



WEEKEND WEATHER
COOL Showers subside after Friday
HIGHS: 58-63
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 45-50

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 28 • NO. 47

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Volunteers Lorma Pascua, Mylah Cachola, Kyla Cachola, Gabriel Cachola, and Aira Cabrera bagged up fresh produce at the Alameda County Food Bank this week.

County Food Bank Delivers the Goods

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Pallets of apples, oranges, and carrots were bagged by eager volunteers at the Alameda County Food bank this week, just in time for the fresh produce to hit holiday tables throughout the county.

It's the time of the year when many people's thoughts go to volunteering or donating, but the warehouse on Edgewater Drive in Oakland is busy year-round, according to Michale Altfest, the food bank's communications director.

The county food bank supplies nourish-

ment for 1-in-5 Alameda County residents. The bank receives about 60 percent of its annual donations during the holiday season. Some of that comes from non-perishables donated during food drives – especially those barrels you see in grocery stores.

see FOOD BANK, page 10

Council Votes For Upgrade to Police Station

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The City Council unanimously approved a \$9.4-million construction contract earlier this month to remodel and expand the police department.

The police will be expanding into the South Offices building, next door to the current police station at 901 East 14th Street.

The current station's public lobby will move next door with an added children's alcove designed to make young visitors to the station more comfortable.

The revamp has been in the works for over a decade, according to Keith Cooke, the city's director of engineering.

When the Senior Community Center opened in 2014, much of the city's recreation staff moved to that facility, leaving space in the South Offices building.

"This project has been in the works for quite a while," said Cooke. "When cell phones came out, the volume to the dispatch center started to grow. We realized in the mid-2000s that we needed to do this."

Cooke said that constructing an entirely new building could cost up to \$90 million, so they've taken the cheaper approach. Funds for the construction are coming from the general fund as well as capital improvement bond money.

But the total cost was about \$1 million more than what the city had set aside, so the council voted to divert \$943,000 from a fund for improvements to Casa

Peralta to the public safety building project.

Much of the project will be the expansion of the dispatch area. There will also be a new

see STATION, page 12

Residents Cutting Down City-Owned Trees

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The Public Works Department says the city is being too lenient with people who chop down or trim city-owned trees, so it could soon cost San Leandro residents thousands of dollars for arbor offenses.

Trees in the public right-of-way (roads and sidewalks) are the city's property. Many people don't realize exactly where the public right of way ends and their property begins, according to Debbie Pollart, the city's Public Works director.

City owned trees in some instances are where the public right of way extends a few feet into a front yard. In other cases, where a strip of sidewalk runs

see TREES, page 11

Arc of EB Pitches in for Butte County

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

A shipment of supplies left to Butte County fire zone last Friday, packed, labeled and loaded by people with disabilities.

The truck left the Arc of the East Bay in Hayward with 10 pallets of clothing and household goods. Everything was boxed at the Arc's facility on Doolittle Drive in San Leandro.

The truck headed north to the Arc of Butte County's thrift shops in Chico and Oroville.

"They're really getting depleted up there," said Tim Hornbecker, director of Business and Resources at the Arc of the East Bay. He had been on the phone with the Arc office in Butte County.

The supplies will go to people who have lost their home in the

see ARC, page 10



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Tim Hornbecker and Ron Luter of the Arc of the East Bay and (on the truck) Arc client Michael Vasquez, and staff member Mark Caldeira load supplies for Butte County.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

PETS

Brothers Sammy and Tiger look almost identical. **Page 2**

NEWS

Local fire crews continue to fight Camp Fire. **Page 3**

INQUIRING

What are you thankful for? **Page 11**

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Pets of the Week 

Sammy



Tiger

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Sammy the kitten and Tiger the kitten.

Sammy and Tiger are 6 months old and almost identical siblings. They can be a bit shy at first. Both warm up quickly once

they get to know you and turn into sweet, playful cuddle bugs. They're hoping for a patient family who'll give them a little time and TLC to help them blossom into the sweet souls they are.

For more information on Sammy and Tiger, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

Badarikashrama to Host Thanksgiving Dinner and Concert

Badarikashrama, 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro, will host a Thanksgiving vegetarian dinner and concert on Thursday, Nov. 22, at 3 p.m. with electronic Bhakti music,

a blend of raga influences with electronic and pop genres, and a Hindustani classical instrumental concert.

Many vegan items will be on the menu. Free and open to all.



Nitros Softball Runner-Up in Reno

The San Leandro Girls Softball's 10-and-under Nitro team traveled to Reno on Oct. 27 and 28 for the Jack Ball tournament. Strong pitching and offense carried them all the way to the championship game where they fell short and took second place in the 10-and-under division. San Leandro Girls Softball has opened registration for the 2019 season. Please visit www.sanleandrogirlssoftball.com.

Bayfair Presents Live Entertainment

Bayfair Center, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro, rings in the holiday season with free live entertainment throughout the holidays. The entertainment groups will be strolling through the center spreading cheer.

The entertainment runs from Nov. 23 through Dec. 24:

Friday, Nov. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m.: Holiday Festive Strings

Saturday, Nov. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m.: Musical Toy Soldier Guard

Saturday, Dec. 1 from 1 to 3 p.m.: Dickens Carolers

Saturday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Holiday Festive Strings

Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.: Merry Mariachi Band

Saturday, Dec. 22, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Merry Mariachi Band

Monday, Dec. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Dickens Carolers

For information, visit www.shopbayfair.com.

Santa's Workshop at Bayfair

Santa's Workshop at Bayfair

Bayfair Center, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro, invites

children and their families to join Santa's singing and dancing

elves for arts and crafts, cookie decorating, and face painting on

Sunday, Dec. 2, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Kids can also visit with

Santa and professional photo packages will be available for purchase. Children attending must be accompanied by an adult.

