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San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 28 • NO. 5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY VANESSA ADAMS

Pirates wrestler Eddie Morales surprises the crowd by pinning his Castro Valley opponent to lead San Leandro to a comeback win and the WACC dual-team title.

San Leandro Wrestling Wins Dual-Meet League Championship

The San Leandro High boys wrestling team won the dual-meet league championship, coming out on top of Castro Valley in the Pirates gym last Thursday night.

In a battle between the West Alameda County Conference's (WACC) two undefeated teams, San Leandro overcame a big

deficit and bounced back to win by a score of 39-31. The win sends the Pirates boys to the North Coast Section (NCS) dual-meet championships on Feb. 10.

The turning point of the match happened when Castro Valley led, 25-3. San Leandro wrestler Eddie Morales was losing his match

in the 195-pound division to Andrew Kohl of Castro Valley by a score of 10-2.

So it looked like San Leandro's chips were down. But then Morales pinned Kohl with five seconds left in the match for the win, and that turned the tide.

see **WRESTLE**, page 8

City Budget Forecast: In the Red

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City of San Leandro's unfunded pension costs have doubled in the past four years, according to a recent budget presentation, which also shows that the city's general fund is projected to be in the red over the next several years.

City Finance Director David Baum says San Leandro is currently looking at \$210 million worth of pension liabilities looming, compared to \$105 million in 2014.

Former Mayor Stephen Cassidy has long said the pension system in San Leandro and beyond is untenable in the long run.

Cassidy said the city took some measures during his time at City Hall – including having employees pay a percentage of their salaries into CalPERS – but the city hasn't done enough since then. “Despite a booming local economy, a \$5 million general fund surplus when I left office plus a \$10 million boost in sales tax revenue following the passage of Measure HH in November 2014, the City of San Leandro is now running multi-million dollar deficits with no end in sight,” Cassidy said. “The City needed to continue to make progress on reducing employee pension costs in labor negotiations and didn't. Baum said the reason pension costs to the city have ballooned is due to poor investments by the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS), the pension program for state and

city workers.

CalPERS manages the largest public pension fund in the United States, with over \$320 billion in assets. Over the past decade, CalPERS has returned 4.4 percent

see **RED**, page 14

New Tax District Doesn't Fly

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The creation of a new tax district in the north area of town is no longer being considered after a large property owner refused to join the district.

AT&T will not support the creation of the special tax district, the City Council was told at last week's meeting.

A Community Benefit District (CBD) is an area in a city where property owners agree to tax themselves in order to get better services, including security, beautification and public relations.

Critics of CBDs say they essentially make property owners pay twice for services that cities are supposed to provide via property tax, such as adequate police patrols and sidewalk main-

see **DISTRICT**, page 5

City Hires Kramer Law Firm to Investigate Foster Freezegate Affair

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The investigation into San Leandro City Manager Chris Zapata's alleged misconduct is being conducted by attorney Karen Kramer, a Danville-based lawyer with 25 years experience specializing in workplace investigations and employment law.

Kramer was hired on Dec. 22 to look into the allegations that Davis Street Family Resource Center CEO Rose Johnson has made against Zapata. The City Council says that there is no timeframe as to how long Kramer's investigation will take, and they will not comment further on

the matter until the investigation is over.

For her work as an independent investigator, the city is paying Kramer \$295 per hour plus expenses and will have to pay her \$400 per hour for her testimony if the matter ends up in court.

On Jan. 23, the City Council voted to place Zapata on paid leave until Kramer reaches a conclusion in the matter.

Johnson has accused Zapata of making sexually suggestive comments to her during a series of one-on-one meetings the pair

see **FREEZEGATE**, page 16



TIMES FILE PHOTO

A law firm is investigating what happened when Rose Johnson and Chris Zapata met at the Foster's Freeze.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

THEATER

Dial M for Murder opens at the Chanticleers. **Page 2**

NEWS

Two SL stores accused of ties to drug money. **Page 3**

FILM

SL Museum to screen films on civil rights movement. **Page 9**

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Auto	6
Calendar	4
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Homes	10
Home Services	12
Inquiring Reporter ...	15
Letters	15
Lifestyle	7
Obituaries	14
Theater	2

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Dial M for Murder Opens at the Chanticleers

Marriage, money and murder – the timeless masterpiece of criminal intrigue opens Friday, at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley.

Dial M for Murder opens with Chanticleers' traditional complimentary hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverage gala on Feb. 2 and runs through Feb. 25.

Curtain time for Friday and Saturday evening shows is 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. (no show on Feb. 4). General admission is \$25; admission for seniors (60+), students and military is \$20. On Bargain Night, February 3, all tickets are \$18.

The intrigue opens with seemingly-loving husband, Tony Wendice, plots the murder of his wealthy wife, Margot, in order to claim her fortune for himself.

He arranges for the perfect crime...but things don't go quite according to plan. London's

finest police investigators enter to untangle a web of clues and deceit, red herrings, back stab-bings and blackmail that will keep audiences hooked from start to finish.

Written as a stage play by Frederick Knott (*Wait Until Dark*), this murder mystery became well known as a film adaptation by yet another British master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock.

Chanticleers production of the classic thriller is directed by Katina Letheule, who has worn many hats in the theater - actress, director and award-winning costumer.

Recently she directed *Honky Tonk Angels* at the Altarena in Alameda and audiences will remember her hilarious turn as Chris Gorman in Chanticleers production of *Rumors* last season.

The cast includes veteran



PHOTO COURTESY CHANTICLEERS

Conrad Cady, Laura Morgan, Danny Martin star in *Dial M for Murder*, opening Friday at the Chanticleers Theatre.

actors from all over the Bay Area, including: John Vincent Burke (San Francisco); C. Conrad Cady (Castro Valley); Mike Ettel (San Mateo); Danny Martin (Millbrae); and Laura Morgan (Dublin).

The Chanticleers Theatre FlexPass (four tickets to use anytime during the season) is \$85 general and \$68 seniors/students/military.

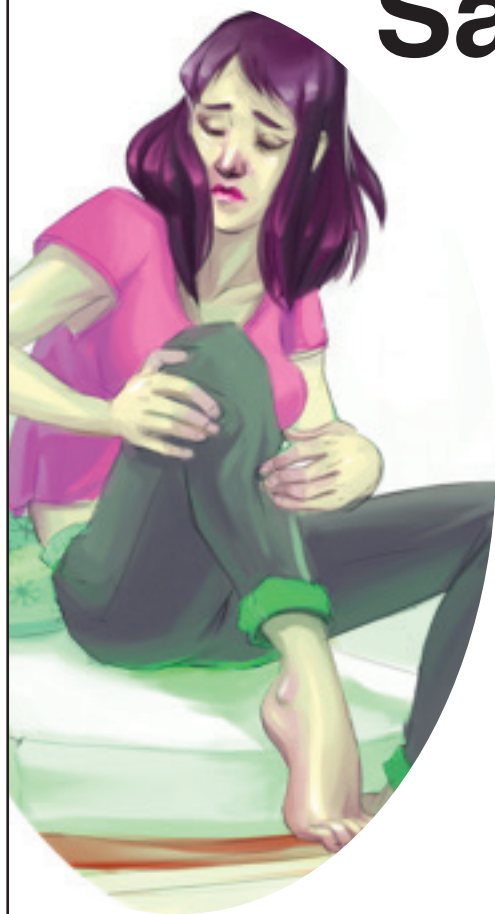
The Chanticleers Theatre is located within the Castro Valley

Community Park at 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley.

For tickets, call SEE-LIVE (733-5483) or go to the Chanticleers Theatre website at chanticleers.org for reservations or tickets.

What: Dial M for Murder
When: Through February 25
Where: Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley
Tickets: Call 733-5483 or go to chanticleers.org

Say Goodbye to Nerve Pain



Your nerve system is involved in everything your body does, from regulating your breathing to controlling your muscles and sensing heat and cold. Because your nerve system is so critical for your health when things go wrong

with it you may experience excruciating pain and/or some very strange symptoms...

There are three types of nerves in the body:

1. Autonomic nerves. These nerves control the involuntary or partially voluntary activities of your body, including heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and temperature regulation.

2. Motor nerves. These nerves control your movements and actions by passing information from your brain and spinal cord to your muscles.

3. Sensory nerves. These nerves relay information from your skin and muscles back to your spinal cord and brain. The information is then processed to let you feel pain and other sensations. Because nerves are essential to all you do, nerve pain and damage can seriously affect your quality of life.

What Are the Symptoms of Nerve Pain and Nerve Damage?

With nerve damage there can be a wide array of symptoms. Which ones you may have depends on the location and type of nerves that are affected. Damage can occur to nerves in your brain and spinal cord. It can also occur in the peripheral nerves, which are located throughout the rest of your body.

