

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 29

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

NO. 7

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

LIVING



Presidential Pick

These recipes are good enough to please our commanders in chief

Page 5

SENIORS



Tax Talk

A rundown of this tax season's IRS tax filing requirement thresholds

Page 6

NEWS



Spelling W-H-I-Z

Proctor Elementary's Zander Calderon wins spelling championship

Page 12

INDEX

Classified Ads	8
Community Calendar ...	4
Crosswords	5
Homes	11
Horoscope	5
Letters to Editor	10
Obituaries	10
Seniors	7
Sports.....	6
Weather	2

PHONE: (510) 537-1792



PHOTOS BY EDWARD GERVASONI

More than 40 Alameda County firefighters rushed to the scene of a two-alarm fire at a large home on President Drive Thursday morning. The fire was brought under control after about 45 minutes. Firefighters kept the flames from spreading to other houses nearby. The blaze is under investigation.

Firefighters Battle Flames at Large CV Home

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

More than 40 firefighters responded last Thursday morning to a two-alarm fire at a home on the 16961 President Drive at Pomar

Vista Ave. near the interchange of I-580 and I-238.

The large three-story, six-bedroom home slopes down a hill and the two lower floors were engulfed in flames, according to Aisha Knowles, spokeswoman for the

Alameda County Fire Department.

The fire broke out just after 8:30 a.m. and was under control within 45 minutes and was extinguished after about two hours.

Firefighters encountered downed power lines, an interior

floor collapse, and westerly winds which pushed the flames from the rear of the home towards the front, according to Knowles.

Firefighters managed to keep the flames from spreading to neighboring homes.

No one was injured and the woman who lived in the home and her two dogs were able to get out of the home before firefighters arrived.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

GOLF COURSE

Flooding Likely to Repeat

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Redwood Canyon Golf Course looked like a lake again last week after heavy rains flooded the creek that runs through the fairways.

Water from the Upper San Leandro Reservoir rushing down to Lake Chabot bottlenecked along San Leandro Creek, temporarily closing the course and causing damage in several spots, a scene likely to repeat, given upcoming weather forecasts and brim-full reservoirs.

Emergency crews evacuated 22 people including more than a dozen attending a retired teachers' association luncheon last Tuesday at the Meadows restaurant when water swirled as much as 18 inches over the roadway.

see COURSE on back page



PHOTOS BY EDWARD GERVASONI

Water covers a long stretch of the entrance roadway to Redwood Canyon Golf Course from Redwood Road in this photo taken by Edward Gervasoni of Castro Valley last Thursday.

Daughtrey Building Meeting

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) will hold a special meeting on the Daughtrey Bldg. at 6 p.m. next Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Castro Valley Library.

While the specific purpose of the meeting is to approve the terms of a new request-for-proposals that will go out on March 1 seeking potential developers, MAC Chairman Marc Crawford said members of the public would be free to propose any projects for the long-vacant structure at 3295 Castro Valley Blvd.

The building's future has been in limbo since early January when developer David Greensfelder dropped out after his plan for a children's entertainment zone was rejected by the MAC last fall.

Crawford told the Forum that at least five developers have recently expressed interest in the site since the building has been slated to go back on the market.

Castro Valley Weather Feb. 15 - 19, 2017



Wednesday
Cloudy
High 63° Low 56°



Thursday
Rain
High 66° Low 52°



Friday
Rain
High 60° Low 51°



Saturday
Showers
High 57° Low 46°



Sunday
Mostly Cloudy
High 59° Low 49°

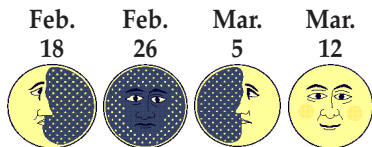
Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 02.20
Season To Date: 26.89
Normal To Date: 16.00
Season Average: 21.22

Sun sets at 5:49 p.m. today, rises at 6:56 a.m. Thursday.

Moon Phases



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PHOTO COURTESY OF BRESLOW IMAGING OF CASTRO VALLEY

MEMBERS OF THE 2017 REDWOOD CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING COURT: (front row from left), Freshman Princess Aymey Finn, Sophomore Princess Izabella Alfaro, and Junior Princess Katherine Geronimo; (back row), Senior Prince Phillip Bautista, Senior Princess Savannah Goodell, King Sean Truscott, Queen Hannah Ceremony, Senior Princess Hanna Garcia, and Senior Prince Jordan Wilson.

RCH Celebrates Homecoming

Redwood Christian High School honored its 2017 Homecoming Court at the annual Homecoming Games held at the Canyon Middle School gym on Saturday, Jan. 21.

The 2017 Homecoming Queen and King, Hannah Ceremony and Sean Truscott, were recognized during special ceremonies held between games and were joined by other Homecoming Court honorees: Senior Princesses Hanna Garcia and Savannah Goodell, Senior Princes Phillip Bautista and Jordan Wilson, Junior Princess Katherine Geronimo, Sophomore Princess Izabella Alfaro, and Freshman Princess Aymey Finn.

King Sean, Prince Jordan, and Princess Aymey have been students at Redwood Christian Schools since kindergarten.

