



**Add a Little Pizzazz**  
GARLIC ADDS FLAVOR TO MANY DISHES;  
CALIFORNIA LEADS NATION IN GARLIC PRODUCTION..... 4

**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**CLOUDY** Partly Cloudy thru Sunday  
HIGHS: 68-80  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 57-58

**FRIDAY**  
  
**SATURDAY**  
  
**SUNDAY**

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 34 • NO. 30

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

## San Leandran Runs Cross Country To Raise Funds for Food Banks

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

Zoon Nguyen of San Leandro is nearing the finish line of a 5-month run across America to raise funds for food banks nationwide.

He'll finish the quest on July 31 at the Bethesda Terrace in Central Park in New York City.

It looks like he will be joined by an active-duty Navy unit for the last part of the run in New York, in recognition of his past Navy

“I’m not even a runner.

— Zoon Nguyen

service. He hopes they'll join him after he crosses the George Washington Bridge from New Jersey.

Nguyen started out on March 1 from the Santa Monica Pier near Los Angeles, which is also the ending point of Route 66. He found himself following old Route 66, parts of which now run on interstate highways, much of the way to Kansas.

“I’m not even a runner,” said the media businessman and Navy veteran. “The furthest I’ve ever run before this was 17 miles at one time. I’ve never run a marathon (26 miles).”

“Now I’m running the equivalent of about 110 of  
see RUN, page 11



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZOON NGUYEN

Zoon Nguyen started in Santa Monica and is now in New Jersey on his way to the finish in New York City.

## Council Amends Law on Fences Around Businesses

City Council also makes changes to laws on street food vendors

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

At its July 1 meeting, the San Leandro City Council amended its Zoning and Municipal Codes to allow businesses in industrial areas to better protect their properties, and another amendment to better define the rules for pop-up vendors selling street food.

In a 4-1 decision, with council members Fred Simon and Bryan Azevedo absent, the council approved the two-part ordinance. The first part modifies security fencing standards in industrial zoning districts, including their height and use of razor wire, barbed wire, or electrified fencing.

San Leandro Planning Department manager Avalon Schultz said in recent years, staff has received numerous requests from business and property owners to allow for higher fences to protect their properties. The new height standards allow for a maximum of eight feet, up from three feet, for fences in front of a business  
see FENCES, page 11

## San Leandrans See Hope After Biden Withdraws

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

On Sunday, President Biden announced he's not running for re-election, the first time an incumbent president hasn't run for a second term since Lyndon Johnson withdrew in 1968.

Biden endorsed his Vice President Kamala Harris to be his replacement as Democratic presidential nominee.

Some San Leandrans in the Downtown Plaza this week praised President Biden and expressed support for Harris. A few said they wouldn't vote for anyone the Democrats might have in mind. Biden made the right decision to withdraw and focus on his health, said one woman. “It's a good idea,” Yolanda Rivera said. “I support  
see HOPE, page 12

## SLZ Teachers to Receive 9 Percent Raise

A new two-year agreement between the San Lorenzo Unified School District and its teachers, effective July 1, provides a combined 9% pay raise, bringing to 32% the district's overall pay increase

for 2022-2026.

Members of the San Lorenzo Education Association (SLEA), which represents teachers and other certificated employees, voted to ratify the contract with 94% support

on May 31, and the district School Board unanimously approved it on June 18.

According to Transparent California (2022) San Lorenzo school district teachers average pay was around

\$80,000 and total compensation \$105,000.

Because pay increases are typically implemented across all job categories, the district's approximately 1,000 employees  
see RAISE, page 12

### INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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#### HEALTH

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## MEETING SCHEDULES

**CITY COUNCIL**  
Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 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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## Adopt-A-Pet



Wade



Calvin and Cali

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are a grey-and-white cat and a pitbull mix.

Wade is a 2-year-old grey and white domestic short hair. He has sweet eyes and a cuddly temperament. Wade wants to be by your side getting attention, and may do well with other cats. He loves to walk up and down the aisle at the shelter greeting all the other cats and kittens.

Calvin is a 10-month-old brown and white pitfall mix, and Cali is a 6 month-old-tan cattle dog mix. These two young, rambunctious and active dogs are both available for adoption, but not as pair. Expect fun, chaos, and empathy from two young pups that will take your hearts away with their eyes.

To adopt or meet Wade, or Calvin and Cali, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAUREEN SPRANZA

Piano students Baron Batarse, Josias Fong, Spencer Chen, and William Martinez were recognized by the Music Teachers' Association of California.

## Piano Students Noted

Congratulations to the following piano students who

have received awards from the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC).

On the left is Baron Batarse, a recent graduate of Arroyo High School, who received a Senior Award for his years of participation. He also received a Certificate of Merit for Level 10 Advanced Piano. He will attend UC Santa Cruz.

Next is Josias Fong, a graduate of Bancroft Middle School who will be attending San Leandro High and received a Certificate of Merit in Level 5 Classical Piano. He also received an Advanced Division 3 Improvisation award and performed at the 2024 Convention in Los Angeles on June 30.

Spencer Chen received an

Advanced Division 2 Improvisation award and performed at the Convention in Los Angeles. He was recently selected to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City this December.

“A piano is a living thing. It has a personality, a character.”

— Vladimir Horowitz

William Martinez received an Advanced Division 2 Improvisation award and was selected to perform in Los Angeles. William has performed twice at Carnegie Hall.

## Correction

In the story about the delay in building the apartments at Bancroft and Estudillo avenues (“Utility Connections Delay Apartment Construction on Bancroft Ave.,” July 18, 2024) a quote attributed to the city’s Community Development Director Tom Liao

wasn’t accurate. Liao didn’t make a prediction on when the construction will begin. Liao said the city does not know when construction will begin or have control of the start date or timeline. That information would have to come from the developer.

## Bay-O-Vista

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## Community Calendar

### Monday Movie Matinees At the Main Library

Come to the family-friendly movie matinees on Mondays at 1 p.m. from June 10 to July 29 in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Check the website calendar for exact movies. [www.sanleandrolibrary.org](http://www.sanleandrolibrary.org)

### San Leandro Players Present *Waiting in the Wings*

The San Leandro Players presents Noel Coward's *Waiting in the Wings*, opening on Saturday night at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave., next to the historic Casa Peralta. The show runs on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Aug. 18, plus two Friday shows at 8 p.m. on Aug. 9 and Aug. 16. Tickets: \$25 general; \$20 seniors and under 12 (other discounts may apply). For more information or tickets online at [www.slplayers.org](http://www.slplayers.org) or by calling 510-895-2573.

### I.D.E.S. St. John

#### Hamburger & Hot Dog Lunch with Bingo

I.D.E.S. St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will host a hamburger and hotdog lunch with Bingo on Saturday, July 27, at noon. Tickets are \$15 and includes a hamburger or hotdog, salad and four Bingo cards. Extra Bingo cards for 25 cents each. For tickets, call Jenet Re at 510-483-1132, or Willie Calvo at 510-207-6326.

### Grant Avenue Foundation School Supplies Giveaway

The Grant Avenue Foundation will hold a Backpacks and School Supplies Giveaway for grades K-12 on Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jefferson Elementary School, 14300 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The child must be present to receive a backpack and supplies.

