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San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 38

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Brookside defender Akil Green picks off a potential touchdown pass intended for Arroyo receiver Zachary Soto.

Brookside Takes It Away from Dons

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

Brookside Christian of Stockton broke loose on a few big plays to beat Arroyo, 46-13, on Friday on the Dons home field.

Brookside running back Reuben Lee galloped 45 yards for a touchdown in the second

quarter. Minutes later, after an Arroyo fumble, Knights receiver Tyrone Vickers caught a 31-yard touchdown pass, and quarterback Isaiah Gomez made the 2-point conversion on a keeper to put Brookside ahead 26-0.

So it was an uphill battle for Arroyo from there. The Dons never gave up,

though.

Arroyo receiver Jonathan Caling hauled in a 35-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter to put the Dons on the board, 27-7.

Arroyo scored again in the third quarter after Michael London ran back a kickoff
see ARROYO, page 5

Most Fire Calls Due to Medical Emergencies

In San Leandro, 2 percent of fire department calls are for fires

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

In San Leandro alone, the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) received 9,931 calls for service during the last fiscal year, but just 204 of those were fires.

The bulk of calls were to provide medical help – over 7,300 incidents.

“The number of fires is pretty low compared to the other things we do,” said ACFD Chief David Rocha, who spoke in Castro Valley Monday night, giving residents of the unincorporated areas an annual update on what the fire department has been up to lately.

The vast majority of fire department calls in the county outside San Leandro were also for medical aid, not fires.

Rocha said that the department received 15,520 calls for help in the unincorporated area and 388 were fires, with over 11,300 calls being for medical aid. The department received a total of 40,921 calls last year from all of the cities it covers and 990 were fires.

There were also 2,668 false calls and 3,399 calls for help were canceled enroute.

The ACFD covers approximately 394,000 residents in a service area of 508 square miles. In addition to San Leandro and the unincorporated area, the ACFD covers the cities of Dublin, Emeryville, Newark, and Union City

as well as the Lawrence Livermore and Berkeley laboratories.

The department has 29 fire stations, including five in San Leandro and seven more in the
see FIRE, page 5

Back to Drawing Board for Fence

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

It's back to the drawing board on the issue of City Councilman Lee Thomas' fence.

Thomas had gotten an exemption from the zoning official to put up a 6-foot fence on the side of his corner house, which was along the front driveway of his neighbor's house.

The neighbors, the McCarthys, opposed the fence because it violated the zoning laws, and it blocked their view from their front yard, and the view backing out of their driveway.

So the McCarthys appealed the ruling by the zoning official
see FENCE, page 14

Man Arrested for Hitting Police with Car

Police say shoplifting suspect wouldn't stop, backed into them

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Two San Leandro police officers were injured after being struck by the car of a suspected shoplifter at the Greenhouse Marketplace shopping center on Sunday night.

Police arrested Terry Gordon, 57, of Oakland on Monday morning for the crime.

The two police officers were hailed down by a witness about a suspect who had stolen some goods from the Safeway at 699 Lewelling Boulevard at around 8:45 p.m., according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San

Leandro police.

The officers approached the man, who ignored their commands to stop and got into his car in the parking lot, started it, put it in reverse, and hit the two officers, Benabou said.

Both officers were taken to the hospital via ambulance and one was released within a few hours. The other remains hospitalized, though his injuries are not considered to be life-threatening.

The driver took off down Washington Avenue and remained at large until around 9 a.m. on Monday morning when

San Leandro detectives found the suspect vehicle in Oakland being driven by Gordon.

The detectives attempted to stop him, but Gordon failed to stop and led officers on a short pursuit before crashing into a parked vehicle and then he was arrested, said Benabou.

Gordon was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and evading police and is being held without bail at the Alameda County Jail in Dublin and is scheduled to be arraigned this week.

Gordon's vehicle, a black 1998 Lexus ES300, had damage

consistent with striking the officers, Benabou said. Gordon was also identified as the suspect by both officers.

“We are grateful that this subject has been located and arrested,” said Benabou in a written statement. “We are also very thankful that both officers are doing well and we expect a full recovery. Thank you to everyone who extended their thoughts and prayers for our officers.”

Investigators are asking anyone who saw this incident to call the San Leandro police at 577-2740.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

NEWS

Connie and Ray Gomez celebrate 70th anniversary. **Page 4**

REAL ESTATE

Sellers now tend to provide inspection reports. **Page 10**

INQUIRING

Should DACA-eligible people be allowed to stay? **Page 15**

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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.



San Leandro Times

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

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Open Cockpit Day at Aviation Museum

The Oakland Aviation Museum, 8252 Earhart Road in Oakland, will host an open cockpit day on Sunday, Sept. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. Visitors can sit inside famous aircraft, including the A-3 Skywarrior, A-4 Skyhawk, A-7 Corsair, Harrier, and the MiG-15. Also see demonstrations and exhibits by the



Southern Winds dance team, the Southern Alameda County Radio Controllers model aircraft, Quad City Bombshells roller derby, and live music by The Friends of Ken Band. The museum at the Oakland Airport North Field aims to educate the public on the development of aviation in Oakland and its impact on the entire region.

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PART I: WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

PART II: WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

6:00 TO 7:30 P.M.

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According to the American Diabetes Association, the cost of medical-related expenses for diabetes in the U.S. cost \$176 billion each year. It is a growing epidemic in our own local community impacting people of all ages.

Learn how you can take control by managing your condition to lower medical costs, reduce health complications, and increase longevity through lifestyle modifications.

This FREE informative two-part series taught by Diabetic Educator Evelina McDowall, will help you understand:

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- How to check and manage your blood sugar correctly
- The types and roles of medication and how to use them properly
- Why counting carbs are important
- How to plan healthy meals that are enjoyable and satisfying
- How to dine out and still enjoy those little indulgences
- How to create your personal strategy for success

Diabetic complications not only affect your blood sugar, but also vital organs such as kidneys, pancreas, skin, eyes and feet. People with diabetes are also two times at higher risk for heart disease and stroke. Take charge of your life and take the first step. Light refreshments served.

Limited seating. Registration is required. Call (510) 538-2035 to register.

For more information about Eden Health District, visit ethd.org.



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PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

Volunteers cleaned up litter on the beach in Alameda as well as in San Leandro on Saturday.

Hundreds of Volunteers Clean Up the Shoreline

Hundreds of volunteers descended on Crown Beach in Alameda on Saturday morning, joining thousands of other Californians who participated in the 33rd Annual Coastal Cleanup Day. More than 500,000 pounds

of trash – mostly plastic – and millions of cigarette butts were collected from around the state's waterways during the three-hour event sponsored yearly by the California Coastal Commission.

Computer Tutors Needed

The San Leandro Library is currently seeking volunteer computer tutors to teach patrons who wish to learn basic computer skills, such as how to search the internet, how to set up an email account or learning basic Microsoft Word skills.

Those with computer expertise and who enjoy teaching on a one-on-one basis for free one-hour sessions are encouraged to apply. Computer tutors are asked to volunteer for a minimum of two hours per week for a six-month commitment.

For more information, call the library at 577-3951 or come to the library at 300 Estudillo Avenue, and fill out an adult volunteer application.

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Rent Review Board to Meet

The Rent Review Board will have a hearing on three residences on Oakes Boulevard at its next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 835 East 14th St.

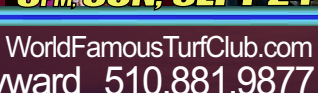


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PHOTO COURTESY ACSO

One of the new boxing champs in the Deputy Sheriff's Athletic League is Christian Chacon (center) with volunteers from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Oscar Perez and Sergeant Terrance Montigue.