A parent or grandparent escorted each court member as the Master of Ceremonies Superintendent Al Heame, assisted by High

School Principal Ben Warner, read letters of tribute from their parents.

The Homecoming celebration continued into the evening as the Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, and the JV Boys basketball teams were victorious with wins over Valley Christian of Dublin.

Get Your Tickets: Crab Feed To Benefit Special Olympics

Tickets are still available for a crab feed benefiting the Special Olympics and an organization called "MX'ers Against Bullying" on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Veter-

an's Memorial Building in Hayward.

Enjoy all the crab you can eat, pasta made by local fire-fighters, salad, French bread, and dessert, while supporting the annual

Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics and the MX'ers, a grassroots motocross organization that helps youth with issues of bullying at school and in their daily life.

Young motocross riders in their motocross jerseys will be servers at this event.

Doors open – and no-host cocktails begin – at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. American Legion Post 870 has donated the Veterans Building at 22737 Main Street in Hayward for the fundraiser.

There will also be a 50/50 drawing, raffle prizes, door prizes, live auction and silent auction.

For more information and to purchase advance tickets (\$50), call Theresa Dominguez at 510-861-5250, or Brian Dominguez at 510-861-0936. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Proceeds go toward helping children with special needs to participate in sports activities free of charge.



**CHANGE
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OPTIONS FOR PROPER RECYCLING:

1. CVSan single-family residents can place their used motor oil (up to three gallons) and oil filters (up to three) between their carts at the curb for collection. Call WMAC at (510) 537-5500 if you need a motor oil and filter recycling kit. Or pick up a kit at CVSan's main office at 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley.



2. Single-family and multi-family residents can drop off used motor oil and used motor oil filters at the following Certified Collection Centers (CCCs) located in or near Castro Valley:

- O'Reilly Auto Parts, 2990 Castro Valley Blvd (510) 881-0761
- Castro Valley Autohaus, 20697 Park Way (510) 581-4525
- Jiffy Lube, 2492 Castro Valley Blvd (510) 582-7677
- Boulevard Auto, 3940 Castro Valley Blvd (510) 247-9700
- O'Reilly Auto Parts, 15604 Hesperian Blvd (510) 276-7822



These CCCs accept only used motor oil:

- Certified Tire & Service Ctr, 3430 Castro Valley Blvd (510) 886-9500
- Kevin Hinkley Auto Tech, 5269 Crow Canyon Rd (510) 881-1052

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ROTARIANS WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE



PHOTO BY GARY BOSLEY

Castro Valley Rotary President Carol Wikle (at right) recently presented "Paul Harris" recognition to (from left) Bob Crossett, Dr. Heidi Hausauer, Bruce Johnson and Jim Phillips for their contributions. Leslie Rothwell (not present) was also recognized. Since 1957, Rotary Club International has presented this recognition, named for Rotary International's founder, in appreciation for their generous contributions supporting educational and humanitarian programs around the world. Castro Valley Rotary meets every Tuesday at noon at the Restaurant at Redwood Canyon Golf Course in Castro Valley.

'Zero Waste Week' for the CV Sanitary District

To help residents learn more about how to select their path to "zero waste," Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) presented its second annual Zero Waste Week from January 17th to 21st.

To kick it off, CVSan installed the "Museum of Bad Design" at

the Library, a showcase of one-time use products that are harmful to the environment alongside reusable products that can be used instead. The display is still available at the Library for viewing.

On Jan. 19, CVSan hosted its first-ever multilingual event – a

Food Scrap Recycling Workshop in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin at the Palomares Hills Clubhouse. Some 30 attendees took home recycling pails and tips to help them compost food scraps at home.

Additionally on Thursday and Friday, the Sanitary District collected clothing and shoe donations for Goodwill Industries.

On Saturday, CVSan held its popular Fixit Clinic at the Library. Twelve volunteer coaches were on-hand to help participants learn how to fix such broken items as a paper shredder, a belt sander, and a lot of electronic stuff. Some three-quarters of the items were repaired, saving approximately 100 pounds of potential waste from the landfill.

Special thanks to the five of the coaches from Castro Valley: Dave Coleman, Charles Glorioso, Sarah Foster-Peck, Mike Barbaro, and Ron Eversole.

next Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the Board Room at the School District Office, 4400 Alma Avenue.

Priority Sibling Enrollment

To address the district's priority for younger siblings of a current student to be able to enroll in the same school, the district will conduct a priority sibling enrollment period Feb. 21-28.

The enrollment process begins with an online enrollment application and concludes by submitting required documents and proof of residency to the school site.

To enroll a student in kindergarten or TK, follow the instructions found on the Enrollment Tab at www.cv.k12.ca.us.

For questions, call your school of residence.

Kindergarten Enrollment Will Begin at Start of Next Month

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year will begin in Castro Valley on Wednesday, March 1. To be eligible, children must have been born on or before Sept. 1, 2012.

Transitional kindergarten (TK) was created for students who are no longer eligible for kindergarten due to the change in age eligibility requirements. TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. Students who turn five on or between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, 2017 may be eligible for the program.

