

DST BEGINS AT  
2 A.M. THIS SUNDAY,  
MARCH 14 • MOVE  
CLOCKS AHEAD  
ONE HOUR

Spring Forward



**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**RAIN** Weekend starts off with sun, ends with rain  
HIGHS: 58-63  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 41-46

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

# San Leandro Times

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Thinning Out the Sycamores

Sergio Lopez has a job where you can move up as he went high into the sycamores to thin out the branches on Parrott Street in downtown San Leandro last week.

## Some Students To Return to SL Public Schools

Small groups to return to class, but most students will continue with remote learning

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

After more than a year out of the classroom, some students in San Leandro public schools will begin returning to in-person instruction on March 15 at some elementary schools, but just those students who need urgent attention.

"We are prepared to take students back," said according to Superintendent Dr. Michael McLaughlin. "We'll eventually see all grades starting to come back, but for now we are focused only with a small set of students in small groups with the teachers that want to do this."

The majority of the student body will continue distance learning for the time being. As part of San Leandro Unified School District's reopening plan, principals will be letting parents know when their campuses are reopening for students with high-risk academic needs and other special requirements.

Only teachers who volunteered will be back in the classroom. McLaughlin said he currently has 72 teachers, out of 400 in the school district, who volunteered to begin face-to-face instruction.

"Because of county and state guidelines for social distancing, hybrid models for instruction that

reduce the numbers of students on campus are the only way we can reopen our schools at this time," the District posted on its website.

see *SCHOOLS*, page 3

## Police Look For Crew Who Robbed Asian Man

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

The Feb. 9 assault and robbery of an older Asian-American man at the Bank of America on Marina Boulevard was likely carried out by a "crew" responsible for similar attacks in Alameda County and San Francisco, said San Leandro police Lt. Ali Khan at a City Council work session Monday night.

The San Leandro Police are working with other city police departments to round up the crew, who were identified through vehicle information and witness accounts, Kahn said.

see *ROBBED*, page 3

## Despite March Rain, Dry Times Ahead

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

The streets may be wet, and the flowers certainly enjoyed the showers this week, but the state is likely in for another drought season, say weather experts.

California had its driest February on record with 0.20 inch of precipitation, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That's a record that goes back to 1964 when weather scientists measured

a mere 0.31 an inch of rain in the state.

"As California closes out the fifth consecutive dry month of our water year, absent a series of strong storms in March or April we are going to end with a

critically dry year on the heels of last year's dry conditions," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "With back-to-back dry years, water efficiency, and drought preparedness are more important than ever for communities, agriculture, and the environment."

To put this lack of rain in a local perspective, Oakland Airport has received 5.99 inches of rain since the beginning of October. By contrast, the average rainfall for this date at that site is 15.64 inches.

In Hayward, rain totals are doing a little better but it's not a drought buster, say weather experts. Water meters at the Hayward Airport measured 49 percent of the average rain to date. Rainfall at the Concord Airport is 29 percent of average.

see *RED*, page 4

see *DRY*, page 11

## County Moves into Red Tier, Lowering Covid Restrictions

Alameda County was moved to a less restrictive "Red Tier" this week, allowing for a limited number of customers to return to certain indoor businesses.

Alameda was one of nine counties in the state allowed to ease restrictions this week, moving from the Purple Tier to the Red Tier. Counties had to show a Covid test positivity rate

of between 5 and 8 percent over a two-week span to qualify for the less-restrictive tier.

Indoor activities that are allowed to open with limitations are:

- Restaurants: 25 percent maximum capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Retail: 50 percent maximum capacity and food courts permit-

ted with indoor dining restrictions

- Grocery stores: full capacity while following retail industry guidance

- Movie Theaters: 25 percent maximum capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer

- Museums, Zoos and Aquariums: 25 percent maximum capacity



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San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

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## PETS OF THE WEEK



Clyde

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are Clyde and Sir Gallahan.

Clyde is a 10-year-old male. He's a love bug who enjoys sleeping in sunbeams. He would like a home with someone who promises to give him daily chin scratches and cheek massages. He needs a dental appointment but appears healthy otherwise.



Sir Gallahan

Sir Gallahan is a male bunny who allows handling and enjoys hanging out in his bunny castle. He can be quite zippy when he feels like it, zooming around his room. He enjoys fresh greens as daily treats.

For more information on Clyde or Sir Gallahan, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

## Keep Updated on A.R.T., Inc.'s Latest Exhibits and Events

There's always something new going on at A.R.T., Inc., the organization founded in 1984 by a group of artists at the Adobe Art Gallery in Castro Valley.

The group promotes art by encouraging artists to exhibit their work, and you can see the continuing viral exhibitions, the

newly started solo shows, future demonstration announcements, a calendar of events and much more at [art.inc.org](http://art.inc.org)

The application is on the site to participate in a solo show.

Every activity is free with the exception of the juried show which costs \$10 for entering a second piece of art.

To receive newsletters, special emails and exhibit opportunities, become a member and support visual arts for just \$15 for 2021.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SAN LEANDRO

## Inner Wheel Club Delivers to BAWAR

The Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro was awarded another generous grant to provide 260 Rape Care Kits to Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR). Sweats, t-shirts, socks, toiletries, nutrition bars, and journals were placed in backpacks and distributed by members Sherrie Barnes, Kristi Barnes, JoAnn Cornelius, Linda Muhadevan, and JoAnne Frazier. Gift cards were also delivered to Children's Hospital Protective Services. Another proud day for Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro. Email [iwclubofsanleandro@gmail.com](mailto:iwclubofsanleandro@gmail.com) for more information on the club.

## U.S. Postal Service Hiring Locally

There are City Carrier Assistants (CCA) openings in Berkeley and across Alameda County. Those interested in starting a postal career should go online to [www.usps.com/careers](http://www.usps.com/careers) and search the latest job postings available in any city in the county.

Each vacancy posting has specific job details including wages and benefits. Applicants must be 18 years of age, or 16

years of age with a high school diploma or GED.

All applicants must be able to pass drug screening and a criminal background investigation. Some positions require an exam. Any position that has a driving requirement will also require a valid driver license and clean

DMV 2-year driving history.

Citizenship or permanent resident status of five years is required. Postal Service employment provides job security and benefits, with many challenging and rewarding promotional opportunities for future career employees.

## Public Notice

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## Hayward Arts Council Exhibit

Thirty-two members of the Hayward Arts Council are featuring a variety of media including acrylics, watercolors, oils, textiles, mixed assemblage,

poetry, photography, mixed media, digital print, paper cut art, and ink.

To view this exhibition, visit [haywardartscouncil.org](http://haywardartscouncil.org).

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# Abbi Crutchfield Headlines Online Comedy Show

Plethos Productions 3rd annual "That's What She Said" stand-up comedy show returns via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, with a whole new lineup of five fabulously female comics.

The show will feature headliner Abbi Crutchfield, host of Hulu's Early Tonight, as seen on TruTV and Comedy Central, and Bay Area comics, Lin Sun, Annette Mullaney, Natasha Collier and Emily Van Dyke.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 per streaming device at Plethos.org.

Every year, Castro Valley non-profit theatre Plethos Productions has celebrated Women's Month with a lineup of ladies. This show promises to get the biggest laughs of the year.

So, in the comfort and safety of your own home, have a drink and a snack, turn on your camera and mic and enjoy the fully interactive show via Zoom.

Stick around after the show



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBIE CRUTCHFIELD

Abbi Crutchfield will host "That's What She Said" next Saturday night, March 20.

for a digital happy hour to hang company of fellow humans for out, chit chat and enjoy the a while.