Success at the Sheriff's Boxing League

The Deputy Sheriff's Athletic League (DSAL) Boxing Academy hosted its second amateur boxing event of the year earlier this month, and it was full of excitement and surprises.

The DSAL Boxing Academy is a free fitness and boxing program located at the Hayward Adult School, 22100 Princeton Street in Cherryland. Boys and girls are invited to join and must be eight years and older and maintain a 2.0 GPA at school.

Christian Chacon, 19, is the newest member of the DSAL Boxing Academy and won in his DSAL debut.

Chacon fought at another gym, but joined the DSAL, saying he was impressed with the DSAL's sense of community and family and the organization, dedication and discipline in which the coaches govern over the academy.

The success of the DSAL Boxing Academy is largely made possible by volunteerism from coaches Sergeant Oscar Perez, Sergeant Terrance Montigue,

Manny Villalon and Victor Law.

The program's participants are taught more than boxing techniques, they are also taught skills they can apply to all areas of their lives. For example, Omar Delgado is a DSAL boxer who recently became an Alameda County Sheriff's Office cadet.

The position of cadet is a law enforcement apprenticeship that offers entry level support and work opportunities to aid young people interested in becoming sworn law enforcement officers.

Applicants are evaluated by

an oral board and only 20 are selected.

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Texas Man Arrested in Murder Of San Lorenzo Senior Citizen

A mentally disabled man from Texas has been arrested for the murder of an elderly woman in San Lorenzo over the summer – a death that was initially thought to be accidental.

Ru Feng, 83, was found alive but unresponsive on the lobby floor of an independent living facility on Kent Avenue in San Lorenzo on July 16.

No one witnessed the incident and employees thought she had a medical episode and fell. Feng regained consciousness for a time but couldn't speak to tell anyone what happened.

Two days later, Feng passed away from her injuries.

"The police weren't notified at the time," said Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. "It wasn't unusual to have a medical call like that."

A few days after that, a member of the facility's staff decided to watch surveillance footage of the incident to see if anything could have been done to prevent

the fall, according to Kelly.

On the tape, the employee saw a man – later identified as Sean Wallace, 30, of Cedar Hill, Texas – shove Feng.

There is no sound on the tape, but Wallace approached Feng and apparently says something to her and Feng "dismissed him," Kelly said.

Feng may have had a language barrier and Wallace doesn't have the mental capacity of a normal adult, so what was said between them is not known.

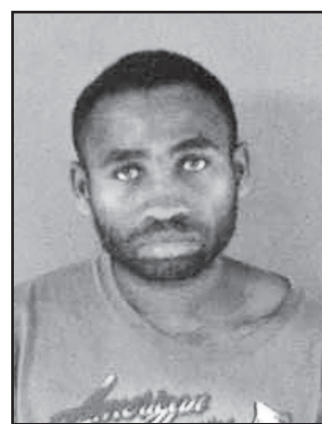
Police don't think the two knew each other of had any interactions prior to the incident.

Wallace shoved Feng to the ground and left. It's not known if he realized he had seriously hurt the woman.

It is thought that he was at the facility visiting another patient.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office filed murder charges against Wallace, who was arrested in Texas last week.

Wallace is currently in cus-



Sean Wallace

tody at Santa Rita Jail without bail after being extradited. He is scheduled to appear in court later this week.

"It's really an unfortunate situation all over," said Kelly.

Anyone with more information regarding this crime is encouraged to call the Alameda County Sheriff's Office at 667-7721 or their anonymous tip-line at 667-3622.

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Saying "Good-Bye" is both happy and sad for us. We wish to thank all of our friends and customers for their patronage and for allowing us to be part of their lives. We are now looking forward to the next chapter of our lives. Our target closing date is September 30, 2017.

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San Leandro Creek Video Contest



Calling all San Leandro area students, grade K-12 (+ adult category)! Grab your camera, or phone and make a five-minute video that will show...

"Why San Leandro Creek is Important."

Ask a question about the creek, and then go about discovering your answer! See if your class or club wants to join you.

Come on a Family Creek Walk with your camera Saturday, Oct. 14, to answer your burning question!

ENTRY DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Prizes: Three to five videos will be chosen for student winners. Prizes include: \$100.00 for 1st place. Adult-made videos will have \$25.00 prizes for 1st-3rd place winners. Winning videos will be viewed on Saturday, November 18, at the San Leandro Main Library at a video viewing party! Prizes will be given on that date.

Go to www.fslc.org for rules and details. Please email any questions to slevenson@sanleandro.org.

NEIGHBORS



Connie and Raymond Gomez above on their wedding day in 1947 and left at their wedding celebration in August.

70th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

Connie and Raymond Gomez celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a renewal of their nuptial vows at the Wedgewood Banquet and Wedding Center in Castro Valley, on Aug. 12 with dinner with over one hundred guests including their best man and maid of honor, two priests, two deacons, four doctors, friends, and family.

Connie and Raymond are childhood sweethearts meeting at age 14 in 1938. Raymond lived in Oakley and Connie in nearby Pittsburg (California).

Connie's parents were very strict and did not allow dating. Meetings between them only took place at the movie theatre

where Connie was an usher. Communication would sometimes come through the grapevine. Raymond's sister was dating Connie's aunt's brother and information would often flow through her aunt.

The first mailed written correspondence Connie received from Raymond was confiscated by her parents. Connie found the letter that her parents had hidden and she confronted her mother, gaining her sympathy. When her aunt heard about that, she opened a post office box for the two and correspondence resumed.

Raymond went into the Army in World War II and was

awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and many other medals. Connie was a Rosie-the-Riveter welder at Shipyard #2, in Richmond, California (1943-1945), launching Liberty Ships – one a week.

Raymond did not want to leave Connie a widow (believing he would die in combat) so they did not marry until after the war in the summer of 1947, settling in San Lorenzo in 1950.

During their working years, Raymond was a production mechanic and Connie was in retail part-time. They raised four children, with three grandchildren. They have enjoyed traveling and visited 28 countries.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Barbecue at the Cop Shop

The Cop Shop will have a Barbecue on Friday, Sept. 22, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2490 Grove Way in Castro Valley. Adult tickets are \$12 and children's tickets (12 and under) are \$6. Adult tickets will be \$15 at the door. There will be tri-tip, chicken, hot links, salad, beverage and a dessert bar. Lots of great raffle prizes. All proceeds benefit the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Cop Shop programs and community events.

❖ SL Chamber Footgolf Tournament

The San Leandro Chamber of Commerce will host the 2017 US Makers Golf/Footgolf Tournament on Friday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Monarch Bay Golf Club in San Leandro. Register your team now for breakfast, footgolf, music and the dinner reception. To register or for more information, visit the website at sanleandrochamber.com or call 317-1400.

❖ Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Events

The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation invites everyone to a dinner fundraiser at Chipotle at 1505 East 14th St. in San Leandro on Friday, Sept., 22, between 3 and 9 p.m. for Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month. Tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated to Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation. Also, a portion of ticket sales will go to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation from ticket sales for R&B group Ready for the World at the Bal Theatre, 14808 East 14th St. in San Leandro, on Friday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m. Tickets available at www.baltheatre.com.

❖ Soroptomist Garage Sale

Soroptomist International of the East Bay are holding a garage sale on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3841 Somerset Avenue in Castro Valley. Baby clothes and items, home décor, clothing and accessories, records, yard items. For more information, call 512-8220.

❖ San Leandro Church Health Fair

Praises of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro, will host a health fair on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with healthy snacks; games for kids; bread, vegetables and fruit; dental hygiene supplies; and disposal of expired prescriptions. For more information, call 483-1811.

