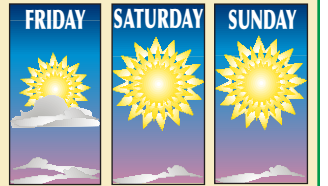


LABOR DAY

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



# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 34 • NO. 36

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Pour It On

Workers poured concrete last week for the foundation of the Parrott Street Apartments that are going up at the corner of Parrott Street and San Leandro Boulevard. The \$33 million building, constructed by developer Eden Housing, will have 62 affordable homes, including 25 homes for formerly homeless veterans.

## 3 of 4 School Board Seats Uncontested

Only Diana Prola in Area 5 faces an opponent, Richard Chen-

By Mike McGuire  
San Leandro Times

You won't need to make too many choices when voting for San Leandro school board trustees in November. Just one seat is contested, while three incumbents are running unopposed.

This year, school board seats in Areas 1, 3 and 5 and the at-large seat are up for election.

The one contested seat pits longtime incumbent Diana Prola in Area 5 against information technology director Richard Chennault.

Prola is a retired longtime teacher who was first elected to the board in 2008 and is seeking her fourth term. She said she has taught every grade from first to community college, and also served as an elementary school principal and as an activities director.

"When I first ran, the district was in disarray," Prola said. "I was part of an elected change to the school board, and I'm the only one remaining from that election. The district has completely turned around."

Prola cited an award from the state as the most improved district in Northern California, along with awards from the College Board for the most minority students taking and passing Advanced Placement (AP) tests, and for the most girls passing AP technology tests.

Most recently, she said, the district got an award for the most students taking and passing AP tests of any middle-sized school in the country.

Advanced placement classes see *SCHOOL BOARD*, page 3

## DA Files Charges In Taylor Shooting

The district attorney filed criminal charges against a San Leandro policeman for the April 18 shooting death of San Leandro resident Steven Taylor at the Walmart on Hesperian Boulevard.

District Attorney Nancy O'Malley announced Wednesday that San Leandro police officer Jason Fletcher has been charged with voluntary manslaughter, a felony, for the use of force that resulted in Taylor's death.

The decision was made after an intensive investigation and thorough analysis of evidence and law, O'Malley said. She

see *CHARGES*, page 11

## AC's Rapid Bus Line Finally Rolling

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

AC Transit's long awaited new rapid bus line finally opened last month on a route between downtown Oakland and the San Leandro BART Station.

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line has a new name – Tempo – and the new hybrid-electric buses even look different than the rest of AC Transit's fleet. The \$216 million rapid bus line makes fewer stops and uses dedicated bus lanes to make the trip faster, according to AC Transit.

"I like all public infrastructure projects," said Dr. Vnenaji Jackson who lives near the Durant Avenue station. "It's great for the economy, for commerce, for both Oakland and San Leandro."

The Tempo line stops at new bus stations along the route where passengers pay in advance to speed up boarding, another step in making the route faster. Clip-

see *RAPID*, page 10



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

AC Transit bus drivers go on a training session on the new Tempo line, making a stop at the downtown San Leandro station on Davis Street. The Tempo rapid buses stop at the new stations where the platform is even with the floor of the bus, easy access for passengers, as well as strollers or wheelchairs.

## INSIDE YOUR TIMES

### COMMUNITY

Senior lunch program looks for volunteers. **Page 2**

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State adopts color-coded guide to closures. **Page 10**

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Dealing with visitation ban during pandemic. **Page 12**

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## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 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.



## PETS OF THE WEEK



Stella



Sally

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are Stella the dog and Sally the cat.

Stella is a 4-year-old female who walks great on leash and is very playful. Stella is treat motivated and smart. She knows "come", "sit" and "stay." She would like to find an active family with older children and no cats.

Sally is a gorgeous 6-year-old female calico. She is friendly and enjoys listening to you talk or just hanging out with you. She likes pets and playing, but can get over excited by both, so she needs frequent breaks.

To adopt Stella or Sally, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



PHOTO BY LARRY ROSA

A volunteer hands out a senior lunch for the Spectrum Community Services drive-through meal program.

## Senior Lunch Program Looking for Volunteers

Spectrum Community Services has been feeding seniors at the San Leandro Senior Center since its opening in 2011.

In March, when shelter-in-place orders were instituted throughout the county, senior clients were no longer able to eat together at the Senior Center.

Instead a drive-through, pick-up meal service began.

During the last 6 months, requests for assistance from local seniors has increased dramatically, and more meals are being handed out every day.

Currently, Spectrum is seeking volunteers to assist with meal

distribution weekdays at the San Leandro Senior Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Email [sitesup@SpectrumCS.org](mailto:sitesup@SpectrumCS.org) if you are interested in learning more and how you can help serve your community. Food handling and safety awareness training will be provided.

## Hope Hospice Webinar On Living with Dementia

Hope Hospice in Dublin is presenting its popular Family Caregiver Education Series in the form of interactive webinars that will be presented over Zoom for the duration of the pandemic.

The next program, "Living With Dementia: Dementia Basics," will be held on Thursday Sept. 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Since dementia dramatically changes the ways that individuals think, perceive, and communicate, caring for a loved one with dementia presents a unique set of challenges.

Hope Hospice's dementia specialists, Gia Barsell and Debbie Emerson, will discuss the nature and progression of dementia and the various diseases and conditions that can produce its symptoms. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the ways in which dementia can impact the

brain and behavior.

The series is free to the public and participants do not have to have a loved one receiving service from the hospice.

To register, visit [HopeHospice.com/family](http://HopeHospice.com/family). For more information, call 925-829-8770.

## Wildfire Safety Information Meeting

There are things that everyone can do to help make our community more resistant to a fire. The Castro Valley Rotary Club and Alameda County Fire Department will sponsor an informational meeting via Zoom on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. For more information, visit [www.castrovalleyrotary.org](http://www.castrovalleyrotary.org).

## Labor Day Tips for East Bay Regional Park District Visitors

Labor Day is typically one of the busiest days of the year in the East Bay Regional Parks.

Some of the more popular parks and swim areas expected to reach capacity by mid-morning. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early and carpool. Check [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org) to know if the Regional Park you are heading to is affected.

- Stay cool and hydrated, plan ahead and bring plenty of water.

- Alcohol is only allowed at certain parks. Check [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org) before you go.

- Follow water safety rules if swimming. There are free loaner life-jackets available at all East Bay Regional Park District swim facilities as an extra safeguard for anyone concerned about their swimming abilities or those of their children.

- Understand fire dangers. Do not build, light, or maintain any open outdoor fire on park property except in those facilities or areas provided and designated for that purpose. Never leave a fire unattended.

- Smoking is prohibited in Regional Parks, including inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, marijuana, plant, or other combustible organic or chemical substance.

