

## Bikes for Tykes

OFFICER LOUIE BRANDT  
ROUNDS UP BICYCLES FOR  
NEEDY KIDS ..... 6



## Holiday Health

IT IS EASY TO OVEREAT AT ALL  
THOSE DELICIOUS HOLIDAY  
BUFFETS ..... 9



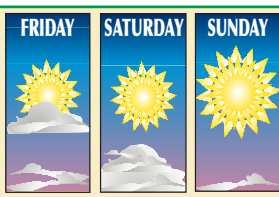
## WEEKEND WEATHER

**WINDY** Winds kick up to  
20 mph on Friday

HIGHS: 50-55

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

LOWS: 34-39



# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 26 • NO. 50

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



## Ashcraft Awarded for Social Work

San Leandro businessman Bernard Ashcraft received the Urban League's Diversity and Equity Award in San Diego on Dec. 8 for his ongoing social and economic justice work. He is one of the founders of Unity in the Community in San Leandro. Ashcraft is seen here with his daughter Autumn and wife Brenda at the awards celebration.

## City Hires Lobby Firm To Push Bills

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

As the year wraps up, the City Council recently got a summary of what their lobbyists have done for them in Sacramento in 2016 and what they hope to accomplish next year.

The city hired Townsend Public Affairs for \$60,000 per year to "advocate" for San Leandro in the state legislature by working to influence the likes of Assembly members Rob Bonta and Bill Quirk, Senator Loni Hancock, and the Governor's office.

This year, Townsend said one major lobbying effort was attempting to dissolve the Eden Township Healthcare District (ETHD). The city wants the ETHD to be dissolved and their funding rolled into the county to provide funding for the financially struggling San Leandro Hospital, which is run by the county.

Assembly Bill 2737, which more strictly regulates health districts, was sponsored by the City of San Leandro and was signed by Governor Jerry Brown in September.

Mayor Pauline Cutter called working with the lobbyists a "pleasure" and the results of the AB2737 process "exciting."

Townsend Public Affairs also lobbied for some affordable housing bills which the city said were a priority.

Senate Bill 1069 was signed into law, which simplifies the permitting process on "in-law units" and allows more smaller housing units on existing proper-

ties throughout California.

But other affordable housing bills that the city San Leandro supported, including AB2200, see LOBBY, page 8

## Electricity Program Said to Save Money, Be Green

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

San Leandro has joined Alameda County's proposed energy purchasing program, which they say will give more options on sources of electricity, save money, and enable the city to be more "green."

The City Council voted in November to join a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program that is in the process of being created by Alameda County. Once the county creates the agency, San Leandrans will have the option of getting energy directly from power plants and other energy sources, circumventing PG&E.

The CCA will still pay PG&E see ELECTRICITY, page 14

## Casa Peralta Opens Its Doors for Holiday

### Santa Claus will make appearance

Everyone is welcome to attend a merry and traditional holiday celebration at the Casa Peralta, San Leandro's historic house museum at 384 W. Estudillo Ave. this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Casa's halls will be decked with boughs and beautiful holiday décor. There will be plenty of cookies, hot chocolate, and other treats to share with family and friends.

Enjoy live caroling and pictures with Santa. Experience a fascinating part of San Leandro history, the world of the Peral-

ta land grant family, and their descendants. Docents will be available to share that history with you as you enjoy the Casa in all its holiday finery.

The San Leandro High School Notables will be performing at 11:30 a.m. in the San Leandro Museum Multi-purpose room next door to Casa Peralta. The museum will also offer tin snowflake craft making and a showing of the film "Happy Feet" (Rated G).

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



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Casa Peralta will be decked out for the holidays with hot chocolate and treats on hand this Saturday.

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## San Leandro Times

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

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## Pets of the Week



Pebbles

The Pets of the Week from the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Pebbles the dog and Franklin the cat.

**Pebbles** is a 7-year-old lap dog. She's a bit timid until she gets to know you, but she warms up fast and loves to be loved. She would do best in an adult only home.



Franklin

**Franklin** is a handsome 9-year-old boy who loves to be petted, brushed, and getting cheek and chin scratches. His guardian passed and so he's looking for a new family.

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

## SL History Museum to Screen Holiday Films for Both Kids and Grown-ups

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., will screen two holiday movies simultaneously – *Joyeux Noel* for adults and *Happy Feet* for children – this Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and again at 2 p.m.

*Joyeux Noel* (Merry Christmas) is a 2005 film about the

World War I Christmas truce of December 1914, depicted through the eyes of French, British and German soldiers.

*Happy Feet* is the 2006 story of an Emperor penguin group who use sound as a way to find their soul mates. One penguin couldn't sing, but he could tap

dance like no one else.

This Australian American computer-animated musical, fantasy film received an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film of the Year at the 79th Academy Awards. There will be a tin art snowflake project available for both adults and children.

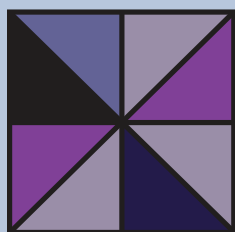


A wide variety of East Bay plant life is depicted in watercolors at the Hayward Area Historical Society gallery.

## Watercolors Show East Bay's Varied Plant Life

The Hayward Area Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, presents *Local Botanical Beauties, Then and Now* guest curated by Mary L. Harden School of Botanical Illustration in the Community Gallery through Jan. 8, during the museum's

hours, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This exhibit of watercolors shows the variety of plant life that once dominated the landscape of the Hayward area as well as plants that are still seen in the foothills and gardens.



# SAN LEANDRO

## Connect Monthly



## San Leandro City Council

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter  
Vice Mayor Ursula Reed, District 2

## Councilmembers

Deborah Cox, District 1  
Lee Thomas, District 3  
Benny Lee, District 4  
Corina N. López, District 5  
Jim Prola, District 6

City Manager Chris Zapata

To receive City Council and Commission agendas and meeting materials, press releases, quarterly newsletters and City sponsored information, you can subscribe at [sanleandro.org/mycity](http://sanleandro.org/mycity).

For more information, contact Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton, Communications and Community Relations Manager at 510-577-3372 or [swalton@sanleandro.org](mailto:swalton@sanleandro.org).

Para Asistencia en Español  
如需中文協助:  
(510) 577-3372



### The Main Library will be closed December 19, 2016 - January 22, 2017

The San Leandro Main Library is set to receive new carpet, paint, and furniture over the upcoming holiday break! In order to complete the scheduled improvements, the Main Library (along with its meeting room wing) will close. During the closure, community members and library card holders may take advantage of enhanced service hours at the branch libraries, as well as extended rental time of checked-out materials.

The City of San Leandro greatly appreciates the public's patience as this temporary closure will allow for a significantly enhanced visitor experience to San Leandro's world class library. The 87,000 square-foot library is equipped with many facilities that will continue to be available to the public following the carpet and furniture upgrades, including a computer lab, free high-speed internet access, study tables, and a collection of over 250,000 books.

For more information about the closure, please contact the Information Desk at 577-3971 or visit the Library's website at [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org). The renovation project was made possible by leveraging local Measure HH revenue and a donation from the San Leandro Public Library Foundation.



## City Hall Holiday Closure



City Administrative offices will be closed for the holidays beginning Friday December 23, 2016 through Monday, January 2, 2017 with the exception of public safety services and other required functions. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday January 3, 2017. Have a safe and happy holiday season on behalf of the City of San Leandro!



