

MARTIN LUTHER
KING DAY 2021
MONDAY, JAN 18

*"Injustice anywhere is a
threat to justice everywhere."*

San Leandro Times

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

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

WEEKEND WEATHER
MILD Intervals of sun and clouds, light winds
HIGHS: 66-71
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 48-53

FRIDAY
Sun
Sun
Sun

SATURDAY
Sun
Sun
Sun

SUNDAY
Sun
Sun
Sun



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEOPARDY! PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Valerie Castelo, who grew up watching *Jeopardy!* with her father, appeared on the show last month.

San Leandran Wins on Jeopardy

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

San Leandro fans of the TV game show *Jeopardy!* were delighted to see local resident Valerie Castelo appear on the Dec. 14 episode and win.

Castelo said a lifetime goal had been to get on the show and briefly share the stage

with its famed late host, Alex Trebek.

Castelo's episode, taped in September, turned out to be one of the last Trebek hosted. He passed away Nov. 8 from pancreatic cancer, after hosting 8,200 episodes dating back to 1984. His last episode had originally been scheduled to air on Christmas Day, but was pushed back into early January.

Castelo moved to San Leandro a few years ago after growing up in Southern California and graduating from UC Berkeley. She works locally as a career counselor.

She had started watching the show as a child with her father, a history buff, and she was delighted when her dad got the answers
see JEOPARDY, page 12

Council Okays Its 2021 Goals And Wish List

City Council meets with lobby firm that works in Washington

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

In advance of the incoming Biden-Harris administration this month, San Leandro City Council on Jan. 4 unanimously approved its 2021 list of issues it deems important for residents and businesses this year.

Each year, the City Council reviews San Leandro's Federal Legislative Platform, the council's goals and priorities and the basis for advocating with Congress and federal agencies.

This year's list includes 38 items, including the federal COVID-19 response and economic recovery, social justice and immigration reforms, environmental protection, and infrastructure projects.

"We don't expect the city to work on every issue," said Deputy City Manager Eric Engelbart. "We keep the list handy if there are opportunities that would benefit San Leandro or let Barbara Lee – our congressional representation – know how the city feels so she can help solidify the council's policy position on these issues. This might simply take the form of a letter of support, of opposition or of clarification."

Political lobbyists Simon and Company are paid to represent San Leandro's interests in Washington. The Washington, D.C. firm identifies grants, tax credits, and other resources available

to support local projects and programs.

Top of mind for the Council was the COVID-19 response both from a medical perspective and economic support. The council
see GOALS, page 3

Police Make Arrests for Firearms

San Leandro police arrested suspects with firearms, including an assault rifle, in two recent incidents, the San Leandro Police Department announced this week on social media.

On Sunday night, police responded to reports of a dispute on Joaquin Avenue and heard gunshots after they arrived.

Police established a perimeter and called for additional support. Police found one suspect as he jumped over a fence armed with an AR-15 rifle.

A second suspect was seen as he attempted to get a gun from his vehicle. Police arrested both
see ARRESTS, page 3

Senior Health Plan Starts COVID Shots

Center for Elders' Independence (CEI) is one of the first health care providers in Alameda County to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The senior health plan began administering the first round of vaccines to its front line staff and at-risk senior participants this

week, including at its center in San Leandro.

CEI's care program helps seniors living at home, rather than a nursing home. CEI's shipment of 500 doses of the Moderna vaccine arrived late Tuesday night. By early Wednesday morning, CEI began transporting their

participants from their homes throughout Alameda County to CEI's San Leandro location.

After people are vaccinated, they're monitored by healthcare experts for adverse reactions.

CEI's home health nurses have also been deployed to ad-

minister the vaccines safely at home to accommodate participants who cannot to travel to the San Leandro site.

In the first two days, CEI administered about half of the first shipment. Alameda County
see SENIOR, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF CEI

As a frontline worker, CEI driver Sangworn Saephan is grateful for the opportunity to get the COVID-19 vaccine from Shuxia Li, RN, for his own protection and to protect the vulnerable seniors he transports.

Police Chief Tudor Announces Retirement

Police Chief Jeffrey Tudor has announced his retirement, effective June 23.

Tudor, 49, began his 30-year career with the City of San Leandro in the Recreation Department and concluded it by serving as the police chief for the past four years. He was a member

of the San Leandro Police Department for 25 years, rising through the ranks.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to be the chief of police in the city where I was born and raised," said Chief Tudor in a statement from City Hall. "The
see TUDOR, page 10

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

NEIGHBORS

Assumption raises funds for breakfast program. **Page 2**

TEENS

Library starts online program for teens. **Page 10**

NEWS

Inner Wheel delivers lunch to health care workers. **Page 12**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



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PETS OF THE WEEK



Primrose



Charleigh

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are Primrose the cat and Charleigh the dog.

Primrose is a 3-year-old sweet and loving girl who enjoys being showered with attention and will offer soft purrs as thanks. She has some vision loss from an infection she suffered as a kitten and would like a calm indoor-only household where she can live

as a companion cat.

Charleigh is a spayed 4-year-old wiggly, friendly girl who loves tennis balls and squeaky toys. She also likes getting back scratches and is very attention seeking. She would like a home with older children and to be the only dog. For more information on Primrose or Charleigh, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

“Meow means woof in cat.

— Comedian George Carlin



Handmade Christmas trees made from succulent plants and other items were auctioned to raise funds for Assumption's annual St. Nick's Boutique.

Assumption School Supports Davis St. Breakfast Program

Last month, the Assumption St. Nick's Boutique "Spirit of Giving" Virtual Auction and succulent sale raised a record \$8,600 for the Davis Street Hot Breakfast Program for low-income preschoolers, \$3,000 more than last year.

For the past 20 years, the Assumption community has celebrated the spirit of giving by raising funds for the breakfast program. And in this challenging year, Davis Street's services are

needed more than ever.

With the majority of kids learning from home, the organizers of this annual fundraiser pivoted from their traditional fundraising model to attract donors with handmade Christmas trees made from delicate succulent plants and a virtual auction offering nearly 100 gift items.

More than 60 gorgeous Christmas trees, personally created by Assumption parent Phuong Hathaway, were sold. Auction items were donated by members of the Assumption School and parish community.

Members of Assumption's Girl Scout troop helped to sort and fulfill orders for winning bidders who came to the campus to pick up their succulents and auction items. Many saw other parents and students they had not seen in person for months.

Principal Lana Rocheford



commends the work of lead organizers Phuong Hathaway and Allison Pretto, who reimagined how to carry out this important charity work.

"Once again, the Assumption community never fails to deliver on meeting challenges to serve community needs," Rocheford said.

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Goals: Council hires lobbyist to seek federal funds for its projects

continued from front page

asked Simon and Company president Jen Covino to continue to advocate for an expansion of the Paycheck Protection Program, Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program for businesses, and other assistance for small businesses.

The council said it will also continue to support the extension of unemployment insurance benefits, the federal eviction moratorium, student loan relief, and childcare benefits for the duration

of the pandemic. Covino was also asked to advocate for funding for rental and mortgage assistance to prevent evictions.