## San Leandro Times

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

### EDITORIAL

**Fred Zehnder**  
Editor and Publisher

**Jim Knowles**  
Managing Editor  
[jimk@ebpublishing.com](mailto:jimk@ebpublishing.com)

**Mike McGuire**  
City Editor

**Steve Schaefer**  
Auto Editor

Contributing Writers  
**Buzz Bertolero**  
**Carl Medford**  
**Linda Sandsmark**

### PRODUCTION

**Howard Morrison**  
Manager

**Kayla Steinorth**  
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**Moxie Morrison**  
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### OPERATIONS

**Claudette Morrison**  
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### ADVERTISING

Display Advertising  
**Claudette Morrison**  
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### HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times  
2060 Washington Ave.  
San Leandro, California 94577  
Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Office: (510) 614-1555  
Newsroom: (510) 614-1557  
Sports: (510) 614-1561  
Advertising: (510) 614-1555  
Classified: (510) 614-1558  
Fax: (510) 483-4209  
Email: [jimk@ebpublishing.com](mailto:jimk@ebpublishing.com)  
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# School Board: Chennault: Parents need better access to teachers

continued from front page

and tests let high school students get college credits before graduation, which then lets them go straight to more advanced courses in college.

Prola said she has pushed for environmental and social justice to be part of the curriculum, and pushed to have Mandarin taught as both a conventional course and as an AP course.

## Richard Chennault

Prola is opposed by Richard Chennault, a technology professional with Gilead Sciences, Inc. who says he would bring a newer perspective to the board.

In particular, at a time of emergency use of distance learning for students, he touts his real-world experience with distance learning in the business world. Chennault believes the district can do a better job of using technology and make it more welcoming to children.

Chennault headed the Parent Teacher Organization at John Muir Middle School for six years, and his children attended Muir and are now at San Leandro High School. He also wants to improve access for parents to teachers, staff and administration at their children's schools.

Right now, he said, it can be hard for parents to get ahold of staff and teachers. Chennault sees a "gulf" between parents and teachers, staff and administration that needs to be closed.



Diana Prola

Chennault sees district efforts to use technology, especially under current circumstances, as well-meaning but sometimes ineffective. "Right-sizing" the technology is important, he said, and sometimes a 14-inch screen, never mind a telephone, simply isn't big enough to do the job.

Chennault said that adults quickly tire when meetings are held onscreen, and requiring hours of onscreen attention at a time for young children may be asking too much.

He said that while some people in the district understand technology well, with a good sense of its possibilities and limits, many do not. Those not currently teaching or working in the technology field may have a hard time gaining that needed understanding quickly.

"Now is the time for people like me to really make a difference," he said. Chennault said



Richard Chennault

he is not a politician, and plans to continue with his Silicon Valley career no matter which way the election goes.

School Board trustees Peter Oshinski (at-large), Monique Tate (Area 1), and Evelyn Gonzales (Area 3) are running unopposed for their seats.

## Peter Oshinski

Oshinski, the board president, fell short in his first race for a school board seat, but kept going to meetings and got elected to the board four years ago. He's been a teacher himself and worked for the Hayward school district during the day.

His proudest moment on the board was getting the Oakland Ballet to perform twice for students and once for the public, all at no charge. In his new term, he hopes to get back to in-person instruction safely, and take a "deeper dive" into anti-racism.

"I want all students to feel they're getting a good education, particularly under distance learning," he said.

## Monique Tate

Tate is the mother of two San Leandro High School graduates and has another child still studying at SLHS. She was active with the schools and in the community for a decade before she ran for office, and her full-time job is



Evelyn Gonzalez

with the county education office.

Tate pursued her own higher education as an adult, she said in her district biography. She also said she believes all children and adults can be successful with the same kinds of support and as she received.

## Evelyn Gonzalez

Gonzalez has served six years on the board, having first been elected to a two-year term in 2014 when board member Jason Toro resigned. She was subsequently elected to a full four-year term unopposed in 2016.

She said she had planned not to run, but the Covid crisis changed her mind. She felt the board needs someone with her experience and knowledge to provide stability at a time of deep and sudden changes. They also need someone with the time to pursue all the information out there.

"This is a difficult time," Gonzalez said. "There's no win-win."

She felt an accomplishment in the last four years was helping guide the district through making tech upgrades, backed by community support of bond issues. These were ready to go immediately when the pandemic suddenly hit unexpectedly, while other districts struggled to begin using technology on short notice.



Peter Oshinski

Gonzalez has also been active in student equity efforts in the district, serving as a parent rep on an equity team. She thinks more does to be done to help students who are different in some way to be accepted for who they are. Her own multi-ethnic children reminded her of that, she said.

Gonzalez wants to make more progress on equity efforts in her next term. She also wants to



Monique Tate

hold community forums, online if necessary but preferably in person, to hear from all segments of the community on school issues.

Gonzalez said that was made especially necessary by her having been unopposed in two elections in a row now. Without opposition to sharpen views on issues, there is the danger of falling out of touch with what people want and what they care about.

## SWP Candidate for President to Speak

The Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president will speak on Friday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 77 Hegenberger Road, in Oakland.

Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett are bringing their campaign to working people, including visiting areas hard hit by the fires and reaching out to farm worker families.

The candidates will also protest the police killing of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Social distancing protocols will be in place. Wear masks.

Donation: \$10. Free parking. The nearest BART station is the Coliseum Station. If you would like a ride from the station, call 510-686-1351 or email swpoak@sbcglobal.net.

## Unity World Day of Prayer

Unity World Day of Prayer is a chance for people of all faiths around the world to join Silent Unity, a 24/7 transdenominational prayer ministry, in celebration of prayer on Sept. 9 and 10.

The opening ceremony will take place the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 9, featuring Unity ministers and the music of Eddie Watkins Jr. The livestream celebration will continue throughout the day on Thursday, Sept. 10, with each event—including a bilingual prayer service in English and Spanish—broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube. Participants can submit names for prayer online and light a virtual candle at [worlddayofprayer.org](http://worlddayofprayer.org).

Details about Unity World Day of Prayer events are online at [worlddayofprayer.org](http://worlddayofprayer.org). Information is available in Spanish at [diadeoracionmundial.org](http://diadeoracionmundial.org). Watch for updates and live-streamed events on the Unity Facebook page at [facebook.com/beunity](http://facebook.com/beunity).

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## LIFESTYLE

## Giving Cabbage its Due



Stuffed Cabbage Rolls combine great taste with health benefits

If the only time you fix cabbage is with your St. Patrick's Day corned beef, you're missing out on a lot of good eating, not to mention some surprising side benefits.

For centuries, cabbage has suffered worldwide culinary abuse, overcooked and taken for granted.