### Grover Cleveland Park Receives New Playground

More than 200 volunteers from Quotient Technology, San Leandro Rotary and the City of San Leandro along with KaBOOM! joined forces on November 4th to build a brand new playground at Grover Cleveland Park. The design of the playground is based on local children's input at a special design event earlier this year. Grover Cleveland Park serves over 700 children and youth in the Davis East neighborhood and surrounding areas. Special thanks to KaBOOM!® and the hundreds of volunteers who made this new playground a reality!

**Holidays At The Casa • 384 West Estudillo Ave.**  
**Saturday, December 17 • 11am - 4pm**

Please join us for a traditional holiday celebration at the Casa Peralta and the San Leandro History Museum. Enjoy free refreshments and tours. Bring your own camera and take photos with Santa! Choir performance by The San Leandro High School Notables, a tin snowflake craft making session and a showing of "Happy Feet" at 11:30am and 2pm. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 577-3975 or 577-3971.







PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

## Fire at Cherryland Care Home

Alameda County Firefighters put out a mattress fire at a residential care facility on the 200 block of Blossom Way in Cherryland last week. Firefighters evacuated 14 residents at the one-story, 11-bedroom facility after a fire broke out around 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 6. The fire was put out in less than ten minutes and was contained to one bedroom and caused minimal damage. All residents returned to the facility after the building was deemed safe to re-enter by an Alameda County Building official. There were no injuries.

## Castro Valley Woman Dies in House Fire

A Castro Valley woman was killed in a house fire in the unincorporated area near the Hayward/Castro Valley border early Tuesday morning.

The victim is identified as the 59-year-old sole resident of the home on the 1800 block of Grove Way, but her name has not yet been released by authorities.

The one-alarm blaze broke out at around 2:45 a.m. and apparently started in the attic, according to the Alameda County Fire Department.

The fire was contained within ten minutes.

The woman's body was found in the garage, where most of the flames were concentrated, according to the ACFD.

"There was smoke and flames shooting through the roof of the residence, as well as out of the garage," said Aisha Knowles, ACFD spokeswoman.

The rest of the home has

smoke and water damage, authorities said.

One firefighter was treated and released from the hospital for a minor hand injury.

Parts of Grove Way were closed to traffic until around 9:30 a.m. as the fire was investigated.

The cause of the fire is being investigated by the fire department and Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

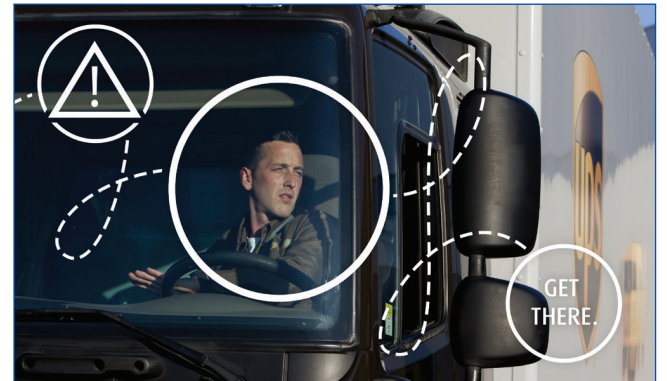
## 'Tis the Season for Gift Thieves

Lots of people are ordering holiday presents online and they are often delivered during the day when people aren't home to collect them – and packages left on a front porch can be a target for theft.

To avoid getting gifts stolen from your front door, the San Leandro police are offering following tips:

- Request that a signature be required when the package is delivered.
- Arrange to pick up the package at the post office of shipping service.
- Have packages delivered to your workplace.
- Have packages delivered to a relative or friend who will be home.

If you see a package being stolen, call the police immediately at 577-2740.



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## SL Police Receive Award for Alcohol Control

The San Leandro police are being recognized for their efforts in reducing alcohol-related crime.

The department has been selected to receive the Significant Achievement Award from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for their work in battling alcohol-related crime.

ABC gave the police department a grant that funded 101 bar inspections, 23 general enforcement operations, eight briefings regarding ABC enforcement efforts that resulted in the training of 88 officers, eight San Leandro community meetings focused on preventing underage drinking and an underage drinking presentation on Twitter.

There were seven arrests and increased visits to businesses that

sell alcohol.

The grant was one of nearly 50 awarded in California to local law enforcement agencies.

The grant program has helped strengthen local law enforcement efforts by combining the efforts of local police officers and ABC agents.

ABC agents have expertise in alcoholic beverage laws and help reduce alcohol-related problems.

The grant funds were used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal solicitations of alcohol, and other criminal activities.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

M	A	S		W	A	G
M	I	C	H		B	A
C	O	A	T	I	A	T
A	D	M	I	N	I	S
L	E	I		G	R	I
			I	L	K	S
P	I	N	E	S		M
P	E	C	K		L	A
A	R	E		S	I	E
C	O	C	O	N	S	P
T	A	M	A	L	E	A
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## NEIGHBORS



Gima Rivera on right was happy to see all 300 stuffed Owl's that Myrna and Keith Hoag delivered for the kids at Children's Hospital for Christmas.

## San Leandrans Deliver Plush Animals to Children's Hospital

Myrna and Keith Hoag delivered 300 plush Owl's to Gima Rivera at Children's Hospital. This was Myrna's third annual Avon fundraiser for Children's Hospital.

They would like to thank the following businesses, families and friends who helped make this Avon fundraiser a great success: Chambless & Son Towing, Aiken

& Welch Inc., Electro Plating Specialties, F.H. Daily Chevrolet, Debbie Tostenson, Doral's Auto Repair, San Leandro Auto Upholstery, Precision Auto Care, Moeller Bros. Body Shop, Nicks Family Rest, Bara's Grocery & Deli, Puerta Bello Mexican Rest, Elios Rest., Roger Fernando State Farm Ins. Vintage Alley, Number One Acoustics, Candice Hanisch, Cheryl Burns, Priscilla Himenez, Diana Henares, Marcie Lambly, Larry & Denise Hemenez, Lori Anixter, Carrie Sinai, Dani Nebel, Patricia Sack, Elaine Lundin, Kathy Hanson, Angie Cortez, Linda Cortez, Michelle Iwail, Karen Clore, Rose Mercado, Vicky Mercado, Debbie Del Rio and Caren Rivera.

Myrna wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2017 New Year.

## IN THE SERVICE

### ■ Cpl. Dominic Martinez

Marine Corps Cpl. Dominic Martinez just completed a year of technical school with the United States Marine Corps and is now serving our country attached as technical support to an infantry unit. He is the third child and second Marine of parents and local business owners, Adrian and Terry Martinez. Dominic was raised in San Leandro and attended Roosevelt Elementary School and then later, Redwood Christian School.



Cpl. Dominic Martinez

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ❖ SL Democratic Club Christmas Party

The San Leandro Democratic Club will have its Christmas party tonight, Dec. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., in the Estudillo room.

### ❖ SL Girl's Softball In-Person Registration

San Leandro Girl's Softball In-Person Registration will be on Friday, Dec. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Puerto Bello Restaurant, 14680 Washington Ave. in San Leandro. Girls softball is open to girls ages 4 through 14 of all playing abilities from San Leandro and all surrounding cities. For more information, call Leo Sheridan at 909-7152 or visit [www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com](http://www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com).

### ❖ 3 Crosses Neighborhood Church

Experience the wonder of Christmas at 3 Crosses Neighborhood Church 20600 John Dr. in Castro Valley on Dec. 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17 and 24 at 2:30 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. General seating is \$5 (suggested donation). Purchase tickets online at 3CROSSES.ORG or at church services, and at Cafe 4 Sunday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 537-4690.