❖ 6th Annual Bikes for Tykes

The San Leandro Police Officers Association will host the 6th Annual Bikes for Tykes Mexican Food Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. Happy hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6 p.m. All you can eat, catered by Taqueria Guadalajara Market Restaurant. Music by Mark Banning and the Troublemakers. Raffle prizes. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids 5 to 8 years old, and free for kids under 5. To purchase tickets, call Kristal Gonzalez at 347-4620 or email KGonzalez@davisstreet.org.

❖ Prostate World Group Meetings

Prostate World, a support group for men and their significant others, holds meetings every second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Rose Hospital, Pavilion Bldg., Room B, 27190 Calaroga Avenue in Hayward. Guest speakers present the latest information on prostate cancer. For more information, call Lonnie Silva at 783-5121 or email prostateworld@comcast.net.

❖ SL Adult School Help for Parents Class

San Leandro Adult School will offer a new class, "Parent Help, Pay It Forward Math." This class is geared for parents of children in 4th through 8th grade who are struggling in math. The class runs from Sept. 25 to Nov. 15 on Mondays and Wednesdays at either 1 to 3 p.m., or 6 to 8 p.m. There is no fee for this class. For more information, call 667-6250 or go to www.sanleandroadultschool.org.

❖ Eden Garden Club Meeting

The next meeting of the Eden Garden Club will be Monday, Sept. 25, at 9:30 a.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. The speaker will be William Welch, Bill the Bulb Baron a leading commercial grower, hybridizer and authority on drought resistant, animal-proof, easy to grow bulbs. He will be sharing his expertise and offering a variety of bulbs for purchase. Meetings are free and guests are always welcome. For more information call 397-1268.

❖ CV Toastmasters Anniversary Celebration

Castro Valley Toastmasters is celebrating 66th year of helping people in the community become better public speakers and leaders with a 66th Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. at the Baywood Court Retirement Community, 21966 Dolores St. in Castro Valley. The meeting will begin with a potluck. It's free and all are welcome. For more information, visit the club's website at <http://961.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

❖ Free American Sign Language Classes

Learn American Sign Language (ASL) at the Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd. in San Leandro. Begin your discovery and exploration of the Deaf community and its culture by learning its language and means of expression. You will have fun and learn a new way of communication. These classes allow people to learn ASL – enabling communication with their family members, employees, friends and more. Level One, six weeks on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., begins on Sept. 27. For more information and to register for the class, visit: dcara.org/service/asl-classes/

❖ Weldonians 80th Anniversary Reunion

The Weldonians 80th Anniversary Reunion will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 11:30 a.m. in Danville. For details contact Marilynne Leonardson at (925) 642-7192 or email her at: mleonardson@yahoo.com. The Weldonians was a youth band and majorette corps founded by Weldon L. Leonardson in 1937 and performed all over the Bay Area and at the World's Fairs in San Francisco, Seattle and Spokane.

❖ Day of the Dead Activities at SL Museum

The San Leandro History Museum is offering 4 sessions for kids 3rd through 7th grade on Wednesdays, during the month of October. The sessions will be held on October 4, 11, 18 and 25 at the Museum (320 W. Estudillo Ave.) after school from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Students will learn about the history, tradition and symbolism of the altars made for Dia de los Muertos by making a traditional altar for the Museum. They will make paper marigolds, cut papel de picado and decorate a sugar skull. This program is free and registration is required. Visit: tinyurl.com/slhm-dayofthedead to register or call 510-577-3991 for registration and more information. The deadline to register is Wednesday, September 27.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ Chanticleers Theatre

Come to the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in

Castro Valley, on Sunday, Sept. 24, at 2 p.m. for an afternoon of great entertainment, including

vocalists, dancers, comedians, impersonators and a R&B act called Project4Band. Your ticket price of \$30, includes the show, unlimited decadent desserts and one free raffle ticket for the opportunity to win some exciting prizes.

All proceeds donated to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Tickets for the Afternoon of Cabaret & Desserts and for the special Grand Prize raffle can be purchased at <http://pages.lightthenight.org/gba/EastBay17/CDessertEvent>.



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HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Your ideas earn you the respect of your colleagues. But you'll have to present some hard facts and figures if you hope to persuade those who make the big decisions to support you.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Keep those bright Bull's eyes focused on the project at hand. Avoid distractions. There'll be lots of time for fun and games later. Expect to get welcome news this weekend.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): You soon might have to decide about moving a relationship from its current status to another level. Don't let anyone influence your decision. It must be yours and yours alone.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): You finally can get off that emotional roller coaster and get back to focusing on your goals without interruptions through the rest of the week. A nice change is due by the weekend.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Trying to make an impression on some people runs into a bit of a snag at first, but it all works out. An old and almost forgotten personal matter once again needs attention.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A rise in your energy level helps you finish an especially demanding task. Take some time now to spend with family and friends before starting a new project.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): This is a good time to re-establish contact with trusted former associates who might be able to offer good advice regarding that career change you've been contemplating.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your resourcefulness combined with a calm, cool approach help you work your way out of a knotty situation and avoid a potentially serious misunderstanding.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): A calm, quiet period allows you to recharge your energies. But you'll soon be ready to saddle up and gallop off in pursuit of your goals.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Family matters need your attention. Check things out carefully. There still might be unresolved tensions that could hinder your efforts to repair damaged relationships.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): It's a good time to take a stand and show as much passion on your own behalf as you do when arguing for the rights of others. You might be happily surprised by the reaction.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): You bring sense and sensitivity to a confusing situation. Things soon settle down, leaving you free to enjoy a weekend of fun and relaxation with friends and family.

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.



Eric Olguin rambles for a big gain for Arroyo in the fourth quarter against Brookside but the play was called back due to an illegal shift at the line of scrimmage.

Arroyo: Good kick return game

continued from front page

to the Brookside 33 yard line. On the next play, London picked up a first down on a run to the 23 yard line.

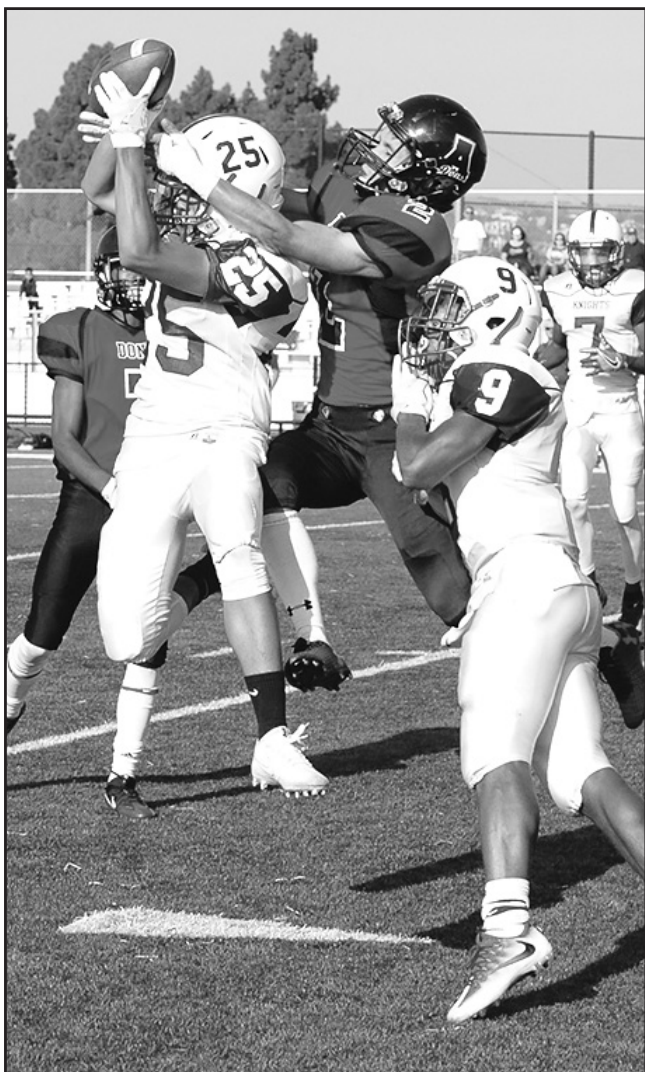
The Dons worked the ball to inside the Knights 10-yard line,

and then running back Zachary Soto galloped into the end zone to make the score 13-40.

