



New Sheriff in Town
ANGELA AVERIETT NAMED POLICE CHIEF
AT MONDAY NIGHTS' CITY COUNCIL MEETING 10

WEEKEND WEATHER

SUNNY

Sunny Friday
Partly Cloudy Sunday

HIGHS: 80-85

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

LOWS: 56-59

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 34 • NO. 23 THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

San Leandro Mayor Juan Gonzalez waves to the crowd from a vintage fire truck during last Saturday's Cherry Festival Parade, riding behind the San Leandro High School Marching Band. Bands played, kids rode down a giant 100-foot slide, people ate cherry pies, and some 200 booths offered all kinds of items at the Cherry Festival on Saturday.

San Leandro Celebrates at Cherry Festival



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Teachers Have Mixed Views On New Equity Grading Policy

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro Unified School District has told high school and middle school teachers preparing for the next school year that they must apply "equity grading," rather than traditional grading, as they prepare their classes. Some of the aspects of equity grading are controversial. For example, a score of 80, rather than the traditional 90, would now be an A. In addition, a student would get a grade of 50, rather than zero, if the assignment was not turned in at all. Also, all students would be able to revise work to get a better grade, rather than having to ask the teacher for this, and there would be no penalties for handing in an assignment late. A practice some students are fond of, "extra credit" that could improve a grade, would be banned, along with grading for attendance and classroom behavior, according to information provided to see GRADING, page 11

Council OKs Annual Increase in Taxes and Fees

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro City Council approved three ordinances at its May 20 meeting. Each will increase certain fees and taxes by 2.6 percent. The proposed rates take effect on July 1. The city's Municipal Code requires an annual adjustment of San Leandro's Business License Fee, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Tax, and Emergency Communications System Access (9-1-1) Tax. The adjustments are tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated by the local office of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to City Finance Director Michael Yuen, these fees and taxes are used for specific services in San Leandro, see INCREASE page 12

AC Transit Makes Some Route Changes, But Some Local Lines to Run More Often

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

AC Transit is making some changes to its routes, but San Leandro will keep most of its local bus lines and its one direct Transbay bus to San Francisco, the NX3. AC Transit officials proposed the service changes at a May 23 meeting held at AC

Transit's Oakland headquarters and on Zoom. San Lorenzo will lose its only Transbay bus service on the S Line, which had been "temporarily" suspended during the pandemic. But local service in San Lorenzo, Cherryland and Ashland will mostly remain the same, although some local

lines will increase their frequency from once an hour to every 40 minutes. Service on Line 10 along East 14th Street from San Leandro BART to Hayward BART will be extended along Mission Boulevard to Union City BART. Line 28, which goes from San Leandro BART down

Alvarado Street and Halycon Drive to Castro Valley BART, will be rerouted slightly to serve the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club. Like many local routes, it will have its frequency increased from once an hour to every 40 minutes. Line 93, which connects San Lorenzo neighborhoods see CHANGES page 11

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



San Leandro Times

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

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On this Day: June, 6 1944 — D Day Begins the Liberation of Europe

On June 6, 1944, Led by U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, an Allied armada of ships, planes, and landing craft and some 156,000 troops began the invasion of northern France from England, the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of France, and the rest of Western Europe with the simultaneous landing of U.S., British, and Canadian forces on five separate beach-heads in Normandy, France. The weather on the day selected for D-Day was not ideal, and the operation had to be delayed 24 hours; a further postponement would have meant a delay of at least two weeks, as the planners had requirements for the phase of the moon, the tides, and time of day, that meant only a few days each month were deemed suitable. German casualties on D-Day have been estimated at 4,000 to 9,000 men. Allied casualties were documented for at least 10,000, with 4,414 confirmed dead.



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Bayside Groundwater Facility Annual Community Meeting

June 13, 2024 at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) invites you to the Bayside Groundwater Facility annual virtual community meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Register for zoom meeting at ebmud.com/Bayside

Update: EBMUD has leased the Bayside Groundwater Facility property at 2655 Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo from Oro Loma Sanitary District since 1997. As the lease comes to an end, EBMUD plans to remove all District-owned equipment and structures from the property. Demolition is tentatively scheduled to begin in late Fall 2024 and will take approximately two months to complete.

For more information: Visit ebmud.com/Bayside
Opt-In emails, submit questions in advance or questions: Contact baysidefacility@ebmud.com



CASTRO VALLEY USD Summer Job Fair

Thursday, June 13
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Castro Valley Adult School, Room 10
4430 Alma Ave. Castro Valley, CA 94546

- Bus & Van Drivers
- Paraprofessionals (Classroom Aides)
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Support Staff (Cafeteria Assistant, Classroom Aides, Clerical, Custodial)

Our District offers:
Health & Welfare Benefits
CalPERS Retirement
Paid Holidays, Vacation & Sick Leave

In-person interviews will be available!



Questions? Contact Personnel:
510-537-3000 Ext. 1215
For more information and to apply:
www.cv.k12.ca.us/jobfair/

Community Calendar

Mindfulness for Stress Relief – May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Join the library for a special 4-part series where you will learn and practice techniques to relieve stress in some of the most challenging areas of life. All workshops will be held on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. June 20 – Health. Register for one or more by calling 510-577-3971. Space is limited.

Church Invites Older Adults to Senior Citizens Club

First United Methodist Church, 1600 Bancroft Ave., invites older adults to participate in a 6-week program of seated exercise, meditation/labyrinth walk and tea time. Join us on Tuesday mornings, May 7 through June 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. No charge. Drop-ins welcome, no need to attend all six sessions. For more information call the church office at 510-483-0606.

Kiwanis Club of San Leandro Meets on Tuesdays

The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro meets on Tuesdays at noon, except for the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Barbara Lee Health Center, 2251 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. To attend on Zoom: Meeting ID: 759 9480 8209 Password: 560475.