Autonomic nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

- Too much sweating or too little sweating
- Lightheadedness
- Dry eyes and mouth
- Constipation
- Bladder dysfunction
- Sexual dysfunction

Damage to motor nerves may produce the following symptoms:

- Weakness
- Muscle atrophy

- Twitching, also known as fasciculation
- Paralysis

Sensory nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

- Pain
- Sensitivity
- Numbness
- Tingling or prickling
- Burning
- Problems with positional awareness

In some instances, people with nerve damage will have symptoms that indicate damage to two, or even three, different types of nerves. For instance, you might experience weakness and burning of your legs at the same time. To further complicate matters we don't all develop the same way and different un-expected nerves can cause similar problems. This has made it very difficult to diagnose disorders caused by nerve damage based on which nerve "should" cause what.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in technology that detects nerve damage has led to more precise diagnosis for those people suffering with nerve damage disorders.

And more precise diagnosis leads to better results... results which have been published in major medical journals. With data published in 2014 showing success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons are recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery (for nerve damage that leads to back pain and sciatica).

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Find out what is causing your nerve damage, book a consultation now by calling (925) 255-5805, they are waiting to take your call today.

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You can even call on the weekend and leave a message to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away do leave a message. So call now on (925) 255-5805 and message and quote this special discount (CODE: BOS37NVP1).

For obvious reasons they can't help everyone at this reduced price, so please call soon to secure your special opportunity.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

ACFD's New Recruits

The Alameda County Fire Department's 2018 Recruit Academy officially began on Jan. 16 and is comprised of 26 recruit firefighters who are now learning the ropes of being an emergency responder.

Man Arrested for Starbucks Arson

A transient was arrested early Tuesday morning after allegedly setting fire to an umbrella at the outdoor seating area of the Starbucks in Palma Plaza.

San Leandro police received a call from a Starbucks employee shortly before 5 a.m. on Jan. 30 saying that a male subject had a market umbrella on fire in front of the business located at 13808

East 14th Street.

When police and fire arrived on the scene, the umbrella was still burning.

Firefighters extinguished the fire before it could spread to the business.

Officers located a 62-year-old man who was standing in the vicinity of the business.

The witness was able to iden-

tify him as the man who set the fire and he was arrested for arson, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

"Thankfully the coffee shop employee acted swiftly by calling for emergency assistance," said Benabou. "Police and fire personnel arrived on scene quickly and were able to extinguish the fire and arrest the culprit."

Attempted Murder Arrest Warrant Out for SL Resident

A San Leandro man is a possible suspect in an attempted murder and police are asking the public's help in locating him.

On Jan. 25, San Ramon police responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle parked on

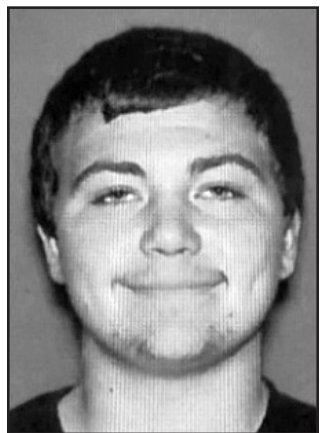
Minerva Way in that city.

They found a blood trail and bullet holes in the car. Officers found that the car's driver had been shot earlier in the evening and had received medical treatment at a nearby hospital.

San Ramon police say Trevor Berryman, 21, of San Leandro is a suspect in the shooting.

Detectives have a warrant for Berryman's arrest on suspicion of attempted murder and conspiracy.

His car is described as a black four-door 2009 Mercedes-Benz with California license plate 6UWK467. Anyone with information is asked to call San Ramon police at (925) 973-2779.



Trevor Berryman

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Police Car Rammed by Suspect in a Stolen Cadillac

A suspect crashed his car into a San Leandro police cruiser last Friday morning in an attempt to flee in a stolen car.

Officers on patrol received a "stolen vehicle beacon" on Jan. 26 at around 8 a.m. that was emitting from a stolen vehicle in the area of Davis Street and Timothy Drive, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

Officers located the stolen car, a 2011 Cadillac sedan, parked in the parking lot of the Westgate Shopping center and there was a man and woman sitting inside.

Police attempted to take the two subjects into custody and gave commands to exit the vehicle. The male driver started the vehicle and sped away.

Officers began to pursue the Cadillac through the parking lot and out onto Timothy Drive. While evading officers, the sus-

pect driver clipped the rear end of another vehicle in the roadway. The driver continued to flee, driving the stolen vehicle into a residential neighborhood, Benabou said.

The suspect driver led officers to the 600 block of Tudor Court, which is a dead-end street. Once there, the suspect turned the stolen vehicle around and drove head-on towards a marked San Leandro police patrol car, colliding with the front end in an attempt to escape.

The stolen vehicle then lost control and veered into a power pole where it came to rest.

Incoming officers were able to detain both the suspect driver and passenger with any further incident. Neither the driver nor passenger sustained any injuries from the collision, however, both were taken to area hospitals for evaluation prior to jail. No police

officers were injured.

The police attempted to locate and contact the motorist that was struck by the fleeing suspect, but the vehicle left the area prior to police arrival, Benabou said. The vehicle struck was a white transit van.

"We are thankful that no one was seriously injured in this event," said Benabou. "This was a deliberate act by the suspect to ram our officer in an attempt to escape. The suspect will now face multiple felony charges."

The Cadillac had been reported stolen to the Fremont police department that same day and the circumstances surrounding the theft is unknown at this time.

Investigators are asking for anyone with information regarding this incident, including the white transit van that was struck, to call 577-2740.

Two SL Stores Tied to Drug Money

Two San Leandro stores are at the center of a drug smuggling operation, according to federal prosecutors.

Acapulco Liquors and Acapulco Records on the 14000 block of East 14th Street were used to launder money and arrange cocaine and methamphetamine deals via Sinaloa, Mexico.

Antonio Enrique Cervantes, plead guilty to drug possession with intent to distribute and was sentenced last week to 10 years in prison and five years supervised release. He was arrested in August 2016 after authorities searched his car and found 24 pounds of cocaine.

Eight other defendants, including the owner of the stores, are still awaiting trial in relation to the drug ring.

Authorities conducted undercover cocaine buys around Alameda



County during the investigation and conducted surveillance in San Leandro and San Lorenzo. In some cases, informants were told to make purchases at the Acapulco stores, in other cases, dealers were paid with money

directly out of the cash register, court documents say.

IRS agents raided both stores and found nearly \$68,000 in cash. A trial date for the remaining eight defendants has not been set.

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NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

We're Crime Free!

There's nothing to worry about anymore in San Leandro, because according to this sign on Bancroft Avenue, we're crime free.

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Gonzaga University is proud to announce that Peter Jacob Althoff of Castro Valley and Benjamin Mandel, of San Leandro have earned placement on the University 2017 dean's list for the fall semester. Students must earn a 3.5 to 3.84 grade-point average to be listed. Gonzaga University is a humanistic, private Catholic University located in Spokane, Washington.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ **Chanticleers Theatre**
Dial M for Murder
Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley, proudly presents *Dial M for Murder*, starting Friday, Feb. 2 through Feb. 25. This thriller by Frederick Knott and directed by Katina Letheule is about Tony Wendice and his wife, Margot, and how he plans to murder her for her money. He blackmails a scoundrel he used to know into strangling her for a fee of one thousand pounds, and arranges

a brilliant alibi for himself. Unfortunately the murderer gets murdered and the victim survives. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors over 60. For more information, call 733-5483.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You're eager to take on that new opportunity opening up as January gives way to February. Now all you need to do is resist quitting too early. Do your best to stay with it.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Doff a bit of that careful, conservative outlook and let your brave Bovine self take a chance on meeting that new challenge. You could be surprised at how well you do.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): You might not want to return to the more serious tasks facing you. But you know it's what you must do. Cheer up. Something more pleasant soon will occupy your time.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): As you dutifully tidy up your end-of-the-month tasks, your fun self emerges to urge you to do something special: A trip (or a cruise, maybe?) could be just what you need.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): Your achievements are admirable as you close out the month with a roar. Now you can treat yourself to some well-earned time off for fun with family or friends. (Or both!)