Arroyo gave up some big gains by Brookside. But on the plus side, the Dons made a number of excellent run-backs on kicks –

by Soto, London and Caling.

The loss drops Arroyo to 1-3 for the season. This week, Arroyo travels to Hercules on Friday for a game at 7 p.m.



Brookside defensive back James Sherman breaks up a pass intended for Arroyo receiver Matthew Porter just before halftime on Friday on the Dons home field.

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Fire: Highrises to grasslands

continued from front page

unincorporated Eden Area.

"We have to deal with everything from high-rises in Emeryville to grasslands at the Altamont Pass," said Rocha.

The department has 442 full-time employees and 100 reserves. At any given time, 105 firefighters are on the clock and ready to respond to a call.

Rocha said that the department meets national standards for overall response times, but acknowledged that there is "room for improvement" in their turnout time – that means actually getting out the door of the fire station.

The goal set is 60 seconds which Rocha said was "unrealistic" and he gave the example of Battalion 2 in Castro Valley, which has a average turnout time of currently 2 minutes, 32 seconds, which he'd like to see reduced to 2 minutes. From the time a call is placed until the first firefighters arrive on the scene, the average response time is 7



The Alameda County Fire Department has a variety of equipment, including this smaller scale truck.

minutes and 43 seconds.

Rocha says that "shot clocks" have been installed at the fire stations as a reminder of how many seconds are ticking away and everyone receives an email detailing their performance times after a call.

"As we start to hold people accountable, we see the impact," said Rocha.

The fire department's proposed annual budget for the 2017/

2018 fiscal year is nearly \$139 million, with 46 percent, or \$64 million, coming from the individual cities who pay for a contract for fire services. Unincorporated area property tax accounts for 26 percent or \$36.2 million.

Most of the budget is spent on salaries, pensions, healthcare and other benefits – a total of 82.6 percent (\$110 million), the rest goes to services and supplies including equipment.



Neighborhood Cleanup Day

EVENT FEATURES

Citywide Garage Sale ~ 8am - 1pm

Host a garage sale at your home. The City will provide free advertising, including a map and listing in the October 5 edition of the *San Leandro Times*.

Neighborhood Cleanup ~ 10am - 4pm

Bring appliances, furniture, mattresses, electronics, scrap metal, clean wood/yard trimmings, tires household batteries and fluorescent lamps. Residents may also drop off cell phones, chargers, CDs, DVDs and audio and video tapes for recycling.

Keep your neighborhood clean and green! Pull out your old, unused items from the attic in preparation for San Leandro's annual Citywide Garage Sale and Neighborhood Cleanup Event.



SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

You can sign up online or complete and submit this form by September 27th to receive free garage sale advertising and/or access to the recycling event.

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Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I would like to participate in:
(check all that apply)

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SENIORS

Exercise Eases Arthritis Pain

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Q What exercises are best suited for seniors with arthritis? I have osteoarthritis in my neck, back, hip and knee and have read that exercises can help ease the pain and stiffness, but I don't know where to start, and I certainly don't want to aggravate it.

A Many people who have arthritis believe that exercise will worsen their condition, but that's not true. Exercise is actually one of the best treatments for osteoarthritis.



Many people who have arthritis believe that exercise will worsen their condition, but that's not true. Exercise is actually one of the best treatments for osteoarthritis.



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Chef Lisa brings more than 10 years experience in the cooking industry, including co-developing the plant-based diet program for Kaiser Permanente and winning the 2013 Vegan Iron Chef Award. Her belief in a plant-based diet helped her lose more than 125 pounds, restoring her health and vitality.

Limited seating. Call 510-538-2035 to register.

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Leaving IRA to Grandchildren? Beware of Special 'Kiddie Tax'

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.

Special to the Times

I was thinking about naming my minor grandchildren as beneficiaries of my IRA, to inherit upon my demise. But I heard something about the "Kiddie Tax" that might apply here. Can you share any thoughts about this?

Yes, the so-called "Kiddie Tax" is essentially a special tax that was adopted years ago to limit the tax benefit of gifting income-generating assets to minor children or grandchildren in order to reduce the family's overall tax burden.

This rule needs to be considered when leaving IRAs and other income-generating assets to minors, whether they be children or grandchildren.

Here's the way the Kiddie Tax works:

For 2017, the first \$1,050 of unearned income to the minor is tax-free, and the next \$1,050 is taxed at the child's own (usually, lower) tax rate.

But here's the catch: Any additional income is taxed at the parent's rate, which could be as

high as 35 percent.

The Kiddie Tax applies to the following youngsters: individuals under age 18, individuals who are age 18 (but not yet 19) and have earned income that is less than or equal to half their support for the year, and individuals who are age 19 to 23 and full-time students.

Grandparents may be tempted to leave an IRA to a grandchild because children have a low tax rate, but the "kiddie tax" could make this strategy less beneficial.

Before doing so, the grandparent should run the numbers and determine whether the income generated by the IRA, as well as any other unearned investment income of the child, will likely put the youngster over the exemption of \$2,100 (for 2017), and thereby — at least partially — defeat the in-

come-shifting purpose. While an IRA can be a great gift, consider the following:

On the "plus" side: A young person who inherits an IRA still has to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), but because these distributions are based on the beneficiary's longer life expectancy, the youngster's RMDs each year will likely be small and thus allow the bulk of the IRA to continue to grow, tax deferred, over a longer period.

So, if the RMDs payable to the grandchild, combined with his other unearned income, are projected to be less than \$2,100 per year (2017) during the time he is subject to the Kiddie Tax, naming a grandchild as your beneficiary might be a good plan.

On the "minus" side: If the grandchild's unearned income is expected to be greater than

\$2,100 per year (in 2017) during the time he is subject to the Kiddie Tax, the excess will be taxed at the child's parent's rate, which would usually be much higher and could be as high as 35 percent.

Note: In addition to income from IRAs, the Kiddie Tax applies to other investments that generate unearned income to the youngster, such as earnings from cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate.

If grandparents wish to leave investments to their grandchildren, they might consider leaving investments that appreciate in value, but do not generate income until the investment is sold, when the child is likely to be older. Another alternative is to leave them a Roth IRA, because the distributions are tax-free.

My suggestion is that you



Gene L. Osofsky

meet with your tax advisor and evaluate whether your proposed gift makes sense. In the right situation, an IRA can be a great gift to a grandchild.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com.

Exercise: Go slow at first

continued from previous page

function. It's also important to keep in mind that when you first start exercising, you need to go slow to give your body time to adjust. If you push yourself too hard you can aggravate your joint pain. However, some muscle soreness or joint aches in the beginning is normal.

To help you manage your pain, start by warming up with some simple stretches or range of motion exercises for five to 10 minutes before you move on to strengthening or aerobic exercises.

Another tip is to apply heat to the joints you'll be working before you exercise, and use cold packs after exercising to reduce inflammation.

If you're experiencing a lot of pain while you exercise, you may need to modify the frequency, duration, or intensity of your exercises until the pain improves. Or you may need to try a different activity, for example, switching from walking to water aerobics. But if you're having severe, sharp or constant pain, or large increases in swelling or your joints feel hot or red, you need to stop and see your doctor.

