



## Golden Era

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## New Tax Law

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**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**CLOUDY** Showers continue through Friday  
HIGHS: 55-60  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 42-47

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 28 • NO. 1

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Harborside got a permit to open a medical marijuana dispensary from the San Leandro City Council in 2015, but the building at 1965 Marina Boulevard is still vacant.

## Pot Shop Approved Two Years Ago In San Leandro Still Hasn't Opened

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

It has been more than two years since the San Leandro City Council issued the first permit for a medical marijuana shop, but none of the three approved dispensaries have opened.

The first clinic to receive a city dispensary permit was Harborside back in

September of 2015. This past summer, Harborside said they would be in business before Christmas, but their shop at 1965 Marina Boulevard still hasn't opened.

A Harborside spokeswoman said that no one was available to speak as to when they may open in San Leandro.

The next dispensary to receive a permit was the Davis Street Wellness Center in

July of 2016, providing Davis Street pays the city back for a \$325,000 loan in order to finalize their conditional use permit to open at 3089 Teagarden Street. That money is due by Jan. 31.

The third permit holder is Blum, which got their dispensary permit in October 2016 to open up shop at 1911 Fairway Drive. But

see DELAY, page 14

## Weed Sales Now Legal In Ashland

Shops in unincorporated area now selling recreational pot

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

New Year's Day was the first day for legal recreational marijuana sales in California and two cannabis shops in the unincorporated area were open for business.

Two dispensaries, We Are Hemp on East Lewelling Boulevard in Ashland and Garden of Eden on Foothill Boulevard in Cherryland, say business is booming, especially with new customers.

A last-minute decision from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors allowed dispensaries in the unincorporated area to sell to anyone over the age of 21 as soon as they opened their doors in 2018.

By a vote of 3-1 (with Supervisor Wilma Chan dissenting and Supervisor Keith Carson absent), the board created a resolution on Dec. 19 to allow existing medical marijuana dispensaries to sell recreational pot to adults.

Adult use was made legal in California by the passage of Proposition 64, which went into effect Jan. 1.

"We had someone in here on Monday who'd never smoked a cigarette before or any cannabis," said Sarah Morgan, a manager at We Are Hemp. "He wanted to try it out. We've had a few first-time customers ask for recommendations."

But Morgan added that most people who have visited the shop have medical marijuana cards and

see LEGAL, page 9

## Falling Bullet Injures Woman

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

A San Leandro woman was injured at a New Year's party by a bullet someone shot into the air.

The woman was at a house party in the patio area of an apartment complex on the 1200 block of Pacific Avenue when she was struck by a bullet just after midnight on New Year's Day, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

The woman was struck on her lower body and was treated and released for a minor injury, according to police. Initially, the woman did not know she'd been hit with a bullet.

see BULLET, page 16

## Prince Abraham McElligott Arrives at 2 a.m. on Jan. 1, First Baby of Year at Eden

Baby's mother from San Leandro, and his father is from Castro Valley

Prince Abraham McElligott was born at 2:11 a.m. on Jan. 1, weighing 7 pounds and 2 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches – the first baby of the year at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley.

Prince was delivered at Eden Medical Center by Sonia Badheka – a physician with Sutter East Bay Medical Foundation.

Prince's father, Reuben M. McElligott,

is from Castro Valley, and Prince's mother, Edlyn P. Rodriguez, is from San Leandro.

Prince will be welcomed home by two brothers (Jayden and Reuben III) and three sisters (Anaisha, Lili, and Ruby). The family currently lives in Discovery Bay but hopes to move back to Castro Valley soon.



Prince Abraham McElligott and his mom Edlyn Rodriguez are doing well.

## INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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Baby arrives for Christmas for the Wong family. **Page 2**

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Car crashes into Manor 7-Eleven. **Page 9**

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Homeowners protest apartments. **Page 16**

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

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California  
Newspaper  
Publishers  
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## Volunteer Drivers Provide Priceless Gift To Cancer Patients

Drivers For Survivors has expanded its service area to Central Alameda County and is sending forth a call for volunteer drivers.

Drivers For Survivors is approaching five years of service to the Tri-City area (Fremont, Newark, and Union City), providing free transportation service and supportive companionship for ambulatory cancer patients.

Now the service is expanding into Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, and Castro Valley.

The program is funded by the Alameda County Transportation Commission, through Measure B and Measure BB tax dollars; Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310, charitable individuals, organizations, and businesses within the communities.

The program relies on volunteers to drive clients to and from oncology-related appointments,

while providing supportive and caring companionship at a most challenging time.

Volunteer drivers are only required to meet a minimum of providing one ride every three months of their choosing. Of course more is welcome.

Drivers For Survivors volunteers understand the need to support those going through cancer treatment quite often based from personal experience or that of a loved one. Many volunteers realize the gift in helping in this way is priceless.

Survivor drivers offer yet another level of hope. The result is showing love and compassion to others and in return being appreciated and looked at as someone's personal hero.

To become a volunteer driver/companion in your area, call 579-0535 or email volunteer@driversforsurvivors.org. The Drivers for Survivors website is: <http://driversforsurvivors.org/>.

## Get Tickets for Business Awards

San Leandro Chamber of Commerce will host its Business Awards Celebration, "Spotlight San Leandro: A Maker City," on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th

St. Tickets are \$125, and tables are \$2,000. VIP wine reception, hosted bar and hors d'oeuvres, nightcap and networking. Semi-formal attire.

For tickets, go to [sanleandrochamber.com](http://sanleandrochamber.com).

## Tyler Wong Arrives Right In Time for Christmas

### Proud parents knew each other since grade school

Jenny and Aaron Wong got married in 2010. The couple met in elementary school and attended James Monroe Elementary School, John Muir Middle School, and San Leandro High together, and after college, they found each other again.

The couple is excited to introduce a new member into the family, Tyler Benjamin Wong, who was born on Dec. 22 at the San Leandro Kaiser Hospital.

Jenny is a school teacher at Chinese Christian School and Aaron is a Fall Prevention Program Manager for Spectrum Community Services.

Tyler's proud grandparents are Gary and Amy Lau and Michael and Debbie Wong.

"We are truly blessed to have this newborn in our arms and we love him so much," said Aaron.



Aaron and Jenny Wong and newborn baby Tyler spent their first Christmas together as a family.

## Sign Up for San Leandro Girls Softball

San Leandro Girls Softball will hold signups on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 2150 Marina Blvd.

in San Leandro. The league is open to girls age 5 to 14 of all playing abilities in San Leandro and surrounding cities. Online registration

is also available at [www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com](http://www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com). Registration fee is \$135. For more information, call Leo Sheridan at 909-7152.

BY ROBERT ROSAS



**If YOU suffer from low back pain, according to National Institutes of Health, you are among**

**four out of five Americans who will suffer from disabling back pain during their lifetimes.**

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

### That is, until now...

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery.

In Pleasanton, you can try Non-

THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES Special Reader Offer

# Breakthrough Relief for Back Pain and Sciatica

Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care at Intero Chiropractic – the office of low back pain and sciatica relief expert Dr. Jerry Hsieh, D.C.

Dr. Hsieh, D.C. and his team have helped numerous patients find relief from their agonizing back pain and sciatica.

According to Dr. Hsieh, D.C. "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology not found elsewhere in the Tri-Valley Area, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a unique program for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, many patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and evaluation to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

Pleasanton Weekly has teamed up with the spine therapy team at Intero Chiropractic, to help readers find relief from their

persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic evaluation with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is **call (925)255-5805**.

Mention this article (CODE: BOS37SCID5) and Dr. Jerry Hsieh, D.C. will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of \$100 to just

\$20. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Dr. Jerry Hsieh, D.C. and his team now by calling (925)255-5805, they are waiting to take your call today.

**They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.**

That's why hundreds of grateful

patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated hundreds of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and get a full and thorough evaluation to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$20, the normal cost of such an exam is \$100 so you will save \$80!

Don't suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now at (925)255-5805 and cut out or tear off this valuable article now and take it to your appointment. You'll be entitled to a comprehensive evaluation to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you'll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don't



delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up right away, please leave a message.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACFD

## Extension Cords Cause Electrical Fire in San Lorenzo

Alameda County firefighters responded to a house fire on the 17000 block of Via San Ardo in San Lorenzo on Dec. 30 at just before 8 p.m. The 1-alarm fire was contained to the living room and quickly extinguished. The entire residence sustained heavy smoke damage throughout. No one was home at the time of the fire and no one was injured while putting out the blaze. The cause of the fire was identified by firefighters as overloaded extension cords.

## Jail Employees Hold Toy Drive

The Alameda County Sheriff's Inmate Services staff at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin hosted a

toy drive over the holiday season to benefit the kids at Children's Hospital In Oakland.

Over 400 toys were collected

by jail staff and delivered in an armored Bearcat vehicle just in time for the kids to open on Christmas morning.



The county inmate services staff held a toy drive this Christmas.