In addition to weathering the pandemic, the San Leandro City Council also emphasized its stance on taking back control of its broadband infrastructure. Changes in FCC laws in the last few years have stymied cities and counties from having a say in where telecommunications equipment such as 5G towers would be developed or expanded.

San Leandro is among many cities that want the government to restore network neutrality protections and have a greater say in where cell phone towers are positioned.

"I am so pleased that my colleagues on the council unanimously joined me in urging the federal government to ensure that broadband and public wi-fi is included in any federal efforts to invest in our public infrastructure," said Councilwoman Corina Lopez.

Lopez is a member of the

National League of Cities Information Technology and Communications Committee. She said access to broadband and wi-fi is just as essential in the 21st century as access to things like roads and clean water.

Other policy preferences include support for modifying the Schedule I status of cannabis at the federal level; support for addressing the impacts of climate change; support for efforts to protect DACA recipients; and expand protections for the Lesbian,

Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning community.

In the aftermath of a year full of officer-involved shootings and racial tensions, the City Council instructed its lobbyists to support federal programs that fund or provide training on de-escalation tactics, use-of-force alternatives, mental health, or other crisis intervention. The Washington D.C.-based firm was also asked

to support funding for law enforcement training or programs to address gun violence.

The Council also requested Covino seek funding that could assist in San Leandro's efforts to develop a renewable energy micro-grid as well as funding that would assist in the redevelopment of San Leandro's shoreline, which would include federal funding for the dredging of the marina.

Senior: Vulnerable seniors get vaccine

continued from front page

Health Care Services Agency has indicated that it will provide more doses of the vaccine as needed.

Keeping staff and participants informed and involved throughout this historical process has been a high priority for CEI. In preparation for the vaccine's arrival, Dr. James Mittelberger, Chief Medical Officer and Interim CEO conducted a series of town hall meetings with staff to let them know how the vaccine



PHOTO COURTESY OF CEI

works, what to expect when it arrived, and to answer questions about vaccine safety and efficacy.

"It is crucial to recognize that this vaccine does not include any whole virus; it is impossible to get COVID-19 from this vaccine," Mittelberger said.

In response to the pandemic,

Oakland resident Gwendolyn Duncan, 72, receives her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at Center for Elders' Independence.

CEI pivoted its operations to serve most seniors at home. With the goal of reducing isolation and maintaining health and resilience, CEI offers seniors the safest care and support in the location that works best for them.

CEI serves seniors in Alameda and Contra Costa counties with PACE centers in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro, and an Adult Day Health Center in El Sobrante. For more information, visit elders.org or call 510-433-1150.

County Directs Grants to Businesses

CARES program assists small business during pandemic

Alameda County is pleased to announce that it has issued more than 1,900 grants to small, local, and emerging businesses under the Alameda County CARES grant program.

The program was made possible by the action of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in November 2020 to redirect up to \$8 million in CARES Act funds to assist small businesses in response to the economic, health and safety impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to CARES Act

funds from Alameda County, the program included nearly \$2 million in matching funds from 10 cities in the county, including San Leandro. The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) provided administrative oversight and coordination grant program on behalf of the county.

More than 7,700 applications were submitted for the Alameda County CARES Grant program, roughly four times the number of grants available from the total \$9.8 million funding pool. Each grant awarded through the pro-

gram was \$5,000 and is intended to assist small businesses with covering necessary costs incurred due to business interruptions associated with the COVID-19 public health emergency between March 17 and Dec. 30.

"Alameda County and our local city partners are pleased to be able to provide these grants to small businesses who have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of the pandemic," said Keith Carson, Vice President of

the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and Chair of the East Bay EDA. "Small and local businesses are part of the backbone of our communities and it is crucial that we do everything that we can to help them continue to operate while concurrently following public health guidance to keep people safe."

For more information about the Alameda CARES Grant program, visit www.eastbayeda.org/grants.



SLPD PHOTO

The San Leandro police photographed guns that have been confiscated in the past week.

Arrests: Police find guns hidden in cars

continued from front page

suspects. In another recent incident, San Leandro police discovered a concealed firearm and a large amount of marijuana in a vehicle in a traffic stop in the vicinity of Thrasher Park near Davis Street.

Sgt. Kritikos pulled over the vehicle and conducted a probable cause search, turning up a loaded, concealed firearm and 1.6 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$16,000, according to San Leandro police.

The suspect was arrested for drug and weapons violations.

27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your San Leandro Home Fast and for Top Dollar

San Leandro - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as

possible.

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most

important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible. In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips

will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Hyundai Sonata Hybrid
All New and Quite EfficientBy Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

In a world dominated by crossover SUVs in all sizes and price levels, there's still a market for good old-fashioned four-door sedans like the 8th-generation Hyundai Sonata. It offers an alternative to the ubiquitous Toyota Camry and Honda Accord sedans, and as hybrid, averages up to 52 miles per gallon.

Hyundai likes to name its style themes, and this all-new exterior design is called "Sensuous Sportiness." The car has bold, flowing lines and proportions and boasts a coupelike roofline. It even sits an inch lower than the previous generation.

The new "Digital Pulse Cascading Grille" dominates the front end and looks nothing like the face of the 7th generation car. The new theme debuts here but is now on the latest compact Hyundai Elantra, too. The rest of the car avoids the oddball aggressive shapes now finding their way onto many new vehicles.

A smooth car moves less air, and the Sonata has a low .24 Cd (coefficient of drag). Airflow-enhancing updates over the gas-only Sonata include a bumper lip, front- and rear-wheel deflectors, and undercovers below the car.

The car employs numerous

noise-reducing techniques, too, including sound-absorbing glass and increased insulation.

The Hybrid uses a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, mated to a 39-kilowatt electric motor powered by a 270-volt lithium-ion polymer battery pack. The total system horsepower comes to 192. You can watch it all in action on the 10.25-inch center screen or in an abbreviated version on the instrument panel.

The Hybrid's six-speed automatic transmission uses active shift control technology, which monitors shifts 500 times per second to reduce shift time and smooth the shifts themselves. This means better acceleration and improved fuel economy.

My tester, a top-of-the-line Limited model, was awarded miles-per-gallon ratings of 45 City, 51 Highway, and 47 Combined by the U.S. EPA. The entry-level (but well equipped) Blue model rates a better 50 City, 54 Highway, and 52 Combined. I averaged just 38.6 mpg, but it was over a shorter test.

My tester, in a somber Hampton Gray with black interior, was easy to like, if not love. There's enough power to boost confidence, but not enough to get into trouble. And when driving with only the electric motor running, it's bliss.

The Sonata has always offered top-ranked interior room,

and the leather seats in my tester were comfortable for the few trips I made. Hyundai has dubbed its new interior design "Beautifully Smart." Materials are of high quality and precisely assembled, and the switchgear is sturdy and satisfying to operate. The Hyundai-specific Bose audio, with 12-speakers and subwoofer, is sublime.

There's plenty of electronic driver support, including standard Forward Collision Avoidance Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, and Advanced Smart Cruise Control. Highway Driving Assist is optional. It helps with lane centering and maintaining appropriate speed and distance, reducing driver fatigue.

The roof has a solar panel! Hyundai says you pick up a couple of miles of range a day from it—or about 700 miles a year. Likely these rooftop panels will provide more power in a few years. You can monitor the roof panel charging in the center panel display!

