



Social Benefits

WHEN SHOULD YOU BEGIN COLLECTING YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS? 9



Dam Shored Up

WORK DELAYED AS EBMUD RETROFITS LAKE CHABOT DAM 16

WEEKEND WEATHER
CLOUDY Sunshine returns on Sunday
 HIGHS: 65-70
 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
 LOWS: 51-56

FRIDAY **SATURDAY** **SUNDAY**

San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 27 • NO. 23

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

Cherry Fest Entertainers Given Thumbs Up

Rock 'n' roll fans got up close to the stage to hear The Romantics at the Cherry Festival on Saturday. A big crowd came to hear music, meet people and buy some fresh cherries.



Copeland Brings Top Talents to Town

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

When Brian Copeland started his series of solo shows in San Leandro it was an experiment – just to see if it would work, live theater in his hometown of San Leandro.

Now in its third year, “The Best of San Francisco Solo Series” is going strong. Copeland has another eight performances lined up for later this year, all hit solo shows.

“This season has already sold more tickets than last year,”

Copeland said.

This year’s lineup includes solo shows by Will Durst, Marga Gomez, Don Reed, Julia Jackson, Josh Kornbluth, Al Letson and Copeland will perform his Christmas classic, *The Jewelry Box*.

Copeland has one criteria for including a show in the series – that it’s been a hit, either at The Marsh Theater, A.C.T., SF Fringe Festival, or the Berkeley Rep.

Tickets are sold for the entire series, not for single shows, and past subscribers were given first shot at tickets.



Brian Copeland presents his series of solo shows for the third season.

“Live solo theater is an unique art form,” said Copeland, an actor, comedian, author and

radio talk show host on KGO. Copeland’s first solo hit was *Not a Genuine Black Man*, about his family moving to San Leandro in the 1970s when it was practically an all-white town. The show won numerous awards and he’s performed it all over the world.

The solo series Copeland is producing runs from October through May in the Main Library’s lecture hall, each show running on a Friday and Saturday night and a Sunday matinee.

The success of the series see *SOLO SHOWS*, page 16

Police Shoot Driver of Stolen Van

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Two San Leandro police officers shot and wounded a suspected car thief early Sunday morning. Police would not say at this time if the man was armed.

Officers spotted a stolen van on the the 800 block of St. Mary’s Avenue at around 3 a.m., and attempted to contact the driver, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

Benabou said that, because the investigation is ongoing, he couldn’t give details at this time about what led up to the confrontation between the suspect and the officers or whether the suspect had a gun or any other weapon.

Both officers fired their guns at the suspect, who has been identified only as a 40-year-old man. He was hit by at least one bullet and the police rendered medical aid once the suspect was detained, Benabou said.

Detectives are reviewing video from the officers’ body cameras and surveillance footage from the surrounding area. Both officers are cooperating with the investigation, Benabou said.

The suspect is alert and speaking with investigators, Benabou said. The suspect was treated at a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening. Neither police officer was injured.

The Alameda County Sheriff’s crime lab and Alameda County District Attorney’s office, as well as the San Leandro police, are investigating the shooting.

“Most officers work their entire career without having the need to discharge their firearm,” said Benabou in a written statement see *SHOOTING*, page 16

School District Presents \$95 Million Budget

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

The San Leandro School district has a preliminary budget of \$95 million for the 2017-2018 school year, balanced with almost \$5 million in cuts and adjustments.

Assistant Superintendent Kevin Collins told the school board at its meeting this week that those cuts included \$1 million cut from management salaries, as well as large reduction to school supplies and other services.

The largest portion of the budget, \$77 million, goes to employee salaries and benefits.

Books and supplies cost \$2.8 million, down 11 percent over the past school year’s budget.

see *BUDGET*, page 14

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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Rose Jackson was a real Rosie the Riveter. **Page 4**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



San Leandro Times

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

EDITORIAL

Fred Zehnder
Editor and Publisher

Jim Knowles
Managing Editor
jimk@ebpublishing.com

Amy Sylvestri
City Editor
amys@ebpublishing.com

Steve Schaefer
Auto Editor

Contributing Writers

- Buzz Bertolero
- Martha Kennelly
- Mel Lavine
- Carl Medford
- Linda Sandsmark
- Maggie Sharpe

PRODUCTION

Howard Morrison
Manager

Greg Benson
Art Director

Moxie Morrison
Assistant

OPERATIONS

Claudette Morrison
Business Manager

ADVERTISING

Display Advertising
Claudette Morrison
Classified Advertising
Patrick Vadnais

HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times
2060 Washington Ave.
San Leandro, California 94577

Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Office: (510) 614-1555
Newsroom: (510) 614-1557
Sports: (510) 614-1561
Advertising: (510) 614-1555
Classified: (510) 614-1558
Fax: (510) 483-4209
Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com

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Historical Society To Host Talk About Actor M.B. Curtis

The San Leandro Historical Society presents Richard Schwartz, speaking about his new book *The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty: The Extraordinary Rise and Fall of Actor M. B. Curtis*, this Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Little Brown Church, 384 W. Estudillo Ave. (behind the Casa Peralta), San Leandro.

The presentation is free. A wine and cheese reception will follow the talk.

A story of great success and great disappointments, Curtis rose to stardom as the first American Jewish actor to portray a Jewish character on stage in America, using his charisma and comedic talents to overcome the stereotypes and prejudices of the time. But his influence spread

beyond the stage.

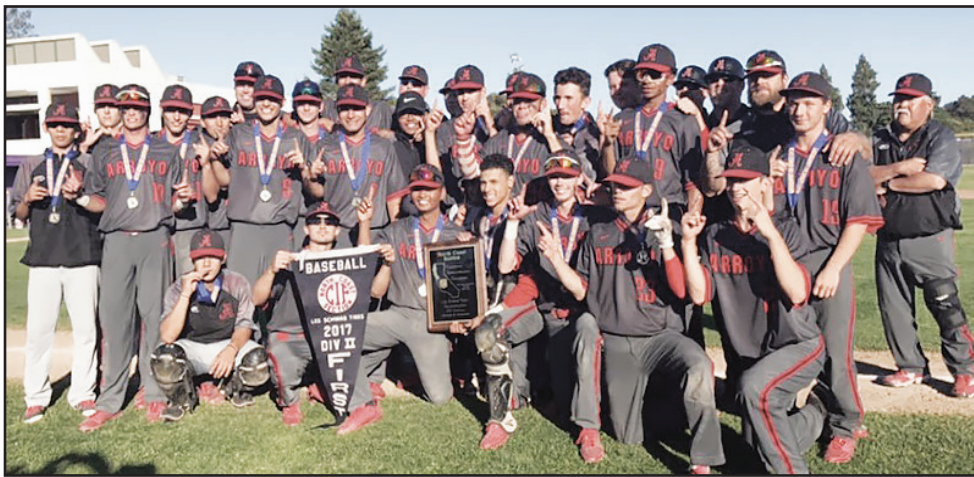
As an immigrant, he couldn't bear to see the Statue of Liberty go unlit due to congressional deadlock immediately after its dedication, so he paid to have it lit himself. In addition to paying back the country that welcomed him, Curtis had a dramatic impact on the mainstream culture of the day, so much so that Mark Twain asked him to star in a rare stage rendition of one of his books.

Curtis then became a pioneer in the nascent silent-film industry, a producer, a real estate developer, a promoter, a hotelier, a benefactor, and a murder suspect. M. B. Curtis's life encompassed the highs of celebrity and fame as well as the lows of failure, illness, and a faltering career.

Eden Japanese Community Center

The Eden Japanese Community Center, 710 Elgin St. in San Lorenzo, will have its annual bazaar on Saturday, June 10, from 3 to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, June

11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. with barbecued teriyaki chicken and rib dinner, sushi udon, chicken curry and shaved ice, plus raffle, bingo and games.



The Arroyo High baseball team celebrates after winning the NCS championship.

Arroyo Baseball Wins NCS Title

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

The Arroyo High School baseball team won the North Coast Section (NCS), Div. 2 championship with a 6-4 win over Casa Grande in Petaluma on Saturday.

The Dons went all the way this year, the first ever NCS championship for Arroyo baseball.

Arroyo starting pitcher Adrian Padilla went the distance against Casa Grande in the cham-

pionship game. Brian Tan went 2-for-3 at the plate, hit a double, and threw out a runner from left field.