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Be sure you know the facts before you assume someone is holding back on your project. Try to open your mind before you give someone a piece of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): You might feel comfortable in your familiar surroundings, but it might be time to venture into something new. There's a challenge out there that's just right for you.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your love of things that are new gets a big boost as you encounter a situation that opens up new and exciting vistas. How far you go with it depends on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): That recent workplace shift might not seem to be paying off as you expected. But be patient. There are changes coming that could make a big difference.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): While few can match the Goat's fiscal wizardry, you still need to be wary in your dealings. There might be a problem you should know about sooner rather than later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Easy does it when it comes to love and all the other good things in life. Don't try to force them to develop on your schedule. Best to let it happen naturally.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): A surprise decision by someone you trust causes some stormy moments. But a frank discussion explains everything, and helps save a cherished relationship.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ❖ **San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group**
The San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group will hold its monthly meeting today, Feb. 1, at 10:30 a.m. at the San Lorenzo Community Church at 945 Paseo Grande. The speaker will be Michael Galvin from community services for independent living. For more information, call Lona White at 276-3119.
- ❖ **Hill & Valley Women's Club Flea Market**
The Hill & Valley Women's Club annual Flea Market will be on Saturday Feb. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1808 B St. in Hayward. Lots of parking nearby. Shoppers will find a wide choice of affordable merchandise: clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, books, house and kitchen ware, crafts and more. Sandwiches and beverages may be purchased. Proceeds will benefit women and children's shelters, local veterans and scholarships.
- ❖ **African American Arts & Activism Films**
Two documentary films about African American arts and activism will be shown on Saturday, Feb. 3, at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave.: at 11:15 a.m. "BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez," a portrait of poet Sonia Sanchez revealing her uncompromising life as she raised her voice (2015, 1:30). At 2 p.m. "Freedom Riders," a chronicle of civil rights activists' campaign in 1961 to end segregated bus travel in the South (2010, 1:57). Admission is free. Bring your own favorite movie snacks. For more information call 577-3990.
- ❖ **Alta Mira Club Shrimp Fest**
The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host a shrimp fest on Saturday, Feb. 3, starting at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. includes all-you-can-eat shrimp, pasta, salad, bread and ice cream. Tickets are \$40. For tickets and information, call Carol at 305-5393.
- ❖ **Exploited Workers Film at CV Library**
The Castro Valley Community Alliance, in partnership with the Castro Valley Library, will host *Viva La Causa* on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave. This film portrays how thousands of people from across the nation joined in a struggle for justice for the most exploited people in our country—the workers who put food on our tables. The film will be followed by a panel to generate a frank, honest, and respectful dialogue regarding immigration, worker's rights and how these issues continue to affect members of our community today.
- ❖ **Buon Tempo Club family dinner**
The Buon Tempo Club will host a six-course family dinner – everyone is welcome to attend – on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Mt. Tabor Hall at Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. Reservations are required by the Friday prior and may be made at the Buon Tempo Dinner Line 483-6929. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for guests. Jessica Gorham Pacheco and her crew will be serving chicken pasta with sun-dried tomatoes. Dinner with your choice of beverage (including red and white wine) is at 7 p.m., and open bar starts at 6:15 p.m. For information about upcoming events or to learn more about how to become a member go to www.buontempo.org.
- ❖ **The San Leandro Diabetes Support**
The Diabetes Support group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. at Carlton Plaza Senior Living, 1000 East 14 St. in San Leandro. Rajinder Singh, diabetes educator with the Alameda County Public Health Department, will

- be leading an open forum discussion. All those with a chronic illness and their significant others are invited to attend. There is no admission fee. This is a community service. For more information, call Amber Bennett at 636-0660.
- ❖ **Hearing Loss Association Meeting**
The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Refreshments are at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m. Dr. Karina Canadas will be the speaker who is a very experienced, highly qualified pediatric physician from the east coast currently on a sabbatical in San Francisco. The title of her presentation is "Pediatric vs. Adult Hearing Loss." Parking is free in the old garage across from Howe Street. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.
 - ❖ **Hayward Area Democratic Club**
The Hayward Area Democratic Club will host a workshop on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carpenter's Union Local 713 Hall, 1050 Mattox Road in Hayward, by The Incorruptibles on how to make change in the Hayward, San Leandro, Castro Valley area by forming stronger coalitions, engagement and leadership. For more information on the meeting, email Fred Morrison at grnfred@me.com.
 - ❖ **D.I.Y. Valentine's Gift Making**
Come to the Manor Branch Library on Saturday Feb. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. for an afternoon of crafting. Choose from four different Valentine's Day projects and create a gift for that special someone. This event is for adults and teens in high school and advance registration is required. Supplies and instruction provided. Light refreshments served. To register or for more information, call the Manor Branch Information Desk at 577-7971.
 - ❖ **All Saints Annual Valentines Crab Feed**
All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd, is hosting its 45th annual crab feed on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. Early ticket purchase guarantees a place at the crab feed, which sells out every year. Tickets include all-you-can-eat crab, vegetarian pasta, salad, and bread with a dessert. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$35 for youths (9-14 years), \$10 for children (8+under). Buy tickets online at tinyurl.com/2018CrabFeed.
 - ❖ **East Bay SWAG Basketball Tryouts**
East Bay SWAG basketball will hold tryouts for sixth, seventh and eighth grade boys on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Bancroft Middle School gym, 1150 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The tryout fee is \$10. For more information, email joseph@ebswag.com or dina@ebswag.com.
 - ❖ **St. Felicitas Valentine Luncheon**
Tickets are now on sale for the St. Felicitas Parish monthly Young at Heart Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 1662 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Spaghetti and Meatballs with all the fixings plus dessert and a beverage will be served. Tickets are \$7. Entertainment and door prizes at the luncheon. Tickets must be purchased no later than Thursday, Feb. 15 before the luncheon. Tickets available at the parish office Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

There wasn't enough support for a new tax district on the north end of East 14th Street, but an attempt could be made on the south end of East 14th Street.

District: Biz cool to added tax

continued from front page
tenance.

In San Leandro, there is currently a CBD downtown called the San Leandro Improvement Association (SLIA), which is managed by a San Diego-based company called New City America which operates CBDs all over the county.

Over the past year, New City America has tried to create a second district in San Leandro by convincing at least 30 percent of property owners in the northern East 14th corridor to sign a petition that would enable them to take a vote and create the new district.

But now CBD does not look viable because of AT&T's refusal, according to Marco LiMandi, New City America's president. Another issue was that many of the parcels in the area are not currently occupied.

"We had pretty good support, but I have to say there was a lot of apathy," said LiMandi. "We're going to have to hold off on that (CBD)."

It was to have been called the Alta Mira Community Benefit District and would have consisted of 39 commercially-zoned parcels with frontage along East 14th Street between the San Leandro Creek north to Georgia Way, a few blocks from the Oakland city line.

At the City Council meeting on Jan. 16, LiMandi was initially reluctant to name the company that was holding up the CBD's progress, but Councilwoman Corina Lopez spoke up and said it was AT&T.

Lopez said that the telecommunications company does not support CBDs as a matter of corporate policy, though they are part of such a district in San Francisco where they pay the extra tax to the tune of about \$60,000 annually. In San Leandro, AT&T would've had to pay about \$9,000 per year in addition to what they already pay in taxes.



The San Leandro Improvement Association borrowed \$300,000 from the city for several projects including this "landmark sign" that will be erected at the corner of Davis and East 14th streets.

AT&T has also refused to support CBDs in Berkeley and Hayward, Lopez said.

During the public speaker portion of the meeting, former mayor Stephen Cassidy spoke up and said extending the CBD to the Oakland border was "vital."

Cassidy suggested that the council take a hard line approach with AT&T if they want the tax district to happen by raising the business license tax specifically on telecommunications companies and targeting AT&T for not participating in the CBD.

"You have the power," said Cassidy. "Start the ball rolling and you'll see a change in time. You should not accept this without a fight."

LiMandi suggested that the city could consider expanding the tax district to the southern portion of East 14th Street instead, but much like in the northern area, it will all depend on the support of property owners.

"You need motivated property owners," said LiMandi.

"We are open to that and would be willing to talk to anyone but ultimately it is up to the property owners."

In the existing CBD downtown, the largest property owner is the city itself, so it's no surprise LiMandi successfully got the SLIA district off the ground. At last week's meeting, LiMandi gave the city a brief update on SLIA's 2017 activities.

The district takes in about \$425,000 from taxing downtown property owners and last year the city gave the SLIA an additional \$300,000 loan.

Part of that loan will pay to erect a "landmark sign" downtown in front of the Sizzler sometime later this year.

LiMandi said some highlights of the past year included downtown Easter and Christmas celebrations, the installation of a mural on East 14th Street at Juana Avenue, the purchase of a sidewalk pressure washer, and the hard work on the SLIA's sidewalk maintenance crew.

Dog Adoption Center Makes A Home At Bayfair Mall

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Nobody's Perfekt Dog Rescue, an adoption center for some of the area's most needy shelter dogs, recently opened in Bayfair Mall in San Leandro.

Rick Hollander, director of the non-profit, says that he got the idea for Nobody's Perfekt after years of rescuing and fostering dogs.

Hollander and his volunteers work closely with local shelters to bring dogs into foster care who are scheduled to be euthanized because they've been up for adoption for too long or perhaps they are older or have a medical issue that makes them difficult to adopt out.

"These are the dogs who were running out of time," said Hollander, whose day job is working for Kaiser in medical records.

The thing that makes Hollander's rescue center special and different from a shelter is that the dogs are out of their cages at the space and people can come and hang out with them.

Prospective pet owners can come have a coffee and get to know the animal in a more casual setting to see if their personalities mesh, Hollander says. People can pet the dogs, feed them treats, and



PHOTO BY RICK HOLLANDER

Volunteer Danielle Harrell with dog Keana at Nobody's Perfekt Dog Rescue at Bayfair.

hopefully find a new best friend.

"We've had an overwhelmingly positive response," said Hollander, who opened the storefront in July.

When not at the adoption center, the dogs are in foster homes and Hollander says he has a group of about 70 volunteers who care for the dogs.

Adopting a dog from No-

body's Perfekt costs about \$125 to cover medical and dental fees and spaying or neutering the dog.