## Robbed: Crime's up, police say

continued from front page

Khan also said that Asian Americans in San Leandro suffered robberies at double the rate of other groups in the community, though they suffered from other violent crimes at rates similar to or lower than other groups.

The presentation, called "Victim Demographic Study" on the agenda, was at a work session meeting where the council discusses matters but doesn't vote on anything.

San Leandro police reported five hate crimes from 2018 to 2020, with no clear pattern, said San Leandro police Captain Jamie Knox. There have also been no hate crimes so far in 2021. Knox added that countywide, Asian-Americans suffer about 15 percent of all violent crimes.

Nationally, Knox said, hate crimes against Asian had risen by a single percentage point, from just above 3 percent of all hate crimes to just above 4 percent, from 2018 to 2019.

Public commenter Juan Gonzales, said, however, that a rise of one percent in the rate of all hate crimes worked out to about a 30 percent rise in the number of those crimes directed against Asians in just one year.

Councilmember Deborah Cox said that underreporting of crimes by Asian-American victims may be a problem, with one study she had seen showing that up to 90 percent of hate crimes against Asian Americans nationally are never reported to police. Of those that were, she said, the study showed some 90 percent were never prosecuted as hate crimes.

Police Department Crimes Analyst Denise Joseph presented figures showing which groups

suffer the most from different types of crimes in San Leandro. Crime victimization was up among all groups, with Asians most likely to fall victim to robberies and purse snatchings affecting mostly elderly women. Domestic violence is up among several groups, she said.

African-Americans are particularly likely to be homicide victims, Joseph said.

While crimes against individuals are up this year, crimes against businesses are down. This is likely because many businesses have been closed in recent months, Joseph said.

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## Schools: Staying home is popular

continued from front page

McLaughlin said that technology, including Zoom, is helping and the school district doesn't want to put people at risk by beginning in-class instruction too soon.

"We have all the technology in the world and can teach them using Zoom and other methods," McLaughlin said. "The problem is not the safety or technology – it's that a lot of people are scared. We care about our students, families, teachers, and staff. Just like other cities, we have had some deaths in our districts. But if we throw everything back to how it was before without being prepared, I don't want these deaths to be on our shoulders."

A survey of parents conducted by the school district found as many as 70 percent of families in San Leandro prefer to keep their kids at home and continue with distance learning. McLaughlin acknowledges that his district contrasts to some others in Alameda County.

McLaughlin says the state has not been helpful in providing guidance for schools in general. He notes the recent \$2 billion

state fund to open schools for students by April 1 sharply contrasts with the lock-down guidance the state gave only a month ago.

"We can't schedule our curriculum and our school reopening plans if the state keeps changing

**"The problem is not the safety or technology, it's that a lot of people are scared."**

— Superintendent  
Mike McLaughlin

its mind," McLaughlin said. "I have a former employee who now runs some schools in the North Bay that have had to open and close their campuses several times. We will not treat our kids or our staff like yo-yos."

Tom Morse, president of the San Leandro Teachers' As-

sociation, says his members are extremely concerned with the potential loss of learning opportunities that would come from replacing the existing distance learning model with a hybrid program.

"Student interface with teachers would be cut by more than half to accommodate the necessary smaller class sizes in a hybrid in-person model," Morse said. "The possibility of having to entirely reassign students to different teachers would cause even more significant disruptions, especially for our younger students."

Like Morse, McLaughlin said he too would prefer distance learning for the remainder of the year. But he says there are only a few more weeks of the school year and San Leandro will use its small groups as a better way to test the system, to slowly phase into in-person instruction and do it right.

The district has kept up on student test scores and does identify student needs, McLaughlin said. To help bolster student learning and mastery of subjects, see SCHOOLS, page 12

The Castro Valley Forum and San Leandro Times Present...

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

March 17 (CVF) & 18 (SLT), 2021

Here is your chance to tell your career success story in the Castro Valley Forum and the San Leandro Times. These special pages pay tribute to the women movers and shakers in our community. Whether you have started your own business, manage a local retail store, sold over a million dollars in real estate or have been a community leader, this section salutes top women employees and entrepreneurs through photo profiles.



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San Leandro Times

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# Community Calendar

## SL Library's Pixar Trivia Contest for Teens

The San Leandro Library will host a Pixar movie trivia contest for teens in grades 6 through 12 on Thursday, March 11, at 4 p.m. Email [kmandalay@sanleandro.org](mailto:kmandalay@sanleandro.org) to sign up.

## Virtual Tour of Flying Boat

You're invited to a live virtual tour of the Oakland Aviation Museum's Short Solent Mark111 Flying Boat Flight Deck on Saturday March 13, at 1 p.m. To join in the tour please go to the OAM website [www.oaklandaviationmuseum.org](http://www.oaklandaviationmuseum.org) and click on the link.

## Women's History Event: Library Hosts Discussion on Black Women Authors

The San Leandro Public Library invites you to celebrate Women's History Month on Saturday, March 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. for a discussion with Black Girls Write, a collective of local Black women authors.

Chat with local authors, Suzette D. Harrison, La Rhonda Crosby-Johnson, Sheryl Lister and Dera R. Williams about their experience as writers, their work and their love of books.

Registration is required for this free virtual event. Visit [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org) for more information.

Black Girls Write was formed in 2019 with a desire to highlight the unique and often overlooked creative voices of Black women writers. Taking to heart the African Proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," BGW is an opportunity to share the love of writing and inspire a diverse community of readers and writers.

## Spring Cleaning Workshop

The San Leandro Public Library will host a fun, one hour workshop: "Soulful Spring Cleaning, Marie Kondo Style," on Saturday, March 20, at 2 p.m. Learn what makes the KonMari Method special, ask questions, and find out how this method can make spring

cleaning more soulful and joyful, to bring not only more organization, but more joy to your home and life. Jenna Carlsson, MSW, is a Certified KonMari consultant, local professional organizer, and owner of The Joy Filter. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/SLPLKonMari> to register.

## Light a Candle for the Arc

The Arc of the East Bay, a nonprofit organization offering life skills education along with job training and placement services to some 350 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is hosting a candle fundraiser.

The Arc's clients include individuals with such disabilities as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and fetal alcohol syndrome. From now until March 31 help support the clients and families by purchasing amazing candles and diffusers by contacting Judy Vierra at [judyvierra@arcamedia.org](mailto:judyvierra@arcamedia.org). For more information, visit [abc.afsports.biz/order/F8T7XK](http://abc.afsports.biz/order/F8T7XK).

## San Leandro Church of Christ Virtual Easter Children's Performance 2021

The San Leandro Church of Christ is inviting children to participate in a virtual Easter performance this year. Child performers needed, 11 ages and abilities welcome. Kids will be filmed by someone in their household performing pre-selected actions to a musical selection.

The clips of all the different kids will be put together into a seamless video and shown during the zoom worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4, starting at 10:15 a.m. Email Woody and Judy Square at [woodysquare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodysquare@sbcglobal.net) by March 14 if you would like your child to participate. (You will be sent a video to practice the motions with your child.) Here is the link to the church's Christmas performance ([slcofc.org/kids-christmas-2020](http://slcofc.org/kids-christmas-2020)) if you would like an idea of what it will be like.

Items for the calendar can be emailed to [jimk@ebpublishing.com](mailto:jimk@ebpublishing.com) or call 510-614-1557.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Diners had lunch outdoors last week at the Sons of Liberty Alehouse in downtown San Leandro. This week, indoor dining at no more than 25 percent capacity is allowed in Alameda County.