### American Legion Post 117 Sunday Breakfast

American Legion Post 117 of San Leandro will host its monthly Fourth Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, July 28, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Pancakes with sausage, eggs, coffee, tea, juice. Veterans \$7, non-veterans \$8.

### Back to School Book Giveaway

San Leandro school board member Leo Sheridan and Books Inc. will hold a Back to School Book Giveaway on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at Books Inc., 2483 Washington Ave. in San Leandro. San Leandro's youngest learners, TK through 5th grade, can receive a brand new book to kick off the school year.

### Celebrate Community at First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church, 180 Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro, will host a National Night Out party on the front grounds on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and meet neighbors and enjoy ice cream, popsicles, and home baked cookies. Let's build connections to make a better and safer community. For more information, call 510-483-2772.

### Praises of Zion Baptist Church National Night Out

Praises of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, will host a National Night Out party on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Backpacks with school supplies will be distributed to grades K-12. Children must be present and accompanied by an adult to receive a backpack. Available while supplies last. Free hot dogs, popcorn, water, games. Spin a wheel for a free tablet.

### Park District Hosting National Night Out Party at Lake Chabot

The East Bay Regional Park District is hosting its second annual National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Road in Castro Valley. Parkgoers are invited to celebrate and strengthen community ties at this free event. Bring family, friends, and neighbors for a fun night out in the park. Talk with first responders, meet the police horses, see fire trucks, take pictures at the photo booth, enjoy refreshments and a live DJ. Free parking.

## Rotary Club Creates Hope in the World, Looks forward to Projects in the New Year

By Jennifer Reed  
Special to the Times

Each year, 1.3 million Rotarians across the globe make an impact in communities both close to home and far away.

July marks the start of the new year for Rotary clubs, a time to celebrate the previous year's accomplishments and gear up for the new Rotary year.

In 2023-24, Rotary International's theme was "Creating Hope in the World" and the Rotary Club of San Leandro did its part. Under the leadership of club President Ed Hernandez (former San Leandro City Council member and current Eden Health District board member), highlights included volunteering at community-wide events and local non-profit organizations, providing over \$26,000 in grants to local nonprofits, and funding and participating in international projects in Guatemala, Honduras, and Puerto Rico.

With over 10 volunteer projects throughout the year, club members provided meals and groceries to San Leandro's most vulnerable residents, helped beautify our community through clean-up efforts, supported youth and learning for elementary

through high school students, bolstered locally owned businesses and helped bring joy to San Leandrans at Okdroberfest, Santa at the Firehouse, It's a Wonderful Night, and the Cherry Festival.

Now, Rotary clubs all over the year will celebrate the "Magic of Rotary." San Leandro Rotary will kick off the new year with new club President Morgan Mack-Rose leading the way. Morgan has been an active member of San Leandro for over six years. She has demonstrated her deep commitment to San Leandro through her professional work and Rotary.

Morgan is currently the Executive Director of the Downtown San Leandro Community Benefit District. Her prior roles included serving as a San Leandro Unified School District Trustee from 2008 to 2012 and Executive Director of the San Leandro Education Foundation from 2013 to 2020.

Having lived in San Leandro for 20 years, Mack-Rose brings a depth of experience working with the City of San Leandro and organizing volunteers for the betterment of the community.

In line with this year's Rotary theme, Morgan and the



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER REED

**Past Rotary Club President Ed Hernandez (right) with incoming President Morgan Mack-Rose.**

40+ club members will bring some magic to San Leandro with a host of projects that foster a sense of purpose, connection, and pride.

The Rotary Club invites you to be a part of this magic.

If you're interested in learning more about the Rotary Club of San Leandro and how you can help make an impact locally and globally, visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or contact the club's Membership Committee.

## Celebrate Disability Pride Month with Program at the San Leandro Library

San Leandro Public Library and East Bay Innovations (EBI) to celebrate and honor Disability Pride Month this July with a program on Friday, July 26, at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

10 to 11 a.m. – Family Storytelling and Art for all ages – Trustees Room

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Documentary of Crip Camp (2020, Rated R for Profanity and Mention of Sexuality, 1 Hour 42 Minutes – Lecture Hall. Rated R for talk of sex, profanity.

1 to 2 p.m. – Ice Cream Social – Trustees Room. Stay a while after the documentary for a sweet summer treat and conversation.

## SL Art Association to Hold Art Class For Students in Grades 6 to 12

The San Leandro Art Association is offering a free art class to students grades 6 to 12, on Wednesday August 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Marina Community Center in the Patio Room, 15301 Wicks Boulevard, San Leandro. This is the fourth in a series of free art classes offered by SLAA to the residents of San Leandro, funded by a grant from the San Leandro Arts, Culture and Library Commission. In this course students will be introduced to pastel painting. All supplies for the class will be provided for free.

The students will take home their art creations along with limited supplies for future art projects. During the breaks in the class time, beverages and snacks will also be provided free for students and their guardians. The class is limited to 20 students, on a first come, first served basis. For more information about this class, other upcoming classes visit: <https://www.sanleandroart.org/freetartclasses>. To register your child for this Introduction to Pastel Painting Class send email to: [sanleandroart.contact@gmail.com](mailto:sanleandroart.contact@gmail.com)

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## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** A bit of Arian contrariness could be keeping you from getting all of the facts. Turn it off and tune in to what you need to hear. It could make all the difference this week.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Getting an answer to a vital question involving financial matters might take longer than you'd expected. A new factor might have to be dealt with before anything can move forward. Be patient.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Use your good sense to see what really might be driving a colleague's workplace agenda. What you learn could lead to a new way of handling some old problems.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** A change of mind might once again turn out to be a good thing. True, most of your co-workers might not like the delay, but as before, they might appreciate what follows from it.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** You revel in golden opportunities this week. One cautionary note, though: Be careful to separate the gold from the glitter before you make a choice. Someone you trust can help.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Marriage is important this week, as are other partnerships. Don't let yourself be overwhelmed by sentiment. Instead, try to steer a path between emotion and common sense.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Dealing with someone who has let you down is never easy. But the sooner you're able to clear up this problem, the sooner other problems can be successfully handled.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** A "friend" who is willing to bend the rules to gain an advantage for both of you is no friend. Reject the offer, and stay on your usual straight and narrow path.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** After all the effort you've been putting in on the job and for friends and family, it's a good time to indulge your own needs. Meanwhile, the weekend could bring a pleasant surprise.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** You might want to do something new this weekend. Close your eyes and imagine what it could be, then do it! Or come up with the closest practical alternative.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Your good deeds bring you the appreciation you so well deserve. But once again, be careful of those who might want to exploit your generous nature for their own purposes.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Trolling for compliments isn't necessary. You earned them, and you'll get them. This week, concentrate on moving ahead into the next phase of your program.





You don't have to purchase sliced or minced garlic in a jar. It's easy to prepare on your own.