SLZ Heritage Society Holiday Sale

The San Lorenzo Heritage Society presents its annual Holiday Treasures sale featuring antiques, handmade Christmas gifts, potted plants and more on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association, 377 Paseo Grande.

One antique is an old steamer trunk manufactured in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

For more information, call 278-0249.



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POLICE & FIRE



The Alameda County Fire Department has 8 firefighters, Engine 8233 and Engine 330, as part of Strike Team 2870C at the Camp Fire in Butte County.

County Fire, Police Provide Third Week of Mutual Aid in Wildfires

Local first responders are continuing to provide mutual aid in the deadly wildfires that are plaguing the state.

Keep Your Pets Safe This Holiday Season

It's Thanksgiving and a lot of people will be indulging today and may want to give their pets a treat, too. But some table scraps are dangerous for cats and dogs.

Here are a few holiday tips from the SPCA:

If you decide to feed your pet a small bite of turkey, make sure it's boneless and well-cooked.

A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey or a taste of mashed potatoes and gravy shouldn't be a problem. However, don't let your pets overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea or even worse—an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis.

And no booze or chocolate, either. Also, when you decorate your Christmas Tree, don't use tinsel or your four-legged friend might decide to chew on a strand and could choke on it.

Since Nov. 8, 25 local strike teams consisting of over 620 firefighters have been battling the Camp and Woolsey fires, according to the Alameda County Fire Department. ACFD Chief David Rocha is the Region II coordinator.

Among them were two bull dozer operators who helped create fire breaks at the Camp Fire in Butte County. Unfortunately, despite working all night to contain the fire, the blaze ended up jumping the dozer lines, according to the ACFD.

The Camp Fire is the deadliest fire in California history with a death toll of 77. That number is expected to rise as more than 900 have been listed as unaccounted for. Three people have died in the Woolsey Fire in Ventura County.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office has also deployed mutual aid resources to the Camp Fire and is assisting with search and recovery efforts in the city of Paradise. They have sent emergency managers, animal services technicians, coroner investigators, search and rescue volunteers and police dogs, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

The nearest fire is over 170 miles from San Leandro, but smoke has caused poor air quality locally. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District rates air pollution in a scale from 0 to 500. As of Tuesday, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in San Leandro was 154, still deemed "unhealthy" but down more than 10 points from last week.

Smoke on BART Train Caused Commute Chaos Last Week

The Bayfair BART station was closed for over an hour last Friday morning due to smoke coming from a train on the platform.

The smoke was spotted shortly after 6 a.m. and the station

reopened around 7:30 a.m. with full service restarted before 8 a.m.

The smoke was traced back to the undercarriage of a train and the train was removed from service. There were no injuries.

The cause of the smoke re-

mains under investigation and it was isolated to the outside of the train, BART officials said.

During the shut-down, which was during peak commute hours, an AC Transit bus bridge was used to bypass the Bayfair station.

Sexual Assault Bill Backed by DA Signed into Law by Brown

Last month, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 3118, sponsored by Alameda County DA Nancy O'Malley, that will once and for all provide an accurate and full accounting of all backlogged sexual assault kits throughout California. This law puts the state a step closer to ending the decades-old backlog of sexual assault kits.

AB 3118 requires a statewide audit of police agencies, hospitals, crime labs, and any other facility that handles or stores sexual assault kits to get a definitive count of the backlog in California and submit that count to the California Department of Justice by July 1, 2019.

In 2011, extensive work by the DA's office revealed that there were close to 2,000 untested sexual assault kits in Alameda County, still sitting in police evidence rooms. The process of testing all of these kits for a foreign DNA profile to upload into the databases has been completed in Alameda County.

Prior to AB 3118, California law stated that law enforcement agencies "should" transfer rape kit evidence to the appropriate forensic laboratory within 20 days and that laboratories "should" process evidence as soon as possible, but no later than 120 days. Just two jurisdictions of

eight surveyed in 2017 reported full compliance with the intent of the law. What that means for survivors of sexual assault is that they are not receiving equal access to justice, O'Malley said.

"For years, I have been fighting to assure an accurate accounting of backlogged sexual assault kits and to eliminate the backlog of these kits," said O'Malley in a written statement. "Ultimately, it is vital that California never again sees any backlog in the testing of this vital forensic evidence."

The audit required in AB 3118 will provide a definitive answer to the actual number of kits that remain to be tested in California. It is vital to survivors, prosecutors, and law enforcement that this count takes place. Until

cities and counties have a precise count on the number of kits that are yet to be tested, they cannot clear the remaining backlogs and victims cannot seek justice for the crimes committed against them.

AB 3118 is the fourth bill sponsored by the Alameda County DA's Office specifically addressing the issue of the sexual assault kit backlog.

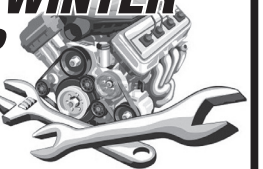
"When these kits sit untested, survivors are denied justice and perpetrators go undetected," said O'Malley. "We will continue to work alongside our partners to ensure that timely testing is enacted. We must do all we can to make sure that California protects survivors of sexual assault and identifies those who commit sexual violence."

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NEIGHBORS



Professional singers from the San Francisco opera company and students from Bay Elementary were part of the cast of *The Elixir of Love*. First Row: (left to right) Mariah Roark, Johanna Vicera, Avie Avila, and Deena Nguyen. Second Row: Tona Martin, Nayeli Rodriguez, Aaron Attebury, Travis McKnight, Isaiah Amezcua. Third Row: Alessandra Buenrostro, Alex Williams, Jonah Shelton. Fourth Row: San Francisco Opera Singers Jason Sartan, Michael Belle, Ellen Leslie.