Classes are at select elementary schools and students will be assigned to the school nearest their home. A parent information night regarding TK will be held at 6 p.m.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • SPECIAL TO THE FORUM



Wanted Man

Thursday, February 9: at 2:00 p.m., Sheriff's deputies pulled over and arrested a 36-year-old man from Castro Valley as part of a warrant issued for his capture. The man was traveling on Redwood Road near Castro Valley Boulevard when deputies identified his vehicle and verified his warrant. The man was also found to be driving with a suspended license. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$15,000 in bail.

Grand Theft

Wednesday, February 8: at 10:55 p.m., a 32-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and illegal drug paraphernalia. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his arrest relating to a charge of grand theft. Deputies caught up with the man while he was traveling on Castro Valley Boulevard near Santa Maria Avenue. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.

Illegal Narcotics

Wednesday, February 8: at 9:09 p.m., deputies arrested a 31-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and illegal drug paraphernalia. The man was traveling on Castro Valley Boulevard near Redwood Road when deputies stopped him for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Too Much to Drink

Wednesday, February 8: at 12:44 p.m., a 55-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication. Deputies spotted the woman walking on Castro Valley Boulevard near Park Way and stopped her for questioning. The woman failed her field sobriety test and was released to a sobering center.

Unwelcome Shoplifter

Monday, February 6: at 10:14 a.m., deputies arrested a 51-year-old woman from Pleasanton on suspicion of possession of stolen property, attempted petty theft, violating the terms of a court-issued restraining order, resisting arrest, and violating the terms of her parole. The woman was spotted walking out of a grocery store on Redwood Road near Castro Valley Boulevard with an unspecified amount of unpaid merchandise. Store security detained the woman until deputies arrived. The woman put up a fight but was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Driving Under the Influence

Monday, February 6: at 7:53 p.m.,

a 31-year-old man from Hayward was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. Deputies pulled the man over on Grove Way near ShadySpring Road. The man failed his field-sobriety test and was taken into custody.

Gas and Drugs

Monday, February 6: at 9:58 p.m., deputies arrested a 31-year-old man from Hayward on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics. The man was pumping gas at a business on Castro Valley Boulevard near Strobbridge Avenue when deputies approached him for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Health, Wellness Career Fair To Be Held Feb. 23 at CVHS

All businesses that deal with health and wellness issues are invited to meet with high school students during a career fair at the Castro Valley High School Auxiliary Gym next Thursday, February 23.

The fair, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., is designed to expand student knowledge of the broad range of fields in the industry and for businesses to meet their future workforce while networking with

faculty and other agencies.

There is no charge to participate in the event, which is being sponsored by the Castro Valley Eden Area Chamber of Commerce and CVHS. A flexible schedule allows for organizations to attend either morning or afternoon sessions or both.

Health organizations can get more information and register for the special event by visiting: www.edenareachamber.com

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The Week Ahead

● Wednesday, February 15: *Preparing Indian Cuisine*

This class, from 6 to 8 p.m. today, features two types of delicious Indian curries, butter chicken curry and vegetable korma curry, using traditional Indian spices and techniques. Also learn about the healing properties of the various Indian spices – at the Aitken Community Center, 17800 Redwood Road. The cost is \$50 plus \$15 material fee due to instructor. To register, call 510-881-6742.

● Wednesday, February 15: *East Bay Rose Society*

Jolene Adams, past president of the American Rose Society, will be discussing her travels to see roses from around the world, at the next meeting of the East Bay Rose Society at 7:30 p.m. this evening at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue in Oakland. Come and enjoy snacks, meet people who talk roses, and enjoy the show for no charge. For more info, visit www.eastbayroses.org.

● Saturday, February 18: *Rise Against Hunger*

Make a hands-on impact on hunger from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday by helping package more than 50,000 meals for hungry people around the world, at the NorCal Warehouse, 2296 Tripaldi Way in Hayward. Also children's activities, door prizes. Register at goo.gl/o7pbfl

● Sunday, February 19: *Mick LaSalle on the Oscars*

San Francisco Chronicle film critic Mick LaSalle will share his Academy Awards insights – and discuss the year in film – from 2 to 3:30 p.m. this Sunday at the Castro Valley Library. No tickets are required for this free event, but seating is limited. LaSalle has been the film critic at the Chronicle since 1985 and is the author of several books on the movie industry.

● Monday, February 20: *Lions Club 'Tips for Change'*

The Castro Valley Breakfast Lions will hold their second 'Tips For Change' at Gianni's Italian Bistro in San Ramon from 5 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 20. Lions members will be servers, with all tips going to the organization. Last year the event sold out and funds raised were distributed to local non-profits including FESCO, Ruby's Place, Kids Breakfast Club, Meals on Wheels, Alameda County Food Bank, Salvation Army, Project Outreach of Castro Valley and others. For reservations call 925-820-6969 or go to opentable.com

● Tuesday, February 21: *Sneak Peek: "Charley's Aunt '66"*

Enjoy a scene from Douglas Morrisson Theatre's production of "Charley's Aunt '66," then talk with the actors and the playwright, Scott

PRESIDENTS DAY SCHEDULES Monday, February 20, 2017

Government Operations

All Federal, State, County and City offices will be closed on Monday, except for emergency services.

Business Offices

Financial institutions and stock exchanges will be closed. Some business offices will be closed. The Forum office will be open.