When given the proper respect, cabbage is one of the healthiest and most versatile vegetables nature has ever invented.

**BRAISED CABBAGE**

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 slices bacon, cut into 1-inch strips
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 2 bay leaves
- Salt and freshly-ground black pepper
- 1 large head cabbage, cored and shredded
- 1 bottle beer

Add oil to a large pot and cook the bacon until browned and crispy. Add the onion and the bay leaves and season with salt and

pepper. Add the cabbage, stirring to mix. Add the beer, season and cover. Braise until the cabbage has wilted, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes.

Remove the bay leaves and serve immediately. Yields five 1-cup servings.

**TANGY COLE SLAW**

- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 small green cabbage, finely shredded
- 2 medium carrots, coarsely grated
- 2 small onions, coarsely grated

Whisk together mustard, vinegar, lemon juice, sugar, salt, mayonnaise, and sour cream in a small bowl. Refrigerate dressing, covered, until ready to use,

or up to 2 days.

Put cabbage, carrots, and onion (if desired) in a large bowl. Pour in dressing, and toss thoroughly. Refrigerate, covered, until slaw begins to soften, 1 to 2 hours.

If not using immediately, refrigerate, covered, up to 2 days. Just before serving, toss coleslaw again. Yields 6 servings.

**STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS**

- 2/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup uncooked white rice
- 8 cabbage leaves
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed tomato soup

In a medium saucepan, bring water to a boil. Add rice and stir. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

Bring a large, wide saucepan of lightly salted water to a boil. Add

cabbage leaves and cook for 2 to 4 minutes or until softened; drain.

In a medium mixing bowl, combine the ground beef, 1 cup cooked rice, onion, egg, salt and pepper, along with 2 tablespoons of tomato soup. Mix thoroughly.

Divide the beef mixture evenly among the cabbage leaves. Roll and secure them with toothpicks or string.

In a large skillet over medium heat, place the cabbage rolls and pour the remaining tomato soup over the top. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer for about 40 minutes, stirring and basting with the liquid often. Serves 4.

**COUNTRY CABBAGE SOUP**

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 (28-ounce) cans stewed tomatoes
- 1 medium head cabbage, shredded
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 6 celery ribs, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large saucepan, cook beef over medium heat until no longer

## Tips from the Cabbage Patch

• Choose cabbage heads that feel firm and dense, with shiny, crisp leaves free of cracks, bruises and blemishes. It's best not to buy precut cabbage, either halved or shredded, since once the cabbage is cut, it begins to lose its valuable vitamin C content. Whole cabbage, wrapped in plastic, will keep about a week in your refrigerator.

• To core a cabbage, use a sharp chef's stainless steel knife. Cut cabbage in half, then in quarters, and slice out the core.



pink; drain. Add the tomatoes, cabbage, onions and celery; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 25 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in salt and pepper. Yields 12 servings.

**ROASTED CABBAGE WEDGES**

- 3 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 medium head cabbage, cut into 1-inch-thick rounds
- Coarse salt and ground pepper

1 teaspoon caraway or fennel seeds

Preheat oven to 400°F. Brush a rimmed baking sheet with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil. Place cut cabbage rounds, in a single layer on sheet and brush with the remaining 2 tablespoons oil. Season with coarse salt and ground pepper and sprinkle with 1 teaspoon caraway or fennel seeds. Roast until cabbage is tender and edges are golden, 40 to 45 minutes. Yields 6 servings. before serving. Yields 8 servings.

## LEGAL NOTICE

FILED  
AUGUST 17, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 572370

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Sunshine Boutique, located at 2271 Prosperity Way, San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brittney Lackey, 2271 Prosperity Way, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

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

Expires AUGUST 17, 2025  
**SEPT 03, 10, 17, 24, 2020**  
**280-SLT**

FILED  
AUGUST 20, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 572404

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): ANDI CAREY CONSULTS, located at 555 Pala Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andi Carey, 555 Pala Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

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

Expires AUGUST 20, 2025  
**SEPT 03, 10, 17, 24, 2020**  
**281-SLT**

FILED  
AUGUST 13, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 572267

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): The Taco Concept, located at 16026 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94578, mailing address 30248 Santucci Court, Hayward, CA 94544, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): AAM-MLL LLC, 30248 Santucci Court, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced N/A.

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

Expires AUGUST 13, 2025  
**SEPT 03, 10, 17, 24, 2020**  
**282-SLT**

FILED  
AUGUST 03, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 571833

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): (1) Benca Consulting (2) Benca Consultation (3) Benca Security, located at 239 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, are hereby registered by the following owner(s): Monica Aerial Cade Benca, 239 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Monica Aerial Cade Benca  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires AUGUST 03, 2025  
**AUGUST 20, 27, SEPT 03, 10, 2020**  
**277-SLT**

FILED  
AUGUST 13, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 572269

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Unforgettable Imprints, located at 836 Carmel Ct., San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Evettra Foster and (2) Dajah Mitchell, 836 Carmel Ct., San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by a general partnership. This business commenced July 29, 2020.

/s/ Evettra Foster, Dajah Mitchell  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires AUGUST 13, 2025  
**AUGUST 27, SEPT 03, 10, 17, 2020**  
**278-SLT**

FILED  
JULY 31, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 571745

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): LT's Pretzel City Subs, located at 1855 Calle Del Sueno, Livermore, CA 94551, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Lawrence Timothy Heard and (2) Jennifer Heard, 1855 Calle Del Sueno, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a married couple. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Lawrence Timothy Heard, Jennifer Heard  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

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FILED  
AUGUST 13, 2020  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 572270

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): World Foods Center #2, located at 15907 Hesperian Blvd. Suite 5907, San Lorenzo, CA 94580, mailing address 30248 Santucci Ct., Hayward, CA 94544, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Marisela Duran (2) Antonio Duran, 28304 Hayward Blvd, Hayward, CA 94542 and (3) Jesus Eduardo Vivanco, 17916 Via Arriba, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a general partnership. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Marisela Duran, Antonio Duran, Jesus Eduardo Vivanco  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires AUGUST 13, 2025  
**SEPT 03, 10, 17, 24, 2020**  
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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## COVID-19 Inducing Urban Flight

With the continuing housing shortage not just locally, but across the nation, home prices are continuing to rise as buyers are throwing multiple offers at almost everything decent.

In spite of COVID-19, according to the Federal Housing Finance Authority (www.FHFA.gov), second quarter overall US home values increased 5.4% from the same period last year.

With the market looking rosy in most corners of the nation and every major city across the country seeing home values increase, there is one glaring exception. One city where prices have actually declined and where housing inventory is reaching record highs.

It is no secret our country is in a recession and the only two entities that have not apparently read the memo are the housing and stock markets.