To reach the NCS championship, the Dons beat Tamalpais of Mill Valley, 3-0, as Brian Tan threw a complete game shutout, allowing just two hits and striking out eight batters. Josh Romero drove in a pair of runs, and the Dons played great defense, said Arroyo head coach Eric Anderson.

Arroyo had another good defensive game in the NCS second

round, a 1-0 shutout of Alameda. Padilla pitched a complete game and Tan drove in the decisive run.

In the NCS first round, Arroyo beat Newark Memorial, 14-1, as Tan threw a 1-hitter and struck out five. Logan Britto went 2-for-3 with a double and drove in three runs.

In addition to the NCS, Div. 2 championship, the Dons were this season's West Alameda County Conference (WACC) Foothill League Champions, and the Elite 8 Spring Break Tournament champions.

Freshman Football at SLHS

Incoming freshmen at San Leandro High School are invited to join the Freshman Football Team by attending tryouts to be

held at the San Leandro High School weight room on June 26, June 27, and June 30 at 3 p.m.

More information can be found online at slhs.net under the athletics tab or by calling coach Ballew at 846-6058.

SIRs Meets Monthly at Metropolitan Golf Links

SIRs, an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Wedgewood Center at the Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Drive in Oakland. Happy hour starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Come and meet new friends. For more information, call AI at 895-9900.

Correction

In the story, "Number of Homeless on the Increase," (June 1, 2017, page 5) the caption for the photo of the warming shelter had the wrong name of the church that hosts the shelter. It should have said the First United Methodist Church on Bancroft Avenue.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF OFD

Child Airlifted from Lake Chabot

A child had to be airlifted from Lake Chabot last weekend. The 11-year-old was at a campsite at the park Saturday morning at around 11 a.m. and sustained injuries in a vehicle collision, according to the Oakland Fire Department. The Oakland and Alameda County fire departments were both involved in the rescue and the child's injuries are not life-threatening.

Motorcyclist Killed on I-880

A motorcyclist was killed Tuesday afternoon after crashing into two vans while driving northbound on I-880 just south of the Davis Street exit.

The motorcyclist has been identified as Matthew Newman, 33, of San Ramon and he died at the scene shortly after 4 p.m.,

according to the California Highway Patrol.

The CHP said Newman was lane splitting when he hit a Ford van and then a Volkswagen van and was ejected from his motorcycle.

The CHP is investigating the cause of the collision. Neither

driver of the vans was injured.

The crash caused a Sig Alert as the two left lanes of I-880 to be closed for around two hours Tuesday which stalled the evening commute.

The CHP is asking anyone who may have witnessed the collision to call them at 489-1500.

Arrests Made in Senior Scam Case

Four people were arrested on the 1600 block of Morgan Avenue last week when San Leandro police served a search warrant at their home.

One suspect had an arrest warrant and was taken into custody and the police obtained a search warrant and made three additional arrests at the home, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police de-

partment.

Police say the people who were arrested are all related and had taken part in various scams against seniors, and were arrested for crimes including theft and preexisting warrants.

Benabou said crimes against seniors are common.

"This is that San Leandro has been experiencing for years," said Benabou. "When people are nice or maybe a bit naive, they fall for it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY DA'S OFFICE

DA's Office Summer Law Clerks Hit the Court

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office office welcomed the 2017 class of summer law clerks last week. The second year law students from schools around the Bay Area will be doing a ten week rotation as part of the DA's summer program.

And first year law students have until July 1 to apply for next year's clerk program.

The program provides clerks with the opportunity to experience the varied and complex work that prosecutors do first hand.

They also receive training and

mentorship from experienced trial attorneys.

Under attorney supervision, the clerks conduct many different types of evidentiary hearings, including misdemeanor jury trials.

If you are currently a first year law student interested in the 2018 program, submit a cover letter, resume, and transcript no later than July 1 for the 2018 Summer Law Clerk Program.

For those in the Bay Area, the DA's office will start interviewing at law schools in early fall semester.

For more information about

the program, visit the Recruitment and Development page of

the DA's office website, www.alcoda.org.

The Platters • Thursday, June 15

Herb Reeds Platters debut single, Only You, launched the vocal group onto the world stage. The follow-up single, The Great Pretender, propelled The Platters to the number-one position on the pop charts. Both tracks have since been declared songs of the 21st century by the Grammy Music Hall of Fame.

Doors Open at 7:30pm • Show at 8pm
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Fire On the Train Tracks

Alameda County Firefighters put out a one-alarm fire on the train tracks near 2050 Williams Street on Tuesday afternoon just before 5 p.m. There were no reports of injuries or damage to structures. The cause of the fire is undetermined and an investigation is ongoing.

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510-914-0854 Across the street from Eden Hospital

BART Crime Map

The BART Police Department is now sharing reports of crimes on the website www.CrimeMapping.com. The site will process the crime data to show where the crime has occurred within the BART system.

Users can access the information by entering a station name in the search box. The service is free and available to everyone.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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NEIGHBORS



Rosie the Riveter Celebrates Her 96th Birthday

Rose Jackson celebrated her 96th birthday at Scott's seafood restaurant in Jack London Square last month. Rose was a Rosie the Riveter in World War II, working at the shipyards in Richmond as a welder, building Liberty Ships. In the photo (clockwise from left) are Rose's granddaughter Erin Thrall, Nelly Wong, son Mike Thrall, her husband Bill Jackson, and Rose.

IN THE SERVICE

■ **Army Spc. Jonah A. Maier**
Army Spc. Jonah A. Maier was deployed overseas in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a demonstration of continued U.S. commitment to collective security through a series of actions designed to reassure NATO allies and partners of America's dedication to enduring peace and stability in the region in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine.

Since April 2014, Army Europe has led land forces efforts on behalf of the U.S. military,

by conducting continuous, enhanced multinational training and security cooperation activities with allies and partners in eastern Europe. These activities are taking place in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary.

He is a 2017 graduate of San Lorenzo High School in San Lorenzo.

■ Airman 1st Class Delila M. Prado-Bejar

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Delila M. Prado-Bejar

graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Prado-Bejar is the daughter of **Monica Bejar** of Hayward, Calif. She is a 2011 graduate of San Lorenzo High School in San Lorenzo.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): A heads-up alert to all free-spirited Ewes and Rams: Be wary of a deal that could result in compromising your independence. Check every detail before making a commitment.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): New facts emerge that help put an irksome workplace situation in perspective. Meanwhile, pay more attention to a family member who needs your wisdom and strength.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): A slight setback in plans is nothing to worry about. Use this delay to deal with a number of matters you might have ignored for too long. Expect news from someone in your past.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): You're entering a period of stability. Use it to straighten out any outstanding problems related to a very personal situation. Also, pay closer attention to financial matters.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): As much as you love being a social Lion, you might well benefit from staying out of the spotlight for a while. You need time to reflect on some upcoming decisions.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A difficult family situation improves, thanks to your timely intervention. You can now start to focus more of your attention on preparing for a possible career change.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): An on-the-job change works to your benefit by offering new opportunities. It's up to you to check them out. Meanwhile, a stalled romantic situation starts up again.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): That flare-up of Scorpion temperament cools down, leaving you more receptive to suggestions about changes that might need to be made in your personal life.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): An unusual period of indecisiveness is a mite frustrating. But things soon clear up, allowing the sage Sagittarian to make those wise pronouncements again.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You might feel that you know best, but it's not a good idea at this time to try to force your opinions on others. Best advice: Inspire change by example, not by intimidation.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Some setbacks could affect your plans to fortify your financial situation. But things start moving again by early next week. Meanwhile, enjoy your resurgent social life.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Show that often-hidden steely spine of yours as you once again stand up to an emotional bully. You've got the strength to do it, especially as friends rally to your side.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

❖ Workshop for Democrats

The Alameda County Democratic Party will present a free workshop for Democrats thinking of running for office on Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, 1720 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. Panels will explore personal and family impacts, campaign structure and components, fundraising, legal issues, and first steps. ADA accessible. RSVP required. For more information, call 629-1336 or email info@acdems.org.

❖ Hearing Loss Association Meeting

The Hearing Loss Association will meet on Saturday, June 10, refreshments start at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 a.m., at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., lower level, room G26. Attorney Steven Derby will return as guest speaker. This meeting will include a potluck lunch, please bring finger food to share at this last meeting before September. Park free on Saturday in the garage across Howe Street. For more information, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 886-4717.