Opera Comes to Bay Elementary School

Bay Elementary School enjoyed the performance on Oct. 24, of the comic opera, *The Elixir of Love* composed by Italian composer, Gaetano Donizetti.

The cast included three professional singers from the San Francisco Opera Company, twelve fifth graders, and the Bay School choir.

The Bay School PTA and the East Bay Chapter of the San Francisco Opera a La Carte Education Program provided scholarships to make this performance possible for the third through fifth grades. The student cast and choir were prepared by their music teacher, Mrs. Barbara Barrett.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

❖ **Talk & Book Signing by Prof. Paul Ortiz**
The San Leandro Public Library

presents a talk and book signing with University of Florida Professor Paul Ortiz, the author of

An African American and Latinx History of the United States on Saturday, Dec. 1, from noon to 1 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Ortiz is a graduate of San Leandro High School and his non-fictional work is a recipient of the 2018 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Book Award. The book is an intersectional history of the shared struggle for African American and Latinx civil rights and argues that Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa were integral to the development of democracy in the United States.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ **San Leandro LeTip Meeting**

Come see how LeTip can help your business sales grow. Meetings are held every Thursday at 7 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 1803 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. LeTip is a professional organization whose purpose is the exchange of business leads. Each business category can only be represented by only one person. For more information, call Robert West at 912-0555.

❖ **5th Mistletoe Madness Craft Fair**

The 5th Annual Mistletoe Madness craft fair with 100 percent handmade items will be held on Saturday, Nov. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. A 50-50 raffle supports CASA Kids. For more information, visit www.mistletoemadness.net.

❖ **St. Leander's 34th Annual Sport Show**

The Meridians of St. Leander Church are sponsoring their 34th annual Sport Show on Saturday, Nov. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ryan-O'Connell Hall, 575 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro, across from the SL BART station. A variety of vintage sports memorabilia (1880-2018) will be for sale. Proceeds from the show will benefit St. Leander parish and local charities. Door prizes will be given away. General admission is \$4 for those under 10 or over 65 admission is \$2. For more information, call Mark at 538-6245.

❖ **Hayward Area Museum of History**

The exhibit *Day of the Dead 2018* will be on view through Nov. 25, at the Hayward Area History Museum, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. This year's exhibition presents all forms of ofrendas from community members, from traditional altars to innovative sculptures. Some artworks highlight big moments in a loved one's life while others illustrate the impact of an historical figure. All show the many ways that Day of the Dead is celebrated. Admission is free.

❖ **Eden Garden Club**

The Eden Garden Club will meet on Monday, Nov. 26, at 9:30 a.m. at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. The speaker will be Scott Bigelow of Wicked Gardens Nursery in Castro Valley, who will share with us his creative garden art and arrangements. Meetings are free and guests are always welcome. For more information, call 397-1268.

❖ **Free Productivity Workshops**

Celebrate You Coaching will offer free adult lifestyle workshops and provide the best tips to reach personal goals at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Topics include Time Management and Identifying High Performance Patterns. The interactive and goal orientating workshops for men and women help to optimize time, skills, and talents in the workplace will be on three dates: Time Management Part I on Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Time Management Part 2 on Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; and Identifying High Performance Patterns on Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. More information can be found at www.celebrateyoucoaching.com

❖ **SLZ Heritage Society Christmas Boutique**

The San Lorenzo Heritage Society will present Holiday Treasures, Christmas gifts and more on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association 377 Paseo Grande in the Bohannon room.

❖ **Creekside Craft Show**

The 15th annual Creekside Craft Show will be

on Friday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Creekside Community Church, 951 MacArthur Blvd. in San Leandro. This year's show will benefit Mercy Brown Bag Program – seniors helping feed low-income seniors in need. The craft show is free of charge, food and drink is available for sale each day and includes a raffle that will take place at 4 p.m. on Dec. 1. Plenty of parking and all are welcome. The 5th Annual "Chili Cook-Off" will take place on Friday, Dec. 1 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with 10 chefs compete in a fiery competition all for a good cause. \$5 advance ticket or \$7 donation at the door until the chili runs out. Proceeds from the Chili Cook Off also benefit Mercy Brown Bag Program.

❖ **Estudillo Estates Holiday Stroll**

The Estudillo Estates Holiday Stroll will be on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. on MacArthur Blvd., between Estudillo and Dutton ave. Come for an afternoon of activities, treats and holiday cheer, and help local neighbors in need by bringing a donation to a participating local business for the food and toy collection, which will go to the Davis Street Family Resource Center. Wine and beer tasting, food tasting, holiday shopping, kids activities, live music and more.

❖ **SL Readers Roundtable Meeting**

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable meets Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 pm at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, to discuss *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi's story of two half-sisters in 18th-century Ghana. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the Library's Booktique bookstore.

❖ **Auditions for Children in Gypsy Musical**

San Leandro High School will produce the musical, *Gypsy*, the first two weekends in April, 2019. Auditions for children will be held on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at the high school theatre, 2200 Bancroft Ave. Roles for boys and girls between 8 and 12 years old. Prepare part of a song (not from *Gypsy*) and bring sheet music in your key. A short dance routine will be taught. Wear clothes and shoes you can move in. After school rehearsals begin Jan. 28. For more information email: Sue Ellen Nelsen, director.springshow@gmail.com

❖ **Corvallis School Holiday Boutique**

Corvallis School, 14790 Corvallis St. in San Leandro, will have a Holiday Boutique on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with raffles, refreshments and local vendors. Help those in need by bringing a toy, canned food item or a clean used coat. Receive a raffle ticket for every item you bring. Admission is free. For booth information, email Corvalliselementarypta@gmail.com.