Nobody's Perfekt Dog Rescue is open weekends only from noon to 4 p.m. at Bayfair Mall, 15555 East 14th Street in San Leandro, near Entrance 2.

For more information and to see adoptable dogs, visit www.nobodysperfektdogs.org.

San Leandro Times

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AUTOMOTIVE

Get Plugged in with Honda Clarity

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

The new Honda Clarity Plug-in Hybrid combines 47 miles of pure electric motoring with an efficient gasoline engine for a 340-mile range, letting you have your EV and drive it anywhere. It's affordable, too.

The midsize Clarity is one of the roomiest hybrid sedans, positioning it favorably against competitors such as the more compact Chevrolet Volt and Toyota Prius Prime.

As a plug-in hybrid, it pairs an efficient 1.5-liter four-cylinder gas engine with an electric motor, which uses a 17-kWh battery. The engine produces 103 horsepower and 99 lb.-ft. of torque, while the motor contributes 181 horsepower and 232 lb.-ft. of torque, for a total system horsepower of 212.

With a real 47 miles of EV range available, you can drive locally on only electricity most of the time. However, if you need

to stretch out your trip, the engine kicks in when the battery's empty, and also when you need an extra boost for quick acceleration.

A standard gasoline-powered sedan emits about 400 grams of CO2 per mile. The Clarity, per www.fueleconomy.gov, puts out just 57. It's EPA rated at 110 MPGe; on gasoline alone, it still gets a respectable 44 City, 40 Highway, and 42 Combined mpg. The green EPA scores are a perfect 10 for Greenhouse Gas; the Smog score wasn't available yet, but is likely to be a 9 or 10. I achieved a remarkable 160.8 mpg during my test week.

You can choose from three different driving modes. EV mode makes the Clarity a pure EV as long as there's juice in the battery. In Hybrid Mode, both halves of the powertrain run as needed based on driving and battery conditions. Engine Drive mode hooks up the engine directly to the drivetrain fulltime, and is useful for cruising at medium to high speeds.

In addition, there are four op-

erating modes — Normal, Econ, Sport and HV. These let you configure your car to your personal taste. Sport provides more responsive acceleration. Econ focuses on pure electric driving, and reduces engine throttle response to use less gas. Normal provides what Honda's engineering team thinks is best.

HV mode is a special case. Normally, the Clarity runs as a pure EV until the battery is depleted. In HV mode, you can drive it as a hybrid and save the battery electricity for later. This is ideal, for example, if you want to use engine power on the freeway and save the EV driving for around town later.

On a Level 2 (240-volt) charger, you can fill the battery from empty in just 2.5 hours. On 120-volt household current, it'll take longer, but can easily be done overnight.

The Clarity is an all-new, fresh design. The styling itself is futuristic, and, to my eye, a bit overdone. My tester came in Moonlit Forest Pearl, an exclusive color to the PHEV version of the Clarity.

There are two trims — the well-equipped standard model and the Touring, which adds navigation, leather-trimmed seats and steering wheel, power seat adjustments, and 2-way driver memory.

All cars feature handsome 18-inch alloy wheels; LED lights all around, a sweet-sounding eight-speaker 180-watt audio system, Bluetooth, rearview camera, dual automatic climate control, and more.

The interior feels big and wide, with a chiseled, sweeping dash-



The Honda Clarity Plug-In Hybrid is manufactured in Honda's Saitama factory in the Sayama prefecture, Japan.

board running from door to door. Three people fit comfortably in the rear seat. The trunk measures a generous 15.5 cubic feet, thanks to a compact battery.

The instrument panel looks clean and easy to read. It features a Charge/Power gauge, so you can monitor your driving behavior, and a dash display shows where the energy is coming from and when the battery is charging.

The only sour note for me was the grained plastic fake wood, which felt inauthentic amidst the otherwise posh accommodations.

The Clarity rides whisper quiet. Honda engineers spent considerable time in the wind tunnel tweaking the aerodynamics. Acoustic laminated windshield and front door glass help muffle outside noise as well.

The Clarity is built from an array of advanced materials, including aluminum and plastic, to make it about 15 percent lighter than a



The interior of the Honda Clarity feels big and wide.

conventional midsize sedan.

Pricing starts at a very competitive \$34,290 for the standard trim and \$37,490 for the Touring, including an \$890 Destination and Handling charge.

The Clarity currently offers three versions: Pure EV, Hydrogen Fuel Cell, and this new PHEV. The PHEV is likely to be the volume seller. The Clarity trio just won

Green Car Journal's 2018 Green Car of the Year award.

Although pure electric vehicles will likely be the norm in the future, for now, plug-in hybrids like the Clarity, with a decent electric-only range, offer a pain-free way to drive an EV most of the time, while eliminating any limitations on long-distance travel.

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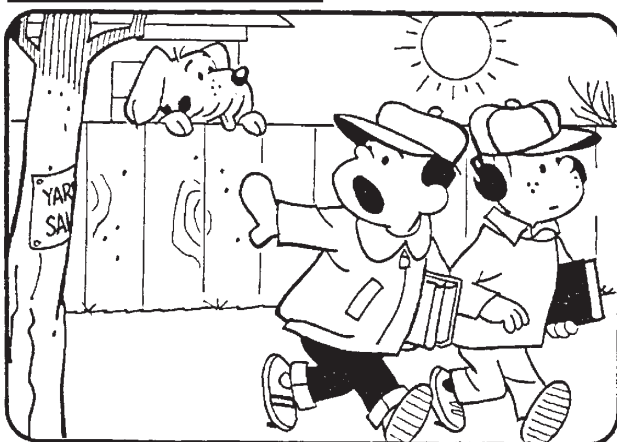
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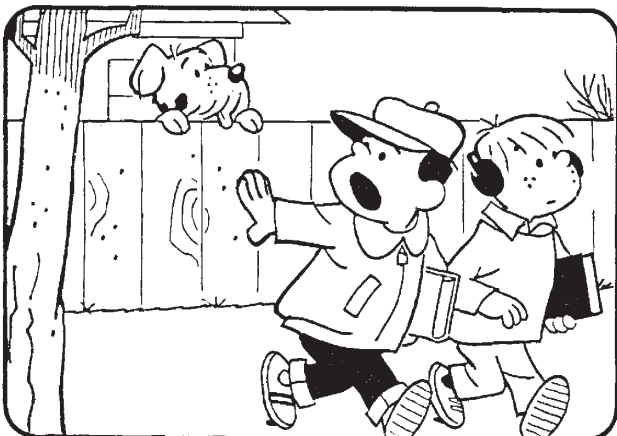


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF

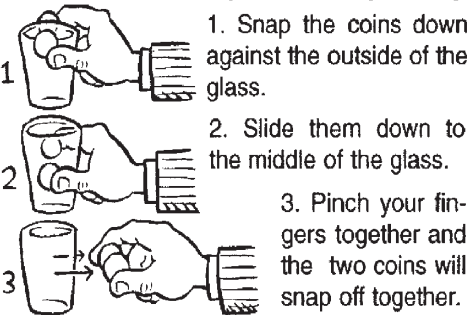


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Dog's ear is shorter. 3. Mitten is removed. 4. Sun is missing. 5. Book is missing. 6. Cap is missing.

A "SNAPPY" TRICK!



BALANCE TWO SMALL COINS on the rim of a water glass. Challenge your friends to remove them using only two fingers. The solution is shown above. A little practice will make you perfect.

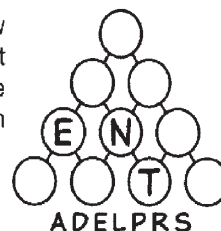


DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

FIG. 1

Answer: 1. Dainty Queen. 2. Upper crust.

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

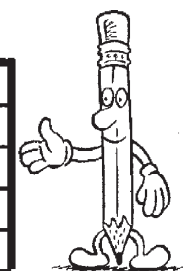
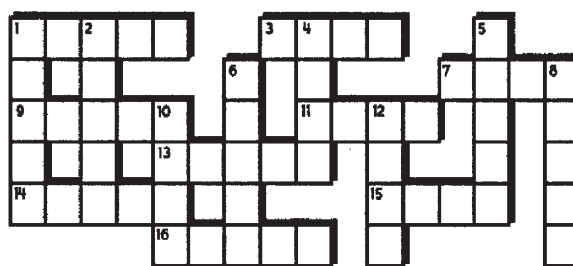


Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Feel, read, rent, rand, rant, rapl, raps.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FILL-IN PUZZLE!



Illustrated by David Coulson

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 17 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy!

ADZE	ENDED	SCONE
ALBUM	FUSED	SUDS
BEAR	OASIS	UMBER
BLEAK	RANK	WADER
CLAW	SAFER	ZERO
EBBS	SAMBA	

Answers: (Across) 1. Safer. 3. Ebbs. 7. Claw. 9. Oasis. 11. Adze. 13. UMBER. 14. Ended. 15. Rank. 16. Samba. (Down) 1. Scone. 2. Fused. 4. Bear. 5. Bleak. 6. Album. 8. Wader. 10. Suds. 12. Zero.