Also exciting is the rearview camera that appears in either of the two gauge circles on the configurable instrument panel—right when turning right and left when turning left. I used the Qi charging pad in the console to add electrons to my phone as I drove.

Pricing for the Hyundai Sonata Hybrid is, by today's



The Hybrid's six-speed automatic transmission uses active shift control technology, which monitors shifts 500 times per second to reduce shift time and smooth the shifts themselves.

standards, quite reasonable. The Blue model starts at just \$27,750, the midline SEL begins at \$29,900, and the Limited base prices at \$35,300. Add \$975 for shipping to each price. There are numerous extras to distinguish each level—consult the website for more information. My tester, with everything included except carpeted floor mats (\$155), came to \$36,430.

This car is a hybrid—not a full electric or plug-in model. While the move to electrified transportation is inevitable, there is still a case for driving a regular hybrid that doesn't plug in but gets 50 miles per gallon, if you are not set up for home charging. Owners of all-electric cars without home charging may be willing to rely on public charging stations, but part of the charm of a plug-in hybrid is that



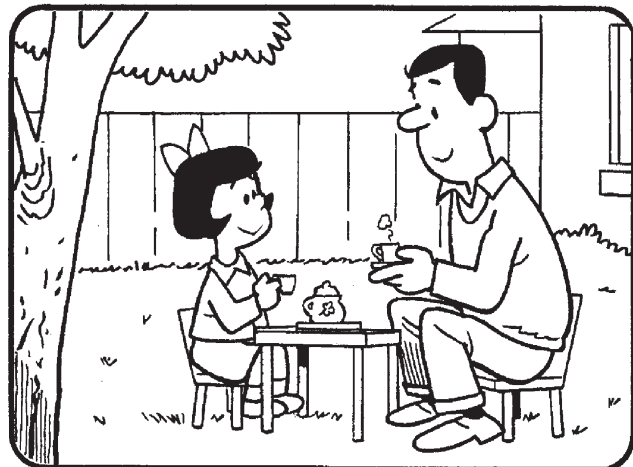
Electronic support includes Forward Collision Avoidance Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, and Advanced Smart Cruise Control.

you can use regular, low-voltage household current in your garage to top off your car's relatively small battery pack overnight and then do all your local driving gas-free. Then, when you do take an occasional long trip, it's range-anxiety-free. No expensive equipment or inconvenience required! That being

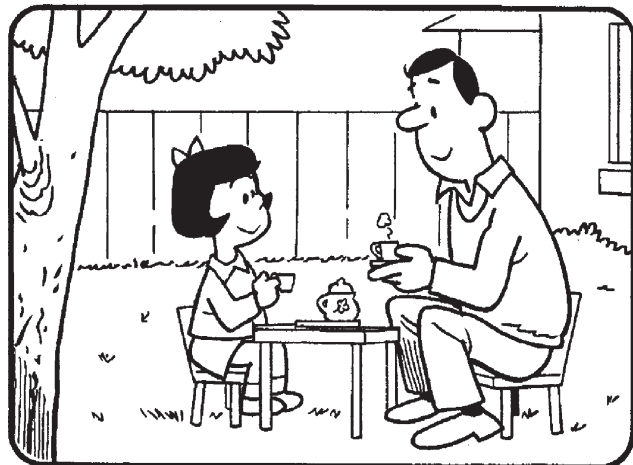
said, with a good hybrid vehicle you are still doubling your fuel economy, essentially taking half a car off the road when you swap a standard sedan for a hybrid like the lovely Sonata Hybrid.

Steve Schaefer lives in Castro Valley. He has been reviewing new cars in the Times for 29 years.

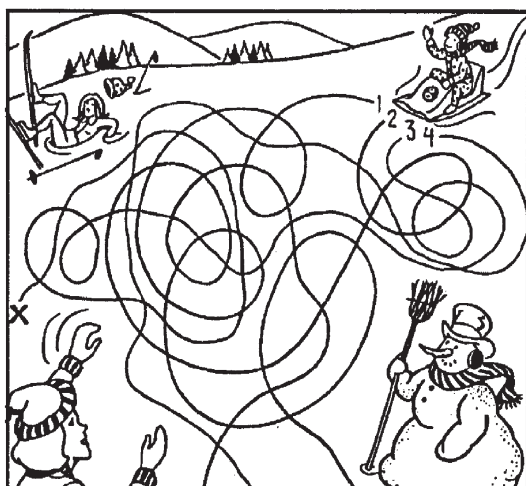
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Skirt is shorter. 3. Table leg is missing. 4. Teapot is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Cuffs are missing.



SNOW GO! Which path does our snowmobiler pal take to reach point X below? Choose route 1, 2, 3 or 4.

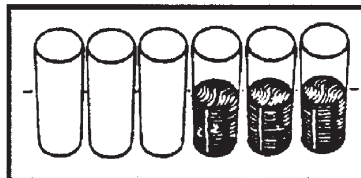
CUP-LETS! Match trophy cups and related sports. Cups: 1. America's Cup. 2. Ryder Cup. 3. Stanley Cup. 4. Wightman Cup. Sports: (a) Golf. (b) Tennis. (c) Yachting. (d) Hockey.

WATER WINGER! Arrange six water glasses in a row, with three at the left empty and three at the right half full. Now, challenge someone to move just one glass so that no empty glass is next to another, and every other glass is half full.

How is it done?

Remember, only one glass is to be moved, and alakazam, you're to achieve the required goal.

Don't take this too seriously, folks; it has a catch, natch.



by Hal Kaufman

SCREEN TWO-COUNTRY
PACKAGE DEAL

PENCIL IN words in accord with definitions below to form the name of a European country diagonally.

1. Playground device.
2. Magical power.
3. Jonah's transport.
4. Misrepresent.
5. Utter disdain.

Then, erase diagonal letters and form words in accord with these definitions for a South American country:

1. Adhere tightly.
2. Nut covering.
3. A space of time.
4. — of the ball.
5. Number of points.

What are the countries?

4. Belle. 5. Score.
Scorn. Then: 1. Cling. 2. Shell. 3. White.
1. Swing. 2. Spoil. 3. Whale. 4. Belle. 5.
Countries: Spain and Chile. Words.

LIFESTYLE



Banana Recipes By the Bunch

It's no surprise that bananas are the world's most widely consumed fruit. Available year-round, they're delicious, nutritious and easy to eat raw.

But if all you ever do is slice them up over your corn flakes for breakfast, you're missing out on a world of flavors. Bananas can be cooked as a vegetable and used in salads and sauces, though they're most often used in a variety of drinks and desserts.

Bananas are picked and shipped green. They are the only fruit that develops a better color, aroma, texture and sweetness when ripened after harvest.

They ripen quickly—often too quickly—and also hasten the ripening of other fruits that may be stored nearby. So, when selecting bananas, consider when you plan to use them. If that won't be for a couple of days, select those that are slightly green. Avoid those with bruises.

CLASSIC BANANA BREAD

2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter, softened
2 large eggs
3 ripe bananas, mashed
1/3 cup plain low-fat yogurt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Cooking spray

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Combine the flour, baking soda, and salt, stirring with a whisk.