It goes without saying that any

hot market always has a cooler backside and, with high unemployment rates and continued effects from the pandemic, it is just a matter of time before reality comes home to roost in the housing market.

When local conditions deteriorate and consumer confidence dips, buyers, sensing the future may be less optimistic, are less willing to buy. This subsequently causes a shift in market dynamics as we start to tilt from a seller's market to a buyer's market.

Realtors are constantly looking for signs of an impending shift, and the declining San Francisco and upper peninsula markets (Redwood City, San Mateo, Burlingame) are throwing off clues to which we must pay attention. What begins in one corner of the Bay Area will eventually encompass the entire region.

There are many factors contributing to the shift. COVID-19 has made many employees aware (especially in the tech and related sectors) that they will be working from home for the foreseeable future.

This means they no longer need expensive homes located close to their employers. Many are consequently looking to get out of the city and into more affordable locations. Cities like Boise, Idaho are beginning to see an influx.

Additionally, local city and county government's inability to handle surging homeless populations, talks of increasing state taxes and pandemic-related closings of iconic restaurants, tourist

venues, amenities such as theaters and numerous other services are compounding to make urban life dramatically less palatable.

Factor in the increased potential for COVID-19 infections prevalent in large urban centers and it is no wonder many are looking to get out of town as quickly as possible.

\*<https://www.fhfa.gov/AboutUs/Reports/Pages/US-House-Price-Index-Report-2020Q2-June.aspx>

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.

## HOME of the WEEK

### 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths

Wonderful home near the top of Brookdale in Lake Chabot neighborhood with views of the valley. Living room and dining room with vaulted ceilings, nicely updated kitchen with granite counters, and stainless steel appliances. Relax in the large family room with fireplace and sliding doors to the large backyard deck with a view. Large master bedroom suite has private updated bath and a view. This home has plantation shutters, air conditioning, and beautiful flooring throughout. Enjoy nearby Lake Chabot Regional Park and great Castro Valley Schools. See a video of this home here: <https://3872BrookdaleBlvd28942.f8re.com/>



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## Peony Problems? Some Common Reasons

**Q:** My peonies haven't bloomed. They are about three years old, and I think I might have planted them too deep. When is the best time to transplant or divide them?

**By Buzz Bertolero**  
Special to The Times

**A:** The most common reasons peonies fail to bloom are planting them in too much shade and or too deeply. The Peony tubers' "eyes" should be just below the soil level about one or two inches. Peonies like a sunny location, and you transplant in late September and October to solve the problems.

Peonies need the sun to produce blooms. It could be that the plant got enough sun in early spring to generate the buds, but a nearby tree grew back its leaves, and the sun is now blocked. The buds die because the plants no longer get enough sun to support the blossoms.

You divide Peonies every few years as the flower production declines. Since yours are blooming, this would be the time to divide. This is best done in late October or early November.

First, cut off all the foliage at the ground, dig around the clump to loosen the roots. Using your shovel, lift the plants out of the ground and cut off those still attached to the clump cluster. With a sharp knife, split the clumps, leaving three to five eyes on each division.

Next, amend the new holes with organic matter and firmly tamp it down. Replant so that eyes are about an inch deep and allow 3 feet between each plant.

**Q:** My daughter planted some zucchini seeds a couple of months ago, and I bought four regular zucchini plants from our local hardware



The most common reasons peonies fail to bloom are planting them in too much shade and or too deeply.

store. While the store-purchased plants flowered over a month ago, there have been no zucchini produced. The seeded plants have been flowering the past fortnight, but also have produced no zucchini. A few small bees are buzzing around the lawn clover, and none seem to be interested in the vegetables. What should I be doing?

**A:** This is a head-scratcher. It sure sounds like a pollination problem. There could be other reasons no fruit set like water stress, blossom end rot, mildew, and nutrient deficiencies. But, I'm assuming that the plants are growing and having no other issues.

Zucchini and other squash plants are monoecious, meaning they produce separate male and female flowers on the same plant. Be sure you are moving the pollen from a male flower to a female flower. Earlier, the plants produce an abundance of male flowers. Now it's more females. Only, the female plants bare fruit. The best time of the day to pollinate is in the morning. I try to be more selective with the flowers you pollinate.

The Dirt Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com) and questions can be sent by email to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com).

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# Creating a Defensible Space Around Your Home

In January 2005 a new state law became effective that extended the defensible space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet.

This is especially important in the East Bay with its heavily wooded areas.

Residents should make sure they have 100 feet of defensible space around structures. Clear dead weeds and vegetation. Remove leaves and needles from gutters. Trim branches 6 feet from the ground.

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it.

This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire — either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home.

Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space:

Zone 1 extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures and decks.

Zone 2 extends 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

Proper clearance to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire.

## Fire Weather Watches

The National Weather Service issues Red Flag Warnings & Fire Weather Watches to alert fire departments of the onset, or possible onset, of critical weather and dry conditions

that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity.

A Red Flag Warning is issued for weather events which may result in extreme fire behavior that will occur within 24 hours. A Fire Weather Watch is issued when weather conditions could exist in the next 12-72 hours.

A Red Flag Warning is the highest alert. During these times extreme caution is urged by all residents, because a simple spark can cause a major wildfire. A Fire Weather Watch is one level below a warning, but fire danger is still high.