## Sheriff's Holiday DUI Stats

Each holiday season, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office deploys a team of specially trained deputies who work throughout the county with the specific mission of DUI enforcement.

This year's campaign ran from Dec. 15 to Jan. 1, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly.

Here are some of this year's statistics:

- 174 DUI Arrests
- 46 Other Arrests
- 3 Vehicle Pursuits
- 4 Uses of Force
- 3 Guns recovered

Sheriff Greg Ahern and the sheriff's office's DUI Team dedicated this year's campaign in honor of Hayward CHP Officer Andrew Camilleri.

The CHP said that drunk driving arrests were up 22 percent statewide this holiday season.

### Job Opportunity — ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

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## Multiple Felony Charges for Man Accused in Cop's Death

On Tuesday, the man accused of killing a police officer while driving drunk and stoned was identified and the District Attorney announced that multiple felony charges are being brought against him.

Mohammed Abraar Ali, 22, of Hayward, was identified as the suspect in the death of California Highway Patrol Officer Andrew Camilleri.

Ali is accused of driving at a speed of 120 m.p.h. on I-880 in Hayward when he hit the patrol car that Camilleri was in on Christmas Eve.

Camilleri's partner Jonathan Velasquez was also in the patrol car and survived crash. Ali also faces criminal charges for injuring Velasquez.

Ali was charged with second-degree murder, DUI causing bodily injury and driving on a highway greater than 100 mph, according to Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

Court documents say that Ali's blood alcohol level was 0.11 percent when taken after midnight the next day, over the .08

percent legal limit. Ali has also admitted to smoking marijuana prior to the crash, police say.

Ali was also injured in the crash and remains hospitalized. Police say he is expected to be released sometime this week and at that time will be taken to Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

Camilleri and Velasquez were out on patrol for dangerous drivers and were parked on the shoulder of southbound I-880 near the Winton Avenue exit when Ali hit them, according to the CHP.

The Cadillac was seen weaving in and out through traffic before it crashed into the patrol vehicle at around 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, according to court documents.

Ali said that on Christmas Eve, he had an argument with his wife and drove from Manteca to Hayward, police say.

Ali allegedly said he knew while driving that night that he was impaired and that he should have pulled over "at least three times" but did not, and made the decision to keep driving, according to the CHP.

CHP says they also have



Mohammed Abraar Ali

video evidence that shows Ali speeding and that the black box located in Ali's car indicates the car was traveling approximately 120 m.p.h. at the time of the crash.

O'Malley said that since the Thanksgiving holiday, there have been six tragic deaths from driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol in Alameda County.

"The loss of life which could have been avoidable if every driver acts responsibly and lawfully," O'Malley said. "When will we say enough is enough?"

## SL Man Found Dead in Oakland

A man who was found shot to death in East Oakland last Saturday has been identified as a San Leandro resident.

Deandre Moody, 27, was found dead in the hills near the Seminary Avenue offramp of eastbound I-580 at just after 11 a.m. on Dec. 30, according to Oakland police.

No motive has been deter-

mined and no arrests have been made yet, police say.

Police believe he was shot in the 3400 block of High Street in Oakland and driven to the area where his body was found.

Moody's death was the 76th and final homicide investigated by Oakland police in 2017.

Police and Crime Stoppers of Oakland are offering up to

\$10,000 in reward money for information leading to the arrest of Moody's killer.

Anyone with information is asked to call Oakland police at 238-3821 or Crime Stoppers at 777-8572.

## Ready to Toss That Tree?

If you want to get rid of your Christmas tree, leave it out curbside next to your cans on your normal trash/ recycling day during the first two weeks of January

Customers in San Leandro

are served by Waste Management or Alameda County Industries.

Both companies ask that trees have all lights, decorations, tinsel and the stand removed. Trees over 6-feet tall should be cut in half.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

F	L	U	C	L	I	P	C	H	E	F
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CITY CORNER

CURRENT ISSUES AND INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF SAN LEANDRO

*The City of San Leandro invites the community to attend a celebration honoring a great American leader*

### A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL & POETRY SLAM — A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Monday, January 15, 2018 — 10:30 a.m.

San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th Street

**Oratorical Festival & Poetry Slam** — San Leandro students will be performing an original or well-known essay, speech, or poem honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by celebrating his message of peace, tolerance, and social justice. All San Leandro students in grades 3-12 are invited to participate in the oratorical festival and poetry slam. Students can win gift card prizes, made possible by the San Leandro Optimist Club, in their grade category. Entry forms are available online at [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org) and are due by Friday, January 12, 2018 or until 25 entry forms are received.

**Crafts for the Kids** — Children are invited to make one-of-a-kind crafts to commemorate the special celebration.

Enjoy free light refreshments throughout the event. For more information, call (510) 577-3462 or visit [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org).





# NEIGHBORS



Michael Crabtree enjoyed presenting new bikes and helmets to delighted children at Garfield Elementary School in San Leandro.

## Raiders Hold Holiday Bike Giveaway

Oakland Raiders wide receivers once again brought holiday cheer to local youngsters recently with their gift of new bicycles.

Although they are usually on the receiving end, Raiders wide receivers led by Michael Crabtree and including fellow starter Amari Cooper, Seth Roberts, Cordarrelle Patterson and Isaac Whitney, joined in mingling with boys and girls from the San Leandro's Davis Street Family Resource Center during a pizza party before opening the curtain reveal new bicycles, each with a youngster's name tag.

In addition to the over 80 new bikes during the activity held at San Leandro's Garfield Elementary School, the players also presented the children with helmets and locks so each recipient would have everything they need to enjoy a safe ride. Raiderettes and Raider Rusher's the team's youth ambassador, were also on hand.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ **Chanticleers Theatre**  
*Dial M for Murder*  
Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Avenue in Castro Valley, proudly presents *Dial M for Murder*, starting Friday, Feb. 2 through Feb. 25. This thriller by Frederick Knott and directed by

Katina Letheule is about Tony Wendice and his wife, Margot, and how he plans to murder her for her money. He blackmails a scoundrel he used to know into strangling her for a fee of one thousand pounds, and arranges a brilliant alibi for himself.

Unfortunately the murderer gets murdered and the victim survives. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors over 60. Bargain night is Saturday, Jan. 3 and is \$18. For more information, call 733-5483.

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** It's a good time for reunions with those very special people from your past. You could be pleasantly surprised by what comes to light during one of these get-togethers.

**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** The new year gets off to an encouraging start for the Bold Bovine who takes that demanding workplace challenge by the horns and steers it in the right direction.

**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** The clever Gemini will be quick to spot the telltale signs of workplace changes that could open up new opportunities for the right person. (And that's you, isn't it?)

**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** The Moon Child's post-holiday letdown soon lifts as you begin to get back into your comfortable routine. Someone from your past extends a surprise bid to reconnect.

**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** You've been the ultimate social Lion over the holidays. Now it's time to relax and recharge your energy so you can be at your best when you pounce on that new project.

**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** A relationship could be moving in a direction you might not want to follow. Step back for a better overview of the situation. You might be surprised at what you see.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Emotions rule at the start of the week, affecting your perception about a decision. Best advice: Avoid commitments until that good Libran sense kicks back in.

**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** A longtime friendship could take a romantic turn early in the new year. While this pleases your passionate side, your logical self might want to go slow.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Someone might make a surprising disclosure about a trusted friend or workplace colleague. Stay cool and reserve judgment until you get more facts.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** You might think you've found what you've been looking for. But appearances can be deceiving. Don't act on your discovery until you know more about it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** You're no doubt anxious for that confusing situation to be cleared up. But don't press for a quick resolution or you might overlook some vital facts.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Now that your holiday distractions are easing, you need to apply yourself to getting those unfinished tasks done so you can begin a new project with a clean slate.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ❖ **San Leandro Girls Softball Signups**  
San Leandro Girls Softball will hold signups on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 2150 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. The league is open to girls age 5 to 14 of all playing abilities in San Leandro and surrounding cities. Online registration is also available at [www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com](http://www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com). Registration fee is \$135. For more information, call Leo Sheridan at 909-7152.
- ❖ **Comedy Classics at the Museum**  
Make a resolution to start the New Year at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., with a dose of comedy classics on Saturday, Jan. 6, starting at 11:15 a.m. with Charlie Chaplin in *The Gold Rush*, followed by the Marx Brothers in *Duck Soup*, and *A Night at the Opera*. No charge for admission. Appropriate for kids 7 and older. For more information, call 577-3990.
- ❖ **San Leandro Readers Roundtable**  
The San Leandro Readers Roundtable meets Saturday, Jan. 6, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., to discuss *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henriquez, the story of nine immigrant families whose lives collide when they arrive in America. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase at the Library's Booktique bookstore.
- ❖ **I.D.E.S. of Alvarado St. Crab Feed**  
I.D.E.S. of St. John will have its annual crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., the raffle at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$25 for persons under 12. Dinner will include hot and cold crab, pasta, salad, garlic bread and desert. For tickets call, Willie Calvo at 207-6326, John Santos at 992-9985, and Frances Leite at 886-1568. The door prize is a 32 inch flat screen TV.
- ❖ **AAU Basketball Signups**  
The Castro Valley- and San Leandro-based Bay Transitions AAU basketball program will hold tryouts for the 2018 season the next two Sundays, Jan. 7 and Jan. 14, at John Muir Middle School in San Leandro. Tryout times for first through fourth graders is 8 to 9 a.m.; fifth and sixth graders 9 to 10:30 a.m.; and seventh and eighth graders 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call program director Bryon Pointer at 361-7513.
- ❖ **Lego Brickshow at Principled Academy**  
See a giant Lego display at the Lego Brickshow 2017 through Jan. 7 at the Principled Academy, 2305 Washington Ave. in San Leandro, on the second floor. The display is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Cost is \$2. All proceeds go to The Principled Academy 7th and 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.
- ❖ **The Eagles Bingo Luncheon**  
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Eden Auxiliary 1139 will host their charity bingo luncheon on Monday, Jan. 8, at noon at the Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. The fare will include Catalina chicken with rice, vegetables, salad, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea. A donation of \$8 will include one bingo card. For more information, call Glenda at 584-1568.
- ❖ **Hearing Loss Association Meeting**  
The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Refreshments are at 9:30