● Exercising Aids

To help you exercise at home, the Arthritis Foundation offers a

variety of free online videos (see Arthritis.org/living-with-arthritis/exercise/videos) to guide you through a variety of exercises.

Or, there are arthritis exercise DVDs you can purchase for a few dollars through Collage Video (CollageVideo.com, 800-819-7111) or the Arthritis Foundation Store (AFstore.org).

Also see Go4life.nia.nih.gov (or call 800-222-2225), a National Institute on Aging resource that offers a free exercise guide that provides illustrated examples of different exercises.

If you need some motivation or don't like exercising alone, ask your doctor about exercise programs in your area for people with arthritis. Hospitals and clinics sometimes offer special programs, as do local health clubs and senior centers.

The Arthritis Foundation also conducts exercise and aquatic programs for people with arthritis in many communities throughout the U.S. Contact your local branch (see Arthritis.org/local-offices, or call 800-283-7800 for contact information) to find out what may be available near you.

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

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REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Who Pays for Inspection Reports?

Over the years, real estate customs morph based on market conditions.

An example would be the purchase of inspection reports. Historically, buyers have secured and paid for the reports. However, in the current overheated market, many sellers have elected to provide and pay for the reports up front, knowing that reports-in-hand increase the likelihood of “as-is” offers.

We recently listed a home and, as per current practices, secured property, termite and roof inspections. The property report showed foundation cracks and recommended a report by a licensed foundation specialist.

Foundation cracks are a common issue in Alameda County and our normal response, based on the types, locations and severity of the cracks, is to discuss it with the seller and, if we think

the cracks might be problematic to a sale, get an additional foundation inspection report.

Foundation inspection can range between \$450 to upwards of \$1,000 and, in this case, the seller, having already spent approximately \$750 on the existing reports, opted to forgo the additional costs.

Offers came in and, true to form, were all written “as-is.” A winner was selected and we entered escrow. Two days later, the buyer’s agent approached us with concerns about the foundation.

“You don’t have a foundation report,” he stated. We clarified that it has been customary in Alameda County for buyers to order and pay for any additional inspection reports they felt necessary.

The buyer’s agent listened and then asked, “How much will the foundation repairs cost?” “We don’t know,” we informed, “the only way to know the costs will be for your buyers to get a foundation inspection.”

The agent took the message back to the buyers, who immedi-

ately cancelled the deal, stating that with no repair estimates, they would not proceed. Their offer included a 12-day inspection contingency, so they had plenty of time to order a foundation inspection and get repair costs. When we requested a further explanation, they stated, “We don’t want to pay for the report.”

How times have changed!

Although it’s still customary for buyers to pay for inspections, many now expect sellers to provide them – especially when it comes to supplemental inspections.

Truth is, transactions typically go *much* smoother when sellers obtain reports up front and they normally get better offers as well.

Do buyer responses signal a permanent change in customs? We’re not sure. However, in our opinion, it would be a welcome change.

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

Mortgage Rates Hold at 2017 Low

Average mortgage rates remained largely unchanged last week from the previous week’s year-to-date low, according to Freddie Mac’s weekly survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.78 percent last week, the same as the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.50 percent.

Fifteen-year loan rates averaged 3.08 percent, the same as a week earlier. And, five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.13 percent last week, down from 3.15 percent.

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Check Bulbs for Chilling; Rose Bush Shoots Up Suckers

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q The tulip bulbs I purchased from a grower in Holland have arrived. I'm planning on planting them in containers to give as Christmas gifts. What do I need to know about the soil preparation and planting these bulbs?

A Tulip bulbs require four to six weeks of chilling before planting; otherwise, the flower stems will be very short. Tulips are sold both as chilled and non-chilled bulbs. The grower should have made you aware of this. If not, I'd presume they're non-chilled bulbs.

Chill tulips by placing them in the vegetable bin of a refrigerator. Make sure any fruit is removed from the bin, including tomatoes. The naturally releasing gas called Ethylene released by the fruit will damage the immature flowers.

In mid to late November, plant the bulbs in your containers using any of the commercially available potting soils.

You should fill the pots half way, sprinkle the soil with bulb food and cover the fertilizer with a layer of soil.

You now have two options as far as spacing the bulbs. They can be evenly spaced or placed next to one another. I prefer the latter when using them as a gift or when planted in containers for color on decks and patios. Straws are used to mark the gaps.

Finish filling the pots with soil to within a half of an inch of the rim to leave sufficient room to water.

It's doubtful that the bulbs would have started to sprout through the soil by Christmas. So, remove the straws and add seasonal color such as violas, pansies and alyssum to make them attractive instantly. The emerging tulips will have no problem sprouting through the roots and foliage.

The finished containers are then placed outdoors in a protected area and watered every three weeks, if it doesn't rain. I would not put the finishing decorations on until the last minute.



Tulip bulbs may require chilling prior to planting.

For a personal touch, add pyracantha, nandina, privet or toyon berries along with some bark or decorative rock.

Q I have several beautiful rose bushes, but they're developing small red flowers on some aggressive growth that in some cases are over eight feet tall. The growth is taking over the rose bushes. What can I do to prevent this from happening?

A Most modern-day roses are not growing on their own roots. Instead, they

are budded onto a second type of rose known as the rootstock and joined together at the bud union. The bud union is the large knot near the ground.

Any shoots or growth from below the bud union is growing off the rootstock.

This plant produces a single cherry-red flower, which is what I think you are describing. These rogue shoots are commonly referred to as suckers. Roses sucker naturally, so it's impossible to prevent them from reoccurring. All you can do is be observant and prune off the shoots as they develop.

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

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802 Estudillo Avenue	94577	\$830,000	3 BD - 2,208 SF - 1926
790 Glen Drive	94577	\$825,000	3 BD - 2,442 SF - 1939
568 Juana Avenue	94577	\$780,000	5 BD - 2,731 SF - N/A
14332 Maracaibo Road	94577	\$655,000	3 BD - 1,230 SF - 1962
2859 Marineview Drive	94577	\$907,500	3 BD - 2,471 SF - 1966
1281 Pearson Avenue	94577	\$650,000	4 BD - 1,496 SF - 1943
935 Ramona Way	94577	\$685,000	2 BD - 1,147 SF - 1941
1467 136th Avenue #10	94578	\$385,000	2 BD - 811 SF - 1970
1648 137th Avenue	94578	\$588,000	2 BD - 945 SF - 1948
1490 159th Avenue	94578	\$640,000	3 BD - 1,457 SF - 1941
16082 Berkshire Road	94578	\$700,000	3 BD - 1,547 SF - 1949
313 Caliente Circle	94578	\$400,000	2 BD - 1,060 SF - 1980
15998 Cambrian Drive	94578	\$674,000	3 BD - 1,292 SF - 1953
16321 Helo Drive	94578	\$620,000	3 BD - 1,165 SF - 1947
767 Hollyhock Drive	94578	\$675,000	N/ABD-2,007 SF - 1978
16576 Russell Court	94578	\$665,000	5 BD - 2,020 SF - 1951
740 Fargo Avenue #3	94579	\$212,000	2 BD - 840 SF - 1965

TOTAL SALES:

20

LOWEST AMOUNT:

\$212,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT:

\$660,000

HIGHEST AMOUNT:

\$907,500

AVERAGE AMOUNT:

\$643,375

San Lorenzo

33 Paseo Grande #A	94580	\$380,000	2 BD - 1,056 SF - 1985
15823 Via Del Prado	94580	\$591,000	3 BD - 1,051 SF - 1947

Leave Chimney Sweeping to the Pros

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Times

The chimney-cleaning industry, like other contractor services, has suffered in recent years from scams.

Unscrupulous scammers often target new homeowners or seniors, advertising unbelievably low prices for a chimney cleaning. They then sock the homeowner, after a cursory (or even no) inspection of their chimney, with a huge cleaning and repair bill.