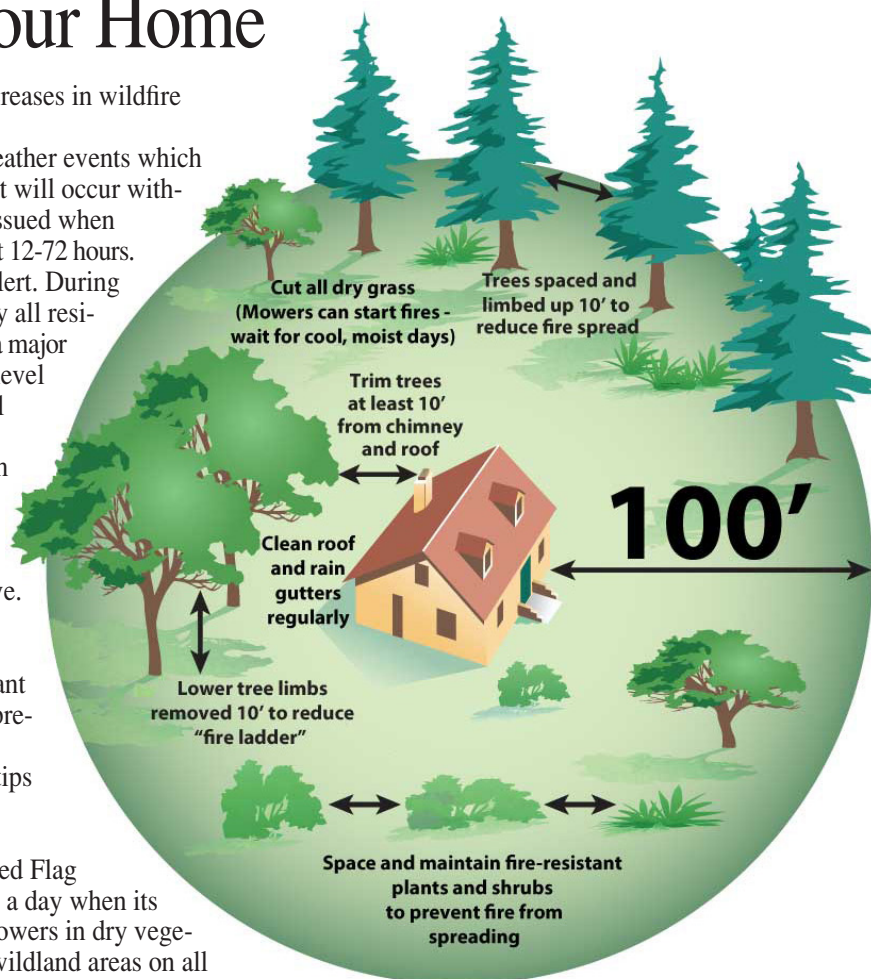
The type of weather patterns that can cause a watch or warning include low relative humidity, strong winds, dry fuels, the possibility of dry lightning strikes, or any combination of the above.

CAL FIRE urges Californians to be extremely cautious, especially during periods of high fire danger. It's important all residents and visitors take steps to prevent wildfires.

A few helpful reminders and safety tips include:

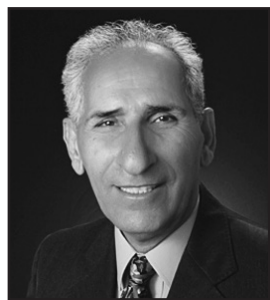
## Equipment Use

Never mow or trim dry grass on a Red Flag Warning Day. (Mow before 10 a.m. on a day when it's not hot and windy). Never use lawn mowers in dry vegetation. Spark arresters are required in wildland areas on all portable gasoline powered equipment.



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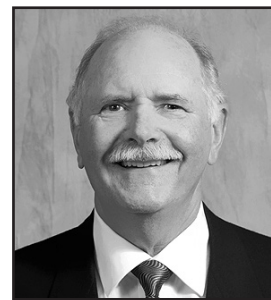
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ACROSS

1 Place for pampering  
4 Bedouins  
9 Gasoline stat  
12 Samovar  
13 Actress Zellweger  
14 A billion years  
15 Update  
17 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)  
18 Young fellow  
19 Shun  
21 Feast alternative  
24 \_\_\_ land (spaced-out site)  
25 Eggs  
26 Attempt  
28 Paul or Lloyd of baseball lore  
31 Gear teeth  
33 Collection  
35 Go off the board  
36 Central  
38 Turf  
40 Londoner's last letter  
41 Reverberate  
43 Hourglasses, e.g.  
45 Common condiment (Var.)  
47 Historic period  
48 Boxing legend  
49 Spellbind  
54 Namely (Abbr.)  
55 Cook with radiant heat  
56 Cacophony  
57 Chowd down  
58 Impudent  
59 Choose

DOWN

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2 In favor of  
3 Moreover  
4 Extreme  
5 Furnishes  
6 Blackbird  
7 Gem facet  
8 Playground fixture  
9 Replace personnel with robots  
10 Pontiff  
11 Chew like chipmunks  
16 Inventor Whitney  
20 Dressed  
21 Central points  
22 Shakespeare's river  
23 Make attractive  
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34 Re clan emblems  
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39 In a catastrophic way  
42 "The Phantom of the \_\_\_"  
44 Scratch  
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46 Settled down  
50 Old French coin  
51 Altar affirmative  
52 Energy  
53 Med. specialty

ANSWERS ON PAGE 1



# East Bay Parks Firefighters Coordinate with State Agencies

By Ned MacKay  
Special to the Times

East Bay Regional Park District firefighters and operations staff have had their hands full dealing with the unprecedented series of lightning-caused fires that are burning in the regional parks, East Bay counties and throughout the state.

During a 90-minute period

in the early morning of Sunday, Aug. 16, 12,000 lightning strikes statewide caused 560 fires, according to Park District Fire Chief Aileen Theile.

The firefighting effort has required mobilization of the district's entire firefighting team including 23 fulltime firefighters and some 34 on-call district employees with other primary

occupations, but who are also fully trained firefighters available when needed.

The on-call firefighters were released from their regular jobs to reinforce the full-timers. In Castro Valley, the park district lifeguard staff set up a camp at the district's public safety headquarters for firefighters coming off the line.

Another asset is the district's Eagle 7 helicopter unit, which was one of the only early air resources available. Using the copters' Bambi bucket capability, the Eagle pilots worked every day, assisting Cal Fire by dropping more than 4,000 gallons of water on the fires.

Because of the fire emergency, the district closed all regional parks on Aug. 21, except for some shoreline parks and paved inter-park regional trails.

Chief Theile gave several reasons. For one, the air quality was really bad. Apart from health concerns, the thick haze made it impossible for firefighters to tell whether a fire was actually burning within a park.

Also, if a fire did occur, firefighters and police would have a problem finding and evacuating park visitors or dealing with other emergencies. Their jobs are already dangerous enough.

Finally, Cal Fire officials informed the district that 96 percent of their available resources were committed to the fires in the Bay Area and elsewhere in the state.



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT PHOTO

**Some 12,000 lightning strikes on an early Sunday morning in mid-August touched off 560 fires statewide, including in five East Bay Regional Parks.**

Resources were stretched so thin, Cal Fire said, that if a fire started in another regional park, the park district might have to fight it without assistance.

As of last Thursday, improving conditions allowed reopening of most of the regional parks that had been closed. Exceptions were parks impacted by the fire: Del Valle, Mission Peak, Morgan Territory, Ohlone Wilderness, Round

Valley and Sunol.

If it becomes necessary to close regional parks again, the park district urges everyone to abide by the rules.

Please do not enter a regional park that has been closed. By doing so, you can endanger yourself and others, and force firefighters and police to divert from emergencies in order to escort you out of the area.

## Rapid: Passengers like new buses

continued from front page

per cards can be swiped before boarding at the station, too.

Buses on the 9.5-mile Tempo line are scheduled for every 10 minutes.

"I love it, these buses are always on time," said a woman who boarded the Tempo bus at the Davis Street station. "It's faster and a lot better."