Stores & Restaurants

Most will be open, but check ahead to be sure.

Public Transportation

BART will run on a Saturday schedule; AC Transit buses will operate on a Sunday schedule.

Garbage Collection

Recycling, organics, and garbage collection services will operate as usual on Monday and the Waste Management office on 98th Ave., the Hayward Pay Station and the Call Center will be open. For solid waste service questions, call WMAC at 510-537-5500 (residential) or 510-613-8700 (commercial/business).

Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) offices will be closed Monday. Call 510-506-5821 for sewer emergencies. For information regarding CVSan services and programs, visit www.cvsan.org.

Munson, about the show and their craft from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Castro Valley Library. Attendees will receive a two-for-one coupon for a full performance of the show at the theatre.

● Tuesday, February 21: *Start Smart Teen Driver Safety Class*

The California Highway Patrol Castro Valley Area and the Castro Valley Library present a "Start Smart" teen-driver safety class at 6 p.m. Tuesday, at the Library for new and future licensed teenage drivers ages 15-19 and their parents. CHP officers will talk about traffic collisions, their causes and avoidance techniques, and driver responsibilities. To register, RSVP to 510-581-9028 (CHP) or 510-667-7900 (Library).

...and Beyond

● Thursday, February 23: *Storytime: "Year of the Rooster"*

Local author Oliver Chin visits the library to read from his newest children's picture book, "The Year of the Rooster," 12th in the popular annual series *Tales from the Chinese Zodiac*, in a multimedia presentation for the whole family at 11 a.m. on Feb. 23. Designed for children 4 and older. Free, no registration necessary.

● Friday, February 24: *Calling All Poets!*

Join the Hayward Area Historical Society Museum of History & Culture for an Open Mic event that welcomes writers of all ages and levels in a competition to honor Black History Month. The event, for best African American themed poem, will be held at 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., performances begin at 6 p.m. Sign-ups will be on a first-come-first-served basis. For more info, call 510-581-0223 or email education@haywardareahistory.org

● Saturday, February 25: *Black History Month Celebration*

The public is invited to attend a Black History Month Celebration hosted by the Canyon Middle School African American Alliance Network in the Canyon Middle School Cafeteria at 19600 Cull Canyon Road, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25. The Celebration will include live performances, art activities, health fair, raffle and light breakfast. All are welcome!

● Saturday, February 25: *Tales of the Amazing Dr. Seuss*

Dr. Seuss' birthday is March 2. Performer Bob Kann shares tales about the author's life, his playful use of language, and the surprising inspiration behind many of his children's books, at 2:30 p.m. on March 25 at the Castro Valley Library. Free and all ages welcome.

● Saturday, February 25: *Shrimp A Peel Fundraiser*

The Hill & Valley Women's Club at 1808 B St., Hayward will hold it's annual Shrimp A Peel fundraising dinner Feb. 25, with a social hour at 4:15 p.m. and dinner at 5:15, which includes plump shrimp, pasta, green salad, garlic bread and dessert. For tickets (\$25), call J. Silveira 510-785-2053. For more info call Carol Crossett 510-206-5467. Proceeds benefit Paul Newman's fun camp for children with serious medical conditions.

● Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25-26: *SAT Bootcamp*

Castro Valley High School PTSA will hold a two-day SAT Bootcamp Workshop for \$175 per student on Feb. 25-26. (Scholarships are provided for kids who qualify financially.) The fee covers all materials that students get to keep. The workshop offers strategies for every question students face on the SAT. Deadline to enroll is Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. For info or to enroll, visit CatalystPrep.com and click the Bootcamp Sign-Up tab on the website's menu bar.

Arts & Entertainment

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Tickets for CFA events listed below are available online at www.cvarts-foundation.org; or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. phone 889-8961; or at the CV Adult School, 4430 Alma Ave.

● **Gina Eckstine**, daughter of famed bandleader and singer Billy Eckstine, brings her own style to the music scene at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25. With family friends that included greats like Sammy Davis Jr., Sarah Vaughan and Quincy Jones, she weaves personal stories throughout her selections from the Great American Songbook. *For tickets (\$17-\$25) see above.*

● **California Beach Boys Concert**, originally scheduled for this past October 15, has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. *For tickets (on sale now) see above.*

THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"Rumors,"** – Spend a wonderfully funny evening at Chanticleers Theatre in the company of four nouveau riche couples romping through Neil Simon's farce, "Rumors." Guests arrive at a 10th anniversary party (in formal wear) only to discover that the hosts have been incapacitated by mysterious events involving gunshots. Do we have a scandal here? Could be. As in all classic farces, there are slamming doors, lots of misunderstandings, downright deceptions, and even some just plain silliness. The show runs through Feb. 26 at Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley. Curtain for Friday and Saturday evening shows is 8 p.m. Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. For tickets (\$25 general; \$20 seniors, students and military) visit chanticleers.org or call 510-733-5483.

● **'Charley's Aunt '66,'** the World Premiere of a wonderfully silly farce developed by Scott Munson from the original play and featuring an outstanding ensemble of Bay Area performers, is now playing at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Feb. 17, 18, 24, 25 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 19 and 25. For tickets (\$10-\$29), visit www.dmtonline.org or call 510-881-6777.