❖ **SL Boys & Girls Club's Annual Crab Feed**

The San Leandro Boys & Girls Club's annual crab feed will be on Saturday, Jan. 12, at the club's facility at 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, salad and French bread. The event is "Assigned Seating Only" and always sells out, so purchase your tickets early. For tickets or more information, call Bob Glotch at the Boys & Girls Club at 483-5581 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Proceeds support the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, which provides educational and enrichment after-school programs for 1,200 children per day at 12 sites in San Leandro and San Lorenzo.

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.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Keep your feelings to yourself as you work through an awkward circumstance. Complaining is useless, and also unwise since your words could come back to haunt you.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A sudden flash of Bovine practicality shows you how you might be able to turn your artistic pursuits into a profitable venture. A spouse or partner offers some sage advice.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be prepared with several "Plan Bs" that you might have to use as backups just in case you encounter some troublesome complications with your carefully constructed schedule.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might think you'll never have a free moment again with the demands of the workplace piling on. Cheer up. The pressure eases as holiday time nears. An old friend brings good news.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your Leonine pride might make it difficult to offer an apology to a co-worker you unintentionally offended. But a quick and sincere "I'm sorry" could prevent problems down the line.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to tackle those backed-up chores that have kept you from moving into other and potentially more worthwhile projects. A personal matter needs your attention.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You usually have no problem rushing to the defense of someone you perceive as being treated unjustly. But perceptions could be deceiving this week. Check the facts before you act.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Before you point fingers at who might be to blame for the unexpected change in your plans, take a few moments to reflect on how this turn of events might be a blessing in disguise.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You seek out advice in the first part of the week. But be careful not to let counsel from others overshadow your own sense of perception. Things become clearer by the week's end.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The trusted colleagues you relied on earlier continue to offer support with your project. But you take more control, and by the week's end, you should be in full command.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Rely on your practical side while exploring investment possibilities. Caution is still your watchword in these matters. Your social life takes a gratifying turn by the week's end.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) An already confusing situation appears to grow murkier during the first part of the week. But it all starts to clear by the week's end. Plan to spend the weekend with someone special.

REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Give Thanks, Give Relief

Thanksgiving is here with grocery markets packed with turkeys and Black Friday emails appearing every few seconds. With fires raging across California, however, many are approaching Thanksgiving grateful to simply be alive.

With the Wine County devastation still fresh in our minds, an even darker chapter is being written in our State's history books as the record number of fatalities and homes lost in Butte County continues to climb. As the smoke lingers in the Bay Area, our thoughts and prayers are with those who are facing these horrific times.

The hazy skies we've seen the past few weeks are a reminder that, while the destruction is miles away, we, as one family here in California, are still integrally connected to those suffering losses and can play a part in

their recovery. The Realtors of the Central County urge you, this Thanksgiving, to provide the gift of hope.

As was the case with the fires in the Santa Rosa region, support organizations are primarily asking for financial contributions instead of clothes, furniture or other items: funds are critical so that those affected can purchase immediate needs. As always, when disaster occurs, the potential for fraud is escalated, so we encourage vigilance when providing relief so that the funds go to reputable organizations.

Organizations that are helping include:

• **The American Red Cross:** www.redcross.org

From their website: HOW YOU CAN HELP. Entire communities and families have been left reeling from these deadly wildfires. Help people affected by the California wildfires by visiting redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or texting the word CAWILDFIRES to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donations enable the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to, and help people recover from these disasters.

• **The Salvation Army:** www.deloro.salvationarmy.org/del_oro/camp-fire-response

From their website: Monetary donations are needed at this time. If you would like to support our immediate response efforts, make an online gift here, or call

1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769). Donations by mail may be designated "Camp Fire" and sent to: The Salvation Army, PO Box 348000, Sacramento, CA 95834

• **United Way of Northern California:** www.norcal-unitedway.org or text BUTTEFIRE to 91999.

If you are looking for other organizations to support, a quick internet search for "Butte County Fire Relief" will bring up a number of organizations that have mobilized to provide help. While the fires have made this a season many want to forget, our generosity can make this a time to remember.

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.

Mortgage Rates Stabilize

After that big jump, mortgage rates moderated last week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.94 percent last week, unchanged from the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.95 percent.

Fifteen-year home loans averaged 4.36 percent, up from 4.33 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 4.14 percent, unchanged from last week.



14829 Wake Avenue • San Leandro • \$597,000

Come see this lovely 2-bedroom starter home with so many upgrades, which include a major kitchen remodel with quartz counter tops, a bathroom remodel, updated electrical, copper pipes, updated windows and sliding glass door, updated floors, and so much more. The home also features a bonus room, and an open and inviting backyard with a beautiful refinished deck. You won't want to miss it! Open Sundays 11/25 & 12/2, from 1-4 pm. For more information contact The Lovewell Team, of Re/Max Accord, at (510)351-5555.



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CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	—	1-3	14868 Towers St.	\$698,000	3/1.5	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt Jones	510-357-0120
A	—	1-4	14829 Wake Ave.	\$597,000	2/1	Re/Max Accord	Louise Lovewell	510-351-5555

CITY GUIDE

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L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • O = OAKLAND • P = PLEASANTON • S = SHEFFIELD VILLAGE • W = WALNUT CREEK



All real estate advertised in the San Leandro Times is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, marital status, national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The San Leandro Times will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate that is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



WEEKEND GARDENER

Spray

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

Mulch

Renew mulches under grapes and berries. Strawberries and blueberries benefit from loose, acid mulches such as pine needles or rotted sawdust. Raspberries and blackberries prefer hay or straw mulch. Remove mulch from under trees back to the drip line. Bare soil can more easily absorb the day's warmth. This also discourages overwintering of disease-carrying bacteria and insects.