New technology will time the traffic signals along the route to keep the buses moving. A driver said that the lights don't always change to green for the Tempo buses but it does work well

enough to make it considerably faster than a regular bus.

The Tempo buses have bicycle racks inside the bus for quicker boarding. You can board the buses from different doors. The middle doors are for passengers with mobility devices, such as wheelchairs. The back doors are for bicycles and people with strollers.

The doors are right at the ground level of the stations. So a woman in a wheelchair got of the bus at the Davis Street station, rolling herself without needing assistance from the driver.

The stations are all well lit and with camera systems, said AC Transit.

The new bus line also features landscaping along the route, bike lanes, and work by local artists at the stations along the route.

"I'm glad the express buses are finally rolling," said former mayor Stephen Cassidy. "I hope the BRT line will stimulate commerce and jobs in East Oakland. San Leandro is not an island. If East Oakland can become a safer and more prosperous community, San Leandro, in turn, will benefit."

## State of California Blueprint Paints Alameda County Purple

By Michael Singer  
San Leandro Times

Alameda County is sporting shades of purple under a new color-coded identification system to let people know what activities and businesses they can participate in while reducing Covid-19 in the state.

Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled his "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" last Friday. The guidance clarifies what had been a confusing hodgepodge of lists that allowed some businesses to open one week only to be forced to close a week later.

For example, The Doolittle pub on Castro Valley Boulevard was given the green light to serve beverages outdoors in coordination with dining from nearby Dino's restaurant on and off since late June only to be told in July and August that they must cease and desist operations as it did not officially have a permit to sell food.

"Serving food is a big deal now. You gotta be able to make it work," said Doolittle fan Michelle Whitney whose mother also works at a local bar.

This week, the Alameda

County Public Health Department authorized barbershops and nail salons to operate outside. Wineries and tasting rooms are also able to serve outdoors. All indoor retail must limit capacity to a maximum of 25 percent of capacity, except for grocery stores, which must limit capacity to a maximum of 50 percent.

The graphic identifies the severity of each color code. Alameda County, like 37 other counties were tagged as "Widespread Tier 1," which means the number of newly-reported cases and positive tests for Covid-19 over a 7-day average are outside the levels that the state feels are safe.

State health officials say one of the goals of the new guidance is to aggressively reduce case transmission to as low a rate as possible across the state so the potential burden of flu and Covid-19 in the late fall and winter does not overburden hospitals and clinics.

	Higher Risk → Lower Risk of Community Disease Transmission			
	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
Measures*				
New cases**/100,000 population per day (7 day average; 7 day lag)	>7	4-7	1-3.9	<1
Testing % Positivity (7 day average; 7 day lag)	> 8%	5-8%	2-4.9%	<2%

**The state's new color-coded system is supposed to help ease the confusion over pandemic restrictions. Alameda County is in the purple zone until the positive rate comes down.**

"Also, with winter weather pushing more activities indoors, low levels of transmission in the community will make large outbreaks in these riskier settings less likely," said Erica Pan, Acting State Public Health Officer.

While the state has established its four-color guidance, a county may be more restrictive. Alameda County's Public Health Department said it has examined the additional activities that may be permitted to reopen by the state in the Purple Tier. The department is expected to issue another update this week on how it plans to proceed.

"We are evaluating next steps and options for alignment with the state while ensuring a reopening plan that reflects the specific disease conditions and needs in Alameda County," said Neetu Balram, public information manager with the Alameda County Public Health Department. "In doing so, we are considering the risk, timing, and cadence of reopening activities, as well as their downstream impact on local disease conditions that could limit future activities."

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Cupid is strong in the Aries aspect this week, with the cherub opening romantic possibilities for single Lambs, and strengthening ties 'twixt loving pairs already in a caring relationship.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Your dramatic flair might make things more interesting as you recount an event to your colleagues. But be careful not to exaggerate reality to the point that facts and fancy combine to form fiction.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You love to talk, and this week you should get lots of chances to share your thoughts with people who will not only pay attention to what you have to say, but will want to hear more.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** The pattern of recent changes could begin to shift from mostly workplace-related events to more personal matters. Continue to keep an open mind as you prepare to deal with them.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Reward yourself for what's sure to be a dynamic week with a getaway to someplace wonderful, hopefully with a wonderful someone. You'll return refreshed and ready for what's ahead.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** You might want to suggest resolving an old disagreement before it can affect a matter expected to come up for discussion. It's always best to start with a clean slate.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** The week favors combining dollops of creativity and practicality to work out both professional and personal problems. A longtime friend could have something of note to suggest.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Some surprising facts could come to light if you decide to probe deeper into an "opportunity" than you might usually do. What you'll learn could determine what you'll earn.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Someone close to you might seek your counsel. Hear him/her out, but hold the line at giving actual advice until you get credible answers to all your questions.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** What seems to be an overwhelming workplace project can be dealt with quite well if you handle one category at a time. Things will soon begin to fall into place.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** A personal matter might need more of your time than you had expected. Try to prioritize between your many outside commitments and your domestic responsibilities.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** A developing situation still needs more time to grow, and more time to study before you can plunge in and make some attention-getting waves. Patience is best for wise Pisceans.

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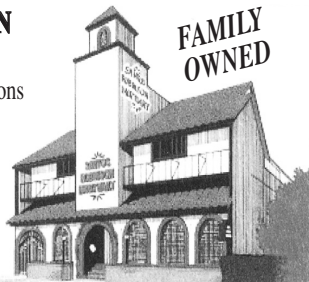
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FD 442



## Charges: DA's account of Walmart shooting

continued from front page

added that a police officer's job is demanding and that the decision was made solely on the facts.

Just after 3 p.m. on April 18, Fletcher was called to the Walmart store at 1555 Hesperian Boulevard about a shoplifter holding a baseball bat. Taylor had been stopped by a store security guard as he attempted to leave the store with an aluminum baseball bat and a tent without paying for the items, according to an account from the district attorney.

Fletcher approached the front entrance as he saw backup Officer Overton arrive at the parking lot. Meanwhile, two different store customers offered to help Taylor, one offering him several

**“Mr. Taylor posed no threat of imminent deadly force.”**

— District Attorney  
Nancy O'Malley

dollars, to which Taylor said no thank you.

Store security told Taylor they had called the police, and Taylor said he would wait for the police to arrive, waiting near the shopping cart area as an older

lady stood nearby.

Fletcher spoke with the security guard for about 10 seconds before he contacted Taylor without waiting for the backup officer, according to the district attorney.

Fletcher grabbed the bat with his left hand, attempting to take it from Taylor's right hand, pulling out his service pistol at the same time with his other hand. But Taylor pulled the bat away and stepped away from Officer Fletcher.

Fletcher drew his taser with his left hand and ordered Taylor to drop the bat. He shot Taylor with the taser as he advanced toward Taylor and then fired the taser again, according to the district attorney.

