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**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**WARM** Mainly sunny with a light breeze  
HIGHS: 69-74  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 50-55

**FRIDAY**  
Sunny  
High: 74  
Low: 50

**SATURDAY**  
Sunny  
High: 74  
Low: 50

**SUNDAY**  
Sunny  
High: 74  
Low: 50

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 31 • NO. 23

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

## Amazon Driver Arrested After Assault in CV

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

An Amazon delivery employee was arrested last Thursday after security video footage showed her beating an elderly woman from Castro Valley.

Arrest records suggest there were at least 10 blows to the woman's body. The driver told deputies she hit the woman and head.

see AMAZON, page 12

Sheriff's deputies charged Amazon worker, 21-year-old Iztel Ramirez, with battery causing serious bodily injury as well as elder abuse on a senior citizen, a 67-year-old woman at an apartment complex on Center Street near Grove Way.

According to the report, the older woman received a message about 6 p.m., that her anticipated package had arrived at the lobby. When the package was not to be found, she asked Ramirez about it to be told that it would arrive soon.

After about 15 minutes, the older woman again asked about the package. That's when the building manager reported the two women began to get into an argument.

Surveillance video shows the two women confronting each other and yelling, with the older woman saying a final word to the Amazon employee before turning around and starting to walk back into the lobby. That's when the cameras caught Ramirez beat the older woman around the back

## EBMUD to Increase Water Rates

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) board of directors adopted a two-year budget that will increase rates by 4 percent in 2021 and an additional 4 percent in 2022.

The two-year \$2.25 billion budget will pay for critical improvements to the water and wastewater systems essential to supporting the community and protecting public health, according to EBMUD.

The board voted 7-0 to approve the new water and wastewater rates.

An average household using 200 gallons daily will see a \$2.53 increase per month starting July 2021, and an additional increase of \$2.66 per month the following year.

see WATER, page 11



## Art and Nature

Arroyo High student Samantha Lee won the grand prize for this drawing in the 2021 San Leandro Endangered Species Youth Art Contest. The contest recognizes the 16th Annual Endangered Species Day, on May 21, and was open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The contest is

sponsored by Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Other award winners were (Grades 9-12) Beatriz Ramirez, San Leandro High; (Grade 6-8) Megan Lin, John Muir Middle School; (Grade 3-5) Jacob Peterson, Garfield Elementary School; and (Grade K-2) Juliana Mai, Wilson Elementary School.

## Hummingbird Garden Opens at Children's Home

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

George Mark Children's House in San Leandro held a ribbon cutting last Thursday for the new Hummingbird Hill garden with about 100 medical staff, patient families, first responders and civic leaders

attending.

George Mark is a pediatric palliative care facility, bridging the gap between home and hospital. It serves children from throughout Northern California who have life-limiting or incurable illnesses.

The garden will give chil-

dren another place to interact with nature at the center in the hills above San Leandro. The land is leased from Alameda County for a nominal amount.

The new Hummingbird Hill restorative garden features wheelchair accessibility, a hilltop overlook, an outdoor

kitchen, interactive musical sculpture, a water feature, and a fire pit. And 22 bronze hummingbird sculptures that will arrive soon.

"We already have real hummingbirds all over the place here," said one volunteer.

see GARDEN, page 4

## INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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District Attorney won't seek re-election. **Page 4**

### NEWS

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## San Leandro Times

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San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

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## H.S. Seniors Awarded \$134,000 in Scholarships

The San Leandro Scholarship Foundation recently awarded 198 scholarships worth \$134,150 to seniors looking to further their education.

Most scholarships were in the \$500 to \$1,200 range, and a few students received multiple scholarships. Seniors at San Leandro High received 178 of the scholarships, and 20 scholarships were awarded to

puter, and the scholarship will allow him to buy a computer and books for his classes.

Other students are working during the pandemic to support their families, so scholarships will help them cover the costs of tuition when their families cannot provide the support.

Most recipients were active in high school athletics, clubs and extra-curricular activities and many are planning on majoring in health care. Many of the recipients had 4.0 or higher GPAs and worked part-time jobs. Many of the students volunteer extensively at the public library, the Boys and Girls Club, in churches, and throughout the community.

This year's recipients plan to further their learning at many institutions including Stanford University, Cornell University, USC, all of the University of California campuses, 15 of the CSU campuses, Oregon Institute of Technology, Arizona State, University of the Pacific, and local community colleges and trade schools.

other 12th graders who live in San Leandro.

This year proved challenging due to the Covid-19 pandemic and remote learning, but the San Leandro Scholarship Foundation was able to increase the total amount awarded over that given out in 2020. Local donors have been overwhelmingly generous during the past year.

Because of the challenges students and families faced this year, every scholarship is really making a difference. This year, the foundation chose five volunteers to notify award recipients by telephone that they were receiving scholarships.

One student was thrilled to receive a scholarship because he had been working hard in a part-time job to save up enough money to buy a com-

**“Every scholarship is really making a difference.”**



PHOTO BY MICHELLE SHERIDAN

San Leandro Girls Softball League players took the field on Saturday, returning from a year off due to the pandemic, to play against the Newark Girls Softball League.

## SL Girls Softball League Back on the Diamond

San Leandro Girl's Softball hosted their home opener Saturday, June 5, at San Leandro High School.

The 6-and-under team kicked off the home stand against the Newark Girls Softball League's 6-and-under team. It was all smiles for both the players and families alike enjoying the game and the beautiful weather.

Other games included the 8-and-under team, 10-and-under team and the 14-and-under team, all facing opponents from Newark.

"It felt good to be back on the field with the girls" says league President and 8-U coach Michelle Sheridan.

San Leandro Girls Softball is playing a condensed season

due to a late start after receiving guidance on youth sports this spring.

"Health screenings, face coverings, social distancing, hygiene and a sanitization program are all part of the game right now to keep our players and families safe" said Coaching Director and 14-U coach Leo Sheridan. "We want

to thank all the families and the volunteers for making this season happen for the girls."

The season ends on June 26. Summer workouts for Nitro, the league's competitive travel team, begin in July.

For more information, contact Leo Sheridan at leosheridan@gmail.com or visit www.SanLeandroGirlsSoftball.com.

## Live Comedy Returns to Twining Vine Winery On Saturday Night

A lineup of five hilarious comedians, live and interactive will be entertaining in-person at Twining Vine Winery, 16851 Cull Canyon Road in Castro Valley, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 12.