- a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m. Vance Deatherage from DCARA, San Leandro, will discuss "Cued Speech" or "Cued Language" a shortcut system for LipReading/SpeechReading, and which may appeal to those who have struggled to learn an entirely new language. Parking is free in the old garage across from Howe Street. For more information, email [athos.artist@att.net](mailto:athos.artist@att.net) or call Kay at 886-4717.
- ❖ **SL Boys & Girls Club Crab Feed**  
The San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro, will host its annual crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 13. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, salad and French bread. Live entertainment by Curtis & Nikkole. The event is assigned seating only and always sells out so purchase tickets early. For tickets or more information. call Bob Glotch at the Boys & Girls Club between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-5581. Proceeds support the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, which provides educational and enrichment after-school programs for 1,200 children per day at 12 sites an San Leandro and San Lorenzo.
  - ❖ **Civil Rights Documentary**  
The Castro Valley Community Alliance will screen the documentary film about the civil rights struggle, *A Time of Justice*, on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave. in Castro Valley.
  - ❖ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Honored**  
San Leandro students will perform speeches, essays and poems honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. There will be refreshments served, and crafts for children.
  - ❖ **Kiwanis Club Annual Crab Feed**  
The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro is hosting its annual crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Boys and Girls Club, 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and dancing is from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$50, purchase them early for seats are reserved. For more information and tickets, call Terri Neumann at 895-4425.
  - ❖ **Sons of Norway Snorre Lodge Crab Feed**  
Sons of Norway Snorre Lodge 6-61 presents its annual crab feed on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 1808 B St. in Hayward. No host bar and raffle begin at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., raffle at 8:30 p.m. Make checks payable to Sons of Norway and send to Aunda Arndt, 1016 Apache St., Livermore, CA 94551. Cost is \$50 for Adults, \$17 for children 12 and under. For more information, email [aja469@hotmail.com](mailto:aja469@hotmail.com) or call 925-548-0292.
  - ❖ **San Leandro Art Association Exhibit**  
Original paintings by The San Leandro Art Association artists are on display and available for sale through Feb. 8 at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13900 East 14th St., in the three activity rooms and in the hall lobby.
  - ❖ **Sons In Retirement Meetings**  
Sons In Retirement (SIRs), an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Wedgewood Center at Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr. in Oakland. Happy Hour starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Great guest speakers. For more information, call MEL at 357-0601.

Calendar items should be submitted at least one week prior to the desired edition of the Times, which is published Thursdays. Space limitations require we print items of the most general interest. Only Non-Profit Organizations should submit calendar items.



# San Leandro Author Pens New Book on Hollywood's Golden Era

The performing arts, specifically the time known as The Golden Age of Hollywood, has always been a source of inspiration for Robert Strom.

For McFarland Publishing Inc. he wrote *Miss Peggy Lee: A Career Chronicle*, and *Lady of Burlesque: The Career of Gypsy Rose Lee*.

Strom found humor when a friend inquired, "Who's next? Bruce Lee?"

The only connection with the name Lee in his third book is that it was the middle name of the singer-comedienne he is saluting.

His third book, published by BearManor Media, is his first authorized biography. *Virginia O'Brien: MGM's Deadpan Diva* looks at the life and films of the woman who was known affectionately as "Miss Frozen Face".

"It may sound odd to write a book simply because someone made you laugh, but that is what Virginia O'Brien does every time I see her in an MGM musical," Strom said. Some of those musicals include *Lady Be Good* (1941), *Panama Hattie* (1942), *Du Barry Was a Lady* (1943), *Ziegfeld Follies* (1945) and *The Harvey Girls* (1946).

O'Brien also performed memorably in the Marx Brother's 1941 film *The Big Store*. When shown for the first time in Sweden, audiences demanded that her hilarious rendition of "Rock-A-Bye Baby" be shown again.

This, and other songs by O'Brien can be seen on Youtube. Groucho Marx was so taken by Virginia he asked her to be the regular girl singer on his Blue Ribbon Town radio show.

O'Brien's career, and unique singing style, were born of fear.

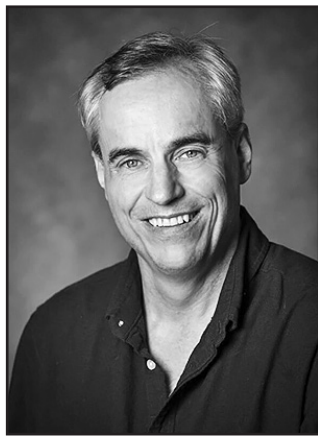
"Virginia's daughter Terri, who authorized the book said her mother's style started 'organically,'" Strom explained. "It was the result of stage fright. She was making her stage debut in a revue called Meet the People. Her idea was to perform in the style of Ethel Merman."

On stage, in front of an audience for the first time, O'Brien could only move her lips and her shoulders. O'Brien finished the song, and ran to her dressing room in tears. Until director Danny Dare told her, she was unaware that she had stopped the show.

One night MGM mogul L.B. Mayer was in the audience. When O'Brien's antics brought the house down he knew this young lady was a special talent. She was signed that night to a seven year contract with Metro Goldwyn Mayer. The rest, as they say, is history.

Strom confessed that it was more than making him laugh that prompted him to write the biography.

"Actually, I found that the fans of MGM musicals felt as I did. Once you've seen her, Virginia O'Brien can't be forgotten. Even if they might not know her



**Author Robert Strom focuses on Hollywood's Golden Era and his new book is about Virginia O'Brien.**

name, movie-goers then and now find themselves looking for the beautiful girl who sings without any expression."

O'Brien's performances are often limited to one song. Like her fellow MGM contract play-

er Lena Horne, this made her appearances something to look forward to.

When O'Brien's tenure at MGM came to an end she continued to perform on television and in nightclubs. Her "comeback" came during the nostalgia craze for the early 1980's.

"Her only album was recorded live in 1984 at The Masquers Club in Hollywood. Her eldest daughter, Terri, played bass in Virginia's quartet," Strom said. "To be honest Terri was slightly hesitant in authorizing this book. Once she said yes, we had a good relationship. I could not have written this without her."

The author hopes to speak at the San Leandro Library as he has done for his previous books.

"I felt it was important that Virginia O'Brien's gifts be remembered. She never starred in a film, but those that she's in sparkle a little more thanks to her presence. She's been compared



**O'Brien pictured in the dress she wore in *Du Barry Was a Lady*.**

## Virginia O'Brien

**MGM'S DEADPAN DIVA**

The Authorized Biography



By Robert Strom

**Strom's new book is about Virginia O'Brien, known as "The Deadpan Diva."**



**In *Ziegfeld Follies* (1945) O'Brien rode sidesaddle while she deadpanned "Bring on Those Wonderful Men."**

to her friend and co-star Lucille Ball. She was known as a comedienne who was also a looker. I hope enough people remember her to fill a few seats at the library," Strom joked.

Up next? Robert continues to write for BearManor Media. His fourth book, also an authorized biography, was requested

by BearManor founder Ben Ohmart. The subject is an actor who referred to himself as, "The Fat Man from Batman." Victor Buono is that man. He played the villain King Tut on numerous episodes to the 1960's show starring Adam West as Batman.

Buono trained as a Shake-

spearian actor at San Diego's Globe Theatre.

Among his most memorable characters is Edwin Flagg the pianist who accompanies Bette Davis in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* That role, his first speaking part, won him the 1962 Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor.