❖ Japanese Community Bazaar

The Eden Japanese Community Center, 710 Elgin St. in San Lorenzo, will have its annual bazaar on Saturday, June 10, from 3 to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. with barbecued teriyaki chicken and rib dinner, sushi udon, chicken curry and shaved ice, plus raffle, bingo and games. Swing by, have some food and learn more about the programs the community center offers.

❖ St. Gerard Women's Club Luncheon

St. Gerard Women's Club invites everyone to its salad bar luncheon and fashion show, "Hats Off to Fashions," showcasing vintage attire by the models from Goodwill Bags on Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. John's Church Hall, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo. A salad bar luncheon starts at noon with a runway show to follow. There will be door prizes and a raffle. Admission is \$15. To order tickets in advance call Eva Lowe at 586-0376. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

❖ Join the Marines for Coffee

Don't be just a former Marine, join other Marines, past and present, once a month on the second Saturday (except in November) at 0900 hours at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1105 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, following the tradition of "Once a Marine, Always a Marine," for coffee, doughnuts and friendship. All are welcome. For more information, call Bobby Ferreira at 460-0636.

❖ A Presentation on Who are Sikhs?

Eden Area Interfaith Council and the Guru Granth Sahib Foundation (Sikh Gurdwara / Temple), Hayward invite you to a presentation on the Sikh faith on Sunday, June 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave. in Castro Valley. A Q&A session will follow the presentation. Tea and Snacks will be provided.

❖ Happy Stampers Club

If you would enjoy making greeting cards, come join the Happy Stampers. The club meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The rubber stamps and dies and all materials are furnished and beginners

are welcome. For more information, call Janie at 483-0389.

❖ Artist Demonstration

Peggy Milovina Meyer, will demonstrate her method of fine art illustrating on Tuesday, June 13, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Admission is free. Sponsored by the San Leandro Art Association.

❖ Sons In Retirement Meetings

SIRs, an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Wedgewood Center at Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr. in Oakland. Happy Hour starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Great guest speakers. Guests are welcome. Come and meet new friends. For more information, call MEL at 357-0601.

❖ Toastmasters Open House

Toastmasters Division A is having an open house on Friday, June 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Ave. in Alameda. Learn about the Toastmasters, enjoy a speech marathon, meet Toastmaster members and network. No charge for admission. Toastmasters has local chapters in San Leandro and throughout the East Bay. For more information, contact Faz Binesh at fbinesh@aol.com or 760-8400, or email Justin Paras at Justin.Paras@gmail.com.

❖ SL Democratic Club Fundraiser

The San Leandro Democratic Club is having a fundraiser on Thursday, June 22, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 302 Davis St. in San Leandro. The club is having the fundraiser this month instead of its regular monthly meeting.

❖ Hayward Area Historical Society

The Hayward Area Historical Society (HAHS) presents *Unmentionable: The Indiscreet Stories of Artifacts* through October at the HAHS Museum of History and Culture at 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. This original exhibition explores all the unusual, icky, scandalous, disturbing, awful, discriminatory artifacts in the HAHS collection. The artifacts in this exhibition tell some not-so-great, but very important stories. Other items may not seem so scandalous now but were at one time. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

❖ Chanticleers Theatre

Elvis Has Left The Building opens on Friday, June 30 and runs through July 23 at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and twilight matinees on Sundays at 6 p.m. (No show on July 2). This funny story will keep you guessing until the end. General admission is \$25; admission for seniors (60+), students and military is \$20. On Bargain Night, July 1, all tickets are \$18. For more information or tickets, call SEE-LIVE 733-5483 or go to chanticleers.org.

❖ SL Improvement Association

The San Leandro Improvement Association hosts Truth Thursdays, on the fourth Thursday of the month under the "Truth Is Beauty" statue at the OSISOft building on the San Leandro Tech Campus, 1600 Alvarado St. Food trucks, beer, wine, and live entertainment will be on hand from 5 to 9 p.m. Bocce ball and other recreational games will be played out on the grass.

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.



Marga Gomez
MEMORY TRICKS

"Hilarious and moving." - *Variety*
"Funny and touching."
- *New York Times*



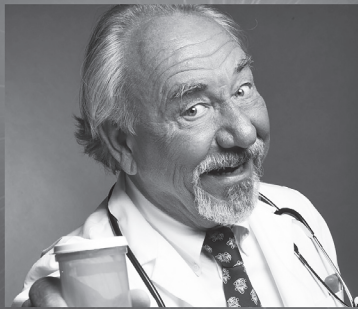
Al Letson
SUMMER IN SANCTUARY

"Letson is in masterful command of his audience."
- *San Francisco Chronicle*



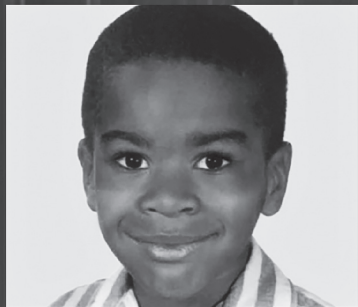
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AUTOMOTIVE

Fiat Brings Back a Special Spider

By Steve Schaefer
San Leandro Times

The Fiat 124 Spider is a small two-passenger roadster, and a beloved classic. What better way to spice up the utilitarian Fiat lineup in America than to bring back this fun machine.

But developing a low-volume convertible from scratch would be too expensive. So, conversations were made with the folks at Mazda, who have, since 1990, sold more than a million MX-5 Miatas. For years, Mazda has provided specialty production for other manufacturers to sweeten its bottom line, so it's a win-win.

Creating a new 124 Spider had to be much more than slapping a new grille, taillamps and badges on a Miata and calling it Italian. So, the Fiat's designers at Centro Stile in Turin, Italy crafted a sensuous all-new body. From headlamps and grille to the doors, fenders, trunk and

taillamps, the 124 Spider, reborn nearly 50 years after the original one debuted, looks right.

If the Japanese engineering was hidden under the Italian flavored bodywork, that could be OK, but the 124 Spider has an Italian heart, too. The engine in all models is Fiat's 1.4-liter I4 Multi-Air Turbo, sending 164 horsepower and 184 lb.-ft. of torque out to the rear wheels. The 2,476-pound car maintains the MX-5/Miata's road poise while singing its own unique song. It is not the sweetest ever heard, but there's enough pep to make the wonderfully balanced, fine-handling platform dance when you take it onto interesting roads.

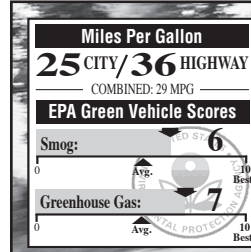
Sports cars from the middle of the 20th century had simple tops, and this one is both traditional and modern, using the Miata quick-dropping soft lid. Just unhook it from the premium silver header and fling it back. Then, press down to snap it into place. It's just as easy to just

reach back and pull it back up when your ride is over, too.

Driving in the commute grind is surprisingly tolerable in this little car, which has had attention lavished on it to keep it from feeling ordinary. Handing five bucks to the bridge toll-taker is comical, however. The interior feels much like a Miata, with practically no storage for anything — even the trunk is less than 5 cubic feet! But there's plenty of sweet-smelling leather and premium soft-touch trim throughout. Its personality is different from its sibling under the skin.

Of course, when the weather is nice and you drop the top, everything changes and the sun shines in. Suddenly, the world is fresh and interesting, especially if you're not behind a giant Diesel truck on the freeway. Little roadsters like this can feel like an extension of you when you're happily ensconced behind the leather-wrapped steering wheel with its built-in audio controls. Knowing you'll have lots of ambient noise, the speakers are built right into the headrests.

One of the pleasures of driving a sports car is shifting your own gears, and that's entirely possible in the 124 Spider. It's also possible to order up an automatic, and my tester had one (\$1,350), much to my initial chagrin. Miata shifting is some of the best there is, and I'd anticipated enjoying that in my test week. But the Japanese six-speed AISIN automatic was perfectly acceptable, although the sound of the engine would



Paying homage to the original 124 Spider nearly 50 years after its introduction, the 2017 Fiat 124 Spider delivers the ultimate Italian roadster experience.

have been more sonorous if it had risen happily with each gear change.