ART GALLERIES & EVENTS

● **"Getting to Know the Map,"** an exhibition of 40 years of photography by Geir and Kate Jordahl, featuring the images and projects which have been shaped by forty years of exploring, studying, traveling and teaching, is now on display at PhotoCentral Gallery, 1099 E Street in Hayward. A Book Release & Signing will be on April 13 from 7-9 p.m. The PhotoCentral Gallery is open Monday 5-10 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday 12-3 p.m. and by appointment. The Upstairs Gallery is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. -5 p.m. For more, visit info@photocentral.org

● **People, Places & Pets**, an exhibition of 40 photographs – from portraits, local scenes, historical sites and favorite pets – is on display at Foothill Gallery, 22394 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, sponsored by the Hayward Arts Council.

● **Hayward Area Photography**, the work of 23 local photographers including 10 members of the Castro Valley Photo Club will be on display through March 31 at the John O'Lague Galleria at Hayward City Hall, sponsored by the Hayward Arts Council.

● **"Finding the Quiet Places,"** a display of pastel paintings by Castro Valley artist Sarah Schneider, is on view at the Castro Valley Library. These landscapes show calm and restful scenes, a reminder of the local beauty of our area. Schneider is a member of A.R.T., Inc.

● **"Looking Forward,"** an exhibition by the members of A.R.T., Inc., featuring a variety of media including two and three-dimensional art, will be on display through March 4 at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. Art judge Angela Johal selected the exhibition awards.

● **Making a Difference in Our Community**, a display of photos and text detailing the activities and 68-year history of the Castro Valley Women's Club, will be presented for the entire month of February at the Castro Valley Library.

● **Celebrating Community: Black Families of Fairview and Kelly Hill**, depicting the diverse experiences of past and present residents of these two areas of unincorporated Hayward, will be on display in the Hayward Area Historical Society Community Gallery at 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward through March 5. The exhibit was guest curated by Karen McHenry-Smith. For more information call 510-581-0223 or visit www.haywardareahistory.org.

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Submissions to The Forum

To submit Calendar listings or news stories for possible publication, send information by the prior Friday in an email, or attach a document with photos to: fredz@ebpublishing.com, or fax information to 510-814-9691.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Olivia Gilman-Chun

This week's Athlete of the Week is Olivia Gilman-Chun, a Sophomore at Castro Valley High School. Gilman-Chun plays on the CVHS JV girls basketball team, is one of the Captains, and leads the team in scoring, with 20 three pointers and 203 points total. She is having a great year, helping her team to a 14-4 record. Aside from her scoring, Gilman-Chun has contributed in other facets of the game, pulling down 61 rebounds, has 60 steals, and 22 assists.



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CV Students in Lego League Competition

Two seventh-graders from Canyon Middle School and a fourth-grader from Jensen Ranch Elementary school participated in the NorCal FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League competition last fall.

Held aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet docked in Alameda, the Challenge was created by experts in the field that relates to important real world issues.

This year's theme was Improving Animal and Human Interaction. The students were tasked with identifying and researching an issue, proposing an innovative solution, and validating the proposal.

Students were also tasked with accomplishing series of robotics missions depicting animal-human interaction using Lego software programming and a robot they de-



CV Lego League team during competition last November aboard the USS Hornet museum docked in Alameda. From left, Arianna Desai, Annika Desai and Anjan Naniseti.

signed and built.

Calling themselves Team Jaguars, the three students made

their robot ("King Jaguar"), programmed it, and scored well in the competition in all rounds.

In addition, the students researched the global epidemic causing a decline in the honey bee population in America. To date, many issues impacting bees are not well documented and not analyzed.

The trio made prototype for a Smart Beehive with sensors to detect temperature, weight, and the sound of the hive as a prototype that would collect data to draw some patterns of issues affecting honey bees.

All their hard work paid off with the team scoring high in overall category and advancing them to state level championship.

SENIORS

Keep Watch for Mistakes on List of Doctors Covered by Medicare Plan

My wife and I are covered by a Medicare Advantage Plan, but we often find that doctors listed in our plan's directory turn out not to be in the Plan. This makes it difficult for us to rely upon the list to seek care from doctors in the network. Any comment upon this?

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

Yes, and you are not alone. As you know, Medicare Advantage plans are a popular alternative to regular Medicare because the MA plans typically offer lower out-of-pocket costs and the same basic coverage as original Medicare, plus some additional benefits and services that original Medicare doesn't offer. However, seniors need to make sure they know how their plans work.

Medicare Advantage plans rely upon members seeking care from In-Network providers and they typically have different coverage

rules for out-of-network care. It is therefore important to know which doctors and hospitals are in a plan's network when you seek care.

Reliance solely upon your plan's provider directory could lead to surprises and unexpected medical bills.

A recent government review of Medicare Advantage plans revealed that their provider directories were often riddled with errors. The most egregious errors were the frequent identification of doctors as being in the Plan Network, who actually were not.

In this regard, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted a review of on-line provider directories for Medicare Advantage plans.

It found that there was incorrect information for half of the 5,832 doctors listed in the directories of 54 Medicare Advantage plans, together representing a third of all



Medicare Advantage providers and covering approximately 17 million Americans.