Start your summer off right with a night out, wine glass in-hand and with headliner, Jacqui Pirl. The Hawaiian Bay Area transplant who started her stand up career at 50 and has performed all over the country. Also, Plethos Productions' very own home grown talent, host Priya Guyadeen brings us up and coming Bay Area performers including Pam



PLETHOS PHOTOS

Benjamin, Jeff Morris, and Joseph Nguyen.

Seating will be Covid safe with all individual seats set 6 feet apart (but you're welcome to group up if you have social bubble folks with you).

Get your tickets at Plethos.org while supplies last. Recommended for ages 18+ due to hilariously mature content.

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# Community Calendar

## History Readers Book Club

Join the San Leandro History Museum for a fun and casual monthly book club focused on historical fiction. The next meeting is Thursday, June 10, from 6 to 7 p.m., via zoom. The History Readers Book Club will meet monthly on every second Thursday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. and is open to all adults interested in discussing books.

Readers of all genres and interests are welcome to join and discuss their current reads or just to chat and get some recommendations from other readers. This book club has no commitments or requirements. You can come just once or attend regularly. Register at [sanleandro.org](http://sanleandro.org) or call 510-577-3971.

## ESL Conversation Clubs

The San Leandro Library's ESL Conversation Clubs help adults practice their English speaking and conversation skills in a fun and supportive environment. Participants will build confidence in their communication skills and meet other English language learners. Everyone is welcome to attend, all learners of all skill levels.

The ESL Conversation Clubs meet on Zoom. This virtual event is free. Go to [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org) to register. Meeting Times for the Adult ESL Conversation Clubs Hosted by Project Literacy: Thursday, June 10, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, June 19, from 10 to 11 a.m. Email [PROJECTLITERACY@SANLEANDRO.ORG](mailto:PROJECTLITERACY@SANLEANDRO.ORG) for more information, or call 510-577-3971.

## Hearing Loss Association Walk & Celebration

The Hearing Loss Association of America East Bay Chapter will host a Bay Area Walk4Hearing Virtual Walk & Celebration on Saturday, June 12, at 9 a.m. Register via Zoom at <https://www.hearinglosseb.org>. The star-studded lineup includes stand-up comedian D.J. Demers, singer songwriter Mandy Harvey, and a theatrical performance by No Limits for Deaf Children. Bay Area teams are forming now. Join or donate at <https://www.hearingloss.org/event/bay-area/>

## Presentation on 100K Trees for Humanity

Hear a presentation by Amos White about the 100K Trees for Humanity for Humanity Urban Greenbelt Initiative on Tuesday, June 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For a link to the presentation, email [Slevenson@sanleandro.org](mailto:Slevenson@sanleandro.org). 100K Trees for Humanity is a Black-led urban reforestation tree planting initiative that works to increase urban tree canopies to sequester more carbon, provide cooling shade and increase

natural habitat for wildlife, one tree at a time. An Urban Greenbelt strategy across Alameda County will plant 100,000 trees and plants in West Oakland, Alameda, San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Fremont by 2030 to help accelerate those city's Climate Action Plan goals.

## Project Literacy Online Tutor Training – June 2021

San Leandro Public Library's adult and family literacy program, Project Literacy, is currently seeking volunteer literacy tutors for its online tutoring program. Find out how you can help others in your community learn to read by attending Project Literacy's Online Tutor Orientation on Zoom on Tuesday, June 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. Two required trainings will take place on Zoom on Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to noon; and Saturday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information or to register, call 510-577-3944 or email [projectliteracy@sanleandro.org](mailto:projectliteracy@sanleandro.org).

## Virtual Watercolor Class

The San Leandro Library will present a virtual watercolor class on Thursday, June 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. Watercolor can be a challenge to learn because of its fluid nature, transparency and the surprising things that can happen when water and color mix. After a brief introduction to watercolor materials, the class will practice techniques for using the brush, creating washes and mixing colors. To register and receive a supply list, email [kmullesch@sanleandro.org](mailto:kmullesch@sanleandro.org). Call 510-577-3971 for information.

## Father's Day at Aviation Museum

Oakland Aviation Museum, 8252, Earhardt Road in Oakland, will host a Father's Day Open Cockpit Day on June 20, from noon to 4 p.m. View many famous aircraft, including the A-3 Skywarrior, A-4 Skyhawk, A-6 Intruder, MiG-15, Harrier Jump Jet, Cessna O-2, and the P-51 Mustang. Flight simulators, music by Friends of Ken Band, barbecue, model railway exhibit, remote-control aircraft display, and ham radio demonstration. Social distancing and masks required. Admission prices are: adults \$15, seniors \$12, teens/military \$10, kids 5 to 12 \$8, no charge for kids under 4.

## San Lorenzo Adult School Online

For the first time in over a decade, San Lorenzo Adult School will be open for summer school from June 21 to July 23. Students may enroll in the High School Diploma class for credit completion, and ESL classes which will be offered at all levels. All classes will be held online. Register now through June 11 at [bit.ly/sumr\\_reg](http://bit.ly/sumr_reg).

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

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS



## Pets of the Week



Anpan



Kittens

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are Anpan the bunny and plenty of kittens.

Anpan is a laid back male bunny who enjoys lounging on his bed and snacking on parsley. Hayward Animal Shelter currently has 12 rabbits with an array of personalities and

colors, all looking for loving forever homes.

It's kitten season and the Hayward Animal Shelter has many litters of cute, playful kittens looking for good homes. For more information on Anpan or the kittens, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200 or visit [www.haywardanimals.org/adoptions](http://www.haywardanimals.org/adoptions).



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# Garden: Garden in the open air adds a safe, peaceful environment

continued from front page

George Mark CEO Linda Ashcraft Hudak told the gathering that the new garden had been three years in construction, with at least \$400,000 worth of materials and services donated by area businesses.

"We envision it providing sensory therapy, a retreat space and a place for other services," Hudak said.

The garden is on a part of the grounds that had gone undeveloped for the 16 years the center has been open. Now the children's home is looking to utilize more of that hillside area for patient healing, offering such things as horticultural therapy.

Children at the center have often complex chronic medical conditions, according to George Mark's founder Dr. Kathy Hull, who named the center after her two brothers

who both died young.

The children's families are also able to get a respite from the constant care their child often requires, Hull said.

"We have lots of therapy dogs and even a therapy camel that visits," Hull said.

Hudak added that families never see a bill. Philanthropy covers most costs, grant writer Alice Burton later explained, with some money coming from public and private reimbursements.