Still, if you want to safely use your fireplace, an annual cleaning and inspection is extremely important. Contact more than one chimney cleaning service (three or more if possible) and get a price quote. Don't agree to any work until you've seen estimates from a few services. Don't be pressured into a sale you're not ready for.

Your home's furnace is another item that should get a check-up from a heating professional. Again, if the contractor inspecting your furnace says repair work needs to be done, get multiple estimates before agreeing to anything.

Those concerns aside, you can do some basic inspection and maintenance tasks yourself. These don't replace the contractor, but help you get familiar with your house's heating systems.

You can visually inspect the

firebox and damper, and check the bottom part of the chimney flue. Open the damper and use a flashlight to look up the flue, checking for debris like leaves or nests, as well as creosote buildup. This black, sticky gunk is extremely flammable and is one of the things professional sweeps take care of. It's also difficult to remove without the right equipment.

Clean the damper and firebox

by removing ashes and unburnt wood (when they're fully cooled) and brushing ashes and residue from the visible parts of the fireplace.

Get ready to turn on the heating system now, as well. Buy replacement filters and schedule the furnace's annual inspection. Clean dust and debris from the registers and the air intake cover.

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City of San Leandro's Home Earthquake Strengthening Course

The City of San Leandro is again offering its nationally recognized and award-winning Home Earthquake Strengthening Course to homeowners. This is a "do-it-yourself" course geared towards owners of older, raised-floor homes. Homeowners will be shown how to identify and strengthen structural weaknesses in their homes. Upon completion of this four-day course, each homeowner will have a customized blueprint for their seismic project.

If you own a hillside home, please contact the Division of Building & Safety at (510) 577-3405.

When: October 5, 10, 12 and 17

This is a four-day course.

Where: 999 East 14th Street, San Leandro

City Hall Plaza, south of the Police Department, behind the California Conservatory Theatre

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Cost for City of San Leandro Residents:

\$30.00 for single / \$35.00 for couples

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San Leandro: \$50.00 for single / \$60.00 for couples

Class size is limited.

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TO REGISTER: Please mail your payment and information or call:



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A	—	1-4	2456 Driftwood Way	\$649,000	5/2	Re/Max Accord	Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
C	—	1-3	35600 Palomares Road	\$1,259,000	4/3	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Peixoto Team	925-251-2536
C	—	1-3	33803 Palomares Road	\$1,395,000	3/2 (40 acres)	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Peixoto Team	925-251-2536
C	1-3	—	5812 Jensen Road	\$1,900,000	5/4.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Peixoto Team	925-251-2536

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Fence: Read Robert Frost's 'Mending Wall', says Michael Santos

continued from front page
that allowed Thomas to build his fence. The appeal was heard before the Zoning Board on Sept. 7.

Thomas Pulls Request For Exemption

The board heard the arguments from both sides, as well as comments from about 20 public speakers. But after hours of debate, it came down to this: Lee Thomas pulled his request to have an exemption.

As it turns out, even without an exemption, a house on a corner lot can build a 7-foot fence out as far as 10 feet from the sidewalk. It's not as far as Thomas wanted

to build the fence (3 feet from the sidewalk) but it still enables him to enlarge his enclosed backyard.

After the meeting, Thomas said that he's still deciding on his exact plans for the fence.

"I don't know right now," Thomas said. "I need to look at the original plans of what me and my wife wanted. I offered to take the fence back a couple more feet but they didn't want that either."

The McCarthys say if Thomas builds the fence out to 10 feet from the sidewalk it will be a little better than the previous plan, but it's still not good.

"I don't think it will be as bad," said Diane McCarthy. "But

"I'm hoping Lee just decides this is wrong but he's probably just going to go ahead with it."

— Diane McCarthy

I'm hoping Lee just decides this is wrong, but he's probably going to go ahead with it. We won a battle but I'm not sure we won the war yet."

The McCarthys had to pay a fee of \$792 to appeal. Since Thomas withdrew his request for an exemption, McCarthy said she thinks they should get a refund.

McCarthy said she didn't expect so many people to turn out for the meeting, most of whom supported McCarthy and her husband Dennis.

Both Thomas and the McCarthys presented their arguments before the board. Thomas presented dozens of photos, project-

ed up on the big screen, of fences around his neighborhood and all over the city, saying he wasn't the only one building a fence.

But it wasn't clear if all the fences shown were beside someone's front yard, or whether they were legal to begin with. Board member Michael Santos asked Thomas if he checked to see whether all the fences he had shown were in compliance, and Thomas admitted he hadn't.

Thomas also presented a photo rendition of how his fence would look as originally planned. The computer generated photo showed a beautiful fence with lattice work and flowers, which looked nice.

A few board members commented that they saw no problem with the aesthetics, which was one of the points of contention on whether or not the fence should be allowed.

But the McCarthys point on aesthetics wasn't whether the fence would be pretty. It was that the fence would block their view from their front yard.

A city engineer spent nearly the first hour of the meeting discussing the sight lines of backing

out of the McCarthys' driveway, and the degree of difficulty of seeing a pedestrian or bicyclist coming down the sidewalk. The engineer concluded that the driver would be able to see enough to make it safe, though many people in the room disagreed.

'Go See It for Yourself'

The arial views, drawings and diagrams seemed to confuse people more than to clarify anything. One speaker suggested that you just have to go and see it for yourself. And McCarthy said later that a couple of the board members did stop by to see for themselves.

But the point was mute anyway, since Thomas decided to withdraw his application. Now the McCarthys will just have to wait and see what he decides to do.

McCarthy said she wants to talk to Mayor Pauline Cutter about a refund on the \$800 it cost to appeal.

"I called the mayor, she's gone until next week," McCarthy said. "But we want to talk to her again. Since he withdrew, we should get our money back."

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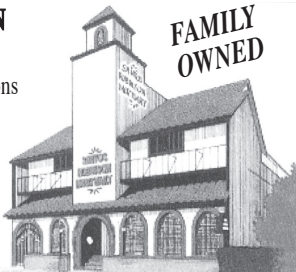
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CHEW, Jeannie B.
HOLMAR, Margaret
LARTERI, Frank A. Sr.
SOHN, Rev. Edwin C.

TIMES OBITUARIES

may be submitted online at ebpublishing.com, emailed to obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Please include your phone number. For help, call 510-614-1555.

Frank A. Larteri

Resident of San Leandro
March 11, 1933 – August 17, 2017

Frank Anthony Larteri, Sr. passed away of natural causes in his home in San Leandro on August 17, 2017.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, at noon at Holy Angels Sorensen Chapel, 1140 B St., in Hayward. Full obituary can be viewed at: Legacy.com (Holy Angels Sorensen Chapel, FD126, 510-581-1234).

Jeannie B. Chew

September 16, 1928 – September 10, 2017

Jeannie passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 10, 2017 just shy of her 89th birthday. She lived a long, happy life as wife to Calvin (deceased 2008) and mother to Larry (Gary Moline), Gregory (Ellen Kiyomizu) and Robert (Patty Colby) and grandmother to Sarah. She was also a devoted second mother to her nephew, David Wong, and his wife, Mary. Jeannie was born in Canton, China and came to the U.S. at 19 to marry Calvin. She and Calvin raised their children in the East Bay and ran independent businesses (grocery, restaurants) until their retirement. Jeannie was a wonderful mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and friend to many and will be greatly missed by us all.

A service will be held Friday, Sept. 22, at 11 a.m. at Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., in Oakland to be followed by burial at Mountain View Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to your favorite charity in memory of their mother, Jeannie B. Chew.