## Red: Gyms can open at 10% capacity

continued from front page

• Gyms, fitness centers and studios (including at hotels): 10 percent maximum capacity and climbing walls are permitted.

## Alpine County in the Yellow Tier

The counties that were able to advance into the red tier on Tuesday were Alameda, Butte, Calaveras, Imperial, Santa Cruz and Solano.

Two counties, Mariposa and Plumas, moved from the red tier to the orange (moderate) tier. Alpine County also moved into the yellow (minimal) tier.

As of this week, 29 counties

are now in the Red Tier, but 34 counties are still in the Purple Tier.

"Alameda County's case rate is on the decline and vaccinations of vulnerable residents and our frontline workers are progressing but the COVID-19 pandemic is not over," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health

Officer. "As more activities and businesses open indoors and more people from different households mix, the risk of becoming infected increases. The majority of Alameda County residents have not been vaccinated, so we must continue to take precautions to keep each other safe."

## Covid Numbers

Vaccine Distributed:

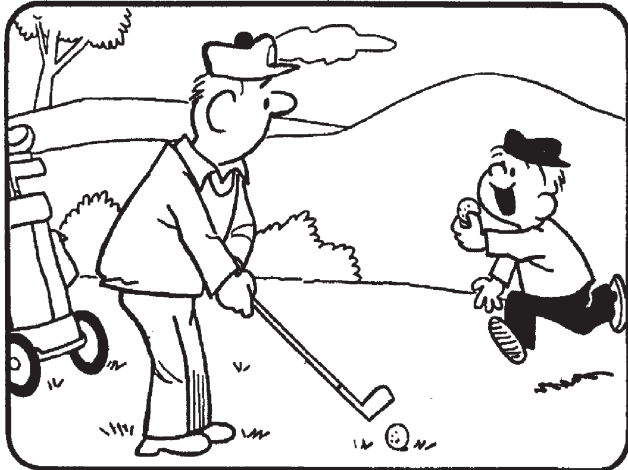
State - 10,512,860  
Alameda County - 461,950  
San Leandro - 19,073  
Castro Valley - 15,735

Confirmed Cases:

State - 3,504,652  
Alameda County - 81,433  
San Leandro - 5,025  
Castro Valley - 2,357

## HOCUS-FOCUS

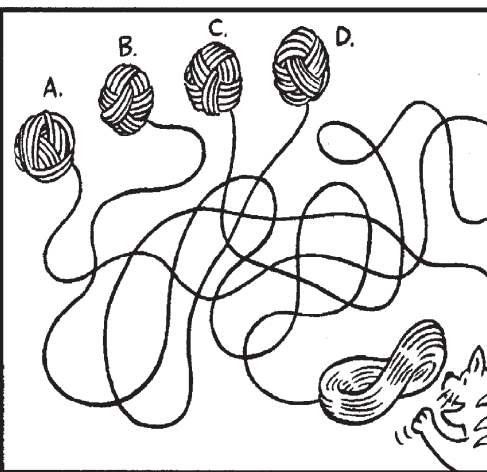
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Golf club is missing. 3. Tree is added. 4. Golf shoes are different. 5. Hedge is missing. 6. Zipper is added.



**A GOOD YARN!** Which ball of yarn was wound from the skein of wool in grandmother's knitting basket?

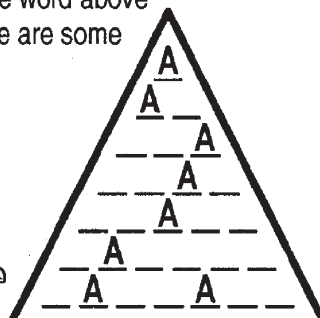
**THINK ROMAN!** Ten sticks are laid out to form an equation using Roman numerals. As you can see, the equation is incorrect. Can you correct it without moving any of the sticks? P.S.: It's tricky.

If you turn this page upside down, the equation will be correct.

$$XI + I = X$$

**THE "A" PYRAMID!** Pictured at right is a word pyramid. Each word, as you go down the pyramid, contains the same letters as the word above it plus a new letter. We give you all of the A's. Here are some hints from the top down.

- 1) Indefinite article (given).
- 2) In or near.
- 3) A drink.
- 4) Type of food.
- 5) Intended to.
- 6) In single file.
- 7) An order.



The words are a, at, tea, meat, meant, tandem, mandate.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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

## COLOR SEARCH

HERE'S a colorful find-the-word puzzle for you to work on. Hidden in the diagram at left are the names of 14 colors. They can be read up or down, side to side, or diagonally. Clues are below.

1. Type of sugar.
2. - bean.
3. Deep red.
4. Gardener's thumb color.
5. - snake.
6. Key fruit?
7. Bluish purple.
8. - Panther.
9. Imperial color.
10. -- eye express.
11. "The - Pimpernel"
12. Beach-goer's shade.
13. Type of flower.
14. -- jacket (wasp).

Answers: 1. Brown. 2. Coffee. 3. Crimson. 4. Green. 5. Indigo. 6. Lime. 7. Mauve. 8. Pink. 9. Purple. 10. Red. 11. Scarlet. 12. Tan. 13. Violet. 14. Yellow.

Illustrated by David Coulson



## LIFESTYLE

## The Proof of the Pudding



1/2 teaspoon salt  
4 cups milk  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar, cocoa, cornstarch and salt. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in butter and vanilla. Spoon into individual serving dishes. Chill until serving. Yields 6-8 servings.

## COCONUT FLAN

8 eggs  
1-3/4 cups sugar  
2 (12-ounce) cans evaporated milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 tablespoon coconut extract  
2/3 cup shredded coconut

Beat eggs until fluffy. Gradually add 3/4 cup sugar, evaporated milk, vanilla and coconut extract. Add shredded coconut and continue to beat until thoroughly mixed. Set aside.

Place remaining 1 cup sugar in skillet over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until sugar dissolves and turns amber. Pour into 9-inch square baking pan. Add egg mixture.

Place baking pan in larger pan of hot water. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes to an hour or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Makes 9 servings.

## BUTTERSCOTCH PUDDING

1 cup packed dark brown sugar  
1/4 cup cornstarch  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3 cups low-fat milk, divided  
1 large egg, lightly beaten  
1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
6 tablespoons whipped topping

Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt in saucepan. Gradually add 2 cups milk; stir with whisk until blended. Cook mixture to 180°F or until tiny bubbles form around edge (don't boil). Combine remaining 1 cup milk, egg and egg yolk in bowl and stir with a whisk. Gradually add 1 cup hot milk mixture to egg

mixture, stirring constantly with a whisk.

Add egg mixture to saucepan. Bring to a boil; cook 1 minute or until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in butter and vanilla. Place pan in a large ice-filled bowl for 20 minutes or until mixture cools to room temperature, stirring occasionally. Cover surface of pudding with plastic wrap. Chill.

Serve with whipped topping or whipped cream. Yields 6 servings.

## OLD-FASHIONED CARROT PUDDING

1/2 cup shortening  
1 cup sugar  
1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves  
1 cup grated carrots  
1 cup raisins  
1 cup chopped walnuts

For the lemon sauce:

3/4 cup sugar  
1-1/2 teaspoons cornstarch  
1 pinch salt  
1-1/4 cups hot water  
3-1/2 teaspoons butter  
3-1/2 teaspoons lemon juice  
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla

In a large bowl, cream together the shortening and 1 cup of sugar until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves; stir into the creamed mixture until well blended. The mixture will be dry. Stir in the carrots, raisins and chopped walnuts. Pour into a well-greased pudding mold. Cover the top with aluminum foil.