League of Women Voters Town Hall On Homelessness

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area and the Castro Valley Women's Club are co-sponsoring a Town Hall meeting "Conversations about Homelessness in the Castro Valley/Eden Area: Reality, Challenges, and Resources" on Saturday, June 8, at 11 a.m. at 18330 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. The panelists include: Melissa Moore, director, Street Medicine Institute; Sabrina Fuentes, case manager, HEPPAC; Lucy Kasdin, program director, LCSW; Rev. Aaron Horner, community outreach pastor, First Presbyterian Church, and CHP Officer C. Oliveri. For more information, email lwvea57@gmail.com.

Eden Bazaar Fundraiser for The Japanese Community Center

Come visit the Eden Bazaar 2024 on Saturday, June 8, from 1 to 7 p.m., and Sunday, June 9, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Eden Township Japanese Community Center, 710 Elgin St. in San Lorenzo. Enjoy barbecued chicken teriyaki or ribs, sushi, udon, curry rice, pastries, shave ice and more. The event includes children's games and a silent auction. The bazaar is a fundraiser for Eden JACL and Eden Township Japanese Community Center. For more information see: <https://www.edenjapanesecc.org/events>.

Juneteenth Cooking Presentation At the Main Library

Come to a Juneteenth Holiday celebration with a presentation by Chef Wanda Blake of Wanda's Cooking on Tuesday, June 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Delve into the rich culinary traditions tied to this meaningful holiday while enjoying light refreshments. Discover the stories behind the flavors and celebrate the spirit of Juneteenth.

St. Gerard Women's Club

Country Hoedown & Old Time Rock 'n' Roll

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

Resolve to Lose Weight by Joining TOPS

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

Join the Library's Summer Reading Program

Everyone is invited to join and earn prizes during the San Leandro Public Library's annual Summer Library Program.

The reading-and-activities program is for all ages that runs from June 1 to July 31. Earn points when you read or complete fun activities.

Kids and teens will use their points to "buy" prizes from the prize board, while adults will use their points for tickets for weekly drawings.

Everyone who earn 80 points by July 31 will get a finisher prize packet with an invitation to a special event: Summer Carnival for Kids on Aug. 3, Teen Party on Aug. 9, or Adult Finale on Aug. 16.

Kids who finish the program will also receive a free pass to the Lawrence Hall of Science, a free Mini Murphy's Greenhouse Marketplace, and a pass for a free recreation swim at a San Leandro pool.

To join, visit the Main Library (300 Estudillo Ave.), Manor Branch (1241 Manor Blvd.), or Mulford Branch (13699 Aurora Blvd.) to receive your Summer Library program booklet, or join online at SanLeandro.org/SummerReading.

The Library will offer dozens of free events this summer, including storytimes, weekly activities for kids, family movies, life skills classes for teens, and entertaining and educational adult programs and events. Check the Library's online calendar for more.

"Summer Library Programs have been proven to maintain or improve reading ability, especially when kids are not in school," says Library Director Brian Simons. "For parents and caregivers, having your children participate in the Summer Library Program is a great way to keep them reading and learning all summer long. Libraries offer so much more than read-

ing, too. We support lifelong learning and educational enrichment for all families and community members through programs, performers, and hands-on learning activities. We encourage everyone to join the free Summer Library Program."

The Library is proud to

work with local artist and illustrator Susan Deming, who created the beautiful artwork for this summer's Summer Library Program. For more information about the Summer Library Program, contact Kelly Keefer with the San Leandro Public Library at KKeefer@sanleandro.org.

More Events

Community Chat with City Councilman Fred Simon

San Leandro City Councilman Fred Simon will hold his monthly community chat on Saturday, June 8, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Greenhouse Market Place, in front of Great Clips, 699 Washington Ave. Listen and share ideas on improving our environment and city, and learn how to become a community ambassador.

Learn about Animal Care and Operations at the Zoo

Come for an evening with zoologists and explore the fascinating world of animal care and behind-the-scenes operations at the zoo on Thursday, June 13, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Hear firsthand experiences from two zoo staff members, including a staff member from the Oakland Zoo, and learn what it's like to work with wildlife every day. Bring your questions for an engaging Q&A session.

Women Veterans Recognition Day

The Alameda County Veterans' Affairs Commission will host a celebration in honor of Women Veterans Recognition Day on Wednesday, June 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Alameda Naval Air Museum, 2151 Ferry Point in Alameda, at the former Naval Air Station.

The museum was founded by a WWII veteran named Marilyn York, who served in the Navy WAVES. It will feature speakers such as Alameda County District 3 Supervisor Lena Tam. RSVP by June 10th: <https://tinyurl.com/AC-Women-Veterans>.

This event commemorates the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, signed into law on June 12, 1948. While women have been fighting for our country since the American Revolution, their contributions have been largely unrecognized. Among other things, at the event, Quilt of Valor and women veteran first awards will be given to women veterans from Alameda County to recognize their contributions and achievements.

Author to Speak to Hearing Loss Association

Claudia Marseille will discuss her memoir, *But You Look So Normal: Lost and Found in a Hearing World*, which is about her life with a life-long severe hearing loss on Saturday, June 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., Lower Level, Room G26 in the basement.

Claudia is an author, painter, and a woman of many talents. She is a member of the HLAA East Bay Chapter. Claudia was mainstreamed in the oral world at a time be-

fore the advent of disability accommodations and sophisticated hearing technologies.

Growing up in Berkeley and moving into adulthood, she met many struggles. She will have her memoir, *But You Look So Normal*, available for sale and author signing at the meeting at market cost of \$20 including tax, with cash payment preferred.

To Register for this free event go to: <https://www.HearingLossEB.org> and then click on the "Monthly Meeting."

Expect More Corporate Jet Traffic This Weekend

The Oakland Airport is expecting a large influx of corporate jet air traffic this weekend due to the NASCAR Cup Series scheduled for Sunday, June 9.

Airplanes may used the

North Field due to the number of departures within a short time.

Aircraft may overfly residential areas and residents may be aware of more aircraft noise than usual.

Adults learn to read free!



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SUNDAY 11:11 A.M.