Place sugar and butter in a large bowl, and beat with a mixer at

medium speed until well blended (about 1 minute). Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Add banana, yogurt, and vanilla; beat until blended. Add flour mixture; beat at low speed just until moist.

Spoon batter into an 8-1/2 by 4-1/2-inch loaf pan coated with cooking spray.

Bake at 350°F for 1 hour or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan on a wire rack; remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack. Yields 1 loaf, about 12 servings.

BANANA NUT CAKE

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 cup mashed, very ripe bananas
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon mace
1/2 cup buttermilk
2/3 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour two 8- or 9-inch cake pans.

Cream butter and sugar with an electric beater for 2 minutes. Add eggs, banana and vanilla; beat for 3 minutes.

Mix together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and mace. Add to banana mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating until no trace of flour remains. Fold in the nuts and pour batter into prepared pans.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until the cakes test done. Cool completely.

Cream Cheese Frosting

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
2/3 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons cream or milk

Beat the cream cheese with about 1/2 cup of powdered sugar until light and smooth, adding more sugar as needed. Add vanilla and thin to spreadable consistency with cream or milk. Use to fill and frost cake.

If desired, add banana slices to the frosting between the layers. Serves 6 to 8.

BANANA BEIGNETS

3/4 cup flour
2 tablespoons sugar; plus
2 teaspoons

1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup milk; plus 2 table-
spoons
1/4 cup beer
1 egg
Oil for deep frying
4 bananas; each quartered
crosswise
Powdered sugar
Mint leaves
Caramel Sauce:
1 cup whipping cream
1/2 cup sugar
1-1/2 tablespoon bourbon

Mix flour, sugar and baking powder in bowl. Add milk, beer and egg and stir until smooth.

Heat oil in heavy deep skillet to 375°F. Working in batches, dip bananas into batter and then carefully add to oil. Cook until golden brown, about 3 minutes. Drain on paper towels. Pour caramel sauce onto plates. Set bananas atop sauce. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Garnish plates with mint leaves and serve.

For the sauce, bring cream to boil in heavy medium saucepan over high heat. Cook sugar in heavy small saucepan over low heat, swirling pan occasionally, until brown. Gradually stir hot cream

into caramel (mixture will bubble vigorously). Boil until thickened to sauce consistency, 3 to 5 minutes. Add bourbon. Serve hot.

OLD-FASHIONED BANANA CREAM PIE

1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked
3 cups whole milk
3/4 cup white sugar
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 egg yolks, slightly beaten
2 tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 bananas

Have the baked 9-inch pie shell ready.

In a large saucepan, scald the milk. In another saucepan, combine the sugar, flour and salt; gradually stir in the scalded milk. Over medium heat, stirring constantly, cook until thickened.

Cover and, stirring occasionally, cook for two minutes longer.

In a small bowl, have the 3 egg yolks, slightly beaten, ready; stir a small amount of the hot mixture into beaten yolks; when thoroughly combined, stir yolks into hot mixture.

Cook for one minute longer, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and blend in the butter and vanilla. Let sit until lukewarm.

When ready to pour, slice bananas and scatter in pie shell; pour warm mixture over bananas. Let the pie cool and serve.

JAMAICA CAKE

2 cups white sugar
1-1/2 cups vegetable oil
1-1/2 cups chopped pecans
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 bananas, peeled and diced
3 eggs
1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple with juice
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Mix together sugar, vegetable oil, pecans, flour, and bananas in a 13 x 9 inch pan. Stir in the eggs, pineapple (with juice), vanilla, salt and baking soda. Mix well. Do not mash the bananas. Bake in a preheated oven for 60 minutes or until cake tests done

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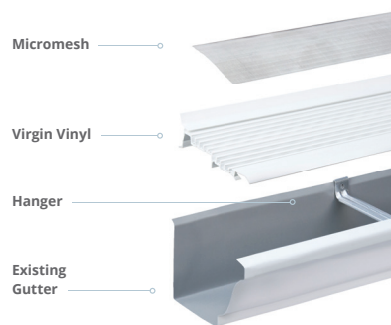
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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Housing Inventory at All Time Low

It is not your imagination: there are significantly fewer homes for sale than in recent years. In fact, according to a recent Realtor.com report,* we are down 39.6% nationwide over the same period last year.

The same report also reveals that, for the first time since the national numbers began being tracked, we have slipped under 700,000 homes for sale across the country. Total.

Those are shocking numbers and consistent with what we are seeing locally here in the Bay Area. In fact, it is safe to say that even with shelter-in-place guidelines, Realtors I have talked to cannot remember a December as busy as the one we just left.

With this mind, it is safe to say that we are still deeply entrenched in a seller's market. There is a critical difference,

however, between this real estate market and the one we experienced just a few short years ago in the pre-COVID era.

Shelter-in-place and stay-at-home worker policies have ushered in a migration from urban centers such as San Francisco to the suburbs and beyond.

There is another significant change as well: given the opportunity to get more house for their money outside heavily populated city centers, migrating buyers are opting for single-family homes over condos and townhouses.

In fact, condos or townhouses that would have been very attractive to those commuting into San Francisco a short while ago are now being overlooked. Translated: while the single-family housing market in the East Bay is as hot as it has ever been, the condo and townhouse market is ... not so much.

All of this means that buyers are out in hordes and prices for East Bay single family homes are continuing to soar. Interest rates also dropped this past week, adding more fuel to the fire.

Due to COVID-19 regulations, visits have been by appointment only: we were seeing 30-minute appointment slots to view homes, however, we are now seeing appointment windows dropping to 15 minutes for many properties. Even then, time slots for nice, well-priced homes fill up fast and, in some cases, fill to capacity, leaving some buyer wannabes out in

the cold.

I've even seen flaring tempers in cases where buyers either arrive late or take longer looking than their appointment allows.

We all hoped that with 2020 in the can, we might see saner days. If anything, 2021 is turning out to be even crazier.

*<https://www.realtor.com/research/december-2020-data/>

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.

543 E. Merle Court • Offered at \$824,000

3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms.

Start the new year with a beautiful new home! Custom built in 1925 and thoughtfully updated over the years, this single-level Broadmoor beauty has a long list of amenities. The great entertaining flow starts at the front door and ends in the wonderful backyard. In addition to the hardwood floors, recessed lighting, dual pane windows and lots of charm, the exterior and interior was recently painted. The 3 generously-sized bedrooms and two full bathrooms include a spacious primary suite with its own bathroom, walk-in closet and access to a covered porch that overlooks the yard. The recently updated kitchen and breakfast nook are clearly the heart of the home. The quartz counters and Carrara marble backsplash are accentuated by the gorgeous natural light that streams in. An abundant amount of storage in the kitchen and laundry room add to the functionality of these spaces; and, the paver-style patio in the backyard is the perfect spot for a BBQ!

For more information, contact Michelle R. Miller, Associate Broker, Compass at 510-701-3442. DRE# 01012751



COMPASS

Root Prune from November to March

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

I have a 10-year-old dwarf genetic peach in a large oak barrel. I want to relocate it while keeping it in the same container, but it's rooted into the ground. Should I cut off these roots or instead relocate them with the tree?