### ❖ Bikes for Tykes Giveaway

The San Leandro Police Officers Association (SLPOA) and San Leandro Police Chief Jeff Tudor invite you to this year's Bikes for Tykes distribution on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Davis Street Family Resource Center, 3081 Teagarden St. in San Leandro. If you wish to volunteer please show up for the set up at 8 a.m. For more information, contact SLPD officer Louis Brandt via email at [lbrandt@sanleandro.org](mailto:lbrandt@sanleandro.org).

### ❖ St. Gerard Women's Club Bake Sale

The members of St. Gerard Women's Club will hold its Christmas bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo. Bake sale begins after the 4:30 p.m. Mass and after all the Masses on Sunday, Dec. 18 starting at 7:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will also be available on Sunday along with the raffle after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

### ❖ Bob Grazzini Memorial Crab Feed

The Buon Tempo Italian Club presents the Bob Grazzini Memorial Crab Feed on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Transfiguration Catholic Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. No host cocktails from 5 to 6 p.m., dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person paid in advance, no tickets sold at the door. Make your reservations on the Buon Tempo dinner line at 483-6929 or send your check to Rick Martens, P.O. Box 2625, Fremont, CA 94536. Make your check payable to: Buon Tempo Club.

### ❖ Remembering Irving Berlin

Bancroft Musical Theatre in partnership with Opus Theatre Works Presents *Remembering Irving Berlin* on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at The San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The concert is free and features musical favorites such as: *Stepping Out With My Baby*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *White Christmas* and *There's No Business Like Show Business*. Enjoy an evening of incredible music featuring over 50 Bancroft Middle School music and theatre students.

### ❖ Hayward Area Historical Society

The Hayward Area Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, presents *Local Botanical Beauties, Then and Now* guest curated by Mary L. Harden School of Botanical Illustration in the Community Gallery through Jan. 8, during the museum's hours, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This exhibit of watercolors shows the variety of plant life that once dominated the landscape of the Hayward area as well as plants that are still seen in the foothills and gardens.

### ❖ Memory Cafe

Memory Cafe, 294 Broadmoor Blvd. in San Leandro, is a comfortable place for people with dementia and their caregivers to come for a cup of coffee and time to share stories and a sense of community every Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. The cafe rents space in the Community Center of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Join volunteers of the nonprofit, Memory DayByDay and help us celebrate everyone's history and life. For more information, call 931-9336 or 876-5880.

### ❖ San Leandro Toastmasters

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

### ❖ Christmas Concert & Vegetarian Dinner

Celebrate Christmas in the serene atmosphere of Badarikashrama with enchanting music and numerous vegetarian dishes on Sunday, Dec. 25, at 3 p.m. at 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro. This year Subhangi Sakhalkar one of the Bay Area's top Hindustani vocalists will be accompanied by Vivek Datar on harmonium and Nikhil Pandya on tabla. For reservations, call 278-2444, space is limited but no one will be turned away. This event is free and open to all.

### ❖ Douglas Morrisson Theatre

The Douglas Morrisson Theatre Chorus presents a Holiday Concert under the musical direction of Cesar Cancino Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 15 to Dec. 17, at 8 p.m.; and on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. The Holiday Concert will feature a selection of classical sacred works, popular holiday songs and jazz, as well as audience sing-a-long pieces. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for adult H.A.R.D. residents.

### ❖ Sons In Retirement Meetings

SIR, an organization of retired men, Branch 6, meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. Happy hour is at 11 a.m., lunch is served at noon. Great speakers, guests are welcome. Come and make new friends. For more information, call Ron at 357-2540.

### ❖ Bayfair Toastmasters

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

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

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# AUTOMOTIVE

## Nissan Boosts Pathfinder's Power

By Steve Schaefer  
San Leandro Times

**T**he Nissan Pathfinder has been around since 1987, and over those nearly 30 years has grown from a small pickup truck with a roof and rear seats to a big family hauler that weighs in at well over two tons.

The fourth-generation Pathfinder, which debuted for the 2013 model year, gets some significant updates for 2017. To the eye, the face is redone, with a fresh iteration of Nissan's V-Motion grille, surrounded by an updated hood and front bumper. At the other end, the taillamps get tweaked.

More important than the new suit, however, is the new powerplant. Nissan has been well known for its award-winning V6 engines, but this new Direct Injection Gasoline (DIG) 3.5-liter unit contains more than 50 percent new parts, including a new combustion chamber design, pistons, intake manifold, and more. This update helps push horsepower from 260 to 284 and torque from 240 to 259.

The fresh V6 is mated to an XTRONIC continuously variable transmission (CVT), which means belts find the ideal ratio rather than gears, and it sounds a bit different when you apply the accelerator.

Sadly, this powertrain didn't give me the fuel economy that the window sticker promised. The EPA rates the four-wheel-drive Pathfinder at 19 City, 26 Highway, 21 Overall. However, the best number I saw was 16.2 mpg, and in the end, it read just 10.3 mpg. Was the system misreading something? I didn't drive any differently than usual. EPA Green numbers are 6 for Smog and 4 for Greenhouse Gas — normal for an SUV this large with a V6 engine.

The Pathfinder feels substantial on the road, and sails along smoothly during in-town errands or long highway jaunts. It's a

seven-passenger hauler, so families will find it a comfortable fit. The EZ Flex Seating System with LATCH AND GLIDE makes it easy to load passengers into the third row, while keeping your second-row child seats in place. When all three rows are being used, there's not a lot of space behind the third row — about 16 cubic feet — but drop the second and third rows and you get nearly 80 cubic feet of useful capacity.

Nissan went through a period of offering cheap looking interiors, but that's over now, and even though many of the Pathfinder's surfaces are hard plastic, they look buffed and strong. The tan leather seats are attractive and comfortable. Slim pockets on the center console look like they'd be great for maps — if anyone uses them anymore. I liked the handsome knurled knobs for audio and climate control.

Another larger knob was for the ALL-MODE 4x4-i system, which electronically controls settings for 2-wheel drive, automatic, or auto-locking 4-wheel drive. There's Hill Descent Control (4WD models only) and Hill Start Assist, handy for tackling the streets of San Francisco. The Pathfinder is also proud to offer 6,000 pounds of towing, if properly equipped.

I was fortunate to drive the top model in a range that runs

from S, SV, SL to Platinum. My tester came in Midnight Jade, with the interior in Almond. The dark green body was elegant, the tan inside bright. The S is decently equipped from the get go, but the SV brings in a leather-wrapped steering wheel and shifter, intelligent key, power driver's seat, remote start, Homelink transmitter and more.

As you move up, the SL adds leather seats in the first and second rows, gives the front passenger power seat controls, a power liftgate, the amusing "Around View" monitor (shows you from above somehow), and more. The Platinum level bumps wheel size from 18 to 20 inches, adds LED headlamps and a Bose 13-speaker premium audio system, a moonroof, and some other goodies.

The Pathfinder offers the Motion-Activated liftgate with position memory. Wave your foot under the center of the liftgate and it opens. They aren't the first to offer this feature, but it's mighty handy. Another worthwhile update is the Advanced Drive-Assist Display, which gives you useful information on your infotainment and other features directly ahead of you. Voice command is now easier with an improved microphone.

My car had the Family Entertainment Package (\$1,700), perfect for keep the young ones entertained on long trips when singing



The Nissan Pathfinder is reborn for the 2017 model year with more adventure capability, a freshened exterior look and enhanced safety and technology.

rounds or playing punch car isn't enough. The viewing screens are on the front seatbacks, lower than the kind that drop from the ceiling.

Pricing starts at \$30,890 for the S, topping off at \$44,460 for

the Platinum, including destination charges. My car came to \$46,160.