San Leandro Mayor Pauline Cutter said that in a city known for kindness, there is nothing more kind than helping a child.

"It's an honor to have them in our community," the mayor said.

"George Mark Children's House has been a refuge for my family for five years. It is here where my son's condition and our challenges are fully

understood," said Martina Sola, whose son Aedan is a patient.

"This garden expands the opportunity for these children to be outside in a safe and peaceful environment. The restorative nature of this space can be recognized with the immediate smiles across the faces of humans like my son whose bodies have suffered so much," Sola added.

Horticultural therapist Mary Purpura said after the event that her new program works with plants, plant materials and the natural world to help patients meet goals.

"These are people who have a lot of choices made for them otherwise," Purpura said. "In nature, they can often choose what to respond to and pay attention to."

Besides the natural area, see GARDEN, page 12



George Marks Children's House founder Dr. Kathy Hull is flanked by, at left, San Leandro Mayor Pauline Cutter and City Manager Fran Robustelli.

## DA Nancy O'Malley Announces She Won't Seek Re-election

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley announced last week that she will not to seek reelection to a fourth term, but will complete her current term which ends in 2023.

"I will work as I hard as I have in the past as I continue to lead this office," said O'Malley, who became the first woman elected to the position of district attorney in Alameda County.

O'Malley had joined the District Attorney's Office in September 1984 and, in 2009, was appointed to replace retiring District Attorney Tom Orloff. She was first elected the following year.

"We have consistently strived to ensure that the crim-

inal justice system in California and Alameda County is more responsive, more aware and more humane for those who are accused, for victims of crime and for those who witnessed crime," O'Malley said in a press statement.

Under her leadership, the office expanded the victim/witness division to 40 victim advocates and opened the Family Justice Center, which provides services primarily to women and children who are victims of domestic violence, sex assault, human trafficking, elder care abuse and child abuse.

The office has become a national model for combating human trafficking. In 2009, O'Malley introduced

the "Human Exploitation and Trafficking Watch," a blueprint for communities to build their own anti-trafficking initiatives.

In 2011, O'Malley created the District Attorney Justice Academy for juniors and seniors in high school, now a countywide program that helps youth advocate for a better society. More than a thousand students have participated in the program and all have gone off to college.

Since the beginning of her career as district attorney, she has fought for the appropriate treatment of inmates. Individuals sentenced to state prison for the most serious crimes committed in Alameda County make up less than 3 percent



Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley is the first woman elected as DA in Alameda County and led an office that became a national model for combating human trafficking, and advocating for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

of the total prison population.

"We have created more alternative courts to incarceration than any other county in the state and perhaps the country, per capita," O'Malley stated.

She also led an initiative on both nationally and statewide to test forensic sexual assault kits. After discovering the crisis of untested sexual assault kits in police evidence, O'Malley took the issue to the White House. President Obama signed into law the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.

Congressman Eric Swalwell, who was a law clerk in the district attorney's office for five months in 2005, and then worked there as a deputy DA for six years, said O'Malley inspired criminal justice reforms across America.

"I am saddened to hear she will no longer serve as district attorney, but we are so fortunate for the commitment she's made throughout her career to help victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault.

"For me, Nancy has played many roles: hiring attorney, boss, mentor, friend, and most recently, wedding officiant. As Nancy's service to the office comes to an end next year, her work to serve justice will go on. I'm excited for what's next," Swalwell said.

O'Malley has written, sponsored and advocated for more than 61 bills that have become law in the State of California.

## LEGAL NOTICES

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
APRIL 27, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 578474

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):  
Ruth's Hair Salon located at 345  
Estudillo Ave Unit 210, San Leandro, CA  
94577, in Alameda County, is hereby  
registered by the following owner(s):  
Ruth Ortega, 15325 Central Ave, San  
Leandro, CA 94578. This business is  
conducted by an individual. This business  
commenced N/A.

/s/ Ruth Ortega

This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated  
by file stamp above.

Expires APRIL 27, 2026

MAY 20, 27, JUNE 03, 10, 2021  
354-SLT

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
APRIL 21, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 578304

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):  
Kincaid & Klean located at 683 Morva  
Ct., Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda  
County, is hereby registered by the following  
owner(s): David S. Kincaid Sr,  
683 Morva Ct., Hayward, CA 94541. This  
business is conducted by an individual.  
This business commenced N/A.

/s/ David S. Kincaid Sr

This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated  
by file stamp above.

Expires APRIL 21, 2026

MAY 20, 27, JUNE 03, 10, 2021  
357-SLT

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
MAY 7, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 578837

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):  
AFQ Fabrique & Jewelleries located at  
15370 Tropic Ct., Apt #4, San Leandro,  
CA 94579, in Alameda County, is hereby  
registered by the following owner(s):  
Martha Awambu, 15370 Tropic Ct., Apt  
#4, San Leandro, CA 94579. This business  
is conducted by an individual. This  
business commenced N/A.

/s/ Martha Awambu

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Expires MAY 7, 2026

JUNE 03, 10, 17, 24, 2021  
358-SLT

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# LIFESTYLE

## Homemade Twist on Pretzels

Pretzels date back to the Middle Ages, supposedly first baked by an Italian monk as a reward for children learning their prayers.

Their popularity spread though Central Europe. Even today, a gilt pretzel hanging over a door in Germany designates the establishment as a baker's shop.

Soft pretzels have the oldest history, although the crisp variety was being produced in a Pennsylvania bakery in the 1860s.

The following recipe is for the crispy type, but if a lighter texture is desired, allow the formed pretzels to rise about 20 minute before baking.

Pretzels are prepared from a simple yeast dough, kneaded until it is smooth and elastic. Place the dough in a greased bowl, turning to grease the top and let rise in a warm, draft-free area until doubled.

Punch the dough down and divide into 16 equal portions. Roll each between the palms of your hands into a rope about 16 inches long.

To form the pretzels, cross the ends of the rope, forming a circle. Twist the ends once again, then pull up and over to meet the top edge of the circle.

Place the shaped pretzels on a foil-lined baking sheet, brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with coarse salt before baking.

The homemade variety are best served still warm from the oven, accompanied by mustard and beer.

### HOMEMADE CRISPY PRETZELS

1-1/2 cups warm water (105° to 115°F)  
1 package dry yeast  
1/2 teaspoon sugar  
4-1/2 cups flour

2 eggs, beaten  
Coarse salt

Pour water into large mixing bowl. Sprinkle yeast and sugar over the surface and stir until dissolved.