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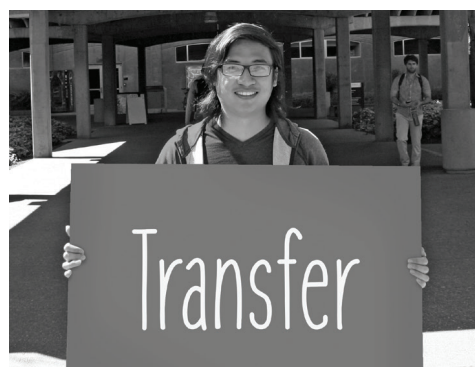
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## AUTOMOTIVE

## Chevrolet Updates Popular Equinox

By Steve Schaefer  
San Leandro Times

**T**he Equinox compact crossover has been a big hit for Chevrolet, with nearly two million sold since its debut in 2004 as a 2005 model. The all-new 2018 model represents a third generation after a long life for the second (2010-2017). It's one of five Chevrolet crossovers/SUVs.

If you like the look of the Chevrolet Malibu, Cruze and Volt, you'll appreciate the Equinox's new design. It's sharply drawn, but thankfully, not overdone. The latest chiseled brand face is there, as is a multi-faceted hood and a high, straight shoulder that mimics the look of its big brothers — the Suburban and Tahoe.

Though all-new, the vehicle still evokes the general feeling and proportions of the old model, which is a good idea, considering its success.

Inside, you can see the influence of the siblings as well.

There's lots of movement along the dash and doors, with black control panels, silver accents, and chrome sparkles on the vents and handles. The center of the instrument panel provides useful information straight ahead. The speedometer, common today, goes up to an unattainable 160 mph.

The fat, leather-wrapped steering wheel is GM standard, but that's a good thing. It flaunts lots of handy buttons for controlling audio and other features, so you can keep your eyes on the road.

There are two USB ports in the front of the center console for using and charging devices. You can plug in your phone and see it projected on the 7- or 8-inch center screen, thanks to Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Part of the goal of the new Equinox, besides to look fresh, is to increase efficiency, which is why there is about 400 pounds taken out of this latest model. It still comes in at between 3,274 and 3,682 pounds, but that's significant nonetheless.

Crossover vehicles like the Equinox are very popular today, because they combine the higher-riding, greater-hauling, cooler-looking SUV experience with a comfortable-riding car platform. The Equinox has a firmness to the ride that feels just right, and the leather buckets are comfortable for commuting. I didn't have a chance to take this one on a long trip, but it looks well up to the job.

This compact hauler comes in four trims — S, LS, LT and Premier. And, there are three engine choices, too, all of which are turbocharged. The base engine is a 1.5-liter four with 170 horsepower and 203 lb.-ft. of torque. My Cajun Red Tintcoat tester was a top-level Premier, but had this base engine. You can step up to a 2.0-liter four with 252 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. It may not appeal to you, but if you're interested in a Diesel, a new 1.6-liter unit is optional, with a mere 137 horsepower, but a hearty 240 lb.-ft. of torque. Diesel is surrounded by controversy today, since the revelations about VW, but it offers higher fuel efficiency and range for certain applications.

The 1.5-liter four seems power proficient in this car. It was unmemorable, but didn't leave me feeling let down, either. The existence of the 2.0-liter option means you can get added grunt if you know you're going to be carrying several passengers and cargo, which could affect performance significantly. The 2.0-liter engine is mated to a new 9-speed transmission, while the 1.5 gets a traditional 6-speed.

My 1.5-liter-equipped tester earned EPA numbers of 24 City,



Equinox sales have reached nearly 2 million since its launch, making it Chevrolet's second-best selling vehicle, after the Silverado.

30 Highway, and 26 Combined. Those are not bad stats. Green numbers are a pair of 5's for Smog and Greenhouse Gas.

You can choose front-wheel or all-wheel drive in this crossover. The all-wheel drive system automatically disconnects from the rear axle when not needed, for greater efficiency. Having this choice means that if you live in sunny California and are not planning on skiing, you can skip AWD and save a few bucks while improving your miles-per-gallon numbers by 2.

There's a vast set of safety features, many standard and some optional — too many to list here. See [www.chevrolet.com/suvs/equinox-compact-suv](http://www.chevrolet.com/suvs/equinox-compact-suv) for details.

Pricing starts at \$24,525 for the S model. My Premier tester had the base engine, but included the Sun, Sound & Navigation package (\$3,320) and charged \$395 for the Cajun Red paint, bringing



The all-new 2018 Equinox features a fashion-forward interior with materials developed for easier everyday use.

it up to \$39,040. The package does include a power sunroof, 19-inch wheels, MyLink Navigation and a Bose Premium 7-speaker system, but still, that's one pricey compact crossover.

The all-new Equinox is truly North American, built in Canada with a U.S.-sourced engine and transmission and 40 percent

Mexican parts. It's a very important entry in the growing compact crossover segment, battling the two perennial favorites, the Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4, as well as the popular Ford Escape, Hyundai Tucson, Mazda CX5, and the rest.

With this introduction, Chevrolet's fleet is looking very fresh.

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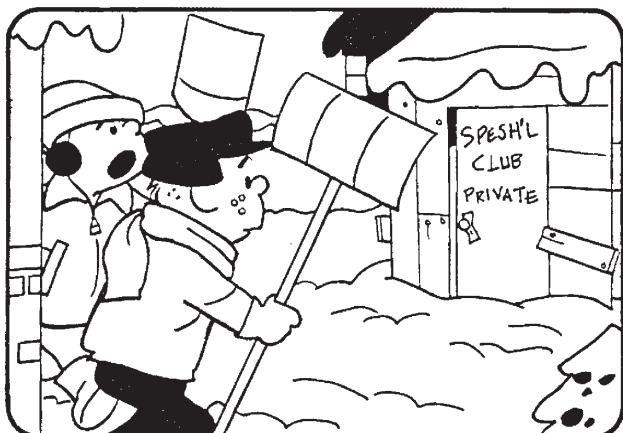
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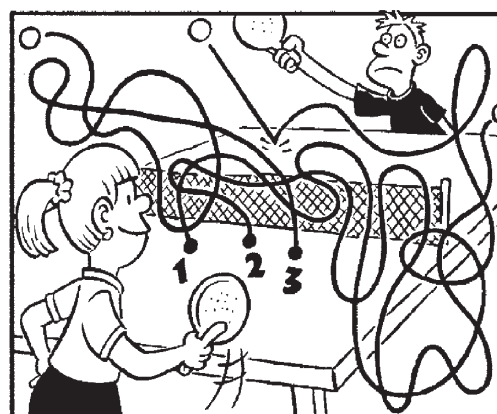
## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Scarf is missing. 3. Sign is missing. 4. Shovel is turned. 5. Doghouse is missing. 6. Glove is smaller. 7. Glove is missing.



CAN YOU SPOT Ping Pong Patty's winning shot?

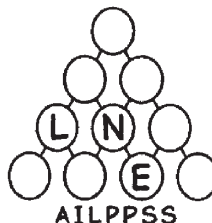
Answer: No. 1 will put Freddy away.

**CHANCE...CHA** FIG. 1  
**DOODLE PICS!** The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

**FALL PRIDE** FIG. 2

Answers: 1. Last chance. 2. "Pride goeth before a fall."

**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Pall, pals, pans, pins, pine, pipe, pips.

## Junior Whirl by Charles Barry Townsend



**MIME**  
**MILE**  
**TILE**  
**TALE**  
**TALK**

## DON'T GET BOXED IN!

You have five minutes to get out of this challenge. In this type of problem you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word, so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed MIME to TALK in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. LESS to MORE
2. OUST to REND
3. PEST to GONE
4. RUBE to GENT
5. SALT to LICK

Answers:  
1. LESS, LOSS, LOSE, LORE, MORE.  
2. OUST, RUST, REST, REND.  
3. PEST, PENT, GENT, GONE.  
4. RUBE, RUNE, RUNT, RENT, GENT.  
5. SALT, SILT, SILK, SICK, LICK.

Illustrated by David Coulson



## SENIORS

## How Will the New Tax Law Affect You?

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

**Q** I hear a lot about the new tax law that Congress passed and President Trump just signed, but I am unclear as to how it might affect me and my family. Can you give us a summary?

**A** While much of the new "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" was designed to reduce the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, here are some of the principal features that affect families:

Standard Deduction and Personal Exemption: the standard deduction increases to \$12,000 for Individuals, \$18,000 for those filing as Head of Household, and \$24,000 for Joint filers, all adjusted for inflation.

As an apparent trade-off, miscellaneous itemized deductions are eliminated.

Home Mortgage Interest Deduction: the limit on deducting interest on up to \$1 million of a home acquisition loan stays in effect for existing mortgages in effect as of December 15, 2017, at least for the next 8 years.

However, the interest deduction on mortgages placed thereafter will be subject to a \$750,000 limit, which will also become the new cap on existing mortgages beginning January 1, 2026. So, if you have a mortgage above \$750,000, it would be wise to try to pay it down over the next 8 years to an amount below the \$750,000 cap, so all of your interest payments made thereafter will continue to be deductible.

