San Leandrans Can Help Save Their Local Hospital

Editor:

 I would like to thank the San Leandro Times for covering the state of affairs at San Leandro Hospital. This appears to be something that is of no interest to other media organizations.

 If San Leandro Hospital is to remain open as an acute care facility with both inpatient and emergency services, it will require the help of everybody in the community.

 Largely because of the Eden Township Healthcare District (ETHD), the Hospital remains open today offering these services but the future is uncertain. ETHD no longer owns the Hospital, Sutter Health does but they have indicated they would consider allowing the Hospital to continue its current mission under the direction of the Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC) along with assistance from the City of San Leandro and ETHD.

 Recent meetings of these three entities have all resulted in a willingness to provide needed funding since the Hospital loses millions of dollars a year.

 A recent study in San Leandro supports utilizing a parcel tax to help and additional funding can come from Alameda County and the Federal Government. But you, the San Leandro resident can also help. When your doctor recommends a procedure, lab work, xray or other test be done, try to utilize the services at San Leandro Hospital.

 A lot of the problem is patients seek these elective services other places, leaving San Leandro to care for the under and uninsured which lowers their reimbursement and hurting their bottom line.

 Not only does San Leandro Hospital save lives, but it also is a valuable employer. Working together as a community, we can all pitch in and hopefully save this valuable community resource.

—Ronald Alan Hull, D.P.M.

Director, Eden Township

Healthcare District

Castro Valley

COPD a Growing Risk for Unaware Seniors

Editor:

 Aging is never easy, but if frequent shortness of breath, wheezing and excessive phlegm are becoming consistent problems, you may be facing a much more serious problem.

 Chronic Obstruction Pulmonary Disease, or COPD, affects more than 24 million Americans, and yet half go about their daily lives unaware of the condition. The ailment's pervasive nature, combined with an alarming lack of awareness, has made COPD and other chronic respiratory diseases the third-leading cause of death in the United States.

 Luckily, with early diagnosis and treatment, people suffering from COPD can improve their symptoms and regain a sense of normalcy in their lives.

 November is COPD Awareness Month, and partners such as the California Medical Association Foundation (CMA) and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute are asking citizens to take the first steps in fighting this disease by learning more about COPD.

 If you are experiencing any of the symptoms mentioned above, talk to your physician and ask for a simple breathing test called spirometry.

 This month, don’t let a serious condition such as COPD slide by unnoticed. Visit the CMA Foundation website, to see how you can help spread awareness of this terrible disease.

—**Jeffrey Klingman, M.D.**

President, Alameda-Contra Costa

Medical Association

Oakland

Prolo Grateful for Support; Ready to Move City Forward

Editor:

 I would like to express my thanks to all of the residents of San Leandro who voted for me, walked precincts, made phone calls, and contributed financially to my recent election campaign.

 It takes a large group of supporters to make a campaign successful, and I will always be grateful to those whose efforts helped me win. I also stand ready to listen to those whose views are different from my own. A Councilmember is the representative of all residents.

 I love San Leandro. Now that the election is over, I will put all my efforts into making good decisions to move our city forward. I will continue to be accessible to all San Leandrans.

 Please let me know of your ideas and concerns. The success of a city is a direct result of the involvement of its citizens.

—**Jim Prola**

Councilmember, District 6

San Leandro

Thanks Supporters for Win on San Lorenzo School Board

Editor:

 One of the best ways to get out a message to local residents is a letter to the wonderful San Leandro Times. So I will use this opportunity to thank all the voters who went to the polls last week.

 Thanks to all who helped me win a seat on the San Lorenzo School Board – it is difficult to beat incumbents, and I am honored to receive your support.

 I will put children first, just like I did when I was their librarian at the San Leandro Public Library, and take this responsibility very seriously. I am humbled and want parents to know I am in their corner.

—**Penny Peck**

San Lorenzo

Emeryville Mall on Ohlone Burial Site Called Shameful

Editor:

 People around the Bay Area will be going to the Bay Street Mall in Emeryville the day after Thanksgiving to do Christmas shopping. What they don't notice is that under the ground of the mall are the burial sites of the Ohlone People. The mall started building on top of it with the blessing of both the mayor and city council of EMeryville during early 2000.

 People should understand that the descendants of the Ohlone People who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Bay Area are still here and are making people be aware that the mall is on their ancestors' burial sites.

 The sites are 1,000 years older than the pyramids in Egypt. It is shameful that the shopping mall is on top of it. Burial sites of all different races and cultures should be respected and that includes the Ohlone People.

—**Billy Trice, Jr.**

Oakland