The little engine gets reasonable EPA numbers — 25 City, 36 Highway, and 29 Combined. I averaged 28.3 mpg, which is pretty good for a car you're likely to push a bit. EPA Green Scores are 6 for Smog and 7 for Greenhouse Gas. You'll spend \$250 more for fuel over 5 years than the average new vehicle — so it's right in the middle.

The graphic pie would show that the 124 Spider (jokingly called the "Fiata" by some characters) is 75 percent Japanese and 20 percent Italian, and is built alongside the Miata in Hiroshima, Japan. There are no U.S. or Canadian parts.

Choose from the Classica to start or upgrade to the Lusso, like my Bronzo Magnetico Titanium test car. The Lusso adds leather seats and moves from 16- to 17-inch alloy wheels. The



The interior is crafted and designed to focus on the occupants, with premium soft-touch materials throughout.

top level is the Abarth, with a front and rear Bilstein sport suspension, mechanical limited-slip differential, front strut tower bar, Sport Mode selector, and quad chrome-tipped exhausts tuned to turn the Multi-Air into a soaring tenor. It receives numerous styling enhancements, too.

Prices start at \$25,990 for the Classica, \$28,490 for the Lusso,

and \$29,190 for the Abarth. My tester, with the \$1,495 Safety and Comfort Collection and automatic gearbox, came to \$31,335.

It's exciting to see this iconic model in Fiat showrooms again. Typical of today's auto industry, it's a shared effort, but you couldn't have asked for a better secret sibling.

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Riddle Card

- Why did the fly fly?
- Why is my cup of tea stronger than yours?
- Why is the letter "E" like London?
- If a chicken could talk, what kind of language would it speak?
- Why is a loaf of bread four weeks old like a mouse running into a hole?

Answers: 1. Because the spider spied her. 2. Because it is all my tea (alrighty). 3. Because it is the capital of England. 4. Fowl (low) language. I'm afraid. 5. Because you can see it's stale (tail).

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Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend

DON'T GET ANTSY TRYING TO SOLVE THIS ONE!

You'll find all kinds of ants in the dictionary. We have 14 words in mind that end with "ant." The "elephant" in our picture should give you an idea of what to look for. Try to find them using the following hints.

- What ant helps to put out fires?
- What ant is found in car engines?
- What ant reminds you of puff pastries?
- What ant smells nice?
- What ant pours wine?
- What ant buys and sells?
- What ant is worn on a chain?
- What ant makes the air dirty?
- What ant provides all kinds of food?
- What ant is dull and never goes anywhere?
- What ant hates school?
- What ant is good with numbers?
- What ant is the smartest?
- What ant never changes?

Illustrated by David Coulson

IT'S ALPHABET SOUP TIME! To solve this problem you must replace the letters in our AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition expression. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.

Our answer: C=6, H=5, E=8, F=3, O=2, D=4, M=9, A=0, L=7. (6583 + 3224 = 9807.)

DON'T WORK OVERTIME SOLVING THIS ONE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

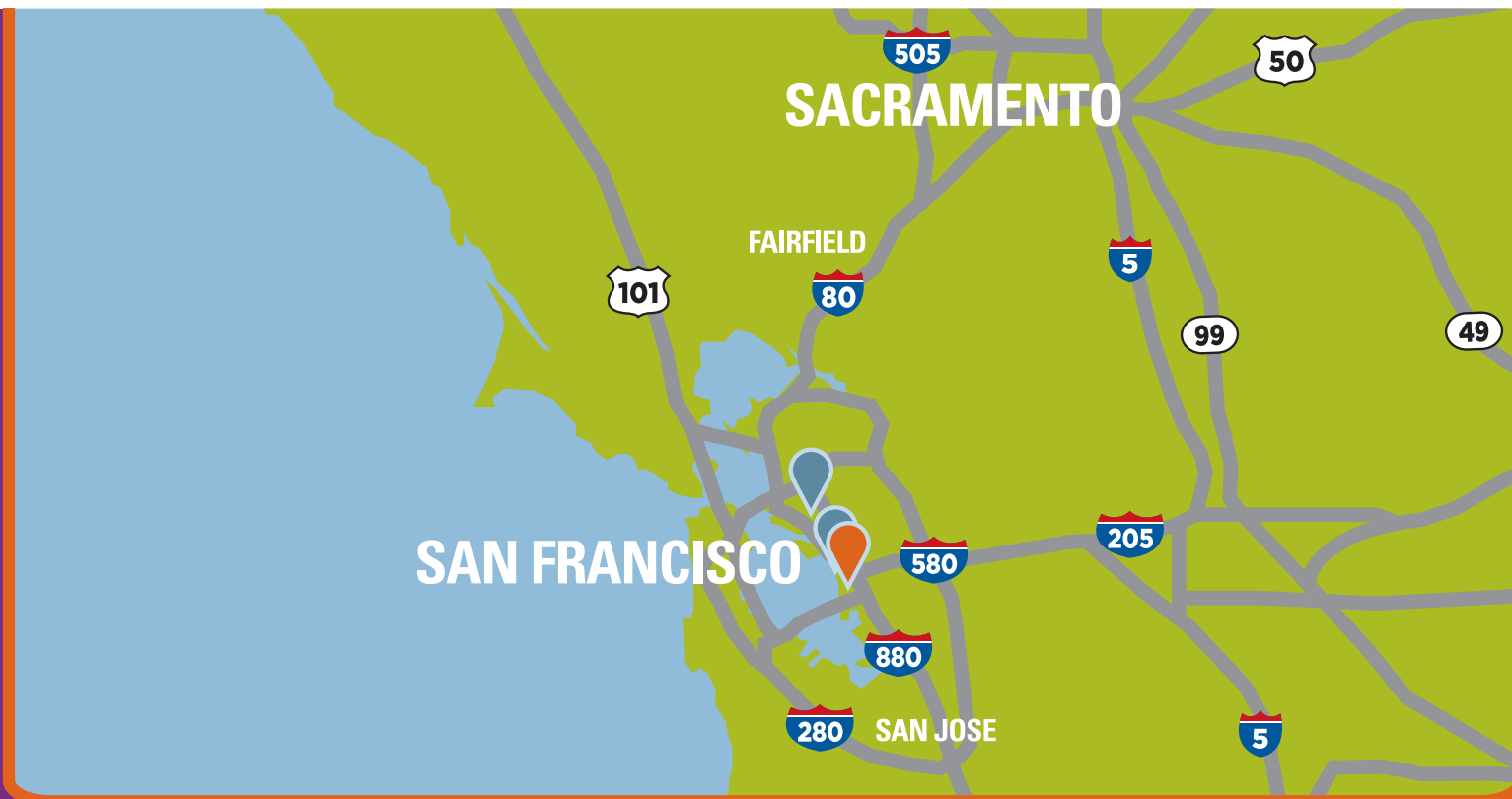
O			
V			
E			
	R		

T			
I			
	M		
		E	

- Found out about.
- Keen interest; greedy.
- Heard in church.
- To listen to.
- Comic drawing (sl).
- A prima donna.
- Word used to describe.
- Has long ears.

PLEASE RECYCLE

1. Hydrant. 2. Coolant. 3. Crissant. 4. Deodorant. 5. Decant. 6. Merchant. 7. Pendant. 8. Pollutant. 9. Restaurant. 10. Stagnant. 11. Truant. 12. Accountant. 13. Brilliant. 14. Constant.



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SENIORS

Seniors Seek Debt Relief

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

Q My wife and I have about \$10,000 in credit card debt that we struggle to pay each month. Our incomes are very modest and all from Social Security and my work pension. Is there any way that we can legally avoid paying this debt without dire consequences?

A Very likely, yes. Generally speaking, income from Social Security, work pensions, VA Benefits and disability income is protected, by federal law, from collection by non-governmental creditors.

If these are your sources of income, you could very well just stop paying and you would still receive your full incomes each month. Indeed, it is not a crime to stop paying a bill, especially if continuing to pay [doing so] would deprive you of the basic necessities of life. Many seniors are both surprised, and relieved, to learn of this.

Although your creditors may be aware that these sources of income are exempt from collection, some may nevertheless attempt, by repeated phone calls, to coerce you into paying these uncollectible bills.

You can easily put a stop to this. Under the federal "Fair Debt Collection Practices Act" you may send a letter to your creditors demanding that they cease all further efforts to communicate with you by mail or phone. The creditors must then immediately cease all further communication.