As a result of that review, CMS warned 21 Medicare Advantage insurers to fix the errors by February 6, 2017, or face serious fines.

Before purchasing a plan, you should double check with the doctors and hospitals you use in order to verify that they are part of your Plan's provider network.

Once you are enrolled, and before you arrange for care from a new medical provider listed in your directory, you should first call the provider's office and verify that he or she is actually still part of your plan's network.

Doing so may prevent some unexpected bills for out-of-network medical care and help make your selected plan work for you.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com. He wishes to thank ElderLawAnswers.com for permission to revise and publish this article.

Do You Need to File a Tax Return? Here's a Rundown of Requirements

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

There are several factors that affect whether or not you need to file a federal income tax return this year including how much you earned last year (in 2016), and the source of that income, as well as your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's (2016) IRS tax filing requirement thresholds.

For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2016 gross income – which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately – was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

• Single: \$10,350 (\$11,900 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2017).

• Married filing jointly: \$20,700 (\$21,950 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$23,200 if you're both over 65).

• Married filing separately: \$4,050 at any age.

• Head of household: \$13,350 (\$14,900 if age 65 or older).

• Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child: \$16,650 (\$17,900 if age 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with info on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "Tax Guide for Seniors" (publication 554), or see IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf.

Special Circumstances

There are, however, some other financial situations that will require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirement.

For example, if you had earnings from self-employment in 2016 of \$400 or more, or if you owe any special taxes to the IRS such as alternative minimum tax or IRA tax penalties, you'll probably need to file.

The IRS offers an interactive tax assistant tool on their website that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund.

You can access this tool at IRS.gov/filing – click on "Do you need to file a return?" under the Get Ready tab. Or, you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.

You can also get face-to-face help at a Taxpayer Assistance Center. See IRS.gov/localcontacts or call 800-829-1040 to locate a center near you.

see TAX on page 7

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How Medicare Covers Preventive Health

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Medicare currently covers a wide array of free preventive and screening services to help you stay healthy, but not all services are completely covered.

You also need to be aware that the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) – which helps financially support Medicare – may very well cause these free preventive services to be eliminated in the future. But in the meantime, here's how it works.

Free Preventive Services

Currently, most of Medicare's preventive services are available to all Part B beneficiaries for free, with no copays or deductibles, as long as you meet basic eligibility standards.

Mammograms; colonoscopies; shots against flu, pneumonia, and hepatitis B; screenings for diabetes, depression, and heart conditions; and counseling to combat obesity, alcohol abuse, and smoking are just some of Medicare's lengthy list of covered services.

But to get these services for free, you need to go to a doctor who accepts Medicare "on assignment," which means he or she has

agreed to accept the Medicare approved rate as full payment.

Also, the tests are free only if they're used at specified intervals. For example, prostate cancer PSA tests, once every 12 months for men over 50; or colonoscopy, once every 10 years, or every two years if you're at high risk.

Medicare also offers a free "Welcome to Medicare" exam with your doctor in your first year, along with annual wellness visits thereafter. But don't confuse these with full physical examinations. These are prevention-focused visits that provide only an overview of your health and medical risk factors and serve as a baseline for future care.

For a complete list of services along with their eligibility requirements, visit Medicare.gov and click on the "What Medicare Covers" tab at the top of the page, followed by "Preventive & screening services."

Hidden Costs

You also need to know that while the previously listed Medicare services are completely free, you can be charged for certain diagnostic services or additional tests or procedures related to the preventive service.

For example, if your doctor



To eliminate billing surprises, talk to your doctor before any preventive service procedure to find out if you may be subject to a charge and what it would be.

Cost Sharing Services

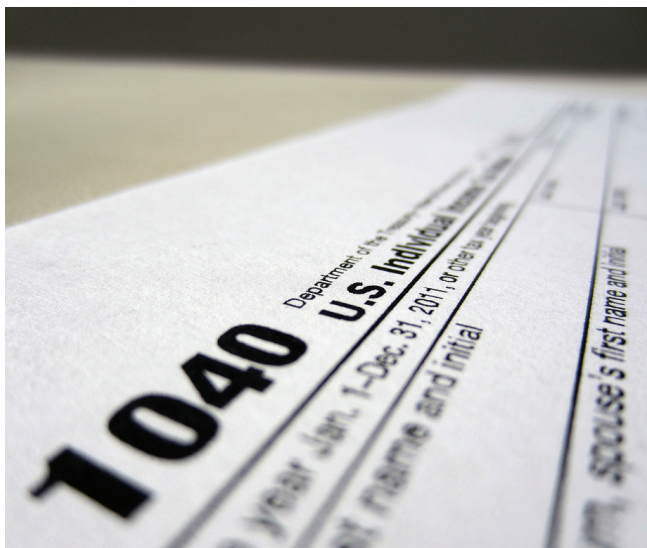
Medicare also offers several other preventive services that require some out-of-pocket cost sharing.

With these tests, you'll have to pay 20 percent of the cost of the service, after you've met your \$183 Part B yearly deductible. The services that fall under this category include glaucoma screenings, diabetes self-management trainings, barium enemas to detect colon cancer, and digital rectal exams to detect prostate cancer.