# Mince Garlic, Not Words

Garlic is one of the oldest crops grown worldwide and long considered to be a giver of health. Today, California harvests more than 150,000 tons of the fragrant bulbs each year, making it the main garlic-producing state in the country. A big part of that harvest comes from the South Bay city of Gilroy, which will celebrate its self-proclaimed status as the “Garlic Capital of the World.” When you cook with garlic, you don’t have to purchase sliced or minced garlic in a jar. Using fresh garlic really is worth the couple of extra minutes of prep time. The flavor of fresh garlic is superior to the stuff that comes pre-chopped. Buy firm heads (bulbs) of garlic that are heavy for their size with large cloves so that peeling them is not a painstaking chore. To prepare garlic for cooking, first break it up into cloves. You’ll generally get 10 to 20 from a head. To peel, slightly crush the clove with the flat side of a knife. The skins slip right off. Depending on the recipe, the peeled garlic cloves can be used whole, minced, or crushed. You can also thinly slice garlic if your recipe calls for sliced versus minced garlic. One raw garlic clove, finely minced or pressed releases more flavor than a dozen cooked whole cloves. Garlic, slowly roasted in the oven, loses its sharp bite and turns remarkably soft and mel-

low. ter the herbs into the oil. Add the bay leaf and peppercorns. Cover the pan with foil and bake at 300°F for 30 minutes.

Take the foil off, baste the heads and replace the foil. Lower the temperature to 275°F and bake 30 minutes more, testing for doneness by piercing with a thin knife. Roast garlic should be soft but not falling apart. Remove pan from oven; take off foil.

With tongs, take heads out of oil and put in a bowl or pan to cool. Strain off the oil (reserve for sautéing meat and vegetables).

Gently squeeze out the roasted cloves of garlic and reserve for later. Use them for seasoning casseroles or just as a tasty spread for French bread.

## GARLIC-LEMON BUTTER

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Pepper to taste

In a small bowl, mix all ingredients until smooth. Spread on hot corn on the cob or dab on any cooked vegetables. Yields 8 servings.

## GARLIC POTATO PIE

- 1 pound boiling potatoes, scrubbed
- 6 cloves fresh garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 tablespoons of butter

Preheat oven to 380°F. Butter a 9-inch pie plate.

Slice potatoes thinly. Arrange a layer of potatoes, garlic slices, Parmesan and slices of butter.

Repeat using the rest of the ingredients (other than the milk), saving some of the cheese and the butter.

Heat the milk and pour over top of the potatoes. Top with bread crumbs and remaining cheese and butter.

Bake for 1 hour, until the potatoes are tender and top has

turned golden brown. Makes 4 servings.

## GARLIC PENNE

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 12 garlic cloves, peeled and lightly crushed
- 1 (28-ounce) can Italian tomatoes, seeded and coarsely chopped, juice reserved
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1/2 bouillon cube (optional)
- 1 pound uncooked penne
- Grated Parmesan cheese

Place olive oil and garlic cloves in a medium sauté pan. Cook over medium-low heat until the garlic is soft and a light golden-brown. Stir frequently to prevent sticking. Add the tomatoes and their juices, salt and pepper and the bouillon cube. Cook until a sauce forms.

Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package directions. Drain well and place in a serving bowl. Add the sauce and toss well. Serve with grated cheese on the side. Serves 4.

## GARLIC MAHI FILETS

- 1 cup white Zinfandel wine
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1 teaspoon black, or to taste
- 4 (8-ounce) mahi mahi fillets

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat, and lightly oil the grate.

Stir the white Zinfandel wine, lemon juice, garlic, salt, and black pepper together in a bowl.

Place the mahi mahi fillets in the bowl and turn to coat with the wine mixture; allow to marinate for 10 minutes. Remove the fillets from the marinade, shaking off any excess moisture from the fish. Discard the marinade.

Grill the fillets on the preheated oven until the fish flakes easily with a fork, 4 to 5 minutes per side. Yields 4 servings.

## ROASTED GARLIC

- 12 to 16 heads fresh garlic
- Olive oil to cover
- 2 to 3 tablespoons fresh thyme and rosemary
- 1 bay leaf
- 12 black peppercorns

Cut tips off garlic heads and peel off the outer papery skin. Arrange the head, root side down, in a pan large enough to hold them, fitting them snugly side-by-side.

Pour oil over garlic and scat-

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

A	H	A	B	I	B	M	C	B	E	R
R	O	B	O	D	E	M	O	R	C	A
C	L	O	Y	O	L	D	G	L	O	R
S	E	X	I	S	M	C	A	U	C	U
			S	H	E	A		G	M	C
O	L	D	H	A	N	D	S	N	O	S
N	E	A	M	E	D	I	A	L	I	E
O	A	F	S	O	L	D	I	R	I	S
			F	U	R	E	E	R	O	
D	I	O	N	N	E	S	E	U	R	A
O	L	D	H	A	B	I	T	T	U	N
A	S	I	A		A	C	E	E	G	A
S	A	L	T		Y	I	P		S	T

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Two Questions from The Fitness Mailbag

By **Mitch Rothbardt**  
Special to the Times

This week I thought I'd answer a couple of questions I hear all the time.

**Jay – How does a person begin to work out when you have absolutely no clue as to what to do or where (or even how) to start?**

This is a great question. There's so much information (much of it garbage) that people get confused, which usually keeps them from doing anything at all.

Many people in the fitness industry sell lots of stuff by making fitness seem complicated. Unfortunately, normal, busy people are the victims. It shouldn't be this way.

The key is just keeping it simple. It doesn't take all that much to feel a little better or more energetic.

Schedule a short walk 2-3 times per week. Go to a dance class. Pickleball is all the rage.

If none of these things appeals to you, search out a trainer and find someone that connects with you. If you don't want to hire a trainer,

drop me a line and I'll recommend a book.

It comes down to finding an activity you enjoy and just doing it. Yes. It really is that simple.

And the more you do it, the more you'll figure out more about yourself, things you like and dislike, and how fitness can take all sorts of forms.

Just keep this one thing in mind: The most important thing to focus on for the first month is being consistent.

Read that last sentence again and let me know if you have any questions.

**Michael – Negotiating a back injury and aging into an effective routine has been a problem. I haven't found my groove, and desperately want to feel better about my body and health.**

Injuries can make things difficult for many reasons, not the least of which is the fear of making it worse. Oftentimes, the worst part about an injury isn't the injury itself, but our reaction to it.

As I told Jay, the key is to keep it simple. If you have an

injury, consult your doctor, and know that it's imperative to focus on your basic movement and posture.

If you want to find your groove, read my answer to Jay's questions above and then figure out your schedule and decide how much time you will devote to some exercise.

Notice I said, "will devote to some exercise", not "can devote".

You must be 100 percent honest with yourself about what you will do even it's only once a week for 15 minutes. The worst thing you can do is tell yourself you'll do something 4 times a week and then not be able to follow through.

A good mindset is crucial. Remember you're looking for progress and a way to build sustainable habits.

The answers to both questions are, of course, a little different for everyone but the principles are always the same. Simplicity and sustainability.

*Mitch Rothbardt is the owner and head trainer at Castro Valley Fitness. He can be reached at Mitch@CastroValleyFitness.com.*

## Relay for Life Coming Back on Aug. 3 at Chabot College Track

Relay for Live of the East Bay is coming back on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Chabot College in Hayward.