Such letters should be sent Certified, Return Receipt Requested, so you have proof of mailing. The creditor then has the option of writing off the debt as uncollectible, or filing a lawsuit to obtain a judgment. Unless the debt is large, many creditors just write off the debt and close their file.

What if one of your creditors opts to file a lawsuit and obtain a judgment?

Answer: They still will not be able to go after your income if it is from one of the sources mentioned above. True, if you own a home, they could obtain a judgment and record a lien against your home. But, even then, that is usually not as bad as it sounds: attempting to collect a judgment by foreclosing on an individual's home is a cumbersome and expensive process, and most creditors would prefer to just record the judgment and then let it just sit there, accruing interest, to be paid out of escrow only when you someday sell or transfer your home or borrow against it.

There are some exceptions to the above: if you owe money for unpaid taxes or other obligations to federal agencies, such as unpaid student loans, they may gar-

nish up to 15 percent of your social security income. But, even here, there are options to avoid collection, upon a proper showing that you need all of your income for your basic necessities.

Another exception is unpaid child or spousal support.

Before deciding upon the best plan in your case, it would be wise to seek legal advice. To aid you, there is a very-low-cost resource available to low-income seniors and the disabled. It is a non-profit law firm called "Help Eliminate Legal Problems for Seniors" (HELPS).

For a very nominal monthly fee, based on a sliding income scale (which can be as low as \$5/month, or even for free), they will counsel you, call creditors on your behalf, and help you write "Cease and Desist Letters."

You may contact them for assistance online at www.HelpsHere.org or by calling 1-855-435-7787.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com.



Gene L. Osofsky

When Should You Start Taking Social Security Benefits?

By Jim Miller
Special to the Times

Deciding when to begin collecting your Social Security benefits could be one of the most important retirement-income decisions you'll make.

The difference between a good decision and a poor one could cost you tens of thousands of dollars over your retirement, so doing your homework and weighing your options now is a wise move.

What to Consider

As you may already know, you can claim Social Security any time between the ages of 62 and 70, but each year you wait increases your benefit by 5 to 8 percent.

But there are other factors you need to take into account to help you make a good decision, like your health and family longevity, whether you plan to work in retirement, along with spousal and survivor benefits.

To help you weigh your claiming strategies, you need to know that Social Security Administration claims specialists are not trained or authorized to give you personal advice on when you should start drawing your benefits. They can only provide you information on how the system works under different circumstances. To get advice

you'll need to turn to other sources.

Web-Based Help

Your first step in getting Social Security claiming strategy advice is to go to SSA.gov/myaccount to get your personalized statement that estimates what your retirement benefits will be at age 62, full retirement age, or when you turn 70. These estimates are based on



your yearly earnings that are also listed on your report.

Once you get your estimates, there are many online tools you can turn to that can compare your options so you can make an informed decision.

Some free sites that offer basic calculations include AARP's Social Security Benefits Calculator (AARP.org/socialsecuritybenefits), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Planning for Retirement tool (ConsumerFinance.gov/retirement) and SSAnalyze that's offered by United Capital (BedrockCapital.com/ssanalyze).

But if you want a more thor-

ough analysis check out Maximize My Social Security (MaximizeMySocialSecurity.com) or Social Security Choices (SocialSecurityChoices.com), which both charge \$40.

These services, which are particularly helpful to married couples as well as divorced or widowed persons, will run scenarios based on your circumstances and show how different filing strategies affect the total payout over the same time frame.

Personal Advice

If you want human help, there are specialized firms and financial advisors that can advise you too.

One such firm is Social Security Solutions (SocialSecuritySolutions.com, 866-762-7526).

They offer several levels of web-based and personalized service (ranging from \$20 to \$500) including their \$125 "Advised" plan that runs multiple calculations and comparisons, recommends a best course of action in a detailed report, and gives you a one-on-one session with a Social Security specialist over the phone to discuss the report and ask questions.

Or, you can get help through a financial planner. Look for someone who is a fee-only certified financial planner (CFP) that charges on an hourly basis and has experience in Social Security

analysis.

To find someone, use the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors online directory at NAPFA.org, or try the Garrett Planning Network (GarrettPlanningNetwork.com), which is a network of fee-only advisers that charge between \$150 and \$300 per hour.



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

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



Moving Levels for Every Budget

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

Like it or not, moving is a part of life and will happen at least a few times during everyone's lifetime.

At its most basic, moving has five basic components: packing, loading, driving, unloading and unpacking. Last week, we touched on packing, this week we'll look at the various methods for the actual move.

There are four general options:

1. Basic

Considering the fact that at various phases of your life you may not have many belongings, a basic move infers that you can put everything you own in cars and pickup trucks and make as many trips as necessary to the final des-

tinuation. This option is perfect for short moves.

2. Rent a truck

When you have more objects than will fit in regular vehicles and cost is an issue, a rented truck is the way to go. While the most popular supplier is U-Haul, there are many other options.

Planning a move out of the local area? Make sure your truck vendor has a vehicle drop off site close to your final destination. Designed to make DIY moves as easy as possible, these trucks can come equipped with dollies and blankets for minimal extra fees.

3. Professional

Don't want to drive or load a truck yourself? Hire a moving company to load and haul your goods. In its basic form, you pack

your belongings and their crew loads and unloads the truck. They will not guarantee anything you personally pack.

Go with their full-service option and they do everything, including packing, unpacking and providing a full guarantee. Some companies provide estimates which can frequently be off the mark. We recommend companies that provide guaranteed flat fees with no additional charges.

4. Moving Containers

If your move involves a truck or trailer, you pay daily fees as long as it houses your goods. If you must wait days or weeks before accessing your new address, fees escalate quickly.

This is one reason moving containers are increasingly popular. They are dropped off at your current home for you to load. Once

see MOVING, page 11



TONIGHT! Twilight Open House in Sheffield Village!

Open Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. at 179 Covington Street in Oakland's remarkable Sheffield Village! Join your future neighbors over wine and cheese for an evening preview of a rare 3-bedroom Village offering. Nestled by scenic Dunsmuir Ridge, this 3-bedroom, 1-bath charmer features plenty of natural light, brand-new interior paint, gleaming hardwood floors, newer A/C, a sunroom for quiet repose, and a detached 2-car garage. Walk to coffee, restaurants, parks and San Leandro schools, including top-rated Roosevelt Elementary. Proudly presented by Louis Heystek and Laura Nielsen of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate, 510-928-5501 (CalBRE #01771666).

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WEEKEND GARDENER
Vegetables
If your vegetable garden space is limited, try growing some varieties in hanging baskets. Bush-type cucumbers, zucchini, cherry tomatoes, and a variety of herbs works well. For great yields, feed eggplants, peppers, squash and tomatoes when they blossom.
Flowers
Everything that's in bloom at your garden center is a good buy this week. Look for annuals, including marigolds, petunias, impatiens (good for color in shady spots) and zinnias in jumbo packs. For late-summer color from bulbs, plant tuberous begonias, cannas, gladioluses, montbretias and tigridias.

RINETTI & Co.
Where referrals come from: My upcoming 2/1 Assumption listing offers an interesting story: One daughter and husband know my Yosemite National Park ranger brother, the other daughter knew my GGNRA ranger brother in Stinson Beach. I went through public schools with their cousin. Small world!
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Moving: Pay close attention to costs

continued from previous page
full, they're picked up, moved to your final destination and held until you need them. Give the word and they are delivered for you to unload.

Whatever mode you choose, pay careful attention to the costs. There can often be hidden fees and your total can quickly escalate. Plan carefully – and barring any unforeseen accidents, everything should move along smoothly.

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 at www.ccmgtoday.com.