The simple answer is to cut off the roots that have grown into the ground at the soil line. But I have a couple of concerns. Ten years is a long time to be in one container. It's probably very root bound, so you're going to need to prune the roots also. If left untouched, the peach will decline and eventually die from strangulation.

Hopefully, the oak barrel is still in good shape, as you'll need to remove the peach from

the container to prune the roots.

I wouldn't be surprised that the barrel is deteriorating, so you may need a new container. Root pruning makes gardeners very anxious, as they're concerned that something negative will happen when pruning the roots.

The opposite is usually true, as plants benefit significantly from it. Its most significant benefit is that it allows you to keep a plant in the same size container indefinitely.

November through March is the best months to root prune plants. I'd tip the container over on its side to tug and pull at the tree until it comes free.

Next, reduce the root ball's size by removing four to eight inches from the sides and six to ten inches from the bottom. You'll need to use a pruning saw, or you can hack away at the root ball with a shovel.



The peach is then replanted in the container, adding new potting soil to fill in the void.

In March, I'd reduce the top growth by a third in this case, to compensate for the root loss. Unfortunately, this will reduce the size of the crop. In the future, root prune every three to four years should keep the yield stable.

My second concern is that you're going to need to change your watering frequency this year. Before, the peach tree was sustaining itself in between watering from the moisture in the ground. Now, all the roots are contained within the barrel, so you'll need to water more frequently. Every day with temperatures over 75°F should be the norm. And finally, don't forget the nutrients; two applications of Osmocote in March and July should do the trick.

Note: Genetic dwarf peaches

and nectarines began with the Flory Peach, now being called "Natural Dwarfs" to distance them from current "GMO" concerns. In the summer of 1939, a U.S. Army engineer in northern China obtained several peach pits, which he brought to Modesto. In the early 1960s, fruit breeder Fred Anderson started making crosses with nectarines as well as did David Armstrong of Armstrong Nurseries. These trees are slow-growing, reaching a height of six to 10 feet. They're more a compact bush than the typical tree. An independent garden center is your best source for these trees.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.



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Mortgage Rates Hit a New Low

Long-term fixed mortgage rates started the New Year with a new record low, according to Freddie Mac's nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.65 percent for the week ending January 7, down from the previous week when it averaged 2.67 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 3.64 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mort-

gages averaged 2.16 percent, down slightly from a week earlier when it averaged 2.17 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.75 percent, up from 2.71 percent.

"Despite a full percentage point decline in rates over the past year, housing affordability has decreased because these low rates have been offset by rising home prices," said Sam Khater,

Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "However, the forces behind the drop in rates have been shifting over the last few months and rates are poised to rise modestly this year."

"The combination of rising mortgage rates and increasing home prices will accelerate the decline in affordability and further squeeze potential homebuyers during the spring home sales season."

8 Tips for a Successful Home Renovation

Thinking of remodeling your home? From safety and security to product and contractor selection, there are many factors to consider.

Follow these eight remodeling tips to help minimize hassles during a renovation:

1. Create a budget. Create a project budget and set a spending limit. Whether you plan to utilize savings, home equity loan, line of credit or free up funds through refinancing, now is the time to identify how you will finance the project, and how much you want to spend.

2. Prepare the house. Before work starts, clear all spaces where professionals will be working, as well as walkways they will use to access these areas. Remove valuables and breakables to avoid damage and cover furniture in areas where paint or dust could harm upholstery. Keep other considerations in mind. For example, if you're renovating the kitchen, you may need to create a temporary food prep area.

3. Work with reputable professionals. When selecting a contractor, be sure they have references, certification and an understanding of the project. For example, when tackling window and door projects, Andersen Windows, Inc. recommends hiring an Andersen Certified Contractor to do the job. These contractors receive product training, installation resources, offer an exclusive 2-year limited installation warranty, and their expertise and experience in an extensive range of residential projects means they're able to capture your vision for your home and work with you to provide the right products.

Bottom line: working with reputable professionals makes all the difference in the quality of the work and the materials used to complete the project.

4. Schedule wisely. Choose a timeframe for your home renovation that best fits your busy schedule. Keep in mind that unforeseen circumstances can sometimes cause delays. Build this into the timeline so you're not taken by surprise.

5. Address safety. Talk to



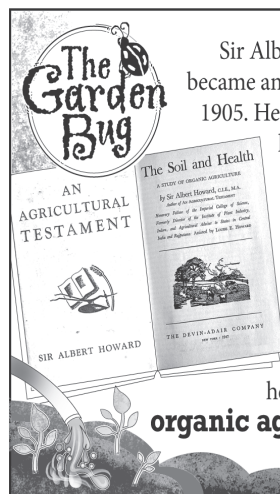
your contractor about what COVID-19 measures they practice to help keep customers and employees safe. Find out whether they're following CDC guidelines for businesses, including always wearing a mask, social distancing whenever possible and frequent hand washing. Also, ask if they offer virtual consultations that allow you to start the process contact-free.

6. Add or update your security system. With professionals frequently coming in and out of your home, a home renovation may be a good time to add or update your security system with reprogrammable smart locks. Offering more convenience and greater control, the Yale Assure Lock for Andersen patio and entry doors for example, is a sleek, key-free entry lock that makes it easy to grant access to contractors for limited periods of time, lock and unlock doors from anywhere and monitor from afar.

7. Communicate openly and effectively. If a renovation is done correctly, you may never need to repeat the process. This makes open and honest communication with your home renovation team essential. Be sure to share your vision and to ask questions as they arise. At the same time, expect the professionals working with you to communicate regularly and address all your concerns.

8. Get a return on your investment. Prioritize projects that will potentially raise the resale value of your home. According to FortuneBuilders, the top 10 greatest returns on investment for home renovations include bathroom and kitchen remodels, landscaping, replacing entry doors and replacing windows. It also helps to select products that come with transferrable warranties. This will give your property a tangible leg-up on the market when it's time to sell.

-Statepoint



Sir Albert Howard was a British botanist who became an agriculture advisor in Indore, India in 1905. He studied the cultivation methods of the local farmers, such as composting, that returned nutrients to the soil, and observed that healthy people, healthy animals and healthy food all benefited from the effects of recycling earth-based materials. His influential 1940 book, *An Agricultural Testament*, is a classic organic farming text and helped develop wide-spread adoption of organic agriculture techniques. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: ifoam.org, inthevintagekitchen.com

WEEKEND GARDENER

Rainy-Day Chores

Though it hasn't been very rainy so far this January, more wet weather is likely this next week. Take this time to reassess your garden's "grand plan." Take a look at your yard in the winter grayness. If it looks too bleak, visit your local garden center to get ideas for what plants and shrubs look good during the winter season. And, if you enjoy growing plants from seed, this is the perfect time to get out those seed catalogs and start ordering. Spring will be here before you know it. Catalogs generally offer a greater variety of flowers and vegetables that you'll find on store racks.

Lawns

On dry days, rake up leaves and debris from the lawn so a buildup won't flatten the grass. Be careful about walking on the grass too much during downpours.

January Planting

This is the time to plant artichokes. Fill a hole with one part humus and two parts soil. Plant with the buds the surface of the soil and add mulch after growth starts. All other bare-root flowers, shrubs and berries can be planted now.

