warm, make sure the flue is open so venting can occur safely through the chimney.

Make sure water heaters and other natural gas appliances have proper ventilation.

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.

Expert Opinions Not Sought

Editor:

So our City Council has approved \$1.8 million to design and manage the development of the San Leandro Marina – \$597,190 to BKF Engineers and \$586,248 to Griffin Structures.

Nobody on the Council thought it would be a good idea to call the new City Council guy with a civil engineering degree from Stanford University and 20 years experience on the Oro Loma water board and get his opinion on the matter for free.

Nobody on the Council thought to call our Parks & Rec guy either. Then again it's pretty clear that the words of Douglas Spalding and thousands like him went unheeded, unheard and utterly disregarded.

Didn't the East Bay Association of Realtors warn you that with the passage of Prop. VV the Council would blow all of your General Fund money like so much powdered snow? This is my promise: when all is said and done we will be \$1.2 billion in debt and the people living at Monarch Bay will be watching sharks, manta rays, stingrays, and sea lions swimming around out front in their newly acquired Aquatic Recreation Center on their wall-sized, high-definition TV sets.

—David F. Sigel
San Leandro

Rodeo Laws Need Amending

Editor:

The 2021 legislative session begins in early January. Most legislators decide in November which bills to carry. It's been said that people who care about animals comprise the single largest lobby in the country. Here are three bills needing an author:

(1) Amend state rodeo law, Penal Code 596.7, so as to require an on-site veterinarian or Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) at all rodeos—the “on call” option is not working;

(2) Ban the Mexican rodeo's (“charreada”) brutal “steer tailing” event (now outlawed in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Nebraska and Brazil);

(3) Ban the rodeo's non-sanctioned “wild cow milking contest,” children's “mutton busting” event,

and all animal “scrambles”: cruel and dangerous for all concerned.

All legislators may be written c/o The State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Email pattern for all: senator.lastname@senate.ca.gov, assembly-member.lastname@assembly.ca.gov.

As Gandhi noted, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

—Eric Mills, coordinator
Action for Animals
Oakland

Election Not Over

Editor:

The fake news media are ignoring, suppressing, and even dismissing altogether an enormous amount of evidence that indicates significant voting irregularities took place during the presidential election.

Additionally, there are serious inferences of fraud as it relates to the counting of ballots. Last minute rule changes, software glitches, count halts, ballot dumps, and statistical anomalies made their ugly appearances this election-go-round, all to the benefit of one party only.

Make no mistake, though, this election is in no way over! The mounting evidence continuing to surface presents a pressing need for a complete investigation and judicially supervised remedies, including recounts, audits, and even election do-overs!

In the case of this election, there are results that would not ordinarily occur without fraud. In Democratic-run swing states, where on election eve Pres. Trump was leading Biden, ballot counting inexplicably came to a screeching halt. A few hours later, massive amounts of ballots suddenly appeared. Few, if any of the votes, went in President Trump's favor.

The Numbers: In Michigan, Biden at one point received a block of 138,000 votes. Nearly all of the votes added to his tally. This is a statistical impossibility. Data scientists have noticed other mathematical patterns that raise serious inferences of Election Fraud.

This election is Not over yet, getting to the bottom of all of it is not just about the 2020 election. Rather, it is about all future elections in America and whether representative democracy survives! People need to contact their state legislators to refuse to certify the election results until a thorough investigation is conducted.