Mix in flour. Form into ball. Turn onto lightly floured board and knead until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes.

Place dough in greased bowl, turning to grease top. Cover and let rise in warm place free from drafts until doubled, about 1 hour.

Punch dough down. Divide into 16 equal portions, and form pretzels. Place about 2 inches apart on greased, foil-lined baking sheets. Brush with beaten eggs and sprinkle with coarse salt.

Bake at 475°F for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from baking sheets and cool on wire racks. Makes 16 pretzels.



### SOFT PRETZELS

2 cups warm water  
2 envelopes dry yeast  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 teaspoons salt  
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened  
1 egg  
6-1/2 to 7-1/2 cups flour  
1 egg yolk  
2 tablespoons water  
Coarse Salt

Measure warm water into large warm bowl. Sprinkle in yeast and stir until dissolved. Add sugar, salt, butter, egg and 3 cups of flour. Beat until smooth. Add enough additional flour to make a stiff dough.

Cover bowl tightly with foil. Refrigerate 2 to 24 hours. Turn dough out onto lightly floured board. Divide in half. Cut each half into 16 equal pieces. Roll each piece into pencil shape,

about 20 inches long. Shape into pretzels. Place on lightly greased baking sheets.

Blend egg yolk with 2 tablespoons water. Brush pretzels with egg yolk mixture. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 25 minutes. Bake at 400°F for about 15 minutes. Remove from baking sheets and cool on wire racks. Makes 32 pretzels.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Real Estate is Reopening...Sort of

With the housing market on fire, buyers are scrambling to determine what they must do to land a home.

Consequently, at this juncture, many offers are arriving either fully non-contingent or with most contingencies removed.

To "prime the pump" for offers, sellers are doing what they can to facilitate non-contingent offers, including providing disclosure packages, inspection reports and more.

A normal offer contains three contingencies: loan, appraisal and inspections. A contingency is simply a condition that must be met and then removed in writing for the contract to proceed to a close.

In a normal market, you could expect to see offers with all contingencies in place. A buyer would have somewhere between 10-17 days to ensure their loan was approved, the home appraised at the contract price and there were no significant property issues.

Put another way, a contingency is a bit like Monopoly's "Get Out of Jail Free" card - if something negative happens to the loan, appraisal or an inspection reveals a significant issue, the buyer can back out

of the transaction and get their deposit returned.

Therein lies the problem: with buyers currently expected to submit offers with most or all contingencies removed, there is no margin for error. Buyers who allow the excitement of the market to override common sense can end up in a heap of hurt that can have significant financial ramifications for years to come.

With lenders today following federal guidelines to ensure buyers meet the stringent loan requirements, we often see buyers able to remove the loan contingency with little or no effect. The bigger issues come with removing the other contingencies.

If a property does not appraise at the contract price, a seller (in the current market) will not likely be willing to lower the price to the appraised value. Therefore, a buyer must have enough cash on reserve to meet the deficit. I have seen buyers recently who have not had enough cash to make up the difference. This can have serious financial ramifications.

I have also seen buyers willing to remove their inspection contingency even though the seller did not provide

upfront inspection reports. In my opinion, this is extremely risky. With all contingencies removed, if issues appear, the buyer is on the hook.

It is a case of "buyer beware:" if you are going to remove contingencies, make sure you are prepared to deal with the potential consequences.

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.

## Mortgage Rates Inch Up But Stay Below 3%

Long-term mortgage rates rose a little last week, but remained below 3 percent, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.99 percent for the week ending June 3, up from the previous week when it averaged 2.95 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.18 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.27 percent, unchanged from a week earlier. Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.64 percent, up from 2.59 percent.

"Home prices continue to accelerate while inventory remains low and new home construction cannot happen fast enough," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "There are many potential homebuyers who would like to take advantage of low mortgage rates, but competition is strong. For homeowners however, continued low rates make refinancing an option worth considering."

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For more information, contact **Michelle R. Miller**, Associate Broker, Compass at 510-701-3442. DRE# 01012751



COMPASS

## THE DIRT GARDENER

## What's Causing Photinia Hedge to Die?

By Buzz Bertolero  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

**Q:** I have an established photinia hedge that is losing leaves, plus there are large sections that are dead. It began last year and is continuing this year.

I have pruned out the dead area, but when new green leaves appear, they wilt, turn red, and fall off.

**A:** I've found that fire blight and root rot are the primary that causes of dieback in photinias.

Root rot is a year-round problem caused by wet winters and excess summer water, along with poor drainage.

You'll find those struggling plants have little new growth and the existing leaves are a dull or off-green color or yellow. Eventually, these sections die, but it occurs slowly over time. Being planted too deep will also cause this problem.

The solution is to change the watering frequency or raise the new plants. I would be



**The most common causes of photinia dieback are root rot and fire blight.**

watering a mature plant every seven to 10 days, depending on the temperature.

Fire blight is a seasonal disease that is an airborne bacteria and enters through the flower. Here the foliage collapses and turns brown, usually at the top or from the outside inward. It's usually a problem with wet springs.

The solution is to prune out

the damage but sterilize your shears with Lysol or alcohol after every cut to prevent spreading the disease.

With your plants, I believe root rot is your problem.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. Hwebsite 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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## East Bay Realtor Riley Honored

The California Association of Realtors has named Pleasanton Realtor Michael Riley a Director for Life, one of the most prestigious awards the C.A.R. bestows on a member.

It recognizes Riley's more than 47 years of outstanding performance and dedicated service to the industry. He became a member of the C.A.R. Board of Directors in 1996.