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C	1-4	1-4	5349 San Simeon Place \$665,000 2/2.5 TH Brent Team • 333-9404
C	1-4	1-4	21427 Rizzo Avenue \$680,000 3/2 Lisa • 510-304-1271
A	—	1-4	916 Bridge Road \$729,000 4/1.5 Michelle • 510-701-3442
A	—	1-4	970 San Jose Street \$799,000 4/2 Terry • 510-772-3746
C	1-4	1-4	5352 Camino Alta Mira \$958,800 4/2.5 Linda • 510-557-9185
OR	1-4	1-4	153 Ivy Drive \$985,000 3/2 Lisa • 510-304-1271
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116 Estabrook St, 94577:	\$576,500
22 Euclid Ave, 94577:	\$375,000
2095 Eveleth Ave, 94577:	\$600,000
879 Harlan St, 94577:	\$610,000
1381 Linton St, 94577:	\$602,000
2420 Marineview Dr, 94577:	\$860,000
490 Superior Ave, 94577:	\$678,000
1651 159th Ave, 94578:	\$675,000
15975 Cambrian Dr, 94578:	\$680,000
15998 Cambrian Dr, 94578:	\$550,500
15911 Gramercy Dr, 94578:	\$805,000
16600 Hannah Dr, 94578:	\$500,000
16251 Miramar Pl, 94578:	\$530,000
592 Muscari St, 94578:	\$850,000
14036 Reed Ave, 94578:	\$423,000
1644 Russ Ave, 94578:	\$620,000
16527 Russell Ct, 94578:	\$520,000
14931 Western Ave, 94578:	\$450,000
15088 Andover St, 94579:	\$599,000
632 Beatrice St, 94579:	\$560,000
15209 Beatty St, 94579:	\$450,000
1310 Drake Ave, 94579:	\$659,000
690 Fargo Ave #10, 94579:	\$370,000
670 Fargo Ave #9, 94579:	\$395,000
1254 Fordham Ave, 94579:	\$660,000
14310 Juniper St, 94579:	\$591,000
TOTAL SALES:	30
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$860,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$599,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$594,300
SAN LORENZO	
16379 Elgin Ct, 94580:	\$542,500
866 Elgin St, 94580:	\$507,000
1186 Via Coralla, 94580:	\$565,000

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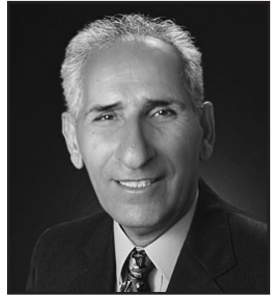
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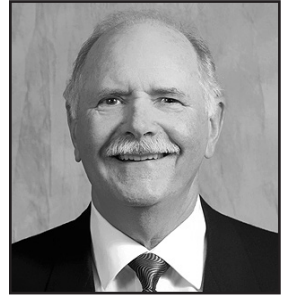
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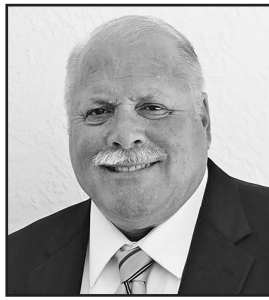
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Author of Gertrude Stein to Speak

In recognition of LGBT Pride Month, the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., will host an author discussion on Saturday, June 17, from 2 to 3 p.m. with Tirza True Latimer, co-author of *Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories*.

Admission is free. In this book, Latimer and co-author Wanda Corn analyzed the portraits for which Gertrude Stein posed, the domestic settings she created with Alice B. Toklas,

her partner, and the signature styles of dress the two women adopted.

Focusing on portraits in a range of media, photo essays, press clippings, snapshots, clothing, furniture, and other visual artifacts, this pathbreaking study reveals Stein's sophistication in shaping her public image and cultural legacy.

This book served as a companion to an exhibition of the same title and organized by the

Contemporary Jewish Museum, S.F., and the National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C. Copies of this book will be sold after Ms. Latimer's discussion.

Latimer is Associate Professor and the Chair of the Graduate Program in Visual and Critical Studies at California College of the Arts (CCA), San Francisco. At CCA, she teaches classes in critical writing, queer and feminist studies and interdisciplinary practices.

Budget: New parcel tax on ballot

continued from front page

The vast majority of the district's revenue (over \$85 million) is allocated by the state. The district also receives \$4 million in federal funding and \$5.7 million in local funding.

District Maintaining a 3-Percent Reserve

Collins said the district is maintaining a 3 percent reserve as required by the state, but that's down significant from 2011 when it was 14 percent.

This budget is just about 1 percent larger than the 2016-2017 budget of \$94 million, which had \$75 million spent on salaries and the same 3 percent held in reserve.

Collins said the new budget isn't final for a few reasons, including the fact that the state legislature is currently debating its budget, and some more one-time funding for schools may be made available.

"It's always changing, it's always a moving target," said Collins.

There's also the possibility of additional revenue coming in from the new parcel tax that the

district will be asking voters to approve in a mail-in ballot this August.

The new parcel tax the district is asking for would be assessed at \$78 per parcel annually for a period of 14 years, which would bring in a total of about \$1.5 million annually to the district beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. The parcel tax would replace the school district's current \$39 parcel tax, which is due to end after the upcoming

school year. The school district currently has outstanding bond debt of \$325 million and \$181 million of that is principal. Of that, the current debt from high-interest Capital Appreciation Bonds is \$91 million, and \$27.5 million of that is principal.

The district's 2017-2018 budget is expected to be put to a vote by the school board at their next meeting, June 20 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Library to Host Ice Cream Social

Get your summer of fun started right with free ice cream, artsy crafts, and games this Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

All ages are invited to design their own ice cream sundaes at an Ice Cream Social. As a part of the "Read...Imagine...Design" Summer Reading Challenge, the Ice Cream Social is just one of dozens of summer activities to promote literacy and community

engagement.

While enjoying the Ice Cream Social, the library invites everyone to take a few minutes to sign up for the free Summer Reading Challenge, which lasts from June 3 through Aug. 4. Anyone can come to any library or participate online at www.sanleandrolibrary.org. The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all ages with different incentives for each age group.

Last summer, more than

4,000 youth and adults joined the library's summer reading program. If the community reaches the goal of 5,000 summer readers by Aug. 4, every participant will earn fine forgiveness of up to \$10 during the week of Aug. 14 through Aug. 20.

For more information, visit your local branch library, call the Main Library Information Desk at 510-577-3971, or visit the library's website at www.sanleandrolibrary.org.

San Leandro Dodgers

Date	Time	Opponent	Field
Sat. June 10	11 a.m.	Old School	SL Ballpark
Sun. June 11	10 a.m.	Cal. Warriors	SL Ballpark
Tue. June 13	6 p.m.	Alameda	SL Ballpark
Thur. June 15	6 p.m.	Bulls	SL Ballpark
Sat. June 17	5 p.m.	Watsonville	SL Ballpark
Tues. June 20	7 p.m.	Redwood City	SL Ballpark
Thurs. June 22 – Sun. June 25		Reno Tournament	

The San Leandro Dodgers youth baseball team began play last week at their home field, San Leandro Ballpark on Teagarden Street. The Dodgers will play at home this Saturday and Sunday morning.

LOCAL DEATHS

SAN LEANDRO 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. Brief death notices are published free. Longer-length notices, including pictures, are available for a fee. For assistance, call 510-614-1555.

GALLAGHER, Charles A. GANN, Jerone Edward HARTLEY, Steven ROCHA, Phillip James SILVEIRA, Jose E.

Valley. Inurnment will take place at St. Mary's Cemetery, 4529 Howe St., in Oakland.

■ **Steven Hartley** (March 25, 1952 – April 27, 2017), of San Leandro and Santa Cruz, died unexpectedly in his doctor's office from a heart attack on April 27, 2017. He was 65.

■ **Phillip James Rocha** (July 16, 1955 – March 13, 2017), was laid to rest at the Rockville Cemetery in Fairfield, California.

■ **Jose E. Silveira**, a resident of San Leandro, passed at the age of 75. Visitation will be tonight, June 8, from noon to 8 p.m. at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro. The Vigil Service will also be tonight at 7 p.m. at the mortuary. The Funeral Liturgy will be on Friday, June 9, at St. Leander Church beginning at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary (510-483-0123, www.santos-robinson.com).

■ **Charles A. Gallagher**, a resident of San Leandro, passed away at the age of 94. Visitation will be Monday, June 12, from noon to 8 p.m. at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Ave., in San Leandro. A chapel service celebrating Charles' life will be on Tuesday, June 13, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Burial to follow at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward. Arrangements made by Santos-Robinson Mortuary (510-483-0123, www.santos-robinson.com).

