

Social Security
CAN A DIVORCED WIFE
COLLECT EX-HUSBAND'S
BENEFITS? **9**

Pirates Roll
SAN LEANDRO FOOTBALL
BEATS BERKELEY IN FIRST
ROUND OF PLAYOFFS **14**

WEEKEND WEATHER
COOL Clouds return on
Sunday
HIGHS: 60-65
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 42-52

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 46

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



Bancroft Middle School students react as champion wrestler Victoria Anthony flipped a student who volunteered to go one-on-one. Below, Anthony gets a kick out of entertaining the crowd.

Wrestling Champ Wows Students

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Victoria Anthony, who stands 4-foot-10, stood in front of a junior high school kid twice her size and flipped him. He went head over heels right down on the mat at the Bancroft Middle School gym, as a roar of excitement went up from a few hundred kids in attendance.

The way that Anthony flipped the guy, though, had a light touch, so that he came down on the mat softly, testifying to Antho-

ny's level of skill.

Victoria Anthony is a freestyle wrestler ranked No. 1 in the United States in the 48 kg (105 pounds) division. She came to Bancroft on Monday to talk to the kids and show them some wrestling moves at the invitation of Bancroft teacher and wrestling coach Dave D'Antonio.

Don't worry whether you're big, little, short, tall or what kind of body size you are, because that doesn't matter, Anthony

see *WRESTLE*, page 8



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Rosy Business Forecast Given To City Council

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The next few years will be a boom time of development and construction in San Leandro, if an economic update the City Council received Monday night proves to be true.

But amid growth – including 1,500 new housing units – the city also predicts revenue streams and unemployment rates have begun to peak and they must keep an eye out for an inevitable recession, said City Manager Chris Zapata.

“We are succeeding,” said Zapata. “There is more to be done. These things ebb and flow and our economy and revenue streams are starting to crest.”

Katie Bowman, the city’s economic development manager, presented the council with several projects that are planned but still need final approval:

- Up to 500 housing units on 5-acres and a public park near the intersection of Alvarado and Antonio streets.
- 62 units of affordable housing at 1604 San Leandro Boulevard.
- 21 townhouses at 311 MacArthur Boulevard.
- Up to five cannabis product manufacturing plants, including a proposed 7,500-square-foot facility at 1655 Abram Court to build devices that allow people to inhale cannabinoids.
- Apartments, a specialty grocer, and a parking garage at the old CVS at 1188 East 14th Street.
- The creation of an “ale trail”

walking path between the Drake’s and 21 Amendment breweries.

Bowman also gave the council a statistical look at who and what makes the San Leandro

see *ECONOMY*, page 15

City Lands Award for Homeless Program

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Last month, the City of San Leandro received the Helen Putnam Award from the League of California Cities for a program that helps people living on the streets find a permanent place to stay – and to date 20 people have been given a place to stay via the program.

The San Leandro Homeless Compact was signed in March of 2016 when the city partnered with the Rental Housing Association and Building Futures for Women and Children. Under the agreement, landlords provide units of housing and Building Futures selects the tenants and gives them support services.

see *HOMELESS*, page 16

Center for Senior Care to Open Today

By Bella Comelo
Special to the Times

A new center for elderly care will open today (Thursday, Nov. 16) with a ribbon cutting at 5 pm. at 1850 Fairway Drive, just across the street from the Kaiser Hospital.

PACE (Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) is a Medicare and Medicaid program with pay options that helps seniors meet their health care needs and helps them to stay in their own homes instead of going to a

nursing home.

In San Leandro, the Center for Elders’ Independence has found a great location on Fairway Drive, opposite Kaiser Hospital for the PACE Program.

“We are very excited to be opening this facility in San Leandro,” said Lenore McDonald, director of development and government relations at the Center for Elders’ Independence.

The overall cost for setting up this facility will be approximately \$7 million, which includes

renovation, equipment and furnishing.

About five years ago, the City of San Leandro’s Senior Commission found a need for an adult care center to serve as a respite care for families/caregivers that care for seniors suffering from chronic disease like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, cancer and stroke, etc. Since then, the members have been knocking on doors of non-profits that would open an adult day care.

This PACE Program will also

have a medical clinic, a physical therapy clinic, preventive care, respite care, social worker services, caregivers services, some meals and transportation services.

To be eligible for this program, one must be at least 55, eligible for Medicare/Medicaid program, live in the service area of the PACE program, need nursing care, and be able to live safely in the community with the help of the PACE program staff.

For those who do not qualify

see *CARE*, page 16

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

ART
Artful Steps artists to show their work Friday. **Page 2**

NEWS
Man sentenced who crashed car into couple. **Page 3**

AUTO
Toyota Mirai makes its own electricity. **Page 6**

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Building Futures Asking for Gifts for Families in Shelters

Help Building Futures make this winter special for individuals and families re-gaining their lives after homelessness and family violence.

Building Futures' annual Holiday Drive provides new gifts for the women and children living at the San Leandro Shelter, Sister Me Home Domestic Violence Safe House, Midway Shelter, Bessie Coleman Court, as well as the women, men, and families served through its housing assistance programs and domestic violence intervention services.

Contributions directly benefit community members in crisis. Your generosity and kindness will help support over 300 children and adults.

Items needed for children include pajamas, slippers, educational toys, and multi-racial dolls and action figures. For teens, Building Futures seeks art supplies, sports equipment, and gift cards (\$25 or less) to retailers like Target, Old Navy, Walmart, or for activities like the Alameda Theatre, Century and Regal Theatres.

For our adult clients, paja-

mas, slippers, bath and body kits, and gift cards to retailers like Safeway, FoodMaxx, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, and gas stations are needed. For all clients, the most needed items are new socks, bras, and underwear of all sizes.

Please bring unwrapped gifts before Dec. 15 to Building Futures' office, 1395 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, email Kaeleigh Thorp at KThorp@bfwc.org, or call 510-357-0205 ext. 205.

Looking to make a tax-deductible monetary gift? Please mail or bring to 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. Donors may also make secure online gifts at www.bfwc.org.

With the help of the community, Building Futures helps individuals and families rebuild their lives after homelessness and family violence, through emergency shelters, housing programs, and domestic violence intervention and education. Building Futures website is: www.bfwc.org.



'All Things,' by Kathleen Miller is one of the works up for bids at the Artful Steps auction.

Artful Steps Auction on Tap Friday

The works of over 50 local artists with developmental disabilities will be up for bids at the Artful Steps 17th Annual Art Auction on Friday, Nov. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the 21st Amendment Brewery, 2010 Williams St. in San Leandro.

All pieces will be available to purchase, hors d'oeuvres will be served, and craft beers will be

available on tap. The auction is free and open to the public.

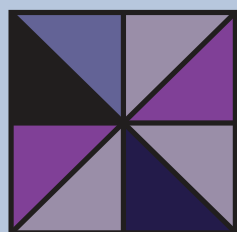
Ceramic mosaics, multi-media collages, drawings, paintings, and prints will all be available for purchase in the silent auction. There will be a wide assortment of crafts for sale, which make great gifts for the holidays.

The majority of the proceeds

go to the artists, with the remainder supporting program costs, art supplies, etc.

Many of the artists will be in attendance and available to meet.

"It's fun. I get to meet new people and see my art up, and that feels amazing," said local artist Anna Smith. "When people see my art and like it, I get inspired to do more."



SAN LEANDRO Connect Monthly



San Leandro City Council

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Deborah Cox, District 1

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To receive City Council and Commission agendas and meeting materials, press releases, quarterly newsletters and City sponsored information, you can subscribe at sanleandro.org/mycity.

For more information, contact Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton, Communications and Community Relations Manager at 510-577-3372 or swalton@sanleandro.org.

Para Asistencia en Español
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40th Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon



Wednesday, November 22
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Marina Community Center
15301 Wicks Blvd.
and
Senior Community Center
13909 E. 14th St.

Celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday at this heart-warming San Leandro tradition! Participants who are 50 years old or older are invited. Reservations are \$7 per person for residents and \$9 for non-residents. Reservations can be made online at www.sanleandro.org or visit the City's two community centers. There is a two-seat limit per person and reservations are non-refundable.

Shoreline Development COMMUNITY MEETING



Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 pm
Garfield Elementary School

The City of San Leandro is seeking community input on the design and use of the parkland associated with the Shoreline Development. The Shoreline Development is a master plan for the San Leandro shoreline, which will connect the community with the Bay and provide enhanced recreational and community amenities.

