



Fall Favorites

COOLER WEATHER IN THE FALL CALLS FOR HEARTIER MEALS – BEEF STEW, CHICKEN POT PIE..... 4

WEEKEND WEATHER
SUNNY Partly cloudy Friday thru Sunday
HIGHS: 76-78
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 54-57

FRIDAY **SATURDAY** **SUNDAY**
Sun icons for each day.

San Leandro Times

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

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Richard Houston said goodbye last week as he retired from 38 years with the post office in San Leandro, the past 13 years at the Estudillo Station in the Downtown Plaza.

Houston Leaves His Post after 38 Years

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Anybody who's ever been to the downtown San Leandro Post Office knows Richard Houston.

He's not afraid to speak up. The cheerful post office clerk always notices

you when you come in and always has something to say.

But the Estudillo Branch Post Office in the Downtown Plaza is going to need somebody else to fill Houston's shoes, because he retired last week – after 38 years at the San Leandro

Post Office.

Houston applied at the post office after spending a few years in the army, stationed in Hawaii. He expected he might work anywhere but he wanted to land a job somewhere in California.

see HOUSTON, page 3

New Development Approved For Downtown

Town Hall Square apartments slated for Davis and East 14th

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

The long-discussed apartments for the corner of Davis and East 14th streets were approved by the Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Adjustments at its Sept. 7 meeting.

The commission also approved allowing more events at the Alta Mira Club on Lafayette Street.

Unless there is an appeal within 15 days of passage, both actions are final and do not require City Council approval.

The Town Hall Square apartments, at 1145-1199 E. 14th St., would face the Centro Callan project now under construction across East 14th Street on the site of the former CVS Pharmacy.

They would span the block between Davis Street and Dan Niemi Way on East 14th Street.

The project gets its name from being on the site of the original San Leandro Town Hall, in use from 1876 to 1939 when a new City Hall was built at its current location.

The new project will consist of 180 units of apartments on five floors, located above

two floors of parking, common areas and various amenities. Plans are for 10 studio apartments, 97 one-bedrooms, 68 two-bedrooms and five
see DOWNTOWN, page 11

City Manager's Reason for Putting Chief On Leave

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

City Manager Fran Robustelli said that the reason she put Police Chief Abdul Pridgen on paid leave was due to "allegations regarding department policy violations," though she was not more specific about what the policy violations were.

Pridgen has been on leave since Sept. 11.

In the statement issued by City Hall last Friday, Robustelli didn't cite which policy

see LEAVE, page 11

Domestic Violence Ends with San Leandro Man Charged with Murder of Girlfriend

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

A San Leandro man shot and killed his girlfriend during a heated argument at an apartment in unincorporated San Leandro on Wednesday, Sept. 13, while sheriff's deputies were attempting to move in to defuse the situation, authorities say.

Carlos Maurice Smith, 54, of San Leandro is being charged with the murder of Gina Minerva Love, making criminal threats and being a

felon in possession of a firearm. Love's age and hometown were not immediately released.

Deputies and crisis intervention personnel were dispatched to an apartment on 166th Avenue and Foothill Boulevard around 9:30 a.m. after reports that Smith had beat Love with the handle of a gun and was preventing her from leaving, according to Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Lieutenant Tya Modeste.

“As deputies were preparing to enter, they heard what sounded like a gunshot.”

— Sheriff's Dept. spokesperson Tya Modeste

The Sheriff's Department crisis team was able to make phone contact. During the call, deputies heard yelling

and determined they needed to enter the apartment.

As deputies were preparing to enter, they heard what sounded like a gunshot, Modeste said. Smith then left the apartment and surrendered to the authorities.

Court records show Smith made "multiple spontaneous statements and unprompted admissions related to shooting the victim."

Smith is currently at Santa Rita Jail and being held without bail until he is arraigned.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

EDUCATION

SLHS students receive recognition award. **Page 2**

SENIORS

Steps to take after Alzheimer's diagnosis. **Page 5**

COMMUNITY

Actor Danny Glover comes to town. **Page 12**

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Calendar.....	3
Classified Ads	8
Crossword	9
Pets.....	2
Food	4
Homes	6
Home Services	8
Letters.....	10
Obituaries.....	11
Seniors.....	5

MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL
Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

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



San Leandro Times

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

EDITORIAL

Howard Morrison
Editor and Publisher
howardm@ebpublishing.com

Jim Knowles
Managing Editor
jimk@ebpublishing.com

Contributing Writers
Buzz Bertolero
Mike McGuire
Michael Singer
Carl Medford
Linda Sandsmark

PRODUCTION

Howard Morrison
Manager

Moxie Morrison
Assistant

Claudette Morrison
Business Manager

ADVERTISING

Display Advertising
Claudette Morrison
Classified Advertising
Patrick Vadnais

HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times
2060 Washington Ave.
San Leandro, California 94577
Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Main Office: (510) 614-1555
Newsroom: (510) 614-1557
Sports: (510) 614-1561
Advertising: (510) 614-1555
Classified: (510) 614-1558
Fax: (510) 483-4209
Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com
www.ebpublishing.com



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Pets of the Week



Lavern



Acorn

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Acorn, a rabbit, and Lavern, a kitten.

Acorn is a 6-month-old, short-haired rabbit. Acorn came to the shelter as a baby and has since grown into a young intelligent bunny. Acorn is clean, and calm and eats all her veggies...unlike your kids at home.

Lavern is a 4-month-old, black and white, domestic shorthair female kitten. Lavern is waiting for the perfect calm family that will bring her out of her shell and shower her with love.

For more information, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PHOTO

Three of the five students to be awarded are shown holding their awards, along with Principal Reginald Richardson, as the school board looks on. The students are Arisbeth Orozco, Rosamaria Alvarez, and Viridiana Garcia Escobedo

Five SLHS Students Receive National Hispanic Recognition Award

Five San Leandro High School students earned academic honors from the Col-

lege Board National Recognition Programs.

The students awarded this honor all have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade. As most students take Advanced Placement exams in grades 11-12, this award honors high school students who embark on this challenge early in their high school career.

These awards for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and Latino students allow students to share their impressive accomplishments with colleges and scholarship programs seeking to recruit diverse talent.

At San Leandro High School, five students received the National Hispanic Recognition Award: Rosamaria

Alvarez, Viridiana Garcia Escobedo, Natalie Hernandez, Arisbeth Orozco, and Erika Silva.

The San Leandro Board of Education recognized the students at the Sept. 12 meeting.

"We're thrilled to celebrate our students and recognize them for the great work they've been doing," said SLHS Principal Reginald Richardson. "We're proud of their academic performance in the classroom and on college board assessments like AP exams. There's so much that makes our students unique, and receiving this honor reinforces this as an asset for their future."

We're proud to celebrate students who are sometimes overlooked, said Tarlin Ray, senior vice president of Big-Future at College Board.



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FAITH by New Hampshire author Ralph Medina.