Crossovers are hot, and this one, in the upper middle range, is a boon for growing families. It

gets a top five-star overall rating in government safety tests. Built in Smyrna, Tennessee, it's the station wagon of today. I'd like to see better fuel economy from the smooth and powerful engine, though.



## Age Well Drive Smart

As we age, factors such as vision changes and slower reflexes can affect the ability to react to hazards swiftly. According to the CDC, an average of 586 older Americans are injured every day in vehicle crashes. The good news is there are corrective steps people can take to stay safe on the road.

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# Santa Louie Brings the Bikes to the Kids Once Again

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

Hundreds of needy kids will have a brand new bicycle under their Christmas tree this year thanks to San Leandro police officer Louie Brandt, who raised thousands of dollars for the "Bikes for Tykes" program.

Brandt has raised over \$25,000 from 125 generous local business to purchase about 500 bikes for kids ages 3 to 12 whose families are enrolled in the Davis Street Family Resource Center's various programs.

This Saturday, the Davis Street's headquarters on Teagarden Street will look a lot like the North Pole, as volunteers give the bikes out to families just in time for Christmas.

There aren't enough bikes for every kid in Davis Street's programs, so a lottery system picks who gets a bike. Davis Street Director Rose Padilla Johnson says the look on the faces of the lucky kids makes the hundreds of hours of work worthwhile.

"That's a special moment,"

said Padilla Johnson.

The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro donated helmets to all the kids, so all the money Brandt raised went straight to purchasing the bikes.

**"A lot of generous people help us make a great holiday."**

— San Leandro police officer Louie Brandt

"We found out there was a need to buy the helmets and we wanted to free up money for more bikes," said Kiwanis President Mike Le Faivre. "I hope some

day all the kids who are eligible get a bike."

Brandt also wants to thank Walmart for offering a 10 percent discount so more bikes could be bought and for having employees volunteer to assemble the bikes.

This is Brandt's eighth year doing the Bikes for Tykes program and he says he'll be back out pounding the pavement soon to start raising money for next year.

"A lot of generous people help us make a great holiday," said Brandt.

With the bikes taken care of, Davis Street is still accepting donations for their toy drive and turkeys and other food for their holiday basket program.

Toys and food will be given out to families on Friday, Dec. 23 and donations will be accepted through Thursday, Dec. 22.

You can drop off toys at the Davis Street Family Resource Center at 3081 Teagarden Street or visit [www.davisstreet.org](http://www.davisstreet.org) for more information or to make a monetary donation.



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Hundreds of San Leandro children will be getting a brand new bike this year thanks to the San Leandro police, the Davis Street Family Resource Center, and many generous donations. Pictured are Davis Street coordinator Emile Awwad, San Leandro Kiwanis President Mike Le Faivre, Davis Street Director Rose Padilla Johnson, San Leandro police officers Louie Brandt, Josh Brum, and Jeremy Rocha, and Davis Street coordinator Kristal Gonzalez.

## Holidays Around the Town

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# Sign Up for Boys & Girls Club Winter Basketball League

The Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro is now taking sign-ups for its Winter 2017 instructional basketball program for all boys and girls in grades 3 through 6. The league begins Jan. 18.

The Boys & Girls Club of San Leandro basketball program is designed to give players a fun and competitive basketball experience. Each player is evaluated prior to being assigned to a team so that all teams have a balanced number of veterans and rookies.

All players are required to play two quarters per game, so no matter the child's ability level, they will have an opportunity to be on the court and be a part of the action.

All practices and games are held at the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro, 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro.

The basketball program fee is \$85 for current "After School" registered members or \$95 for all others and includes uniforms and awards.

The club is also looking for volunteer coaches for the program.

For more information on the program or if you are interested in volunteering as a coach, call Ross Lim, at 483-5581.



The City of San Leandro hired lobbying firm Townsend Public Affairs to push bills in the state legislature.

## TRUCK DRIVER WAREHOUSE PERSON NEEDED

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## Clothing Wanted For Warming Center

For the third year running, the City of San Leandro is providing those in need with an overnight warming shelter, operated by Building Futures in partnership with April Showers.

Last winter, the Warming Shelter was open for 55 nights, with 71 people utilizing the service, generally about 15 people come in each open night.

Donated items are needed for homeless San Leandrans served by the warming shelter. New men's and women's sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks, and underclothes.

Items can be dropped off at donation bins at the San Leandro police station, City Hall, the San Leandro Senior Center, and Zocalo Coffeehouse, and Building Futures' office at 1395 Bancroft Ave. For more information, call Kaeleigh at 357-0205, ext. 205 or email kthorp@bfwc.org.

## Lobby: Firm to focus on issues such as homelessness, pensions

*continued from front page*

AB2319, AB2441, and AB2475, died in the legislature.

Townsend says that in 2017, they will focus their efforts on San Leandro's behalf on bills in support of affordable housing, homelessness solutions, pension sustainability, broadband infrastructure, climate change mitigation, recycling programs, electric vehicle infrastructure, and funding for police de-escalation training.



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### Holiday Tree Collection

On regular residential service days, from December 26 - January 31, ACI will collect and compost your holiday trees placed curbside. Different trucks are used to collect the trees, so tree removal may occur earlier or later than your normal organics service.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Place tree curbside on your scheduled collection day.
- Remove all decorations, lights and the stand.
- Cut tree in half if taller than 6'.
- Flocked and artificial trees cannot be composted. Place them in the garbage or schedule a special collection.

### Wrap It Up!

Metallic wrapping paper, most ribbons and bows, cellophane, and polystyrene packaging are not recyclable through curbside collection.

#### TRY TO:

- Wrap gifts in reusable, recycled/recyclable, or compostable materials.
- Save and reuse ribbons, wrap, and other packaging.
- Donate packing peanuts to a local mailing or shipping store. Find locations at [www.StopWaste.org](http://www.StopWaste.org).
- As a last resort, place non-recyclable packaging and wrapping materials in the gray cart, securing small items in a bag.



## HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

# Sexually Transmitted Diseases At 20-year High in California

The number of reportable sexually transmitted diseases in California is rising at a faster pace compared to the rest of the country and is at a 20-year high according to a California Department of Public Health report.

"Cases of syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia are going up in California at a concerning rate," said State Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith. "This is the second year in a row that we have seen increases in all three diseases."

The report found a total of 249,224 reportable cases of STDs

in California last year including 189,937 cases of chlamydia, 54,255 cases of gonorrhea, 4,890 cases of primary and secondary syphilis (the most infectious stages of this disease) and 142 cases of congenital syphilis.

These numbers indicate an 11.6 percent increase in STDs in California since 2014, when the total number was 223,269.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released national STD data last month, reporting that cases of syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia have reached a record high level in the U.S., with the largest increase being in cases

of syphilis (19 percent).

California's rate of sexually transmitted diseases continue to be highest in young people 15-24 years of age and especially among females. More than 63 percent of the state's female chlamydia cases and more than 51 percent of female gonorrhea cases are in this age range.

These young women are the most vulnerable to infertility and other serious reproductive health problems caused by STDs.

Gay and bisexual men in California are also at high risk. Men who have sex with men account for more than 62 percent of the

state's gonorrhea cases in males and 84 percent of primary and secondary syphilis cases in males.

"Using condoms regularly and correctly, reducing the number of sexual partners and being in a monogamous relationship can dramatically reduce risk of contracting an STD," said Dr. Smith who urged sexually active individuals to get tested regularly.

To help reduce the STD rate, the California Dept. of Public Health is in the process of distributing \$5 million in grants to local health departments for expansion of STD prevention, testing and treatment programs.