Vegetables

Cool-season perennial vegetables may be planted now — artichokes, asparagus and rhubarb.



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SENIORS

Will Mom Lose Her SSI and Medi-Cal If She Sells Home?

Q My mother, who receives Social Security, SSI and Medi-Cal, is thinking of selling her home and either buying a smaller condo, or possibly moving into a spare room in our home. When she sells her home, will she lose her any of her benefits?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

A She won't lose her Social Security, because eligibility does not depend upon her income or other resources, but her Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") and Medi-Cal are at risk unless she plans ahead.

As you probably know, eligibility for both SSI and Medi-Cal depends upon her

having very modest resources.

For a single individual, one cannot have more than \$2,000 in savings or other nonexempt resources in order to maintain eligibility.

The problem: upon sale of her home, she will receive sales proceeds which will inflate her savings to an amount far in excess of that \$2,000 resource ceiling. She would then be "over resourced" and would be legally required to immediately notify both the SSI and Medi-Cal programs.

Benefits would normally terminate on the following month. However, if she plans ahead, there may be steps she can take to avoid losing her benefits:

Repurchase "Grace Periods"

If she plans to repurchase another home, say a smaller condo, she could take advantage of grace periods under each program to temporarily exempt the home sale proceeds, pending repurchase of a replacement home.

During those grace periods, she would maintain eligibility. There is a three-month grace period to do so

under the SSI program and a six-month grace period under the Medi-Cal program.

The key is to proactively advise her eligibility workers of her plans, keep the home sale proceeds segregated until the repurchase, and fully complete the repurchase within the grace periods.

Unfortunately, the grace period under the SSI program is shorter than it is under the Medi-Cal program, so she would be best advised to complete her repurchase within the shorter grace period.

If she does not plan to repurchase a replacement home, or if she anticipates having excess sales proceeds after she does so, then the planning becomes a bit more complicated. Yet doing so is still essential to maintaining benefit eligibility, at least under the Medi-Cal program. Here are some planning options that would protect her Medi-Cal eligibility, although there is some question as to whether they would also protect her SSI.

Irrevocable "House" Trust: Before selling her home, she could create an

irrevocable house trust, designate you as trustee, and sell it inside that trust. The sales proceeds would then be paid to you, as trustee, rather than to your mother. If handled properly, the sales proceeds would then not increase her countable resources under at least the Medi-Cal program. After sale, you – as trustee – could use those proceeds to assist mother with her ongoing expenses.

Join Pooled SNT: Another option would be for mom to join an existing Pooled Special Needs Trust ("P-SNT") and, upon sale, immediately transfer the proceeds (or the excess proceeds) into the P-SNT.

The P-SNT is a trust man-

aged by a non-profit organization for the benefit of its members on public benefits. Its professional trustee would oversee management of mother's funds and would use them to pay her expenses, albeit in a manner that would not undermine her continuing eligibility for at least Medi-Cal.

The key for your mother's situation is to plan ahead. If she does so, then the prospects of her retaining at least her Medi-Cal are excellent.

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



English High Tea At Senior Center

The Aitken Senior Center at 17800 Redwood Road in Castro Valley will take a break from the hectic holiday season with a traditional English High Tea from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14. Purchase a table for 4 and decorate it with your own linens, china, silverware and teapot (Individual tickets also available). The Senior Center provides the tea and scrumptious treats plus entertainment and a raffle for \$12 per person. Reservations are required. Buy tickets now as this event will sell out.

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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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*MP CONCRETE. Driveways, Patio, Retaining Walls, Stamped Concrete, Asphalt, Hauling. Lic.#1004427. Milo 510-502-9336.
*NAI CONCRETE & LANDSCAPING Patios, Driveways, Walkways, Asphalt, Foundations, Stamp-Concrete, Paving, Retaining Walls, Paving, Landscaping, Sprinklers, Tree Service, Drainage, Fencing. Lic.#570826. 510-967-2447.

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California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State Law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. Advertisers appearing on this page without a license number indicate that the contractor is not licensed. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800) 321-2752. Unlicensed contractors taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

We REAAALLLY appreciate our many Readers who support our Advertisers! Patrick V.

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Also: **Limited Time Offer!** You can run a FREE 15 word “Employment Wanted” ad. Ad runs in the San Leandro Times & Castro Valley Forum. Call 510-614-1558 to place an ad or for more info. (Some restrictions may apply)

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- Thank you -

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MOTION-PETITION TO ESTABLISH THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION
(GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 6020)
Case No: RG18907355
Date: 12-13-18
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept: 511
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

by the **EAST BAY PUBLISHING CORPORATION**, a California Corporation dba "THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES" has filed in the above entitled Court a Verified Petition requesting that the Court adjudicate that "THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES" is a newspaper of general circulation. You are further notified that Petitioner has alleged in its Petition that it is the owner and publisher of "THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES", and that it has been established and published at regular intervals in the City of San Leandro since 1991 in excess of the statutory requirement of one (1) year (see Government Code Section 6000) preceding the filing of the Petition. You are further notified that Petitioner has further alleged that the newspaper is one of general circulation, published for dissemination of local and wire-service news of a general character, and that the newspaper has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers. You are further notified that on the filing of the Petition, the above entitled Court directed that notice be given by publication for successive days in "THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES" and the "INTER-CITY EXPRESS" together with a Notice of the time when the Petition would be heard. You are further notified that on December 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Petitioner will apply to the above-entitled Court 24405 Amador St., Hayward, CA 94544, for the Order and relief requested in the petition. Respectfully submitted
DIANA REDDING LAW
DATED: September 18, 2018
By: /s/DIANA REDDING, Attorney for EAST BAY PUBLISHING CORPORATION, a California Corporation dba THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES
DIANA REDDING, ESQ., CSB #232027
DIANA REDDING LAW
2500 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
Telephone (510) 426-8744
Facsimile (510) 523-9516
Attorney for EAST BAY PUBLISHING CORPORATION, a California corporation dba THE SAN LEANDRO TIMES
10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6/18