Relay for Life is dedicated to helping communities team up to fight cancer, and includes teams from San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, and Hayward.

Relay is a nationwide fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, which provides free resources, support programs, wigs, transportation, and lodging, to people with cancer. It's a celebration of cancer survivors and caregivers, who are the heart of every Relay.

One in two men, and one in three women, will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. There are almost 17 million cancer survivors in the United States – thanks, in part, to early cancer detection.



Are you up-to-date with your annual mammogram? How about your colonoscopy? Did you know the only cancer vaccine is for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) which prevents 90 percent of HPV cancers?

The American Cancer Society offers smoking cessation

resources so you can kick the habit. Smoking contributes to the number one cancer killer: lung cancer.

Things you learn at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). Learn more about Relay for Life of the East Bay at [https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=108157](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=108157)



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA MAGALLON

**Dr. Enrique Salmon from Cal State University East Bay spoke last Saturday at the Manor Branch Library about his book *Iwigara*, American Indian ethnobotanical traditions and science. The California Native Garden was open, highlighting plants covered in Dr. Salmon's book. The talk was hosted by the Washington Manor Resilience Hub with funding from the San Leandro Resilience Hub Initiative.**

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY  
By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Prepare for Open Houses

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

Driving through an upscale neighborhood, I spotted an open house sign and decided to pop in. It had just opened, and the agent was still getting things ready. I entered and, deciding to explore the second floor first, headed up the stairs. Entering the primary bedroom suite, I looked around and then, entering the ensuite bathroom, was startled to see an object on

the counter. I quickly picked it up, headed downstairs and handed it to the Realtor hosting the open house. Startled, she looked at me with horror and then placed the item in her purse for safekeeping until the owner returned.

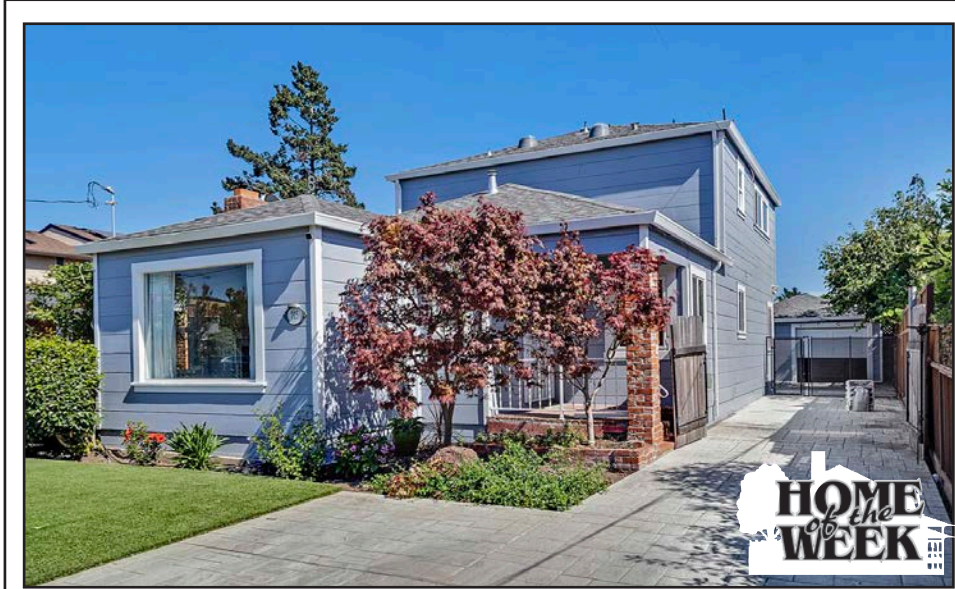
The object? An NBA Championship ring.

While certainly left on the counter by accident, it was a sharp reminder of the need for sellers to properly prepare for

open houses. While we never want to assume the worst of those visiting, there is no doubt that opportunistic theft is a very real possibility. Since there is typically only one or two agents in a home during an open house while there could be numerous guests, it is impossible for agents to effectively police every room, leaving plenty of opportunity for curious children or opportunists. Here are a couple recommendations:

1. Always assume visitors will be opening drawers and looking in cabinets.

Knowing this, check every drawer in your home to ensure that nothing of concern is readily accessible. Over the years we have encountered guns, hunting knives, cash, jewelry,



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or safe. We also suggest that easily accessible valuables, financial documents, etc. be placed in a box and put in the trunk of your car while you are out during the open house.

2. Remove items from children's reach.

If a child can reach it, chances are they will try. Figurines, beautiful vases or pottery – if it can break, put it up out of reach or stow it somewhere safe. This also applies to toys: I have seen many youngsters play with toys that have been left out and who, when it is time to leave, try to take an item with them or set up a major fuss at having to leave.

Open houses are a great tool for helping you sell your home but also pose risks: with proper preparation, everything will be where it was once you return home.

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



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**OPEN HOMES** SAT. & SUN. JULY 27 & 28

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDR./BA.	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	1-4		14654 Acacia St	\$865,000	4/3.5	Re/ Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
C		1-4	20061 Summercrest Dr	\$998,000	4/3	Re/ Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
A	1-4	1-43	715 Dolores Ave	\$1,199,975	4/3.5	RE eBroker	Antonio M. Cardenas	510-326-4263
A		1-4	2379 Harborview Drive	\$1,468,000	3/3	Coldwell Banker	Laurie Pfohl	510-851-3551

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# Flowering Pear Tree Needs More Water

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** We have a forty-five-year-old Flowering Pear in the middle of what was once a lawn. We occasionally water it with 'gray water' from the washing machine rinse cycle, but the tree does not look good. I would like to know if it should be watered more often.



<p>a href="https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CalleryPearC.JPG#media/File:CalleryPearC.JPG">img src="https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/16/CalleryPearC.JPG" alt="Fruit" height="1536" width="2048"></a><br>By Rlevse - Rlevse, Public Domain, <a href="https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3024938">Link</a></p>

**A** Flowering Pears are an ideal shade tree that thrives in turf areas but is not drought-tolerant even after a wet winter. The short answer is yes. It requires more frequent watering than you're giving it now, especially with our recent extensive heat wave. You didn't realize it, but it started to show signs of stress very early last year when it was dormant, like in August or September, after the leaves turned a maroon color. You also might see burnt foliage or die back at the tree's top and sides. Fireblight, a bacterial disease, can cause dieback, so you could have both of these problems. So, watering this tree regularly is very important to keep it healthy. The water shouldn't be applied to the trunk but around the tree's drip line, as it probably has a fair amount of surface roots. I'd construct a six to eight-inch high watering basin around the tree that extends from the trunk to the drip line. When the temperatures are less than ninety degrees, I'd water every seven to ten days and more often when it's warmer. A three-inch layer of mulch is strongly recommended to help insulate the soil and conserve moisture. I'd fill the basin up two to three times, to begin with, to add back moisture to the soil. Another option is to eliminate the basin and use a soaker hose. The soaker hose is placed in circles radiating from the trunk to the drip line. Next, measure the diameter of the tree trunk. With trunks smaller than two inches, apply one gallon per inch; for larger trunks over, apply two gallons per application. Next, take the area of the canopy and make it a square. Once you determine the square footage (LxW), multiply it by .623 (gallons/sq.ft./inch). The average 5/8-inch soaker hose will disperse around one inch of water to plants over

three-and-a-half hours. This could be done every three to four weeks. A water time attached to a hose bid simplifies the task. You turn it on manually, and it turns itself off. A three-inch layer of mulch under the canopy will help conserve moisture. Unfortunately, you may not see much of a difference this year, as most damage has already occurred.