Last January, California also enacted the California Healthy Youth Act, requiring comprehensive sexual health education to help young people make informed choices about how to protect themselves and their partners.

For more information on STDs and how to prevent them, visit [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/std](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/std).

## Tips to Avoid Holiday Weight-Gain

On average, Americans gain approximately one to two pounds during the holiday season. But with a few strategies from nutrition experts, you can avoid weight gain while still enjoying friends, family and holiday feasts.

### ● Don't Skip Meals

"In preparation for a holiday feast, do not skip meals throughout the day," says Heather Mangieri, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokesperson. "Skipping meals can result in overeating later on."

Instead, Mangieri recommends eating foods full of protein and high in fiber before the feast because these foods will fill you up and satisfy hunger.

### ● Don't Forget to Exercise

The holidays are a busy time full of cooking, decorating, shopping and catching up with loved ones. But it is still important to make time for physical activity.

Set a tradition to include a family walk over the holidays. It's an opportunity to create memories, share in conversation and sneak in exercise.

### ● Don't Overdo the Buffet

Holiday meals tend to be large, buffet-style gatherings where it is easy to overeat and fill up on unhealthy options.

### ● Don't Splurge on Sweets

It is okay to save room for dessert, but try to choose only one "splurge" item, and limit high-calorie sugary beverages.

— StatePoint



## Study Reveals 1-in-5 Sleepy Drivers Cause Fatal Crashes

Drivers who miss one or two hours of the recommended seven hours of sleep a night nearly double their risk for a crash, according to new research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that 35 percent of U.S. drivers sleep less than the recommended seven hours daily. And with drowsy driving involved in more than one in five fatal crashes on U.S. roadways each year, officials warn drivers that getting less than seven hours of sleep may have deadly consequences.

"You cannot miss sleep and still expect to be able to safely function behind the wheel," said AAA spokesperson Cynthia Harris. "New research shows that a driver who has slept for less than five hours has a crash risk comparable to someone driving drunk."

The report reveals that drivers missing 2-3 hours of sleep in a 24-hour period more than quadrupled their risk of a crash compared to drivers getting the recommended seven hours of sleep.

This is the same crash risk the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration associates with driving drunk.

While 97 percent of drivers told the survey they view drowsy driving as a completely unacceptable behavior, nearly one in three admit that at least once in the past month they drove when they were so tired they had a hard time keeping their eyes open.

"Managing a healthy work-life balance can be difficult and far too often we sacrifice our sleep as a result," said Harris. "Failing to maintain a healthy sleep schedule could mean putting yourself or others on the road at risk."

Symptoms of drowsy driving can include having trouble keeping eyes open, drifting from lanes or not remembering the last few miles driven.

However, more than half of drivers involved in fatigue-related crashes experienced no symptoms


before falling asleep behind the wheel. The lesson: Drivers should not rely on their bodies to provide warning signs of fatigue and should instead prioritize getting plenty of sleep.

The AAA Foundation report is based on the analysis of a representative sample of 7,234 drivers involved in 4,571 crashes. All data is from the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey of police-reported crashes which resulted in emergency medical services being dispatched to the scene.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Lessons Learned from Warehouse Fire

The recent tragic warehouse fire in Oakland has saddened the Bay Area, and the Central County Realtors wish to extend our condolences to the families who've suffered such a terrible loss. Our prayers are with you as you struggle to cope in the days that lie ahead.

As is the case in the aftermath of any tragedy, it's important to figure out what went wrong and how it might be prevented in the future. Here are a few lessons to be learned in this case:

1. City and state building codes have a reason for being in place and should not be circumvented.

Any space intended for occupancy must follow the building and fire codes for the area. As an example, when foreclosures flooded the Bay Area with low-priced properties, flippers began upgrading homes at a prolific rate — much of which was done without permits.

While the work might look good on the surface, it's what's hidden inside the walls that is a concern. Permits need to be pulled so that anyone living in a renovated home has the assurance everything was done to code.

2. Fire and smoke alarms are critical. Every bedroom needs a smoke detector and there must be a

smoke detector and CO detector in the hallway outside the bedrooms on every level. *Make sure* they are working.

3. Fire prevention systems are important. While older homes are not required to have sprinklers, make sure proper extinguishers are handy for different types of fires.

4. Nothing should be installed that prevents egress from any room in a building.

Many local homes have permanent security bars installed over the windows. These are illegal. All bars need to have an inside quick-release mechanism so occupants can escape through the window in an emergency.

Insurance companies are taking notes. Since the fire, insurance companies we have been dealing with have tightened their guidelines for insuring older East Bay buildings. Of special concern are antiquated electrical systems, especially those that contain knob-and-tube wiring.

Where this will end up is unknown. One thing is certain, however: Safety in any building should be a primary concern, whether it's a home or any other type of building.

Follow the guidelines, obey the rules and make sure the structure meets all local codes. The life you save might just be your own.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association at [www.ccmgtoday.com](http://www.ccmgtoday.com).

## 1130 Minerva St. • San Leandro • Open Sunday 1-4



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### Dormant Spray

If you missed the first dormant spray period in late November, do it now! It's better to spray late than not at all.

### Holiday Plants

Keep those flowering gift plants, like poinsettias, in a cool spot with bright, indirect sunlight. It's important that they do not sit in water, so peel away the decorative foil from the bottom of the pot and set the pot in a saucer.

### Bulb Bargains

Look for specials on Dutch bulbs, such as daffodils, hyacinths and tulips at your local garden center. When you buy, choose those that are still firm and plant them as soon as possible. (Tulip bulbs will benefit from chilling in your refrigerator for six weeks prior to planting.)

### Vegetables

Although sunlight and warmth are at their ebb right now, some seeds will germinate. Sow chard, kale, romaine lettuce, onions, peas, radishes and spinach, but expect the plants to grow very slowly.

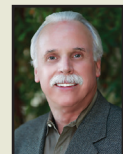
### Prune and Decorate

Prune conifers, holly and broadleaf evergreens to shape them. Then, use the trimmings for holiday decorations.

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# Gardener Wants to Prune Roses; Clean Up Fall Debris

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** My gardener wants to prune my roses early. Is that okay or should I wait? Also, should I spray an anti-disease agent onto the bare branches? Will this help hinder the black spot next year?

**A** There is no problem pruning your roses today. After pruning, the bushes are sprayed with a copper fungicide or horticultural oil.

Before spraying, you should strip off all the remaining leaves along with cleaning up all the debris under and around the bushes.

They could be sprayed right after pruning or you could wait until next year. It's a judgment call on your part. One application is all that's necessary. Rose rust, mildew, and black spot will over-winter on rose canes and the old leaves.

Good sanitation practices are important; however, they will not prevent the diseases from reoccurring next year when the right conditions are present. Rust, mildew and black spot are airborne diseases that require moisture and

temperature to be a problem. It's critical that the foliage remains dry after the sun goes down.

Rose rust requires only two to four hours of constant moisture for the infection to begin. With black spot, it's seven hours; hence, rust will always appear before black spot.

In addition, it will be weeks before the diseases show up after each infection. A wet spring from an extended rainy season can accelerate the problem.

Your best control is Bayer Advanced All In One Rose Care. It's a liquid or granular product that's applied to the roots in March and controls all three diseases, plus fertilizes the bushes and controls

the Aphids and other insects. One application lasts six weeks.

**Q** Is it too late to clean up fall debris or should I just wait and do it in the spring?

**A** The fallen leaves and other debris should be removed from the base of trees and shrubs along with being cleared off turf and ground cover areas.

From my personal experience, it's easier to stay on top of the debris as it's occurring. Dry and wet leaves are easier to clean up than those that are matted down.