Bare-Root Plants

Artichokes, asparagus, rhubarb and strawberries are all available as bare-roots for planting now through February. Artichokes—Green Globe is the principal variety grown in California. Choose roots that feel solid, not mushy. Plant in full sun or partial shade, in rich well-drained soil. Give them plenty of space as one plant can grow five feet wide. If you don't harvest the 'chokes, they will turn into beautiful thistle-like blossoms.

Asparagus—Choose a variety that tolerates fusarium disease, (such as UC 157) with firm, pliable roots that are brown but not dry or brittle. Work the soil a foot or more deep, mixing in large amounts of compost. Dig a trench 8 inches deep and 12 inches wide. Spread some 5-10-10 fertilizer in the bottom, cover with an inch or two of soil, then set the roots 18 inches apart in the row and cover them with two inches of soil. As the new shoots come up, gradually fill in the trench with additional soil. Wait until the second year to harvest.

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Over the Edge

A vehicle broke through a support beam on a carport and went over an embankment on the 16000 block of Rolando Avenue in San Leandro on Saturday. The Alameda County Fire Department arrived at 4:20 p.m. to find the vehicle hanging over the embankment and rescued the driver who was not injured. Firefighters built supports to shore up the carport so it wouldn't collapse.

Tudor: Mayor praises chief's work

continued from front page

City of San Leandro has provided me many opportunities for which I am truly grateful, and I am extremely proud to have worked with so many talented dedicated public servants."

Over the years, Tudor worked in several divisions of the department: administration, patrol, traffic, special operations, criminal investigations, and SWAT. Tudor has been involved in community work with local schools, non-profit organizations, and public service providers. He also graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and Senior Management Institute.

Tudor's salary in 2019 was \$268,000, and his total pay and benefits were \$494,000, ac-



Police Chief Jeff Tudor will retire in June.

cording to database Transparent California. Police department employees of 25 years receive a pension of 80 percent of their highest salary, and 30-year employees receive 90 percent.

"Chief Tudor will be greatly missed," said Mayor Pauline Cutter. "He earned the top cop position several years ago because of his servant leadership, approachability, responsiveness, and love for our community's wellbeing. He also demonstrated himself to be a thoughtful and effective leader who truly cared about the San Leandro community throughout my two decades in public office. I wish him well in the next chapter of his life."

The city manager hasn't yet chosen a new police chief. The statement from City Hall said, "Interim City Manager Fran Robustelli is in discussion with the City Council regarding her intended approach to recruitment for the next police chief."

Library Launches 'Project Teen Lounge'

The San Leandro Public Library recently launched "Project Teen Lounge," a series of after-school programs for teens in grades 6 through 12.

Programs will launch virtually starting in January. January programs include: Art-making with recycled materials (Jan. 13, 20, and 27), a career speaker (Jan. 19) and a resume/cover letter workshop (Jan. 26).

Teens can begin registering for January programs now at www.sanleandrolibrary.org via the library website.

Project Teen Lounge aims to make sure that San Leandro teens have skills they need to be successful in college, career, and life by providing programs that explore art/self-expression, collaboration, life skills, design

thinking, and career planning.

Artists, professionals Guest Teachers

Guest teachers will include local artists, professionals in the design, tech, and medical fields, and life-skills teachers including a career consultant and a mechanic.

Topics for programming have been developed in conversation with the Library's Teen Advisory Group and the City's Youth Advisory Council, both of which continue to consult on developing new programs.

"We are excited to expand the critical role libraries play in after-school development with teens, and deepen our connection with our community and partners," said Library Director Theresa Mallon. "We are grateful

to the State Library for funding that allows us to support our community needs."

SL Library Presents the Teen Frozen Trivia Contest

The San Leandro Library invites teenagers to join the Teen Frozen Trivia Contest on Friday, Jan. 29, at 4 p.m. For the first time in forever, the library will be asking questions all about the Frozen movies. Open to teens in 6th through 12th grades. Email kmandalay@sanleandro.org to sign up.

LOCAL DEATHS

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Karen Patricia Wehrman

November 5, 1945 ~ December 26, 2020

Karen and her younger brother David were born to Rayma and Evalde Perdue in Oakland California. She attended Hayward High School and earned an early childhood development degree at Chabot College which she put into practice when she became the owner of Avenue Pre-schools in San Leandro in 1972, eventually retiring in 2012.

Karen will be remembered for her curiosity about the world she inhabited. Her love of family and friends. And her love of animals and nature. She fed that curiosity with books, travel, lectures, plays, art and music. She read every day, traveled to over 35 countries, many of them multiple times. And never missed the chance to see an art exhibit or a concert.

More than anything she enjoyed the time spent with family and friends. Always making plans to get together, never forgetting a birthday or anniversary.

If she was walking at Lake Chabot or trekking in the Himalaya she would always stop to watch a bird or animal she encountered. Always disappointed that she did not have her binoculars with her to get a better look.

Karen was active in her community as Past President of both the Rotary Club of San Leandro and the Castro Valley Ski Club.

Karen had 2 sons Brian and Greg with her late husband George Wehrman and found love again with her husband James Silva. They had been together for 35 years. Grandmother to Alexandria, Kylie, Tyler, Tavia, Kenzie and Kaylee.

She was a beloved friend and confidante. Her passion for life will be greatly missed.



Vanessa Marie Hurtado

January 12, 1993 - December 23, 2009



Happy 28th Birthday.

We know God is holding you in his arms. Nothing will ever be the same. You are loved beyond this lifetime and are truly and greatly missed by many.

You left behind a precious daughter Juliana whom we will make sure will never forget her mommy. Remembering you today and always mom Juliana, Ray, Daniel, Grandma Velma, Grandpa Bob, Savanna, Sara, Aunt Lisa. Family and friends all love and miss you so much!

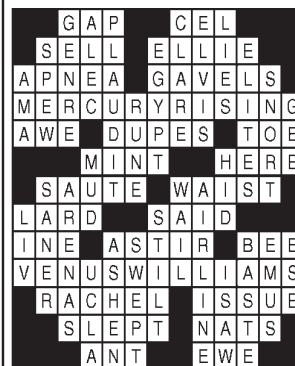
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ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 575114

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
J&M Glass Shower Door Installations located at 423 Bartlett Ave. Apt #3, Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marco Antonio Rosas Sandoval, 423 Bartlett Ave. Apt #3, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 12/2/20.

/s/ Marco Antonio Rosas Sandoval
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires DECEMBER 09, 2025
DEC 24, 31, 2020, JAN 07, 14, 2021
306-SLT

Josephine Hidalgo Ferreira

December 29, 1921 ~ January 10, 2021

Josephine Ferreira, a native of San Leandro, passed away peacefully at home on Jan 10, 2021 at the age of 99.

Preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Tony, son Ronald, brothers Mike and Joe Hidalgo. Survived by daughter Jeri Rahn and husband Floyd, son Alan Ferreira and wife Melinda, 4 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandson.

Arrangements by Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro, 510-483-0123.