**NOTE:** Your favorite garden center doesn't have a supply of mature, forty-year-old replacement trees at an affordable price. Therefore, you must keep the tree watered at all costs. By doing so, you're not just maintaining a beautiful part of your landscape but also protecting an asset worth tens of thousands of dollars. The aesthetic value of a mature tree is a quantifiable number as it increases the property value by as much

as twenty percent.

Buzz Bertolero is Executive Vice President of Navlet's Garden Centers and a California Certified Nursery Professional. Send questions by email to [dirtgarden@aol.com](mailto:dirtgarden@aol.com) or to 360 Civic Drive, Ste. "D," Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, and on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz-Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz-Bertolero).



## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

21258 Hobert Street 94546: \$600,000 [2 BD - 1,016 SF - 1947
21314 Gary Drive #201 94546: \$690,000 [3 BD - 1,354 SF - 1991
4564 Sargent Avenue 94546: \$785,000 [3 BD - 1,112 SF - 1953
22068 Cameron Street 94546: \$795,000 [2 BD - 984 SF - 1947
19705 Redwood Road 94546: \$900,000 [3 BD - 1,465 SF - 1992
21168 Baker Road 94546: \$1,000,000 [3 BD - 1,266 SF - 1953
2594 Stanton Hill Road 94546: \$1,118,000 [3 BD - 1,301 SF - 1959
18904 Sydney Circle 94546: \$1,150,000 [3 BD - 1,997 SF - 1993
19705 Lake Chabot Road 94546: \$1,175,000 [3 BD - 1,844 SF - 1957
34548 Palomares Road 94552: \$1,275,000 [3,712 SF - ]
7338 Longmont Loop 94552: \$1,300,000 [3 BD - 1,809 SF - 2002
22115 West Lyndon Loop 94552: \$1,404,000 [3 BD - 2,328 SF - ]
5562 Cold Water Drive 94552: \$1,414,000 [5 BD - 2,392 SF - 1965
3138 Aylesbury Court 94546: \$1,550,000 [3 BD - 1,535 SF - 1955
22215 West Lyndon Loop 94552: \$1,573,000 [4 BD - 2,379 SF - 2000
4164 High Ridge Place 94552: \$1,700,000 [4 BD - 2,269 SF - 1967
4478 Ewing Road 94546: \$1,878,000 [5 BD - 3,013 SF - 1991
<b>TOTAL SALES: 17</b>
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT: \$600,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,175,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,878,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,194,529</b>

### Hayward

225090 Copa Del Oro Drive #201 94545: \$393,000 [1 BD - 608 SF - 1986
26937 Hayward Boulevard #343 94542: \$640,000 [2 BD - 1,162 SF - 1982
27706 Del Norte Court 94545: \$700,000 [3 BD - 1,254 SF - 1970
26415 Huntwood Avenue 94544: \$700,000 [3 BD - 1,165 SF - 1954
78 Crossing Court 94544: \$725,000 [3 BD - 1,585 SF - 1991
1868 East Avenue 94541: \$725,000 [4 BD - 1,549 SF - 1959
29237 Albatross Road 94545: \$737,500 [4,142 SF - 2005
28399 Pacific Street 94544: \$753,000 [3 BD - 1,411 SF - 1952
25442 Charles Avenue 94544: \$760,000 [3 BD - 951 SF - 1950
3391 Kelly Street 94541: \$780,000 [2 BD - 840 SF - 1918
675 Hampton Road 94541: \$790,000 [5 BD - 1,530 SF - 1989
25099 Oakridge Court 94541: \$800,500 [3 BD - 1,421 SF - 1973
28333 Rochelle Avenue 94544: \$840,000 [3 BD - 1,115 SF - 1954

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## Mortgage Rates Continue to Fall

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to its lowest level since mid-March, dropping 12 basis points from last week. Mortgage rates are headed in the right direction and the economy remains resilient, two positive incremental signs for the housing market. However, homebuyers have yet to respond to lower rates, as purchase application demand is still roughly 5 percent below Spring, when rates were approximately the same. This is not uncommon: sometimes as rates decline, demand weakens, and the apparent paradox is driven by buyers making sure rates don't decline further before they decide to purchase.

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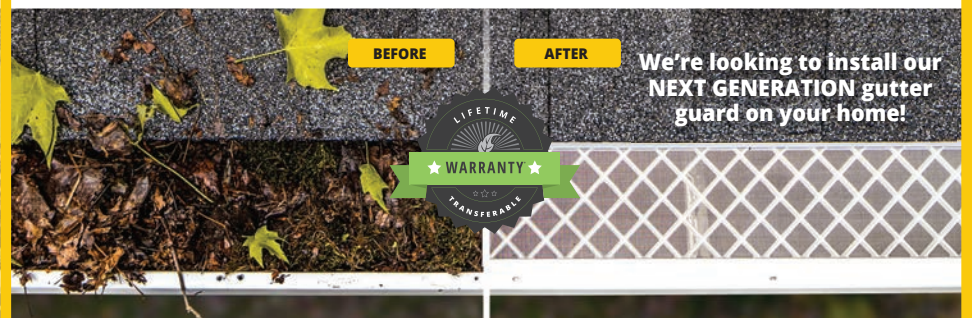
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LEGAL NOTICES

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
July 18, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 607767

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Diaz Concrete Pumping, located at 2577 West Avenue, San Leandro CA 94577 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Enrique Diaz Franco, located at 2577 West Avenue, San Leandro CA 94577. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/Enrique Diaz Franco  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires July 17, 2029  
JUL 25, AUG 1, 8, 15, 2024  
1580 - SLT


FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
June 24, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 607425

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Peacefull Hands, located at 838 Hancock Street #33, Hayward, CA 94544 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Joseph Jr., located at 838 Hancock Street #33, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced N/A /s/John Joseph Jr  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires June 2, 2029  
JUL 04, 11, 18, 25, 2024

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
July 9, 2024  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 607801

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930  
The name of the business(es):  
Above & Beyond Travel, located at 1687 Via Lucas, San Lorenzo CA 94580 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karen S Ellison, located at 1687 Via Lucas, San Lorenzo CA 94580. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 6/1/2024 /s/Karen S Ellison  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires July 8, 2029  
JUL 18, 25, AUG 01, 08, 2024