The debris can form a solid layer and prevent sunlight from

reaching the blades of grass. These areas will then turn yellow and eventually die.

With herbaceous and woody ornamental ground covers, stem and crown rot, along with water mold fungus and other diseases could develop when left covered for an extended period of time.

So, my recommendation is to clean up the debris often.

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



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14832 Harold Avenue	94578	\$530,000	3 BD - 1,050 SF - 1952
1490 Thrush Avenue #26	94578	\$319,000	2 BD - 820 SF - 1994
1625 Thrush Avenue	94578	\$462,000	2 BD - 938 SF - 1937

TOTAL SALES: 7

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$205,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$835,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$530,000

AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$542,714

### San Lorenzo

1590 Via Hermana	94580	\$550,000	3 BD - 1,125 SF - 1955
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### Castro Valley

19767 Anita Avenue	94546	\$815,000	4 BD - 2,520 SF - 2006
21747 Baywood Avenue	94546	\$825,000	4 BD - 2,379 SF - 1942
4225 Gem Avenue	94546	\$589,000	3 BD - 1,080 SF - 1947
18415 Lakecrest Court	94546	\$625,000	3 BD - 1,064 SF - 1955
2316 Somerset Avenue	94546	\$640,000	3 BD - 1,844 SF - 1928
20125 Woodbine Avenue	94546	\$730,000	2 BD - 1,674 SF - 1949
22579 Canyon Terrace Dr	94552	\$586,000	2 BD - 1,213 SF - 1997
3967 Recreation Road	94552	\$1,390,000	5 BD - 3,568 SF - 2005
5377 San Simeon Place	94552	\$560,000	2 BD - 1,334 SF - 1981

TOTAL SALES: 9

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$560,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,390,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$640,000

AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$751,111

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CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BD/RS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	—	1-4	1130 Minerva Street	\$508,000	3/1	Re/Max Accord	Louise Lovewell	351-5555
A	—	2-4	129 Broadmoor Blvd.	\$525,000	3/1.5	Rinetti & Co. Realtors	Earle Shenk	220-6407
A	1-4	1-4	14169 Seagate Drive	\$529,000	3/2.5 - Condo	United Brokers RE	Tere Lee	305-8827
C	1-4	1-4	21925 Ada Street	\$549,000	2/1	Berkshire Hathaway	The Brent Team	333-9404
C	—	1-3	8585 Norris Canyon	\$1,499,000	5/2.5 - 5.21 acres	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy P.	925-251-2536

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# Santa at the Fire House



**Tuesday, December 20, 2016**  
**5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Station #9**  
**450 Estudillo Ave. • San Leandro**  
**\$10 Donation per photo (Optional)**

Take a picture with Santa on the antique fire engine, get the latest holiday safety information, have some milk and cookies, sing holiday carols, and listen to firefighters read their favorite holiday story, *A Firefighter's Night Before Christmas!*

Proceeds will go toward supporting the Alameda County Firefighters' Holiday Toy Drive and a scholarship in the memory of Craig Alaniz, a San Leandro resident who lost his battle with cancer in 2008 and inspired the first Santa at the Fire House in 2007.

For more information or to make a donation, please call Aisha Knowles at (510) 632-3473 ext. 1320 or email [aisha.knowles@acgov.org](mailto:aisha.knowles@acgov.org)

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# Electricity: Save money for more expensive wind and solar energy

*continued from front page*  
to distribute power and maintain the transmission infrastructure, metering, and billing, but the county says a CCA enables communities to buy power directly from a source.

The money saved from that step could go to more expensive forms of energy, including solar and wind if a CCA agency decides that's what it wants to do.

Bruce Jensen, a senior planner for Alameda County, says the energy could be purchased from a variety of sources, including hydroelectric dams in the Pacific Northwest and wind farms in Southern California.

By pooling the community's electricity demand, the CCA can have more options about where they buy their electricity. If a CCA agency decided it wants to buy locally or focus on renewable energy sources, they can do so.

The county says this is a way to loosen the "regulated monopoly" of PG&E, which doesn't have competitors forcing them to lower rates or provide cleaner energy sources.

In 2010, PG&E spent \$46 million on Proposition 16 which

would have made it more difficult for municipalities to form CCAs, but voters defeated the proposition.

San Leandro has now passed its CCA ordinance and other

**“The energy could be purchased from a variety of sources, including hydroelectric dams and wind farms.**

— Bruce Jensen, Alameda County Senior Planner

cities in the county are in the process of doing the same. Once that happens, the county has to deliver an implementation plan for approval of the California Public Utilities Commission. The county says the agency is expect-



The wind farm in the Tehachapi Mountains is the biggest wind farm in the state of California.

ed to start delivering electricity in the fall of 2017.

San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma counties already have CCA agencies

Alameda County estimates that starting the CCA will cost about \$3.25 million which will eventually be repaid through ratepayer revenue. The county says that customers won't notice any rate hikes in their bills and may actually see some savings.

If the Alameda County CCA is established, it would become the default service providers

for San Leandro, but customers would have the choice to opt-out of the program. The city says

## Alameda County, Oakland Move to Keep Raiders

The Alameda County Board of Superiors and the the Oakland City Council both voted Tuesday to give a group of investors led by former NFL player Ronnie Lott an exclusive 60-day window to negotiate a development plan for the land that currently houses the Oakland Coliseum.

Lott's group hopes to build a

new \$1.3 billion stadium to keep the Raiders in Oakland, despite team owner Mark Davis' desire to move the team to Las Vegas where a \$1.9 billion stadium project has been approved.

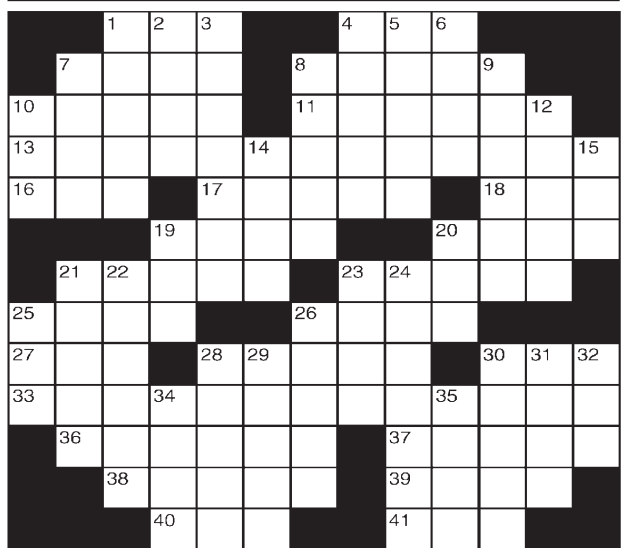
Under Lott's proposed plan, his group of investors would contribute \$400 million, the NFL and Raiders would pay \$500 million,

CCA agencies now serve over 1,300 cities.

and the city and county would contribute the land worth \$150 million. The city of Oakland would pay \$200 million in infrastructure.

City and county taxpayers are still paying off the project that expanded the Coliseum when the Raiders moved back from Los Angeles. That debt currently is over \$180 million.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 More, to Manuel
- 4 Humorous one
- 7 St. consisting of two peninsulas
- 8 Infants
- 10 Raccoon relative
- 11 Expiated
- 13 Executive, often
- 16 Island garland
- 17 Mill input
- 18 Pair
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- 21 Many Christmas trees
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- 30 Bashful
- 33 Cabal member
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- 41 Young fellow

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- 3 Roof component
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- 6 Actress Rowlands
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- 10 Western st.
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- 23 Creche trio
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- 25 Campaign fundraising group
- 26 Shunned one
- 28 Trap
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- 30 Lieu
- 31 Frost
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- 34 Muscat's land
- 35 Met melody

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

## LOCAL DEATHS

**TIMES OBITUARIES** may be faxed to 510-483-4209 or emailed to: [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com). Include a phone number. For help, please call Patrick at 510-614-1558.