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Averiett Holds Crime Meeting at Siempre Verde Park

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Police Chief Angela Averiett spoke with north area residents about crime at a Public Safety Meeting held at Siempre Verde Park on May 28 – a meeting called by District 5 City Councilmember Xouhoa Bowen.

Residents brought up numerous public safety issues involving their homes and businesses in the city's north area, including dangerous driving that endangers residents and children walking to school, vandalism of businesses, assaults, and big illegal parties at night in Siempre Verde Park itself.

The parties involve large

crowds, drinking, DJ's and amplified music at night. All such gatherings are illegal without a permit, alcohol is banned in city parks, and the parks all close at sunset.

Residents were concerned about open drug dealing and shootings at a neighborhood 7-11, and the noise and danger presented by often-unlicensed and illegal dirt bikes roaring around the area.

Helping illustrate that last issue, a child of about 12 rode a motorized dirt bike around the park throughout the meeting. He drew no response from the chief or the several police officers on hand, despite people in the audience pointing out the dirt bike rider.

"I don't really have concrete answers yet," Averiett admitted. But she promised to take action on the problems. In particular, she said she hadn't known of the large nighttime parties in the park.

"If people don't feel safe, then I'm not doing my job as your police chief," Averiett said.

First, she said, we need to take a look at what police resources are applied where.

Some 80 to 90 percent of the city's crime is committed by people who do not live in San Leandro, Averiett said. She said that tells us we should be paying closer attention to who is entering and leaving the city, especially given our convenient freeway exits and entrances.

One person said there have been a number of robberies, some armed, at the Rite Aid store at MacArthur Boulevard and Estudillo Avenue, near Interstate 580.

A number of residents of Cambridge Street, just off East 14th, attended the meeting and spoke of dangerous driving on their short street. In particular, they said, schoolchildren



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Police Chief Angela Averiett spoke with residents at Siempre Verde Park last week and answered questions about crime in the neighborhood.

walking to George Washington School have almost been hit a number of times.

Cambridge Street residents readily admitted they had no idea whether the dangerous drivers lived in San Leandro, Oakland or came from both cities.

The chief said, "I've worked in five police departments, and in every one of

them dangerous driving was people's top concern."

Every school should have a parent meeting at the start of each school year to talk about traffic and driving, Averiett said. She promised to work on ways to reduce dangerous driving in town.

Chief Averiett said that cooperation with neighboring police departments is well

underway. The San Leandro and Oakland police departments have joined with other neighboring cities' forces in a crackdown on sideshows, which has shown some results, she said.

Police from all the departments move resources to where they're needed when problems arise, the chief said.

see CRIME, page 12

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Official Ballot Packets for the 2024 Proposed Stormwater Fee Amendment were mailed on May 24, 2024.



Ballot Question

In order to protect City streets and property from flooding, prepare the City for climate change and ensure no pollutants drain to the Bay by:

- Repairing and maintaining critical pipes and pump stations; and
- Removing trash and pollutants from rain runoff using sustainable methods; and,
- Investing in the highest-priority storm drainage infrastructure projects for our ageing system.

Shall the City of San Leandro amend the Stormwater Fee in the amounts listed on the ballot with future cost increases capped at 3% and dedicated only to the local storm drainage system?

Ballots are due on July 8, 2024, by 5 p.m.

Only official ballots that are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition, and are received by 5 p.m. on July 8, 2024, will be counted. Postmarks do not count.



For more information, visit SanLeandro.org/Stormwaterfee

City of San Leandro AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN

Public Comment Opportunity

DRAFT PLAN

The City of San Leandro and its Senior Commission have released a draft of its first-ever Age-Friendly Action Plan.

The draft Action Plan is open for public comment through June 11, 2024. Click here to submit your comments.

For more info: www.sanleandro.org/AgeFriendly

SENIORS

Can SSI Recipients Avoid Benefit Reductions?

Q: My wife and I have an adult son with a disability. He receives SSI and lives in our home and pays us a modest rent from his SSI benefit. We also help him with groceries. We report this to SSI. To date, our "assistance" to him has been deemed a subsidy by SSI, and has reduced his monthly SSI benefit amount. However, I hear that there may be some favorable changes coming soon in how SSI treats this financial "assistance". Can you tell us more?

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

A: Sure. The Social Security Administration ("SSA") recently announced some changes in the way it will calculate a reduction for the value of financial assistance for food and housing received by the recipient of Supplemental Security Income ("SSI").

Background: SSI has been designed by Congress to provide a qualifying individual with money for food and housing. To qualify, an individual must be over age 65, blind or have a qualifying disability, AND have income less than the SSI benefit amount, and have less than \$2,000 in countable resources (such as savings). To the extent the SSI beneficiary receives some income in any given month from other sources (so long as less than the SSI benefit), his SSI benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated.

In terms of income, there are three (3) types that SSI counts: (1) earned income, (2) Unearned income (such as pension income), and (3) In-Kind Income. The treatment of In-Kind income is what will change.

In Kind Income results where a third party, such as parents or other family members, purchase some of the beneficiary's food for him, or subsidize his housing expense. The treatment of this third kind of income is what the new rules will address when they fully go into effect on September 30, 2024. This In-Kind income is frequently referred to as In-Kind-Support & Maintenance, or "ISM" for short.

Under current rules, the value of that ISM is deducted from his SSI benefit, but only up to a certain cap.

That cap is called the Presumed Maximum Value ("PMV"), and this number increases each year with inflation. In 2024, that PMV amount is \$334.34. In addition, there is also a \$20 'unearned income exclusion', so that the net PMV reduction from an individual's SSI is capped at \$314.34 (\$334.34 - \$20) in any given month. The benefit reduction for food and/or housing is always the lesser of the actual value thereof or that year's net PMV amount.