San Leandro Receives State Grant for Warden Park

The State Department of Housing and Community (HCD) awarded the City of San Leandro \$163,750 in grant funding for improvements at Warden Park. The grant is part of the Housing-Related Parks Program, an innovative State program designed to reward local governments that construct or rehabilitate existing housing for lower-income households. The City qualified for this grant based on the substantial renovation of the Las Palmas Apartments in 2016. Since 2014, San Leandro received \$1.7 million in grant funds that have been used for improvements to Siempre Verde and Thrasher Parks and to construct the Chime Way Exploratorium art installation in Downtown.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACSO

The Inmate Services Unit of the sheriff's department held a graduation ceremony last week for inmates who completed classes while serving their sentences.

Making Good Use of Time Served

Last week, the Inmate Services Unit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office held graduation ceremonies for 119 students that have completed one or more of

the Adult Secondary Education, or Career and Technical Education courses offered to them while they have been incarcerated in county jails.

The courses include getting a high school diploma and trades and skills including anger management, baking, computer coding, employment readiness, food handler certification, parenting, restorative justice, and substance abuse.

Following each ceremony, the students received a special

meal, and the high school graduates were given the opportunity to take photographs in their cap and gown. Completion of these programs is voluntary, and requires a real commitment by each student.

The sheriff's office says they appreciate the family members that were able to support their students by attending the ceremonies and are proud these students have taken the steps to improve their future by completing these courses.

Maximum Sentence for Man Who Caused Injury Crash

A man who shot at another car during a rolling gun battle and injured an innocent couple in the subsequent crash on Dowling Boulevard last year has been given the maximum sentence by a federal judge.

Marcus Jones, 33, of Oakland was sentenced to 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine for criminal possession of a firearm after pleading guilty.

In November of 2016, shots were fired in the area of MacArthur Boulevard and I-580. Moments later, police received 911 calls about a car crash on the 300 block of Dowling Boulevard, according to the San Leandro police.

When officers arrived at the collision, they found two cars with major damage. One of the cars, a Nissan Altima, had bullet holes in it and was determined to have been involved in the initial shooting.

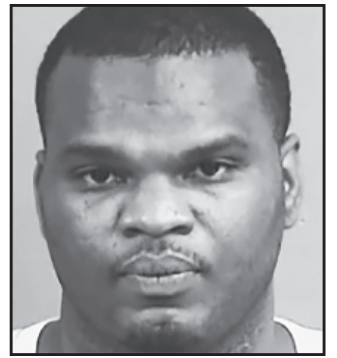
Police then found a man – later identified as Davlon Harris, 34, of Oakland, suffering from a non-life-threatening gunshot wound in the yard of a daycare center across the street from the crash scene. Harris' case is still pending and he has been charged with several felonies.

Harris' car crashed into a car belonging to an elderly couple, Paul and Susan Doran. The Dorans were trapped inside their car and Alameda County Fire person-

nel had to use the "jaws of life" to free them.

A vehicle that got away from the scene was a rental that was returned and eventually traced to Jones. However, prosecutors were never able to charge Jones with his involvement in the gun battle and crash and accepted his guilty plea to the gun charges.

When Jones was arrested in February, a search of his home yielded pot and over \$200,000 in cash.



Marcus Jones

Donate Holiday Toys Today

Want to donate toys for the less fortunate this holiday season?

Today, Thursday, Nov. 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the San Leandro Police will be at the Bayfair Target store for their annual

"stuff the patrol car" toy drive.

Come by and drop off a toy or other item to help the San Leandro police department's Santa on Motors program provide families in need with gifts this holiday season.



A Tight Squeeze

Last week, some Alameda County Firefighters completed their 40-hour confined space rescue technician course – definitely not for the claustrophobic.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Parents who attend this meeting will receive priority registration for the 2018-2019 school year.

For more information about St. Felicitas Catholic School, please visit: www.stfelicitas-school.org.

We look forward to meeting with you!



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NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY BARBARA BARRETT

The cast left to right of *La Cenerentola* are: (first row) Dane Guevarra, Rublen Estella, Tiffany Wu, Gabriella Berggren, and Ethan Tran. (Second row) Lauren Aquilar, Claudia Santillanes, Madison Martin, and Mason Jordan. (Third row) SF singers: Jason Sarten, Molly Mahoney, Michael Belle, and Michael Taylor

Opera Comes to Bay Elementary School

By Barbara Barrett

Music Teacher Bay School

Bay Elementary School enjoyed the performance in October of the comic opera, *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella) composed by the Italian composer, Gioachino Rossini.

The cast included four professional singers from the San Francisco Opera, nine fifth graders and the school choir. The student cast and choir were prepared by their music teacher Barbara Barrett and the third, fourth and fifth grade classes

were attentive and amazed by the vocal talent demonstrated by the opera singers.

Bay School PTA and the East Bay Chapter of the Opera a La Carte (OLAC) education program provided scholarships to make this performance possible.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ Chanticleers Theatre

Christmas in Oz
The East Bay Children's Theatre

and Chanticleers Theatre are pleased to announce *Christmas in Oz*, beginning Nov. 17

through Dec. 17, at Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley. Book, music and lyrics by Ron Lytle. It's Christmas again and somewhere in Kansas, Dorothy is lonely for her friends back in Oz. So with the help of kindly Mister Tinker, she builds a magical wish machine and returns to the Emerald City just in time for the big holiday celebration. But the holly is quickly stripped of its jolly when a sassy sorceress named Nefariosa crashes the party and kidnaps Santa Claus. Performances are on Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors over 60. For more information, call 733-5483.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Your work requires increased effort during the next few days. But it all will pay off down the line. Things ease up in time for weekend fun with family and/or friends.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Your genuine concern for others could prompt you to promise more than you can deliver. It's best to modify your plans now, before you wind up overcommitted later.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): A situation that seems simple at first glance needs a more thorough assessment before you give it your OK. Dig deeper for information that might be hidden from view.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Careful: Right now, things might not be quite what they appear. Even the intuitive Crab could misread the signs. Get some solid facts before you act on your suspicions.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Your energy levels are high, allowing you to complete those unfinished tasks before you take on a new project. A social invitation could come from an unlikely source.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): You might think you're helping, but unless you're asked for a critique, don't give it. If you are asked, watch what you say. Your words should be helpful, not hurtful.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Your attempt at mediating disputes might meet some opposition at first. But once you're shown to be fair and impartial, resistance soon gives way to cooperation.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Go ahead. Reward yourself for helping settle a disturbing workplace situation. On another note: A personal relationship might be moving to a higher level.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): A sudden change of heart by a colleague might create some momentary uncertainty. But stay with your original decision and, if necessary, defend it.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Rely on a combination of your sharp instincts along with some really intense information gathering to help you make a possibly life-changing decision.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Instead of worrying if that new person in your life will stay or leave, spend all that energy on strengthening your relationship so it becomes walk-out resistant.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): A sudden financial dry spell could reduce your cash flow almost to a trickle. But by conserving more and spending less, you'll get through the crunch in good shape.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Science Night at Bancroft Middle School

The Bancroft Middle School science department invites everyone to its annual Science Night this evening, Nov. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. See science demonstrations and interactive fun on energy, chemistry, engineering, experimentation, and invention. See the science magic show and enjoy liquid nitrogen ice cream. There will be food for sale on the Bancroft campus, 1150 Bancroft Ave., for your convenience. This event is co-sponsored by Xtreme Science Magic, The Lawrence Hall of Science, and The American Chemical Society.

❖ Leadership San Leandro to Host Speakers

Join Leadership San Leandro on Friday, Nov. 17, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The afternoon will offer thought-provoking speakers who will discuss the future of finance, transportation, health, technology and psychology at the lecture hall, and include an interactive, virtual social networking event. For tickets visit bit.ly/2gC6rrX.

❖ Community of Faith Breakfast

The Bay Area Family Church, 2305 Washington Ave. in San Leandro will hold its monthly community of faith breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. with featured speaker Dr. Frank Kaufmann who teaches world religion, church history, religion and conflict resolution. Join the group for breakfast, music, message and fellowship.