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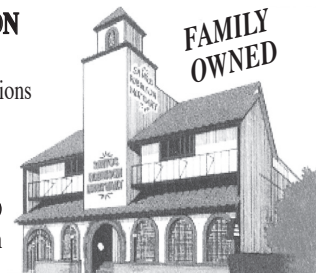
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OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. 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.

SL's Outrageous Salaries

Editor:

It's time to stop the madness. Our Police Chief Jeff Tudor is going to retire at the ripe old age of 49. His combined salary and benefits are over \$493,000 per year.

Yep, you read that right, almost a half a million dollars.

First off, I would have loved to retire at age 49 instead of slugging it out to age 66 when I finally qualified for social security. Secondly, I would have been ecstatic to make a quarter of what the Chief collects.

Why retire so young at the age of 49? Well, after spending 25 years with the City he now qualifies for full retirement benefits for the rest of his life so its high time to get out of Dodge.

Our last Chief left to work for the city of Beverly Hills, where will Chief Tudor end up to make more big bucks?

For comparison did you know that a four-star general in the US Army makes less than half (\$179,700) of what we pay our Chief of Police. It's amazing that we feel it necessary to pay more than double.

Our city is operating in the red but we continue to pay outrageous salaries. This needs to end and the sooner the better.

—Brent Heath
San Leandro

Not the U.S.? 'Yes it is!'

Editor:

This is my response to the article, "Lawmakers Respond to Storming of Capitol" (Page 1, The Times, Jan. 7): Oh yes, all of the bipartisan system of the corporation came, unanimously, to condemn the brave people fed up with the fraudulent stealing of the election.

It is amazing that these "democrats, progressives, etc." find it normal to have a month-long "Election Day" or to be able to vote with no identification whatsoever. This shows their fallacy.

So, the people stormed the Capitol and entered in the building; an unarmed woman was shot dead by a cowardly plainclothes police officer, who should be sentenced to death, just for trying to enter in the "people's hall."

Then we have those fallacious statements like "This is not the United States." Yes it is. Throughout its history the United States has been invading countries and killing, arresting or just deposing their leaders, like Gaddafi of Libya, Allende of Chile, Milosevich of Yugoslavia, Mosadegh of Iran and so on and on.

While the police were ordered to stand down when criminals looted and vandalize cities, four patriots died in the demonstration at the Capitol; three of them because of "medical emergencies"; yes right, people go to demonstrations to die of "medical emergencies."

In no Democratic Party-supported demonstration were four people killed by police. Facts matter not to the political-correctness' lies.

Yes, the Bastille was stormed even though the crowd couldn't get to the queen, but they did get to sit on her chair and put their feet on her desk, leaving also a message for her. It was a clear political victory for a movement that will keep on growing stronger, on the face of the arbitrariness of the system.

—Leo T. West
San Leandro

An Incendiary Event

Editor:

To all those that have published opinion letters here promoting Trump's deluded and false claims that he didn't lose the election, after last Wednesday, I hope that some part of your psyche has registered what an incendiary event you're part of.

To me, what was one of the most surprising things about the mob that attacked our Capitol, is that these followers have willingly aligned themselves with someone that clearly suffers from mental health issues; losing the election has only exasperated Trump's narcissistic psychopathy, to the point that he's unfit for office.

The best that can come of the events of last Wednesday is that we've all now experienced how far Trump and his followers are prepared to go to dismantle our democracy, for his and their own purposes; to heck with the rest of us. If you weren't, are you woke?

—Wendy Smith
San Leandro

Nuclear Weapons Concerns

Editor:

My dad helped separate the isotopes of uranium that were dropped on Hiroshima. I wrote an explanation of the bomb's physics in 1954 (my 7th grade teacher said it was beyond her). But when I read John Hersey's "Hiroshima" in 1960, it launched me on a life-long mission of education.

Some of you readers, before COVID, saw my semi-weekly vigils at our BART station.

I have many concerns: Is nuclear war more likely on purpose, or by blunder? What are the odds of nuclear war in this century? Will my grandchildren, or their children, die in a nuclear winter famine? Are nuclear weapons not suicidal?

The good news is that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons goes into effect this month on January 22. The bad news is that our government has shown no interest in avoiding the 99% death rate for Americans from the nuclear winter created by our own bombs.

Some experts estimate the probability of nuclear war sometime in the next three centuries at 50%.

Some more concerns: Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell pointed out, in their 1955 manifesto, that if nuclear weapons are banned, an advanced nation in danger of being conquered will likely embark on a frantic effort to re-create these weapons.

But is war necessary to defend a

country from invasion? What happened when the Russians invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968? What form of resistance defeated the invading Russians? Would our US empire exist without our nuclear arsenal? If we freed our empire, could we make America unconquerable with Gene Sharp's civilian-based defense?

—Lorin Peters
San Leandro

SL Workers Benefit April Showers

Editor:

The year 2020 is finally in the rear-view mirror, and I think we are all very happy to be finished with it. But things happened in 2020 which bring a smile and make things feel a little less bleak.

I work with IHN/April Showers and we provide the homeless and marginalized folks in this area with a hot shower, services, clothing and, since Covid, food to go.

With the county health department orders we have all been under since last March, it did not look like Christmas was going to be very warm or jolly for our homeless guests.

Enter the City of San Leandro City Employees Association (SLCEA). In normal times, these workers who place a certain amount of their paychecks all year long in a fund to celebrate the holiday season with their families would have gathered for a group party at Christmas. In the year of Covid, that option was off the table.

The members of SLCEA could have elected to roll their savings over and had a super great party in 2021 or '22, but they didn't. They gave their 2020 Christmas funds to April Showers to give our homeless guests a wonderful Christmas surprise.

IHN/April Showers is grateful for the donation they provided. We received the donation shortly after the county went into our second lockdown. This second wave required restaurants to close for on-site (outdoor and indoor) dining. Restaurants were consigned back to take out/delivery food only.

With the funds provided by the generous donation from SLCEA, April Showers was able to purchase "to go" Christmas meals from three wonderful local restaurants to provide food which was healthy, nutritious and quite extra-special for our guests.

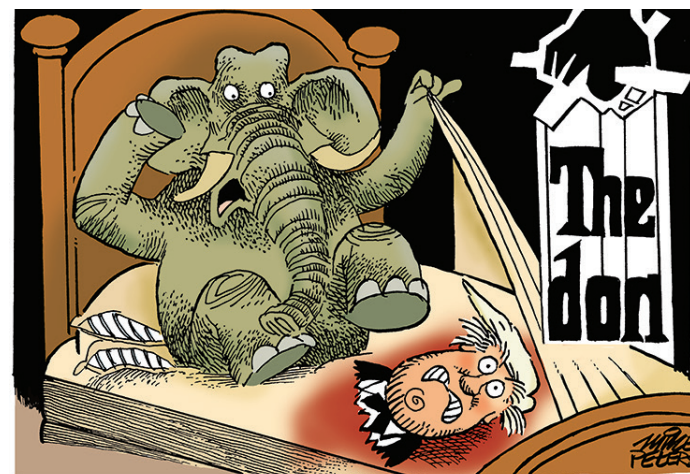
The restaurants benefited from the purchase, but each of them also helped defray some of the costs and for that I will always be a grateful patron at all of them.