Example: Let's assume you purchased for him \$100 in groceries this month. Let's also assume that you charge him \$400 for rent where, if you had rented his room out to a stranger on the open market, the Current Market Rental Value ("CMRV") would be, say, \$750/month. Your combined financial assistance to him would then be calculated as follows: \$100 + \$350 rent subsidy (\$750 - \$400) = \$450 in total ISM. Since the current net PMV for any given month is only \$314.34, his SSI benefit reduction would be capped at only \$314.34 for that month, which is much less than the full financial benefit he actually received from you. Here are the calculations:

\$1,182.94 Gross SSI Benefit
(with the California State Supplement)
< 314.34 ISM (Capped at the net PMV Amount)
\$868.60 Reduced SSI Benefit for that month



Not a bad deal, even under the current rules. But, with the implementation of the new rules on September 30, 2024, the good news will soon be even better. Here is why:

Food: When the new rules take effect, there will no longer be ANY reduction for food that you (or any other family member) purchase and give to your son, or even the value of a meal you purchase for him at a restaurant;

Rental Subsidy: So long as the rent you charge him is at least equal to the then existing PMV Amount (\$334.33 for year 2024), it will generally be treated as if it were equivalent to the Current Market Rental Value ("CMRV"), and there should then be no reduction in his SSI by reason of your rental subsidy. Note: there may be some variation in application of this rule for different individuals, depending upon the number of persons in the household and other factors. But the basic thrust of the new rule is to benefit SSI recipients and eliminate the current reduction for the rent subsidy.

Caution: As before, if you give your son money directly, for whatever purpose, then there will continue to be a dollar for dollar reduction in his SSI. Thus, the way to maximize the benefit to him for, say, groceries is for you to purchase them from the grocery store and then gift the groceries to him. Admittedly this two-step gifting process can be a bit cumbersome, but that is the best way to continue your assistance to him and avoid a reduction in his SSI Benefit.

This should come as welcome news to SSI beneficiaries and their loved ones.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INNER WHEEL

Inner Wheel members Dominguez (left) and Monika Williams (right) deliver a donation to Alexis Taper and Andrea Reyes of CALICO.

Inner Wheel Donates to CALICO

One of Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro's 2023-24 yearly charitable donations was made to CALICO-Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing and Coordination Center in San Leandro.

Treasurer Inez Dominguez and President Monika Williams presented the club's donation to Alexis Taper -

Family Advocate, and Andrea Reyes - Forensic Interviewer at Inner Wheel's last general meeting.

Founded in 1997, CALICO brings together law enforcement officers, child welfare workers, prosecutors and other professionals to respond sensitively and effectively to allegations of child abuse,

while skilled mental health clinicians provide support to caregivers. Each year, CALICO serves 600-700 abused toddlers, children and youth, as well as adult victims living with developmental disabilities.

Email: iwclubofsanleandro@gmail.com for more information on Inner Wheel.

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-------------------------------	------------------------------

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8 NEW CHAMPIONSHIP PICKLEBALL COURTS

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Impending NAR Settlement Signals Clarification in Agent Compensation

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

Resulting from the National Association of Realtors class action settlement, as of 08/17/24, real estate commissions will be han-

dled differently. Unfortunately, due to incorrect press commentary concerning the changes, there is significant confusion in the marketplace. We hope this column will provide some clarification.

Historically, when buy-

ers asked about representation fees, many buyer's agents stated, "We work for you for free." While this may have appeared to be true, it was a factual misrepresentation and was one of the focusses of the lawsuit.



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In most cases, a buyer's agent's compensation has been included in the purchase price of the home. As stated in last week's article, the "sellers (from the proceeds of the sale) paid a commission to the listing brokerage who, out of the proceeds, paid the agreed upon compensation to the buyer's agent. Consequently, commissions for both the listing and buyer's agents were "coupled" and paid by the seller."

The lawsuit alleged that this practice kept prices artificially high, and so, going forward, commissions will be decoupled

so that each party (both buyers and sellers) will be responsible for the fees paid to their respective agents. Consequently, if a seller chooses not to provide any compensation for the buyer's agent, the buyer themselves will be responsible for paying their agent's fee.

The obvious question to follow is, "So if buyers pay their agent's compensation, does this mean home prices will be lower?"

Probably not. In a free market, home prices have never been based on agent commissions, but on market forces including

inventory, buyer demand, current interest rates and overall economic factors.

Budge Huskey, president and CEO of Premier Sotheby's International Realty clarifies: "General values in real estate are determined by the fundamentals of supply and demand, not Realtors. Yes, the commission represents an expense of a transaction, yet these also include title fees, closing fees, mortgage related expenses, property taxes, association fees, etc. Should real estate commissions theoretically be reduced by 1% as a result of compression, that \$500,000 home will now only cost \$495,000. Hardly the difference as to whether someone may afford the home or not. The real reason home ownership is increasingly less affordable is that homes in our market have values that have risen dramatically in recent years."

Going forward, instead of a buyer agent's compensation being hidden in a home's purchase price, it will become a visible part of the negotiation process.

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



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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

No Need to Worry about Blind Shoots on Roses

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q Why did some of my rose shoots not bud or flower? The stems don't look any different from those that did flower.

A The vegetative rose shoots that don't bud up and open are called 'Blind Shoot.' Blind Shoots are more common than you would think, but they get overlooked with all the flowering shoots. It's a big problem for commercial cut flower growers because of the ecumenic impact and not so in home gardens. Various factors, such as weather conditions, growing in shady conditions, over or under watering, nutrient deficiencies, or none or all of the

above, cause.

Blind shoots are usually no more than three to five inches long, have thinner stems, and have fewer leaves, which typically have a lower chlorophyll content than leaves on stems that form flowers. If there is an abundance of them, it could indicate an underlying issue with the health or vigor of your plant. Also, you may find a string of aborted shoots rising from the same stem, so prune the stem off. The best time to remove the flowers is deadheading or removing the spent flowers after each flowering period. This is an excellent time to control the size of your bushes by reducing the height and bringing in



sides. You don't have to wait until winter to prune. The one 'Do Not' is to remove all the leaves from the canes as the leaves act as an umbrella. They protect the green stems from sunburn. You should expect the next flush of flowers in August.