❖ Harry Potter Board Game Battle

Fans of the wildly popular JK Rowling Harry Potter Book Series are in for a gaming treat at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. Defeat Voldemort in the Hogwarts Battle deck building game, play Harry Potter Clue, and have fun in the life-sized Harry Potter-themed Candy Land. Dozens of regular board games for ages 4 and up will entertain at this free event, and light refreshments will be served. Most games are drop-in, but you need to reserve a seat at the Hogwarts Battle table (ages 8 and up, space for 16 players) by calling the Children's Library at 577-3960. Find more information about the Nov. 18 Harry Potter Board Game Battle at sanleandrolibrary.org.

❖ Team Eden Pancake Breakfast

Team Eden will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser to help end AIDS on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Knudsen's Ice Creamery, 3323 Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

❖ Toge Ceramic Artwork Exhibit

The Toge pottery class will exhibit ceramic artwork and pottery pieces through Dec. 31 at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. There will also be a special reception and sale of pieces at the library on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to enjoy the pottery and refreshments.

❖ Badarikashrama International Dinner

Badarikashrama, 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro, will host a Thanksgiving concert and international vegetarian dinner on Thursday, Nov. 23, at 3 p.m. with South Indian veena duet by Sri Srikanth Chary and Hrishikesh Chary with Mridangam. Free and open to all. Family friendly. Reservations recommended

but no one will be turned away. Email badarik@pacbell.net.

❖ Holiday Craft Fair

Mistletoe Madness, a true crafter's fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. Over 80 vendors will be on display. For more information, call Liz Swenson at 357-1842.

❖ Meridians Annual Sports Collectors Show

The Meridians of St. Leander's are sponsoring their 33rd Annual Sports Collectors Show on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Leander's Ryan O'Connell Hall, 575 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. A variety of vintage sports memorabilia from 1880 to 2017 will be for sale. Proceeds will benefit St. Leander's parish and local charities. Admission is \$4, or \$2 for under 10 and over 65. For more information, call Mark at 538-6245.

❖ Mission Bay Craft & Bake Sale

There will be a craft and bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mission Bay Clubhouse, 15333 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. Along with homemade baked goods being sold by the Mission Bay Men's & Women's Club, there will be resident vendors selling their handmade craft items. A snack bar will also be available.

❖ Corvallis School Holiday Boutique

Corvallis School, 14790 Corvallis St. in San Leandro, will have its annual holiday boutique on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lots of homemade crafts and goodies at reasonable prices. Help the needy families in our community by bringing in a toy, canned food item, or clean used coat. Door prize every half hour. New vendors are welcome. For more information, call Corvallis School at 317-4901.

❖ St. Gerard Women's Club Bake Sale

The Members of St. Gerard Women's Club of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 264 East Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo, will hold a Christmas bake sale and raffle beginning after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 2, and after all the Masses starting at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, with a continental breakfast. Lots of great baked goods, raffle prizes and a trinkets & treasures booth. For more information contact the bake sale committee chairpersons: Evelyn McMillen at 481-2467 or Cheryl Hoffmann at 278-2906.

❖ Creekside Church Craft Show

Creekside Community Church, 951 MacArthur Blvd. in San Leandro, will have its 14th Annual Craft Show on Friday, Dec. 1, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 30 artists, raffle, food and drinks for sale and plenty of parking. A chili cook-off on Friday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for a \$5 donation. Ten percent of proceeds from the craft show benefit the Mercy Brown Bag program, Seniors Helping Low-Income Seniors with Groceries.

❖ Saint Leander Pancake Breakfast

Saint Leander School will have its 10th annual pancake breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Ryan O'Connell Hall. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Photos with Santa Claus are \$5.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Toyota Mirai Gives Hydrogen a Try

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

Ever since it introduced the first Prius 20 years ago, Toyota has been working on hydrogen fuel cells. Now, at last, you can sample them in the Mirai, Toyota's hydrogen-powered testbed.

Instead of an engine burning gasoline under the hood, there's a fuel cell. It sends compressed hydrogen fuel through a membrane to join oxygen from the air, creating electrical energy, which then runs motors to power the car. It's very quiet, and the only emission is H₂O — water.

To add fuel, you simply pull into the nearest hydrogen station. The closest station to my house is in Hayward, on my way to work. Although the window sticker in my Celestial Black test car said it had a 312-mile range, when I filled the car the number said 249 miles. Fill-ups take about five minutes, just like

at a regular gas station.

The tanks at the station are a bit different. The filler on the car is a narrow, protruding nozzle. The heavy dispenser slides over the car's filler and latches down into place. Then, you lift the lever on the pump and, with a whoosh, the filling begins.

I visited two different stations. The first was the parklike new Linde station in San Ramon. I pulled in and watched the introductory video on a screen on the tank first, and then started the fill-up process. I added about 220 miles of driving for \$65.20. Whew, that's expensive.

My second refueling, at a True Zero station in Hayward, was part of a regular looking Mobil gas station near the freeway. In this case, the bill came to \$53.01 (I bought a little less).

The California Fuel Cell Partnership (www.cafcp.org) is slowly building an infrastructure of 100 stations in the state. There are 31 open so far, which could be an issue if you travel widely

with your hydrogen car. Their website includes an interactive map showing the nearest hydrogen stations and information about them.

The price for my test car came to \$58,335, including shipping. But it makes more sense to lease it. Put \$2,499 down and pay \$349 a month, and Toyota includes \$15,000 worth of hydrogen fuel. With no maintenance or fuel costs, it's a pretty sweet deal.

Unfortunately, hydrogen isn't found easily unmixed in nature — you have to make hydrogen fuel, and it takes a lot of energy. Many methods are being investigated, but if it's not made with methane from trash or with solar or wind power, it's not that clean yet. Although water is the only byproduct from the car itself, the entire system has a way to go.

The Mirai is about the size of Toyota's popular midsize Camry sedan on the outside, but about 15 cubic feet smaller inside, so it's considered a subcompact per the EPA. It feels comfortable up front, but there is room for only two passengers in back, with less legroom than the Camry. The trunk is only 12.8 cubic feet versus 15.1 for the Camry, thanks to some space taken for the battery and storage tanks.

Styling is a bit extreme, but it's part of the design language used by all new Toyotas. The sweeps along the sides, large twin air collectors up front, and drooping taillamps no longer jar the eye.

Inside, the dash and doors



The Mirai hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle combines hydrogen and oxygen to make electricity onboard, while emitting nothing but water vapor.

swoop across, with the three layers of controls displayed on flat, glossy black panels — just on the edge of futuristic.

The driving experience is pretty normal, too, with adequate acceleration. With 151 horsepower and 247 lb.-ft. of torque from the electric motor, it'll go from zero to 60 in nine seconds. The car outweighs the Camry by about 700 pounds, so it feels less light on its feet.

The Mirai employs the fuel cell and a battery, so, as in Toyota's Prius and other hybrids, you can view on a screen where the energy comes from and where it's going. It switches back and forth between the fuel cell and the battery as the computer decides. The electricity in the battery is regenerated when you're braking, slowing down or rolling downhill, as in other electric vehicles. There's no plug.

The EPA gives the Mirai



The futuristic interior of the 2016 Toyota Mirai features three layers of controls on flat, glossy black panels.

ratings of 67 MPGe City, Highway, and Combined. MPGe is an equivalent, so you can compare it with other electric vehicles. I averaged 60.1 MPGe. The EPA green scores are perfect 10s of course.

The Mirai is pleasant, easy to live with and, with Toyota's

fuel and service deal, fairly inexpensive to drive for three years. You can be part of the latest wave of high tech while blending into traffic almost imperceptibly. Time will tell if there will be enough adoption of this technology to make it successful in the long run.