America will never forget 9/11 Tragedy of 2001. Author reaches out to those whose lives have been affected by the September 11 attack. Author *Ralph Medina* takes readers on a journey. Filled with emotions and thoughtful insights, this book offers comfort and reaches out to those whose love ones lives were taken away that fateful day. The blank pages included allow readers to write and express how this historical event impacted their lives.

Interested in ordering this book online visit [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

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Community Calendar

San Leandro High Class of 1958 Reunion Picnic

The San Leandro High Class of 1958 will hold its 65th reunion picnic on Friday, Sept. 29, from noon till 6 p.m. at 14371 Wiley St. in San Leandro. Tickets are \$40. Call Judy Ireland at 510-638-7181.

Raiders Boosters Club Meetings

All football fans in the community are invited to attend the Original Oakland Raiders Booster Club meetings on Thursday nights (9/21, 10/12, 11/9, 11/30 and 12/14) from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at Rickey's Sports Lounge, 15028 Hesperian Blvd. in San Leandro. No host cocktails at 5 p.m., order dinner as you arrive. \$5 for raffle tickets. All ages welcome. RSVP via Facebook message at <https://www.facebook.com/theORBC>.

SLED Un-Gala 15th Anniversary Party

The San Leandro Education Foundation (SLED) will celebrate its 15th anniversary with its party of the year - this year an "Un-Gala," on Friday, Sept. 22, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Zero Net Energy Building, 14600 Catalina St. in San Leandro. Ditch the formal-wear and come ready to celebrate student success and raise funds for vital hands-on learning opportunities for San Leandro students. Tickets online at www.sledfund.org/gala/

Moon Festival – Entertainment, Moon Cakes

Everyone is invited to the San Leandro Moon Festival on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Enjoy a day of cultural entertainment, moon cake samples, community vendors distributing information, and lessons for making your own paper lanterns. The festival is free to the public and is co-hosted by the Asian Community Cultural Association of San Leandro and the San Leandro Main Library.

American Legion Post 4th Sunday Breakfast

San Leandro American Legion Post 117 is bringing back its 4th Sunday breakfast after a 2-year postponement due to the pandemic. The Sunday, Sept. 24, breakfast will be from 8 a.m. to noon at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Pancakes with bacon, coffee, tea, juice, etc. \$5 for veterans, \$6 for non-veterans.

Workshop on Air Quality, Build Your Own Air Filter

The Educator Collective for Environmental Justice (ECEJ) and the San Leandro Resilience Hubs Initiative will present a workshop on air quality and do-it-yourself air filters on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Learn about the importance of air quality and its impact on health and well-being. In this session, we will build a temporary home air purifier – to take home for free. Materials will be provided. Another workshop, on air quality monitors, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 15, at the same time and place. For more information on ECEJ's ongoing efforts, visit www.ecej.org/

Rides and Readers Car Show at the Main Library

Come to the San Leandro Public Library's second annual Rides and Readers Car Show at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy old and classic cars at the Main Library and learn library resources and programs. Admission is free.

Nonprofits Volunteer Fair

Support your local nonprofits at a Volunteer Fair on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Leander's Church, 550 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. Sign up for local nonprofits raffles, and food and drinks for sale. Proceeds go to Multiplying Good. For more information, call Ms. Othen at 925-209-3945.

Train to Be a Licensed Vocational Nurse

San Leandro Adult and Career Education Center will launch the newest state-approved Career Technical Education (CTE) training program, Vocational Nursing Program (LVN) on Oct. 2. This 12-month training program will be housed at the adult school's campus at 1448 Williams St. in San Leandro. For registration information, go to www.sanleandroadultschool.org or call 510 618-4429.

Houston: The post office was his domain

continued from front page

He had stopped in San Leandro to see his sister on his way to Hawaii when he joined the army. In a stroke of luck, the post office hired him to work in San Leandro.

"I started off in distribution, working the night shift for around 15 years," Houston said. "And then I worked at the South San Leandro station for 10 years."

Houston then laughs a little, and adds, "But they kind of kicked me out. So I came here and I've been here for 13 years."

Houston knows that some people don't always get his sense of humor, but he just chuckles and keeps on going.

Even though he's retiring from the post office, he plans to keep working part time as a process server, and as a firearms instructor.

"I was a firearms instructor in the army for three years and



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Richard Houston has been a mainstay at the Estudillo Station post office in downtown San Leandro in recent years.

taught martial arts," Houston said. "So I'm going to keep doing what I do."

Taking a vacation will

have to wait until next year when his wife, Michelle, can get time off from her job, he said.

"We're planning to go to New Orleans," he said. "And I would like to go to Egypt, too."

News Briefs and Announcements

Praises of Zion Missionary Baptist Church Health Fair

Praises of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1395 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, will hold a health fair on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome. There will be information on different topics, including mental health, sheltering, abusive relationships, counseling on how to get help, cancer, food resource pantry, and other important information. Free massages, food will be available – first come, first served. Free food to eat, games, face painting, and jumpers.

Washington Manor Neighborhood Roundtable

Join fellow Washington Manor residents for a Neighborhood Roundtable Potluck on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 3 to 6 p.m. at 14666 Wiley Street. Get to know your neighbors. Everyone will have the opportunity to voice their concerns about the community. The goal is to identify common issues and brainstorm solutions. Mayor Gonzalez will join the group between 4 and 6 p.m. to listen and share. It will be kid-friendly and all are welcome.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month – Salsa Dance Class

A Salsa Dance Class will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd., as part of the San Leandro Public Library's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. If you ever wanted to learn how to salsa dance, join the class led by Rafael Dominguez. This event is for adults 18 and over.

Hispanic Arts & Crafts

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with various arts

and crafts from Hispanic cultures on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 3:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Children of all ages and their family are welcome. No Registration needed.

Salsa Night at the Main Library

Hear singer and conga drummer Edgardo Cambón and the "Edgardo & Candela" Salsa Band perform on Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Listen to Salsa Music, learn a few steps, and enjoy this free all-ages community event. No registration needed.

Arts & Crafts Swap Meet

California BrainWaves hosts an Arts & Crafts Swap on the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Trustees Room of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Free, all ages and skill levels welcome. Neurodivergent-friendly. Donate, craft, grab goodies.

Free Screening of Russell City Documentary, The Apology

The San Leandro Historical Society, San Leandro Public Library and History Museum present a free screening of the Russell City documentary *The Apology*, on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m. at the Bal Theater, 14808 East 14th St. in San Leandro. This feature-length documentary investigates a time in the 1960s when Alameda County and the City of Hayward dismantled the entire African-American community of Russell City, pushing 1,400 residents out of their homes and off their land – all to claim the 200 acres for an industrial park. The evening includes a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers. Register for this free event at tinyurl.com/theapologyfilm

Workshop on How to Digitize Your Family History

Learn how to digitize your family history at a workshop on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Are you overwhelmed with binders and bins full of genealogy notes and family photographs? At this workshop

you will learn how to create your own digital family history, create an oral history using artificial intelligence, scan and restore photos with free or cost effective resources and more. No registration necessary. For more information, call 510-577-3971.