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## RECENT HOME SALES

*Includes Bedrooms, Square Feet and Year Built when available*

### SAN LEANDRO

**Total: 30 – Average Price: \$908,366**  
**High: \$1,410,000 – Low: \$250,000**

3546 Figueroa Drive  
\$250,000 3 BD - 1,545 SF - 1955

16006 East 14th Street #118  
\$308,000 1 BD - 659 SF - 1987

16006 East 14th Street #218  
\$310,000 1 BD - 659 SF - 1987

2077 Washington Avenue #304  
\$330,000 1 BD - 726 SF - 1984

700 Fargo Avenue #12  
\$470,000 2 BD - 828 SF - 1965

535 East Merle Court  
\$600,000 3 BD - 1,230 SF - 1925

56 Chumalia Street #U-4  
\$625,000 [3 BD - 1,362 SF - 1983

2441 West Avenue 136th  
\$685,000 2 BD - 852 SF - 1942

1456 Oriole Avenue  
\$700,000 2 BD - 1,277 SF - 1930

249 Leo Avenue  
\$700,000 3 BD - 1,409 SF - 1930

622 Douglas Drive  
\$700,000 2 BD - 885 SF - 1942

3950 Monterey Boulevard  
\$725,000 3 BD - 1,466 SF - 1954

1648 137th Avenue  
\$737,000 2 BD - 945 SF - 1948

1144 Avon Avenue  
\$756,000 3 BD - 988 SF - 1950

1322 Mersey Avenue  
\$765,000 3 BD - 1,124 SF - 1953

15213 Galt Street  
\$810,000 3 BD - 1,114 SF - 1950

16334 Ridgehaven Drive #705  
\$815,000

1665 Renaissance Lane  
\$820,000 3 BD - 1,294 SF - 2004

123 Farrelly Drive  
\$842,000 2 BD - 1,310 SF - 1947

1278 Alder Creek Circle  
\$850,000 3 BD - 1,567 SF - 2002

467 Cape Cod Drive  
\$910,000 3 BD - 1,614 SF - 1979

13984 Velarde Drive  
\$920,000 3 BD - 1,392 SF - 1956

99 Euclid Avenue  
\$950,000 2 BD - 1,210 SF - 1938

930 Dolores Avenue  
\$968,000 3 BD - 1,644 SF - 1946

2465 West Avenue 135th  
\$990,000 3 BD - 1,144 SF - 1941

1247 Benedict Court  
\$1,000,000 3 BD - 1,491 SF - 1955

2318 Overlook Court  
\$1,055,000 4 BD - 2,551 SF - 2001

1345 Parker Street  
\$1,100,000 3 BD - 2,007 SF - 1940

2715 Darius Way  
\$1,410,000 3 BD - 2,104 SF - 1959

14101 East 14th Street #307  
\$515,000 2 BD - 1,000 SF - 1986

### CASTRO VALLEY

**Total: 6 – Average Price: \$969,666**  
**High: \$1,395,000 – Low: \$825,000**

5933 East Castro Valley Blvd  
\$825,000 1,228 SF

2796 Betlen Court  
\$835,000 3 BD - 1,098 SF - 1953

19220 Parsons Ave  
\$888,000 2 BD - 1,076 SF - 1940

6889 Lariat Lane  
\$915,000 2 BD - 1,571 SF - 1986

19959 Redwood Road  
\$960,000 3 BD - 1,462 SF - 1952

5893 Highwood Road  
\$1,395,000 4 BD - 1,901 SF - 1963

### SAN LORENZO

**Total: 6 – Average Price: \$719,666**  
**High: \$863,000 – Low: \$530,000**

17629 Wickman Place  
\$530,000 3 BD - 1,170 SF - 1971

17236 Via Estrella  
\$620,000 3 BD - 1,325 SF - 1948

668 Empire Street  
\$650,000 3 BD - 1,059 SF - 1951

17264 Via San Ardo  
\$795,000 3 BD - 1,493 SF - 1950

17428 Via La Jolla  
\$860,000 3 BD - 1,531 SF - 1952

1208 Via Los Trancos  
\$863,000 4 BD - 1,903 SF - 1950

### HAYWARD

**Total: 20 – Average Price: \$908,366**  
**High: \$1,970,500 – Low: \$379,000**

725 Essex Court #194  
\$379,000 1 BD - 643 SF - 1988

28416 Cole Place  
\$485,000 3 BD - 1,050 SF - 1952

25109 Vista Greens Court  
\$640,000 1,421 SF - 1973

25091 Oakridge Court  
\$660,000 3 BD - 1,365 SF - 1973

23134 Jorgensen Lane  
\$695,000 2 BD - 1,041 SF - 1951

772 Kellogg Avenue  
\$700,000 2 BD - 780 SF - 1948

25522 Donald Avenue  
\$705,000 2 BD - 924 SF - 1960

3238 Monika Lane  
\$710,000 3 BD - 1,720 SF - 1980

807 Estancia Terrace  
\$745,000 3 BD - 1,525 SF - 2008

397 Perkins Drive  
\$755,000 3 BD - 1,651 SF - 1951

1128 Martin Luther King Drive  
\$768,000 [3 BD - 1,809 SF - 2014

2356 Morrow Street  
\$774,000 3 BD - 1,809 SF - 2013

149 Cherry Way  
\$780,000 4 BD - 1,687 SF - 1949

25930 Peterman Avenue  
\$815,000 3 BD - 1,354 SF - 1957

264 Edwin Way  
\$820,000 4 BD - 1,499 SF - 1981

22570 Sonoma Street  
\$900,000 4 BD - 1,960 SF - 1927

27827 East 16th Street  
\$934,000 4 BD - 2,448 SF - 1964

24224 Nora Circle  
\$982,000 3 BD - 1,632 SF - 2018

1429 Poppy Lane  
\$1,150,000 3 BD - 2,350 SF - 2017

169 Sonas Drive  
\$1,970,500 5 BD - 3,300 SF -

—Compiled by CalREsource

## Wildfire Protection Starts in These 5 Places

If you live in a wildfire-prone area of the East Bay, make sure you're taking the right steps to stave off potential damage long before flames rage toward your doorstep.

And one of the best ways to do that is to take a look at the home itself.

"It's a combination of the house materials, the house design and then everything around it within 100 feet that makes the difference between a safer home and one that has a greater risk of damage from wildfire," says Michele Steinberg, manager of the Wildfire Operations Division for the National Fire

Protection Association.

"All of our recommendations are really for well before the fire ever starts."

Steinberg recommends paying special attention to these five spots around your house:

- The roof. Ensure yours is rated Class A, which means the covering and underlayment provide the most effective resistance to fire. It's a big-ticket item for homeowners, but the most critical design item when it comes time to replace an aging roof.

- The gutters. Keep them free of debris such as leaves and pine needles, which can be



ignited by swirling embers. "A wildfire doesn't even need to be close to your house to cause a problem," Steinberg says. "A blizzard of embers can pile up on roofs, porches and in gutters."

- The foundation. It's best that decks, porches and fences be made of non-flammable materials. Keeping their surface areas clear also is critical. Screening porches and decks with fine, metal mesh can help prevent embers from sweeping in to ignite leaves and other debris.

- The windows and vents. Double-paned or tempered glass better withstands ap-

proaching heat. "I've seen cas- es where the outside window breaks but the inside pane stays intact, so you have that extra level of protection," Steinberg said. And, if possible, build in under-eave and side-roof vents to make it more difficult for the wind to blow in embers.