—Debbie Perreira
San Leandro

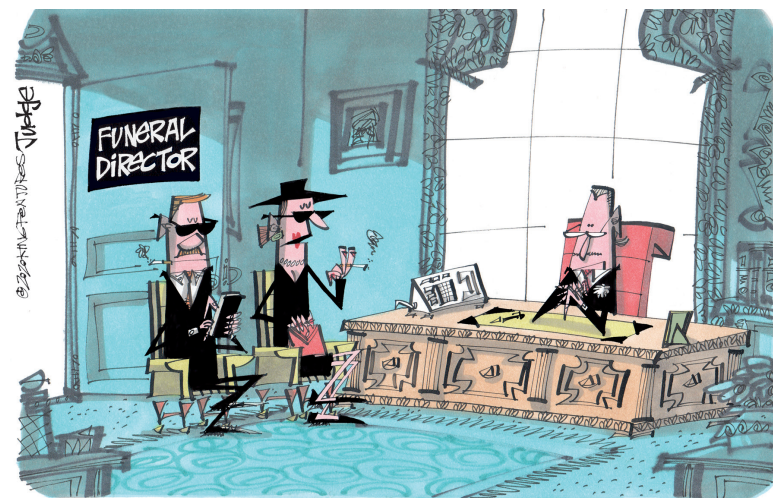
Doesn't Believe 'The Media'

Editor:

Year after year I read the San Leandro Times and see all the hate mail toward Mr. West. Actually, he is the most honest and educated person about political and world issues than any other person I have read in the San Leandro Times newspaper. And I'm not just speaking for myself.

The world is so different now. You can't believe what the media says. They are full of lies. Leo, keep up with your writings. It's what many of us agree with you on.

—Erich Smithman
San Leandro



"SO WE WENT AHEAD AND HAD A HUGE THANKSGIVING DINNER WITHOUT FACE MASKS OR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND NOW WE NEED TO SCHEDULE OUR NEXT BIG FAMILY EVENT."

INQUIRING REPORTER

What's the best thing on TV?

— Asked downtown

Last Man Standing. The way they know how to get along with their daughters. He knows how to talk to his daughters and resolve things together.

Shelly Loza
San Leandro



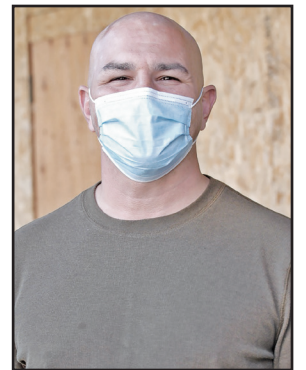
The Mandalorian. It combines *Star Wars* with westerns. It switches things up. It's entertaining and has good action, and it brings in things from the old *Star Wars*.

Darren Simmons
Hayward



The Mandalorian on Disney+. We're a family with an 8 year old and a 10 year old and we all like it. It's on once a week and it's a good story.

Michael Etchells
San Leandro



The Rachel Maddow Show. She's professional, the subjects are interesting and it's fact-based. And Don Lemon on CNN. He's personal and sincere and he follows the facts, also.

Dominic Gulley, Sr.
Oakland



Saturday Night Live and *The Daily Show*. Trevor Noah does *The Daily Show* now and he's great. Kate McKinnon on *Saturday Night Live* is so good. When she plays Hillary she shows her character defects but she's still likable.

Julia Seabrook
Oakland



Grants Available For Small Businesses

Small businesses that have been forced to close or layoff workers due to Covid-19 are eligible to apply for one-time \$5,000 grants authorized earlier this month by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

The application period runs through Monday, Nov. 30, and is open to Alameda County businesses with up to 25 employees and to people who are self-employed.

To be eligible, the business or self-employed person must have a valid local business license and agree to follow State of California and Alameda County Department of Public Health Covid-19 guidelines for maintaining a safe workplace.

The Board of Supervisors allocated \$5 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds for the small business grant

program, which is being administered by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.

Grant funds may be used for unreimbursed costs incurred between March 17 and Dec. 30, 2020, for the following:

- Rent, lease, mortgage and utility payments for business facilities
- Payroll
- Operating expenses such as supplies, materials, insurance, etc.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitation or health and safety equipment
- Digital technology equipment or platforms
- Interior and exterior physical adaptations, such as partitions, signage, outdoor seating, etc.

For more information, answers to frequently asked questions and to apply, go online to eastbayeda.org/grants.

On this Day in History – Dec. 3

In 1586: Sir Thomas Herriot introduces potatoes to England from Columbia.

