



Merry Christmas

RECIPE FOR A CHRISTMAS DINNER OF PRIME RIB,
GREEN BEANS AND A SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE..... 4

WEEKEND WEATHER
CLEAR
HIGHS: 76-81
Partly cloudy Friday
the sunny thru Sunday
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 54-59

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 32 • NO. 51

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

Cutter Reflects On Years in Public Service

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Earlier this month, Mayor Pauline Cutter joined a delegation of mayors of seven American cities on a trip to India where they met with the Dalai Lama.

In the blink of an eye, Mayor Pauline Cutter says she suddenly found herself pulled in close by the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader.

"I was just standing with the rest of the group, and he grabs me in for a hug and holds onto me for the photo," Mayor Cutter told the Times. "I was embarrassed because I was mayor of one of the lesser-known cities, but there I was with this kind and compassionate man."

The mayors of seven cities in the United States, including Oakland mayor Libby Schaaf and Cutter from San Leandro, traveled to India as part of the US Conference of Mayors' "Compassionate Cities" program. The delegation also met with local dignitaries to share information and visit a food pantry that serves 100,000 people each day.

The trip is a fitting bookend to Cutter's eight-year tenure as mayor of San Leandro, a journey she started by introducing the slogan "A City Where Kindness Matters" to replace the prior motto "Proud of Our

Past, Looking to the Future."

"I wanted to promote a more forward viewpoint, so I came up with 'A City Where Kindness Matters' and the 'Be Kind' button right when I first see CUTTER, page 5

Sheriff's Posse to Ride in Rose Parade

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

The Alameda County Sheriff's Mounted Posse (ACSM) has been invited to join the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena on Jan. 2.

Fifteen riders (three men and 12 women) and two assistants walking alongside will march in the 19th position in the parade—sandwiched between the Kaiser Permanente float and the Kiwanis International entry. They will be one of 16 equestrian units in the parade, more than 75 entries overall. This will be the first

see PARADE, page 11



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGUIRE

Davis St. Hosts Annual Holiday Basket Giveaway

Executive director Rose Padilla Johnson checks last minute details at the Davis Street Family Resource Center's 31st annual Holiday Basket giveaway began yesterday morning. To her left, City Councilmember Pete Ballew signs in to volunteer, as he does each year. In the background, volunteers greet the first car in line, about to give them a complete holiday meal, toys for the kids, and a cash gift, thanks to an "angel" donor. Expected to serve more than 1,000 area families with about 1,900 kids, the event continues today. At right, volunteer Sharon Correa carries food to a family's car yesterday morning.



Year in Review (Pt. 1): Lots to Do in 2022

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

January

- The supply chain snafu hit a local market. Shipments of meat and groceries are delayed for Mangal's Market which specializes in Pacific Island foods, and shipping costs are much higher.
- Police shot two robbery suspects at the Silverstreak marijuana dispensary on Fairway Drive after one of the suspects ran to a getaway car

and retrieved a handgun.

- Faith groups call for oversight at the county jail, and say the jail needs more mental health care workers.
- A driver in a speeding van pursued by sheriff's cars plowed through a yard in the Floresta neighborhood and severely injured letter carrier Nick Adiao. Residents on the popular letter carrier's route deliver cards to his wife to take to him at the hospital.
- The San Leandro City

Council votes for a ban on the sale of menthol cigarettes. The menthol makes smoking less irritating and makes smoking appeal more to adolescents.

- Social justice groups Unity in the Community and Justice 4 Steven Taylor told the City Council that San Leandro is dragging its feet on social justice programs. City Manager Fran Robustelli replied that the city was making progress on police oversight and other issues.

February

- The Dasen Costume Museum opened on Estudillo Avenue with a performance by models in costumes from the 56 ethnic groups of China and the San Francisco Art Choir.
- A Kaiser physician discussed a vaccine that protects women from cervical cancer. The vaccine can be part of the routine childhood vaccines and it will protect women later in life.

see 2022, page 10

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

OUTDOORS

Twenty-four trees planted at Mulford Park. **Page 2**

NEWS

Women sign up for gun classes. **Page 2**

SENIORS

You may qualify for assistance to hire a caregiver. **Page 2**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



San Leandro Times

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

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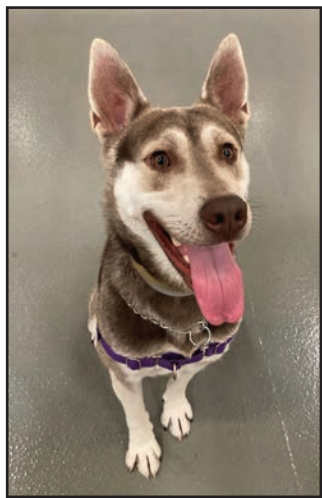
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Pets of the Week



Racer

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are Racer, a husky mix, and Kenny, a bunny.

Racer is a 1-year-old, male, husky mix who loves spending time with people, playing fetch and playing with his squeaky toys. He gets along well with other dogs and would like a home with older



Kenny

children. He has been patiently waiting to be adopted since August and his adoption is free, sponsored by SantaCon Hayward.

Kenny is a laid-back, male bunny who is easy to handle and enjoys treat puzzle toys and timothy biscuit treats. His adoption is free, sponsored by a generous volunteer.

For more information on Racer or Kenny, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

Volunteers Plant 24 Trees At Mulford Park in the Rain

Climate justice non-profit Common Vision partnering with the City of San Leandro, planted 24 trees at Mulford Park with the help of 70 volunteers in the pouring rain on Saturday, Dec. 10.

The tree planting is part of a larger effort to plant 5,000 more trees in San Leandro, funded by CalFire. Common Vision is working with the City of San Leandro's Sustainability Department on the project.

Mayor-elect Juan Gonzalez was one of the volunteers at Mulford Park. The next tree planting will be at Dayton Elementary School on Saturday, Jan. 14, where 50 trees will be planted along a fence line, starting at about 10 a.m.