Wrestle: Pirates girls team wins, too

continued from front page

"It was just right at the end, a desperation move, he ends up pinning him," said San Leandro wrestling coach George Zuber.

The San Leandro girls wrestling team had a great match as well, winning a few key matches to seal the victory and finish tied for second in the WACC.

San Leandro wrestler Trinity Nguyen unexpectedly pinned her opponent from Castro Valley in the first match, giving the Pirate girls the momentum that propelled them to the win.

The San Leandro girls will compete at the NCS girls championships on Feb. 9 and 10 at Albany High School.

The San Leandro boys qualify for the NCS dual-meet championships on Saturday, Feb. 10, starting at 10 a.m. at Newark Memorial High School.



San Leandro High wrestler Trinity Nguyen wins her match against Castro Valley with a pin last Thursday in the Pirates gym.

PHOTO BY VANESSA ADAMS

Pets of the Week



Gemma



Frannie

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

Gemma is a beautiful gal with dark pewter-colored fur. A diamond in the rough, she's timid, but would blossom in a home where she can relax and be herself. She would benefit by having another young cat to socialize with. She needs a loving, patient family who understands

it may take time for her to adjust.

Frannie is a friendly, 3-year-old pup who's very social and loves attention. She's a spunky gal who enjoys getting belly rubs and who wants to be the center of your world.

She's very affectionate and enjoys the company of people and dogs alike. Great with kids 8 and older, and other dogs.

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

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Chabot Park to Reopen Next Week After Two Year Closure

The City of San Leandro announced that Chabot Park will be re-opening to the public, effective at 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 9.

Regular park hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. will be in effect through April, before park hours are extended for the summer.

The city park – not to be confused with Lake Chabot Regional Park – had been closed since June 2016 due to extensive seismic retrofit work that was taking place at the nearby Chabot Dam.

Chabot Park is owned by the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD), but maintenance of the park is carried out by the City of San Leandro. The EBMUD Board of Directors recently approved a new 20-year lease agreement for a 9.2-acre

“I’m so excited to announce the reopening of Chabot Park.”

— Mayor Pauline Cutter

portion of the Park, which has been utilized by the City of San Leandro since 1950 for recreational activities and summer children’s camp programs.

No City maintenance has occurred since June 2016, when the park closed for the Chabot Dam Retrofit project. Due to re-

cent weather impacts and muddy conditions,

Not all amenities will be functional when the park re-opens, such as the disc golf course and horseshoe pits.

For more information, call or email Breyana Brandt at 577-3463 or bbrandt@sanleandro.org.

“I am so excited to announce the reopening of Chabot Park,” noted Mayor Cutter. “It’s long been a beloved park by many San Leandro residents, and I’m happy that we’ll be able to restore many of the fun recreational opportunities that take place there, including the summer Chabot Day Camp for children. We appreciate the public’s patience during the extended closure that was outside of our control.”

SL Museum to Screen African American Activism Films

African American Arts and Activism Films at Museum

Two documentary films about African American arts and activism will be shown on Saturday, Feb. 3, at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave.

At 11:15 a.m. the museum will screen *BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez*, a portrait of poet Sonia Sanchez revealing her uncompromising life as she raised her voice (2015, 1:30). At 2 p.m. *Freedom Riders*, a chronicle of civil rights activists’ campaign in 1961 to end segregated bus travel in the South (2010, 1:57).

Admission is free. Bring your own favorite movie snacks.

Sonia Sanchez was a prominent civil rights figure in the 1960s. She is a leader in the

“The Freedom Riders risked their lives, endured savage beatings.”

Black Arts Movement, teacher, activist and champion of the spoken word. One of the earliest poets to incorporate urban Black English into her poetry and to secure African American Studies in university curricula, she was considered by Maya Angelou to be “a lion in literature’s forest.”

The Freedom Riders is the story of six months in 1961 that

changed America forever. More than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives, enduring savage beatings and imprisonment for traveling together on buses and trains, violating Jim Crow Laws, as they journeyed through the Deep South to test a segregated interstate travel system.

The Freedom Riders met with bitter racism and mob violence along the way, sorely testing their belief in nonviolent activism. From award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson, *The Freedom Riders* features testimony from a fascinating cast of central characters: the Riders themselves, state and federal government officials, and journalists who witnessed the Rides firsthand.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



New Law Mandates Pool Safety

Growing up in Northern Canada, winters were long, and private swimming pools were scarce.

As a child, I did not know a single family that had a house with a pool. So, consequently, we all visited community pools, all of which were indoors, covered and heated to withstand Canadian winters.

Private pools were so rare that a moose that decided to go swimming in a backyard pool in a wealthy neighborhood made the newspaper's front page. Turns out, it's much easier to get a moose into a pool than to get one out.

Here in California, pools are much more common. While wildlife may occasionally end up in a pool, the real concern is children. A pool can be fun for children who are attended by responsible overseers.

On the other side of the coin,

however, Child Health USA states that, in 2009, drowning was the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4. Steve Barrow, program director with the California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health reveals that, from 2010 through 2015, more than 160 California children died of drowning and over 700 were hospitalized for near-fatal drownings.

I personally have friends who lost a child to a pool drowning when their 2 year old managed to get to an unattended pool. The family carries the grief of that unnecessary tragedy to this day.

As of January 1st, 2018, a new law, Senate Bill 442, states that all pools in California being built or remodeled must have not one but two safety features to keep children safe.

Introduced by Democratic State Sen. Josh Newman of Orange County, the bill was in re-

sponse to families who had lost children to pool mishaps.

"When the families of victims came to me with ways to improve the outdated pool safety act, and thereby prevent others from experiencing the tragedies they had endured through the drowning or near-drowning of a child, I was moved to act," informs Newman. "Residential pool drownings can be prevented, and SB 442 will go far toward reducing the pain and costs associated with pool drownings."

The new law mandates safety features that include fixed enclosures, certified removable mesh fencing, self-closing self-latching gates, locks, approved locking devices, alarms on doors and other alarms which detect surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms.*

While an animal accessing a pool may be humorous, unintended visits by children are no laughing matter.

*For more information, go to www.cpradio.org/articles/2017/12/21/law-expands-safety-requirements-for-new-swimming-pools-in-california/#list.

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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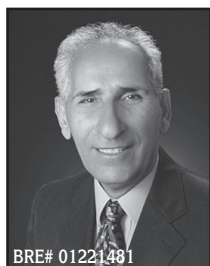
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Permanently Silence a Squeaky Floor

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Times

If your floor squeaks when you walk over a couple of spots in your house, you can stop the squeaks by sprinkling talcum powder between the boards. But what if your floor is covered by carpet?

While talcum powder is a good temporary fix, eventually the squeaks will come back. And, if you're not inclined to pull back the carpet repeatedly to apply powder between the boards, try a more permanent solution.

Do you have access to the underside of the living room floor, such as in the basement or the

crawlspace under the house? If so, you can shim the nearest joist or secure the subflooring to the squeaky boards to reduce the noise.

To shim the floor, have a helper walk around the living room while you listen below for squeaks, and mark the noisy areas.

Next, mark the joists (the large boards running perpendicular to the floorboards underneath the floor) on either side of the squeaky area.

Coat a shim (a thin wedge of wood, available at most home-improvement stores) with a thin layer of wood glue, and hammer the shim into the gap between the joist and the subfloor on each side of the squeak. You may need to add a couple of shims on each side, and have your helper test the area each time.

If that doesn't completely rid your floor of squeaks, try attaching the subfloor to the floorboards in the squeaky area more tightly. You do this by driving wood screws through the subfloor layer into the bottom of the floorboards.

Be careful to select screws that will not punch through the floorboards. Place the screws into the center of the squeaky area — two should do it, but if you need three or more, go ahead.

What if you can't access the underside of the floor? This is where you'll need to roll back the carpet and address the boards from above.

To avoid marring the floorboards, hammer finishing nails between the squeaking boards, angling them so that they go into one edge of one of the boards. The nails should be flush with the floorboards. Space them a few inches apart along the squeaky area.

If that doesn't do it, you can secure the floorboard to the subflooring from above. This will mar the board, as you'll need to drive a finishing nail (or if necessary, a wood screw) directly through the center of the squeaky floorboard into the subflooring. Use a nail set or another nail to drive the finishing nail slightly below the wood's surface. Then, cover it with wood filler whose color matches the color of the floorboard.

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Grow Christmas Cacti Indoors or Out

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

I was given a blooming Christmas Cacti from a relative. I want to transplant it into a larger container, but I'm scared to touch it. Can it be moved now to another pot without shocking it, and how do I care for it?

A Christmas Cacti, also known as Zygocactus, can be transplanted while they're still in bloom. Although, there is no horticultural reason why you couldn't wait until after the flowers fade. This also applies to other blooming plants.

This is when an evergreen plant is technically dormant, as they're not actively growing.

You need to select a container that is one size or maybe two sizes larger than the present container. Most containers are available in even sizes; hence, you should find 6-, 8-, 10-, etc. inch pots available everywhere. It doesn't matter if it's clay, plastic or ceramic.