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- ACROSS

1 Pequod captain  
5 "Big Blue"  
8 Driver with a handle  
12 Sci-fi prefix  
13 Rep.'s rival  
14 Sea predator  
15 Be overly sweet  
16 The Stars and Stripes  
18 A cause of pay inequity  
20 Political meeting  
21 -- butter  
23 SUV maker  
24 Veterans  
28 Snack  
31 Museum-funding org.  
32 TV, radio, etc.  
34 Fib  
35 Lummoxes  
37 Celtic language  
39 Bear hair  
41 Architect Saarinen  
42 "Alfie" singer Warwick  
45 Painter Georges  
49 It may be hard to break  
51 Sushi fish  
52 India's continent  
53 High card  
54 "Zounds!"  
55 Corn seasoning  
56 Shri! bark  
57 Swift jets

DOWN

1 Curved lines  
2 Bagel feature  
3 "Life is like -- of chocolates"  
4 Like Peter Pan  
5 Mozart opera  
6 -- canto  
7 Roman 2600  
8 Newspaper piece  
9 Veggie with florets  
10 Beige  
11 Sunbeams  
17 Joke  
19 Counterfeit  
22 Confuse  
24 Plastic -- Band  
25 Grazing land  
26 Yellow flower  
27 Avoid  
29 Bro's sib  
30 Sly chuckle  
33 Suffix for billion  
36 Baby's beachwear  
38 Courses  
40 Genetic letters  
42 "-- I say!"  
43 "Casablanca" role  
44 Online auction site  
46 Carpets  
47 Body sci.  
48 Tiny amounts  
50 Here, to Henri
- ANSWERS ON PAGE 4
- 

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# OPINION

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

**Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.**

### Return Campaign Contributions

Editor,  
To follow up on Mr. Sheridan's letter to the editor last week, I call on Councilmember Bryan Azevedo to return his questionable campaign funds received by the Duong Family and their affiliates.

I challenge Councilmember Azevedo to demonstrate some integrity as other local politicians have and acknowledge and return the full amount received by him in the 2022 failed mayoral bid and in his current re-election campaign by this source and other questionable sources including the \$4,000 contribution from Florida as reported in his campaign finance report.

Doing the right thing isn't always easy, but doing the right thing is always right. The question is, will he do what is right?

**Lawrence Andrews**  
*San Leandro*

### Many Campaign Donations Come from Entities Doing Business with the City

Editor,  
There's a lot of pettiness in the local political space meant to stoke fear and anger. The attacks on Bryan Azevedo from Hernandez's camp have been consistent for the past few months, from an anonymous Twitter account (@SLResident94577) pushing racist, sexist tropes to now local political heads acting as if they know more than the FBI. This pettiness glosses over a common argument that local political leaders have but only wish to weaponize against their opponents: money can influence politics.

If the argument is about corruption then we must address the way that we finance our elections. Big donations have always been a part of San Leandro politics due to the way that we hold our elections. We must conform to the California Voting Rights Act and transition to district site elections rather than our current at-large citywide elections for city council seats.

There must also be a donation limit that any entity can donate to our campaigns to a reasonable \$500 rather than the \$5,500 that it's currently set at. If we want integrity then it begins there, not

with mudslinging.

Previous elected officials have received money from entities we've done business with. Thousands of dollars have been poured into our elections from ACI who've raised their rates on a struggling population, Cal-Coast Development which led to the barricading and degradation of our Marina, and real estate interests which are a big factor as to why we have no rent stabilization to protect our residents from getting displaced.

If positive change to protect our citizens is what we want to foster then it doesn't begin with pettiness. Change begins with acknowledging our flawed system and cooperation.

**Robert Bulatao**  
*San Leandro*

### How Much Value for Your Money?

Editor,

Ms. Janelle Cameron is clearly well-qualified to be the City Manager of San Leandro, but, really, \$350,00 a year salary? Congressional Representative Barbara Lee works for \$174,000 a year as do California's two Senators. Public officials' salaries, in my opinion, should reflect the value they produce for the citizenry. It's hard to see how a City Manager for 92,000 people can produce twice the value of a Congressional Representative that represents over 700,000 citizens.

**Don Siefkes**  
*San Leandro*

### A Better Use of Time for PG&E Crews

Editor,

I read this article ("Utility Connections Delay Apartment Construction on Bancroft Ave." July 18, 2024), then remembered a 2+ day project that PG&E had recently spent in my neighborhood.

A 5-man crew with heavy equipment digging up 20 to 30 feet of lawn, cutting through a sidewalk, digging up the street, removing lines, then redoing everything.

Apparently all because the owner didn't want a gas line connecting to his or her house.

The same result could have been accomplished in about one minute using a Crescent wrench.

I'm sure the cost ran into multiple thousands of dollars, and doubt if the homeowner was charged anything.

Talk about a waste of time and energy that could have better been spent disconnecting the utilities on the vacant building on Bancroft Avenue.

**Ken Kellogg**  
*San Leandro*

### The City I That Love

San Leandro has been our home for many of us, as in age we have grown

The weather is bearable, we agree The surrounding businesses, fulfill all our daily needs

The Marina is my favorite place Though roads are barricaded, and boats are gone

The fresh air, green trees are still there

And I love this place

The shopping that I enjoyed best Has become a "go in and out run" in a haste

My wish is that peace and security will one day prevail

And I still I love this place

San Leandro is a central place With beautiful houses to display A self-contained city by the Bay And hence this city dwellers love it, I can say.

San Leandro dwellers make a strong community Let us join hand and make it an Age-Friendly City Let us work for safety with kindness and for our diversity. And finally as the Bard said with sincerity "With all thy faults we love thee still".

**Bella Comelo**  
*San Leandro*

### Foot-Dragging on Gun Permits Unconstitutional

Editor,

In the past several decades, California had required a "good cause" of Concealed Carry Weapons permit applicants. It was close to impossible for an "average" citizen to get a permit to defend their family against rising crime. This all has changed recently.

1.) In June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision holding that licensing schemes requiring concealed carry license applicants to show "proper cause" (or something similar) to carry firearms are unconstitutional. The decision required a legislative response given California's similar concealed carry laws.

2.) The 2023 California Senate Bill 2 (SB 2) replaced California's "good cause" and "good moral character" requirements.

3.) California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued "Regulations: Carry Concealed Weapons Licenses" on December 8, 2023.

4.) The San Leandro Police De-

partment is working on the CCW permit application process since the beginning of this year. Half a year, and we cannot even submit an application. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of police departments all over the United States that use forms like this. A few phone calls and an afternoon of "cut and paste" should have done the job. Looks like San Leandro decided to reinvent the wheel.

I have talked to a command officer of the SLPD in April, a Councilman in May, two members of the Police Oversight Commission and an SLPD Supervisor in June and mailed a letter to the new Chief of Police four weeks ago – no progress. However, a month ago I was told that over 200 people are waiting for an application form – just in San Leandro.

It has been about 2 years now since the California practice has been found unconstitutional and we cannot even apply to exercise our 2nd Amendment rights. It is either incompetence or slow-walking. I cannot believe our city government is totally incompetent.

**Ray Keden**  
*San Leandro*

### Dad, What Does Illegal Mean?

Dear Parents of San Leandro,

I would like to believe that not a single parent in San Leandro purchased, stored or ignited fireworks over the 4th of July holiday. If that's not the case, then how do you explain "illegal" to your children? Good luck as they navigate your definition.