To volunteer or get a free tree for your yard see the City of San Leandro's website (www.sanleandro.org/1158/CalFire-Tree-Grant).



PHOTO COURTESY COMMON VISION

Volunteers helped plan 24 trees in Mulford Park.

On This Day: December 22

- 1689: Heavy earthquake strikes Innsbruck, Austria.
- 1937: Lincoln Tunnel, under the Hudson River, opens
- 1731: Dutch people revolt against meat tax.
- 1937: Lincoln Tunnel, under the Hudson River, opens

to traffic, connecting Weehawken, New Jersey to Midtown Manhattan, New York City.

- 1948: KPIX TV channel 5 in San Francisco, California (CBS) begins broadcasting.
- 1964: First flight of the US aircraft Lockheed SR-71, reaches 2,190 m.p.h. (record for a jet airplane).

Correction

The story about the final results of the mayor's race ("Gonzalez Sworn In as Mayor," Dec. 15, 2022) incorrectly said the third-place finisher

was Benny Lee when in fact it was Lee Thomas.

The same story referred to City Councilman Victor Aguilar being reelected as he ran unopposed and gave the wrong City Council District. It should have said District 3.

The story also said that Juan Gonzalez is the first elected mayor of Hispanic heritage, but a niece of former Mayor Val Gill has informed us that Gill was "full-blooded Spanish."

**Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Feliz Navidad**

Warm Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

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Community Calendar

Red Cross Blood Drive

Give the Gift of Life. American Red Cross blood drive, Wednesday, Dec. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gate 510 at 1933 Davis St. in San Leandro (in the vacant Office Depot store space). To sign up, go to Redcrossblood.org and use Sponsor Code: Assumption. Your donation will save three lives. For more information, please email jkehoe.blood@yahoo.com

The Book Bunch Book Club

The San Leandro Public Library will host an ongoing senior book club (50+) called "The Book Bunch," scheduled to meet at 1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. The book club will focus on a different reading theme each month. The next "Book Bunch" meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. January stories should take place during the Civil Rights Movement or books that depict Social Inequality or Social Injustice in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. You can pre-register at the Senior Center and select a book to read from their collection or just drop in at any of the meetings with your own book. For more information, call Loanne Hill at 577-3957.

Winter Lego Show at Bay Area Family Church

After a break of several years the Winter Lego show is back at the Bay Area Family Church, 2305 Washington Ave. in San Leandro. The display is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. through Jan. 22, but closed on Dec. 18, Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. \$5 per person donation at the door (cash only).

Extras Needed for Movie

Local filmmaker Kenny Shedd, along with Gordon Galvan, will resume shooting their feature film, "Iowa's Finest" in June in the East Bay. If you want to be an extra, call 510-333-8478. Head shots for other smaller roles that still need to be filled can be sent by email to: kshedduncuffed@gmail.com

Boys & Girls Club's Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser

The San Leandro Boys & Girls Club will holding its in-person annual crab feed – the first since 2019 – on Saturday, Jan. 28. Join an evening of fun, great food, music, raffle prizes and a chance to see the new state-of-the-art facility, an \$11 million renovation that now is a designated Teen Center and Community Hub for San Leandro. Tickets are \$65 per person, which includes a dinner of crab, pasta, salad and sourdough bread. To purchase tickets or for more information about the crab feed call Erika A. Ortiz at the Boys & Girls Club at 510-483-5581 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are also available on the club's website, www.bgcsl.org. Proceeds support the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club after school, expanded learning program that will serve 3,500 children at 22 school sites in San Leandro and San Lorenzo by January 2023.

Oakland Aviation Museum

Oakland Aviation Museum, 8252, Earhardt Road in Oakland, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The daily schedule will continue until mid August. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for students and military personnel, and \$8 for kids 5 to 12 years old. Kids under 4 are admitted at no charge.

Resolved to Lose Weight in 2023

Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) for the support you need to start your weight loss journey. TOPS is a non-profit weight loss support group that meets on Fridays at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria Street in Castro Valley. For more information, call Sandy Montero at 510-299-7312. Join for fellowship and support. What do you have to lose?

American Legion Post 649 Monthly Meeting

American Legion Post 649 in Castro Valley meets on the first Monday of every month at 1800 (6 p.m.) for dinner, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20385 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. When there is a Monday holiday, the meeting will be on the second Monday. For more information, call Jim Smith at 510-305-2280.

Newly Organized Women's Gun Group Flourishes in the East Bay

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

On a recent Saturday, more than 100 women signed up to attend a meeting at an undisclosed Bay Area gun range as part of the East Bay Women's Gun Group.

Castro Valley resident Kristina Marie organized the group for women to shoot at a range and take classes for those new to firearms.

Membership is open to women only. Locations are known only to members to protect their anonymity. Classes are taught by certified instructors who donate their time.

Kristina says she hopes the gun group will empower other women to learn about firearms and how to protect and defend themselves and their families.

"I got into shooting about 3 years ago and moved to Castro Valley approximately 6 months ago," Kristina said. "I've taken a number of classes in both Santa Cruz County as well as a CCW [concealed carry weapon] class here in Alameda County, and one thing that remained consistent was the lack of women in classes, as well as the lack of female perspective of the instructors giving the classes."

Statistically, women make up only 22 percent of gun owners in the United States, according to a 2017 Pew Research Center survey of 1,269 gun owners. The survey also found that women who own guns tend to become gun owners at a later age than men.

On average, women who own a gun or have owned one in the past report that they first got their own gun when they were 27 years old, compared with an average age of 19 for men who own or have owned guns. Women are also more likely than men to cite protection, rather than recreation, as the only reason they own a gun.

Kristina says she was often the only female in her classes. It became glaringly apparent to her that when instructors teach courses, they focus more on the men than the women.