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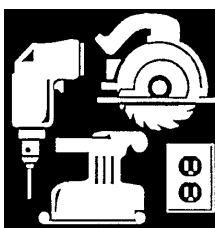
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Food Bank: Donations welcome

continued from front page

Aside from the barrels, the bank can turn one dollar in cash into six dollars worth of food because of deals they have set up with farms and food companies. That's how they get a lot of their fresh produce.

Lorma Pascua was bagging dozens of Granny Smith apples as a chaperone for a group of high school students who were volunteering at the food bank to earn some community service hours.

"They are earning credit from their school, but it's not really about that," said Pascua. "It's about helping and that's really fulfilling."

After the food is sorted, volunteers take carts and wander

though the food bank's large warehouse selecting items. After "shopping," the food is boxed and distributed to 240 Alameda County soup kitchens, shelters, and programs.

The food bank uses the monetary donations to buy perishable items such as meat, milk, and fresh produce.

The food bank says the grocery items they need the most are canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and fish, peanut butter, pasta and tomato sauce, beans, rice, soups, cereals and powdered milk.

A "virtual food drive" on the food bank's website allows people to shop and choose individual items at an online grocery store and then pay with a credit card, so they can choose exactly what they want to give.

The website also has information on the bank's "share our holiday" program which allows people to link their friends and family to give a donation to the food bank in lieu of giving them holiday gifts.

Also coming up is "Giving Tuesday," which is set for Jan. 1, 2019. It was created as a kind of antidote to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. At the food bank, they have a group of generous donors lined up who will match the cash donations that are collected from the public on that day, up to \$50,000.

"I think New Years Day is going to be one of the biggest

giving days of the year," said Altfest. "It's exciting."

Donors can drop nonperishable foods in one of the 300 barrels that have been placed in grocery stores and other shops all over the county or make an online contribution at the food bank's website (www.accfb.org), or by sending a check to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, P.O. Box 2599, Oakland, CA 94614.

To volunteer at the food bank, visit the acfb.org website. Individuals, church groups, schools, and companies are all welcome to volunteer.

And if you need food, call (800) 870-FOOD and you will be referred to a source that can provide groceries and hot meals, usually the same day. The Alameda County Food Bank makes over 3,000 referrals each month.



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Ready to Roll

If somebody at the Washington Club has a designated driver, they're traveling in style in this old Ford that's been around since the speakeasy days.

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FD 442

Arc: Lending a hand

continued from front page

Camp Fire. Clothes, shoes, diapers, even inflatable mattresses donated by the Coleman Company, headed north to the fire zone.

But the one difference in this donation shipment is that the supplies were all put together by people with disabilities.

"Even people with disabilities can lend a hand," said Ron Luter, CEO at Arc of the East Bay. "They've learned the skills and now it's time to help."

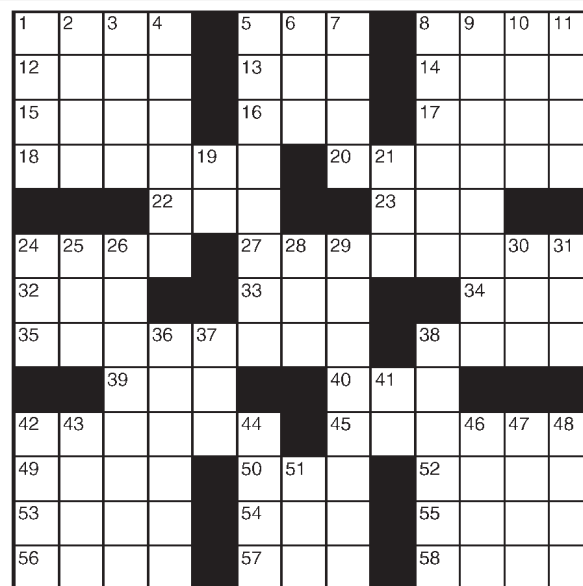
Luter said that he plans to have a meeting to let Arc's clients know the role they played in helping people in need.

The 21 local chapters of The Arc advocate for the rights of children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. They provide job training, employment, respite care, education, housing and health services in California and throughout the United States with a total of 650 local chapters.

Alta Mira Club to Host Holiday Tea

(cal) The Alta Mira Club, 561 8, at noon. Tickets are \$25. For Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, reservations, call Linda Klass at will host its annual Lucille Kline 914-5684 or Isabel Polvorosa at Holiday Tea on Saturday, Dec. 483-2073.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD



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- 48 Laugh-a-minute
- 51 Carnival city

LOCAL DEATHS

Darlene Renee (Masloski) Castro

February 23, 1935 - November 3, 2018

Darlene Renee (Masloski) Castro, age 83, of Castro Valley, CA, formerly a long-time resident of San Leandro, CA passed away peacefully on November 3, 2018. Born in Minneapolis, MN on February 23, 1935, she spent her childhood in Shakopee, MN, later relocating to Oakland, CA at age 12. She became a graduate of Castle-mont High School in 1953. Marrying the love of her life, Toney Castro on July 16, 1955, the couple settled in San Leandro where they raised their two sons; Michael and Robert. They spent more than 40 years in San Leandro before relocating to Castro Valley.