Note: Google, YouTube: Rose What is a Blind Shoot, Portland Rose Garden for a video of Blind Shoot and other rose diseases.

Q need clarification about using leaves as mulch in my garden. Although it's universally recommended to put leaves in the compost pile, some say you should leave them laying around shrubs, perennials, etc. Others say to remove them from the

garden because they can harbor pests. Pests can also hide in compost, can't they?

A Both answers are correct depending on your taste and preference. Using natural plant debris is critical during the summer months for moisture conservation. The most usual I'd see are Sowbugs, which feed on decaying organic matter.

Sowbugs are not a threat to ornamentals; only herbaceous plants and those edibles that touch the ground, such as strawberries, melons, and pumpkins. The cost of water has put water conservation at the forefront of my mind during the nonrainy season. A two-inch layer of mulch is the recommended solution. Plant debris is an inexpensive resource. I'm fortunate to have several Coast Redwood and California Live Oaks that I use as mulch. The spiny oak leaves have a secondary benefit: no

snails; however, I'm cultivating the acorn and germinating seedling oaks. Before applying fresh mulch, I rake the area around the trunks of trees and shrubs to prevent the organic matter from matting down around the crowns. In time, this causes many problems.

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.

Mortgage Rates Move Up

Following several weeks of decline, mortgage rates changed course this week. More hawkish commentary about inflation and tepid demand for longer-dated Treasury auctions caused market yields to rise across the board. This reality, as well as economic signals that have moved sideways over the last few weeks, have resulted in mortgage rates drifting higher as markets continue to dial back expectations of interest rate cuts.

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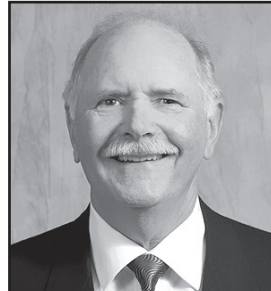
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ANNUAL "OUR READERS REMEMBER" SPECIAL SECTION

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Published July 18, 2024

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By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 605655
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Budget With Brittney, located at 14954 Inlet Court San Leandro, CA 94578 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brittney Jackson, located at 14954 Inlet Court San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced March 1, 2024 /s/Brittney Jackson
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires May 16, 2029
MAY 23, 30, JUN 06, 13, 2024
1395 - SLT

FILED April 16, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 605593
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
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Expires April 15, 2029
MAY 23, 30, JUN 06, 13, 2024
1400 - SLT

FILED May 20, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 606574
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
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Expires May 16, 2029
MAY 30, JUN 06, 13, 20, 2024
1401 - SLT

FILED May 8, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 606188
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Save Auto Glass, located at 2557 W Winton Ave., 7D Hayward, CA 94545 / 371 Winton Ave., Hayward, CA 94545 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ana Carolina Calix, located at 371 Winton Ave., Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 04/30/24 /s/Ana Carolina Calix
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Expires May 7, 2029
MAY 16, 23, 30, JUN 06, 2024
1385 - SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED May 14, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 606362
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Los Tres Grandes Trucking, located at 2484 Baunann Ave., San Lorenzo, CA 94580 / 3258 Shawn Way, Hayward, CA 94541 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carlos Martinez, located at 3258 Shawn Way, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 5/14/24 /s/Carlos Martinez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires May 13, 2029
MAY 23, 30, JUN 06, 13, 2024
1391 - SLT

FILED May 1, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 606010
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Inkbold Tattoo Studio, located at 2350 Saratoga Street Unit 108, Alameda, CA 94501. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bayarjargal Enkhbold, located at 2350 Saratoga Street Unit 108, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 04/00/2024 /s/Bayarjargal Enkhbold
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires April 30, 2029
MAY 23, 30, JUN 06, 13, 2024
1375 - SLT

FILED April 11, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 605489
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Bay Area Corazon Counseling, located at 14393 E 14th Street, Ste 200 San Leandro, CA 94578 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leticia Arreola-Garcia, located at 18144 Robscott Ave., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/Leticia Arreola-Garcia
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires April 10, 2029
MAY 16, 23, 30, JUN 06, 2024
1382 - SLT

FILED April 30, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 605896
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Mitchell Family Dentistry, located at 2421 Encinal Ave., Ste A, Alameda, CA 94501 / 28 Crest Road, Lafayette, CA 94549 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kent Dental Practice, located at 28 Crest Road, Lafayette, CA 94549. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced N/A /s/Martha Kraka
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires April 29, 2029
MAY 16, 23, 30, JUN 06, 2024
1381 - SLT

City Council Appoints Averiett Police Chief

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

At its meeting on Monday, the City Council voted unanimously, 7-0, to approve a three-year contract to make current interim Police Chief Angela Averiett San Leandro's permanent chief at a base salary of \$303,000.

Moments before, in a closed session, the Council unanimously voted to appoint Assistant City Manager Janelle Cameron as its next City Manager.

Cameron replaces current City Manager Fran Robustelli, who is leaving this month for a new city manager job in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

The news of both appointments drew a standing ova-

tion, and lots of praise from the City Council and the residents in attendance.

"We are making history here," said City Councilman Victor Aguilar, Jr. "We now have two African American women leading our city. This is something that is historic, something to celebrate."

Community Police Review Board (CPRB) chair Bob Bailey, speaking on his own behalf, noted that keeping Chief Averiett was a smart decision, considering her extensive law enforcement experience is in high demand. The city also saved \$40,000 in recruiter fees it would have otherwise spent looking for another candidate, said Bailey.

"She's trustworthy, ap-



The City Council voted to make Angela Averiett San Leandro's police chief.

proachable, and has experience in a multicultural community," Bailey said. "She's continually building bridges

with the rank-and-file officers and the community."

Averiett came to San Leandro on April 22 after serving as Police Chief in Los Altos. She has more than two decades of law enforcement experience, including the Hayward Police Department and the BART Police Department.

On May 29, she publicly announced her intent to stay permanently in San Leandro.