Place the pudding mold into a large pan or Dutch oven filled with 2 inches of water. Cover the pan and bring to a simmer. Allow the pudding to steam for 4 to 4-1/2 hours over low heat. Remove from mold. Serve with warm lemon sauce.

To make the lemon sauce, mix together 3/4 cup of sugar, corn-

starch and salt in a saucepan. Stir in hot water, butter, lemon juice and vanilla. Cook over medium heat until thickened. Serve warm over the pudding. Serves about 12.

## CREAMY RICE PUDDING

1/2 cup sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
5 cups milk  
1/2 cup long-grain rice, rinsed  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine sugar, salt and 4 cups milk in a large saucepan. Slowly bring to almost a boil. Add rice very slowly, stirring constantly. Cover and cook over lowest heat, stirring occasionally, until rice is tender and the milk has been absorbed. This can take up to an hour.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Transfer rice to a buttered 2-quart casserole dish and stir in remaining 1 cup milk and the vanilla. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes, until a light brown crust forms on top. Serves 6 to 8.

Eggs and milk, gently cooked until they set – what could be simpler? This basic formula for dessert harkens back to your great-grandmother's day. Cup custards, cremes, flans, pudding and souffles – although they each have their own characteristics – are all variations of a theme.

The simplest puddings are usually starch-thickened mixtures made with milk and sometime eggs. True custards, on the other hand, are set by eggs alone and are gently baked, usually in a protective water bath.

Egg custards cooked on the stove top are actually custard sauces or cremes. And those tricky, elegant souffles are really nothing more than a custard base that has been lightened with egg whites and baked.

Homemade puddings are simple to make from everyday ingredients. Once you try make them from scratch, you may never go back to the packaged stuff.

End your next meal on a sweet note with one of these classic and comforting desserts.

## BAKED CUSTARD

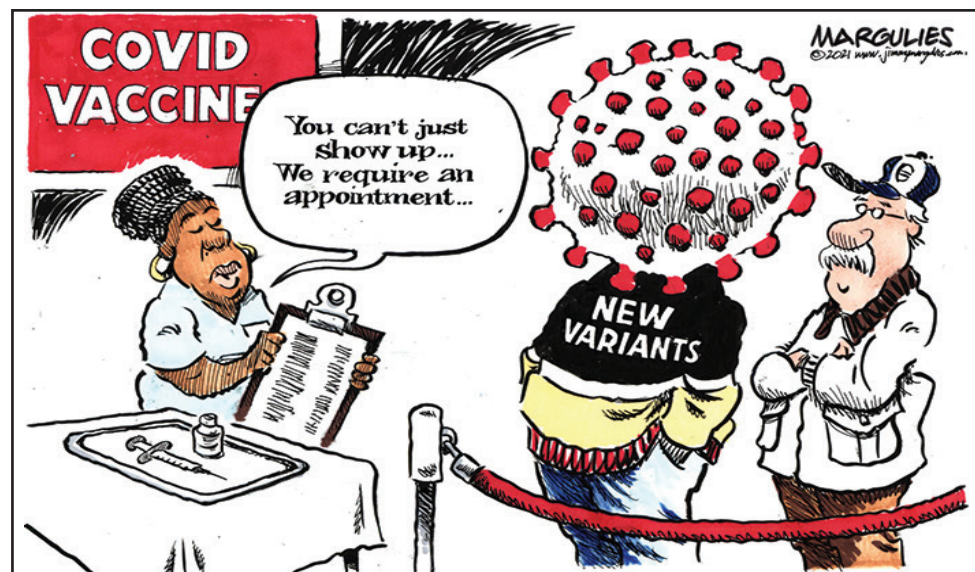
3 large eggs  
1/3 cup sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 cups milk, scalded and cooled  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Grated nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly beat eggs with sugar and salt. Stir in milk and vanilla. Pour into 1-1/2 quart casserole dish; sprinkle with nutmeg. Set casserole in a baking pan and add enough hot water to come 1 inch up sides of pan.

Bake for 30 to 35 minute, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean and the top is lightly browned. Serves 4.

## CHOCOLATE PUDDING

1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa  
1/4 cup cornstarch



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**DF-CD-NP-Q121**



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Buyer Beware Once You Are in Contract

A few years ago, in a market similar to today's, after significant effort, we managed to get a family into contract.

They had been blown out in many multiple offer situations, but we prevailed and finally had a contract accepted. We scheduled the inspections and when they pulled up to the home, I noticed they were driving a brand-new BMW.

"You borrowed that car, right?" I asked them. The husband replied, "Nope – that's ours – now that we are going to have a garage, we bought a car to go in it."

I looked at them with shock, and then replied: "I'm sorry to say this, but you no longer have a garage ... in fact, you no longer have a house."

Sad to say, with the purchase

of their new car, their debt ratio exceeded the limit, and they no longer qualified for the mortgage required to buy the home.

It was a bitter lesson and one that changed the messaging we provide to buyers *before* they even begin looking for homes.

Here are the top 5 things to *not* do once you are in contract on a home purchase:

*Do not* make any large purchases. This is hard, because buyers are excited about their new home and want to start shopping for furniture, appliances and so on. The rule of thumb is to wait until the transaction has closed, then make the purchases.

*Do not* apply for any new credit or cancel any current credit accounts. While it makes sense to not open new credit lines, it seems counterintuitive to not close existing accounts. Lenders actually use existing credit lines to gauge your credit, so leave them open unless your lender specifically requests you close one.

*Do not* change bank accounts. If you are looking to consolidate accounts, open new ones or switch banks, talk to your lender before doing anything.

*Do not* co-sign loans with anyone. Period.

*Do not* deposit cash into your bank accounts without first talking to your lender. If the money is from a family

member, it must be accompanied by a gift letter. If it is cash from any other source, your lender is going to need to verify its' source *before* it hits your account.

It's hard enough getting into contract these days – make sure you do not do anything to blow things up once you are there.

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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## Lichen Not Causing Tree Decline

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Times

*I'm concerned about a greenish fungus growing on the stems and trunk of my apple tree. How do I go about treating it?*

A The light green growth is not a single fungal organism but a combination of algae and a fungus called Lichen.

It is a common occurrence in the Bay Area growing on both healthy and declining trees. I've seen it growing on almonds, apricots, plums, and cherries.

Lichen can be a light green color, or it can have a blueish tint. It grows on the surface of the host plant and doesn't penetrate it. The host plant is nothing more than a resting

place.

With apples, it's relatively flat, while on other trees, it raised and flares out like cabbage leaves. Lichens will grow on pretty much on any firm, well-lit surface like the bark of trees.

It grows best when exposed to full sunlight, and dead or dying trees can be the perfect habitat. On healthy trees, you're more likely to find it on the southwest side of the side the receives the majority of the sunlight.

Lichen is never a cause for a tree's decline. Each Lichen has fungal cells that make up the main body and algae or cyanobacteria. This gives its green or blue color. The fungal part of a lichen cannot create its own food; thus, it relies on photosynthesis in the algae cells for

the energy it needs to grow.

In turn, the fungus provides the algae with water and minerals and prevents it from drying out. This mutually beneficial relationship is called symbiosis. They only use the bark on the tree as a place to live and grow.

Trying to scrape lichens off of the bark will likely do more harm than good, and applying a fungicide has absolutely no effect at all.

*Note:* I've been told that there is an upside to having lots of lichens on your trees. Lichens are extremely sensitive to air pollution and are only found growing in places with good air quality. Hence, you rarely see them growing along city streets.