■ **Jerome Edward Gann** (December 15, 1961 – May 30, 2017), a resident of Hayward, passed away on May 30, 2017 at age 55. Funeral Liturgy is on Friday, June 9, beginning at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 3433 Somerset Ave., in Castro

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Slender
 - 5 Cribbage scorer
 - 8 Pinnacle
 - 12 Defense acronym
 - 13 Yon maiden
 - 14 Capricorn
 - 15 Portent
 - 16 Yoko of music
 - 17 Juli Inkster's org.
 - 18 Lament
 - 20 Sea greeting
 - 22 Complete win
 - 26 Coral structure
 - 29 Allow
 - 30 24 horas
 - 31 Bear lair
 - 32 Rowing need
 - 33 Obsolescent letter opener?
 - 34 PC file extension
 - 35 Jewel
 - 36 Silences
 - 37 1967 Lee Marvin movie, with "The"
 - 40 Ms. Moore
 - 41 Not alfresco
 - 45 Teeny bit
 - 47 Spot on a domino
 - 49 -European
 - 50 Padlocked fastener
 - 51 Ref
 - 52 Many
 - 53 Help in a heist
 - 54 Agent
 - 55 Bard's instrument
- DOWN**
- 1 Uppity one
 - 2 Weak, as an excuse
 - 3 Thing
 - 4 Eyeglass
 - 5 Cell, e.g.
 - 6 Poetic time of day
 - 7 Bad pun
 - 8 Radiant
 - 9 Work on manuscripts
 - 10 Periodical, for short
 - 11 Greek vowel
 - 19 Every iota
 - 21 White House monogram
 - 23 Texas mission
 - 24 Green land
 - 25 Just say no
 - 26 Scored 100 on
 - 27 Urban transport
 - 28 Take too much medicine
 - 32 Solver of the Riddle of the Sphinx
 - 33 Old timer?
 - 35 Workout locale
 - 36 Chaps
 - 38 Entice
 - 39 Very quick
 - 42 Sans siblings
 - 43 Stench
 - 44 Memorization method
 - 45 "Eureka!"
 - 46 Bill
 - 48 Devil's minion
- ANSWERS ON PAGE 3**

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OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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Wants to Know How Well City Workers Are Faring Compared to Citizens During Difficult Times

Editor:

With reference to your June 1 article, "Report: 10,000 San Leandrans Live in Poverty," (Page 1, The Times), I would like to suggest the following.

In the past, I have occasionally seen articles on the compensation and pensions of our city employees. Please take the time to publish, annually, a list of the names of city employees and retirees, their current or former position with the city, and their annual compensation.

With so many citizens having very difficult times, I think it would be good to remind our citizens of those who appear to be doing extremely well. I would appreciate your publishing of a list of those, in each list, with the 15 highest annual compensations.

—Raymond Puleo
San Leandro

City Officials Shouldn't Be Surprised by Homeless Statistics

Editor:

From two articles in your paper: "The number of homeless people... has risen by nearly 40 percent in the past two years, according to a census conducted by EveryOne Home... de Coligny says that affordable housing is the key to ending homelessness..."

"The biggest social service needs in San Leandro are affordable housing... according to Urban Strategies." Their report also included data that 5,000 lived in poverty in 2000, and by 2015 that number was 9,400.

Well, surprise! The figures and percentages coincide with the time frame that landlords were given permission by the city council under the new and improved Rent Review Board ordinance to do away with the \$75 rent increases in favor of the landlords' asking price of 7 percent.

We tenants remember how many of us got dispossessed when we couldn't financially meet the new increases, even working two minimum-wage jobs.

The council is preparing once again to give away the store to the landlords with the proposed pathetic Tenant Relocation Assistance Program, which would allow landlords to legally dispossess even more tenants by paying them a pittance to be rid of them in order to raise rents even more for incoming tenants.

"The City Council said they were surprised at the depth of need in San Leandro... 'Quite honestly, I'm just overwhelmed,' said City Councilwoman Corina Lopez."

No. Tenants have come before the council and the review board for almost three years now telling you that some of us will become homeless, or be forced to choose between rent and food, if you enact your misguided policies. Proof positive of the negative impacts of your actions is being laid out by two groups – that aren't tenants! – telling you the same thing. And all you're doing in response is pretending

you're hearing it for the first time.

—K. Lee-Figueroa
San Leandro

Tired of Leo West's Complaints

Editor:

He complains about politicians and housing and wages.

Well, if he had any sense at all, Leo would have bought himself a house decades ago.

But no, instead he chooses to live in a trailer park and complain about his mean old landlord raising his rent.

Some of us planned ahead for our "golden years," worked at a job that provided a pension, invested wisely, and didn't spend all our free time complaining about Obama.

By the way... Your Golden Boy, (or should I say Orange Boy?) lost to a woman by 2.865 million votes.

Fifty-four percent of voting Americans did not want him in charge of diddly squat.

You do have "free speech" but, as someone once said: "It's better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt."

—Ken Kellogg
San Leandro

San Leandro Winter Warming Shelter Provided 2,326 'Bed Nights' to Homeless This Season

Editor:

Thank you for the article on EveryOne Home's point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness, conducted in January.

Please note that the San Leandro Winter Warming Shelter is hosted by First United Methodist Church, not First Presbyterian Church as is indicated in your article. FUMC has generously hosted the warming shelter for three years running.

This past season, 131 San Leandro residents accessed the program, which was open for 77 nights. The average number served each night was 30, but on several nights the shelter served as refuge for 39. In all, the Warming Shelter provided 2,326 "bed nights," or nights a space serves an individual. This is indeed a dramatic jump from previous years.

The San Leandro Warming Shelter is funded by the City of San Leandro and Alameda County Social Services and operated by Building Futures. We work closely with Interfaith Homelessness Network/April Showers. The Warming Shelter benefits from the support of San Leandro's faith community, individuals and businesses.

This winter, caring community members responded heroically to the call for supplies. Donation barrels were hosted by Zocalo Coffeehouse, San Leandro City Hall, San Leandro Police Department and the San Leandro Senior Center.

Volunteers coordinated by IHN/April showers provided dinner every single night the shelter was open.

Cooks/servers included All Saints Episcopal Church Social Justice Committee; Bethel Church; First Presbyterian Church; First United Methodist

Church; Moira Fry; Rigatoni's; Nancy Pretto; Dimas and Barbara Resendez; Noël Moritz; Carol Taylor; Sherry, Joe, and Jackie Silva; Evelyn González; Linda Curtiss; the Varela Family; Kinikini Banerjee and Arjun Akella; and the Bishop O'Dowd Rugby Club.

Again, many thanks for drawing attention to the increasing number of San Leandrans living in poverty and/or experiencing homelessness.

—Liz Varela
Executive Director
Building Futures
—Moira Fry
April Showers/
Interfaith Homelessness Network

Finding Commonality Instead of Division in Trump World

Editor:

Let's pause to remember a Donald Trump Moment: When he was nailed for Fake News – by Bill O'Reilly. Trump had re-tweeted a chart of crime statistics, which said 81 percent of white people murdered in 2015 were killed by black people. O'Reilly called this "totally wrong" and noted the correct number is 15 percent. Trump said, "Hey Bill, Bill, am I gonna check every statistic?" Then he said he likes Twitter because "I can get my point of view out there," thus admitting a racist lie represents his point of view.

Understandably, the white nationalists and KKK liked Trump. But people I respect also voted for him. They understood his faults – one guy said: "of course Mexico paying for the wall was campaign rhetoric." He knew Trump was lying about this, but Trump's vision was more important.

The problems, and solutions, Trump sees are big, but straightforward. Build a wall. Cut taxes and regulations. Rewind to about the 1950s, and America will be great again like it was in the '50s.

This is wishful thinking.

But liberals like me are also wishful thinkers. For instance, we believe we can fund expensive programs by taxing the rich, but there are limits to taxing the rich. We also assumed Hillary would win.

Left and right, Americans are ignoring facts we don't want to face.

We all need to do better. Conservatives should read the New York Times biweekly, and liberals the Wall Street Journal. In fact, we should each find a politically different "buddy," and discuss politics. Remember, if you get really stressed and mad about something your "buddy" says, it is likely because you don't truly know you are right. Admit that to yourself, and listen.

If we all grow and find commonality, we can do much, much better than Trump.

—Maylen Dormon
San Leandro

Attack on National Security Requires Serious Consequences For All of its Perpetrators

Editor:

As news erupted of Trump's son-in-law seeking a secret communication channel through the Russian embassy, Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, said he "would not be concerned about" back-channel communications.