**T.A. Neumann**  
*San Leandro*

### Trump Lies about Immigrants

Editor,

Trump's campaign and lies against immigrants is anti-American and a curse on our country. The biggest lie is that immigrants are mostly criminals, murderers and rapists. Actually the crime rate for immigrants is much lower than the general population. This fact is well documented.

One could argue that if you wanted to lower your areas crime rate you might consider a program to import more immigrants. Also in the Bay Area a good deal of the innovation in Silicon Valley comes from immigrants, frequently Chinese and Indian immigrants. And if you want a healthy plant based diet chances are the veggies and fruit you prefer were probably picked by an immigrant worker.

Also the outrageous idea that Republicans want to deport millions of immigrants won't square with most economists who are concerned about inflation. Without the help of immigrant labor in many fields we would again, like after the '70s energy crisis, face

double digit inflation.

On top of it all, the immigrants who come here come because the United States almost always "call the shots" in Central America where government sanctioned terrorism has hundreds of thousands fleeing the nightmare of right wing military rule. Not to mention how the U.S. generates 25 percent of the worlds CO2 emissions which is especially brutal in countries close to the equator.

Millions of Mexican corn farmers where driven off their farms by NAFTA policies that favored big U.S. agricultural firms. Their children migrated north in desperation. Many working low end jobs still sent home to their desperate parents a good deal of what they earned. All things considered we and the Orange man should consider these newcomers, American heroes with strong family values, and a wonderful addition to our beloved country. Unfortunately few if any of the journalist covering the election or even the Democrat leadership will drill down into these factors regarding the immigrant issue.

**Craig Williams**  
*San Leandro*

### Letter Writers Support Genocide and Assassination

Editor,

Eric Simpson of the Socialist Workers Party (Letters to the editor, July 18, 2024) comes out in support of the criminal genocide committed in Palestine. Simpson finds more repulsive the braking of some windows and a menorah than the more than 40,000 Palestinians killed so far in Gaza and thousands more over 75 years.

Then, there's George Z. Banks with his frauds, in an attempt to cover up the plot: Yes, the shooter was shot right away to make sure he wouldn't reveal his handlers, since the FBI was informed about the shooter's presence some 25 minutes earlier.

Looking for suspects Banks? Let's look here: Joe Biden: "we're done talking about the debate, it's time to put Trump in a bullseye." Congressman Dan Goldman: "he (Trump) has to be eliminated." Fake News operative Lia Delaria: "Blow up Trump." Another Fake News operative claimed that Trump yelled after being shot "Why?, why?, why?"

Then, there's Kathy Griffin holding the image of Trump's bloody decapitated head and dozens more over the last four years. Also, not to forget that Benny Thompson wants to withdraw Secret Service protection from His Excellency Donald J. Trump.

Democrats are getting desperate.

**Leo T. West**  
*San Leandro*



# Run: 'I didn't think I could do this, but then I decided not to overthink'

*continued from front page*

them to get across the country," Nguyen said.

He found it hard to cover much distance each day when he started out, about 10 miles a day, he said. But soon he was up to 15 miles a day, then more, and he covered 40 miles

in one day once in favorable conditions.

Right now he's in New Jersey, after running across the hills and mountains of Pennsylvania, and about to enter New York. People told him by the time he reached Pennsylvania he would have

only 10 percent of the miles left to finish, but 25 percent of the elevation gain, he said.

"If I can do this, anybody can do this," Nguyen said. He said that "this" was not just running across the country, but getting physically fit and pursuing one's dreams.

"I've always wanted to do this," he said. "I didn't think I could, but then I decided not to overthink things, because I wouldn't do it if I thought about it too much."

"I'd start, and see how it went, and then keep going if I could," he said.

Nguyen contrasted how long he's been on the road with how long it took him to plan the trip — about a week.

The triple goals for the run are to support food banks, promote physical fitness and increase visibility of Asian Americans in their many endeavors.

He's been pleasantly surprised by the sponsorship and support he has gotten. Platinum Wrap wrapped his support RV that follows him, complete with a portrait of him as a superhero, armed with nunchuks, a martial arts weapon.

He also thought he would never be this young again, or this able to recuperate from the daily stresses and exertion of such a the trip.

"People had always said California had the best weather



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ZOON NGUYEN

**Zoon Nguyen's Arizona friend Jason Lamar (at right) in front of Zoon's support RV at the Meteor RV Park in Winslow, Arizona.**



**The sun rises outside Ash Fork, Arizona early in the morning as Zoon Nguyen is already running.**

in the country, and I really found that to be true once I left the state. I've been rained on, hailed on, endured thunderstorms, and always have to be careful of traffic," Nguyen said.

He said he's gotten used to being pulled over often by the police, though it almost always ends with a request to join him in a selfie photo. Police officers who have stayed in good physical shape seem to admire what he's doing, while he senses a bit less enthusiasm from officers who've gotten a bit out of shape, Nguyen said.

Nguyen came to the U.S. from Vietnam when he was

eight. He went to Garfield Elementary School, Muir Middle School and San Leandro High School, graduating in the Class of 2013. He went into the Navy right out of high school and served until 2020 as a hospital corpsman attached to a Marine unit.

Part of his service was a tense six months in Japan when some combat involvement with North Korea was a possibility. Fortunately, things calmed down without reaching that point, and Nguyen said he had never been so happy to return to the United States after a deployment.

He owns his own media company, Kraken Media, on the web and Instagram as Kraken.media.pro.

Proceeds from the run across America go to food banks across the county through MilesForMeals.us, a project under the Team Feed/Feeding America Food Bank

effort to help food banks do their own fundraising.

Nguyen would like to donate a million meals to the hungry, "Meals For A Million," which he now realizes may be ambitious. But he is up to some 165,000 meals so far, with donations still coming in, and he says even that is an amazing number of people fed.

People wishing to donate can go to the website at [www.milesformeals.us](http://www.milesformeals.us), and if you want to see Nguyen finish his journey you can follow him on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/zoon.nguyen](http://www.instagram.com/zoon.nguyen).

People have been coming up to him on his run, and sometimes contacting him via social media, to tell him that he had inspired them to pursue a longtime dream they had kept putting off.

"My advice to them is take the chance and follow that dream," he said.

## Fences: Update of food vendor regulations

*continued from front page*

property but not on the property line, commonly referred to as a "setback area." Businesses must still ensure the fences don't entirely block off views, the setback areas must be landscaped, and driveways must be visible from the street.

The first part of the ordinance also allows businesses to install razor wire, barbed wire, or electrified fencing, which must be completely surrounded by non-electrified fencing and safety warning signs posted.

Councilman Pete Ballew voted against the full ordinance because he wanted it to require businesses to apply for a conditional use permit, considering that most businesses would find these fencing methods cost-prohibitive.

### Rules for Street Vendors

The second part of the ordinance covers mobile food vendors, which can be found all over San Leandro, from

East 14th to Marina Boulevard, to Washington Manor and Bayfair Mall.

The city municipal code says food trucks, ice cream trucks, catering trucks, and barbecue trailers, as well as any person who sells or serves food from an ice chest on the

sidewalk, fall into this category. The food can be cooked or cold, pre-packaged or prepared at the site.