*How do I get my oranges to be sweet? My tree is two years old, gets plenty of sunshine, and is healthy with green leaves and plenty of oranges, but they're sour. Besides citrus food, would epsom salt help?*

A Sour oranges are not a fertilizer problem so no, epsom salt is not a solution. The sourness indicates that oranges have not matured. It has more to do with growing location.

Getting oranges to sweeten up is a problem in areas where the summer is cool and mild. It's a problem the closer you get to the ocean. The simple solution is to be patient and let the fruit hang of the trees for an extended period.

I'm assuming this is a navel orange which typically ripens December through March. Every two to three weeks, pick one and taste test for sweetness. Your tree may take an extended period to fully mature. Also, it's not a problem to have a new crop of oranges maturing with last year's fruits still on the tree.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com) and questions can be sent by email to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com).



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## 4 Tips for Reducing Your Plastic Footprint at Home

Plastic contributes to climate change and is a major pollutant, harming wildlife and people. With Earth Day around the corner, here are a few

tips for reducing your plastic footprint at home that will also contribute to a healthier planet.

### Start a Garden

From cartons of berries

and tomatoes to individually-wrapped cucumbers, it can be difficult to avoid plastic in the produce aisle of your supermarket. By growing your favorite fruits, vegetables and herbs at home, you may avoid some of this waste and reduce your carbon footprint at the same time, as foods found in the store are often shipped from distant places.

### Keep Your Produce Green

When you do have to grab a staple that's not in your garden, bring some reusable produce bags with you. Check out this cute set from Food52's shop: food52.com. Then, stick to the loose fruits and veggies not already wrapped in plastic.

### Green Your Hydration

In the pursuit of having a constant source of great-tasting, healthy water at home, you may be stocking your fridge with bottled water. However, bottled water contains microplastics and is a significant part of the global plastic waste problem. To stay hydrated healthfully and sustainably, use a water filter

pitcher. One great option is the LifeStraw Home Glass Water Filter Pitcher, which protects against over 30 contaminants, including bacteria, parasites, microplastics, lead, mercury and chemicals, including PFAS and chlorine. To shop or learn more, visit LifeStraw.com, Target.com, or CrateandBarrel.com.

### Rethink Garbage Collection

Plastic garbage bags may seem necessary, but there are reusable alternatives available today that can help to drastically reduce your plastic waste. For example, Bagito makes durable, washable, water-resistant garbage can liners from 100 percent post-consumer recycled plastics. They are available in three sizes that are ideal for bathroom wastebaskets, kitchen-sized trash cans and outdoor yard debris bins.

By doing your part to find sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic, you can reduce your contribution to a global environmental crisis right at home.

—StatePoint

## Mortgage Rates Hit Three Percent

Interest rates on benchmark long-term home loans breached the 3% mark last week for the first time since last summer, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.02 percent for the week ending March 4, 2up from the previous week when it averaged 2.97 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.29 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.34 percent, unchanged from last week.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.73 percent, down

from 2.99 percent.

"Since reaching a low point in January, mortgage rates have risen by more than 30 basis points, and the impact on purchase demand has been noticeable," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "While purchase activity remains high, it has cooled off over the last few weeks and is currently on par with early March, prior to the pandemic. However, the rise in mortgage rates over the next couple of months is likely to be more muted in comparison to the last few weeks, and we expect a strong spring sales season."

## Deep Clean and Organize Your Kitchen

Over the last year, our kitchens have become a place where we prep for an important presentation, help with schoolwork, cook meals together and laugh with friends at a virtual party.

All this time in the kitchen can also mean it becomes the catch-all room for everything and everyone, making now the perfect time to create a functional space where items are easily accessible and organized with your routine in mind. From your refrigerator to that messy junk drawer, follow these DIY kitchen organization tips to revamp and refresh this part of your home.

Design an easy-to-use (and clean) layout. Cooking at home more? You'll want to clean and organize your fridge to make snack time and meal prep easier. Start by removing every item from shelves and drawers and toss any items that have expired. Once it's completely empty, give your fridge a deep clean, especially in those sticky back corners.

Before you return the items, place a water-resistant liner like Clear Classic EasyLiner on the shelves to add an extra layer of protection. Its smooth surface makes cleaning up a breeze when there are leaks and spills. Think about your most-used items, like snacks and veggies, and place them toward the front so they are easy to see and grab. Storing these foods using clear, labeled containers will help you track inventory and keep food neatly in order.

### Upgrade your backsplash.

Tired of white walls in the background of your virtual work call? One easy and affordable way to instantly elevate the look of your kitchen is to decorate with

removable wallpaper or DIY peel-and-stick vinyl.

From polka dot to vinyl wood, choose a pattern that speaks to you. Then, stick the adhesive vinyl to a kitchen surface—the side of a kitchen island, the wall behind the sink or cabinet panels. Once you're ready to switch things up, they peel off easily, so you'll be ready to go for a different look! Another tried and true option to brighten walls is paint. Use a quality painter's tape to tape off a design you love, then paint over it. Peel back the tape to reveal a DIY design you'll adore.

**Create a clutter-less junk drawer.** Everyone has that one, or even two, drawers in their kitchen that house random items that accumulate over time. Master unwanted mess and add functionality and style to your junk drawer with a little organization.

First, pull everything out of the drawer and toss anything that's broken or you simply no longer need. Next, line the area with Original Grip EasyLiner to keep your mail, important notes and utensils in the right place while protecting the surface from scratches. Once you've purged,

add small compartments and drawer organizers to give the misfits of the kitchen a proper home.

If you have limited space, use a wall-mount storage rack or over-the-cabinet organizer to free up drawer space and keep items within easy reach.

For additional tips or to find the right organizational solutions, try the EasyLiner Guide or visit DuckBrand.com.

Once you've completed these simple tips and tricks in the kitchen, you'll feel refreshed and organized to take on the day.

—StatePoint

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## WEEKEND GARDENER

### March Jobs

With clear weather for a change, take time to get caught up on the chores you skipped during the rainy days. Pull weeds while the soil is still very moist. And don't forget those snails and slugs. The early March rains brought them out in force. Hand pick them in the evening, or use copper barriers or crushed eggshells around newly transplanted flowers and vegetables.

### Strawberries

Remove strawberry blooms through May to concentrate the plant's energy into big, sweet berries.

### Roses

Check roses and trees for suckers, those little shoots that grow from the rootstock. Cut them off with shears or a spade, since they sap the plant's energy.

### Wildflowers

Wildflowers still can be sown and are excellent for erosion control on hillsides in the East Bay.



The plant called **ox-eye daisy** thrives in a wide range of conditions, but prefers a sunny or part-sun location in soil that is slightly damp.

It is commonly found growing along roadways or spread across fields. It is also widely cultivated commercially,

popular for home gardens and in flower arranging. It can be invasive and difficult to eradicate.