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Chicken Pot Pie

Some Favorites for Fall

Fall is right around the corner, arriving on Saturday. We have already begun seeing hints of the autumn season. Leaves are starting to turn shades of red and brown and the weatherman has even hinted that there could be some light showers in the Bay Area this week. It's time of the year when we switch from lighter summer

meals to heartier cool weather choices made with the abundance of fruits and vegetables from the fall harvest.

ROASTED FALL VEGETABLES

- 1 small butternut squash, cubed
- 2 red bell peppers, seeded

- and diced
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 3 Yukon Gold (or other baking potatoes), cubed
- 1 red onion, quartered
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/4 cup olive oil

- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- Salt and ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 475°F. In a large bowl, combine the squash, red bell peppers, sweet potato, and Yukon Gold potatoes. Separate the red onion quarters into pieces, and add them to the mixture. In a small bowl, stir together thyme, rosemary, olive oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper. Toss with vegetables until they are coated. Spread evenly on a large roasting pan. Roast for 35 to 40 minutes in the preheated oven, stirring every 10 minutes, or until vegetables are cooked through and browned. Yields 12 servings

AUTUMN BEEF STEW

- 3 pounds beef chuck roast, cut into 1-1/2 in. cubes
- Salt and ground pepper
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 3 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup dry red wine
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 4 medium red potatoes, peeled, cut into 1-inch cubes

- 1 cup frozen peas
- 4 large carrots, peeled and sliced 1/4 inch thick

Dry beef thoroughly and season generously with salt and pepper. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in heavy-bottomed pot over medium high heat. Add half the meat so that pieces are not touching and cook not moving until brown (about 2-3 minutes). Use tongs and rotate pieces until all sides are browned. Transfer beef to medium bowl, add another tablespoon oil to pan, repeating previous steps with other half of beef. Reduce heat to medium and add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to now empty pan and swirl to coat bottom. Add onions and 1/4 teaspoon salt and cook, scraping bottom of pan for brown bits until softened (about 5 minutes). Add garlic and continue to cook for 30 seconds. Stir in the flour and cook until lightly colored (1-2 minutes). Add wine, scraping the bottom and stirring until thick and flour is dissolved. Gradually add beef broth, stirring constantly. Add bay leaves and thyme and return to simmer. Add beef, return to simmer, reduce heat to low, and cover. Simmer for 1 hour. Add potatoes and carrots and a slurry of about 1/4 cup broth and 1 tablespoon flour. Leave uncovered, increase heat to medium and cook for another hour. Add peas,

reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 5 minutes. Discard bay leaves, adjust seasoning and serve immediately. Serves 6 to 8.

CHICKEN POT PIE

- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, cubed
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon celery seed
- 1-3/4 cups chicken broth
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 (9-inch) unbaked pie crusts

Preheat oven to 425°F. In saucepan, combine chicken, carrots, peas, and celery. Add water to cover and boil for 15 minutes. Remove from heat, drain and set aside.

In the saucepan over medium heat, cook onions in butter until soft and translucent. Stir in flour, salt, pepper, and celery seed. Slowly stir in chicken broth and milk. Simmer over medium-low heat until thick. Remove from heat and set aside.

Place the chicken mixture in bottom pie crust. Pour hot liquid mixture over. Cover with top crust, seal edges, and cut away excess dough. Make several small slits in the top to allow steam to escape.

Bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 35 minutes, or until pastry is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool for 10 minutes before serving. Yields 8 servings.

MEAT LOAF WITH MIXED VEGETABLES

- 3/4 cup evaporated milk
- 2 cups soft bread cubes
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1-1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1-1/2 cups frozen mixed vegetables, thawed

Pour milk over bread cubes and let stand until milk is absorbed. Stir in onion, ground beef, salt, eggs, and dry mustard; blend well. Stir in vegetables. Mix and shape into a loaf. Bake in loaf pan at 350° for 1-1/2 hours.

Cool for 5 minutes before turning out of pan. Serve with mashed potatoes and gravy. Yields 6 to 8 servings.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): After much traveling this year, you're due for some settled time with family and friends. Use this period to check out situations that will soon require a lot of serious decision-making.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Keep that keen Bovine mind focused on your financial situation as it begins to undergo some changes. Consider your money moves carefully. Avoid impulsive investments.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You'll need to adjust some of your financial plans now that things are changing more quickly than you expected. All the facts you need haven't yet emerged, so move cautiously.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Personal and professional relationships dominate this period. Try to keep things uncomplicated to avoid misunderstandings that can cause problems down the line.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): That elusive goal you'd been hoping to claim is still out of reach. But something else has come along that could prove to be just as desirable, if only you would take the time to check it out.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): This is a good time to get away for some much needed rest and relaxation. You'll return refreshed and ready to take on the workplace challenge that awaits you.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Confidence grows as you work your way through some knotty situations. Watch out for distractions from well-meaning supporters who could slow things down.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Consider spending more time contemplating the possibilities of an offer before opting to accept or reject it. But once you make a decision, act on it.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): You're in a very strong position this week to tie up loose ends in as many areas as possible. Someone close to you has advice you might want to heed.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Congratulations! This is the week you've been waiting for. After a period of sudden stops and fitful starts, your plans can now move ahead with no significant disruptions.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): You're in an exceptionally strong position this week to make decisions on many unresolved matters, especially those involving close personal relationships.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): This week starts off with some positive movement in several areas. A special person becomes a partner in at least one of the major plans you'll be working on.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

M	A	R	S	H	L	E	A	V	E	S
D	E	N	A	L	I	A	M	P	E	R
R	A	N	S	O	M	I	B	E	R	I
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Tracey to Talk on New Book

Sibylline Press recently announced the publication of *The Bereaved*, a novel by Julia Park Tracey, who formerly lived in San Leandro.

Tracey will give a talk at the Alameda Library, 1550 Oak St. in Alameda, on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The Bereaved is based on the author's research into her grandfather's past as an adopted child, and the surprising discovery of his family of

origin and how he came to be adopted.

Julia Park Tracey has created a mesmerizing work of historical fiction illuminating the darkest side of the Orphan Train. Her ancestors and their stories have given her a trail to follow from New York and New England to the deep south and the Pacific Coast.

Tracey is the author or editor of six books with more historical fiction on the way. She has written for Redbook,

HuffPost, The Sun, Salon, and Babble. She is also a partner and executive editor at Sibylline Press, which was formed in 2022 by book industry veterans, all women, to publish the works of women authors over 50.

Christian Kiefer, author of *Phantoms* and *The Heart of It All*, said that *The Bereaved* "reopens America's wounds in prose that is propulsive and resonant. Martha's struggles are the stuff of classic literature."

Assumption School Festival – Games, Food Booths, Entertainment

The Assumption School Festival with carnival games, arcade games, live entertainment and food booths will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 – Friday from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday from noon to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – in the church

parking lot 1851 - 136th Ave. in San Leandro.