"The resounding response from women I talk to about this is, 'I really want to learn how to shoot, but I'm intimidated to take group classes, go to the range by myself, or I'm terrified even to handle a firearm,'" she said.

The East Bay Women's Gun Group started about three months ago. Kristina said she posted about establishing the Group on a local NextDoor social media website and

got 220 replies in the first 24 hours, most of which were from women wanting to join or support the group.

"Initially, I was just looking for other women to take classes with and practice at the range with because I've seen so few of them in my own training," Kristina said. "After reading many of the comments, I realized that many women were interested but had never been exposed to handling a firearm or any type of training and desperately wanted a point of connection."

The Gun Group offers access to a 4- to 5-hour introductory beginners' course. It's offered at a significantly discounted rate as all certified trainers are donating their time, Kristina said. As the group grows, it will offer additional courses that build upon the skills they've already gained.

And while the interest in the group is growing, the availability of local ranges has presented some obstacles. The Chabot Gun Club, a fixture at Anthony Chabot Regional Park for more than 52 years, closed in 2016.

"It's been challenging to find ranges to utilize as well as companies that want to open up classes for an all-women's group," Kristina said. "I've been very fortunate to find a group of trainers as well as a range that wants to help serve the community and allow women to access a safe space



PHOTO COURTESY EAST BAY WOMEN'S GUN GROUP

Gun group organizer says many women are interested to learn how to safely handle firearms.

for learning together."

Women interested in joining a gun club and getting together to learn how to shoot and safely handle a firearm are

encouraged to sign up on the East Bay Women's Gun Group Meetup page (www.meetup.com/east-bay-womens-gun-group).

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A Traditional Christmas Dinner

For a spectacular holiday centerpiece, nothing quite compares to a beautiful beef roast cooked to perfection. Cooking a roast may seem a bit intimidating at first, but it really is one of the more simple main dishes to prepare. There's little more to it than putting it in the oven and pulling it out when it's done. To know when it's done, you'll need a meat thermometer (an instant-read type is easiest to use).

CLASSIC PRIME RIB ROAST

- 1 (6-8 pound) trimmed beef rib roast, chine bone removed
 - 6 large cloves garlic, crushed
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons dried thyme
 - 1 teaspoon cracked black pepper
 - Preheat oven to 350°F.
 - Combine garlic, thyme and black pepper. Press evenly into surface of beef roast.
 - Place roast, fat side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. Do not add water or cover roast.
 - Roast approximately 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 hours. Using an instant read thermometer, remove roast when internal temperature reaches 135°F for medium rare or 150°F for medium.
 - Tent loosely with foil and let stand 15 minutes prior to carving. Makes 8 to 12 servings.
- YORKSHIRE PUDDING**
- 1-1/2 cups flour
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1 tablespoon butter, melted
 - 2 eggs
 - 4 to 8 tablespoons reserved drippings from roasting pan
 - Preheat oven to 475°F.

Whisk together the flour, salt, milk, butter and eggs. Using a baster, drop a teaspoon or two of drippings into each cup of a muffin tin. Put the muffin tin in the preheated oven. When the drippings are sizzling hot, remove the tin and fill each cup 1/2 to 2/3 full with batter. Bake for 15 minutes, then reduce oven temperature to 350°F and bake for 15 to 20 minutes longer, or until the popovers are puffed and brown. Serve hot. Yields 12 large popovers.

HORSERADISH SAUCE

- 1/4 cup prepared horseradish
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- Combine all ingredients in bowl and serve with roast.

CREAMY MASHED POTATOES WITH CHIVES

- 6 Idaho or russet potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives
- 4 ounces mascarpone cheese
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus more for cooking potatoes
- 1 cup milk, warmed
- Place potatoes in a large pot and cover with cold water to 2 inches above potatoes. Season water generously with salt and bring potatoes to a boil to cook for 40 minutes, until very tender.
- Drain potatoes and return to pot. Mash potatoes with warm milk until smooth. Fold in mascarpone and chives. Season with 1 teaspoon salt. Serves 6 to 8.

CHRISTMAS CRANBERRY SALAD

- Cranberry Vinaigrette:*
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
 - 1/2 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed
 - 2 green onions, cut into 1-inch pieces
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon dried sage, crushed
 - 3/4 cup olive oil
- Salad:*
- 12 cups mixed greens
 - 1 small red bell pepper, chopped
 - Grated or shredded Parmesan

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No: 22CV023962
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. In the matter of the petition to change the name(s) of a **Frank Joseph Chavez Jr. b Alexander Joseph Gutierrez-Chavez c Fabiola De Jesus Gutierrez Contreras** Petitioner(s) **Frank Joseph Chavez Jr** has/have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name(s) as follows: a **Frank Joseph Chavez Jr to Frank Joseph Ulibarri b Alexander Joseph Gutierrez-Chavez to Alexander Joseph Ulibarri c Fabiola De Jesus Gutierrez Contreras to Fabiola Gutierrez-Ulibarri**. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **1221 Oak Street Dept. 17, Oakland, CA 94612 on FEB 3, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock am.** A copy of this order to show cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county The San Leandro Times. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter are directed to make known any objection that they may have to the granting of the petition for change of name by filing a written objection, which includes the reasons for the objection, with the court at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and by appearing in court at the hearing to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Dated: DECEMBER 16, 2022
CHARLES A. SMILEY - Judge of the Superior Court
DEC 22, 29, JAN 05, 12, 2023
0407-SLT

cheese, optional
In a blender, combine the first eight ingredients. While processing, gradually add oil in a steady stream. Chill until ready to serve.
In a large salad bowl, combine the greens and red pepper. Sprinkle with cheese if desired. Serve with cranberry vinaigrette. Yields 12 servings (1 cup vinaigrette).

GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

- 2 (10-3/4 ounce) cans Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 (9-ounce) packages frozen cut green beans, thawed
- 2-2/3 cups French fried onions
- Stir soup, milk, soy sauce, black pepper, beans and 1-1/3 cups onions in 3-quart casserole.
- Bake at 350°F 30 minutes or until hot. Stir. Top with remaining onions. Bake 5 minutes more until onions are golden. Makes 12 servings. To enhance this dish, cook 4 slices bacon until crisp and crumble.

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

- 4-1/2 cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.
- In a large bowl, mix together mashed sweet potatoes, 1/2 cup butter, milk, sugar, vanilla extract, and eggs. Spread sweet potato mixture into the prepared baking dish.
- In a small bowl, mix together brown sugar and flour. Cut in 1/3

cup butter until mixture is crumbly, then stir in pecans. Sprinkle pecan mixture over the sweet potatoes.

Bake for 25 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown. Serves 12.

LEGAL NOTICE

FILED NOV 23, 2022
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 593568
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Heart lumination, located at 244 Cherry Street San Leandro, CA 94577. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erica Hooper, 244 Cherry Street San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced 11/01/22
/s/ Erica Hooper
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires NOV 22, 2027
DEC 22, 29, JAN 05, 12, 2023
0534-SLT

FILED DEC 19, 2022
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 594067
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): Success Retail Company, located at 8127 Idlewood Street Oakland, CA 94605. PO BOX 18927, Oakland, CA 94619. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clayton Davis, 8127 Idlewood Street Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A
/s/ Clayton Davis
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires DEC 18, 2027
DEC 22, 29, JAN 05, 12, 2023
0534-SLT

FILED NOV 29, 2022
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 593663
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): A & A Snack Market, located at 1786 Bancroft Ave San Leandro, CA 94577. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Abbas Mohammed Alnaham, 342 Hawk Ridge Dr., Richmond, CA 94806. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced 01/01/2022
/s/ Abbas Mohammed Alnaham
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires NOV 28, 2027
DEC 01, 08, 15, 22, 2022
0544-SLT

FILED DEC 16, 2022
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 594043
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es): The Barb Hardy Group, located at 2367 Croyden Place San Leandro, CA 94577. in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Barb Hardy Group, located at 2367 Croyden Place San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation.
This business commenced 12/16/2022
/s/ Barbara Hardy
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires DEC 15, 2027
DEC 22, 29, JAN 05, 12, 2023
0534-SLT

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Cutter: Mayor recalls the ups and downs of her term in office

continued from front page

took office, and it blossomed from there," Mayor Cutter said.

Cutter said she paid for her trip, though \$2,000 in expenses will be reimbursed by the city.

When Cutter took office in 2014, the city was under massive changes. The city began participating in Smart City programs, Kaiser San Leandro opened that June, Lit San Leandro fiber expanded to an 18-mile radius, the Merea Alta Apartments broke ground, and the 21st Amendment Brewery announced plans to transform the old Kellogg's factory on Williams Street.

Over the past eight years, Cutter helped San Leandro add even more business opportunities, as syrup-maker Torani moved its plant here. And Ghirardelli Chocolate, which makes its chocolate in San Leandro, also moved its headquarters offices to San Leandro in 2018.

Earlier this year, San Leandro reported that its general fund revenue for its fiscal year 2022-23 is projected at \$134 million, with more than 60 percent of those revenues generated from sales tax (\$56.3 million) and property tax (\$28.1 million).

"I always remind myself that it's not me; it's us," Cutter said. "Without the help of

colleagues and staff, we would never be successful."

But it was the lifestyle and environmental changes that Mayor Cutter says she really got behind, including improvements to Siempre Verde Park and Thrasher Park, various arts and education

"I always remind myself that it's not me, it's us. Without the help of colleagues and staff, we would never be successful."

— Mayor Pauline Cutter

programs, and San Leandro's 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) events.

"When I first ran for mayor, I said I wanted to build a city where people who grew up here would want to come back because we have good jobs, we have entertainment, we have good homes, we have our community," Mayor Cutter said. "I'm proud that I am leaving the city in a good fiscal place. We are a city of

kindness. We're on the right road with our climate action plan. We're diverse, and we're a happy place to live."

Mayor Cutter says she learned the most about being a mayor in the last few years during major events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was a difficult time, but we were able to help food pantries, give out small business loans, ensure we had a moratorium on evictions, ensure that people were safe, and give them a sense of dignity," she said.

The looting of San Leandro businesses following George Floyd's death and Steven Taylor's shooting were also challenges for Mayor Cutter. The Taylor incident was particularly personal to the mayor as he was a classmate of Cutter's son.

"Steven was over at my house making gingerbread houses when he and my son were in the 8th grade," Cutter said. "It was very dear to me that this is someone whom I could identify with. It was a painful time trying to navigate my duties while being compassionate. I feel that, as a society, we let Steven down."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULINE CUTTER

The mayors met the Dalai Lama on their trip to India and when they posed for a photo the Tibetan spiritual leader pulled in Pauline Cutter for the camera.

As her term ends, Mayor Cutter says she will spend more time with her family, take time to travel, and continue volunteering at her local food bank.

"I was proud of the fact that people saw me as a collaborative worker... that people saw me as fair and that

everybody got heard at the table," Cutter said. "I've been told that I may have been too kind as a mayor, but I feel that

you have to treat people with respect and dignity, which is why being a kind and compassionate city matters."

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By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Home for the Holidays

Without doubt, the Holiday Season is the favorite time of the year for many. We love the opportunities to get together with family, go to special services and events and listen to Christmas carols. One of my favorites is "I'll Be Home For Christmas." Written by lyricist Kim Gannon and composers Walter Kent and Buck Ram, "I'll Be Home For Christmas" was immortalized by Bing Crosby in 1943. The lyrics state, "I'll be home for Christmas, You can count on me, Please have snow and mistletoe and presents on the tree. Christmas Eve will

find you where the love light gleams, I'll be home for Christmas ... if only in my dreams."