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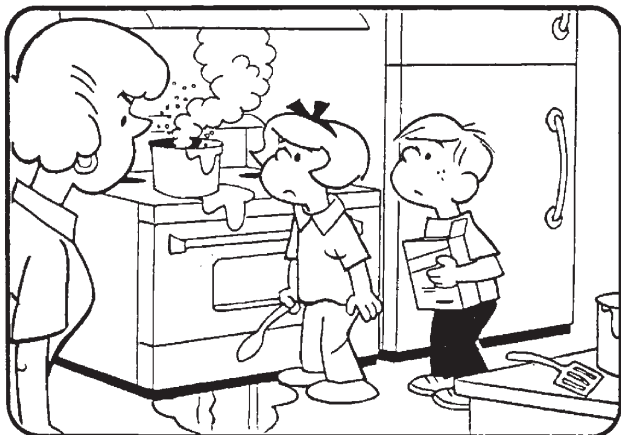
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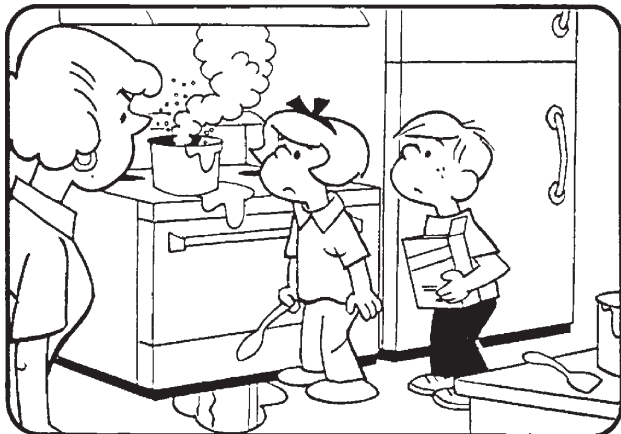


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Oven window is missing. 3. Puddle is smaller. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Handle is smaller. 6. Spatula is different.

PUZZLE CARD



MAKE A "HOOK" in the soda straw by bending it at one end. When you push it into the bottle, it will wedge itself in place, and you will be able to lift the bottle easily.

THE DOMINO EFFECT! Dump a box of dominoes on the table and tell your friends to lay them out, as they would in a game, while your back is turned. Then, without looking, tell them what two numbers are at each end of the line. What's the secret?

Answer: Secretly pocket one of the dominoes before dumping them on the table. The two numbers on this piece are the same as those on the ends of the line of dominoes.

THE "I" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the I's. Here are some hints from the top down.

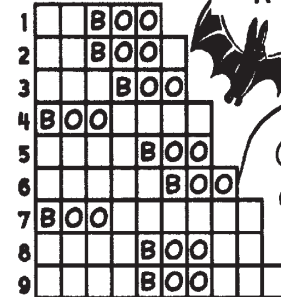
1. Symbol for iodine (given).
2. Main player in a game of tag.
3. Equal number of votes.
4. To prepare for publication.
5. Exhausted, fatigued.
6. How a wedding cake is built.
7. Joined metal sheets.
8. Turned upside down.

Answers: 1. I, it, tie, edit, tired, tiered, riveted, inverted.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A GHOSTLY QUIZ!



Illustrated by David Coulson

Don't let these words scare you. The grid to the left has room for nine words, and they all contain the word "boo." We also give you plenty of hints to help you fill in the missing letters.

1. A forbidden subject.
2. A boorish person (sl.).
3. Very long grass.
4. A small, bound pamphlet.
5. A recurring problem that's hard to fix.
6. A young child's game.
7. Rural, backwoods country.
8. A Western jail.
9. Another name for a pirate.



Answers: 1. Taboo. 2. Baboon. 3. Bamboo. 4. Booklet. 5. Bugaboo. 6. Peekaboo. 7. Boondocks. 8. Calaboose. 9. Freebooter.

City to Host Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

The City of San Leandro hosts its 40th Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The luncheon will be held concurrently at two sites: the Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St., and the Marina Community Center, 15301

Wicks Blvd.

Anyone 50 or older is invited to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday at this heartwarming annual San Leandro tradition.

Enjoy a turkey dinner, live entertainment and a free raffle. Tickets are \$7 per person for San Leandro residents, and \$9 each

for non-residents, with a limit of two non-refundable reservations per person.

Reservations can be made in person at the Senior Community Center or Marina Community Center, or online at www.sanleandrorec.org. For more information, call 577-3462.

Badarikashrama to Host a Thanksgiving Vegetarian Dinner

Badarikashrama, 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro, will host a Thanksgiving concert and international vegetarian dinner on

Thursday, Nov. 23, at 3 p.m. with South Indian veena duet by Sri Srikanth Chary and Hrishikesh Chary with Mridangam. Free

and open to all. Family friendly. Reservations recommended but no one will be turned away. Email badarik@pacbell.net.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Victoria Anthony flips a student volunteer in a wrestling demonstration at Bancroft Middle School on Monday.

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Wrestle: 'Pain is temporary - if it's going to benefit you, it's worth it'

continued from front page
told the kids.

"Just stay true to what you are," she said. "What's more important, being yourself or how other people view you? I just try to be myself every day."

Try new things, don't settle for being comfortable, said the champion wrestler.

"I believe in, 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained,'" she said. "You don't know where you'll go when you first try something. My goal is to be the best in the world. If I stopped because it was hard, I wouldn't be living the life I live right now."

D'Antonio opened the floor for questions and the hands went up. Anthony even answered a question from one of her new admirers about how she does her hair.

Another point was training

and building your strength.

"Pain is temporary," said Anthony, who practices and works out every day. "If it's going to benefit you, it's worth it."

Anthony just missed qualifying for the United States Olympic team in 2016, placing second at the American trials. She finished fifth in the World Championships in 2013, and placed high in many tournaments around the world.

"When you start something, you never know where it's going to take you," said Anthony, who then told the kids about the time she performed in Times Square.

After Anthony demonstrated her moves on a few students, D'Antonio took the microphone and said, "Now, let's bring a couple of teachers up here."

The gym erupted, as the kids anticipated the sight of their teachers getting flipped by

Anthony, but that wasn't what D'Antonio had in mind.

"No, no," D'Antonio added. "I don't mean for wrestling."

The teachers then had the students line up as D'Antonio opened the mat for any students who wanted to wrestle one of their friends to step forward. Pretty soon, quick, 30-second wrestling matches broke out with Anthony playing the referee and coaching as well.

Even if you're scared or nervous, it's worth it to wrestle because you gain something from every match, Anthony said.

You start every match by shaking hands and end every match by shaking hands, she said.

"I have respect for the person across from me," Anthony said. "That's what's great about wrestling, the camaraderie and community you find."

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SENIORS

Can Ex-wife Get Former Spouse's Benefits?

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Q As a divorced woman, am I entitled to my ex-husband's Social Security benefits? I was married for 14 years.

A Yes, you may very well be eligible for your divorced spouse's Social Security benefits, if you meet certain criteria. Here's how it works.

A divorced spouse can collect a Social Security retirement benefit on the earnings record of their ex-husband (or ex-wife) if you are at least age 62, were married for at

least 10 years, are unmarried, and are not eligible for a higher benefit based on your own earnings.

In order to collect, your former spouse must also be at least 62 and eligible for Social Security benefits. But, he doesn't have to be receiving them in order for you to collect divorced spouse's benefits, as long as you've been divorced for at least two years.

Even if your ex is remarried, it won't affect your right to divorcee benefits, nor will it affect your ex's retirement benefits or his current spouse's benefits.

■ Benefit Amount

A divorced spouse can receive up to 50 percent of their ex's full

benefit, or less if they take benefits before their full retirement age — which is 66 if you were born between 1943 and 1954.

To find out your full retirement age and see how much your benefits will be reduced by taking them early, see SSA.gov/planners/retire/retirechart.html.

Keep in mind though, that if you qualify for benefits based on your own work history, you'll receive the larger of the two benefits. You cannot receive benefits on both your record, and your ex's work record, too.

To find out how much your retirement benefits will be, see your Social Security statement at SSA.gov/myaccount. And, to get an

estimate of your ex's benefits, call Social Security at 800-772-1213. You'll need his Social Security Number to get it.

■ Divorced Survivor

You also need to know that if your ex-spouse dies, and you were married for 10 or more years, you become eligible for divorced survivor benefits, which is worth up to 100 percent of what your ex-spouse was due.

Survivor's benefits are available to divorced spouses as early as age 60 (50 if you're disabled). But, if you remarry before 60 you become ineligible unless the marriage ends. Remarrying after age



60 will not affect your eligibility.

Also note that if you are receiving divorced spouses benefits when your ex-spouse dies, you will automatically be switched over to the higher paying survivor benefit.

■ Switching Strategies

Being divorced also offers a switching strategy that can help boost your benefits if you were born on or before Jan. 1, 1954.

Here's how it works. If you worked and are eligible for benefits on your own earnings record, you could file a "restricted application" with Social Security at age 66 to collect a divorced spousal benefit, which is half of what your ex gets. Then, once you reach 70, you stop receiving the ex-spousal benefit and switch to your own benefit, which will be 32 percent higher than it would have been at your full retirement age.