- The landscaping. Keep organic flammable materials such as trees, shrubbery and even mulch from contact with your house. They can lead fire right to the siding. Store firewood at least 30 feet from the house because of the intense heat and large flames it creates when ignited.

—BrandPoint

## How to Recover a Vinyl Floor

**By Samantha Mazzotta**  
*Special to The Times*

Vinyl flooring can be the most economical material you put into your home. It's durable, resilient and relatively easy for new do-it-yourselfers to install.

If you're tired of vinyl, other flooring materials are perfectly fine. Ceramic tile, synthetic laminate (made to look like hardwood) and natural stone are popular choices for the kitchen. However, they typically cost more than vinyl sheets or tiles.

To replace your old floor, cut long strips into the vinyl and then pull the strips up. Use a wallboard knife and a solution of water and liquid dish detergent to loosen the backing. Scrape remaining flooring up using a floor scraper and the detergent solution, clear away all the debris, and vacuum with a wet-dry shop vacuum (put a bit of water in the vacuum to keep the dust down).

Inspect the exposed underlayment – a sheet of plywood or cement board laid over the subfloor. This is the most important factor in a good-looking, durable vinyl floor. It provides a smooth surface for resilient flooring to adhere to. However, it can be damaged by water leaks and day-to-day use. Replace damaged underlay-

ment, and fill small holes and seams with latex patching compound. Check for squeaks or sags, and inspect the subfloor, joists and foundation to make sure they aren't deteriorating. If you see damage of any kind, consult a contractor. Repairs to the subfloor and supports may cost more than you had budgeted, but the long-term benefits are more than worth it.

Once the underlayment is deemed healthy, place the new vinyl flooring. Make the job easier by creating a cutting template – laying sheets of paper along the edges of the walls and marking areas that need special cuts, such as around pipes. Tape the papers together to create a full-size outline of the room.

Roll the vinyl out in an open area. Position the paper template over the vinyl, and trace the template perimeter (and markings) using a water-soluble pen. Make the necessary preliminary cuts.

Once this prep is finished, roll up the vinyl sheet, carry it into the kitchen, and install according to the manufacturer's instructions. It'll be much easier than you think!

*Note:* If your vinyl floor could be 30 years old or more, play it safe by contacting an asbestos abatement contractor.

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### Flowers

Root wood cuttings of azalea, chrysanthemum, carnation, fuchsia and hydrangea. Choose growth that is somewhat wood, not still bright green and pliable. Cut a 5- or 6-inch piece, strip all but the tiny young leaves at the top of the cutting and place it in light, sandy soil or potting mix up to the bottom leaf. Sprinkle foliage and thoroughly wet the soil mixture. Provide filtered light in a sheltered location and keep the soil mix moist until the roots are established, usually about a month. Then they can be transplanted to the garden.

### Vegetables

Feed tomatoes with a fertilizer rich in phosphorus (the middle number, such as 5-10-5 or 5-10-10). Stake or cage the plants. Tomatoes allowed to sprawl will generally produce more fruit, but some of it is likely to rot on the soil.

Some gardeners plant herbs, marigolds and allium in the vegetable garden to help repel insects.

### Spraying

When spraying plants for insects and diseases, be sure to spray the underside of the leaves where pests usually concentrate. Bugs on bushes and shrubs can often be effectively removed with a strong spray of water from the garden hose.

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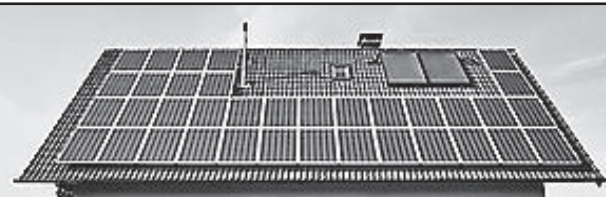
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**WANTED:** April 30, 2020 & Feb 4, 2021 San Leandro Times newspapers. Call Patrick 510-517-3351.

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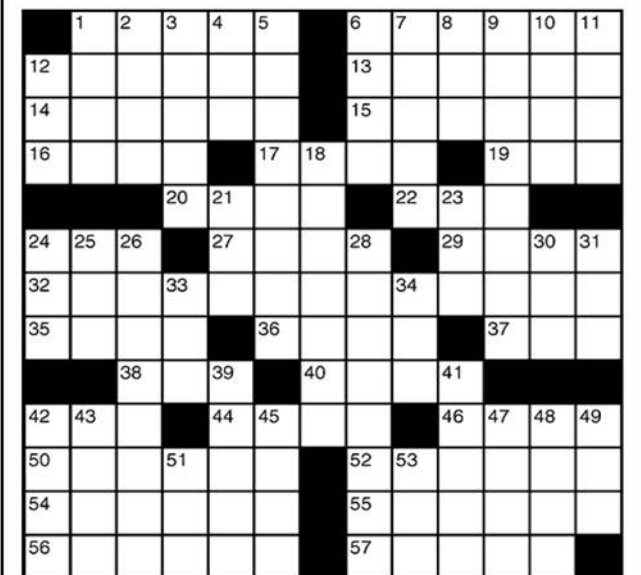
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35 Author Wiesel  
36 Eve's third son  
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38 "Awesome, dude!"  
40 Pop  
42 Trojans' sch.  
44 Org.  
46 Forget-me- -- (flowers)  
50 Paris art museum  
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**DOWN**  
1 Actress Ward  
2 Aspiring atty.'s exam  
3 Fall bloom  
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5 Hand signals  
6 Video game giant  
7 Recognizes  
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12 Leary's drug  
18 Patty Hearst, for one  
21 Feed-bag morsel  
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24 Mimic  
25 100 percent  
26 Barber's offerings  
28 Flabbergast  
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33 Museum-funding org.  
34 Prof's degree  
39 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor  
41 Pear variety  
42 Peter Fonda's beekeeper role  
43 Male deliveries?  
45 Beholds  
47 Partially mine  
48 Genealogy chart  
49 Neighbor of Leb.  
51 By way of  
53 Sgt., e.g.

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 3**





Crown Memorial Beach in Alameda is one of the popular destinations of the East Bay Regional Park District's many parks.

## East Bay Regional Parks Tips For a Hot, Dry Summer

By Ned MacKay  
Special to the Times

It looks like we are in for another extremely hot, dry summer. So here are a few safety tips:

Be sure to carry plenty of water for both yourself, and your dog if you have one along. Once you are away from the trailheads and picnic areas, there are no sources of potable water.