It's quite common for folks to repot it into a clay pot and then slip it into a larger decorative container.

It's not necessary to use a specialized soil for Christmas Cacti, as any of the commercial potting soils are acceptable.

When repotting, the drainage hole needs to be covered, so the soil doesn't wash away. I like to use a circular mesh-like screen, available at most garden centers. Or, you can use an old piece of window or door screen. It's not a bad idea to place gravel over the screen as well, but it's not a requirement. Soil is then added to the container.

Press firmly to compress the new soil, removing the air pockets. Next, remove the Christmas Cacti from the present container and place it in the new container, disturbing as few roots as possible. The top of the root ball should be within an inch of the top of the container.

Now, fill in the sides with potting soil and press it in firmly.

Next, water well, and the job is done.

They like to stay evenly moist but not soggy wet. You'll water again when the soil dries out on top but not all the way down.

Christmas Cacti are grown both indoors and out. Indoors, they like a brightly lit location with good air circulation. In the spring, they can be moved outdoors.

They thrive on a patio, deck or under a tree, as long as they receive a good dose of the morning and/or indirect sun. During the summer months, the foliage will burn in the hot afternoon sun. They're brought indoors when the nighttime temperatures drop into the low 40s.

Feed Christmas Cacti monthly with one of the many liquid organic fertilizers during



Christmas Cacti will thrive on a patio or deck.

the spring and summer growing seasons. Stop fertilizing in early September to allow buds to set.

Christmas Cacti are one of the easiest seasonal plants to grow. They are long-living with few pests or diseases. It is an excellent plant for novice gardeners because of the high success rate.

Your plant should grow larger and more handsome every

year, producing more flowers with a minimal amount of care.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. His web address is www.dirtgardener.com. Email questions to dirtgarden@aol.com or go to [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero).

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro

687 Dolores Avenue	94577: \$716,000	2 BD - 1,794 SF - 1948
651 Durant Avenue	94577: \$850,000	3 BD - 1,855 SF - 1925
1785 Hays Street	94577: \$660,000	3 BD - 1,262 SF - 1929
2471 Limehouse Lane	94577: \$599,000	4 BD - 1,858 SF - 1978
949 Melcher Street	94577: \$551,000	3 BD - 1,164 SF - 1944
1374 Pacific Avenue	94577: \$538,000	3 BD - 1,011 SF - 1943
1129 Tulip Lane	94577: \$695,000	4 BD - 1,742 SF - 1994
789 Wrin Avenue	94577: \$810,000	5 BD - 3,161 SF - 1951
364 Anza Way	94578: \$670,000	3 BD - 1,384 SF - 1954
286 Caliente Drive	94578: \$405,000	2 BD - 1,060 SF - 1980
15991 Cambrian Drive	94578: \$705,000	3 BD - 1,170 SF - 1952
1930 Howe Drive	94578: \$612,500	4 BD - 1,922 SF - 1956
1944 Howe Drive	94578: \$612,500	6 BD - 2,262 SF - 1942
14777 Lark Street	94578: \$569,000	2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1945
14974 Patton Avenue	94578: \$643,000	3 BD - 1,452 SF - 1945
1026 Manor Boulevard	94579: \$600,000	3 BD - 1,020 SF - 1949
14499 Wiley Street	94579: \$450,000	3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1952

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$405,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$850,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$612,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$628,588

Castro Valley

20957 Ashfield Avenue	94546: \$975,000	4 BD - 2,910 SF - 1956
3284 Dominic Drive	94546: \$670,000	3 BD - 1,064 SF - 1955
3481 Middleton Avenue	94546: \$795,000	3 BD - 1,627 SF - 1955
2505 Miramar Avenue	94546: \$462,500	2 BD - 918 SF - 1988
18295 Pepper Street	94546: \$1,045,000	3 BD - 2,239 SF - 1959
21342 Rizzo Avenue	94546: \$558,000	2 BD - 1,100 SF - 1947
3848 Somerset Avenue	94546: \$1,000,000	8 BD - 5,856 SF - 1994
2322 Vestal Avenue	94546: \$600,000	2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1948
20111 West Ridge Court	94546: \$570,000	2 BD - 1,440 SF - 1977
25552 Crestfield Circle	94552: \$1,210,000	4 BD - 2,334 SF - 1998
24543 Palomares Road	94552: \$796,500	N/A BD - N/A SF - N/A

TOTAL SALES: 11
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$464,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,210,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$795,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$789,273



WEEKEND GARDENER

Assessing Your Soil

Planting instructions usually say, "Place in soil with good drainage." But how do you know whether or not your soil drains well? If water forms puddles in your flower beds and stays there for a time after a rain, it is *not* draining well. Another test: Dig into the soil within 48 hours after a normal rain. If the soil breaks up without clumping, then it has good drainage. But, if the soil sticks together like Silly Putty, the drainage is poor. You can increase drainage in heavy soil by adding compost or peat moss. Building a raised flower bed will also work.

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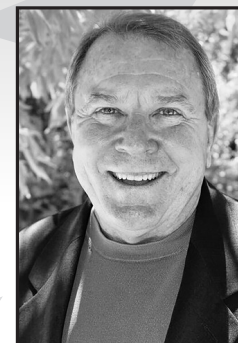
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Red: Average annual cost for each police officer is \$270,000

continued from front page

CalPERS has returned 4.4 percent compared to the Standard & Poor 500's 7.1 percent, according to Barron's.

And CalPERS "guarantees" its stock investments, meaning that if returns don't come in, it is up to cities to bridge the gap and make up for any losses.

"There's no question the amount of unfunded liabilities have gone up dramatically and that's because CalPERS hasn't been getting the returns," said Baum.

The city has tried to mitigate the pension debt by creating a Prioritizing Unfunded Liabilities Liquidation (PULL) investment fund. It's an irrevocable trust account that can only be spent on pensions, Baum says.

So far, the city has about \$14 million in PULL – which is equivalent to just about one year of pension costs.

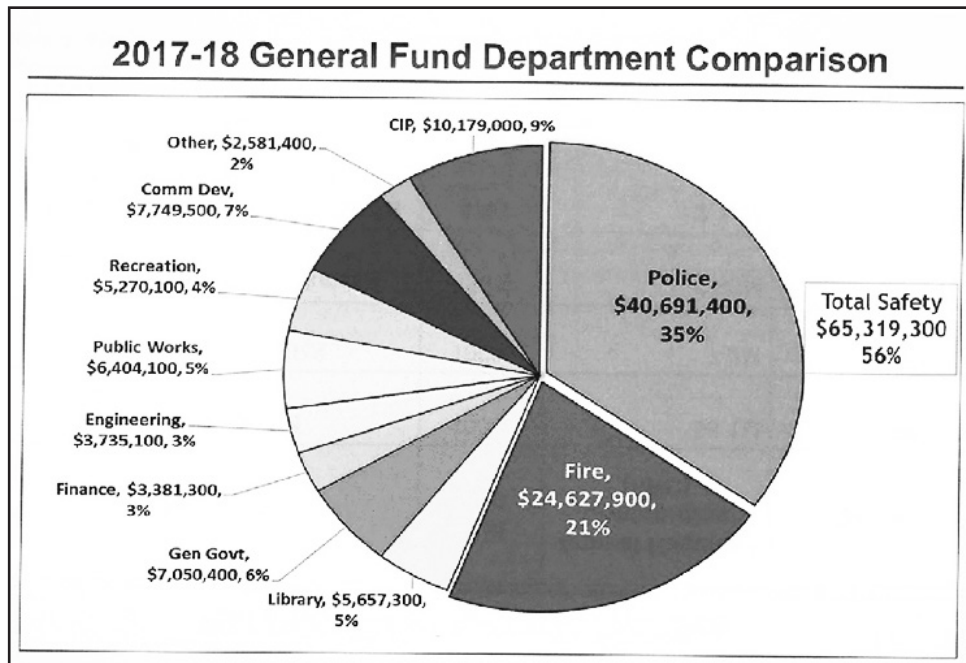
The exact amount that will be put in the PULL account this fiscal year will be determined by the City Council over the next few months. They will meet in a budget work session on April 9 and the final budget will be adopted in June. Baum said the minimum amount they'll put in PULL this fiscal year is \$750,000 and he estimates the actual figure will be around \$2 million.

Baum recently gave the City Council a preliminary budget presentation which showed that the city's budget will be almost \$5 million in the red this fiscal year, with \$108 million in revenue and about \$113 million in expenditures.

Salaries and benefits make up almost half of the city's budget (\$51 million this fiscal year).