She was an admirable and dedicated worker, employed by EBMUD and our family owned business, Bay Area Mattress, for many years before retiring. As a devoted and loving mother, she was very proud of her family and excited to become a grandmother, and a great-grandmother to many. She was known for her nurturing spirit and was referred to as the "glue" of the family. Making sure everyone felt welcomed and loved was always her priority. She enjoyed cooking and hosting family get-togethers; any chance to spend time with loved ones was important to her. She will be deeply missed by all that knew her and will live in our hearts forever.

Darlene is survived by her two children, Michael and Robert Castro of Castro Valley; her two siblings, Judy Wonsavage and Ron Masloski on MN; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family. Darlene was preceded in death by her husband, Toney; and her brother, Pudge.

Share your stories of remembrance on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, 2490 Grove Way, Castro Valley from 12 - 2 p.m. Interment will be held privately by the family on a later date.



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 further assistance, call 510-614-1555.

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Trees: Residents having city-owned trees cut down in front of their houses

continued from front page

a yard and trees planted along a curb.

Either way, if the tree isn't yours, keep your hands off it because plans are in the works to hold a City Council vote to raise the current fine from \$100 to up to \$5,000 plus the cost of a mature replacement tree, which can be hundreds more.

Pollart presented plans for higher fines at a City Council meeting earlier this month.

"This is something that happens quite a bit," said Pollart of people cutting down trees. "We investigate and pursue those who do it, but it's still happening. Not only does the \$100 fine not cover the staff time to investigate a violation, it doesn't cover the cost of the replacement tree."

The city's tree staff consists of four people who maintain over 20,000 street trees annually. If you ever see anything wrong with a tree, don't hesitate to call Public Works, Pollart said.

Sometimes people do something as simple as chopping a branch or trimming treetops, but the city pays attention and if that tree dies from the trim even months later, public works staff is going to show up with a bill for the homeowner.

And because most tree-trimming

professionals know not to touch city-owned trees, people do it themselves or hire non-licensed workers, so they are more apt to hurt the tree.

"We also investigate trees that have been hacked on, for lack of a better word," said Pollart.

The money collected from the fines could go to buying replacement trees.

The replacements aren't necessarily planted where the old tree used to be for the very practical reason that someone who has already chopped down one tree has shown pretty clearly that they aren't interested in having a tree on or near their property.

"We don't impose planting a tree if the property owner doesn't want it," said Pollart.

The issue, Pollart says, is that some people think the \$100 fine is worth getting rid of a tree they find to be a nuisance for whatever reason.

"The one glaring omission (to the current tree ordinance) is having a fine with a little bit of sting to it," said Pollart. "I've had property owners flat out tell me 'Go ahead and charge me \$100, it's worth it for me to get rid of a tree I don't want.'"

If San Leandro raises the tree fee, it will join other cities with more expen-



Pictured is an example of an illegally cut tree in San Leandro from the Public Works Department.

sive fines.

Livermore charges the value of the tree, or \$5,000 if value is unknown, and San Jose charges up to \$15,000. The city of Rancho Cordova threatens violators with up to six months in jail. The actual fine is limited to \$5,000 but because replacement costs can be many thousands more, violators could be out a lot of money.

Sign Up for Boys & Girls Club Basketball

The Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro is taking sign-ups for its Winter 2019 instructional basketball program for all boys and girls in grades 3 through 6. The league begins in January.

The basketball program is designed to give players a fun and competitive experience. Each player is evaluated prior to being assigned to a team so that all teams have a balanced number of

veterans and rookies.

All players are required to play two quarters per game, so all players have an opportunity to be on the court and part of the action.

All practices and games are held at the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro, 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro.

The basketball program fee is \$85 for current "After School" registered mem-

bers or \$95 for all others and includes uniforms and awards.

The Boys & Girls Club is also looking for volunteer coaches for the program.

For more information on the program or if you are interested in volunteering as a coach please contact Ross Lim, at 483-5581 or via e-mail at rosslim89@gmail.com.

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.

Informed Voters' Participation Vital to Preserve Democracy

Editor:

Nationwide, 85% of eligible Americans registered to vote, but only 49% actually voted in the 2018 general election. A majority of votes determines who runs our governments, yet that majority represented only 21% of eligible Americans.

If you didn't vote, don't complain about government policy.

If you think all politicians are corrupt and you didn't vote your politician out of office, you are part of the corruption.

Many non-voters don't like to talk about politics or public policy. This hinders our democracy's intention to represent the will of the people on issues like government services, environmental protection, taxation, jobs, economic prosperity, civil rights and personal safety. Non-voters probably don't read letters-to-the-editor

either.

Where can one go to have civil discussions about the public policies that affect us?

We should create attractive venues, where expressing political opinions and hearing others' is a civic pleasure.

Participation by informed voters is necessary to prevent authoritarian rule by rich bullies.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

Calls Out GOP for Suppressing Votes of People of Color

Editor:

The results of the mid-term elections in North Dakota, Georgia, and Florida, show that the Republicans are creating voter suppression against people of color.

In North Dakota, the Republican-led state legislators and governor passed a racist photo ID law prior to the election, that makes it harder for American Indians to

vote because they do not have the proper form of identification.

In Georgia, Secretary of State, Brian Kemp — running for governor — eliminated half of the voting roll of African Americans in some parts of the state. In Florida in the race for the U.S. Senate, the outgoing governor, Rick Scott tried to stop the vote count of every Floridian. The Republican's attack on voting rights are undemocratic and shows a display of dictatorship.