Protect yourself from the sun. Apply sunscreen and wear wide-brimmed headgear. Nothing ruins a pleasant outing faster than sunburn.

Take along a park map. They can be downloaded from the park district website, or obtained at trailhead information panels. And keep track of where you are. That way, if there's a problem, you can tell the rangers via cell phone where to find you.

Smoking is prohibited in the regional parks. This includes vaping.

Be extremely careful with fire. Barbecuing is allowed in the established barbecue stands. Be sure

that the coals are completely extinguished, then dispose of them only in the existing stand or pit, or the concrete receptacles designed for that purpose. Don't dump coals in garbage cans or refuse bins. During extreme weather conditions, all open flames may be prohibited.

The emergency number in the regional parks is 911 or 510-881-1121. For non-emergency business, call 510-881-1833.

The swim beaches at Del Valle Regional Park south of Livermore reopened this past weekend, the first time since 2019 that the lake is offering swimming. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the park is operating at 50 percent capacity. Two caveats: please bring your own drinking water; the park's water system is undergoing construction. And since it's mosquito season, mosquito repellent is advisable.

Ardenwood Historic Farm is now open, but entry is permitted only with

advance registration. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends.

You can obtain more information and register up to two weeks in advance by phoning 888-327-2757, option 2 (Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), or you can register online at [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org). Groups should be single household only, please.

While you are at the website, by all means take the district's 2021 Community Survey. Your responses help the park district to improve and expand its services. The survey is one of the series of displays at the top left of the website home page. It's available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean. To fill it out, go to [www.ebparks.org/Survey2021](http://www.ebparks.org/Survey2021).

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

## BART Increases Trains on Some Lines

BART increased its service this week, doubling the number of 15-minute frequencies on weekdays on its busiest (yellow, green and red) lines.

Although 30-minute frequencies will remain until Aug. 30 on the blue line, which runs to Pleasanton, trips will be added this week to the blue line on Saturdays.

With this week's additions, transbay trains will run 4 to 15 minutes apart during peak hours, and some reverse commute, non-peak trips

will be added to better serve all types of riders. Visit [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov) schedules.

BART will continue to run all long trains during all hours and by next Tuesday, all entrances/exits that were closed at larger stations during the height of the pandemic will be reopened.

On Aug. 30, BART will significantly increase its hours. Weekday service will be 5 a.m. to midnight with 15-minute trains on all lines from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday service will be 6 a.m. to midnight with added trips during peak hours.

Saturday ridership has recovered at a faster rate than weekday ridership with Saturday, May 29, posting the highest Saturday ridership (41,247) since the pandemic, or about 29% of pre-pandemic Saturday ridership.

Weekday ridership has now reached at 70,000, which is 17 percent of pre-pandemic weekday ridership.

## Hearing Loss Assoc. Walk and Celebration

The Hearing Loss Association of America East Bay Chapter will host a Bay Area Walk4Hearing Virtual Walk and Celebration on Saturday, June 12, at 9 a.m.

Register via Zoom at <https://www.hearinglosseeb.org>.

The star-studded lineup includes stand-up comedian D.J. Demers, singer songwriter Mandy Harvey, and a theatrical perfor-

mance by No Limits for Deaf Children.

Walk4Hearing is the only nationwide event bringing attention to hearing loss and promoting the importance of hearing health.

Funds raised support HLAA's national awareness and education programs. Bay Area teams are forming now.

Join or donate at <https://www.hearingloss.org/event/bay-area/>

## INQUIRING REPORTER

### What are you looking forward to?

— Asked around town

Good weather for the summertime and traveling. We're going to Georgia where we'll see family and friends.

**Akeem Daly**  
San Leandro



Summer and spending time with my kids. I teach and now I look forward to spending time with my own kids. This teacher's taking a break.

**Corvetta Kirtman**  
Oakland



The 4th of July and watching fireworks. We went to Reno one year and watched fireworks. And there's a parking lot in Fremont we went to where you can light off fireworks.

**Dylan Bender**  
San Leandro



I don't have a vacation planned. I just look forward to being able to hug people again.

**Laura Costa**  
San Leandro



I'm just looking forward to getting out. I'm going to buy some skates and just get out.

**Cheri Goodman**  
Oakland





# SOS Meals on Wheels Reaches Half Million Meals Served

The number of meals served by SOS Meals on Wheels just reached the half-a-million mark.

Last week, the tally of meals served reached 500,000, going to 2,800 local seniors.

One devastating effect of the Covid pandemic was the lack of access to food when shelter-in-place orders went into effect. Grocery stores shelves emptied, supply

chains dwindled, and millions lost jobs.

At the same time, stunning death rates among the elderly became daily news.

One population that found themselves more vulnerable than ever, were the elderly with serious chronic health conditions, disabilities, and low-income, who rely on others to shop, prepare their meals, and provide socialization.

Many of these people were suddenly cut-off from food, family, and caregivers because of fear of exposure to Covid. For them, driving to a store or food bank, waiting in socially distanced lines, and preparing meals, simply wasn't possible without the help of others.

Thanks to SOS Meals on Wheels, over 3,200 home-bound seniors have been able to receive daily nutritious



SOS MEALS ON WHEELS PHOTOS

**Meals on Wheels driver and fleet manager Benny Valles loads a delivery vehicle.**



**SOS Meals on Wheels Executive Director Charlie Deterline drives a forklift loaded with shelf-stable meals.**

home-delivered meals with a friendly but socially distanced visit from a meal driver since mid-March 2020 when a shelter in place order first hit Alameda County.

After that, calls for help increased steadily for several weeks. At the same time, the SOS Meals on Wheels kitchen production also increased,

surpassing 10,000 meals a week in May 2020. This immense need for home-delivered meals resulted in SOS Meals on Wheels surpassing a record half a million meals served in a fiscal year during the first weeks of May.

"Reaching a 500,000-meal milestone during a time when our community most needs

support is an incredible, heart-warming testament to the dedication SOS Meals on Wheels has to our elders and those who are homebound," said Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley. "This program is absolutely essential, and I am proud to be a longtime supporter of the exceptional work they do. I am excited join SOS Meals on Wheels on May 7th to help celebrate this momentous achievement."

"This critically needed funding has enabled us to be right where our older neighbors have needed us, and such a milestone achievement wouldn't be possible without the support of our local mayors and county supervisors," said Charlie Deterline, Executive Director of SOS Meals on Wheels.