The city's budget is at a deficit despite an additional \$10 million boost that the city collects from the Measure HH sales tax that began in 2015. That raised general fund revenue from \$95 million to \$105 million in the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

But employee salaries have



GENERAL FUND SUMMARY					
(Dollars in thousands)	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Projected	2018-19 Projected
Revenues:					
Property Tax	\$ 18,898	\$ 20,044	\$ 20,858	\$ 21,202	\$ 21,519
Sales Tax	32,948	42,337	41,728	41,980	43,085
Utility User's Tax	10,359	10,700	10,282	11,407	11,340
Real Property Transfer Tax	3,920	4,462	5,459	4,000	4,000
All Other Revenue	25,582	28,807	26,975	29,415	29,815
Total Operating Revenues	91,707	106,350	105,302	108,004	109,759
Expenditures					
Salaries & Benefits	39,313	42,562	44,863	51,446	54,628
Services and Supplies	8,842	8,833	9,079	9,848	9,743
Fire Services Contract	19,666	19,893	21,925	22,372	23,349
Fire Equipment	-	526	-	1,500	-
Fire - OPEB Requirement *	(600)	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	220	166	307	107	107
Debt Service	4,360	4,764	4,814	5,240	5,474
Internal Service Fund Charges	11,025	10,500	10,499	11,577	11,768
Other	1,107	1,284	337	451	451
Transfers Out	2,584	5,627	10,173	10,179	7,748
Total Operating Expenditures	86,517	94,155	101,997	112,720	113,269
Net Revenue (Expenditure)	\$ 5,190	\$ 12,195	\$ 3,305	\$ (4,716)	\$ (3,510)

* ACFD OPEB set aside actuals and budget reflected in reserves instead of operating expenditures

risen by nearly \$10 million in the past two years. The city will be paying \$51.5 million in salaries this fiscal year, compared to \$42 million in 2015-2016. And salary

costs will rise another \$3 million in the next fiscal year, according to Baum's budget presentation.

Police and fire expenditures account for 56 percent of the

city's general fund expenditures (over \$65 million dollars).

Baum said that's about average for any city. But back when Vallejo was about to go bankrupt,

that city was devoting 80 percent of its budget to public safety.

In San Leandro the average annual cost to the city for a sworn police officer is \$270,000, which includes salaries and benefits. That's double other city employees, whose average salary and benefit cost is \$130,000.

Baum agrees that pensions will be a huge issue for San Leandro and other municipalities. He said one partial solution will

be for the city to keep the number of employees as low as possible. He said there are currently 435 full-time equivalent positions at the city, compared to 500 a decade ago.

"One solution is to decrease the employee count at the city, but you can't do that forever," said Baum. "If pension costs are squeezing service, you have to figure out what to prioritize. It's going to be a challenge."

Mayor to Speak at Spotlight Awards

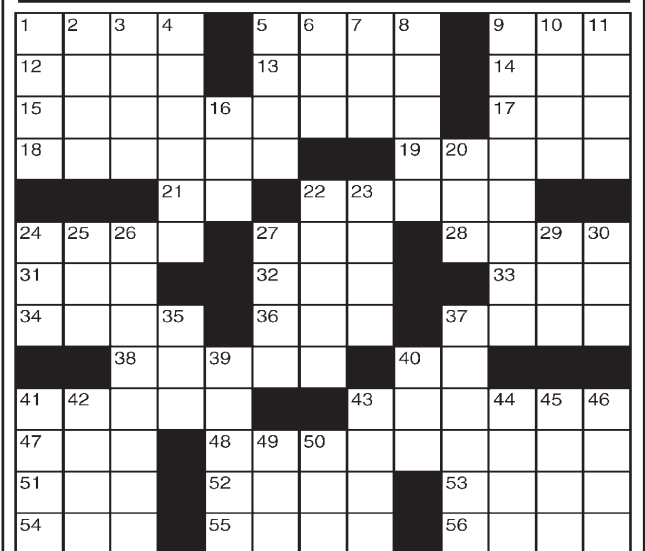
Mayor Pauline Cutter will join Mayor Barbara Halliday of Hayward at the Bay Area Business Roundtable meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. at the Executive Inn & Suites Hotel, 1755 Embarcadero in Oakland.

The Panel discussion will start after the presentation of three "Spotlight Awards" to individuals who have made an

impact with their public service work and exceptional work in their respective fields.

The three receiving awards are: Morgan Mack-Rose, executive director of the San Leandro Education Foundation; Rodney Fitzpatrick of Rhapsody Communications; and Deborah Barnes, director of contracts & compliance at the City of Oakland.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Shopper's aid
- 5 "___ and Circumstance"
- 9 Frenzied
- 12 Sandwich treat
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 Rocks
- 15 Teeny
- 17 Gun lobby org.
- 18 Thwarts
- 19 Bad lighting?
- 21 Conversation starter
- 22 "Olympia" artist
- 24 Knighted woman
- 27 Stashed
- 28 Carey or Barrymore
- 31 ___ Baba
- 32 Literary collection
- 33 Before
- 34 Carte
- 36 Doctrine
- 37 Exercise target
- 38 Bygone airline
- 40 On the other hand
- 41 Top story
- 43 Critter
- 47 Slithery squeezer
- 48 Twins' home
- 51 Flightless bird
- 52 Tied
- 53 It's tied
- 54 Aachen article
- 55 ___ good example
- 56 Former frosh

DOWN

- 1 Barbershop item
- 2 Seed coat
- 3 Nevada city
- 4 Fencer's call
- 5 Campaign-funding grps.
- 6 Tulsa sch.
- 7 Blanc or Brooks
- 8 Song of praise
- 9 Troubadour
- 10 High (Pref.)
- 11 Campus bigwig
- 16 Schuss
- 20 Crimson
- 22 Capital of Belarus
- 23 Leading man
- 24 Weir
- 25 Hearty quaff
- 26 Labyrinth beast
- 27 Groundbreaking musical
- 29 Historic time
- 30 Charlotte's creation
- 35 Submachine gun
- 37 Pats down
- 39 Pinnacles
- 40 Inseparable
- 41 Sleeping
- 42 Heavy reading
- 43 Kournikova or Karenina
- 44 Stereo alternative
- 45 On
- 46 Wood strip
- 49 "___ had it!"
- 50 Profit

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

LOCAL DEATHS

FRANKS, Connie
MASON, Jerry

■ **FRANKS, Connie**, a lifelong

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FD 442

resident of San Leandro passed away on January 6, 2018. She was preceded in death by her husband Rufus "Murphy" Franks and is survived by her son and daughter. Per her wishes no ser-

vices were held. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary (www.santos-robinson.com, 510 483-0123).

■ **MASON, Jerry**, a resident of San Leandro, passed away January 21, 2018. He will be interred at Veterans National Cemetery.

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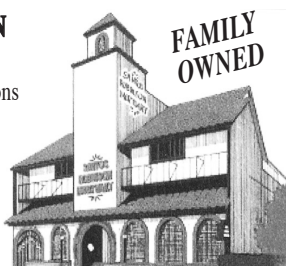
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Congresswoman Lee Returns from Trip to Cuba, Knocks Trump

Congresswoman Barbara Lee recently returned from a productive visit to Cuba and re-emphasized her commitment to restoring U.S.-Cuba relations. During her visit, Congresswoman Lee met with senior Cuban leadership to discuss the recent rollback of U.S. normalization policies and the safety of American diplomats and visitors in Cuba.

"This trip provided a valuable opportunity to meet with Cuban

officials to discuss U.S.-Cuban relations and learn more about the recent health incidents affecting U.S. personnel. Of course, the safety of our diplomats is paramount and I am deeply committed to working with officials in both countries to protect the health of Americans on Cuban soil and ensure that those affected are cared for," said Congresswoman Lee.

Lee then suggested we're not

getting all the facts, or perhaps being lied to, about the sudden illnesses that fell upon American diplomats stationed at the U.S. embassy in Havana.

"However, U.S. policies and presence in Cuba need to be grounded in the facts," Lee said. "The ordered departure of U.S. personnel from Havana has gutted consular and commercial services, thereby hurting both Cuban and American businesses

and families."

Lee then accused the Trump administration of damaging United States-Cuba relations.

The Trump Administration should either end the State Department travel warning and restore U.S. diplomatic presence in Cuba or make public the evidence that supports these extreme measures," Lee said. "Cuba is undergoing historic reforms – we should be an active partner

during this pivotal time. Sadly, the Trump Administration's regressive ideological policies are putting this progress at risk."

During her trip, Congresswoman Lee also participated in the historic unveiling of the Jose Marti statue in Havana. The statue commemorates the Cuban poet and revolutionary who lived in New York City for many years while in exile. It is a replica of the original statue, which stands

in Central Park.

"The inauguration of the Jose Marti statue in Havana – which came from the Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York – should be a model for U.S.-Cuba cultural cooperation going forward," Lee added. "Instead of erecting roadblocks to travel and diplomatic initiatives, President Trump should listen to the bipartisan voices demanding a new approach to our relationship with Cuba."

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.

Community Participation – Not Consultants – Needed for Redrawing Zoning Code

Editor:

Please come to the City Council meeting February 5th or call the Mayor's office at 577-3200 and demand a return to a higher level of community participation in the future of our city.

San Leandro's Community Development Department wants to spend \$200,000 to hire an outside consultant to determine what can be built and where in each section of town by redrawing the entire San Leandro Zoning code.