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Rev. Edwin C. Sohn

Called to Glory • January 28, 1923 – September 16, 2017

Edwin C. Sohn was born January 28, 1923 in Columbia, Pennsylvania to Rev. John and Mrs. Anna (nee Ebert) Sohn, the youngest of a family of five boys and one girl. He grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1946.

He married Janice, nee Baak, July 1, 1951. The couple was blessed with three children: John, Margaret and James.

His first five years of service to the church were spent as an instructor and coach at California Concordia College in Oakland. On October 24, 1948, he was ordained and served as an assistant pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in San Leandro, until 1951. In August of 1951, he was inducted by the Lutheran Service Commission to be a Service Center pastor at the Lutheran Service Centers in San Francisco and Pittsburg (Camp Stoneman). He was later commissioned by the Lutheran Service Commission for work in Japan. There, he developed and served Lutheran sponsored USO-type facilities for U.S. military personnel and their dependents, and held services for the greater Tokyo area. He also built a Lutheran Service Center in Tachikawa to serve the military of the nearby U.S. Air Force bases.

After the Sohn family returned to California, he served Calvary in Oroville, California (1955-60) and Faith in Ukiah, California (1960-87). Pastor Sohn served St. Peter's in San Leandro as interim pastor until his retirement in 1990.

Pastor Sohn served on the Grand Jury of Mendocino County while serving as Pastor in Ukiah. He also was appointed to represent the California-Nevada-Hawaii District on the regional Ecumenical Officers Committee. He was Circuit Counselor for the North Coast and San Francisco Bay Area for many years and was recognized for his 70 years of service to Christ and His Church at the District's annual conference last October.

A viewing will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, at 11 a.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 172 Breed Ave., in San Leandro. The funeral service will follow at 11:30 a.m. at the church. A reception follows the service. Donations may be made in Reverend Sohn's name to the Herman Theiss Endowment Fund, administered by St. Peter's. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary in San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

Margaret Holmar

April 21, 1930 – September 17, 2017

Margaret Holmar, a longtime resident of Oakland and San Leandro, died peacefully in her sleep on September 17, 2017, surrounded by friends and family. She can now join her husband and best friend, Jozsef, who passed away last year. Together Forever.

Margaret was born on the Greek island of Crete in Chania. After witnessing the Nazi occupation of Crete and the political turmoil in Greece after the War, Margaret emigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1958 to join her two brothers. These experiences gave her great strength of character and compassion to help family and friends throughout her entire life.

Margaret married her husband of 54 years in 1962 in Toronto and moved to the East Bay in 1966. They lived their entire lives in Oakland and San Leandro. Margaret generously supported all of her family and friends for decades. She had succeeded despite many obstacles and wanted to give back to those going through tough times.

She is survived by her nephews, Jim Takis, from Manhattan Beach, California and George Fiotakis from Mississauga, Ontario; and many nieces and nephews throughout Greece and North America.

Family and friends are invited to attend Trisagion Services on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. and Funeral Services on Friday, Sept. 22, at 10:30 a.m. at The Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, 20104 Center St., in Castro Valley. Entombment will follow the Makara at Mt. View Mausoleum in Oakland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley. For further information, please call Harry W. Greer, Funeral Director (FDR-745, alamedafuneral.org) of Alameda Funeral and Cremation Services, 1415 Oak St., in Alameda at 510-522-6020.



THE TIMES CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

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- 4 Gorilla
- 7 Riches
- 11 Chick's sound
- 13 Perignon
- 14 Frost
- 15 Western state
- 16 One of the Seven Dwarfs
- 17 Race place, for short
- 18 Line on a letter
- 20 Authentic
- 22 Varnish ingredient
- 24 Pass by
- 28 Very ornate
- 32 Figure of speech
- 33 Elderly
- 34 Tolkien creature
- 36 Jacob's brother
- 37 Burdened
- 39 Bucks
- 41 Pressed
- 43 Puppy's call
- 44 Conked out
- 46 "Jaws" villain
- 50 Have on
- 53 Two fives
- 55 Screen symbol
- 56 Therefore
- 57 Old French coin
- 58 "The King —"
- 59 Noggin
- 60 Put on
- 61 Superlative ending

DOWN

- 1 Piece of work
- 2 Rose of baseball
- 3 Burn somewhat
- 4 Do sums
- 5 Needy
- 6 Host
- 7 Home of Eagles and Flyers
- 8 A billion years
- 9 Young fellow
- 10 Saute
- 12 Popular houseplant
- 19 Online help page
- 21 Boxing legend
- 23 Billiards stick
- 25 Leaning Tower city
- 26 Rise high
- 27 Flightless flock
- 28 Island near Java
- 29 Culture medium
- 30 Start over
- 31 Finish
- 35 Plaything
- 38 Born
- 40 Vegas
- 42 Old-fashioned
- 45 Erte's art style
- 47 Teen's facial woe
- 48 Fishing gear
- 49 Make a scarf, maybe
- 50 Charlotte's creation
- 51 Before
- 52 Khan title
- 54 Sister

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 or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

To beautify SL, He Says Hire Workers, Not Enforcers

Editor:

Re: "City Starts Project to Beautify San Leandro," Page One, Sept. 14:

How Do You Beautify San Leandro?

Instead of hiring a three-person code enforcement team, you hire three Steve Souza's. Who is Steve Souza? He drives a truck that picks up trash, abandoned chairs, couches, etc. He cleans the traffic islands of weeds and trash. Steve drives truck No. 844, so this man is not someone who sits down. He works.

Been in business in San Leandro for some 40 years, plus. Forty years ago I was told I could not have banners or sandwich signs outside my business. You mean to tell me we're still beating that old horse?

Let's stop playing games and hire people who work. We have one Steve Souza, one graffiti abatement person.

I've seen murals, decorated utility boxes, and they're beautiful but how about the litter surrounding them?

We have landlords who don't live here but have no problem collecting rent when they visit, we all share in this, why not ask landlords of commercial/private property to help. Businesses always seem to be on everyone's hit list.

Let's not get top heavy with committees and enforcement teams and boards. We need boots on the ground.

—Larry Arnold
San Leandro

'Too Many Open Projects, Too Much Money Wasted'

Editor:

Have the city manager and the mayor authored their political obituaries?

With the much un-needed BRT project, unnecessary ADA ramps redo, lane closures, lack of construction crews on site, extremely slow progress, removing and replacing sections of sidewalk that are fully functional and not in need of repair affected local businesses, why are both of these high level city officials still on job?

Businesses are tired of this dragging on, local residents are tired of this dragging on, and while most of the subcontractors are absent from the job sites for days at a time, and the City of San Leandro doesn't seem to have the backbone to make them work, and work faster.

Too many open projects and too much time and money wasted. The last thing we need is this, let alone a BRT system that will pretty much be used by lower SES people, another thing we don't need.

This political correctness is killing the morale, our ideas, installing filters on our thoughts and conversations.

BRT is not something the city needs as well as more low income housing, it attracts the bottom of the barrel people, which we don't need. Washington plaza, SL BART and other surrounding areas are littered with enough of these people.

I'm unfiltered and probably represent hundreds if not thousands of people who think like me about these topics. Hurry up and finish and stop catering to the lower SES population, they are a drag on a lot of areas/facets in the city.

—Robert Johansen
San Leandro

Wants a Spouts Along with Beautification of San Leandro

Editor:

I love the idea of making San Leandro a beautiful, friendly city with more art, etc. I'm also wondering if while in the process of making these changes, there is a way to acquire a Sprouts Grocery Store?

We have three Safeways, a Lucky's and various other grocery stores, yet they do not meet my needs. They feel old and stale.

Sprouts would be an opportunity for people to eat healthy and organically and not have to spend a lot of money. It's a wonderful store with so much to offer for all. As it is now, I mostly go to other cities to shop. Why not have a Sprouts in San Leandro? It would serve our community well.