Our guests received a Christmas meal way above the normal "soup to go" we offer each shower event.

This effort was funded by the San Leandro City Employees Association. The IHN/April Showers group of volunteers is in awe of your generosity and appreciative of your consideration. We are grateful to Sons of Liberty, Rubiano's and Paradiso for filling the orders and making sure we were able to cover the bill!

We all look forward to a healthy, Covid-free 2021 (eventually!) but the chance to offer a homeless person a meal I would have ordered delivered to my home was priceless. Thank you SLCEA again, from the bottom of my heart.

—Moir Fry
April Showers, San Leandro



INQUIRING REPORTER

What's your advice for President Trump?

— Asked downtown

To learn to think about other people. Don't be all about yourself. The president is supposed to be a leader who cares about the people, not a dictator who thinks of his own interest. Do that and maybe you'll get better results.

Shalonda Fuller
Oakland



Go peacefully. Own up to your mistakes and go peacefully and stop torturing everybody.

Rita Lloyd
San Leandro



To shut his mouth and go home and stop putting this country in danger.

Barbara Hayden
San Leandro



It's almost Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, so honor the spirit of this country and please resign.

Gwen Bikis
San Leandro



To resign. That's it.

Eileen Wilson
Oakland



Jeopardy: 'Once I was invited, I thought I'd better start practicing'

continued from front page

right. She didn't get too many right by herself, she said, but after all she was 8 or 9 at the time.

"But I got more and more of the answers right as I went through school," Castelo added.

Her viewing lagged a bit over the years, but she began watching more when she got a tryout for the show.

"Once I was invited (to try out in-person), I thought I'd better start practicing," she said.

It took some patience to get on the show with the pandemic making the wait even longer.

First she got invited to a test, then had a practice test with other contestants.

"That wasn't so scary. You were just with other contestants, not a live audience in the studio or on national TV," Castelo said.

They were shown how to use the buzzer, always referred to as "the signaling device" on the show, and urged to move on quickly to the next clue when they got an answer right. One has to "buzz in" on Jeopardy to be able to answer a question, or more accurately as fans know, question an answer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Valerie Castelo said you have to hit the buzzer in a split second to compete in Jeopardy.

She still hadn't been called for the show for 18 months. But in March 2020, she got a call on what turned out to be the Friday before the state issued a shelter-in-place order for coronavirus.

The show kept taping but had to proceed carefully for the safety of contestants as well as host Trebek, who was fighting cancer and thus at considerable risk from the virus.

Castelo went to L.A. for the taping and found over a hundred contestants gathered, socially distanced and masked. Everyone

had gotten a coronavirus test 4 days earlier.

"I was so glad and so thankful I was called," she said.

"We'd get there at 7 a.m. and 5 shows a day were taped while other contestants rehearsed not far away," Castelo said.

With Covid a concern, the rehearsals were held at the larger studio used for "Wheel Of Fortune," where contestants could spread out more. While they were rehearsing, crews were busily building backdrops for upcoming "Wheel" episodes.

"On TV they look like they'd

always been there, not recently built by hand," she said.

It was finally Castelo's turn to tape on Sept. 30, and quickly realized how fast-paced it was, as well as how difficult it could be to use the buzzer.

"The buzzer is so difficult, I never really got the hang of it," she said.

Castelo said that in a fraction of a second, you have to know the answer or think you do, then buzz in first. Then you have to come up with a correct answer in time.

In the shows' early years, some players would buzz in before Trebek had finished reading the question, throwing him off, until this practice was banned, Castelo said. Now you have to either cue yourself by his voice, or else wait for a light to go on showing you can buzz in.

Due to their importance to the game, buzzers are checked at every commercial break, Castelo said.

During commercial breaks people got makeup touch-ups, drinks of water, and Trebek would sometimes re-tape small segments that he was displeased with first time around.

The game unfolded so fast that contestants usually didn't know how they were doing until Daily Doubles and commercial breaks, though the TV viewers can see the score.

Castelo didn't really think about winning the game, just doing well, until late in the game when another contestant successfully answered a Daily Double.

"Now I'm going to have to bet a lot," Castelo remembers thinking. This went against her more cautious strategy up until then.

Her Final Jeopardy answer was under "Famous Places," with a landmark that was built in 1973 and had named one room

after singer Joan Sutherland and another after its architect. She went with the opera house best-known for its architecture, the one in Sydney, Australia.

When host Alex Trebek remarked after all the answers were in that it helped to know it was in Australia, she realized for the first time she might have actually won

the game.

Castelo had the correct answer, and had bet enough to win.

Her reign as champion was brief, however. She lost the next game to a contestant, Brayden Smith, who not only knew a lot and had a knack for finding Daily Doubles, but was a "whiz on the buzzer," as Castelo put it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INNER WHEEL

Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro members Kristi Barnes, Linda Mahadevan, Sherri Barnes, and Alice Sarafian deliver food to healthcare workers

Inner Wheel Delivers to Health Care Workers

On New Year's Eve, Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro donated 86 burritos to the emergen-

cy room healthcare providers of San Leandro and Eden Hospitals. Burritos were prepared by Los Pericos Market San Leandro.

In early December, the Inner Wheel Club of SL donated over 25 containers filled with food, healthcare items, gift cards, and more to the Building Futures 2020 Holiday Gift Drive.

The Inner Wheel Club thanks all who donated to this special outpouring of love and appreciation.

Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro meets monthly and has philanthropic fundraising activities throughout the year.

Contact the Inner Wheel Club at iwclubofsanleandro@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more.

Covid Numbers

Confirmed Cases:

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Castro Valley: 1,751
Alameda County: 59,657
California: 2,710,801
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HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Single Lambs looking for romance could find Cupid especially accommodating this week. Paired partners also find their relationships benefiting from the chubby cherub's attention.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Keep your keen Bull's eye focused on your target, and shake off any attempt to turn your attention elsewhere. You should get some news later in the week that might answer some questions.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Your early enthusiasm for a project might have been somewhat premature. Although you feel positive about it, you might need more information in order to make an informed decision.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Taking on a new responsibility might seem like the politically correct thing to do. But even with the promise of support, was it the wisest? Consider reassessing your upcoming decision.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Apply yourself to completing your task despite all the distractions that might be interfering with your work. Then reward yourself with a weekend of fun shared with people who are close to you.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A business agreement from the past might need to be looked at again. Use this unexpected development to check out other matters related to it. A weekend venture proves to be rewarding.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Don't ignore that uneasy feeling about making a commitment. It could be a case of understandably cold feet, or a warning that something isn't as right as it should be.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A colleague could be more supporting of one of your efforts. But it's up to you to make the case for it, and that could mean opening up a secret or two, which might be a problem for you.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Expect some good news about a relative you've been worried about. But don't expect the full story to be told -- at least not yet. A workplace matter might face shifting priorities.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Despite some anxious moments, you could have good reason to be pleased with how things are turning out. An end-of-the-week call might hold some interesting information.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): A long-overdue expression of appreciation could be offered soon. But admit it: You never really expected it would happen, right? Meanwhile, keep your weekend options open.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): It's a good time to dive right into a new challenge, whether it's learning a computer app, or how to drive a stick shift, or making a new friend. Whatever it is, good luck.