Medical Expense Deduction: after much public concern, the medical expense deduction actually survived. In fact, it was temporarily enhanced: for 2017 and 2018, medical expenses above 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income ("AGI") will qualify for the deduction. After 2018, only amounts above 10 percent of AGI will be deductible.

deductible, as under existing law.

State and Local Tax Deduction: the combined deductibility of the payment of state income taxes and real property taxes will now be capped at \$10,000 per person. This will likely have a big impact on residents of California, with its higher income and property taxes as compared with residents of other states.

Estate and Gift Taxes: the new law more than doubles the existing exemptions, going from \$5.49 million per person for those dying in 2017, up to \$11.2 million per person for those dying thereafter, and up to \$22.4 million for a married couple (where the survivor makes a timely election on her estate tax return). The new rates will be indexed to inflation, just like the current exemptions.

Tax Rates: individual tax rates will be slightly reduced and the brackets adjusted, with the top bracket dropping from 39.6 percent to 37 percent.

Step-Up In Basis: the new law keeps intact the current rule which permits the recipient of property transferred upon the donor's death to be adjusted to its date of death value as the new 'cost basis'. This favors property which has increased in value over the donor's lifetime by reducing the capital gain that would otherwise be payable when the gift recipient later sells the property.

Individual Mandate Eliminated: the new law eliminates the tax penalty for failure to maintain "minimum essential" health care coverage, which many believe will significantly weaken the Affordable Care Act signed into law by President Obama.



Except for the corporate tax rate cut, almost all of the new features 'sunset' at the end of year 2025, with the changes reverting back to their current form in 2026 unless Congress acts to extend them.

Of special concern for seniors

and the disabled, is that these tax cuts will add up to \$1.5 trillion to the deficit, and may then be cited as "justification" for reductions to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security to pay for them.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).

## Resources Help with Unexpected Home-Care Bills

By Jim Miller  
Special to the Times

**Q** Do you know of any resources that can help with my mother's home-care bills? She is recovering from a stroke and needs in-home care but Medicare doesn't cover it, and she doesn't have long-term care insurance.

**A** Depending on your mom's circumstances, there are a number of government and not-for-profit programs that can either subsidize or pay for your her home care or offer aid in other ways. Here's where to look for help.

**■ Medicare Coverage**  
If your mom is recovering from a stroke, Medicare actually does cover a variety of in-home health care services.

To be eligible, your mom must be "homebound," and her

doctor will need to approve a "plan of care" confirming that she needs skilled-nursing care or skilled-therapy services from a physical or speech therapist.

Her doctor can also request the services of an occupational therapist and a non-medical home aide to assist with activities of daily living like bathing, dressing and using the bathroom.

But, be aware that Medicare will not pay for non-medical home aide services alone, if your mom does not need skilled-nursing or skilled-therapy services too. Homemaker services, such as shopping, meal preparation and cleaning are not covered either.

For more information on how this works, call 1-800-MEDICARE or see [Medicare.gov/cov-erage/home-health-services.html](http://Medicare.gov/cov-erage/home-health-services.html).

**■ Medicaid Options**  
If your mom's income is low enough, she may qualify for Medicaid, which offers different pro-

grams that can pay for non-medical home care, home health care and other support services.

These programs are state-specific and their eligibility and benefits will vary. For more information, contact your state Medicaid agency (see [Medicaid.gov](http://Medicaid.gov)).

**■ State Programs**  
If your mom doesn't qualify for the Medicare or Medicaid options, check to see if her state offers any state-funded programs which may provide caregivers or vouchers that can help pay for home care. To find out about these services, call the Area Agency on Aging near your mom see [Elder-Care.gov](http://Elder-Care.gov) or call 800-677-1116.

Also investigate PACE, which stands for "Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly." PACE, which is currently available in 31 states — though not in every community — provides in-home care, including help with activities of daily living, such as meals, dental

and medical care, prescriptions, and chaperoned transportation, among other benefits.

Medicaid-eligible patients get PACE for free, but if your mom is not eligible for Medicaid, she may be charged a monthly premium, though far less than she would pay a private service. To see if PACE is available in your mom's area, see [NPAonline.org](http://NPAonline.org).

**■ Veterans Benefits**  
If your mom is a veteran, or a surviving spouse of a veteran, the VA also offers some benefits that can help pay her in-home care.

One is "Aid and Attendance or Housebound Allowances," which are supplemental monthly benefits for veterans already receiving a monthly VA pension and requiring healthcare.

Veterans and surviving spouses qualify if they have certain disabilities or need help with activities such as dressing, bathing and feeding. Go to [Vets.gov/pension](http://Vets.gov/pension)

for more information.

Another option is the "Veteran-Directed Care" program. This program, available through VA medical centers in 38 states, as well as in Washington, D.C., provides as much as \$2,000 a month that can be used to pay a professional or family member or friend for home care. The program is open to any veteran who meets the criteria, including requiring help with three or more activities of daily living. Visit the "Home and Community Based Services" section at [VA.gov/geriatrics](http://VA.gov/geriatrics) for more information.

To look for additional programs in your area that can help pay your mom's home care, go to [PayingForSeniorCare.com](http://PayingForSeniorCare.com) and use their Eldercare Financial Assistance Locator tool.

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

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PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

We Are Hemp on Lewelling Boulevard in Ashland has been selling medical marijuana for years, and as of Jan. 1 is now selling pot to anyone at least 21 years old.

## Legal: Jump in business

*continued from front page*

aren't buying pot for the novelty.

"We still serve primarily a medical base," said Morgan.

Over at the Garden of Eden,

one employee estimated that they had three times as much business this week as they did prior to legalization.

The county resolution doesn't

affect the City of San Leandro. The City Council would have to create its own legislation to authorize the recreational sale of marijuana.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

A car badly damaged the convenience store on Manor Boulevard on Sunday night but luckily nobody was injured.



## B\*Dazzled Dancers at Disneyland

Dancers from B\*Dazzled Dancers in San Leandro recently performed on Main Street in Disneyland Christmas Fantasy Parade recently. Two of their dances were also selected for performances with Mickey and Minnie on stage in the Fantasyland Theater. Dance Director Miss Jaime Wray said the dancers worked day and night to prepare for this event, and she couldn't be more proud.

## Readers to Meet On Saturday

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable meets Saturday, Jan. 6, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., to discuss *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henriquez, the story of nine immigrant families whose lives collide when they arrive in America.

All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase at the Library's Booktique bookstore.

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Alameda County firefighters responded to a crash of vehicle into the 7-Eleven convenience store at 1240 Manor Blvd in San Leandro on Sunday at 10:38 p.m. Fortunately, nobody was injured.

The store sustained structural damage, so Rescue 24 firefighters installed a timber to shore up the building.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



### Affordable Housing Becomes California's Number One Issue Heading into 2018

While the collapse of 2009 caused heartache for millions, it had one positive aspect — it presented a small window of opportunity to buy a reasonably priced home in California.

Eight years later, that window appears to be permanently shut.

It's no secret California housing prices are rising faster than incomes, dramatically reducing the affordability index. According to Jordon Levine, Senior Economist, California Association of Realtors, "all 58 of California's counties have lower housing affordability than the rest of the nation: people are facing affordability challenges even in our most affordable areas."

Consider the facts:

Of the top 10 most expensive markets in the USA, five are in California, including the top two.

The home ownership rate has dwindled from approximately 69 percent in 2005 to 63.6 percent in 2017.

The percentage of income required to pay mortgages has increased to over 45 percent, even though rates are at record lows.

High rents are making it almost impossible to save for a down payment, effectively barring many from home ownership. Put simply, California does not have enough homes to meet the current demand, and, in a classic example of supply-and-demand economics, limited inventory has pushed purchase and rental prices into the stratosphere.

Current homeowners are not putting their existing homes on the market for a multitude of reasons and new homebuilders are significantly off the pace required to meet demand.

As an example, the California Department of Housing and Community Development issued a report revealing that between 2010 and 2016, California permitted less than 470,000 new housing units. During that same period, however, the state added 2.2 million jobs.

There is no easy way forward. As an example, one fundamental issue is the effect Prop. 13 is having on existing homeowners. Approved June 6th, 1978, Prop. 13 reduced state property taxes by approximately 57 percent.

The law locked in a tax rate based on \$1.25 per thousand dollars of purchase price and kept inflation increases to less than 2 percent per year. As prices have soared, taxes have remained extremely low. Afraid of dramatically higher taxes on subsequent purchases, many

sellers have chosen to sit tight.

California Realtors are calling for reforms to Prop 60 and 90 to help alleviate this problem.

This will be California's No. 1 challenge heading into 2018, and legislators must provide meaningful solutions to provide a way forward for ALL who live here in this wonderful state.

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



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#### Roses

January is the month to prune your rose bushes as well as deciduous trees, shrubs, grape vines, kiwis and berries. Apply dormant oil spray after pruning, not before. Do *not* prune any spring-flowering trees or shrubs until they finish blooming.

Prune roses way back, using clean, sharp tools and protect your hands with heavy gloves. Make all cuts at 45-degree angles above an outside bud eye, about a quarter-inch above the eye. Take out twiggy and malformed growth.