Written from the perspective of a soldier overseas during the darkest point of WW2, it became a heartfelt favorite of war-theater troops and their loved ones back home. It was so loved by combat forces that in 1944 it was put on official Army and Navy V-Disks by the U.S. War Department and officially shipped off to war. It became the most requested song at Christmas U.S.O. shows.

It's a warm reminder of the value of 'home.' It conjures up images of families gathered around

the table for a holiday celebration. It evokes memories of times spent with loved ones both past and present. And it reminds us of the wonderful freedoms we have here in the United States and the value of 'home.'

The Realtors of the Central County have been honored to have helped many families find their 'home' in 2022. We have been given the sacred trust of representing clients who are looking to see their real estate dreams fulfilled. Whether buying, selling or investing, nothing symbolizes the American Dream more than the opportunities afforded by real estate.

2022 has been a bizarre year in many ways, beginning with unparalleled increases in home values the first four months followed by increasing mortgage rates which effectively slowed the market to a crawl. As we end the year, we are seeing the market give back the almost 25% increases in prices gained at the beginning of the year as values retreat to 2021 numbers.

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! All the best to you and yours, and our sincerest wishes for peace and happiness in this holiday season. May 2023 be full of hope and promise.

Happy Holiday wishes to our clients and friends!

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of the
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- A winter scarf can be a table runner.
- Make your own garlands by stringing popcorn, large beads or cinnamon sticks.
- Put cranberries in a mason jar, fill it with water and place a tea light on top.
- Gather sticks from outdoors, make sure they are dry, then hot-glue to a jar or metal can. — Brenda Weaver Source: mommysavers.com



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RECENT HOME SALES

CASTRO VALLEY

Total: 10 – Average Price: \$1,130,000
High: \$1,430,000 – Low: \$805,000

4208 Mabel Avenue 94546:
\$805,000 [3 BD - 1,020 SF - 1950
20180 Leroy Drive 94546:
\$846,000 [3 BD - 1,039 SF - 1954
21905 Betlen Way 94546:
\$850,000 [3 BD - 1,282 SF - 1954
2868 Jennifer Drive 94546:
\$1,019,000 [3 BD - 2,317 SF -
1965
4424 James Avenue 94546:
\$1,150,000 [3 BD - 1,567 SF -
1940
3243 Barrett Court 94546:
\$1,200,000 [4 BD - 1,408 SF -
1960
19713 Mabel Place 94546:
\$1,200,000 [1,860 SF - 1980
5960 Skyfarm Drive 94552:
\$1,400,000 [4 BD - 1,985 SF -
1987
5854 Greenridge Road 94552:
\$1,400,000 [4 BD - 1,781 SF -
1960
5823 Shadow Ridge Drive 94552:
\$1,430,000 [3 BD - 2,256 SF -
1972

HAYWARD

Total: 21 – Average Price: \$886,071
High: \$1,925,000 – Low: \$215,000

22502 Colton Court 94541:
\$425,000 [2 BD - 1,080 SF - 1987
367 Line Street 94544: \$475,000
[1 BD - 429 SF - 2021
630 Foster Court #2 94544:
\$500,000 [2 BD - 1,125 SF - 1981
21062 Gary Drive #314 94546:
\$553,500 [3 BD - 1,218 SF - 1980
19063 Lowell Avenue 94541:
\$730,000 [2 BD - 780 SF - 1923
26801 Calaroga Avenue 94545:
\$780,000 [3 BD - 1,119 SF - 1956
31842 Trevor Avenue 94544:
\$815,000 [3 BD - 1,212 SF - 1955
24633 Waterson Court 94544:
\$835,000 [3 BD - 1,393 SF - 1950
1151 Martin Luther King Drive #D
94541: \$855,000 [3 BD - 1,704
SF - 2013
2614 Pepperwood Place 94541:
\$875,000 [3 BD - 1,345 SF - 1989
28002 Hesse Drive 94545:
\$900,000 [3 BD - 1,260 SF - 1963
2368 Morrow Street 94541:
\$920,000 [3 BD - 1,982 SF - 2013
149 Cue Way 94544: \$940,000 [3
BD - 1,760 SF - 2019

1212 Gomer Street 94544:
\$940,000 [3 BD - 1,265 SF - 1956
24940 Mead Way 94541:
\$1,055,000 [3 BD - 1,729 SF -
1954
24247 Machado Court 94541:
\$1,180,000 [4 BD - 2,062 SF -
1984
138 Lund Avenue 94544:
\$1,190,000 [6 BD - 2,795 SF -
1962
29053 Stratford Road 94544:
\$1,199,000 [4 BD - 1,792 SF -
1994
234 Bridgewater Road 94544:
\$1,300,000 [3 BD - 2,104 SF -
1999

21915 Meekland Avenue 94541:
\$1,925,000 [1,852 SF -]

SAN LEANDRO

Total: 9 – Average Price: \$907,111
High: \$1,250,000 – Low: \$450,000

642 Tiffany Road 94577: \$450,000
[2 BD - 988 SF - 1948
16475 Liberty Street 94578:
\$700,000 [2 BD - 1,290 SF - 2008
910 Douglas Drive 94577:
\$710,000 [2 BD - 1,022 SF - 1942
993 Hoad Street 94579: \$829,000
[3 BD - 1,419 SF - 1958
951 Dillo Street 94578: \$900,000
[3 BD - 1,537 SF - 1946
891 Dolores Avenue 94577:

\$970,000 [3 BD - 1,438 SF - 1949
2218 Charter Way 94579:
\$1,150,000 [4 BD - 2,294 SF -
1999
1325 Oakes Boulevard 94577:
\$1,205,000 [4 BD - 1,866 SF -
1941
2015 Spirit Way 94579:
\$1,250,000 [4 BD - 2,255 SF -
1999