“Mr. Taylor was struggling to remain standing as he pointed the bat at the ground,” said the district attorney. “Mr. Taylor posed no threat of imminent deadly force or serious bodily injury to defendant Fletcher or anyone else in the store. Defendant Fletcher shot Mr. Taylor in the chest just as backup Officer Overton arrived in the store.”

Taylor dropped the bat, turned away and fell to the ground. He was later pronounced dead.

From the time Fletcher entered the store to the time he shot Taylor was less than 40 seconds, said the district attorney.

Fletcher is expected to be arraigned on Sept. 15 in Dept. 702 of the East County Hall of Justice.

## Budget Task Force Members Wanted

The City of San Leandro is seeking 28 members to form the Community Advisory Budget Task Force.

The members can be residents, business representatives, and city employees. The Budget Task Force will provide budget-related recommendations to the City Council.

The purpose of the task force is to:

- Develop an understanding of the City's budget and fiscal issues.
- Provide input on community priorities and develop

recommendations for the City Council on fiscal and program strategies that ensure a balanced budget that reflects those priorities.

• Make recommendations for reallocations of funding that was recently deducted from the police department's budget.

• Help achieve a long-term, sustainable budget.

For a task force application, visit [www.sanleandro.org/news](http://www.sanleandro.org/news) or contact Paul Sanftner at [psanftner@sanleandro.org](mailto:psanftner@sanleandro.org) or 510-577-3372.

## OPINION

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

#### May 31: A Shattering Event

Editor:

The events of May 31 in San Leandro were shattering — one of the most consequential events in our town's recent history. Yet there has been only minimal local news coverage, and virtually no public discussion by our elected leaders, that I've found.

So I congratulate you and reporter Michael Singer for your follow-up story in the Aug. 27 issue (“Totals from Looting Still Unknown,” Page 1).

The Davis Street Walmart has not re-opened and our City Council is cutting police funding. Could these events be related? How will this affect current and projected sales tax revenues?

The City Council seems to want both property tax increases and public safety cutbacks, but doesn't talk about a night of massive organized looting. Does this make any sense?

—Jill Singleton  
San Leandro

#### A Slap in the Face

Editor:

You do a disservice to the community by editing out the true backstory of the looting in San Leandro on May 31st (“Totals from Looting Still Unknown,” Page 1). The execution of an unarmed black man by police sparked massive, peaceful, public outcry.

Under the cover of that peaceful protest, thieves took advantage to rob and steal. If not for the police killing an unarmed citizen by standing on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds there would have been no looting. Your story wrongly jumps from police-kill-black-man to looting and leaves out the need to protest against police brutality and systemic overstepping of their powers to be also be judge, jury and executioners.

There will always be a criminal element in our society that takes advantage of a situation. But your narrative says that because peaceful protests can be used by thieves as cover, then we

can't have peaceful protest. Just like not all police are bad, not all protesters are looters.

Likewise, I am all for free speech but we, the USofA, have laws about hate speech. As San Leandro is nearly 30% of Asian descent, it is appalling and unforgivable that you would print a description of the COVID-19 virus by any other name but the scientific ones even in a letter to the editor. Printing Corey Anderson's repeat of Trump's continue racist thread on this topic is a disservice and slap directly in the face of at least 30% of your potential readers.

What Mr. Anderson wrote is a call to arms for white supremacy and you backed him up with your decision to print. That is hate speech printed in the SLT in my opinion.

As the editor, even for a free paper that runs on advertising dollars, I'd expect you to do a better job.

—John Clouston  
San Leandro

#### Tortuga Road – A Clarification

Editor:

This is to explain my letter of Aug. 20 (“Ashamed of Tortuga Road”), regarding the conditions of homes and yards in the entire Marina Faire track, not just Tortuga Road of which I am so fond. I did not make it clear that I meant the entire Marina Faire track of homes.

The pick-up cans are left on the street and in front yards all over. We were told they were to be put in the back yard when not having a pickup in a day.

The driveways throughout the track are full of huge RVs and boats that are not ever moved, cars with flat tires on the streets, etc. It is not the comfortable neighborhood we moved into some 59 years ago.

Again, I do apologize to any and all for not making things clear. Thank you again for your time.

—Marty Figueiredo  
San Leandro

#### The College Dropout Scandal

Editor:

Few people could guess the college graduation rate for four-year and community colleges. For Cal State East Bay it's 42.4 percent (available at [www.collegere-sultsonline.org](http://www.collegere-sultsonline.org)). This is about average for colleges throughout the country, for community colleges as well.

The low numbers are a scandal as detailed in UC Berkeley Public Policy professor David Kirp's *The College Dropout Scandal*. Parents of high school students would be up in protest if their high schools had similar results. Interviews with Kirp about the book are available at CSPAN BookTV as well as on YouTube.

The dropout rate is also a racial issue. The dropout rates have more to do with schools worrying about their status and ratings on the U.S. News College Report than on student success and graduation rates. Non college graduates earn \$1million less over their lifetime than college grads. A disproportionate number of these dropouts are black, brown and poor kids.

Kirp's book addresses the problem but also highlights schools that have countered this trend with innovative programs. Long Beach State, cited in the book, may be a model for our local cities working with Cal State East Bay. Local elected leaders could benefit to have Kirp contribute to our local discussions about racial justice.

—Craig Williams  
San Leandro

#### Defending Acevedo

Editor:

I am writing in response to Rebecca Seeman (“Demonizing Property Owners,” Letters, Aug. 27) with her bashing of Bryan Acevedo because he has stated he will not take money from developers, investors and landlord associations. So how does that make him a bad person?

When you accept money from any group it is hard to vote on their issues without bias. She was demonizing him for taking the high road, being honest and not wanting to play those games. She says she has only been living in San Leandro a year but she thinks she know more about city politics than people that have been living here for years.

She said she is working three jobs to support her one rental property means,

she bought it at too high a cost where it has a negative cashflow. What does her situation have to do with Bryan? I know his parents own rental property, also he is not against landlords at all — just special interests. He is not demonizing rental property owners and her comments were far-fetched.

I know Bryan's opposition does take money from developers, investors and special interests. I just read about how Tom Silva's proposed 1388 Bancroft development is up for approval again with 42 units after the mayor and City Council told him to limit it to 30 units last year. I was there last year at that City Council meeting.

Could it be that a member(s) of the city council are taking campaign contributions from Tom Silva's association and are pushing this through even though residents were opposed to this? I think that Rebecca's letter could really be politically motivated as a supporter of the opposition, Ed Hernandez.