When initiated by our government, with approval by the president, they can be useful. When initiated by a private citizen, they may be seditious.

As advisors to the president-elect six weeks before inauguration, Jared Kushner and Michael Flynn were violating the law. They were undermining the authority of our one and only legal president at that time. If he knew about this, and condoned it, Trump would be equally culpable for this treasonous action.

It's obvious that back-channel communications must be secret, or at least confidential, but that doesn't mean being withheld from appropriate governmental authorities. By trying to set up a secret channel, and then by not reporting his contacts with Russian government representatives, Kushner

was intending to hide something.

Was he trying to arrange secret payoffs from Russian oligarchs to his father-in-law? Or was he simply a "useful fool" naively enabling Putin's people to influence the American presidency? We don't know, yet. But this attack on our national security requires severe consequences for all its perpetrators.

—Bruce Joffe
Piedmont

Send a Letter to the Editor
Letters@ebpublishing.com

INQUIRING REPORTER

What's a hard habit to give up?

— Asked at the San Leandro BART Station

My phone. I was on Facebook all day and all night. I logged out, deleted the app and everything.

Carlos Rivera
San Leandro



Cigarettes. I still got the habit. I'm trying to quit. I need to really want to quit. I know I need to.

Kamalii Kaleikau
San Leandro

I've heard smoking is hard to quit. For me, overeating. I'm starving right now, and I'm going to eat something stupid right now at the snack stand.

Gail Jackson
Vallejo



Fried food, hamburgers and fries. I'm eating less of those but I'm trying to get rid of them altogether. It's more difficult when you first begin to quit.

Angel Ayon
San Leandro



For me, smoking. I went from one-and-a-half or two packs a day down to four to seven cigarettes a day. But it's still hard to quit completely.

Leonard Whitman
San Leandro



Chabot Dam Retrofit Nearly Done

By Amy Sylvestri
San Leandro Times

Work is nearing completion on the seismic upgrades to the Lake Chabot Dam, though a rainy winter has delayed the project by about three months.

Chabot Park in San Leandro and parts of Lake Chabot Regional Park will remain closed through the summer. The work was expected to be completed this July.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has been working on an upgrade to the Lake Chabot Dam for over a year. The earthen dam was originally built in the late 1800s and needs state-mandated seismic improvements.

The San Leandro City Council recently got an update from EBMUD on the project, which began in May of 2016 and is now expected to be completed in October.

Concrete Poured to Strengthen Earthen Dam

The seismic work includes drilling into the earthen dam and filling the holes with concrete to strengthen the dam.

That part of the project is complete, so if the Hayward fault goes off tomorrow, the dam would be sound, according to EBMUD engineer Tom Boardman.

"The dam is strong again, stronger that it needs to be," said Boardman.

Engineers estimated that if a major quake had hit before the upgrade, the dam could have "slumped" up to five feet and shifted to one side.

The other part of the project is moving mechanical parts and drainage outlets that can release water to the spillway into the hillside so if a quake hits, they won't be damaged.

But a record rainy season that saw 44 inches of rain at Lake Chabot this winter (the usual is about 25 inches) held up work. The spillway had water flowing from January to May this year, the most since 1980, Boardman said.

That heavy spillage had an unforeseen consequence, Boardman said, as fish "took a slip and slide" down the spillway. Boardman said a team from EBMUD put together a bucket brigade to catch a few of the fish from the base of the spillway and return them to Lake Chabot.

Another project delay was due to hundreds of swallows who built nests under a small bridge in the construction zone. Boardman said they had to wait out mating season before they could move in their heavy equipment via the bridge.

Boardman said that they brought in biologists during the early stages of the project to check on wildlife in the area and they noticed the nesting under the bridge.

"Normally, when you are looking for birds, you look up, but we should've looked down under the bridge," said Boardman. "It slowed us down, but a lot of other work was going on at the same time."

The seismic upgrade has closed parts of Lake Chabot and Chabot Park off Estudillo to the public for over a year and EBMUD was initially hoping that everything would be open for summer recreation, but the new completion date is October.

"We are in the home stretch of this project," said Boardman. "This is a really big job and at the end of the day, it's going to be really good for the community."

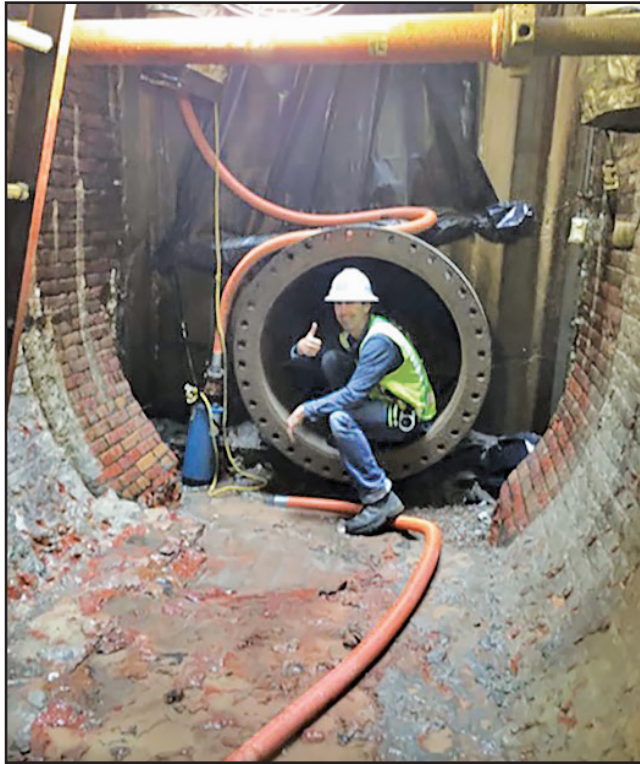


PHOTO COURTESY OF EBMUD

East Bay Municipal Utility District engineer Tom Boardman checks out a newly installed pipeline inside the Lake Chabot Dam.

Pets of the Week



Toby



Yuki

The Pets of the Week from the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Toby the cat and Yuki the pigeon.

Toby is a sweet, shy, 5-year-old boy. With a little TLC, he might blossom into a cuddler.

He would do great in a low-key home where he can relax and

open up.

Yuki is a gorgeous, snow white pigeon with soulful dark eyes. Yuki doesn't seem to mind being handled and is a good candidate for hand training.

For more information on Toby or Yuki, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

Shooting: More details to come later

continued from front page ment. "We are fortunate that this incident did not end more tragically for those involved."

Benabou said more details about the shooting should be

made available in the next few days.

Anyone with additional information about the incident is asked to call San Leandro police at 577-2740.

Solo Shows: Performers begging to be in series

continued from front page

wasn't a sure thing at the beginning. That first year, Copeland got all the performers to do it as a favor.

As Copeland puts it: "They all said, 'So you want me to take my show that I did on Broadway and do it at a library in San Leandro? Exactly, how much crack have you been smoking?' ... And then, 'OK, I'll do it for you, but you owe me.'"

But now, that's turned around. Copeland said they're asking him to be included in the show.

"Then they came and did it," Copeland said. "The space is wonderful, the Carnegie Lecture Hall at the library. It's intimate. And the audience is so responsive and appreciative. Everyone just had a great time."

"Now I have performers calling me and begging me to do it. I've been able to get some of the biggest stars in the genre to do it."

The 8-show series would cost \$400 in San Francisco, plus transportation and parking, so this show is a bargain, Copeland says. The regular price for the

series is \$265, or \$235 for seniors. But Copeland has an early-bird discount price of \$200 for tickets purchased by this Sunday at midnight.

He's also offering a \$100 price for teachers (Saturday night is educators' night), and a block of free tickets to San Leandro High drama students.

"I want to make a block of tickets available for arts enrichment for students, and for teachers who are underpaid for what they do," Copeland said.

The eight award-winning

shows in the series begin in October with Marga Gomez performing *Memory Tricks*; followed by Al Letson, *Summer in Sanctuary*; Brain Copeland, *The Jewelry Box*; Will Durst, *Durst Case Scenario*; Don Reed, *Can You Did It*; Brian Copeland, *The Waiting Period*; Julia Jackson, *Children Are Forever (All Sales Are Final)*; and Josh Kornbluth, *Ben Franklin Unplugged*.

More information at bestofsfsolo.com. Tickets at brownpapertickets.com or by calling 800-838-3006.

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