SAN LORENZO

Total: 6 – Average Price: \$807,666
High: \$950,000 – Low: \$520,000

917537 Wickman Place 94580:
\$520,000 [2 BD - 1,168 SF - 1971
17292 Via Flores 94580: \$785,000
[3 BD - 1,051 SF - 1947
1484 Via Barrett 94580: \$805,000
[3 BD - 1,287 SF - 1955
1414 Via La Paloma 94580:
\$836,000 [4 BD - 1,666 SF - 1955
17467 Via Anacapa 94580:
\$950,000 [3 BD - 1,512 SF - 1944
872 Via Bregani 94580: \$950,000
[3 BD - 1,705 SF - 1957

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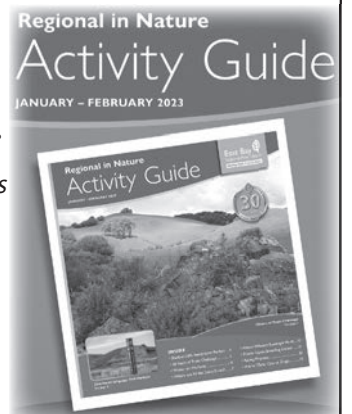
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This issue of the Castro
Valley Forum contains
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Park District's January-
February 2023 Activity Guide.

If your copy of the Forums does
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Guide, call 510-614-1555 or
stop by the Times office
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Mortgage Rates Continue
their Downward Trajectory

Mortgage rates continued their downward trajectory this week, as softer inflation data and a modest shift in the Federal Reserve's monetary policy reverberated through the economy. The good news for the housing market is that recent declines in rates have led to a stabilization in purchase demand. The bad news is that demand remains very weak in the face of affordability hurdles that are still quite high.

WEEKEND GARDENER

Spray

The Yuletide season is a reminder to apply the second round of dormant oil spray to deciduous fruit trees, shrubs and roses. The spray should be applied through mid-January whenever you can expect several days of dry weather above 40 degrees.

Shopping for Bulbs

Summer-flowering bulbs can be planted in the coming weeks for cut flowers and garden colors in spring. You'll find a fresh crop of bulbs for gladioluses (plant at three-to-four week intervals from January through March) and begonias (set the tubers in peat moss to sprout, then pot up in larger containers).

Gift Plants

Be careful not to over-water poinsettias and other gift plants. Be sure they have adequate draining (open the foil at the bottom of the pot) and water only when soil feels dry to the touch.

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DEC. 24 & DEC. 25

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DOWN

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1 “That hurts!”

4 Chilled

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8 Theatergoer’s souvenir

3 Bangkok language

12 Show to a seat, slangily

4 Perception

13 Cleopatra’s river

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51 Three, on a sundial

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53 “-- Little Teapot”

54 Standard

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

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2022: SL sees rallies, review boards and rumblings about Russia

continued from front page

- Police Chief Abdul Pridgen laid out a plan to install 41 surveillance cameras around town in areas where crimes are more frequently reported, as well as streets where people enter and exit the city. The City Council okayed the plan in April in a unanimous vote to approve a \$250,000 contract with a company to install the cameras.

- San Leandro artist Nancy Brown installed her work "Semaphore" in a yard on West Juana Avenue. Brown made a work of art with the little flags that are normally used as markers at a construction site.

March

- The weekly Downtown San Leandro Farmers' Market moved this year from Parrott Street to the parking lot of the Main Library in order to allow more space for parking.

- San Leandrans rallied at Root Park in support of Ukraine after the invasion by Russia. One San Leandro couple in attendance moved here from Ukraine and have relatives in Kiev who go down into basements and bomb shelters when the bombing starts.

- A man was shot and killed outside a bar on Parrott Street in downtown San Leandro. The fight began in side Cunha's Cocktails in Pelton Center and continued out on the street. Police would

later arrest a man and woman from Oakland and Antioch for the shooting.

- City leaders joined with Spectrum Community Services and helped prepare meals for seniors at the San Leandro Senior Center.

- The City of San Leandro kicked off its 150th anniversary as a city with speeches and opened the time capsule to reveal the contents buried in 1972.

- The PGE Hope program introduces the game of golf to veterans with lessons and weekly rounds of golf at the Metropolitan Golf Course on Doolittle Drive.

- The San Leandro High baseball team came out swinging in an 8-3 win over Hayward on the Pirates home field.

April

- A group of San Leandro dads develop listeners around the world with their podcast, "Dad Time Out Show," about positive parenting. The show features pop culture, parenting, laughter, stories, and a healthy helping of dad jokes.

- The family of Steven Taylor sued the City of San Leandro for \$10 million, saying the police ignored Taylor's mental health issues and used excessive force when police shot and killed him at the Walmart store on Hesperian Boulevard in 2020.

- The City Council votes unanimously to form the Community Police Review Board



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

San Leandrans, including a family who moved here from Ukraine, held a rally at Root Park in March in support of Ukraine after the country was invaded by the Russian army.

to oversee the police department after years of questionable police shootings and accusations of police using excessive force.

- A report by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency said that 800 people died while they were homeless in the county between 2018 and 2020.

- A new 62-unit affordable apartment building, called

Loro Landing, opened on Parrott Street near the San Leandro BART Station.

May

- A letter to the editor says that the highly touted Loro Landing affordable apartment building's 62 units, at a total cost of \$43,700,000, works out to \$705,000 per apartment, not much more than the average price of a whole house and yard in San Leandro.

- Volunteers of all ages, including high school students and the Rotary Club, spent a Saturday installing water-saving planters in downtown San Leandro.

- Wilson Elementary School was renamed Halkin Elementary School in a vote by the school board. The name comes from the land and native people who lived between San Leandro and San Lorenzo creeks.

- The San Leandro school district names Sean Cavanaugh, a third grade teacher at Halkin Elementary, as teacher of the year; Claudia Costa as Classified Employee of the Year; and Lynda Hornada of Garfield Elementary, Leader of the Year.