Medicare Advantage Members

If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, your plans are also required to cover the same free preventive services as original Medicare as long as you see in-network providers. If you see providers that are not in your plan's network, charges will typically apply.

Send senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org.



Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return, don't assume you're also excused from filing state income taxes.

Tax: Should I File Return?

continued from previous page State Income Tax

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. California residents should check with: www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/fileRtn/ before concluding that you're entirely in the clear.

Tax Preparation Help

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can get help through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TEC provides free tax preparation and

counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep to locate a service near you.

Also check with AARP, a participant in the TCE program that provides free tax preparation at more than 5,000 sites nationwide.

To locate an AARP Tax-Aide site call 888-227-7669 or visit AARP.org/findtaxhelp. You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Share Your Views Next Wednesday on Fate of Long-Vacant Downtown Building

Editor:

Next Wednesday, Feb. 22, Castro Valley residents will have the chance to learn about the County's plans for the long-vacant Daughtrey's department store site, right next to Knudsen's Ice Creamery and Wendy's Cafe on Castro Valley Blvd.

After a failed three-year process between the County and a developer, we are back to square one in revitalizing the property, which has been an eye-sore for decades, except for occasional use as a Spirit

Halloween store.

The county, which owns the building, wants to seek another developer to find a tenant for the site, but they have done little to hear from Castro Valley residents on our priorities for downtown.

The County also is launching an update to the Castro Valley Downtown Plan. The timing could not be better to use that update to chart a vision for downtown – and this property in the heart of CV – to keep it a vibrant place we all love to visit.

Rather than rushing forward and repeating past mistakes, the County should take a little extra time right now to consult with Castro Valley residents. What would you like to see there? A brewpub? Nice restaurant? Retail? A Town Square with a band stand?

Please attend the special meeting of our Municipal Advisory Council on Feb. 22, 6 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library and share your thoughts. Also urge the County to prioritize Castro Valley residents' input and get it right this time.

—Ellen Griffin, Castro Valley

Elementary School Teacher Dissatisfied with CV School District's Compensation Offer

Editor:

I am in my 13th year teaching 3rd grade in Castro Valley, at Jensen Ranch Elementary in Palomares Hills. I love my job – love the school, the principal, my colleagues, the supportive parents, and of course, my wonderful students, past and present.

What I don't love is the amount of respect we get from the district. This is exemplified by the fact that they are only offering a 2% raise to teachers, with no offer to improve the cost of benefits. They say they will only do that if it is taken out of the 2% salary increase.

Nearby districts offer better compensation; anywhere from \$1,300 a year to \$20,000 a year for first-year teachers. Additionally, to have my family covered by my benefits costs over \$2,100 a month. CVUSD only pays \$500 of that.

That means over \$1,600 is coming out of my monthly paycheck (close to \$20,000 a year)! It's disheartening and explains why many Castro Valley teachers are currently looking elsewhere for employment.

The case is similar for substitute pay. CVUSD pays \$15-58 less per day than other local districts for short-term substitutes. We have had a sub shortage for years in our district.

Teachers are regularly called back from professional training days because there are not enough subs available. Perhaps if they paid more, or at least equal to Pleasanton, Livermore, San Leandro, or Hayward, the district might attract a bigger pool. It's ridiculous!

My 22-year-old daughter is currently in CSUEB's teaching credential program, and I am thrilled that she is following in my footsteps. However, I can't, in good faith, advise her to apply to Castro Valley, after seeing the teacher salary and benefits comparison of all the neighboring districts.

Castro Valley is consistently at the bottom! Something needs to change if CVUSD wants to both attract and retain quality teachers. Show us some respect!

—Polly A Clark, CVUSD teacher

Says Non-Service Dogs in Food Stores Should be Reported

Editor:

When I shop for food I often meet a non-service dog carried into the store. I was looking for a way to complain to the Alameda County Health Department, since non-service animals are not permitted inside a food facility (such as a supermarket, farmer's market, or restaurant), per the Health and Safety Code.

Here's how to complain: Call 510-567-6700 and say that you have an official complaint, mention that you've observed a store that is permitting non-service dogs inside, and give the name and address of the store.

The Health Department can require the store to post signage reminding customers not to bring in non-service animals. This also applies to farmers' markets, where such signage can be posted on a sandwich board.

—Lois Goggin, Castro Valley

'Quiet Act of Kindness' Noted

Editor:

To the three women that left food for what appeared to be a sleeping homeless man in the doorway of the old Daughtrey store on Wednesday, February 8.

Your quiet act of kindness is noted as an example for all of us not to forget those who are truly in need. You gave without the need of a thank you or other acknowledgment.

Many blessings to you and your families for your kindness.


—Conrad Wilgus, Castro Valley

Obituaries

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Mary Ann Holmgren

85, a long-time resident of San Leandro, passed away in Cumming, Georgia, where she had been living with her daughter. She was born on October 18, 1931, in East Aurora, New York. She graduated from East Aurora High School and, afterwards, relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area, working as a switchboard operator for the Kaiser Corporation. In 1951, she married Vernon Leroy Holmgren.

After their three children entered school, Mary resumed working for Safeway, Russell's Markets and Porter's Market.