For a moderate pruning, cut bushes 18 to 24 inches high with three to six canes left in place. Severe pruning produces larger, but fewer blooms. Floribundas and grandifloras often benefit from a light pruning.

On old garden roses, don't do anything until after the spring bloom. Prune tree roses and hybrid teas to a vase shape. Climbing roses bloom on mature canes, so don't be overzealous. Train their canes against a fence or trellis by attaching the canes to the structure in a horizontal position.

#### Gift Plants

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

### RECENT HOME SALES

#### San Leandro

1400 Carpentier Street	94577: \$333,000 1 BD - 809 SF - 1983
290 Chumalia Street #1	94577: \$419,000 2 BD - 1,240 SF - 1978
510 Diehl Avenue	94577: \$830,000 3 BD - 1,150 SF - 1947
2514 Harborview Drive	94577: \$740,000 3 BD - 1,962 SF - 1961
13031 Neptune Drive	94577: \$1,049,000 2 BD - 1,646 SF - 1957
1591 Orchard Avenue	94577: \$672,000 4 BD - 1,776 SF - 1980
13958 Tortuga Road	94577: \$470,000 4 BD - 1,466 SF - 1961
661 Victoria Court	94577: \$875,000 3 BD - 2,072 SF - 1922
510 West Merle Court	94577: \$583,000 4 BD - 1,563 SF - 1929
1536 140th Avenue	94578: \$695,000 3 BD - 1,835 SF - 1946
16876 Ehle Street	94578: \$510,000 3 BD - 996 SF - 1950
750 Floresta Boulevard	94578: \$715,000 3 BD - 1,577 SF - 1954
16566 Hannah Drive	94578: \$620,000 2 BD - 944 SF - 1954
1391 Chapel Avenue	94579: \$680,000 4 BD - 1,537 SF - 1951
680 Fargo Avenue #1	94579: \$381,000 2 BD - 840 SF - 1965
14915 Farnsworth Street	94579: \$545,000 3 BD - 988 SF - 1950
<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$333,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$1,049,000</b>
<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$646,000</b>
<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$632,313</b>

#### Castro Valley

19652 Center Street	94546: \$650,000 3 BD - 1,116 SF - 1988
19083 Crest Avenue	94546: \$855,000 4 BD - 2,355 SF - 1965
18757 Dubin Court	94546: \$925,000 3 BD - 1,356 SF - 1956
3886 Lorena Avenue	94546: \$875,000 3 BD - 2,171 SF - 1935
4721 Mira Vista Drive	94546: \$1,078,000 3 BD - 2,350 SF - 1971
17785 Vineyard Road	94546: \$777,000 3 BD - 1,996 SF - 1959
4811 Beacon Hill Drive	94552: \$1,275,000 3 BD - 2,995 SF - 1965
25536 Crestfield Circle	94552: \$1,010,000 4 BD - 1,893 SF - 1998
5812 Jensen Road	94552: \$1,800,000 5 BD - 5,151 SF - 1991
20087 Summerglenn Place	94552: \$740,000 3 BD - 1,435 SF - 1996
18721 West Cavendish Dr	94552: \$1,011,000 N/A BD - 2,292 SF - 1978
<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$431,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>
<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$617,500</b>
<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$605,306</b>

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## Can I Change Blooming Time of Easter Lilly?

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** I planted an Easter Lilly in my garden several years ago. But, it blooms in July. Is there any way an amateur gardener can control the blooming time? I've been successful getting my poinsettia plants to re-bloom.

**A** There is no practical way to force an Easter Lilly to bloom again at Easter. A poinsettia requires short days and long nights to bloom again.

Typically, you start in Octo-

ber by covering them at night with a box and removing it in the morning. Poinsettias have a long blooming period, and Christmas is the same date every year.

On the other hand, an Easter Lilly requires the opposite treatment, long days and short nights. You'll need grow lights and a heat source as you begin during the winter months. The grow lights are essential as they provide the right light spectrum for plant growth. Also you'll need a heat source.

This leads to the final point as to when to start, because Easter is a different

date every year. You're timing has to be exact as the blooming period is short. Personally, I wouldn't bother. This is one gardening task best left to a commercial grower.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. For more information, visit Buzz's website at [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com). Email your questions to [dirtgarden@aol.com](mailto:dirtgarden@aol.com).



## OPEN HOMES SATURDAY & SUNDAY JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup>

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CV	—	12-3	4221 Beverly Pl.	\$749,975	3/2	Realtors in Motion	Tony Cardenas	326-4263
CV	—	1-4	5248 Crane Ave.	\$935,000	5/2	Coldwell Banker	Trish Radovich	367-7999

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018

One-Line Open Home Listings run Wednesdays in the Castro Valley Forum (22,500 circ.) and Thursdays in the San Leandro Times (38,500 circ.) for \$25. For more information and a listing form, call 614-1558. DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT NOON.

### CITY GUIDE

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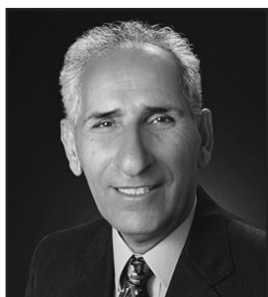
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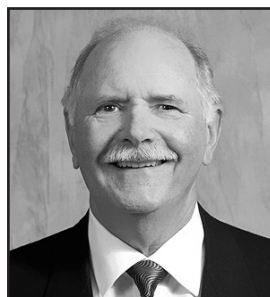
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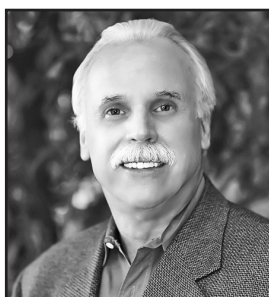
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# Delay: Councilman Benny Lee: 'I think we kind of jumped the gun'

continued from front page

according to executive director Salwa Ibrahim, Blum is still in the process of applying for the necessary conditional use permit they need to open up shop.

Ibrahim said that she hopes to open in San Leandro in April. Blum operates a dispensary in Oakland and began selling recreational pot there on Jan. 1, as did the Oakland Harborside location.

"We are very excited," said Ibrahim.

But Ibrahim said that getting recreational sales up and running in Oakland did not distract her from the San Leandro location and that it was construction delays, not a focus on lucrative adult sales, which prevented Blum from opening in 2017.

Former City Councilman Jim Prola was a big advocate of marijuana dispensaries before he was termed out and says he is disappointed by the delays all three clinics are experiencing.

Prola said that Harborside in particular should have been open by now and questioned if a focus

on those recreational sales has caused the San Leandro location to not be a priority.

"Harborside has been a disappointment, they might have had bigger opportunities elsewhere with the whole legalization thing," said Prola. "Delays happen, but I didn't expect that long of a delay for Harborside, that surprised me. Maybe the recreation legalization redirected them."

Pot stands to be a cash crop both for the dispensary operators and the city, as the city of San Leandro expects to make up to \$500,000 annually in tax from the three clinics once they open — more if and when recreational use is allowed.

Mayor Pauline Cutter says the city has been forced to reconsider some financial projections due to the fact that none of the dispensaries have opened yet.

"I'm kind of disappointed that they haven't opened," said Cutter.

Cutter said that the city wasn't depending on the tax money, but

did think they would have more information about how much they can expect from marijuana sales by now.

"It wasn't something we were planning on, but we thought we'd know more about that (revenue) by now," said Cutter. "I guess we will know more when they do open."

The San Leandro City Council passed the ordinance to legalize medical sales way back in November of 2013. At numerous city meetings since then, dozens of speakers urged the city to support the clinics, with many saying cannabis is a potentially "life saving" medicine. Speakers told anecdotes of pot helping them with everything from cancer to post traumatic stress disorder.

But during the lengthy process of bringing pot sales into San Leandro, others questioned the city's wisdom in permitting multiple clinics before even one has opened.

Councilman Benny Lee said that the council should have been more wary before allowing the

second two permits.

"I think we are kind of jumping the gun," said Lee back in September 2016. "The first dispensary hasn't even opened yet and we are changing the rules on the fly before we even see the success of the first one."

If you look farther back into the relationship between the pot industry and the city of San Leandro, you'll find that city officials have had some changes of heart.

Back in 2010, then-mayor Tony Santos said that no one on the City Council would support selling pot in town. A series of moratoriums were approved by the council over the next few years.

In 2013, former councilwoman Diana Souza was the sole vote opposing allowing marijuana sales in town, but now she works for Blum.

And during his time in office, former mayor Stephen Cassidy was initially against, but eventually supported medical marijuana in town. Today, Cassidy works for



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The building where Harborside says it plans to open a pot dispensary is empty.

the cannabis consulting service, Wellness Center, John Oram. Bloom Innovations, founded by And Bloom is a consultant for the president of the Davis Street Davis Street.