- A woman from Cambodia was severely beaten and robbed in the parking lot of the downtown Safeway. As she was getting into her car a man came up behind her, started punching her and then robbed her of her bag, wallet with cash, and car keys.

June

- Mary Torres, an original Rosie the Riveter, was surprised by her friends with a drive-by party on her 99th birthday. Just after she graduated from high school, Torres left her hometown in Pennsylvania to come to California and work in the shipyards during World War II.

- The annual Cherry Parade returned to downtown San Leandro, drawing a big crowd.

- A man was shot and killed

on Lewelling Boulevard near Calgary Street over a dispute about the ownership of a trailer. Later that day, police arrested a San Leandro man for the shooting.

- A Drag Queen Story Hour program kids at the San Lorenzo Library was disrupted by a group of five men who came in shouting homophobic slurs. The disruption was denounced by LGBTQ supporters and Congressman Eric Swalwell came to the library the following week to express support for the LGBTQ community.

- Alameda County officials held a celebration in Ashland to show off the new \$20 million improvement program to East 14th Street in the unincorporated area. Supervisor Nate Miley said he was beaming with pride at the improvements and the art work.

- San Leandrans rallied at Root Park to protest the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade, reversing federal protection for legal abortion. "Now we have to restore what is the right of every woman," said City Councilwoman Corina Lopez who organized the rally.

- Police arrested two men after a car chase following a catalytic converter theft in progress on Bancroft Avenue. One of the getaway vehicles was stopped with a tire-puncture device, and another suspect was later found in a car with three stolen catalytic converters.



Teacher of the Year Sean Cavanaugh, who teaches third grade at Halkin Elementary School, and has taught for 27 years, poses for a photo with his students and Superintendent Mike McLaughlin.

Parade: Deputies look forward to big parade down Colorado Boulevard

continued from front page

the first time ACSMP has been represented since the 1950s.

"It's absolutely crazy how this came together," said sergeant of parade logistics and Castro Valley resident Barbara Hoffman. "We sent in our application in March, and in August we got word we were accepted. Now we are on the journey of preparing for the parade. It's a lot of work to pull this off, but we're very excited to be representing Alameda County."

The Posse is a volunteer group with 20 members. While most people see them in parades, they also provide mounted crime prevention services both at the Alameda County Fair and the Coliseum in Oakland. The delegation going to the Rose Parade will include several deputies who will drive the horse trailers to Pasadena, camp out the night before, and pick the team up at the end of the 5.5-mile parade route, mostly along Colorado Boulevard.

"We have to be in position long before the 8 a.m. parade start," Hoffman said. "We're going to have our old tradi-

tional silver outfits that the team has used since the 1940s, and since it's the Rose Parade, the riders and the working crew will be decorated with flowers."

The Posse will trot down the parade route for the 2-hour event with three rows of five mounted horses. They are expected to carry the American flag, the state flag, and the flag representing the county sheriff's office. Hoffman says she will be in the last row.

During the parade, the riders will keep the horses active to keep them from getting anxious.

"We'll do a standard file, but if the parade stops, then we do an echelon formation where one rider takes the American flag to the front with two riders behind the lead and then three riders and then four riders, and so on," Hoffman said. "We can also walk the horses in circles if needed."

The 2023 Rose Parade theme is "Turning the Corner," celebrating the unlimited potential that each new year brings. The 134th Tournament of Roses Parade will be broadcast on TV starting at 8 a.m.



PHOTO COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Alameda County Sheriff's Department Mounted Posse, a team of 15 riders, will march in the Rose Parade in Pasadena on Jan. 2.

Naked Wines Settles Lawsuit with DA over Automatic Renewal Violations

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley announced that her office, together with the District Attorneys of San Diego, Napa, Shasta, and Sonoma counties, settled a consumer protection action against Nakedwines.com, Inc. (Naked Wines), an

online seller of wine.

The complaint, which was filed in San Diego County Superior Court, alleges that Naked Wines violated California's Automatic Renewal Law.

The Automatic Renewal Law is an important consumer protection statute. With some

businesses, consumers can continue to receive and pay for a product through "automatic pay." But the consumer must agree to that form of payment.

In other words, if a business is going to keep billing the consumer's credit card or other means of payment, the business is required to make certain disclosures both before and after enrolling customers in automatic renewal agreements, which automatically renews payment on a regular basis unless further action is taken.

The complaint alleges that Naked Wines violated the Automatic Renewal Law with respect to two programs:

1.) "Wine Angel," a program in which consumers pay \$40 per month and can use the accrued money for future purchases of select wines; and

(2.) "Wine Genie," a program in which customers pay on a monthly basis for automatic wine shipments.

The complaint alleges that the enrollment process for both programs failed to include the required pre-purchase disclosures, provided insufficient post-payment acknowledgments, and failed to offer a simple online mechanism for consumers to stop recurring charges.

"My office is committed to and continues to take all measures to protect consumers from businesses that fail to follow the law. In this case, we are enforcing the California Automatic Renewal Law, which has proven to be an important protection and benefit to Californians," said O'Malley. "Consumers should always receive the required disclosures before and

after agreeing to any contract that may result in months or years of recurring charges."

Under the terms of the judgment, Naked Wines must comply with the Automatic Renewal Law going forward and, without admitting liability, pay \$650,000 in costs and civil penalties. Also, under the judgement, any California

customer who participated in the Wine Angel or Wine Genie program since April 2017 may be entitled to a full refund by making a written request to Naked Wines.

Naked Wines cooperated fully in the investigation and has taken steps to improve its disclosures and sign-up process.

Entries Accepted for MLK Oratory Contest

The City of San Leandro Recreation Department is accepting entry forms for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Festival and Poetry Slam 2023 – to be held on Monday, Jan. 16, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd.