In 1967: The first human transplant is performed in South Africa.

In 1984: In Bhopal, India, a Union Carbide pesticide plant

leaked 45 tons of methyl isocyanate, killing over 2,200 people and over half a million injured.

In 1989: Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev and United States President George H.W. Bush declare the Cold War is over.

Tips to Prevent Animal Collisions

During the fall months, drivers face an increased risk of animal-related crashes as deer and other wildlife begin to migrate and find their way onto highways and into suburban neighborhoods.

As a result, more animal collisions occur in this period than any other time of the year.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, there are more than half-a-million deer-vehicle collisions each year. In California last year, the average animal-related auto claim for nsurance customers was \$4,525.

“Although deer and other animals are unpredictable, there are actions you can take to help prevent an accident or reduce the damage from an animal collision,” said Sergio Avila, AAA Northern California spokesperson.

Be attentive in the early morning and evening. Many animals, especially deer, are most active during prime commuting hours – roughly 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Slow down and watch for other deer to appear. Continuously sweep your eyes across the road for signs of animals. Deer rarely travel alone, so if you see one, there are likely to be one or more nearby.

Use high beams when there’s



More animal collisions occur in the fall when wildlife migrates.

no oncoming traffic. At night, your brights can help you spot animals sooner. The light reflecting off their eyes may also reveal their location.

Honk your horn with one long blast. A long blast on your horn may frighten large animals away from your vehicle.

Use brakes if impact is imminent. If an animal is in your path, stay in your lane. Swerving away from animals can confuse them,

so they don’t know which way to run. It can also put you in the path of oncoming vehicles.

Always wear a seatbelt. The chances of getting injured when hitting an animal are much higher if you aren’t wearing a seatbelt.

Animal collisions are covered by most auto insurance policies, but only if the vehicle has comprehensive coverage. Contact your insurance agent

to ensure you have adequate coverage.

If You’re Involved in a Crash, call law enforcement immediately to help remove the animal. Make note of date, time, location, weather and road conditions.

Take photographs, when safe to do so, to document the incident for insurance purposes.

For more information, visit AAA.com.

DID YOU KNOW

To help you graduate, Chabot College offers over 20 student and academic support programs.

Invest in
you

Register Today
www.chabotcollege.edu



Hope Hospice to Present ‘Living With Dementia’ Live Webinar

Hope Hospice in Dublin is presenting its popular Family Caregiver Education Series in the form of interactive webinars that will be presented over Zoom for the duration of the pandemic.

The next program, “Living With Dementia: Behaviors as Communication,” will be held on Thursday Dec. 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

As the conditions that cause dementia progress, communication becomes challenged and persons living with dementia increasingly rely on their behaviors to express their needs.

In this webinar, family caregivers will gain an understanding of how to assess, interpret, and respond to dementia-related behaviors in a manner that can

improve communication and promote meaningful connections.

The series is a free public service. Participants do not have to have a loved one in the Hope Hospice service.

To register, visit HopeHospice.com/family. For more information, call 925-829-8770.

Nominate Someone to The Women’s Hall of Fame

Nominations are being accepted for the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame, honoring exceptional women making a difference in our community.

Honorees will be celebrated in 2021 during an event co-hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

Nominations may be made in 13 categories: Business & Professions; Community Service; Culture & Art; Education; Emerging Leader; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Philanthropy; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; Sports & Athletics; and Youth. Visit acgov.org/whof/nominations.htm for more information.

FREE In-Home Consultation!



We help you improve your home entertainment and home automation systems one step at a time.

“Quality Home Theater at a Reasonable Price”

510-473-2887

Castro Valley

brian@nextstepae.com | www.nextstepae.com

NextStep
AUDIO ENHANCEMENT

Spiritual, but not religious?

Watch 11:11am Live-stream at

unitysanleandro.org or on Facebook Live

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

www.unitysanleandro.org

SUNDAY 11:11 A.M.

Unity Church of San Leandro

P.O. Box 2018, San Leandro, 94577