### Daniel Martin, MD

January 6, 1921 – December 2, 2016

Dr Martin passed away on December 2, 2016 at San Leandro Hospital, one of the two hospitals that he was one of the founders of, the other was Eden Hospital. Dan was born in Portland, Oregon on January 6, 1921. He was 95 years old.

The army put him through medical school during WWII. He attended college and medical school at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon where he grew up. He started his practice in San Leandro in 1948. He and his wife, Ann, were married for 65 years.

He is survived by his son and daughter; 3 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren. He was a member of The First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro. He was a member of Sequoia Country Club, and was always proud that he played in the Bing Crosby golf tournament in Pebble Beach in 1969.

There will be no service per his wishes.

### Tilio Fazio

January 20, 1916 – December 4, 2016

Tilio, a lifelong resident of Oakland, was welcomed into heaven by his son Bobby (1992). He is survived by his beloved wife of 76 years, Chente "my doll"; his daughter, Jeanne; son, Arnie (Genofeva); granddaughters, Jessica and Melissa (Daniel); great-granddaughter, Makenna; and many nieces, nephews and extended family. He also leaves his sister, Elsie, and caregiver, Angelo.

Following high school, Tilio became a plumber, joined the Union and worked for his uncle's J.A. Fazio Plumbing Company in Oakland. He was proud to say he worked on the first bore of the Caldecott Tunnel! After retiring at 62, he became a weekly vender at the flea market until 94. He was in his glory making lifelong friends.

Tilio and Chente enjoyed weekly ballroom dancing from the day they met, joining the Moose Club and Colombo Club. Christmas Day was special as they welcomed hundreds of friends and family for homemade tamales. He also enjoyed playing "Craps" on casino trips. He loved life like no other and attributed his 100+ years to Jack Daniels, who sent him a personalized bottle for his last birthday.

Rest in Peace, Dad. Celebration of his wonderful life to be announced.



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FAZIO, Tilio  
MARTIN, Daniel, MD

Barbara Ann Schoningh  
Giacomini

Leo "Lucca" Domenic  
Giacomini  
(1924 – 2016)

A memorial mass of celebration for the lives of Barbara Ann Giacomini and Leo "Lucca" Domenic Giacomini will be held Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 3433 Somerset Ave., in Castro Valley with a reception immediately following.

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## OPINION

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

**Proud to Be Part of a Community That Helps to Clean Storm Drains**

Editor:

In response to Fred Reicker's letter, "City's 'Adopt-a-Storm-Drain' is a Not So Funny Joke," (Letters, Dec. 8), I find it interesting how people respond differently to a request for help.

My immediate reaction was "Yes, of course I'll sign up," but then I already regularly keep my blocks' storm drain clear of "leaf litter" as it tends to back up to the middle of the block in front of my house and all my neighbors' homes.

I'm not only a tax-paying resident and business owner of the City of San Leandro, but I am a member of the Community of San Leandro. By participating in city events, programs, etc., I feel I have more connection with my neighbors and get to meet more of them all the time.

Whether it's attending a city celebration, Farmers' Market, using a park or the library, or taking the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course, I am proudly a part of the community I live in and help out how I can.

—Leslie Byrne  
San Leandro

**Doesn't Mind Giving City Employees a Hand – the Exercise Doesn't Hurt At All**

Editor:

I don't mind scooping leaves out of the gutter and away from a storm drain.

City employees can't patrol every city street all day long looking for leaf piles and other drain-cloggers. It takes a broom, a dust pan and maybe a shovel to clear a storm water drain. In the rain, the air smells good and the exercise doesn't hurt me at all.

Living anywhere is about community and community service, and this seems like a benign and not unreasonable request.

If the job is too big for me, then I'll call the City.

—Maureen Forney  
San Leandro

**Wants the City to Stay Out of Private Business at Trailer Haven**

Editor:

City council: Please continue to stay out of the private business being conducted at Trailer Haven.

The property was legally sold and transferred to a new owner and that owner has the right to set prices and turn a profit. This is the basis of our economic system.

The City of San Leandro does not have a mandate to interfere in the private transactions of businesses in the city. Any move by San Leandro municipal government to spend money meant for schools, police, fire, roads, etc. on individual citizens' expenses is inappropriate and probably illegal. Doing so would be the same as a city employee using city funds to pay private rent/mortgage/phone/food expenses for their private benefit. Furthermore, providing taxpayer

money to private citizens to pay rent would set a dangerous precedent. A flood of petitions for money would arrive at City Hall each time any business that rents property out in this city decides that they need to raise prices to stay in the city.

The passing of Proposition 13 years ago presented our city with many pros and cons. The major pro is that people are protected from being taxed out of their properties. The major con is that city revenue from property tax dollars do not rise with property value increases.

Thus there is a gap in the revenue needed to match the rise in cost due to inflation. The only mechanism for revenue to catch up with market value is the transfer of property (sales). This is what just happened with Trailer Haven.

The city needs the transfer tax and new level of property tax to make up for years of losses. The city has a duty to spend that revenue on projects that benefit the entire city and not just the residents of Trailer Haven.

Clearly there is a lot of heartache going on at this property. There are government funded programs already in place for people who need subsidies to afford housing. Let's let those programs do their job on this issue.

—John Clouston  
San Leandro

**City 'Talks About Diversity While Doing Nothing to Preserve it'**

Editor:

Regarding the article ("Council Seeks to Mitigate Mobile Park Rent Spike," Page 1, The Times, Dec. 8) on Trailer Haven, "Councilwoman Corina Lopez called the 15 to 25 percent rent hike 'excessive' and 'extreme'."

Yet when tenants of multi-unit apartments received rent increases of \$200 or more – close to 3 times the \$75 ordinance limit at the time – she didn't call that extreme. Maybe because landlords contributed to her campaign? How come \$117 is extreme for Haven residents, but \$200 isn't for tenants in apartments?

"Councilman Benny Lee asked what the owners could do for residents who can't afford the rent hike even with the 10 percent discount. 'The worst thing that we can hear as a council is someone who can't even make up that difference in their rent,' Lee said."

Yet he voted against all those tenants who came before the council telling them that they couldn't make up their rent increases. Was that OK because landlords contributed to his campaign? Will the council still defend Trailer Haven residents if the owners start contributing to their campaigns?

On Nov. 17, the mayor wrote to the Times: "We invest in ourselves, take care of those most in need and nurture the sense of community that is unique to our city."

No. You foster divisiveness by treating residents better if they're house-owners and worse if they're renters. You pretend Black Lives

Matter while allowing landlords to price those lives out of their homes. You support raises for minimum wage workers while allowing landlords to increase rents that will claw back whatever gains those workers obtain.

The administration's vision for this city includes businesses, house-owners, techies, and art, but no vision for residents who don't fit into this narrow view of who they think should live here.

They talk about diversity while doing nothing to preserve it. They're helping make America hate again.

—K. Lee-Figueroa  
San Leandro

**Demographic Change in U.S. Not Going to Change Under Trump**

Editor:

Re: "Opposes San Leandro Becoming A Sanctuary City," (Letters, Dec. 8), will somebody please give Corey Anderson a Chill Pill? The poor dear seems on the verge of a "bigotry overload."