The event commemorates the birthday of this great American leader and his lifelong work toward equality and peace.

Participants will perform an original or well-known essay, speech, or poem that celebrates Dr. King's message of peace, tolerance, and social justice.

Students in 3rd through 12th grades attending San Leandro schools are invited to

participate. Students can win gift card prizes in their grade category (\$100 first place, \$50 second place in several grade categories).

This event is made possible by a generous donation from the San Leandro Optimist Club.

To participate, students must submit an entry form that includes the piece they intend to perform.

For details and to complete the entry form, visit sanleandro.org/mlk.

Entry forms must be submitted by Monday, Jan. 9, or until 25 entry forms are received.

For more information, contact Liz Hodgins at 510-577-3473 or ehodgins@sanleandro.org.

Obituaries

Cynthia Christine Freitas

November 30, 1962 ~ December 1, 2022

Cynthia Freitas passed away unexpectedly at her home in San Leandro on December 1. Over the years Cynthia enjoyed trips to Half Moon Bay. She loved long walks, painting, crafts, gardening, and cooking. She is survived by her loving family, parents Gary and Karen Freitas, brothers David and Ron Freitas, daughter Stephanie Sena. Her son Christopher Acre preceded her in death. Cynthia left behind her grandsons Danny Sena-York, Anthony Sena-York and granddaughters Bella Sena, Aubrey, and Kendal. And her loving boyfriend Dave Santos. Cynthia was a lifelong resident of San Leandro. She graduated from Marina High in 1981. Cynthia will be missed by all that knew her. We will love you forever and always.



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Council Member Victor Aguilar Picked to Head National League of Cities LGBTQ+ Committee

San Leandro City Council Member Victor Aguilar was unanimously voted by his nationwide colleagues to serve as the 2023 National League of Cities LGBTQ+ Local Officials Committee President.

Aguilar has served on this committee for the past three years. His priorities are providing high-speed internet to underprivileged communities, addressing the housing shortages locally and nationally, and representing people of color in the national dialogue on diversity, equity, and inclusion matters.

"I am honored that my fellow National League of Cities colleagues would select me as the next LGBTQ+LO committee president," Aguilar said. "I will roll up my sleeves and address some of the pressing issues affecting cities throughout the country.

For one, the Colorado Springs Club Q shooting continues to sting in my heart and mind. Our country needs to come together to act on gun violence, mental health, and protecting the most vulnerable. We may look different and have different preferences, but we are all Americans."

The following elected officials will serve alongside Council Member Aguilar.

- First VP: Ty Stober, Mayor Pro Tem, Vancouver, WA

- Second VP: Jennifer Adams, Vice Mayor, Tempe, AZ

- Immediate Past President: Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor, Somerset, MD

- At Large Member Christopher Constant, Assembly Member, Anchorage, AK

- At Large Member Joseph Geierman, Mayor, Doraville, GA

- At Large Mem-

ber Sena Magill, Councilmember, Charlottesville, VA

- At Large Member Corina Pfeil, Councilmember, Kenmore, WA

Council Member Victor Aguilar received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree from Hawaii Pacific University and attained a Local Leaders Program certificate from the University of Southern California Executive Education Forum for Policy. Council Member Aguilar is a member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee Executive Committee (18th Assembly District, Vice Chair), Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County, Brownie Mary Democratic Club of Alameda County, and the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club.

SENIORS

The IHSS Program: Financial Assistance to Hire a Caregiver

Q. Our 85 year-old mother is frail but wishes to remain at home. She has limited financial resources, so my sister is living with her and providing care without pay. Are there any government programs that might help us hire a caregiver and give my sister some relief?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

A. Yes. There are a number of programs, but one that may be of special interest is the In-Home Supportive Services Program ("IHSS"). It is designed for persons of limited financial means who are blind, disabled or over age 65, and who are unable to live safely at home without assistance. For qualifying individuals, it provides nonmedical services such as meal preparation, cleaning, laundry, bathing, feeding, dressing, grooming, toileting, and monitoring for persons with cognitive impairments who are at risk of injury at home.

It works like this: The applicant must first qualify for either SSI or Medi-Cal, and then submit an application for the IHSS program. An in-home assessment is then made by a social worker to determine the number of hours of care needed. This can be up to 195 hours per month for a

non-severely impaired applicant and up to 283 hours per month for one who is severely impaired.

Upon approval, the beneficiary then selects and hires a caregiver and the IHSS program pays the worker for the approved number of hours per month, currently at the rate of \$17.60 per hour in Alameda County (as of December, 2022).

Resource Limits: The program is designed for persons of very modest resources who are either (1) eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), or (2) eligible for Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal eligibility is now easier to achieve as the current resource caps have recently been dramatically expanded. To qualify for Medi-Cal, the applicant can now have up to \$130,000 in savings if single, although more is allowed if married. Note: for those persons with excess assets, there may be lawful strategies to accelerate eligibility without the need to first spend down the excess.

Income Limits: For persons with low monthly incomes, the benefit is available without a share of cost ("co-pay"). However, for persons whose monthly income is

above certain levels (currently, above \$1,564 for a single person and \$2,106 for a married person, as of December 2022), the applicant will have a share of cost that must be paid to the worker(s) before the IHSS program pays the balance. Thus, the program only works well for persons with low incomes, or persons with great need who are awarded hours close to the maximum.

In many cases, the caregiver may hire a family member, whether a spouse or an adult child. Also, for the caregiver who works at least 80 hours per month, the program makes healthcare available at a nominal monthly premium, a valuable benefit to the worker.

If your mother qualifies for IHSS, she could hire your sister so she could receive both a modest salary and health insurance. Also, to give your sister some relief each month, your mother could split care hours, hiring your sister part-time and another caregiver for the balance of approved hours.

To find out more, call the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging at 510-577-1800, or go to www.AlamedaSocialServices.org.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in the East Bay. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com.



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