—Cynthia Paschen  
San Leandro

#### Support for Acevedo

Editor:

I would like to express my support for Bryan Acevedo. I have known Bryan for many years and he's been here to help the community. From helping those in need during the Covid-19 pandemic, to food bank volunteering for many years, to standing up for folks with red-light camera tickets.

Bryan is there for the people. Bryan is not a professional politician, however he has the strength and courage to get the job done and will work collaboratively and openly with residents, developers, the police, and any other person in order to make progress in the city!

Enough talk, let's get much needed work done in our city! Vote for Bryan Acevedo City Council District 2!

—Jennie Chang  
San Leandro

#### Biden Gets His Vote

Editor:

As a retired Asian American, I sincerely agree and absolutely support Mr. Joe Biden, Democratic presidential candidate, for his calling for a national mask mandate. Firstly, not only will the wearing of a mask greatly reduce

the chance of contracting the virus, Secondly, will also create an excellent way of preventing our citizens from getting the Covid-19 as both events are distinctly connected.

Please allow me to quote Mr. Biden's remarks in the news: “This is America. Be a patriot. Protect your fellow citizens. Step up. Do the right thing.” On the other hand, I felt deeply saddened by a piece of news reported from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that at least 200,000 people have died since March. Let us pray that our country will soon develop innovative solutions to end this pandemic Covid-19.

—Alfred Kwok  
San Leandro

#### Melania's Fashion Sense

Editor:

I think Melania Trump delivered her RNC speech quite well, but she caught some flack for the clothes she wore. Such criticism disregards her unbelievable talent for choosing the best clothes for every event.

Who am I to judge? I haven't bought a new shirt since Thrift Town shut down. And, after months of Covid confinement, I don't even check the mirror in the morning. I just pick out clothes to wear by smell, not by color or style.

If the First Lady wants to address America wearing a Soviet era, corporal's trench coat, she should have our respect for making that brave, artistic choice. We should applaud Melania for being the only Trump we'll ever see in a uniform of any kind.

I think she communicates profoundly through her fashion sense. One night she's a dutiful soldier, standing up to defend Our Fearful Leader at his Republican National Coronation. On the last night, Melania is sliding down her new Rose Garden runway like a fresh, lime, snow cone. In a green, the likes of which you'll never see in nature, she perfectly complements the dim, orange, figure hovering next to her. Oh say, can you see?... Melania is clearly the brightest person on the stage.

So, let's salute Donald Trump's First...or Second or Third Lady. He strongly deserves her and he probably deserves a life-term, as well. We can only hope. Be Best!

—Mark Stephen Johnson  
San Leandro



## SENIORS

## Dealing With Visitation Ban in Nursing Homes Due to COVID

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

**Q:** My wife has been in nursing home for about 6 months, and I haven't been allowed to see her since March due to COVID-19. The facility has been in "Lock-down" and won't permit visitors. I really miss her. Is there any way to get around this?

**A:** Yes, there may well be a way to work around this blanket ban on visitation.

The California Department of Public Health (DPH) just released a new directive which provides for both indoor and outdoor visitation, depending upon conditions.

That directive is addressed to "Long Term Care Facilities" and, on its face, would primarily ap-

ply to nursing homes. But its directives should also guide other facilities, such as Assisted Living Facilities. In part, that directive provides for "Exceptions" to the visitation ban, and mandates rules for both "inside facility visitation" and for "outside" visitation, which I summarize as follows:

**Exceptions:** The list of exceptions to the ban includes health care workers, the Ombudsman, visitation for end of life, and – most interesting to me and my colleagues – visitation to take care of "legal matters that cannot be postponed, such as estate planning."

**Inside Visitation:** The directive requires the Nursing Home (more properly called a "Skilled Nursing Facility" or "SNF") to allow the resident to designate one visitor for inside visitation, but subject to conditions, among them: absence of new COVID-19 cases in the SNF for 14 days. The SNF "shall" also offer alternatives for other visitors, e.g. virtual visits by phone or video communication.

**Outside Visitation:** If the conditions for inside visitation are not met, then the SNF "shall" provide



outdoor and other visitation options, including: allowing visits on the facility premises where there is 6 feet or more of physical distancing and with the wearing of masks.

The outdoor visits may also include visits through a resident's window.

In all cases, safety guidelines must be observed, such as visitor screening for fever and COVID-19 symptoms, physical distancing, and the need to disinfect visiting areas after each resident-visitor meeting.

The person to person visitation – whether inside or outside—

AFL 20-22.4 (issued 8/25/2020) and is entitled "Guidance for Limiting the Transmission of COVID-19 in Long Term Care Facilities".

For those readers whose loved ones are not in SNF's, but are in other senior care facilities such as Assisted Living Facilities ("ALF's"), I would suggest referring to CANHR's guidance on topic. Again, a link to same is in the on-line version of this article on our own website and is in the form of a summary checklist entitled "Visitation Rights in California Long Term Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Emergency": page 2 has a checklist for visitation rights in "Residential Care Facilities For The Elderly", which would include ALF's.

Visitation by loved ones is crucial to the well-being of residents, and I would encourage those visits, albeit with appropriate safety precautions.

Gene L. Osofsky is an estate planning and elder law attorney serving the East Bay. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com)

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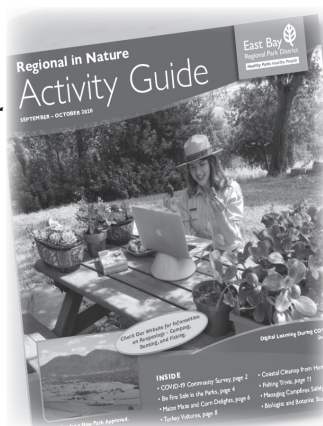
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If your copy of the Times does not include the EBRP Activity Guide, call 510-614-1555 or stop by the Times office (2060 Washington Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to obtain one.



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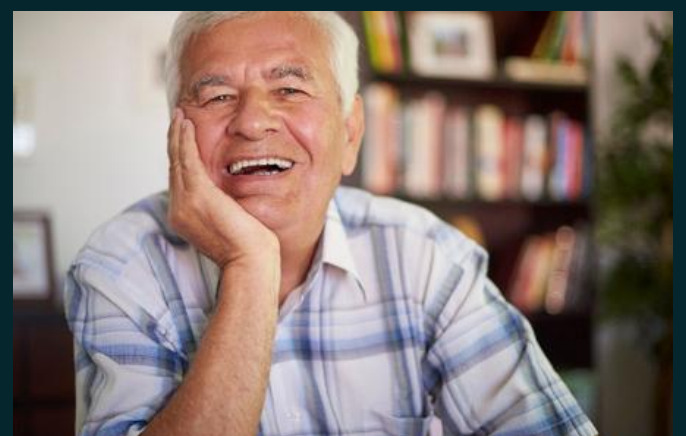
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