The demographic change taking place in America is not going to suddenly stop and reverse itself because Mr. Corey and his ilk helped elect a bloviating, racist, cartoon to be President.

Also, using the tragic death of Kate Steinle to mask naked racism is pathetic a disgusting.

—Vernon S. Burton  
San Leandro

**'Time for the Electoral College to Act' to Prevent Trump Presidency**

Editor:

The spoiled brats have the run of the house. They've invited their over-privileged friends to join the party and take what they want while they can.

Unsupervised, they are about to wreck our Home of Democracy. It's time for grown-ups in the Electoral College to act, as they were mandated when the EC was written into our Constitution, and prevent this catastrophe.

They must elect someone else to be President.

—Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont

**West's List of Those to Blame For Ghost Ship Warehouse Fire**

Editor:

There stood – righteously – Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley declaring that she was considering filing criminal charges in relation to the Ghost Ship fire.

O'Malley didn't specify against whom the criminal charges would be filed, but let me make a suggestion: Yes, criminal charges should be filed against Jerry Brown, Kamala Harris, Kevin De León, Alex Padilla, Rob Bonta, Libby Schaaf, Barbara Lee and Nancy O'Malley for the passing of legislation, ordinances and decrees that allowed for the flooding of this state by illegal scabs who've displaced U.S. workers from their jobs and housing in addition to ignoring and labor laws.

These criminals are also responsible for not building affordable housing. While they're thinking of pharaonic projects, people are being crammed in houses, apartments, warehouses or under bridges or overpasses.

Oh yeah, we must build that wall and implement E-Verify.

—Leo T. West  
San Leandro

**Urges a Continued Fight Against Energy Transfer Partners Pipeline**

Editor:

Bravo to the Army Corps of Engineers for denying a final permit to a Texas-based energy company known as Energy Transfer Partners who wanted to continue to build a pipeline that will desecrate the sacred sites of the Lakota Peoples as well as having oil on the Missouri River in North Dakota. For several months, Energy Transfer Partners has been violating the rights of the Lakota Peoples with this pipeline.

Greed is the reason why this energy

company shown no respect for the Lakotas' basic rights. They send out private guards and state police to attack the peaceful water protectors as well as their allies with both water cannons and tear gases. While the denying of a permit is welcome news, it won't last long when President-elect, Donald Trump gets into office in January because he supports the pipeline project.

I urge people who are concern about the rights of Indigenous Peoples to rise up and fight to stop the building of the pipeline.

—Billy Trice Jr.  
Oakland

**Guest Commentary****Minimum Wage Is Needed in San Leandro**

By Bella Comelo

*Guest Commentary is the view of the writer and not necessarily that of the San Leandro Times.*

First of all I want to thank Mayor Cutter and the City Council members Corina Lopez, Lee Thomas, Deborah Cox, Ursula Reed and Jim Prola for staying strong and voting for the minimum wage raise ordinance. The ordinance will raise the minimum wage which is at present \$10 in California to \$15 by 2020 in San Leandro.

Since the topic of the minimum wage raise was introduced in the Finance Committee in October 2015, by Jim Prola, there has been staunch opposition from some business owners and restaurant owners.

They felt that the extra payment of a few dollars a year would burden the business community. Their reason was "Why the rush." There are plenty of reasons for the rush. As a school board member put it, "60 percent of our kids in the San Leandro school system are on free lunch program."

Some good-hearted council members had to collect shoes and school supplies for the kids, before the school started. Other community members have toy drives for the kids during Christmastime.

The low wage workers are having a hard time to survive as the prices of food stuff, transportation and rents have gone up. The rent for a one-room apartment in San Leandro is approximately \$1,500. Even if they work full time of 40 hours they still cannot afford to rent an apartment. Some rent rooms in other people's homes or live in cars.

Minimum wage has not kept pace with inflation. When there is no recourse, low-wage workers apply for food stamps and MediCal at a cost to taxpayers. Why not give them a few dollar extra in wages and let them live in dignity?

The ordinance will also discourage low-wage workers from leaving San Leandro and going to work in neighboring cities such as San Francisco, San Jose, Richmond, El Cerrito, San Mateo, Oakland, Emeryville, Mountain View which have passed minimum wage ordinances or are planning to do so.

Another reason the opposition has put forward is that it will hurt small businesses. Actually a study made by the Fiscal Policy Institute in 2004, determines that there is more activity in small businesses when the minimum wage is raised as the workers put the money back in the community businesses by eating out, buying clothes, buying food and cars.

This stimulates the economy. Even some of our local small-business owners are in favor of increasing the minimum wage. "Happy workers create a happy environment for the businesses," said another small business owner.

We are fortunate that our elected officials have made an informed decision to vote on the ordinance as it will bring our city of San Leandro on par with our neighboring progressive cities. They have fulfilled their vision of serving not only the business community but also the young, old and the working poor.

*Bella Comelo is a San Leandro resident and former board member of East Bay Alliance for Sustainable Economy, and present member of Faith Alliance for Moral Economy (FAME).*



## Bancroft Remembers Irving Berlin

Bancroft Musical Theatre in partnership with Opus Theatre Works presents "Remembering Irving Berlin" on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at The San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave. The free concert features such favorites as: "Stepping Out With My Baby," "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "White Christmas" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." This evening of incredible music features over 50 Bancroft Middle School music and theatre students.

## Sign Up for St. Felicitas CYO Basketball Program

St. Felicitas CYO girls basketball is taking sign-ups online through Jan. 20 for players in the second through eighth grades. Players must live in the St. Felicitas parish. All skill levels welcome. Cost is \$175. Teams are forming so sign up online now at [stfelicitascatholicyouthorganization.splay.com/site/](http://stfelicitascatholicyouthorganization.splay.com/site/). For more information, email Jerry DeLos Reyes at [nbk54t@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nbk54t@sbcglobal.net).

## SL Players To Hold Auditions

The San Leandro Players will hold auditions for "The Maltese Bodkin" by David Belke on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 16 and 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Museum Auditorium, 320 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. Open call, appointments possible. Contact Sage Hindley at [bhindley11@gmail.com](mailto:bhindley11@gmail.com), or call 895-2573 and leave a message.

"The Maltese Bodkin" is a comedy mystery with a Shakespearean twist where the worlds of detective fiction and Shakespeare collide in this "who hath done it?" Ensemble cast; read from script. No pay; non-Equity. Male and female, all ages, ethnicities encouraged. Rehearsals begin Jan. 24, Monday through Thursday evenings. Performances are March 3 through April 9 on Fridays and Saturdays and Sunday matinees.

The San Leandro Players website is [www.slplayers.org](http://www.slplayers.org).



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The San Leandro Main Library will be closed for five weeks while new carpet and furniture are installed, but the branch libraries will extend their hours during that time.

## Library to Close Until Jan. 22 For New Carpet and Furniture

The San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., is set to receive new carpet and furniture over the upcoming holiday break.

In order to complete the scheduled improvements, the Main Library, including the meeting room wing, will be closed

from Monday, Dec. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 22.

During the closure, the service hours will be extended at the branch libraries, as well as extended rental time of checked-out materials.

The three branches are Manor Branch Library at 1241 Manor Blvd.; South Branch Library at 14799 East 14th St.; and the Mulford-Marina Branch at 13699 Aurora Drive.

## Holiday Entertainment at Bayfair

Bayfair Center rings in the holiday season with free live entertainment every Saturday throughout December. The entertainment groups will be strolling

through the center spreading cheer.

The entertainment schedule:  
• Saturday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Merry Mariachi.

• Wednesday, Dec. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m.: Dayton Elementary Choir.

• Saturday, Dec. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Steel Pan Band.

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