In the past, Zoning Codes were drawn up by a committee of neighborhood residents and business owners who spent months researching the issues and debating amongst ourselves to come to a consensus all of us could back even if we disagreed with some of the details. We understood both the state mandated requirements and how our neighborhoods really operate. We knew what worked, and what didn't. We still do, and we need to be at the heart of this process not just "consulted" when it is too late.

Somebody once told me that zoning is incredibly boring...until a five-story building is going up next to your one-story home, or a dispensary down the block from your child's school. We don't need more community battles like the fight over the proposed development at 538 Bancroft. We need more participation and transparency when it counts.

Deciding to include us in the process should be the easiest decision City Hall could ever make. Put us to work. Use what we know from living here every day, not from a theoretical construct by an outsider who knows nothing about the way our neighborhoods really operate.

We need your voice.

Rose Riskind
San Leandro

Says City Manager's Salary is Too Pricey for San Leandro

Editor:

So Chris Zapata, City Manager of San Leandro, makes \$340,000 a year. This is absurd for a city of only 100,000 population. I'll be happy to do the job for only \$200,000 a year.

—Don Siefkes
San Leandro

Questions How Davis Street Intends to Repay \$325,000 Loan To the City

Editor:

Why are Rose Johnson and Gordon Galvan so motivated to have the Davis Street Resource Center repay the City \$325,000 for a forgivable loan (which means it would not cost the Resource Center anything over time) to get the Davis Street Wellness Center located in the Resource Center facility? There are many other locations within the City that the Wellness Center could move into.

Three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars could pay for a lot of needed services Davis Street provides. To repay this money, it would have to come from general unrestricted funds like public contributions, versus restricted funds like grants and federal funds.

Are Rose and Gordon securing a loan for the money that the Resource Center would have to use program funds to repay, or do they have a donor to contribute the entire amount?

Or is another "group" simply repaying the loan for them?

Next time you consider a donation to Davis Street Resource Center, be sure to ask yourself, is this going to fund the \$325,000 forgivable loan that Rose and Gordon are fighting so hard to pay back to the City – all in the name of the Wellness Center dispensary. And they both claim they have nothing to gain with the dispensary moving in.

Rose, maybe donations from the public to the Resource Center were down in December \$30,000 due to your strong efforts to bring a dispensary into the building. My belief is that the Resource Center has deeper issues.

—Diana Souza
San Leandro

Proud of Dems Who are Standing Firm to Renew DACA Program

Editor:

Eight hundred thousand Americans trusted our government when they registered to become "legal" under the DACA program. They believed that by following the rules, their home country, into which they arrived as children, would accept them as legal residents.

Last September, Trump terminated the DACA program and threatened deportations within 6 months. The

"Dreamers" who trusted are now targeted. Their personal information is in government files, available to ICE whenever it decides to come after these people, our people – our neighbors, our colleagues, our friends, employees, and service providers.

This threat extracts a fearful cost, on Dreamers and on all of us who believe this injustice does not represent who Americans are. Moreover, it destroys the possibility of success for future government programs that ask people to trust a commitment.

None will trust our government to do what it promises. Anything can change whenever a self-serving, deceptive huckster rises to power.

I am proud of Democrats who are standing firm for renewing the DACA program, which is supported by 70% of the population. Republican recalcitrance would shut down the government instead of governing for the good of our country.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

Warns Trump's Wall Would Destroy Homeland of Tohono O'Odham People

Editor:

It is shameful that President Trump still wants to build a border wall between this country and Mexico which will result in destroying the homeland of the Tohono O'Odham People who live on both side of the two countries by destroying the environment as well as desecrating sacred sites. Their land stretches between the Gila River of Arizona and the Sea of Cortez in Mexico.

The Tohono O'Odham People in this country, visit relatives on the Mexican side where they share a common bond with each other. Also there are sacred sites and cemeteries. Their cultural connections can be in jeopardy if the wall be built. I urge the majority of Americans to stop President Trump from building a wall that will destroy the homeland of the Tohono O'Odham People.

—Billy Trice Jr.
Oakland



SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
LETTERS@EBPUBLISHING.COM

INQUIRING REPORTER

Are you ready for the next recession?

— Asked at the Bancroft Safeway

I hope so. I'm in technology as a consultant. In a recession, companies pull back so I might be affected. But I'm increasing my skill set to be more broad based, getting more certifications.

D.J. Maschino
San Leandro



I think so. My wife and I own our home and have pretty secure jobs. You don't know what will happen but we're as prepared as you can be.

Rick Owen
San Leandro

Yes, I have faith. I'm 67 years old and that's all I've ever had so far. What I need always comes. It's a matter of how we look at it. If we see things going down, that's what will happen. If we see blessings, they will come.

Leia Phillips
San Leandro



No, I'm not ready for it. But I'm retired so I'm not worried about losing my job. So I can swim through it.

Ted Lyles
Oakland

My answer is no. I don't think so. I have a little savings, so I think I can make it through a recession as long as it doesn't last too long.

Yvonne Hodge
Oakland



Class of '56 Alums Return to San Leandro High

A group of VIPs toured San Leandro High recently, escorted by Morgan Mack-Rose, executive director of the San Leandro Education Foundation.

The gang of six had come from all over California, Arizona and Minnesota to gather for the first time since graduating from San Leandro High School in 1956.

Among the group was senior class president and lead from that year's musical production, Larry Hendrick; Chief Justice of SLHS Supreme Court and Key Club President, Bob Lewis; and Student Body President Bob Hinton.

The group quickly spotted their names in a 1955 edition of the school newspaper "The Cargo" on display just outside of the journalism classroom.

San Leandro High School opened at its current location in 1949 and, when the Class of '56 attended, it consisted of just three

buildings: the main hall, gym and vocational shops. The group marveled at the changes since then including a complete overhaul of the athletic facilities, shops (now called the Career Technical Education building) and the addition of a science wing and the Arts Education/Performing Arts Center.

The alumni had a chance to interact with some students in Mr. Shyer's automotive class as well. Of course, while the basic principles of gasoline engines haven't changed much over the years, having young women in the class definitely was a new thing.

Bob Hinton reflected that San Leandro High School gave each of the alumni a solid foundation and the motivation to go on to lead productive lives and attain career success.

Don Shawl went on to attend UC Berkeley and eventually became the owner of two dozen



PHOTO BY MORGAN MACK-ROSE

Visiting their old stomping grounds at San Leandro High are Don Shawl, Boyd Mahan, Bob Lewis, SLAM teacher Tony Farley, Dan Green, Larry Hendrick, and Bob Hinton in the Arts Education Center's broadcast studio.

San Leandro Players To Hold Auditions For Comedy Mystery

The San Leandro Players will hold auditions for *Death by Design* on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Museum Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave.

The show is a delightful and mysterious mash-up of Noel Coward and Agatha Christie genres, a comedy mystery with surprising twists. Check out the play at <http://www.samuel french.com/p/9802/death-by-design>.

Ensemble cast, read from script. No pay, non-Equity. Male

and female all ages and ethnicities encouraged. Rehearsals begin Feb. 19, Monday through Thursday evenings.

Performances will be Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. from April 7 to May 5, plus two Fridays, at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave.

Open call, appointments possible. Contact Sage Hindley at bhindley11@gmail.com, or call 895-2573 and leave a message. For more information, visit www.slplayers.org.

restaurants in Tennessee and North Carolina. Larry Hendrick became a college professor at Cal State Sacramento while Dan Green owned and managed a successful insurance agency in

San Leandro.

Both Bob Hinton and Bob Lewis attended Stanford University and became successful insurance executives. Boyd Mahan became a deputy sheriff for Al-

ameda County before becoming a security manager in Southern California.

Mack-Rose noted that while much has changed in the intervening 60-plus years, some things

remain constant for San Leandro High School students – an appreciation for where they've been, pride in where they are now and high aspirations for where they are headed.

Freezagate: Meetings at Foster's Freeze went on for four years before relations chilled

continued from front page

had in Johnson's car from 2012 to 2016 in the parking lot of the Foster's Freeze.

Johnson alleges that Zapata insinuated he would help her charitable organization financial-

ly in return for having a sexual relationship with him and that he made inappropriate comments to her.

Zapata denies the allegations and countered that Johnson is trying to smear his name because he



Davis Street Chief Executive Officer Rose Johnson



San Leandro City Manager Chris Zapata

embarrassed her when he made public Davis Street's inability to repay a \$1.5 million city loan back on time.

Zapata further accused Johnson and Davis Street board of directors president Gordon Galvan of trying to bribe and influence him so they would receive a city permit to open a lucrative medical marijuana dispensary.

That clinic – the Davis Street

Wellness Center – eventually did get a permit from the city. However, one condition that must be met for it to open is the repayment of a separate \$325,000 loan from the city, which was due by the end of the business day Wednesday, Jan. 31.

On Wednesday morning, Johnson said she planned on going to City Hall that afternoon to repay the loan.

Watercolorist to Speak At Art Association

The San Leandro Art Association will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The evening includes professional networking, membership discussion, and an artist demonstration with watercolorist Shannon Whitney.



The San Leandro Chamber of Commerce presents the honorees from our annual Business Awards Celebration

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