Chief Averiett holds a bachelor's degree in Leadership and Organizational Studies from St. Mary's College in Moraga. She also graduated from the Alameda County Leadership Academy and the Los Angeles Police Department Leadership Academy. She serves on several

community, civic, and professional organizations, including the California Association of Hostage Negotiators, Peace Officer Standards and Training AB392 Use of Force Guidelines Committee, NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives), and Women Leaders in Law Enforcement.

Chief Averiett's annual base salary of \$303,060 (not including benefits) matches that of the previous full-time Chief Abdul Pridgen (\$303,060 in February 2024) but is higher than the \$260,964 annual base salary the city paid to Chief Jeff Tudor in June of 2021.

Averiett's contract gives her a 4 percent salary increase

for two years and a 3 percent increase on July 1, 2026, when her base salary will exceed \$337,000.

Assistant City Manager Janelle Cameron will take over for Robustelli on June 21. Her contract is expected to be negotiated and voted on before the Council takes its summer break in August. Cameron has an MBA from Saint Mary's College and has been with San Leandro for nearly three years. She served as an Administrative Services Director with Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) and Finance Manager with the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (RecycleSmart) for over 9 years.

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Please Vote Yes on Stormwater Fee

Editor,

I respectfully request that property owners vote "Yes" on the Stormwater Fee Amendment ballots that were mailed to you recently.

Over the past 30 years, the City of San Leandro's Stormwater Fee has never increased. Due to 30 years of inflation, its purchasing power has decreased by more than half.

Over that same period, expanded stormwater regulations have increased the city's compliance costs.

For example, the City of San Leandro must now install and maintain trash capture devices throughout the stormwater system to prevent trash such as food wrappers and bottles from traveling into the bay through the system.

The vast majority of homeowners will see an increase of approximately \$25 per year. Some others will experience a small decrease, while larger properties will see a larger increase.

When I began my term as Mayor of San Leandro, I promised to be transparent about the total cost of running a city.

My request to vote "yes" aligns

with that commitment, as the current 30-year-old stormwater fee comes nowhere close to covering the actual cost of maintaining the stormwater system.

Finally, thank you to the many people who have already reached out to let me know that the proposed fee adjustment reflects common sense.

Juan González
Mayor, City of San Leandro

Bike Lane Islands Protect Bicyclists

Editor,

Bike lane islands ensure motorists give cyclists the space required by the Three Feet of Clearance Act that went into effect in 2014. Motorists who collided with the island would have strayed too close to the bike lane, and potentially endangered cyclists, were the island not in place.

The damage to the island curb doesn't indicate that the island needs to be replaced. It's proof that the island is necessary to keep motorists in their own lane.

Although the city can protect bike lanes through other means (like plastic markers), only a hard barrier ensures the safety of cyclists by physically preventing cars from illegally crossing into

the bike lane.

As a cyclist I'm happy that the island keeps me safe, and as a motorist I've never had difficulty avoiding curbs simply by driving attentively. In each case, I'd rather the car hit the curb than the alternative.

Tom Connor
San Leandro

Bowen: Please Explain this Expenditure to the Public

Editor,

This is an open letter to Councilwomen Bowen: I was amazed to read of the Council's approval of your request for an additional \$18,000 reimbursement for a three week "Executive Program" at Harvard University. And this is in addition to the \$9,534 you have already had reimbursed.

I am a constituent in your district, and I ask, how will the residents in your district and the city benefit from this additional \$18,000?

I voted for you but have never seen or heard of anything from you to describe what you have accomplished for your district after spending your initial \$9,534.

Given the fact that the residents of San Leandro are regularly being asked to increase fees, taxes and/or bonds, it seems to me that the \$18,000 you are spending for personal edification is money that could and should be spent elsewhere, for the betterment of the entire city.

I respectfully ask for a public response to my concerns.

Maureen Sirhall
San Leandro

Spending Is Excessive

Editor,

I want to echo the sentiments

of Cynthia Prieto-Diaz from last week's letter "\$20,000 in Additional Funds for Individual Training of City Council Members."

I'm all for education but I think this is a little excessive and I hope we aren't just throwing money at DEI.

Roy W. Daniels
San Leandro

\$10,000 a Year is Enough for City Council Members Travel and Training

Editor,

I can't help but wonder why the city paid to have ballots mailed about the increase for Storm Water Fee. Is this in addition to the \$250,000 paid previously to a firm to help them make decisions? Don't we elect people who are supposed to make decisions?

Plus, I don't understand how we can pay our City Council members to go to seminars that will benefit them in their future endeavors, but not necessarily the city they now serve.

I wonder who is really in charge of these expenditures and where is their common sense. \$10,000 per year for travel and training seems to be more than enough for a small city like San Leandro.

Gerry Mellen
San Leandro

City Council Doesn't Understand The Word Budget

Editor,

In 1948 there was a movie called *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* starring Humphrey Bogart that had a line in it, "Badges we don't need no stinking badges." This reminds me of our current City Council who have tweaked the line to their own way of thinking... budget, we don't need no stinking

budget. Regrettably, most politicians don't know what the word means, or sadly, don't care as it's not their money.

Most normal people have learned to live within their means and have developed the discipline necessary to sacrifice things they would like to do but can't, as a budget helps to keep them in line with reality. But oh no, not our City Council.

Each City Council member was given a top end budget of \$10,000 to spend and Xouhoa Bowen has all ready blown through \$9,535. Unfortunately the City Council has unanimously approved Ms. Bowen to spend an additional \$18,000. This collusion is like the Hindenburg coming in for a soft landing on May 6, 1937 and we all know what happened on that date.

We should all keep this insane expenditure in mind when she runs for reelection in 2026, since she must think that she's on a new reality show called *The Real Housewives of San Leandro*. Let's do our part not to keep her around for Season Two, as we can't afford her antics. As Arnold Schwarzenegger would say "you've been terminated."

Brent Heath
San Leandro

Not One City Council Member Voted No

Editor,

Bowen gets \$18,000 for a seminar. Not one City Council member voted against it. Shocking.