Unfortunately, as a result of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, this option is not available if your birthday is on Jan. 2, 1954 or later.

Divorced widows (and widowers) also have switching options regardless of your birthday. If, for example, you are currently collecting Social Security retirement benefits on your own record, and your ex-spouse dies, you can switch to survivor's benefits if the payment is larger.

Or, if you're collecting survivor's benefits, you can switch to your own retirement benefits — between 62 and 70 — if it offers a larger payment.

For more information visit SSA.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html, or call 800-772-1213.

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Understand Responsibilities of Being a Trustee

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

Q A close friend asked me to be the Trustee of his trust in the event of his incapacity or death. While it is an honor to be asked, I wonder what questions I should ask before accepting?

A It is indeed an honor, as it means that your friend trusts your judgment and is willing to put the welfare of his trust beneficiaries in your hands.

But being a trustee is also a great responsibility. You need to consider this request with your eyes wide open. Here are eight questions to ask before saying "yes":

1) May I Read the Trust? The trust document is your instruction manual. It tells you what you should do with the funds or other property you will be entrusted to manage.

Make sure you read it and understand it. Now is the time to ask questions.

2) What Are the Goals of the Trust-Maker? Unfortunately, most trusts give the trustee considerable discretion about how to

spend trust funds, but with little or no guidance.

Example: often trusts say that the trustee may distribute principal for the beneficiaries' "health, education, maintenance and support."

Is this a limitation, meaning you can't pay for a yacht (despite arguments from the son that he needs it for his mental health)? Or is it a mandate that you pay for his support even if he has a job and can support himself?

How are you to balance the needs of current, against those of future, beneficiaries? Ask your friend to put these wishes in writing.

3) How Much Help Will I Receive? Will you have a Co-Trustee and, if so, how will you divvy up the duties? Will you be authorized to hire professionals to advise you on investments, accounting, legal issues and taxes?

4) How Long Will My Responsibilities Last? Are you being asked to take on this duty for a limited time (for example, until your friend's youngest child reaches age 25), or for an indefinite period that could last the rest of your lifetime?

In either case, under what terms can you resign? Be sure that the trust names successor Trust-

ees, so that you may resign if it becomes too burdensome for you.

5) What Is My Liability? Generally, trustees are relieved of liability in the trust document unless they are grossly negligent or intentionally violate their responsibilities. Make sure the trust so provides, so that you are not held liable for innocent mistakes made in good faith.

6) Will I Be Compensated? Often family members and friends serve as trustees without compensation. However, if the duties are especially demanding, it is not inappropriate for trustees to be paid.

7) Are Any Beneficiaries Persons with Disabilities on Public Benefits? If so, make sure the trust includes Special Needs provisions so that distributions do not cause the suspension of those benefits, such as SSI or Medi-Cal.

Ask that the trust be reviewed now by an Elder Law or Special Needs attorney to ensure compliance with public benefit laws, and consult again when you actually assume your duties as these provisions require special guidance.

8) Are There Problem Beneficiaries? Will acting as trustee create conflict between you and any beneficiary?

If after getting answers to all these questions you feel comfortable serving as trustee, then by all means accept the role. It is an honor to be asked and you will provide a great service to your friend and his beneficiaries.

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

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Sellers Vet Buyer Wannabes Online

While many thought the housing market would have peaked by now, it is still sizzling in many Bay Area neighborhoods.

Frustrated after years of increasing prices and with ownership hopes dwindling, many buyers are going full out to land a home. This means continued multiple offers, many way over asking price and with all contingencies removed.

Confronted with spectacular offers similar in terms, some sellers are changing the way they select the winning deal. "If these are all going to net us a similar amount," they reason, "Then we are going to select the winning offer based not on the terms, but on the specific buyers we want living in our home

after we leave."

This practice is certainly not new. Over the years, sellers have voiced their preferences for the type of buyers they would love to see in their home.

For example, many sellers, especially those investing in loving upgrades, are averse to the idea that an investor will buy their beloved home and rent it out. It's for this reason we encouraged buyers to write a letter to sellers explaining who they are and why they love the home. The goal is to influence the sellers to choose them.

What is new, however, is the methodology sellers are using to vet buyers. They are going online.

Emulating practices employers have been using for years, some sellers are doing extensive online searches for each buyer in the running for their home. They are checking Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, the Free Public Records Directory and any other site they that may have information.

They are also browsing sex offender and criminal records websites. Lifehacker.com even has a post by Adam Dachis entitled "How to Use the Internet to Investigate Your Next Date, Coworker, or New Friend (Without Being Creepy)." Some are even paying for information on sites like Truthfinder.com.

Find this disturbing? Like it or

not, it's the new reality. This genie is out of the bottle and will not be going back in.

It's a modern version of "Buyer beware." Savvy buyers should look themselves up online to make sure there is nothing there that might give sellers the wrong impression. Love to host noisy parties? Those Facebook pictures of beer bashes might resonate with your friends, but could spell doom for that offer on a nice house in a quiet cul-de-sac.

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



SOLD! NOW WANTED: Yours in Broadmoor or Estudillo Estates!

About to sell in the North Area of town? The owners of this open, light and bright newer home on Alder Creek Circle in San Leandro just accepted an off-market offer they couldn't refuse. Now they're in search of their "forever" home in charming Broadmoor or Estudillo Estates — and they need your help. Prefer 3+ bedrooms with a large backyard (or in-law unit). Repairs OK. Buyers are fully approved and ready to close by the end of the year. If you are thinking of selling your home in Broadmoor or Estudillo Estates, contact Louis Heystek at Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate at 510-928-5501 (CalBRE #01771666).



Spray

Plan your dormant fruit spraying schedule to coincide approximately with cool-weather holidays. Specific cues are the fall of the last leaves (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year's Day) and when buds swell, but before they show color (Valentine's Day). Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is particularly important — after the blossoms open, it is too late.

Wildflowers

Now, between showers, is a good time to sow wildflower seeds for spring flowers. California poppies are a good bet for anybody's yard.

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298 Begier Avenue	94577	\$650,000	2 BD - 1,240 SF - 1929
683 Black Pine Drive	94577	\$645,000	3 BD - 1,420 SF - 1989
1400 Carpentier St #318	94577	\$345,000	1 BD - 812 SF - 1983
794 Donovan Drive	94577	\$550,000	4 BD - 1,292 SF - 1942
267 Durant Avenue	94577	\$630,000	3 BD - 1,383 SF - 1926
2431 Fairway Drive	94577	\$1,200,000	N/ABD-3,105SF-1964
123 Farrelly Drive	94577	\$525,000	2 BD - 1,310 SF - 1947
835 Kenyon Avenue	94577	\$690,000	2 BD - 1,518 SF - 1948
1473 Montrose Drive	94577	\$710,000	3 BD - 1,858 SF - 1956
604 Oakes Boulevard	94577	\$900,000	3 BD - 2,109 SF - 1934
468 Linnell Avenue	94578	\$585,000	3 BD - 1,014 SF - 1952
2190 Placer Drive	94578	\$560,000	3 BD - 1,596 SF - 1940
2455 Ranspot Drive	94578	\$785,000	4 BD - 1,729 SF - 1958
16710 Rolando Avenue	94578	\$390,000	2 BD - 963 SF - 1940
16556 Severn Road	94578	\$555,000	2 BD - 1,080 SF - 1968
2160 Sol Street	94578	\$620,000	2 BD - 1,382 SF - 1947
1752 Hubbard Avenue	94579	\$765,000	5 BD - 1,937 SF - 1954

TOTAL SALES:

17	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$345,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$630,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,200,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$653,235

San Lorenzo

16128 Via Walter	94580	\$625,000	3 BD - 1,595 SF - 1956
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Castro Valley

18844 Almond Road	94546	\$919,000	5 BD - 2,355 SF - 1949
18193 Carmel Drive	94546	\$315,000	3 BD - 1,440 SF - 1962
19069 Gliddon Street	94546	\$843,500	3 BD - 1,264 SF - 1953
4345 Gregory Street	94546	\$710,000	3 BD - 1,745 SF - 1962
2479 Lessley Avenue	94546	\$658,000	3 BD - 1,236 SF - 1948
5340 Proctor Road	94546	\$980,000	3 BD - 2,120 SF - 1966
2552 Ridge Crest Court	94546	\$950,000	4 BD - 2,244 SF - 2000
18631 Vineyard Road	94546	\$1,050,000	3 BD - 1,987 SF - 1962
19951 Clement Drive	94552	\$905,000	3 BD - 1,808 SF - 1984
19498 Mt. Lassen Drive	94552	\$880,000	4 BD - 2,278 SF - 1988
20018 Shadow Creek Cir	94552	\$921,000	4 BD - 2,130 SF - 1998

TOTAL SALES:

11	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$315,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$905,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,050,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$830,136

RINETTI & Co.