In addition to an expansive family zone, the festival will host an outdoor 21+ beer garden with sports game showings.

The festival is open to the public with no cost for admission. Single play tickets and

wristbands will be available for sale onsite and can be purchased via cash or credit card, while food and drink booths will accept both cash and credit cards.

Check out Assumption School Website for more details: <https://www.assumptionschool-sl.org/>

Palliative Care Home to Hold Garden Gala with Music and Wine

George Mark Children's House, 2121 George Mark Lane in San Leandro, will host will hold a fundraising garden gala with live music, wine tasting and a silent auction on Saturday, Sept. 30, beginning at 5 p.m. with tours, followed with dinner and a program at 6 p.m. and the live auction and musical entertainment at 7:30 p.m.

The pediatric palliative care home provides 24/7 respite care, end of life care and bereavement support for children with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

Since its founding, the House has provided support for more than 1,000 children.

The Hummingbird Project a new George Mark campaign, is raising funds to expand the extraordinary care and quality resources available to children and their families.

Kick-started by a generous donor, all donations made to the Hummingbird Project will be matched, up to \$500,000, through the end of the year.

Hummingbirds have a special meaning at George Mark. They are a sign of

healing and hope, making their home in the gardens and grounds.

Many who spend time at George Mark point to moments that are hope-filled and transformational. Families, volunteers, staff and the community are encouraged to share their own "Hummingbird Moments" to help uplift and inspire us all.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit georgemark.org and scroll down to the 2023 Hummingbird Hill Garden Gala.

Red Cross Blood Donors Needed Now During Nationwide Blood Shortage

The American Red Cross is experiencing a national blood shortage.

Fewer donors than needed gave this past summer, drawing down the national blood supply and reducing distributions of some of the most needed blood types to hospitals.

Hurricane Idalia further strained the blood supply with blood drive cancellations and reduced blood and platelet donations in affected areas.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the East Bay are scheduled for Sept. 11 to

30, including **San Leandro on Sept. 27, from 11:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Creekside Community Church, 951 MacArthur Blvd.**

Schedule an appointment to give by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Donors of all blood types are urgently needed, and there is an emergency need for platelet donors and type O blood donors to make an appointment to give now to ensure patients across the

country continue to receive critical medical care.

When Idalia slammed into the Southeast – leading to widespread power outages, travel hazards and flooding – the storm also forced the cancellation of over a dozen blood drives and caused hundreds of blood and platelet donations to go uncollected.

This compounded a shortfall of about 30,000 donations in August. Right now, blood product distributions to hospitals are outpacing the number of blood donations coming in.

Seniors

Senior Q&A: What Legal Steps Should Be Taken After Alzheimer's Diagnosis?

Q. My husband was just diagnosed with Alzheimer's, but still seems to be generally okay. Are there legal steps we should take by way of planning for the future?

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

A. Yes. Once you or your spouse has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, it is important to take action to get your affairs in order. Here is my short list of suggestions:

1. **Check Your Long-Term Care Insurance Policy.** If you are lucky enough to have a long-term care insurance policy in place, check its benefit provisions, especially its "benefit triggers". Many policies are triggered by an inability to perform 2 out of 7 activities of daily living, i.e. eating, dressing, bathing, toileting, ambulating, transferring and continence. Check for waiting periods, cost-of-living adjustments, lifetime caps, and the extent to which the policy covers care in the home. Some policies also provide an option to increase benefits periodically without new medical examinations and, if so, consider opting for such benefit increases now, or as soon as eligible.

2. **Check Your Life Insurance Policy for Early Benefit Options.** Some life insurance policies offer an option to accelerate benefits under certain conditions, such as the need for long-term care. Check with your insurance company to see whether yours offers an Accelerated Death Benefit.

3. **Consider Applying for a Reverse Mortgage Line of Credit.** If you or your spouse are over age 62, consider applying for a Reverse Mortgage (RM) line of credit to draw upon in the event of future need. To qualify for a reverse mortgage, it is usually necessary for both spouses to receive counseling and sign numerous loan documents.

It is best to do this when both of you are able to fully participate in the process. Also, just because you have a RM credit line, does not necessarily mean you have to draw upon it; instead, consider it as a stand-by source of emergency money for care expenses should the need later arise.

4. **Check Availability for Veterans Pension.** If you or your spouse is a veteran, check with the VA to determine whether you might qualify for a veteran's pension to help with care expenses.

5. **Review Beneficiary Designations.** Review the beneficiary designations on insurance policies, IRA accounts, annuities, bank and brokerage accounts, and the like, to make sure they still conform to your wishes. Many people designate beneficiaries when they initially set up their accounts and, over the years, neglect to review and update them as family circumstances change.

6. **Have Your Estate**



Planning Documents Reviewed. Make sure you have in place good quality estate planning documents, such as Advance Health Care Directives, Living Trust & Will, and Durable Powers of Attorney. You might consider changing the nomination of your husband as your Agent under your Power of Attorney and Health Directive, and he might consider voluntarily resigning as a Co-Trustee of your joint trust so as to avoid the need for you to seek out a medical opinion of incapacity when it becomes necessary for you to assume sole trusteeship of your trust.

7. **Consider Availability of a Medi-Cal Subsidy to help with Long Term Care Expenses.** Check to see if your spouse would qualify for a Medi-Cal subsidy to help with care expenses, whether in the home or at a facility outside the home.

Overall, I suggest arranging for a review of your documents by an elder law attorney with experience in helping families in your situation. Revising your documents now to address this new development may help you manage your affairs and finance the future cost of your husband's care without placing your own welfare and financial security at risk.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney who has been helping East Bay families for over 30 years with Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Probate, Medi-Cal Planning, and related matters. Visit: LawyerForSeniors.com or call (510) 247-2555.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



What is the Interest Rate on Rentals?

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

As 2023 dawned, the New Year brought the realization that higher interest rates were here to stay. Consequently, buyers began heading back to their cars to check out homes. The trickle of homeowner wannabes soon turned into a flood and, as inventory was limited, multiple offers began flooding in on almost every available residence. Even as rates continued climbing, buyers, eager to cash in on the benefits of

home ownership, snapped up every listing that appeared.

As rates push even higher, however, some buyers appear to be pulling back. Some, hoping rates might dip in the spring, are bailing out altogether.

For serious buyers, there are two important considerations. First, while many buyers fixate on a property's price and the prevailing interest rates, the only number that really matters is the monthly payment. If you can afford the monthly

payments and you love the property, that is all that matters.

Second, those who can afford to buy now but choose to wait will continue pouring money down the proverbial drain. In truth, while interest rates may go up as high as 8% later this year, the interest rate on a rent payment is 100%.

100% goes towards building future wealth – for the landlord. 100% is building equity in the property – for the landlord. 100% of the tax benefits go to – the landlord. 100% of the rent increases – go to the landlord. 100% of the pride of ownership belongs to ... you guessed it.