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**SILVA, Joetta Fazio.**  
**PORRAS, Tina Rose.**  
**WEBB, Marjorie.**

■ Marjorie Werb, a longtime resident of Castro Valley, passed away on Tuesday, December 19, 2017. She was born on April 30, 1929 to Donald and Winifred Densmore.

She enjoyed her long employment at Vandenbergh Properties, and her neighbors, as well as her participation at Trinity Christian Fellowship of Castro Valley.

She was preceded in death by her son Greg, and is survived by her daughter Pamela.

A memorial service will be held for her on Wednesday, January 17, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Christian Fellowship, 20307 Marshall Street, Castro Valley.

■ Claire M. Canning passed away on December 20, 2017. She will be interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma and a Celebration of her Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Santos-Robinson Mortuary 510 483-0123.

■ Tina Rose Porras a resident of San Leandro passed away December 28, 2017 her home at the age of 77. A celebration of her

life will today at Santos-Robinson Mortuary 160 Estudillo Ave. San Leandro beginning at 11:00 A.M. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Colma.

■ Joetta Fazio Silva, former resident of San Leandro, born 1950, passed on December 25, 2017. There will be no services.

### SAN LEANDRO TIMES OBITUARIES

may be submitted online at [ebpublishing.com](http://ebpublishing.com), emailed to [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com) or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number. Brief death notices are published free. Longer-length notices, including pictures, are available for a fee. For further assistance, please call 510-614-1555.

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## Minnie Marie Widlund

Feb. 9, 1915 - Dec. 27, 2017

Long time San Leandro resident Minnie Widlund (nee Di Giacomo) passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 102.

She was born in Missouri and grew up in Fresno, CA. She met Walter Widlund, the love of her life, while working in a cannery in Hayward. They married and raised their daughter Diane in San Leandro, CA. Minnie was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, husband and daughter.

She is survived by her son-in-law, Hugh Erbe; grandson, Michael Erbe (Kim); granddaughter, Michele Davis (Jim); great-grandsons, Curtis, Kyle and Justin Davis; and several nieces and nephews. Her witty sense of humor and kind heart will be missed.



## Hilario Regalo

August 5, 1943 - January 2, 2018

Hilario Regalo of San Leandro passed on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his wife Susan, his daughter Michelle & son in law Kevin Dunn, his son Paul and daughter in law Christina Regalo, and his grandchildren Logan Dunn and Sophie Regalo, as well as his sisters and brothers, Idalina Maceda, Elia Silveira, Alfred Regalo, John Ernesto Regalo, and many nieces & nephews.

Visitation will be held at Santos-Robinson Mortuary on January 9th from 12-8 with a vigil service beginning at 6:30 pm at 160 Estudillo Ave San Leandro. Funeral services will be held at Church of the Assumption on Wednesday, January 10, burial to follow at Holy Sepulchre. Please call Santos & Robinson for service time 510-483-0123.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD

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### ACROSS

- Winter woe
- Movie fragment
- Restaurant employee
- Deteriorate
- Stash
- Head light?
- Formed rust
- Too
- Felon's flight
- Tasted
- Miss Muffet's bugaboo
- Prune
- Candy in a dispenser
- Deli buy
- Rid of frost
- Sandwich cookie
- Yuletide quaff
- Crucial time
- Re ebb and flow
- Existed
- Individual
- In medias
- Libra symbol
- Sweet girl in an old song
- Yale student
- Poi base
- Worried greatly
- Ear-related
- Links warning
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- Timid
- Applications
- Rep. rival

### DOWN

- To and
- Bagel topping
- Worked with
- Doorbells, often
- Claiborne of fashion
- Mid-month date
- Accelerator, e.g.
- In need of balm, maybe
- Corridor
- Differently
- Comestibles
- Father
- Chic, in the '60s
- Location
- Actress Gilpin
- Take off
- Violinist's need
- Put on a pedestal
- Chaplin prop
- Spud's buds
- U-shaped part of a rowboat
- Petrol
- Hawaiian souvenir
- Parts of an act
- Big glitch
- Baba
- Teeny bit
- Piece of info on an invitation
- Great Lake
- Ids' counterparts
- Raw rock
- Before
- Beavers' construct

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3



## 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.

**Times' 'Stoned' Headline Called 'Sleazy, Irresponsible'**

Editor:

I take issue with the headline, "CHP Officer Killed by Stoned Driver" (Page 1, *The Times*, Dec. 28). That is not a fact, and is absolutely positioned as fact.

That headline clearly states that this officer died at the hands of somebody who had smoked marijuana. You made this statement as fact in the 'banner' headline, then way down in the article, goes on to say "this individual was coming home from a party and obviously had too much to drink and MAYBE too much to smoke." Obviously had too much to drink would point to a DUI. That should have been the headline, that turns out to be fact.

This is a sleazy, irresponsible headline clearly positioned to grab the reader's attention. The legalization of recreational marijuana has yet to be vetted as to what impact it will have on traffic deaths and you shouldn't be capitalizing on peoples concerns in such an irresponsible manner.

Shame on The San Leandro Times.

Time will tell how this is all going to play out, and in the interim, let's not cause more concern than already exists.

—George Renshaw, San Leandro

**Attend Today's Meeting on San Leandro Blvd. Senior Complex**

Editor:

I moved to San Leandro over 5 years ago, and purchased a home near BART, as I commute daily. When I purchased the home, it was adjacent to a large vacant lot (a lot that had been vacant for some time).

The lot was posted for sale and the sign stated it was zoned for 5 units. Realizing that zoning can be changed, I did have some trepidation. However, as every bid I had made on a home previously had been outbid, I decided to take a chance that the lot would be used as it was zoned.

Recently it was announced in this paper, that the adjacent small apartment building at 1642 San Leandro Boulevard had been acquired and a senior complex was planned.

I recently received notice that almost the entire footprint of the combined lot would be filled with a five story apartment building containing 62 units and 31 parking spaces (one for every two units). I would be lying to state I would be thrilled to have a 5 story building looming over my tiny 0.07 acre property, blocking the sun.

Before the screams of "NIMBY" begin, I would like to state that I am well aware of the tight housing situation, and wish that this project was proposed with an eye to the impact it will have on our community. With one parking space per 2 units, in an already heavily congested neighborhood and where street parking is almost impossible due to insufficient parking for the BART station, this project will continue to degrade the quality of life in this neighborhood.

I heartily encourage anyone concerned about this project to attend the meeting today, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 835 East 14th Street.

—Jim Blaine, San Leandro

**Declares There's No Such Thing As Affordable Housing in the City**

Editor:

I disagree with Mr. Kopp ("Optimistic About Our 'Beer-Drinking' City's Future," *Letters*, Dec. 28) that San Leandro is an "affordable" city.

Rents have skyrocketed based on landlords' imposition of their "fair market rents," and the endless increases, compounded, that the city allows them to levy on tenants makes it impossible to agree that if you're on a fixed income or working two minimum-wage jobs, all this is somehow affordable.

If someone works multiple jobs to meet outrageous rents and/or pays 50% or more of one's income on rent, that person is struggling – not affording. And the median amount for buying a home here as listed in your paper this week was \$650,000. Whom is that affordable for?

Would the writer be able to buy a home here now at those prices? I bet not; then it's not affordable. The city itself, with unfunded liabilities and huge salaries, can barely afford to make its own ends meet. Their answer, of course, is to not deal with these and other ongoing problems such as homelessness, but to throw art at everything and call it a day.

As to Mr. Powers' rant about Lakeside that "the city cleared it out...and reopened as affordable housing" (*Letters*, Dec. 28): not! Only the property owners could make that change, and apparently when they bought the property, they did. If he'd go online, he'd see from how tenants themselves describe that complex, that the owners are, in practice, slumlords. Yet he blames tenants because they can't afford anywhere else to live.

But I really take grave exception to his implication that affordable housing tenants are mostly criminals. Coupled with his statement that "Making this a sanctuary city and filling it with more low income housing...is the beginning of the end of San Leandro," is just blatantly racist and classist. And he knows he can't move to a different neighborhood – because prices aren't affordable!

—K. Lee-Figueroa, San Leandro

**Takes Issue with Brian Copeland's San Leandro Racism Charges**

Editor:

I never knew Brian Copeland was a professional comedian. I thought his comedy was of the 'unintended' variety.

For instance, back in the day when he seriously referred to San Leandro as the most racist city in the whole country. Never mind Birmingham, Selma, or any of them other redneck towns in the deep south. No sir, Little ol' San Leandro was the birthplace of racial hatred, at least this is what Brian Copeland has maintained. I should have guessed he was a comedian I guess, and that this was his idea of comedy.

I grew up in San Leandro too, and sure, I have heard white people use the N word on occasion, and I have known some pretty racist people. But I never saw any lynchings here, Mr. Copeland. I never heard tell of a black man being tarred, feathered, and then burned alive for looking at a white woman, like what happened so many times in other parts of

the country. Little ol' San Leandro, the birthplace of racial hatred? My, my, my.