## Water: From Sierra to the East Bay Social Distance Now 3 Feet on Buses

*continued from front page*

A low water user (100 gallons daily) would see a \$1.79 increase per month for the first year and an additional \$1.88 per month starting July 2022.

The bill for a high water user (600 gallons daily) will go up \$6.85 per month the first year and an additional \$7.14 starting July 2022.

EBMUD said it is addressing the most essential infrastructure. In the next two years, this budget funds about \$800 million of capital improvements, including \$115 million to replace aging water pipelines, \$110 million for water treatment plant improvements, \$45 million to replace large water transmission pipes, and \$57 million for improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in West Oakland and sewer interceptors and pump stations.

EBMUD's system – parts

of which date to the late 1800s – requires ongoing maintenance and renewal. From the Sierra Nevada foothills to San Francisco Bay, EBMUD operates aqueducts that span

**"Our budget and rates are designed to ensure services remain resilient."**

— EBMUD General Manager Clifford Chan

90 miles, a network of 4,200 miles of pipelines, five local reservoirs, six water treatment plants, 164 water storage facilities and a wastewater treatment plant.

EBMUD's 2,000 essential workers deliver high quality drinking water and ensure that EBMUD continues to protect the Mokelumne River

watershed, our primary water source, and San Francisco Bay.

"Our budget and rates are designed to ensure services remain resilient regardless of the situation we face, from the pandemic and Public Safety Power Shutoffs to earthquakes, droughts, fires, and economic crises," said General Manager Clifford Chan. "Our customers count on us to fulfill our promise to them and respond to these challenges."

Effective Monday, June 7, social distancing requirements on AC Transit buses changed from six feet to three feet. Face coverings are still required on public transit.

The change is due to improved health and safety conditions in public spaces throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, said AC Transit.

Lowering distancing

guidelines will improve rider capacity, reduce pass-ups and ease overcrowding on heavily traveled bus lines. Riders living in the same household are not subject to the three feet distancing requirement.

### Donnelle (Robbins) Massoni

June 15, 1951 - April 19, 2021

We are saddened by the unexpected death of our free spirited dear sister, Donnelle (Robbins) Massoni. Donnelle loved life, loved her children and family.



She loved celebrations and family gatherings, she loved animals and children, sometimes even dressing up as the "Bunny Lady" and passing out candy to children.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother Donald and Marion Robbins, husband Lou Massoni and her dear "soul sister" Deanne. She is survived by her beloved Sister Terry Mills (Bob), Dear brother Jeff Robbins (Annette), Son Daniel Massoni, Daughters Lisa DeAmico and Kiana Jones and many nieces, nephews and grandchildren. There will be a Mass in her honor on June 12, 2021 at 4 p.m. at Transfiguration Catholic Church, 4000 East Castro Valley Blvd. In lieu of cards or flowers Donnelle wished for us to be kind and understanding with each other.

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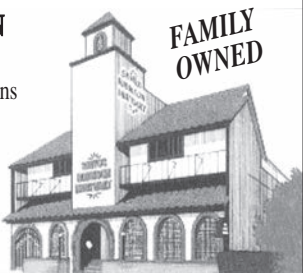
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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** A heads-up alert to all free-spirited Ewes and Rams: Be wary of a deal that could result in compromising your independence. Check every detail before making a commitment.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** New facts emerge that help put an irksome workplace situation in perspective. Meanwhile, pay more attention to a family member who needs your wisdom and strength.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** A slight setback in plans is nothing to worry about. Use this delay to deal with a number of matters you might have ignored for too long. Expect news from someone in your past.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** You're entering a period of stability. Use it to straighten out any outstanding problems related to a very personal situation. Also, pay closer attention to financial matters.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** As much as you love being a social Lion, you might well benefit from staying out of the spotlight for a while. You need time to reflect on some upcoming decisions.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** A difficult family situation improves, thanks to your timely intervention. You can now start to focus more of your attention on preparing for a possible career change.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** An on-the-job change works to your benefit by offering new opportunities. It's up to you to check them out. Meanwhile, a stalled romantic situation starts up again.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** That flare-up of Scorpion temperament cools down, leaving you more receptive to suggestions about changes that might need to be made in your personal life.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** An unusual period of indecisiveness is a mite frustrating. But things soon clear up, allowing the sage Sagittarian to make those wise pronouncements again.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** You might feel that you know best, but it's not a good idea at this time to try to force your opinions on others. Best advice: Inspire change by example, not by intimidation.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Some setbacks could affect your plans to fortify your financial situation. But things start moving again by early next week. Meanwhile, enjoy your resurgent social life.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Show that often-hidden steely spine of yours as you once again stand up to an emotional bully. You've got the strength to do it, especially as friends rally to your side.





PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Dr. Kathy Hull, George Mark Children's House founder, cuts the ribbon to the new Hummingbird Hill garden. Just to her left is George Mark's CEO Linda Ashcraft Hudak.

## Garden: Center brings comfort to families

*continued from page 4*

George Mark offers playroom, aquatic therapy, a memorial garden, a nondenominational sanctuary, and tile wall remembering patients who have passed away. Every year in November there is a Remembrance Day for every family who has ever had a child at George Mark.

"Once you're a member of our family, you're a member forever," Alice Burton said.

## Amazon: Driver says it was self-defense

*continued from front page*

an in self-defense after the older woman used expletives.

"We can't have our delivery drivers or people out there in the community attacking people, punching people in the face," Alameda County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Sergeant Ray Kelly said.

In a statement to the press, an Amazon representative said, "This does not reflect the high standards we have for drivers who deliver our packages. We take these matters seriously and this individual is no longer delivering Amazon packages."

Ramirez was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$100,000 in bail.



COURTESY KTVU

A video appeared to show an Amazon driver delivering the blows to a customer after they got into an argument.

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\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\*Offer valid at time of estimate only. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSLB# 1035795 DOL# 10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA UBI# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0086990 Registration# H-19114

## ANNUAL "OUR READERS REMEMBER" SPECIAL SECTION

**We want to hear  
your stories!**

**Published  
July 22, 2021**

We invite  
our readers to share  
their stories and photos —  
old and not so old — of life in San Leandro.

All photos will be returned. Please include your name, address and telephone number on the back of each photo. Items must be submitted by Friday, July 9, at 12 p.m. For more information, call Jim Knowles at 614-1557. For advertising information, call Claudette Morrison at 614-1559 or Linda Nakhai at 915-1513.

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