PENDING SALES

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18830 Sandy Road, Castro Valley • \$779,000

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Prevent Peach Leaf Curl; Feed Your Turf

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q Last year, I had a big problem with peach leaf curl on my nectarine tree. It hadn't been a problem in previous years. I've been spraying it in January after pruning with a dormant spray. What else do I need to do to prevent this?

A Peach leaf curl is a water-activated fungal disease that affects the blossoms, leaves and shoots of only peach and nectarine trees. Curly leaf on other fruit trees is another problem with a different solution.

To be successful in curbing peach leaf curl, you need to apply the right product, at the right time, and you'll need some help from Mother Nature. The fungal spores overwinter on the bark and in the cracks and crevices of the tree. The tree bark constricts with cold weather, so it's critical to get that first application on while the day-time temperatures are above 60°F and dry.

A copper fungicide is the recommended control, and it's organic. In the late fall, around Thanksgiving or when 50 percent of the leaves have dropped off, apply your first application. The second application should be in February when the peach and nectarine buds are just about to open. This is called the "Pink Bud" or "Popcorn Stage." This is when the emerging

leaves are the most susceptible to the fungus.

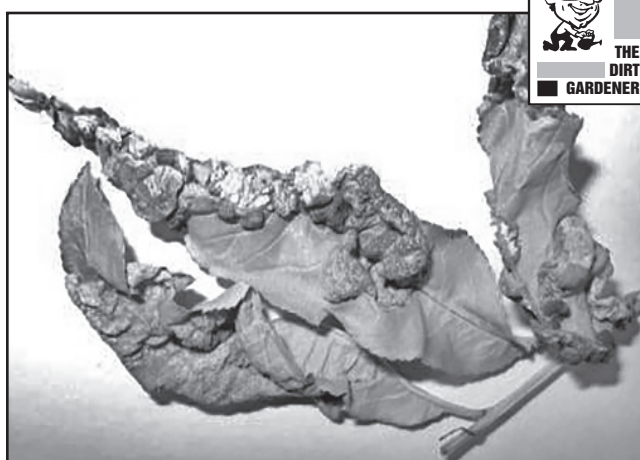
Wet, damp weather triggers the infection as the spores wash into the open or opening buds.

The fungus then grows between the leaf cells and stimulates them to divide and grow larger than normal, causing swelling and distortion.

The puckering is a reddish color as the red plant pigments accumulate in the distorted cells. The thickened areas then turn yellowish and then grayish white, as spores are produced on the leaf surface by the fungus. Usually, the diseased leaves fall off within a few weeks and are replaced by new, healthy ones. However, if it's rainy, a second infestation can occur.

If we have dry weather during flowering, then there is an excellent chance that peach leaf curl will be minor or none at all.

The development of peach leaf curl ceases when young tissue is no longer developing or when the weather turns dry and warmer. It was quite wet last year. Hence, the problem was widespread while in previous years, it was not.



To help prevent peach leaf curl, apply a copper fungicide in late fall or when 50 percent of the leaves drop off.

Q I installed a new lawn four months ago. Is it too late to feed it?

A No, it's not too late to feed turf. In the fall, lawns are fed once between Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

Fall is a crucial time of the year to feed grass as it is at this time that the new grass plants form. Another benefit is that the grass remains green during cold temperatures and doesn't turn that ugly yellowish-brown color.

From January through June, I'd feed it twice, every six to eight weeks depending on the fertilizer, and skip the months of July and August.

Your grass will respond by staying green year round.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. His web address is www.dirtgardener.com. Email questions to dirtgarden@aol.com or go to [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero).

Create a Ceramic Backsplash

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Times

Q I want to liven up the backsplash behind my kitchen sink by adding ceramic tile. But a friend told me the wrong kind of wallboard is up there and that the tile will just fall off. What is he talking about?

A What your friend is probably saying is that the backsplash behind the sink is standard wallboard (also known as drywall or sheetrock), which doesn't do well with water.

Areas that have tile and see a lot of water being splashed around, along with high humidity (like the bathroom), use cementboard rather than wallboard.

However, most backsplashes are simply regular wallboard that's been painted over. Unless you're soaking the backsplash in water from the sprayer attachment, this area likely deals with only occasional sprinkles and splashes. You should be able to decorate this area with ceramic tile, and the wallboard should hold up just fine.

Because the tile is going onto a vertical surface, you should attach the tiles with tile mastic, rather

than thin-set mortar. The mastic will adhere faster to the surface, reducing the chance that the tiles will slip down out of place.

Here are a few more tips to make the job easier and faster:

- Before starting, measure the dimensions of the backsplash area. Then, sketch out a design you like.

- Dry-fit tiles beforehand by laying them on a sheet of paper cut to the same height and width as the backsplash area, to make sure the pattern will work and to set the tile spacing (use plastic spacers to create even gaps between each tile).

- Mark the exact center point of your planned backsplash pattern on the wall. Then use a level to draw a straight vertical line through the center of that point.

- Working from the bottom up, load the trowel with mastic. Spread the mastic across a section of the backsplash in a sweeping motion.

- When placing the tile, work from the bottom up. Place spacers between the tiles to maintain the gap needed to add grout.

- Cut tiles to fit when needed, not beforehand, so that you can get a precise measurement.

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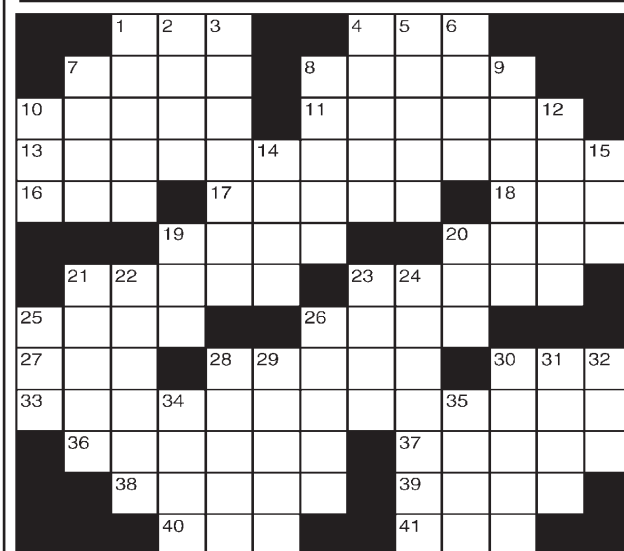
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- One-on-one sites in church
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- Construction fastener
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DOWN

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- Magi
- Aladdin's ally
- Starch-yielding palms
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- Certain
- Spars
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- Agent
- Preferred invitees
- Foundered
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- Deposit
- Regret
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- PBS science show

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

OPEN HOMES SATURDAY & SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18TH & 19TH

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
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Pirates Roll to Playoff Victory Over Berkeley, 68-14

By Andrew Joseph
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro Pirates beat the Berkeley Yellowjackets at home in convincing form, 68-14, on Friday night in round one of the North Coast Section Division 1 Football Championship Playoffs.

San Leandro took control early and never let up, as over 1,000 fans were in attendance to witness the Pirates' first playoff victory in 12 years.

"We've been practicing hard all week getting ready because we know about the drought and we just wanted to end the 12-year streak so bad," said running back Alvonte Thornton.

In the first quarter the Pirates took a 12-0 lead after senior running backs Thornton and Jermaine Jackson both scored on great offensive drives down the field.

"This is something we've been preaching about for years," said San Leandro head coach Brad Bowers. "It feels real good to get the win. Overall it was a solid victory."

Thornton would prove to earn his nickname, 'Baby Beast

Mode,' finishing the game with a game-high five touchdowns. The wealth was spread, as two touchdowns were scored by Jackson, two by senior running back Loren Gaines Jr., and one more by junior linebacker Jordan Cobbs.