For those who choose to continue renting, 100% of the fulfillment of the American Dream – goes to someone else who chooses to buy. 100% of the ability to remodel and transform your home into something that fits your lifestyle and dreams – goes to someone else who has already purchased a home of their own.

As we head into the fall, if interest rates go up as predicted, many buyers will halt their searches and hunker down in their rentals for the winter. With fewer buyers out looking, this provides a unique opportunity for those who remain. We said the same thing last year at this time, but only a few listened. Those who did were glad: they bought homes at lower prices and interest rates and have now enjoyed 100% of the benefits this past year.

We have a simple question: "Will you let current market conditions rob you of the dream of owning your own home?"

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

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Come see this lovely home in the coveted Sheffield Village neighborhood. Built in 1948, and sitting at 1,462 sq. ft, this 3-Bedroom, 1-Bathroom home features gorgeous new and refinished hardwood floors, new interior paint, new flooring in the kitchen, and a new front door. Overlook the green backyard from the retro kitchen, or enjoy outdoor dining in the covered patio area. The home is also right next to a walking path to a nearby park, and there are 2 more in this great neighborhood. The address is also zoned for San Leandro schools.

For more information call The Lovewell Team, Re/Max Accord, at (510)351-5555



(DRE #00689931, #01912817, #01947503)

Covering Poinsettia at Night Encourages Blooming

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

My Poinsettia plant from last year is lush and beautiful. How do I get it to flower for the holidays? I read something about keeping it in the dark. Would covering it with a black plastic bag do it?

For flowers to form, Poinsettias need short days and long nights. It's the day length that triggers the blossoms. In addition, the showy part of the Poinsettia is not the flower but modified leaves called bracts. It's the bracts that turn from green to red or another color. The actual flower is the small yellow-green, round structure in the center of the bracts. The color change doesn't occur naturally in our area because of the abundance of indoor and outdoor light sources such as street lights, security or motion sensors, and household lights. So, covering the plant(s) to get them to bloom is valid. The most challenging part of this is the repetitiveness. Starting now or the first week in October, cover the plants at dinnertime and remove them at breakfast. When flowering begins, the green leaves will

fade to a maroon color. Once you see this, you can stop covering the plant(s), as the bracts will continue to color up without any additional help. You can cover the plant(s) with a black plastic bag, but I prefer a ridged-sided box as you can quickly cover and remove it. The other advantage of a box is it prevents unintentional breakage and bruising. So no light can get in the box, tape the bottom edges of the box and be sure the plant(s) are sitting on a flat surface. Another option is to invert a tomato cage, place it over the plant, and then use a black plastic bag for covering. Your plant should be in bloom as early as Thanksgiving or shortly after that.

How do I go about planting and caring for Bearded Iris? Is now a good time to plant?

Fall is an excellent time to plant Bearded Iris. They like sunny, well-drained soil, so they incorporate generous amounts of soil amendments, homemade compost, and a starter fertilizer. Next, you must level the area and plant the new Irises so three-quarters of

the rhizome is above the soil surface. If they're planted too deep, they will rot. Also, be sure the fan of leaves is facing the sun. Bearded Irises are water-wise; be careful not to over-water them during the summer and Fall. You remove the spent flowers on a dry day so the soft tissue will callous over quickly. Do not trim the foliage off with established plants except to remove the areas with leaf spots. Only when the leaves turn brown in the Fall should they be cut back or pulled off, and the clumps can be divided as early as August. You feed them twice yearly, spring and Fall, with an organic fertilizer. And finally, keep litter and grass away from the Iris plants because clean cultivation is the best precaution against future troubles

Note: For leggy plants, I would pinch back the growth. This will force lateral brakes off the stems for a compact plant. This must be done ASAP so you can start the short days before November 1st.

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

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RECENT HOME SALES

Home sales information is compiled and provided by CalREsource and includes Bedrooms, Square Feet and Year Built when available

CASTRO VALLEY

Total: 10 – Average Price: \$1,185,100
High: \$2,100,000 – Low: \$663,000

17198 Roberto Street 94546:
\$663,000 [1 BD - 906 SF - 1957
3414 Pine Street 94546: \$813,000
[3 BD - 978 SF - 1948
4853 Kathleen Avenue 94546:
\$910,000 [2 BD - 1,350 SF - 1948
4362 Lawrence Drive 94546:
\$1,000,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1951
20061 Santa Maria Avenue 94546:
\$1,040,000 [3 BD - 1,918 SF - 1980
22224 Queen Street 94546:
\$1,090,000 [3 BD - 1,650 SF - 1942
17808 Trenton Drive 94546:
\$1,360,000 [3 BD - 1,744 SF - 1962
4966 Elrod Drive 94546: \$1,425,000
[3 BD - 2,160 SF - 1951
17265 San Franciscan Drive 94552:
\$1,450,000 [4 BD - 2,030 SF - 1985
5777 Greenridge Road 94552:
\$2,100,000 [4 BD - 3,073 SF - 1960

HAYWARD

Total: 22 – Average Price: \$777,159
High: \$1,452,500 – Low: \$385,000

29612 Mountain Oak Court #67
94544: \$385,000 [1 BD - 489 SF - 1985
1611 170th Avenue 94541:
\$400,000 [2 BD - 1,086 SF - 1945
22571 Colton Court 94541:
\$540,000 [2 BD - 1,080 SF - 1987
25700 University Court #325 94542:
\$550,000 [2 BD - 1,250 SF - 1981
25938 Kay Avenue #116 94545:
\$555,000 [2 BD - 1,148 SF - 1989
27860 Thackeray Avenue 94544:
\$592,000 [3 BD - 1,146 SF - 1955

27530 Stromberg Court 94545:
\$600,000 [3 BD - 1,254 SF - 1970
8 Crystal Gate Commons 94544:
\$665,000 [3 BD - 1,670 SF - 1992
27492 Ponderosa Court 94545:
\$705,000 [3 BD - 1,254 SF - 1970
27788 Hummingbird Court 94545:
\$708,000 [4 BD - 1,474 SF - 1971
2452 Catalpa Way 94545: \$758,000
[3 BD - 1,064 SF - 1962
22420 Thelma Street 94541:
\$760,000 [3 BD - 1,162 SF - 1952
26425 Flamingo Avenue 94544:
\$855,000 [3 BD - 1,535 SF - 1952
1828 Florida Street 94545:
\$885,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1955
28004 Farm Hill Drive 94542:
\$900,000 [3 BD - 1,964 SF - 1984
31398 Pebble Beach Court 94544:
\$905,000 [3 BD - 1,233 SF - 1955
2662 Darwin Street 94545:
\$920,000 [3 BD - 1,128 SF - 1956
3093 Horseshoe Court 94541:
\$947,000 [2 BD - 1,360 SF - 1959
3358 East Avenue 94541: \$950,000
[3 BD - 1,770 SF - 1955
24400 Edgebrook Drive 94541:
\$1,030,000 [3 BD - 1,598 SF - 1989
27956 Edgcliff Way 94542:
\$1,035,000 [3 BD - 2,614 SF - 1968
3573 Sentinel Court 94542:
\$1,452,500 [4 BD - 2,552 SF - 1973