Because of the increase in vendors and the more intricate their setups, the council voted to update its mobile food vendor regulations to align with

state law and identify the enforcement process. City staff said they were working on a food vending guidebook that includes rules for a vendor's hours of operation (limited to between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.).

*see FENCES, page 12*

### Robert Scott Stimson

May 16, 1972 ~ May 18, 2024

'Stimp' was born at St. Rose Hospital and was raised in San Leandro.

He attended Thomas Jefferson Elementary, Bancroft Middle School and graduated San Leandro High in 1990. He received his BS from Cal State Hayward and eventually got his teaching credentials. He loved teaching.

He is survived by his mother, Jane Urish Potter, Aunt Mary Wilson (Steve), cousins Keith and Kevin Wilson. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, David Potter, who raised him from the age of 3. Also preceded in death by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Urish, and father, Richard C Stimson.

Services will be Aug. 3, 1 p.m. at 14235 Bancroft Ave. Bethel Presbyterian Church.



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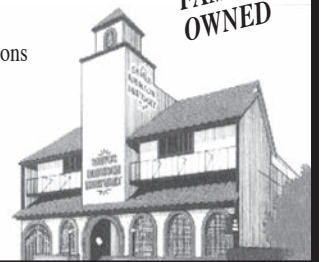
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## Hope: 'Giving younger people a chance'

*continued from front page*

Kamala. Biden should really concentrate on his health."

Some people are glad to see younger candidates run for president, not surprisingly, after seeing both Joe Biden and Donald Trump as the oldest presidential candidates in U.S. history.

"I don't know. I'm still trying to let things settle in," said David McAfee. "But both parties have to give younger

people a chance."

A woman said she doesn't know if America will support Kamala Harris.

"The election is going to be a tough one," Lenore Taylor said. "I'm scared for our country right now, and the country may not be ready for Kamala."

Another woman gave Biden credit for putting the country first.

"Biden is a true public servant, putting his county

ahead of himself," said Denise Carey.

Apparently, holding a different point of view, one man walked away grumbling, "Biden's a joke."

But another man saw having another candidate for president as a good sign, and that it gives him more hope.

"It's great," Buddy Wolf said. "I think there's hope now, less controversy."



PHOTO COURTESY AC TRANSIT

The new technology operates cameras on the front of AC Transit buses that can issue parking tickets to vehicles parked illegally in a bus lane.

## Raise: Reduction in class size

*continued from front page*

ees will each receive a 6.25% pay increase effective July 1, 2024, and an additional 2.75% increase effective July 1, 2025. That builds on a 15% pay raise negotiated for the 2022-23 fiscal year and an additional 5% increase for 2023-24.

On top of those salary increases, which accrue to employees' base pay for future increases, the agreement provides a 1% bonus for each of the next two years, as well as a \$500 increase in the district's annual contribution to health benefits.

The contract also includes a reduction in class size for kindergarten through third grade to 26 students and to no more than 31 students in grade 6, as well as increased stipends for temporary additional paid assignments.

SLZUSD School Board President Samuel Medina thanked SLEA and district negotiators for their hard work and ability to find common ground during talks that began in December.

"We were really looking for our teams to set a new standard and a new norm

for what negotiations can be and what collaboration looks like in negotiations," Medina said before the board voted to approve the contract, "and I think everyone really lived up to that vision."

SLEA President Karen Rosa also thanked her negotiating team for their hard work over the course of 13 bargaining sessions since December. Julie Glenn-Juuko, president of San Lorenzo Chapter 692 of the California School Employees Association, offered her thanks to SLEA and to Rosa for her leadership.

## AC Transit Now Using AI Software To Ticket Cars Illegally Parked in a Bus Lane

AC Transit began using automated bus lane enforcement citations last month along the entirety of the Tempo corridor, from the San Leandro BART Station to downtown Oakland.

Any vehicle illegally parked in a bus only lane, including taxis, rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft, and

delivery trucks, will be subject to a \$110 fine. This fine must be paid within 21 days of issuance.

The transit agency started the enforcement to promote safety and discourage the increasing number of illegally parked vehicles.

AC Transit was instrumental in passing laws such as AB 917, which now allows transit agencies across the state to use forward-facing cameras to cite vehicles illegally parked in transit-only lanes.

Tempo Line 1-T's forward-facing cameras began issuing citations in November 2020, following extensive public outreach and education efforts that started in September 2019.

Now, AC Transit is shifting to more advanced artificial intelligence (AI) hardware and software developed specifically for object detection. This software is engineered by Bay Area-based Hayden AI and is trained to identify lane lines, bus lanes, bus stop dimensions, and bus sizes, ensuring precise violation detection.

Hayden has successfully deployed its AI technology at transit agencies in New York City, Santa Monica, and Washington, D.C.

owner.

AC transit district said this is not as a means to boost revenues, but as an opportunity to address and ideally eliminate the safety hazards caused by motorists illegally parking in the bus only lanes.

AC Transit acknowledged the concerns surrounding the application of AI technology. The transit agency said it works to insure the responsible deployment of this automated camera enforcement and that the deployment closely adheres to California law including:

- Cameras will not capture anything inside the bus and are angled to focus solely on cars parked on the lane.

- Any image that does not contain evidence of a parking violation must be destroyed within 15 days.

- Any image evidence of a parking violation captured by the system will be destroyed within six months of the incident unless the citation is under dispute. In such cases, the evidence will be retained until 60 days after the final resolution of the citation.

- The AI camera system has no facial recognition or other biometric detection abilities.

AC Transit plans to expand automated camera enforcement beyond the bus only lanes of the Tempo corridor. It is outfitting a total of 100 buses with AI-enabled forward-facing cameras to discourage motorists from engaging in illegal parking at bus stops across AC Transit's network.

The expanded implementation of automated bus stops with bus lane enforcement is forecasted to start in September 2024.

## Fences: New rules for sidewalk vendors

*continued from page 11*

Vendors must be completely mobile and provide their own gas, electricity, and water. Vendors cannot leave anything behind, and they cannot block the sidewalk for pedestrians.

The change to the Municipal Code also requires street vendors to stay at least 300 feet away from community events (e.g.,

farmers markets, festivals, parades), restaurants, cafes, and delis. They must also be at least 500 feet away from all schools 30 minutes before school starts through 30 minutes after the end of the school day.

San Leandro's Finance Department would oversee the permits, which aims to decriminalize and promote sidewalk vending. The City

of San Leandro and the Alameda County Health Department would require permits. San Leandro police and the County health department would be in charge of enforcement.

### Other City Council News

In other City Council news, San Leandro will automatically extend the deadline for projects to obtain grading or building permits after entitlement for up to two years. The city staff requested the extension because the economy is a bit slow, and the Planning Department has more than 2,000 entitled housing units awaiting construction.

The council also voted to refine its enforceable noise ordinance standards to 65 decibels between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. before a neighbor can be charged with disturbing the peace.

The city also updated its property maintenance standards for commercial, multi-unit, and vacant lots. The ordinance reduces the height of weeds, ground cover, and grasses to no higher than 4 inches.

City staff said they are more willing to work with a homeowner than to slap them with a fine.

"I think it's sad that we have to legislate having to be a good neighbor," Ballew said.

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