Pirates Explosive Running Backs Deliver in Playoff Win Over Berkeley

"We knew that we had to come in here and leave no doubt on the scoreboard – so that's what we did," said Jackson.

"Almost anytime Thornton or Jackson gets the ball they're bound to go and be explosive because they are both so fast," said Bowers.

It wasn't just the offense who took command, as San Leandro's defense also played a vital role in the victory. Gaines Jr. recovered a Yellowjacket fumble for a touchdown with over 7 minutes left in the first half to go up, 40-0.

Senior cornerback Brennon Dyer finished the game with two interceptions. Cobbs recovered a Berkeley fumble, caused by sophomore defensive back Amari

Roberson, for yet another touchdown with just 3 minutes left in the game.

"Our defense is amazing," said Thornton. "I've seen them practicing hard every day. They're always doing what they have to do, they're always getting better."

Defense Improving Too

"Every week our defense tries to keep the opponent from getting into the end zone and play a shut-out game," said Bowers. "Sophomore middle linebacker Osaro Aihie has been playing amazingly inside for us on defense and he's getting more confident landing more big hits. He is our defensive bright spot."

Now the Pirates move on to the next round of the NCS playoffs.

As far as the meaning behind this game, "We just wanted to send a message to Foothill that we're ready to play and we're here to win," said Thornton.

This week, the Pirates play the Foothill Falcons in the second round of the North Coast Section Division I playoffs on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Burrell Field.



PHOTO BY ANDREW JOSEPH

San Leandro High running back Jermaine Jackson breaks through to the end zone in the second quarter against Berkeley in the North Coast Section Division I playoff game at Burrell Field on Friday night.

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REYES, Alfredo
STRATTON, Maurice F.
VAN DEREN, Margaret A.

■ VAN DEREN, Margaret A., a San Leandro resident since 2005 passed away on November 5, 2017. She was a retired high school teacher. Arrangements by Santos-Robinson Mortuary, San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

■ REYES, Alfredo passed away on November 9, 2017. Visitation will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16 from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro. A vigil service will begin at 6:30 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, Nov. 17 at St. Leander Catholic Church, 550 W. Estudillo Ave., San Leandro beginning at 10 a.m. Internment will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

■ STRATTON, Maurice F. passed away on November 2, 2017. Maurice was a Veteran of the US Marines and was also a Boy Scout Leader. No Services held. Arrangements by Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 510 483-

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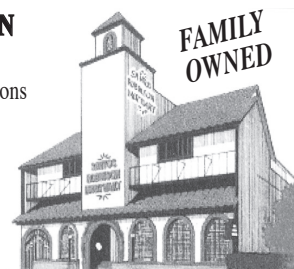
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Robert Ferril Lewis

passed away November 7, 2017 after a brief illness. He was 91 years old. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Sadako (Sadie) Tanaka Lewis. He is survived by his children, Robert and Pamela. He also leaves behind three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Bob was raised in Illinois and lived in Alaska and Washington before moving to California in the early '60s. Later in life, he became an avid gardener and loved sharing the fruits of his labors with neighbors. His family and friends will remember his desire to share the latest story or joke. He will be greatly missed.

Etta Angie Hanna

Etta Angie Hanna passed away on October 1, 2017 at age 93. Her husband Ardath Keith Hanna passed away on October 24, 1987. Etta had a brother: Raymond and a sister: Alma. She had 5 children: Karen, Jim, Sharon, Gary and Kevin; 6 grandchildren: Jason, Janelle, Jennifer, Tiara, Lauren and Christopher; 5 great-grandchildren: Justin, Sarah, Evan, Eve and Miley; 1 son-in-law: Carl Heaney and a niece and nephew: Don and Louise Dom.

She formed a neighborhood get together who gathered regularly in her garage called "The Garage People".



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• NEWS BRIEFS •

See the Magic of Science At Bancroft Tonight

The Bancroft Middle School science department invites everyone to its annual Science Night on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. See science demonstrations and interactive fun on energy, chemistry, engineering, experimentation, and invention.

See the science magic show and enjoy liquid nitrogen ice cream. There will be food for sale on the Bancroft campus, 1150 Bancroft Ave., for your convenience. This event is co-sponsored by Xtreme Science Magic, The Lawrence Hall of Science, and The American Chemical Society.

View Creek Video Contest Winning Entries

The Creek Video Contest viewing, awards and party will be this Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Watch the winning videos on why San Leandro Creek is important and meet the videographers. Prizes will be presented and a free ice cream sundae celebration will follow. For more information, call 577-6069 or email slevenson@sanleandro.org or mailto:slevenson@sanleandro.org.

Information on Veterans Benefits

The San Leandro Veterans Resource Center invites veterans and their families to an open house on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Stop in the upstairs office and meet the veterans benefit coach volunteers to learn about the different ways the volunteers can assist with benefits, employment and getting you connected to local veteran resources. No appointment necessary. Light refreshment will be served. For more information, call Addie Silveira at 577-3991.

San Leandro Garden Club Meets Tuesday

The San Leandro Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the Alta Mira House, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro. The plant sale begins at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. The speaker will be someone from the Native Bird Connection. All are welcome.

Corvallis School Holiday Boutique

Corvallis School, 14790 Corvallis St. in San Leandro, will have its annual holiday boutique on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lots of homemade crafts and goodies at reasonable prices. Help the needy families in our community by bringing in a toy, canned food item, or clean used coat. Door prize every half hour. New vendors are welcome.

City Council Looks at Ways to Regulate Short-Term Rentals

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

San Leandro is considering allowing controversial short-term rentals in the city, and the City Council has told city staff to come up with more data on how other cities deal with AirBnB and other rental companies.

Short-term rentals are touted by some as a way for homeowners to earn extra income. Opponents say they further limit an already tight housing situation when people buy up properties solely for the purpose of renting them out and that they also take potential long-term rental units off the market.

Currently, there are around 75 rentals operating in the city through AirBnB, HomeAway and other listing services, according to Cynthia Battenberg, the city's community development director.

Battenberg said that enforcement against short-term rental units is complaint-based – the city has no way of knowing about them unless someone calls to complain. She said that the city has received four complaints about disruptive renters and they have issued four cease-and-desist letters as a response, telling the homeowner to stop having short-term rentals.

The problem is, without a clear ordinance on the books, the city has no recourse for enforcement if the cease-and-desist letter doesn't work on the homeowner.

If the City Council decides to legalize the rentals, they will have to decide on how many days a property can be occupied by a short-term renter. Other cities have 30, 60, and 90-day rental caps.

Another option would be whether to allow only "hosted" rentals where a renter stays in a room in a home that is occupied by the owner rather than "un-hosted" rentals where the homeowner is not present.

In San Leandro, it's doubtful that the short-term renters would just be here for a weekend on vacation. Instead, they'd likely be people in town for a temporary job, said Battenberg.

Jerry Silva is a landlord who spoke during a City Council workshop on the rentals Monday night. He said he has several short-term units for rent on the local market and regularly hosts visiting nurses who are working at Kaiser for a short stint as well as people from China and France here to work temporarily.

Luke Martin, another AirBnB "host" says that income from the rentals help him pay his mortgage and staves off some of the loneliness he has felt since becoming an empty nester.

But speaker Luis Mendoza warned the council that companies like AirBnB and Uber exploit employees and avoid taxes by operating outside traditional employment systems.

And speaker Ann Sekhon said

that AirBnB and other sites don't do enough vetting of renters and she saw about 60 people stay at a house in her neighborhood.

Councilman Lee Thomas said he was worried about prostitution running out of rentals and asked if people on the registered sex offenders list could rent. The police said there's no real way of monitoring that.

Councilwoman Corina Lopez said that the city could see some income from the rentals, as they would be subject to a 14 percent "transient occupancy tax," but that could be difficult to actually collect and money must be a secondary concern to the standards of living in the neighborhoods with rentals.

"We need to have a conversation about the civility and safety, parking, and other things beyond the collection of fees," said Lopez.

Councilman Ed Hernandez said that if the transient tax could be collected, it could potentially fund projects to benefit all of San Leandro.

"Tax it, understand it, and license it," said Hernandez.

In the end, the City Council directed Battenberg and her staff to prepare more detailed information on the way other local communities have handled short-term rentals and the possible creation of an ordinance will come back to the council, likely in the new year.