—Billy Trice Jr.
Oakland

The Blame for the Flames?

Editor:

Who is to blame for flames that scorch, For fires that will destroy your porch? And nearly everything you own, Your furniture and landline phone.

If you can't breathe and you can't see, Blame it all on P G & E.

—George Z. Banks
San Leandro

INQUIRING REPORTER

What are you thankful for?

— Asked around town

I'm thankful I'm still breathing.

I used to smoke but I don't anymore. And I'm thankful for my family and my husband.

Bobette Fleury
San Leandro



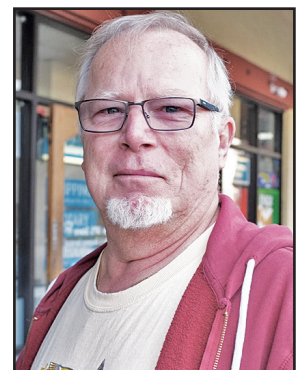
Right now, after my illness, I'm thankful to still be alive. And for my great-grandchildren, my family, and I'm thankful to be in San Leandro.

O.B. Badger
San Leandro



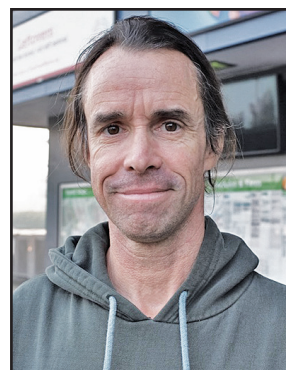
I'm thankful that we still have freedom here in America — voting and being able to say what's on your mind, and giving thanks.

Jeff Perkins
San Leandro



I'm thankful for the health of my son. He and my wife are both from Ethiopia. And for my family who have always helped me out.

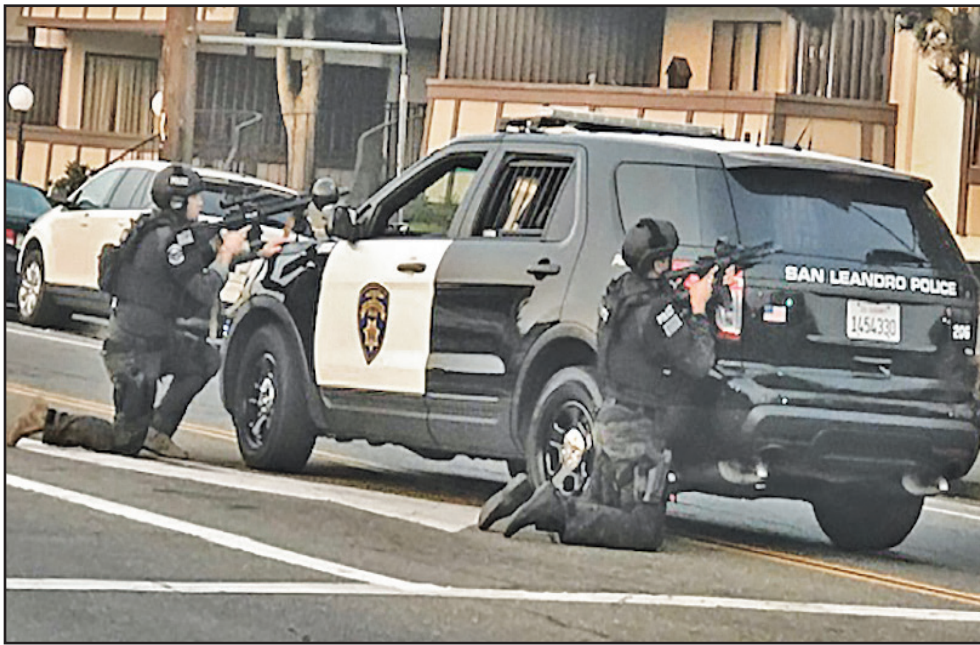
Daniel Crew
Castro Valley



I'm thankful for my family and for being able to go to school to study nursing. And just for being here today.

Kelly Ferrante
San Leandro





PHOTOS BY RICHARD MELLOR

Police pointed assault rifles at an apartment building and brought in an armored SWAT vehicle on Monday evening.

Police with Armored Vehicle, Rifles Surround Apartment on Bancroft

Police in military gear with an armored vehicle stood by in front of an apartment building on Bancroft Avenue on Monday evening.

The San Leandro police were assisting another agency with a search warrant, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

Benabou said there were “no issues” during the search, the person wasn’t at the residence at the time, and the other agency is continuing its investigation.

— By Jim Knowles



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The South Offices building (left) will be remodeled as part of the police station (right).

Station: Former CCT theater to become police/public meeting room

continued from front page

lieutenant’s locker room, supervisor offices, and staff restroom. The new facilities will include gym with gender neutral showers, skylights, conference room, break room, and interview room, Cooke said.

The project will also involve converting the old California Conservatory Theater into the “Surleen Grant Public Meeting Room,” named after the city’s first African American woman

City Council member.

The space at 999 East 14th Street was leased by the city to California Conservatory Theatre group from 1978 to 2012 when the CCT shut down, saying ticket sales were down and production costs were up and they couldn’t afford to stay in business.

The new plan is for a public meeting hall that would be open for use by the police, other city departments, and available to rent out by the public.

“We are making this our high-tech meeting room that will be available to the public,” said Cooke. “We are pretty excited about that.”

Construction on the project is expected to start in early 2019 at the South Offices, and in fall of 2019 at police headquarters, with completion expected in early 2020. Because the construction is set to be done in phases, Cooke says they don’t anticipate any disruption in city services.

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