There are some types that begin blooming in early spring, such as the "May Queen" cultivar. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: wikipedia.org, www.missouribotanicalgarden.org, www.sandysplants.com

## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

3009 Grove Way	94546: \$540,000 2 BD - 1,042 SF - 1992
20111 West Ridge Ct	94546: \$600,000 2 BD - 1,467 SF - 1977
22250 Moyers Street	94546: \$810,000 3 BD - 1,392 SF - 1949
18623 Sandy Road	94546: \$865,000 2 BD - 1,048 SF - 1949
20052 Center Street	94546: \$875,000 4 BD - 1,589 SF - 1948
3161 Brent Court	94546: \$928,000 3 BD - 1,490 SF - 1967
5029 Tyler Lane	94546: \$1,040,000 3 BD - 2,413 SF - 1965
4830 Lodi Way	94546: \$1,047,000 3 BD - 1,682 SF - 1954
4032 Stevens Street	94546: \$1,090,000 2 BD - 1,821 SF - 1953
18411 Clifton Way	94546: \$1,090,000 4 BD - 2,063 SF - 1959
4854 Crow Canyon Rd	94552: \$1,200,000 2,246 SF - 1978
20018 Jensen Ranch Rd	94552: \$1,300,000 4 BD - 2,453 SF - 2000
5647 Shadow Ridge Dr	94552: \$1,300,000 4 BD - 2,711 SF - 1972
20930 Elbridge Court	94552: \$1,325,000 4 BD - 2,814 SF - 1994
3629 Corte Rubiolo	94546: \$1,328,000 4 BD - 2,620 SF - 1990
5714 Thousand Oaks Dr	94552: \$1,620,000 5 BD - 4,017 SF - 1984
<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$540,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$1,620,000</b>
<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$1,068,500</b>
<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$1,059,875</b>

### San Leandro

133 Dorchester Avenue	94577: \$325,000 2 BD - 1,027 SF - 1942
1400 Carpentier Street	94577: \$475,000 2 BD - 950 SF - 1983
1540 165th Avenue	94578: \$546,000 3 BD - 1,268 SF - 1925
1468 Jean Way	94577: \$600,000 2 BD - 840 SF - 1942
1223 Ottawa Avenue	94579: \$600,000 3 BD - 1,081 SF - 1951
1232 Margery Avenue	94578: \$630,000 2 BD - 1,058 SF - 1947
1495 Brookside Drive	94577: \$635,000 3 BD - 944 SF - 1942
1567 Washington Ave	94577: \$665,000 2 BD - 1,264 SF - 1924
1529 Thrush Avenue	94578: \$670,000 1 BD - 638 SF - 1946
553 Warden Avenue	94577: \$680,000 2 BD - 956 SF - 1946
2524 West Avenue 130th	94577: \$690,000 3 BD - 1,104 SF - 1948
15222 Laverne Drive	94579: \$710,000 3 BD - 1,107 SF - 1958
14571 Juniper Street	94579: \$755,000 3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1953
1446 Leonard Drive	94577: \$770,000 3 BD - 1,487 SF - 1953
1575 166th Avenue	94578: \$785,000 3 BD - 1,400 SF - 16338 Ridgehaven Drive 94578: \$800,000
13895 Sausalito Road	94577: \$810,000 4 BD - 1,466 SF - 1961
251 Begier Avenue	94577: \$825,000 3 BD - 1,341 SF - 1941
255 Best Avenue	94577: \$830,000 2 BD - 1,154 SF - 1924
2137 Whelan Avenue	94577: \$845,000 3 BD - 1,274 SF - 1944
14602 Wiley Street	94579: \$981,000 4 BD - 1,988 SF - 1998
15923 Cambrian Drive	94578: \$1,030,000 3 BD - 1,540 SF - 1961
1485 Vistagrand Drive	94577: \$1,145,000 3 BD - 2,359 SF - 1959
<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$1,145,000</b>
<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$710,000</b>
<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$730,521</b>

**Wear Your Mask!**



## 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: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

## Reply to Letter About 211 Service

Editor:

This is in response to Joe Springer's recent letter ("Why No San Leandro Vaccination Zip Codes?" Letters, Feb. 24) about his experience calling 211 in an attempt to schedule a Covid-19 vaccine appointment.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share how our staff is supporting the evolving distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine in Alameda County. 211 is indeed a county-wide service, assisting residents of all 14 cities including San Leandro. We are proud to support county residents by providing information on eligibility and how to sign up to receive the vaccine.

Sometimes 211 is requested to provide specific assistance in particular cities or regions. Currently 211 is assisting the County Public Health Department by scheduling vaccine appointments for one community pod in East Oakland at Fremont High School.

We were asked to provide this support to residents who meet current eligibility, may not have digital access (wifi, smartphone, email) and live in the neighborhood surrounding the Fruitvale Oakland location.

211, which is run by the nonprofit Eden I&R, can provide general information on vaccines for the rest of the county but we are not currently scheduling appointments at any other site. Scheduling assistance for the Fremont High School location is temporary until the county is able to move to the appointment platform it will be using longer term.

I very much appreciate Mr. Springer's commitment to getting vaccinated, and I share these resources for appointments:

- For the Oakland Coliseum site, visit [myturn.ca.gov/](http://myturn.ca.gov/) or call (833) 422-4255
- To learn about other vaccine sites in the county, visit [covid-19.acgov.org/](http://covid-19.acgov.org/) vaccines to find contact information for providers. Those ages 65+ can also make an appointment at the Alameda County Fairgrounds through a link on this page.

—Alison DeJung, Executive Dir.  
Eden I&R/211, Alameda County

## Asks if Salaries Are Justified

Editor:

San Leandro Unified School District: Superintendent Salary. In 2019, SLUSD Superintendent Michael T. McLaughlin made \$423,130.41 in salary and benefits. Is this justified? Does a superintendent of the SLUSD deserve that much money? Any thoughts or opinions?

San Leandro Unified School District Salaries. Take a look at the website Transparent California ([Transparent-California.com](http://Transparent-California.com)) which lists the salaries for the district staff of the San Leandro Unified School District. Many at the top are making \$200,000 to \$400,000 per year. Are these salaries justified? Do the results in San Leandro justify these kinds of salaries?

I don't think such high salaries are justified for a school district that isn't one of the best in California.

According to a website called Public School Review, San Leandro Unified School District, which is ranked No. 756

of all 1,013 school districts in California (based on combined math and reading proficiency testing data) for the 2017-2018 school year.

—Edwin Freeman, Jr., San Leandro

## A Grocery Workers' View On Hazard Pay

Editor:

In response to Corey Anderson's letter ("City Council Off Base with Hazard Pay, Letters, March 4), 120 days grocery works \$5.00 extra per hour because of exposure to Covid?", I would like to commend Vice Mayor Victor Aguilar, and the other Council Members who supported this Hazard Pay Ordinance.

What Corey Anderson fails to recognize is there is more to this issue than just another lawsuit. He fails to recognize the human aspect of this ordinance.

For the people working in the grocery sector, this mandate goes a long way. I speak from experience as I was exposed to Covid while working in the grocery store. I am certain that I was exposed to Covid at work as my world was either work or at home with my kids.

With the \$5 per hour temporary increase, it helps me mitigate some of the effects from the time I was exposed. Coming from a multigenerational household, I faced the challenge of keeping my mother who is 77 from also being exposed and my kids who are still in zoom classes. I ended up paying for my mother to be housed in a local hotel for 10 days until I was clear of the virus.

This \$5.00 per hour increase will help me pay for some of the unforeseen expenses from my exposure. I've had grocery co-workers also exposed and contracted Covid; this \$5.00 per hour increase is a much needed help during their recovery. So once again I'd like to commend Vice Mayor Victor Aguilar and the other City Council members who supported this Hazard Pay Ordinance for having the foresight to help with some of the life threatening challenges grocery workers are facing.

—Jeff Wong, San Leandro

## Weighing the Advantages of Electric Vehicles

Editor:

Are EVs the solution to climate change? Maybe, maybe not. There are some advantages to EVs, but why should taxpayers subsidize them, and why shouldn't EVs have to compete against other clean power sources?

EVs only get rid of the last 1% of hydrocarbon tailpipe emissions (catalytic converters are 99% efficient) and provide just a modest reduction in net CO2 emissions. Example: The 62 KWhr Nissan SL+ Leaf weighs 3,930 pounds. A Nissan Versa, a comparable size car, weighs 2,729 pounds, so you have to generate more electricity to move those extra 1,201 pounds all the time which means more CO2 emissions from additional generating plants.