Economy: Most jobs - Coke, Costco, UPS

continued from front page
economy tick.

The top 20 San Leandro businesses with the most workers this year includes Coca-Cola, Costco, Kaiser, UPS, Walmart, and the city of San Leandro and San Leandro Unified School District.

A total of 8,600 business licenses have been issued in the city – 2,700

of which are brick-and-mortar stores. Another 2,700 of the business licenses have been issued to people renting out their properties.

Of the 44,301 employees working in San Leandro 8,200 are in health care and 6,500 are in retail and a total of nearly 16,000 combined are in construction, manufacturing, and warehouse work.

San Leandro has 9,500 more jobs this year than it did that at the nadir of the recession in 2010 and the unemployment rate is 4.1 percent a figure that is considered maximum employment, according to Bowman.

"It's an exciting time in this community," said Councilwoman Corina Lopez of the projects. "The next few years are going to be quite singular and historic."

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and **must be under 300 words**. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Challenges Climate-Change Believers to a Debate

Editor:

Can the San Leandro Times sponsor a debate regarding the crazed hysteria of so-called "Climate Change (CC)?"

Contrary to the ravings of Religion of CC believers, the seas are *not* rising, 97% of scientists are *not* in agreement with these religious fanatics, and the earth is not, when *real* science is used, warming.

I challenge your recent CC Religion letter writers to a debate although I know they will flee in terror from the idea because they know that they will be totally exposed as total and complete frauds.

Our societal wealth comes from the intelligent use of fossil fuels. Impoverishment such as found in Venezuela awaits if we follow silly and stupid

ideas such as trying to base our economy on the total inadequacy of wind and solar energy.

—Don J. Grundmann, D.C.
San Leandro

National Debt Rising Faster Than The Speed of Light

Editor:

The fastest thing in the universe is the speed of light. Nothing can go faster than 186,282 miles per second. That adds up to 5.88 trillion miles per year. At that speed, light from the nearest star, 25 trillion miles away, takes 4.25 years to reach us.

The national debt exceeds \$20 trillion. That is \$633,612 dollars per second, 3.4 times the speed of light.

Interest charges alone on our national credit card amount to \$215,000-million this year. The Republican tax plan

would deepen the debt \$1,700-million by lowering taxes for big corporations and the richest people. Their plan's debt would go even deeper, except they are also raising taxes on middle-class earners and revoking the financial obligations for affordable healthcare.

How will this astronomical debt be repaid? Republicans plan to cut the Social Security and Medicare entitlements that we have paid into all our lives. All this damage so the patrons who finance Republican Senators and Congressional Representatives can collect more corporate dividends and pay less tax. That means less revenue to keep vital government services functioning.

Looks like the fastest thing in the universe is the scam that has gotten taxpayers to vote Republican.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont



Send a Letter to the Editor
Letters@ebpublishing.com

INQUIRING REPORTER

Best holiday of the year?

— Asked around town

Veterans Day, because it honors all the people who have served the country and all the people who continue to serve the country.

David Jeffery
San Francisco



Christmas, just the warmth and fuzziness is unmatched, the nostalgia. I'm big on nostalgia – the food, the lights, being warm inside when it's cold outside and the music, those '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll Christmas songs.

Adrea Ledet
San Leandro



Christmas, because it's the last holiday of the year and it's a giving time. It ends the year on a good note, and to see the kids happy, and all people happy.

Joe McMichael
Oakland



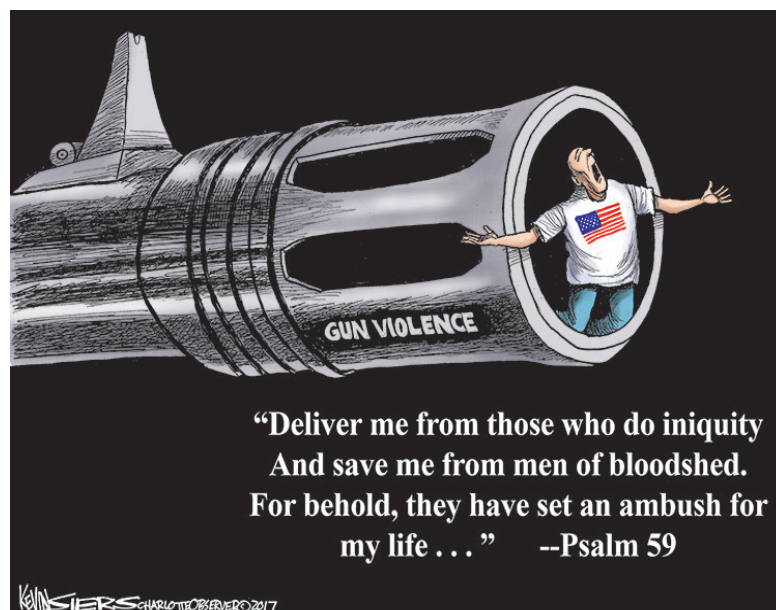
Christmas. I like to listen to Christmas music all year long, the Vince Guaraldi songs from A Charlie Brown Christmas, and just every Christmas song. They're so joyful.

Gwen Pringle, and Joshua
San Leandro



Christmas, because the family comes together and shares, and seeing the children, and it's a special day for Christians because it's the day Jesus was born.

Roxana Igleis
Hayward,
works in San Leandro



Homeless: Program short on funds because rents have risen

continued from front page

The tenants pay one-third of their income or Social Security benefits and Building Futures covers the rest of the rent with federal funds.

"We are housing people who have been on the streets for decades," said Jeanette Dong of the city's human services department at a recent meeting where the city got the award. The city was one of 12 Putnam award recipients

statewide.

Director Estimates 200 People Sleep on Streets in San Leandro

Building Futures Director Liz Varela estimates that about 200 people sleep on the streets or in their cars in San Leandro. She says that her staff and San Leandro police work on identifying people that could use their help and they find homeless

people living in the creek, at the marina, downtown, and in parks.

Varela said that of the people housed because of the compact, over 60 percent are over age 55 and many have medical and psychological troubles. She acknowledged that some people have had to leave their original housing unit due to disputes with landlords, but she has been able to find them another place to live in each case.

"We've had a few people leave because of behavioral issues and go to another unit, but they won't become homeless again," said Varela. "The success of the housing compact is that it provides a permanent housing solution, and housing is what ends homelessness — we really need to focus as a city on building more housing for homeless folks."

But at least one homeless person says that the compact isn't doing enough to keep them off the streets and instead bogs them down with red tape or ships them away from town.

Bernadine Santana says the program is a mess of paperwork and that the place she was of-

fered to stay was too far away from her doctor and public transportation.

"I've submitted my paperwork three times," said Santana. "I've gone through hell and high water and they aren't helping me."

Varela said that her organization does their best to help their clients and acknowledges that paperwork is tedious, but it must be done.

Santana said she was offered a spot at a Building Futures-owned development on the former Alameda Naval Air Station, but turned it down because of the inconvenient location.

Varela said that people have been housed in San Leandro, Hayward, Oakland, and the Naval Air Station. She said she understands their desire to stay close to the area.

"We try to get people where they are around the best support system possible," said Varela. "We are trying to keep people in and around San Leandro."

Varela says that the compact is successful largely because it gives them access to a bigger pool of potential landlords in

San Leandro and nearby cities instead of having to depend on the Building Futures property.

The original plan was for all 25 housing spaces to have been filled by now, but Valera says five people still haven't been housed because rents have gone up and Building Futures is working on securing more federal funding in order to pay the higher rents.

"Right now, we only have enough to pay for the 20," said Varela. She added that money

from Housing and Urban Development is expected this December which will allow them to house the final five homeless people by spring.

Varela said that another delay stemmed simply from the amount of work necessary to match a tenant with a landlord and get them moved in and on their feet.

"Each individual needs help acclimating, it really just took longer than we thought," said Varela.

Care: Assistance to be able to stay at home

continued from front page

for Medicare/Medicaid there will be pay options. Considering the exorbitant cost of assisted living facilities this will be a boon to the seniors in and around San

Leandro. And which senior does not want to live their golden years in their own home?

Bella Comelo is a San Leandro resident and a member of the city's Senior Commission.

SL Garden Club to Meet Tuesday

The San Leandro Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the Alta Mira House, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro.

The plant sale begins at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. The speaker will be someone from the Native Bird Connection.



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