Bad, yes. Dream, no.

I'll vote against all current incumbents in next election, if I even vote at all.

Raymond Puleo
San Leandro

Changes: Ridership coming back; AC needs more bus drivers

continued from front page

to Bay Fair BART and Castro Valley BART, will keep the same route.

Castro Valley would have lost much of its neighborhood service under one alternative proposed by AC Transit in January, but ended up keeping all of its service with increased frequency in the new proposal. But Castro Valley will lose its one Transbay bus to San Francisco, the NX4. Service on it had been “temporarily” suspended during the pandemic.

Line 40, which runs from Bay Fair BART up East 14th Street, then on Bancroft Avenue and Foothill Boulevard to downtown Oakland, would

see its service frequency improved to every 15 minutes. So would Line 97, which runs down Hesperian Boulevard, serves Chabot College and connects Bay Fair BART with Union City BART.

The meeting updated proposals made late last year, but the implementation was delayed for six months to gather more public comment.

The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District had lost much of its ridership, causing a lost in revenue, during the pandemic. It also faced a looming “fiscal cliff,” as emergency pandemic aid was discontinued without a major rise in revenues to replace it.



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Bus ridership is coming back but it's still about 74 percent of what it was before the pandemic.

AC Transit has since regained much of its ridership, while travel to work centers has remained low, said General Manager Michael Hursh.

Overall, AC Transit has regained 74 percent of pre-pandemic ridership.

The agency said its new draft plan would put a bus line with 15-minute frequency or better available within ¼ mile of 32 percent of potential riders. However, only a few of those high-frequency routes serve San Leandro.

One thing holding back AC Transit is finding enough bus operators. AC has a budget for 1,386 drivers but now employs around 1,200.

AC Transit invites people to apply. The agency will provide full training and pays a good wage, with benefits, Hursh said.

More information on AC Transit Realignment, is available at <https://www.actransit.org/realign>. Until June 5, you can leave comments on this draft plan there, a local public libraries, or at a public meeting.

The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) has been in operation since 1960 and is the largest public bus-only system in California, and the 3rd largest bus-only transit agency in the United States.

Grading: Teachers discuss pluses and minuses of grading system

continued from front page

teachers by the school district. But a teacher could attach a side note to a student's grades about classroom conduct that parents would see.

The school board approved a shift to equity grading last year, following earlier support for the idea.

“Equitable grading practices don't lower standards; they actually help maintain high academic rigor by focusing on what students truly learn and understand,” district spokesperson Keziah Moss said in an email.

Moss said grading up until now has been inconsistent between teachers, and greater consistency would be more fair to students.

Grade inflation, though, worries some teachers.

Blake Green, who teaches history at San Leandro High School, said that the district already has a higher-than-state-average graduation rate coupled with lower-than-average test scores and SAT scores.

Green said he thinks the grading changes could discourage student effort and will result in less learning.

“It goes against what we know about adolescent brain development,” Green said. “Students aren't able to fully comprehend the long-term consequences of today's action, or lack of actions. Their cerebral cortexes are still developing.”

“My own teenager, if he wasn't told otherwise, would happily spend more time with his friends and less time on schoolwork.”

Green said he's concerned that some, if not many, of the allowed multiple revisions

will utilize Artificial Intelligence programs instead of additional student learning, in an attempt to “artificially” raise a student's grade.

Sarah Kayler, who teaches Physics at San Leandro High, had a different view.

“On a traditional point system, you literally do not have to learn anything to pass. The goal is points,” Kayler said in an email to the district. “What I like is the shift in the goal. The goal is learning.”

Kayler added, “Because of this shift in grading, I'm more aware of what my students are thinking. Traditionally, I taught and then I tallied the points that they got. Now I think about what they think, how to help them build accurate mental models, and how to help them figure out the meaning and craft solutions.”

Green said that students being able to revise work repeatedly would increase an already high workload for teachers in some subjects with considerable written work, such as history.

Green teaches 170 students at a time, and reading a weekly essay or assignment by each is already plenty of work. Reading multiple versions of the same work by many of those students would add even more hours to his already full schedule, he said.

Teachers might eventually responded by applying less grading that measures what students are learning in depth, Green warned. They might go instead with fill-in-the-blanks type assignments that are more quickly graded.

Principals asked teachers just before the Memorial Day weekend to submit the current school year's syllabus, show-

ing how a class is structured and graded, for each course to ensure that it meets equity grading standards. But Moss said the district had been offering workshops on the new grading standards for years.

A quick look at education journals showed praise for San Leandro adopting equity grading going back to at least 2019. Several other Bay Area districts have also made the switch, including Dublin where there was substantial opposition by parents.

Earlier communications with teachers had told them of the relatively new policy, according to Bancroft Middle School history teacher and athletic coach Dave D'Antonio.

Teachers were recently given three options for grading students next year, each of them reflecting equity grading principles, D'Antonio said.

Some teachers were on board with the proposed changes, while others had problems with all or part of the plan, he said. Teachers and parents were surveyed on what they thought of the change, but this came after it was already decided, D'Antonio said.

But district spokesperson Moss said support for the changes was widespread among teachers, and provided several teacher testimonials that results had been positive.

D'Antonio and other teachers who are questioning the changes had planned to come to the May 21 school board meeting to urge the board to reconsider. Shortly before the meeting, though, he and other teachers received an email from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mike McLaughlin saying no public comments, from teachers or anyone else,

would be allowed at that meeting.

The reason given was that it was not a regular board meeting, but a “Celebrating Schools” meeting with student

performers and reports from principals about things going well at their schools. It was held at the Performing Arts Center at San Leandro High School.

Public comments will be accepted at the next regular school board meeting on June 11, Moss said.

School lets out for the summer on June 7.

Suspect Arrested for 2022 Armored Truck Robbery

A suspect in the robbery of an armored truck at Kaiser San Leandro in 2022, where a guard was shot and killed, was arrested by the California Highway Patrol in Southern California on May 27.