If you go all solar to charge EVs, as some people suggest, our fleet of 280 million light duty vehicles would need 2.8 billion solar panels (300 watts each) or a strip 1 mile wide by 2,000 miles

long, plus all the wiring, transformers, storage batteries and chargers to provide enough electricity, a physical impossibility.

What's a better idea? Do away with all subsidies and tax credits (especially the regulatory tax credits), ban the sale of new gasoline powered vehicles, leave existing vehicles alone, and let electricity, bio-ethanol, and renewable hydrogen compete for new vehicle purchases. Consumers and car companies would rapidly figure out the best mix without any subsidies. We would see a dramatic decrease in CO2 emissions and a commensurate lowering of global warming.

—Don Siefkes, San Leandro

## Fair Voting is Essential

Editor:

Can a minority party, intent on supporting partisan corruption by repeating the Big Lie as gospel, win future elections?

Yes, if they limit the Democratic Majority's votes with 253 "election reform" laws, being proposed in 29 states. The proposals would limit voting by mail, reduce voting days, and enable legislatures to select Electoral College electors irrespective of the popular vote count.

To thwart this preparation to steal the next election, the For The People act protects our fair voting system. It will pass in the House, but to pass in the Senate, the Dems must end the filibuster, to enable a simple majority vote to prevail.

Two Dem Senators oppose ending the filibuster. Their opposition flitters away the limited, valuable time that Dems have to control Congress and correct the evils that give the trump republican minority their power. Please contact Senators Joe Manchin (WV) and Kristen Sinema (AZ).

—Bruce Joffe, Piedmont

## Disagrees with Newsom's Policies

Editor:

The list of reasons for recalling Goofy Newsom is much longer than the ones exposed in the article in "Residents Work on Newsom Recall," Page 1, March 4).

Early on, Newsom ordered to disembark a shipload of Covid infected passengers in the Port of Oakland, which started the early infections in California. Gavin Newsom's released a record number of criminals from jail, in order to beef up the troops of vandals that looted and terrorized California's cities.

Newsom helped whip up the hysteria, in order to implement the big election fraud nationwide, while he was wining and dining with his buddies in fancy restaurants, while the Highway Patrol officers were his children nannies.

Whipping up the hysteria also allows Newsom and his cronies in cities' governments, like San Leandro, to sign sweet deals behind a computer screen without any oversight. Newsom diverted federal money, earmarked for "Small Business" to the coffers of his associates' corporations.

Under Newsom, Calif. is No. 1 in Covid-19 deaths, in homeless people, in non-citizens usurping U.S. workers' jobs under the "Sanctuary State" for criminals slogan, also No. 1 in the number of houses and acres of forest burnt every year. Goofy Newsom has no solutions whatsoever.

The signatures are in, barring another fraud of Bolivarian proportion, the people of California will have the chance to elect a governor who will respond to the needs of the working taxpayers.

—Leo T. West, San Leandro

## Is this a Library or a Motel 6?

Editor:

I'm sorry but I just can't buy the explanation. I wrote a letter (published Dec. 31) and questioned why the lights were blaring full blast at the San Leandro library when it's been closed for almost a year. Our City is operating in the red and keeping the lights on at night is just another way that our City is wasting money.

On March 4, the San Leandro Times published a picture on page 3 showing that the lights were still blasting away. Since the lights are still on I assume that no one cares about the cost and it simply comes down to "its not my

job to turn off the lights" or better yet "its above my pay grade to find the light switch".

But library director Bill Sherwood said the lights needed to remain on because the janitors were working at night. Why does the library need night workers since the place is closed and locked down tighter than Willie Nelson's head band?

I don't know about you but I'd sure like to have that gig. It's time for Mr. Sherwood to stop listening to the Motel 6 commercial when Tom Bodett says "we'll leave the lights on for you" and take a clue out of Dolly Parton's play book called "Working 9 to 5."

—Brent Heath, San Leandro

## INQUIRING REPORTER

## What do you like to read?

— Asked downtown

I actually like to read about cryptocurrency to see what's going on with Bitcoin, CVC Wallet, and REN. I bought some of it and want to keep up on how it's doing.

**Ehsan Abbassi**  
Walnut Creek



I like to read the Drudge Report because it gathers interesting stories from all over the world, and it has good headlines that make you want to read the story.

**June Foster**  
San Leandro



I like DIY books. They have books on plants, cooking, arts and crafts, life hacks, and starting your own business. DIY is like a new version of the "For Dummies" books.

**Tia Mack**  
Oakland



You won't believe this but I like to read statistics. I read the stats on the coronavirus data. And then I like to read about crime and sports.

**Peter Monroe**  
San Leandro



I like to read James Patterson. His books are mysterious and fun to read.

**Stephanie Rodgers**  
San Leandro







PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Chalk It Up

A sidewalk artist made a nice drawing for everybody who walks by to see.

# Landreth Named New East Bay Parks GM

Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District appointed Sabrina Landreth as the district's new general manager last week.

Landreth, the first woman to serve in that role, has deep roots in the East Bay as a 5th generation native who has held the top executive positions in the cities of Oakland and Emeryville.

"She has all the right elements of urban public sector leadership experience and especially understands the diversity of the East Bay communities we serve," said Dee Rosario, president of Park District board of directors.

Landreth is a U.C. Berkeley graduate with a master's degree in public policy. She also holds a bachelor of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I look forward to continuing to build upon the great work the district does to improve the quality of life for our East Bay community, while adhering to its social and environmental respon-

sibilities," Landreth stated.

Landreth served as city administrator in Oakland from 2015 to 2020, where she is credited with strong fiscal management and with developing a capital improvement program with community equity goals which have become a model for local governments around the country.

Landreth succeeds Robert Doyle, who retired as general manager after a 47-year career with the Park District. She will begin her job as the 10th general manager of the 87-year-old district next Monday.

The East Bay Regional Park District is the largest regional park system in the nation, comprising 73 parks, 55 miles of shoreline, and over 1,300 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and environmental education. It hosts more than 25 million visits annually throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.



Sabrina Landreth is the new East Bay Parks director.

## Free Tax Preparation Available for All Low-Income Residents

Low- to moderate-income residents of the Bay Area can now get free, secure and high-quality tax help through United Way

Bay Area.

IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers will assist anyone who needs help, including undocu-

mented filers, and will ensure residents receive the best possible refunds.

For example, taxpayers who made less than \$30,000 in 2020 may be eligible for up to \$6,000 in state and federal tax credits, depending on income and family size. United Way has partnered with Code for America to offer safe, online filing and some in-person assistance is available.

The California Earned Income Tax Credit and Young Child Tax Credit will be available to all eligible, working Californians in 2021 for the first time, that includes undocumented taxpayers

filing with an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number). But people must complete their taxes correctly to get the refunds.

Many Bay Area families struggling with furloughs and job losses related to the pandemic can get a much-needed infusion by filing their taxes. Services start with a quick online interview, then residents upload their tax documents and the United Way team does the rest. People who are unable to use online services can get help in person at select locations.

For details, visit: [www.uwba.org/tax-help](http://www.uwba.org/tax-help).

## Dry: Department of Water Resources say possible drought, despite recent rain

continued from front page

The lack of rain in the East Bay also translates into a lighter than normal snowfall in the Sierra Nevada.

Last week, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) took its third measurement of the season. Noting this is the fifth month in a row, water experts are pointing toward possible drought conditions.