I think we're headed in the right direction as a city with this project, however shopping in San Leandro, in general, needs to be improved in order for what's being proposed, to work.

The addition of quality restaurants and shops within walking distances of each other and gathering spaces within those perimeters would be helpful to bring our community together as well.

Perhaps looking to other cities that surround us for direction and inspiration could be of help. Old Oakland and Alameda come to mind.

—Lisa Gaspari-Salmon
San Leandro

Critic of School District Spending Urged to Educate Himself

Editor:

Re: Hedy Huang's letter ("Says We Shouldn't Use Measure B Funds for Teachers' Salaries or for School Libraries," Letters, Sept. 14): In the words of a very wise teacher I once knew, "He doesn't know that he doesn't know."

What's clear about the shameful letter written by Mr. Huang is that he objects to paying for silly things like teacher salaries (they get paid enough) or school libraries (nobody uses them). He couldn't be more wrong.

I am a proud, life-long educator, SLHS Librarian for 18 years, SLUSD District Librarian for three years, and now Assistant Director of Bond Services working to update our 1960-era libraries. I must say, I take issue.

Here is some free advice for Mr. Huang: educate yourself. Take a tour of a school library before you breezily suggest we close them and shuttle the students to the public library. Thousands of students visit our district libraries each month and check out thousands of books. They take advantage of our 24/7 databases and research help with trained personnel. Were you aware of that?

What will be next? Will you ask to discontinue fire services? You have a garden hose. Curtail police services? Why not? Get a dog.

The parcel tax narrowly lost in this town due to a short-sighted view that was in part fueled by misinformation in this newspaper.

I live in this town. I am a homeowner

and am terrifically concerned that my property prices remain solid and even grow. Schools are a major component of that; they are an investment. Would Mr. Huang move to a town where the fire trucks and police cars are 60 years old? Well, our school libraries haven't been updated in about that long.

So, Mr. Huang, and others like him, are welcome to clutch their \$78 savings this year and be proud while once again the schools sit down and plan what they must cut, prospective teachers look at our salary schedule and go elsewhere, or perish the thought, another library closes.

—Roxanne Ansolabehere, M.L.I.S.
San Leandro

Teachers Should Be Paid More for 'Going Above and Beyond'

Editor:

Mr. Huang ("Says We Shouldn't Use Measure B Funds for Teachers' Salaries or for School Libraries," Letters, Sept. 14) made many bold statements and made his opinion known. He also invited us to "Do your research and check it out for yourself". I took him up on it.

The average teacher salary in San Leandro Unified is \$89,000 per year. The average health insurance cost for a family of four is \$24,000 per year, which teachers pay for out of pocket.

\$65,000 per year to not only educate our children, but to watch over them in a safe environment for 8 hours a day, in some cases teach them a new language, for some of our younger students to teach how to tie shoes, teach manners, life lessons and prepare for the next grade level teaching multiple subjects in some cases.

We also have many teachers that go above and beyond, spend their own money out of pocket for their class and manage with up to 32 students in a class. Let's also remember they live in one of the most expensive regions of the country. I would argue that our teachers deserve more.

Four years ago when our current Superintendent arrived, we were at a 40-to-1 ratio with technology to student on a network that was tested to its limits almost daily.

Thank you to the generosity of OSI Soft, the City of San Leandro and grants, our school district now boasts some of the fastest internet speeds in the country for a school district with our fiber optic connection. SLUSD is also very proud to say they are at a 1-to-1 ratio for technology to student.

While circulation in the school libraries is up, the district is in the middle of remodeling and modernizing the libraries. Not only will students be able to continue to check out books, but these libraries will now incorporate Maker spaces, 3D printers and computers for student use.

All of this is possible to the J1 Bond passed last year with overwhelming support from the community.

The timing of Measure B was to help continue the momentum forward before the current tax expired next year. Sixty-four percent of the people that voted, votes YES. That is a fact, the majority voted yes. Let's remember, California is ranked 46th in the country in per pupil spending for education.

I support our students, our teachers and our district alongside the other 64 percent of the voters.

—Leo Sheridan
San Leandro

DACA Woes Blamed on Obama's Executive Order

Editor:

Concerning Bruce Joffe's letter ("DACA: Public Can No Longer Trust Federal Government," Letters, Sept. 7), I am never surprised when people from Piedmont hold the American public in such contempt.

President Obama's executive order giving all the rights of citizenship to illegal aliens was overthrown by President Trump. And he put it in the laps of those who Constitutionally have a say. The representatives of the people of this country and not a tin-horn dictator with a handy pen.

If there is anything that the media and the leftists fear more than anything it is freedom of speech and the voice of the American people being heard.

For the "dreamers" to be allowed one second in this country without the approval of Congress was a gift that they now feel entitled to.

While I am of the opinion that most of them are perhaps better Americans than people like Joffe, it is up to the people to decide and not Mr. Joffe living in a town that hires its own police force because that of Oakland isn't good enough for them.

—Tom Kunich
San Leandro

INQUIRING REPORTER

Should DACA-eligible people be allowed to stay?

— Asked at the Bancroft Safeway?

Sure. They don't know anything but the United States. They don't know how they got here. They're contributing and paying taxes. Unless you're a Native American, we're all immigrants.

Jeanette Ingram
Oakland



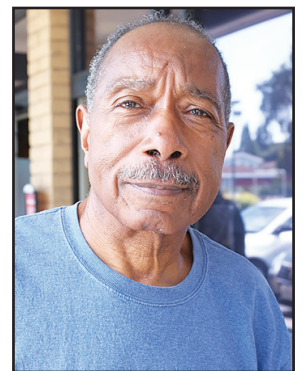
These children don't know anything but the United States. Their parents came here illegally but the kids didn't do anything wrong. They're working and contributing to society.

Mary Hammitt
San Leandro



Yeah, they should be able to stay because they have no other country. This is their country, their culture, their world.

Jesse Foster
Oakland



Yes, they should be able to stay. This is pretty much all they know if they came here as children. It's better for them to be here.

Anthony Ham
Oakland



Absolutely, they're going to school, bettering themselves. It seems counter-productive to send them back. This is the future of America. Younger people see a more integrated world. As the son of an immigrant, I can't think of going back to a country where I didn't even know the language.

Manny Garcia
San Leandro



Fairmont Patients Have Special Olympics Day

Acute rehabilitation patients at Fairmont Hospital had some fun Wednesday morning competing in their own version of the Olympics.

The athletes, recovering from a variety of serious injuries and illnesses, raced in a wheelchair relay, played some hoops in the basketball toss event, threw javelins, and kept a beach ball up in the air at the "balloon badminton" event.

One of the most popular events was the dunk tank, where patients got a chance to dunk one of their aides.

The recovering athletes were

cheered on by their families as well as nurses and staff from Fairmont and the Alameda-based Park Bridge Rehabilitation and South Shore Rehabilitation centers.

"It's a celebration of their healing," said Lorna Fernandez, spokeswoman for the Alameda Health System.

A patient from the Fairmont Acute Rehabilitation center dunks one of her aides as part of the Alameda Health System Olympics.



Pets of the Week



Bluebell



Vanilla Bean

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Blue Bell the pup, and Vanilla Bean the kitten.

Bluebell is a friendly and energetic pup who loves being close to her person and getting cuddles. She asks for pets by putting a paw on your leg. BB loves playing with rope toys. Okay with kids

13 and older.

Vanilla Bean is a sweet 5-month-old Lilac Point Siamese kitten who's a little cross-eyed, but that only makes him cuter. He's a friendly boy who loves greeting new people and getting pets.

For more information on Bluebell or Vanilla Bean, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

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