SAN LEANDRO

Total: 17 – Average Price: \$812,470
High: \$1,300,000 – Low: \$360,000

16006 East 14th Street #207
94578: \$360,000 [1 BD - 659 SF - 1987
396 Callan Avenue #1 94577:
\$500,000 [2 BD - 1,050 SF - 1981

15260 Upton Avenue 94578:
\$550,000 [4 BD - 1,760 SF - 1952
2523 Galleon Place #125 94577:
\$598,000 [2 BD - 990 SF - 1985
28 Dabner Street 94577: \$625,000
[2 BD - 1,100 SF - 1920
400 Davis Street #311 94577:
\$635,000 [2 BD - 1,468 SF - 1982
14290 Rose Drive 94578: \$770,000
[2 BD - 883 SF - 1942
2252 Heathrow Place 94577:
\$790,000 [2 BD - 1,723 SF - 1979
15005 Norton Street #3 94579:
\$795,000 [3 BD - 1,784 SF - 1984
350 Leo Avenue 94577: \$805,000
[3 BD - 1,283 SF - 1941
2016 Fairbanks Street 94577:
\$828,000 [3 BD - 1,042 SF - 1951
834 Sybil Avenue 94577: \$830,000
[2 BD - 1,126 SF - 1946
14833 Sylvia Way 94578: \$975,000
[3 BD - 1,624 SF - 1946
1973 Placer Drive 94578:
\$1,050,000 [4 BD - 2,835 SF - 1960
638 Maud Avenue 94577:
\$1,105,000 [2 BD - 1,410 SF - 1950
701 Begonia Drive 94578:
\$1,296,000 [3 BD - 2,007 SF - 1979
776 Bridge Road 94577: \$1,300,000
[3 BD - 2,015 SF - 1931

SAN LORENZO

Total: 5 – Average Price: \$825,100
High: \$995,000 – Low: \$562,500

17531 Wickman Place 94580:
\$562,500 [2 BD - 1,168 SF - 1971
678 Via Acalanes 94580: \$810,000
[3 BD - 1,098 SF - 1944
808 Via Mariposa 94580: \$860,000
[3 BD - 1,254 SF - 1944
17236 Via Estrella 94580: \$898,000
[3 BD - 1,325 SF - 1948
17435 Via Carmen 94580:
\$995,000 [4 BD - 1,667 SF - 1953

Mortgage Rates Inch Back Up

Mortgage rates inched back up this week and remain anchored north of seven percent. The reacceleration of inflation and strength in the economy is keeping mortgage rates elevated. However, potential homebuyers can still benefit during these times of high mortgage rates by shopping around for the best rate quote. Freddie Mac research suggests homebuyers can potentially save \$600-\$1,200 annually by applying for mortgages from multiple lenders.

WEEKEND GARDENER

Flowers

Plant all of the winter-flowering annuals including alyssums, baby's breath, bachelor's buttons, calendulas, campanulas, cyclamens, primroses, snapdragons, stock and others. Sprinkle wildflower seeds and California poppies. Bait for snails.

Vegetables

Vegetables that tolerate light frosts and temperatures in the upper 20s will extend the growing season and provide fresh produce when other vegetable plants are just sitting around in the cold. These include beets, Chinese and savoy-leaf cabbages, collards, kale, butterhead and romaine lettuces, flat-leaf parsley, radishes, turnips, savoy-leafed spinaches and Swiss chard. Sow or transplant two to three times the amount you would use for spring harvest because these over-wintering cros grow very slowly. You'll harvest only a small crop from each plant.

Mulching the Soil

Before planting vegetable or flower beds this fall, you might want to add compost or organic mulch to the soil. If the soil is a good clay loam, dig in a 2- to 3-inch layer. For heavier clay soil, add about twice that amount. A cubic yard (27 cubic feet) of mulch covers 108 square feet when applied at a depth of 3 inches. A 2-cubic-foot bag covers 8 square feet 3 inches deep.

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O = OAKLAND • P = PLEASANTON

The Garden Bug

Oriental Lilies

In autumn, cut off any spent flowers and stalks, but allow the leaves to stay until they yellow and die; this fuels the bulb for next year's blooming. Trim away any growth left, leaving the bulb in the ground, and mulch over it with organic bark mulch. In spring, pull away the mulch when you see green sprouts. – Brenda Weaver

Source: gardeningknowhow.com

This plant is one of the easiest to care for. Once it blooms, keep the soil slightly moist. If blooms are very large and the stem bends, stake it for support until the flowers are spent.

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FILED August 08, 2023
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 588835

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Gpp Electric, located at 1936 98th Ave, Oakland, CA 94603. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gabino Perez Pablo, 1936 98th Ave, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced N/A
/s/ Gabino Perez Pablo
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires September 4, 2028

FILED SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600680

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Vic's Bikes, located at 1795 E. 14th Street, San Leandro, Ca 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Victor H. Toledo Flores, 662 Sybil Avenue, San Leandro, Ca 94577 This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 09/12/23
/s/ Victor H. Toledo Flores
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires SEPTEMBER 11, 2028
SEP 21, 28, OCT 05, 12, 2023
0450-SLT

FILED SEPTEMBER 08, 2023
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600639

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Zaza Carz, located at 800 Marina Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577 / 34765 Hemmet Fremont, CA 94555. Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zaza Carz, 34765 Hemmet Fremont, CA 94555. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced N/A
/s/ Muath Jafar
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires September 4, 2028
SEP 14, 21, 28, OCT 05, 2023
0831-SLT

FILED SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600827

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Tee Family Affair Ministry, located at 4100 Redwood Rd., 20-A #115, Oakland, CA 94619, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tee Family Affair Ministry, located at 4100 Redwood Rd., 20-A #115, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a Corporation. This business commenced 08/08/23
/s/ Trena Burton
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires August 17, 2028
SEP 21, 28, OCT 05, 12, 2023
0451-SLT

FILED SEPTEMBER 05, 2023
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600565

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Dragon Art, located at 2128 Longview Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zachary Ryan Daly, located at 2128 Longview Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 9/5/23
/s/ Zachary Ryan Daly
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Expires September 4, 2028
SEP 14, 21, 28, OCT 05, 2023
0821-SLT

FILED AUGUST 15, 2023
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 600102

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
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/s/ Terea Ali
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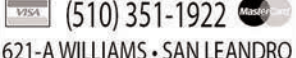
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ACROSS

1 Swamp

6 Foliage

12 Alaskan peak

13 Current measure

14 Kidnapper's demand

15 European peninsula

16 Venetian blind part

17 Suffix for million

19 Busy insect

20 Penne -- Vodka

22 Press for payment

24 -- Alamos

27 Mexican snack

29 Aussie greeting

32 Chekhov play, with "The"

35 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"

36 Outlet letters

37 Venus, to Serena

38 CBS logo

40 Abel's brother

42 Campaigned

44 Bangkok cuisine

46 Elevator name

50 Biblical prophet

52 Outer-space cloud

54 Honor

55 With uniformity

56 Vestibules

57 Valleys

DOWN

1 Repast

2 Visitor to Siam

3 Bob Marley fan, often

4 -- -mo

5 Nepal's -- Mountains

6 Hideaway

7 Plant firmly

8 Gorilla

9 Porches

10 Ireland

11 Plane reservation

12 ER workers

18 Former Chrysler CEO Lee

21 USPS delivery

23 "Yecch!"