"While we have had 'a miracle March during past drought years, the current deficit is just too great to make up. We still could have a wet and cool spring, however, it's not likely that it will relieve the current drought,'" said former Bay Area TV meteorologist Mike Pechner, who operates a private forecasting service.

Current data from the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) shows that the total water supply is at 72 percent.

Weather experts initially forecast the current La Nina, drought-like conditions would make way for a more favorable El Nino later this year. But that prediction has dried up as well.

### Weather Could Bring an Earlier Wildfire Season

"It's interesting to note that current medium-range forecasts show the possibility of some of the coldest weather this winter is possible this week," said EBMUD representative Andrea Pook. "The prospects of an early fire season loom large statewide because of the drought."

With below-average precipitation across the state, California's reservoirs are showing the impacts of a second consecutive dry year. Lake Oroville is currently at 55 percent of average for this date, and Lake Shasta, California's largest surface res-

ervoir, is currently at 68 percent of average for this date.

Precipitation in the form of rain – and snowfall at higher elevations – is critical because it refills reservoirs, packs away snow for spring runoff, and helps

stem the risk of wildfires, said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. As dry conditions continue to persist, Californians should look at ways to reduce water use at home. Each individual act of increasing water efficiency can make a difference.

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
JANUARY 20, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 575890

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):  
M & M One Stop Shop located at 14393 Washington Avenue Suite F, San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Maged Al Khateeb, 606 Cozumel Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307 and (2) Muad Al Maliki, 480 1st Street, Richmond, CA 94801. This business is conducted by a general partnership. This business commenced 10-01-2020.

/s/ Maged Al Khateeb, Muad Al Maliki  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires JANUARY 20, 2026

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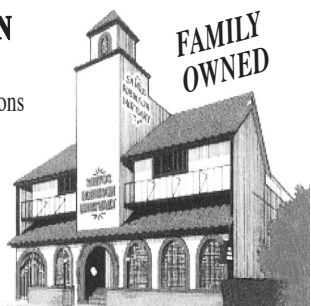
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# East Bay Park Tree Deaths Possibly Caused by Drought

By Ned MacKay  
Special to the Times

Along with some other public agencies in the state, the East Bay Regional Park District is experiencing a troubling onset of tree mortality and dieback, first noticed in October of 2020.

Trees most affected are eucalyptus, acacia, bay and pine.

Regional parks most impacted are Reinhardt Redwood in Oakland, Tilden Regional Park near Berkeley, and especially Anthony Chabot in Castro Valley, because of its extensive eucalyptus plantation. In total, some

1,500 acres are affected in the regional parks alone.

The dieback has also been observed in Marin County, and San Diego.

The cause is not fully understood, but is believed to be due to recent droughts related to climate change.

Because of the serious implications for fire protection, the East Bay Regional Park District Fire and Stewardship Departments are partnering with the United States Forest Service, UC Berkeley and Cal Fire resource management in Sacramento to

study the causes. Fire Chief Aileen Theile is the park district's lead on the project.

The district has created a Tree Mortality Taskforce including staff from the fire, stewardship and operations departments. The taskforce is developing a plan to treat some of the affected areas in the regional parks. The group will coordinate with other jurisdictions in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties where the dieback has also been detected.

Writer Ned MacKay is a retired East Bay Regional Park District employee.



Eucalyptus, acacia, bay and pine trees have been especially hard hit by dieback in Anthony Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley, home of a dense plantation of eucalyptus.

## County Fair Food Available Now

Those who may be craving a tasty treat from the Alameda County Fair don't have to wait until fair to get it.

The fair has rolled out a brand-new Grab-n-Stay Fair Food Feast, happening today, March 11, to 14 and again March 18 to 21, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Vendors will be offering some of the classic fair favorites, including corn dogs, churros, funnel cakes and more. Guests can stay and enjoy their food on the grounds or pre-order ahead for a designated curbside pick-up time.

You can park in the Ace Train lot located off of Pleasanton Avenue and pedestrian entry is

located at the Yellow Gate.

The Fair Food Feast will celebrate the most popular fair concoctions, while also helping to support the many food vendors who have been impacted by Covid-related closures.

For more information, visit [alamedacountyfair.com/grab-n-stay/](http://alamedacountyfair.com/grab-n-stay/)

## Double Masks Add Protection

Double-masking or wearing tightly-fitted masks can reduce exposure to coronavirus by about 95%, according to a new study by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Fitting a cloth mask over a medical or N95 mask (double masking), or knotting the ear

loops of a medical procedure mask and then tucking in and flattening the extra material close to the face, substantially reduces the wearer's exposure from infected persons.

The most important thing is making sure both masks have a proper fit. Try to use a mask

with a nose wire, as they do a much better job of forming a seal around your nose and mouth.

To test, try blowing out a big breath while you feel around the edges of the mask. If any warm air is escaping, adjust the mask until there's a sealed fit all around the sides.

## Schools: 'Education has changed forever'

continued from page 3

the district will be offering a robust summer school program. Once teachers come back, they are expected to present a plan on how they want to address any gaps in learning.

"Education has changed forever," McLaughlin said. "We are looking at adding distance learning forever. If we don't do

this, then parents might look at charter schools including virtual ones. You can't say that distance learning doesn't work. If San Leandro can offer it, then we will do that."

Depending on the health conditions, high school seniors may again be holding end-of-the-year ceremonies in a virtual space, but McLaughlin

is hopeful that the continued COVID-19 vaccine distribution will allow for an in-person graduation ceremony.

On March 8, the district said it will offer free COVID-19 testing for employees at two sites in San Leandro. While the district is not distributing vaccinations, teachers and staff are being advised to sign up for the state's MyTurn.ca.gov program as they are currently eligible for treatment.

COVID-19 vaccinations are being given in mega sites like the Oakland Coliseum and smaller venues such as the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Centers.

As for school sports, high school baseball, softball, and football seasons have started. Track, cross country, tennis, golf, and swim athletes are currently training in-person. Soccer and water polo seasons will start later in the year. There are no updates yet on indoor sports.

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Consider moving beyond the usual methods to find a more creative means of handling a difficult on-the-job situation. Avoid confrontation and, instead, aim for cooperation.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Seasonal change creates a new look for the outdoors. It also inspires Taurus to redo their own environments, and this is a good week to start redoing both your home and workplace. Enjoy.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** A misunderstanding needs to be straightened out so the wrong impression isn't allowed to stand. If necessary, offer to support the use of a third party to act as an impartial arbitrator.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** A career change offering what you want in money and responsibilities could involve moving to a new location. Discuss this with family members before making a decision.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Feeling miffed over how you believe you were treated is understandable. But before you decide to "set things straight," make sure the whole thing wasn't just a misinterpretation of the facts.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Showing you care makes it easier to build trust and gain an advantage in handling a delicate situation. What you learn from this experience also will help you understand yourself better.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Planning for the future is fine, especially if you include the roles that family members may be asked to play. Don't be surprised if some hidden emotions are revealed in the process.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Making choices highlights much of the week, and you have a head start here, thanks to your ability to grasp the facts of a situation and interpret them in a clear-cut manner.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Carrying a torch can be a two-way situation: It can either keep you tied to the past or help light your way to the future. The choice, as always, has to be yours.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Your watchwords this week are: "Focus." "Focus." "Focus." Don't let yourself be distracted from what you set out to do. There'll be time later to look over other possibilities.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** A workplace opportunity might require changes you're not keen on making. Discuss the pluses and minuses with someone familiar with the situation before you make a decision.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Love and romance are strong in your aspect this week. If you've already met the right person, expect your relationship to grow. And if you're still looking, odds are you'll soon be finding it.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

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