But now I understand, this was all said by Mr. Copeland as part of his comedy act, that must be it. Because I am certain that Copeland would never be so insensitive to the pain of people who have suffered the lynchings of the south that he would say something like that (that San Leandro is the most racist city in the entire country) unless it was a misguided "joke."

—Douglas Barr, San Leandro

**Says Responses to Johansen Letter were 'Disgraceful, Shameful'**

Editor:

Of the four letters in response to Robert Johansen's letter ("*Unsympathetic to Females, Males On Sexual Misconduct Claims*," *Letters*, Dec. 14), the most outrageous is the one by Lauren Sugayan: It follows the typical intolerant line of the Berkeleyan "free-speechers" = They're all for "Free Speech" as long as it agrees with their own point of view; right out of the "1984" "double speak."

This passage illustrates the point: "I understand the importance of letting all sides speak their minds on controversial or complicated topics but..." No, Lauren Sugayan, you don't understand. To close with, "...please consider more thoughtfully who your paper gives a voice in your beloved community." Shameful!!

I'd be the first one to defend the right of a woman who is abused at a workplace and come up with certifiable evidence a week or even a month later, but most of the cases in the media today are decades old allegations by women who'd used their sex appeal to escalate in whatever businesses they were in and now that they're no longer desired by men, they join the "Me too" movement. Not to mention that most of it came up just in time for elections. Despicable!. These cases do not favor the cause of women.

I do not agree with many aspects of Robert Johansen's letter, but there are quite a few other letters that I find repulsive, mainly those that try to suppress opinions that don't agree with their point of view. Lauren Sugayan, you are a disgrace representing San Leandro on the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

—Leo T. West, San Leandro

**Johansen Pens a Response To Those Letters**

Editor:

I would like to thank the four people who replied, but after reading their letters and sifting through the disappointment, sarcasm, lack of understanding, etc..., I felt the need to pen another letter. None of the letters addressed the real situation, none of the letters touched base on the rejections, humiliations, and isolation of their fellow men and women.

If you think about it, we have programs for alcoholics, programs for gamblers, programs for people who want to quit smoking, etc. Why can't we have programs for men who get rejected? I'm talking about men who go online or go out in person with the intention to meet a woman, not men who corner women against the wall and grope them.

Giving men a chance in the form of a conversation and a date is what men want. When will we talk about that? What happens when a human being is constantly being told no, or rejected or sidelined or ignored? They end up acting out in inappropriate ways as we've seen, from sexual deviation to a sexually

related crime, etc. They end up internalizing their anger and mentally lose it. So, the question is to women: Why reject a man who wants to get to know you? And yes, there are thousands of men who are respectable and decent who want to meet a good, strong woman.

Where are the talented, honorable women who are lawyers, senators, members of Congress, CEOs, presidents, etc....when it comes to taking the charge on prosecuting the Weinsteins, Roses, Frankens of this nation? Where are these lovely and powerful women in our judicial and criminal justice systems? Why have they not taken action and filed charges? Or is it just rhetoric and is that all it will ever amount to?

Also, why, when there is an allegation, all of a sudden the person accused, steps down or gets fired? Where is the due process? From allegation to being kicked to the curb? Where is the disconnect? And what happens to the accuser? They levy a charge and walk away? Where's the justice in that?

Up until now, zero allegations have been proved, zero people charged, zero people taken to trial and jailed, zero.

I would also like to thank the lady that replied (12/28) and touched base on some of the women who lie about accusations. Thank you again for your piece, it's important that women also speak up about the false stories.

—Robert Johansen, San Leandro

## INQUIRING REPORTER

## Now that it's legal, will you buy pot?

— Asked around town

Not every county sells is in stores.

I already use it through medical delivery. If I was in a town where it was sold in brick-and-mortar stores, I'd buy it.

**Logan Key**  
Concord



I'll tell you one thing, the price is going to come down on the street. They're trying to beat the store prices. People have been buying it illegally for a long time. On the street, you'll be able to get it at a lower price.

**Bear Coates**  
Alameda



Well, I live in Kansas City, but pretty soon Kansas City will probably make it legal. I don't know if I would smoke it. I haven't in 61 years.

**'Raider' Willie Burns**  
Kansas City



Yes, I have a couple of injuries, a messed up elbow and a messed up knee. It's better than pills. They make me loopy. It's regulated at a store. You don't know what you're getting on the street. It could be altered.

**Alex Fragoza**  
San Leandro



No, it doesn't agree with me. I'm not against it. I just don't care for it.

**Tina Copus**  
San Leandro





# Zoning Board to Decide on New Apartment Building

## Apartments by Eden Housing are part of transit oriented development plan near BART station

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

The Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) will meet tonight to decide whether to approve a new affordable housing apartment complex near the downtown BART station. But neighbors say the building is too large for the property and that the influx of residents will cause parking problems.

Eden Housing is proposing to build a 62-unit apartment building at 1604 San Leandro Boulevard. The four-story building would have 22 studio apartments, 22 one-bedroom units, and 18 two bedroom units.

The City of San Leandro staff report on the project calls the location of the apartment building "optimal" as it is easily accessible to BART and AC Transit and walking distance from shops and services.

The apartment building is in the city's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) area, which the city has earmarked to have higher density housing – a plan that's been in the works for 10 years.

The idea of the TOD area is to bring more people downtown, which will give a boost to downtown businesses.

"It will contribute to the activity and vitality of downtown," wrote Elmer Penaranda, the city's senior planner.

And more affordable housing is an urgent need, according to both the city and the county. Alameda County has the fourth largest shortfall of low-income housing in the state.

The county estimates that an additional 60,000 affordable units are needed. In San Leandro specifically, the county has said there is a need for at least 770 new low-income units by 2021.

Jim Blaine lives right next door to the proposed development and he says he isn't opposed to affordable housing but he and his neighbors will be negatively impacted by the apartments. He is organizing a group to go to the BZA meeting and express their concerns.

"If they build this, it will tower over my home," said Blaine. "I don't think I'll see the sun."

The building would have a parking garage with 31 spaces, which fits the requirement of have .5 spaces per affordable unit. The idea is for residents to use public transit.

Blaine says that's a nice idea, but probably not very realistic.

"They say people are just going to use BART, ha," said Blaine.

The BZA will vote on whether to approve the project tonight and city staff has recommended that the BZA grant approval.

Eden Housing currently has seven properties in San Leandro and a total of 516 affordable apartments in the city. The proposed San Leandro Boulevard apartments would be designated for households with incomes that are 50 to 80 percent of the county's median income.

Recently, Estudillo Estates homeowners vocally opposed a planned apartment building on the corner of Bancroft and Estudillo. They said to put higher density housing near the BART station.

But now that a housing development is proposed right by BART, the neighbors there are upset.

"Personally, I know it is a 'not in my backyard' thing and housing is important and I know we need more of it, but this will have a major impact on my life," said Blaine.

The BZA meets tonight, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 835 East 14th Street.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

An apartment building is planned for the corner of Parrott Street and San Leandro Boulevard, across from the San Leandro BART Station.

## Bullet: 'Celebratory gunfire'

continued from front page

Benabou said the victim was not an intended target and that the perpetrator likely fired randomly into the air.

Police said that between 10 p.m. on Sunday night and 2 a.m. on Monday, a total of six reports of "celebratory gunfire" were made in San Leandro.

Most bullets from celebratory gunfire land harmlessly or lodge in roofs or other property. When they do hit people, these bullets are more than likely to hit the victim's head, shoulder, or feet, Benabou said.

Even though, New Year's



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The bullet fell to earth on the patio of an apartment building on Pacific Avenue.

Eve has passed, police remind the public that shooting a gun into the air is illegal and could be considered a felony.

Police have recovered the bullet and are investigating the shooting. The bullet may have travelled over a quarter of mile before hitting the victim, Benabou.

An Oakland man was also

injured by a stray bullet shortly after midnight on Monday. Police said that man was outside a house party on the 1000 block of 91st Avenue when he felt some pain in his arm. He apparently believed he'd been struck by a rock at first, but later saw that it was a bullet wound. He was taken to the hospital and is in stable condition.

## Museum to Screen Comedy Classics

Make a resolution to start the New Year at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., with a dose of comedy classics on Saturday, Jan. 6, starting at 11:15 a.m. with Charlie Chaplin in *The Gold Rush*, followed by the Marx Brothers in *Duck Soup*, and *A Night at the Opera*. No charge for admission. Appropriate for kids 7 and older. For

more information, call 577-3990.

*The Gold Rush* was inspired by stereoscope pictures of the 1896 Klondike Gold Rush.

*Duck Soup* contains several famous scenes, including the hilarious mirror sequence. A wealthy widow offers financial aid to the bankrupt country of Freedonia on condition that Rufus T. Firefly be made leader.

But his chaotic, inept regime bumbles into war with neighboring Sylvania.

*A Night at the Opera* is a classic farce featuring the outrageous genius of the Marx Brothers. This is a chance to see some of their best bits. It was a huge critical and commercial hit, and Groucho considered it and *A Day at the Races*, the best films he ever did.

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