24 PC screen type

25 Discoverer's call

26 Peace

28 Admitted to the clergy

30 "Entourage" role

31 QB's gains

33 Shaft of light

34 201, in old Rome

39 Bygone anesthetic

41 Prestigious prize

42 Coral formation

43 To boot

45 Easter entrees

47 Melody

48 Misfortunes

49 Utter

51 Observe

53 Actress Longoria

ANSWERS ON PAGE 2



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Noelle Macasiljig (top left), program director at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, speaks on the importance of the club to her growing up, at the club's annual fundraising dinner on Sept. 8. After dinner, activities and exhibits were available, including a miniature golf course.

Boys & Girls Club Dinner Draws Community Support

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

People turned out by the hundreds at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club annual fundraising dinner and Night of Exploration on Sept. 8, bringing in some \$104,500 for the club's programs.

Attendees at the dinner, emceed by former TV newscaster Cheryl Hurd, heard stories of how the Boys & Girls Club had helped young people overcome challenges in their lives growing up.

The Boys & Girls Club runs programs at 22 schools in the San Leandro and San Lorenzo school districts, as well as a Clubhouse for all members at 2200 San Leandro Blvd.

Several current leaders of the organization had been members when young, and

several told people at the dinner how the club had figuratively or literally saved their lives.

Noelle Macasiljig, now the club's program director, said it helped her navigate the difficult life growing up as part of an immigrant family in the East Bay.

"I had no idea I could go to college, or even how to even fill out a college application," Macasiljig said. "But the people at the club showed me that, and many other things."

"It was a transformative experience that helped make me the person I am today," she added.

Club CEO Kim Pace said many needy children have their lives brightened by the Boys & Girls Club, and called on attendees to give generous-

ly to support the club's work.

Club volunteers pointed attendees to experiences that used many of the latest resources at the recently renovated club, often built with the help of community sponsors.

People took tours of the club's facilities to all that's available to the kids – art studio, recording studio, 3D printing.

There were science exhibits on display built with the help of the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley, and a Virtual Reality space. The new Teen Cafe was open, made from a shipping container and painted magenta. The cafe's program gives young people training on how to run a restaurant and business ownership in general.

Brought in specially for



Meeting in front of the Teen Cafe are Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, Mayor Juan Gonzalez, District Director Silin Huang from Supervisor Lena Tam's office, and Boys & Girls Club CEO Kim Pace.

the event were a miniature golf course with Bay Area and fantasy landmarks to play through, an inflatable slide, a small concert stage, a 360-degree video experience, and a self-draw art studio.

Besides the school programs and clubhouse, the Boys & Girls Club also runs summer learning camps, a 2-day STEM immersion summer camp and enriched after-school programs.

Information on joining the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club can be found by calling 510-483-5581, emailing info@BGCSL.org or coming by the clubhouse at 2200 San Leandro Blvd.



Dinner attendees race scale-model cars at Great Futures Racing. The sign reads "Success Has No Finish Line."

DA Settles with Kaiser on Disposal of Waste and Information

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Y. Price announced an agreement with Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, resolving accusations that Kaiser improperly disposed of hazardous,

medical, and universal wastes and patients' private health information.

The agreement between Kaiser, the Alameda County District Attorney's office, the California Attorney General's office and five other county

district attorneys will resolve the lawsuit brought against Kaiser, alleging violations of California's Unfair Business Practices law and various consumer protections laws under the California Health

see TOUR, page 11

Downtown: Project puts multi-family housing in heart of San Leandro

continued from front page
three-bedroom apartments.

Additional retail space is not included at Town Hall Square, unlike at Centro Calan. Retail space had been in the original proposal in 2017, but based on changing business and housing conditions the City Council dropped that requirement on July 18, 2022.

The developer and planning commissioners noted that the project puts multi-family housing in the heart of downtown and that the housing would sit on bus routes and the San Leandro BART Station is a short walk away.

Alta Mira Club

The planning commission also approved an increase in the number of events permitted each month at the Alta Mira Club, from four events to 20.

San Leandro's oldest building, at 561 Lafayette Avenue, near Dutton Avenue,



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

The site of the Town Hall Square development at the corner of Davis and East 14th streets this week is shown above, and at right is an artist's rendering of what it will look like in the future.



events. The club has a few parking spaces on its property, but usually limits those to the disabled.

The Alta Mira Club suggests attendees instead use the City Hall parking lot two blocks away, with one entrance on Peralta Avenue near Lafayette Avenue.

Planning commissioners expressed their own concerns about parking and potential noise from events and attached several conditions to their approval.

They limited the club to two events each weekend, out of the overall monthly limit of 20. They required one person from the club monitor noise levels and other conditions at events from inside the club, and another from outside the club.

The planning commissioners also called for six-month and one-year follow-ups under the new limits to see if any concerns had arisen from the increased number of events at the club.

Leave: Kramer to conduct investigation into allegations of 'policy violations'

continued from front page
violations led to her decision. The statement said the chief will be on leave while an investigation is conducted.

Kramer Workplace Investigations of Danville will conduct the investigation into the allegations, the statement said, adding that it's unknown how long the investigation will take. Various types of interviews and documentation will be used.

During the investigation, Kevin Hart, a Bay Area law enforcement veteran will serve as Interim Chief. Hart was formerly with the Kensington Police Department and other agencies.

"His extensive background and proven leadership skills make him an excellent candidate to lead the department while Chief Pridgen is on

leave," said Robustelli in the statement.

Attorney Karen Kramer's firm, Kramer Workplace Investigations, is the same firm that the City Council hired in 2018 after Davis Street Family Resource Center CEO Rose Padilla Johnson accused then-City Manager Chris Zapata of sexual harassment and defamation.

Kramer specializes in workplace personnel investigations involving allegations of discrimination, harassment and retaliation, as well as misconduct and disciplinary matters.

In the Johnson matter, Kramer's report concluded that Johnson's claim against Zapata was not sustained, and found that it was more likely than not that Zapata's conduct did not violate city policy.

Smith.

Since 1990, the club, located in a residential neighborhood, had been limited to four events a month. They sought to expand to 20 events a month, to keep up with increased costs of upkeep.

Several members and sup-

porters of the club, some of whom were also neighbors, spoke warmly of the club and the building, favoring its request be granted.

But several neighbors opposed the request, mostly over parking shortages that have arisen during well-attended

continued from page 10

& Safety Code, Civil Code, Code of Regulations, as well as the HIPPA law and related regulations.