A CHP officer made a traffic stop in Oxnard for a vehicle registration violation, and the driver gave the officer false information about his identity, according to a press release this week from the San Leandro Police Department.

The CHP officer discovered that the driver had an

outstanding warrant in the robbery of a security guard in San Leandro in September of 2022. The CHP arrested the driver, 28-year-old Artemio Torres.

During the original investigation, San Leandro detectives identified Torres as the driver of the car used in the commission of the crime. Torres was believed to have fled the state afterwards, police said.

Akbar Bey, 28, of Oakland, the suspect believed to be responsible for committing the murder, was arrested by San Leandro police in October of 2022.

On Monday, June 3, Torres was extradited from southern California to Alameda County where he will face felony robbery charges.

There are no other outstanding suspects in this case.

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FAMILY OWNED

Crime: Averiett: Progress in hiring police, but want to hire the right people

continued from page 4

Averiett said she was headed to a regional meeting on fighting crime the following day.

She said, “Technology is a resource multiplier,” adding that police use it to target their efforts more effectively. The department uses “heat maps” to identifying where crime is currently occurring and shift resources there.

Interim Chief Averiett urged members of the public to report all crimes, so police know where to send their resources.

Averiett said the police had gotten six guns off the street that past weekend alone, and reassured the audience that a murder first reported as being in San Leandro had actually occurred in Oakland. The victim managed to drive his car a short distance into San Leandro before collapsing, she said.

Councilmember Bowen said that some crime and safety issues are more matters of code enforcement, which city departments other than the police can readily handle.



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Residents in the north area of the city came to Siempre Verde Park on the evening of May 28 to discuss crime and look for solutions.

Local ordinances can help on crime, too, she said. A new noise ordinance based on actual decibels of noise is being considered, she said.

Bowen said the city council may soon take up a local gun control ordinance, banning loaded weapons at some events. The city is also

working to reduce pedestrian deaths, as part of the nationwide Vision Zero effort.

City Manager Fran Robustelli said that Alameda County led the state in pedestrian deaths last year. She said that any accident involving a death or major injury was sent to the engineering department

for their review, to see if that intersection or stretch of road could be made safer.

Averitt replied to complaint that police are sometimes given evidence in crimes from citizens but never use it, and that people arrested for violent crimes are seen walking the streets.

One person added, “The criminals know that we’re soft.”

She replied that whether to criminally charge someone, and how much if any bail is required, are decisions of the District Attorney’s Office, not the local police.

Averiett was asked what it would take to get the police force up to its full authorized strength and whether more tax revenue from residents would be needed do that.

She responded “It’s not a money issue. We pay well.”

Averiett said that following George Floyd’s murder in Minneapolis, police work had become less appealing to some people than before.

She noted that the city had made some progress in recruiting new officers, but some people have no right being police officers, Averiett said.

“We want to hire the right officers,” the chief said.

Increase: Council approves rate increases

continued from front page

such as recreational programming, facility rental, and permits.

“The fees are intended to cover the actual costs of services rendered,” Yuen told the City Council. “As you may recall, in March of 2021, the budget task force recommended an update of fees, which commenced in a fee study in December of 2022. The results of that study, along with a new master fee schedule, will be brought before you later this

year. However, these three particular fees fall outside of that.”

The council voted unanimously, 7-0, to approve the three rate adjustments. The increases are expected to annually add \$269,000 to the city’s General Fund.

According to Yuen’s report, the annual business license fee will increase to \$167.00. The tax on 9-1-1 service will increase to \$3.14 per month, and the EMS tax will increase to \$22.08 annually.



Thank you for Celebrating San Leandro!

Thousands came out to San Leandro on Saturday, June 1st, to view the Cherry Parade and celebrate all things Cherry and the people and organizations that make San Leandro so special. This wonderful community event could not have happened without the support and hard work of many people and partnering organizations.

Please join us in thanking the following: San Leandro Mayor and City Council; The downtown and adjacent neighborhood; The Recreation and Parks Commission; Rotary of San Leandro for coordinating the Cherry Parade; FH Dailey for donating parade vehicles; The Alta Mira Club; Saint Leander’s Church; and the San Leandro Historical Society. A very special thank you to the Recreation and Parks Department, City Manager’s Office, Public Works Department, Alameda County Fire Department, and the Police Department, whose staff worked tirelessly to ensure a safe and successful Cherry Festival.

Lastly, the San Leandro community, whose support and participation in this event create an engaged and vibrant community, one that is making positive memories for San Leandro families—you are the reason the Cherry Parade and the Cherry Festival continue and are enjoyed!

We offer you all a very heartfelt thank you.
City of San Leandro Staff

2024 Cherry Festival Parade Awards

- San Leandro Spirit Award** - San Leandro Unified School District
- Cherry Parade Award** - Barb Creamer Dance Fitness for Women
- Creativity Award** - Dasen American Academy
- Youthful Spirit Award** - Girl Scouts of Northern California
- Association/Organization Award** - Yu Ming K-8 Charter School
- Musical Award** - DC Dance Center
- School Award** - SLUSD - Marching Band & Color Guard
- Judge’s Choice Award** - Friends of Falun Gong
- Best Float Award** - Assumption Catholic School - San Leandro
- Business Award** - Pallen’s Martial Arts

2024 Cherry Pie Contest

- Traditional**
- 1st Place** - Paul Navarro
 - 2nd Place** - Delilah Weaver
 - 3rd Place** - Anastasia Bellenger

- Non-Traditional**
- 1st Place** - Shannon Marsden
 - 2nd Place** - Alexandria Kinsley
 - 3rd Place** - Cindy Barretto

2024 Cherry Pie Youth Entries

- 1st Place** - Olivia Bethune
- 2nd Place** - Delilah Weaver
- 3rd Place** - Keziah Troppe

2024 Pie Eating Contest Winner

Jonathan Wong



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Prologis
Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling
San Leandro Chamber of Commerce

AC Transit
Sup. Lena Tam
Chase Bank
Fremont Bank
Port of Oakland
Torani