The total value of the Stipulated Judgment is \$49 million dollars, and includes statewide civil penalties totaling \$37.5

million, costs of \$4.8 million and credits for Supplemental Environmental Projects totaling \$4.9 million. This is believed to be the largest judgment for illegal dumping of hazardous waste in California history.

Alameda County will re-

ceive \$7.5 million in civil penalties, the largest share of the penalties and attorneys' fees, equal only to that awarded to the California Attorney General's office.

Dating back to 2015, the Alameda County DA's Office attorneys and investigators were central to the investigation to achieve Kaiser's ultimate compliance with the law.

Obituaries

John Richard Mourgos

September 11, 1958 ~ August 2nd, 2023

John Richard Mourgos "Ricky" passed away on August 2nd, 2023 from liver and colon cancer at the age of 64 in San Leandro, California.

He was born September 11, 1958 in Oakland, California to George and Louise Mourgos, the sixth of seven children. He grew up in Hayward and Castro Valley graduating from Canyon High School in Castro Valley in 1976. He then joined the Air Force. He served from 1976-1980. After the service he became a photographer and opened his studio in Castro Valley called Image You Studios.

After many years running his own business he teamed up with Fred Nassari and traveled the world taking photographs for Fred's LOVE KNOWS NO COLOR music video.

After a few years, he relocated to Los Angeles and worked for Hugh Hefner as a photographer for Playboy.

His final job was in Las Vegas driving a school bus for special needs students.

He lived a full and spiritual life.

He was predeceased by his parents, George and Louise Mourgos and two of his sisters, Pam and Linda.

He is survived by his brothers Mike, Gerry and Paul Mourgos and his sister Marie Galvan and several nieces and nephews.

He was buried at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California on August 15, 2023.



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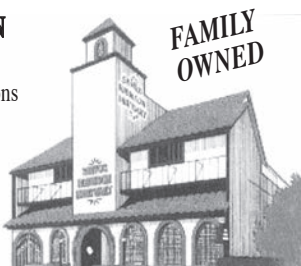
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Danny Glover Makes a Stop in San Leandro

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Famed Bay Area actor Danny Glover visited San Leandro, the Marina and the Davis Street Family Resource Center on Aug. 30 at the invitation of City Councilman Bryan Azevedo.

Azevedo had invited Glover to see San Leandro, with an eye toward encouraging use of the city as a location in films, when the two were part of a delegation to Vietnam in an effort to improve business ties.

"We have a beautiful location, good weather and we're near all the film production facilities the Bay Area has to offer," Azevedo said.

Glover began his visit to San Leandro at City Hall, dropping in at the Engineering Department as everyone was about to break for lunch. Instead, the staff clustered around him, taking pictures, asking questions and listening to Glover's stories about his

life and career.

Glover grew up in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco, and at age 77 still lives there. He said he was a member of a commune on Page Street in the hippie era.

"I survived the Sixties in Haight-Ashbury!" Glover beamed.

He told the Engineering staff that he hadn't always been a well-known actor. For six years after graduating from San Francisco State University, he worked in city government on economic development in Bayview-Hunters Point.

A co-worker suggested he investigate the Black Actors Workshop at the American Conservatory Theater. He soon met South African playwright Athol Fugard, then living in the United States with his plays banned in South Af-



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Actor Danny Glover, center with baseball cap, is joined by city Engineering Department staff and Councilmember Bryan Azevedo on August 30. Front row, from left: Nicole Castelino, Desiree Hoo, Cynthia Lopez, Aracely Gonzalez, Eduardo Aguayo and Azevedo. Back row, from left: Phillip Toste, Robin Chee, Diana Garcia, Bennett Sanderson and Glover.

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rica, but not yet widely known in this country.

"You never know how things are going to turn out, but my life in films and television never would have happened if I hadn't joined the movement against apartheid in South Africa and freeing the Portuguese colonies in Africa," Glover said.

He went to New York with Fugard to star in his

“My life in films never would have happened if I hadn't joined the movement against apartheid.

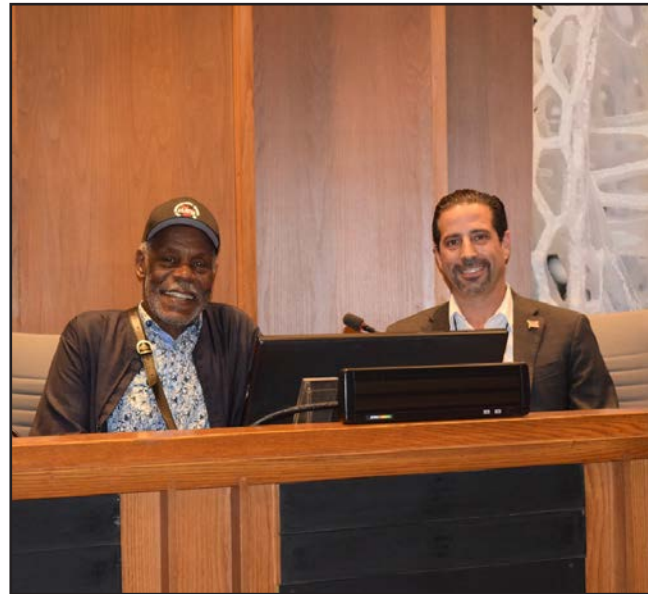
— Danny Glover

play "Master Harold And The Boys," which won a 1982 Tony nomination for best Broadway play and a Theatre World award for Glover.

Glover soon gained further fame from his roles in "The Color Purple," "Witness" and the "Lethal Weapon" movies.

In 1987, he portrayed South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, who was still imprisoned at the time, in an HBO TV movie, the first time many Americans had heard of Mandela.

He became friends with Mandela, who was later released from prison, helped dismantle apartheid, and became



Actor Danny Glover, at left, briefly plays an elected official in the City Council Chambers, joined by Councilman Bryan Azevedo.

South Africa's first Black president, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in the process. Glover portrayed Mandela, by then known worldwide, in the film bearing his name, which won a number of awards.

Mandela loved hearing about Glover's father James and his encouragement of the actor, and always asked about him when he and Glover met, the actor said.

Glover said once when Mandela asked about his father, it happened to be his father's 80th birthday. Mandela insisted on calling the elder Glover to offer birthday greetings.

"I couldn't see, but I swear my dad was crying on the other end of the line," Glover said.

On his visit to San Leandro, the actor went to see Azeve-

do's office, accompanied by Azevedo and longtime local civil rights leader Bernard Ashcraft. He was approached as he walked through City Hall by city staffers with questions, compliments and wanting to get their picture taken with Glover.

Ashcraft and Azevedo joined Glover for a lunch at Horatio's restaurant by the Marina, overlooking the Bay on a sunny day. And then they went on to look at the services offered to the city's less fortunate at the Davis Street Family Resource Center.

So, will any Hollywood films be shot in San Leandro in the near future? Azevedo said it's too soon to tell, but Glover did promise to tell all his friends in the filmmaking industry to come take a look at our city.