She was a member of UFCW and retired after 20 years. She is survived by her 3 children, Marc, Karen Hodges and Eric, along with 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Mary was an avid reader and enjoyed doing things with and for her family. Her cremated remains will be interred beside her husband at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward later this year.

Marcella "Mickey" E. Ratcliffe
December 9, 1920 – February 1, 2017

Marcella Ratcliffe, known to everyone as "Mickey", passed into the loving arms of her savior, Jesus Christ, on Feb. 1, 2017. She is survived by her two children, Judy Swanson and Jim Ratcliffe (Maggie); her five grandchildren, (Judy's) Candace McDaniel (Brock) and Tim Swanson (Alisa), (Jim's) Josh Ratcliffe (Shannon), Jeremy Ratcliffe (Jennifer), and Sarah Ratcliffe; and her 11 great-grandchildren, (Candace's) Cade, Callum and Brogan, (Tim's) Ashley, Trent, and Tyler, (Josh's) Joey, Megan and Brinly, and (Jeremy's) Kaitlin and Kyle.

Mickey was born Dec. 9, 1920 in the family farmhouse in Foster, Oklahoma to Stella May and Arthur Pickett. In 1941, Mickey graduated from East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma, with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. Mickey fell in love with Paul Ratcliffe who she met at First Baptist Church of Richmond in California. After a brief courtship (five weeks!), Paul and Mickey married on Dec. 3, 1944 and were married almost 64 years until the death of Paul in 2008.


In 1951, Paul, Mickey and their three-year-old daughter, Judy, moved to Hayward and became active in First Baptist Church of Castro Valley. Jim was adopted as an infant in 1953. In that same year, Mickey began teaching in the Castro Valley School District. She consequently taught kindergarten for 32 years, the first 11 years at Stanton School, then 21 years at Proctor School.

Mickey loved people, all people, but especially children. Family was very important to her and she loved spending time with her five grandchildren and, later, her 11 great-grandchildren.

Mickey was always very involved and busy in her church. In addition, she had many church responsibilities as a pastor's wife. Cooking and reading were also special interests of Mickey's. Even though it became very difficult of late for Mickey to communicate, she maintained a sweet spirit and wanted to be with people because she loved people so much.

Mickey's family wishes to thank David Lin and his wife, Luci, for almost four years of around-the-clock loving care.

All are invited to a memorial service celebrating Mickey's life on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 18550 Redwood Rd., in Castro Valley. Because Mickey loved people so much, your presence would be an honor to her memory.



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K	N	E	E	S	A	R	A	S	E	A		



Missing Cat

Disappeared from Seven Hills Road near Santa Maria on Thursday, Feb. 2. Has yellow/brown eyes and white stripes on his tail. Neutered and chipped, very friendly but is scared of strangers. If you see a cat that fits this description, please call 510-574-5418.

REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



'Big Brother' Has Come Home

Technology enhances lives, but beware of the 'dark side'

It's no secret we've come to rely on technology to enhance our lives. What's not so visible, however, is the "dark side" of technology and how it can be used against us.

Two recent events brought this sharply into focus.

First, various media sources reported this past week that an Ohio man whose home was destroyed by fire was subsequently charged with arson.

In a bizarre twist, he was served with a warrant to get access to the data from his pace-maker. According to Fox News, the cardiologist who examined the data concluded that it was "highly improbable" the events pertaining to the fire could have unfolded as stated by the homeowner.

The second situation happened while showing a home to a prospective buyer. While walking through the property, the buyer suddenly began talking... to the house. Spotting surveil-

lance equipment, and concluding that the homeowners were likely monitoring the visit and might use his comments against him during negotiations, he took it upon himself to verbalize his impressions of the home in a completely neutral manner.

With data being generated from any number of devices that literally surround us, it's becoming impossible to do anything in a vacuum.

Whether we like it or not, our activities are being constantly monitored by our financial transactions, apps on our phones, fitness devices, cameras and so much more. Even the thermostat for the heating system in my home knows when all of us have headed out and queries us as to whether or not it should turn down the heat.

There is no doubt that all of these devices add to the convenience of our lives. The number of vendors pushing smart home technology are expanding expo-

nentially. You can now respond to whoever is at your front door from the other side of the planet, remotely turn off your sprinklers should it start to rain, control the lights, raise and lower your window blinds, monitor your babysitter and SO much more.

However, it all comes at the cost of a potential loss of privacy and, ultimately, should someone hack into your system, control. To say nothing of your inability to perform basic functions should you lose the power in your home.

Additionally, there's now the prospect that the data generated by your home's devices might actually be subpoenaed, should circumstances warrant. George Orwell's "Big Brother," it appears... has finally come home.

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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Rates Remain in Holding Pattern

There was little change in mortgage rates last week for the third straight week.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.17 percent, down from 4.19 percent the pre-

vious week. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.65 percent.

Fifteen-year home loans averaged 3.39 percent, down from 3.41 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.21 percent, down from 3.23 percent. A year ago, the 5-year ARM averaged 2.83 percent.

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

19141 Almond Road	94546	\$663,000	3 BD - 1,360 SF - 1950
20641 Center Street	94546	\$610,000	3 BD - 1,062 SF - 1950
4113 David Street	94546	\$570,000	2 BD - 986 SF - 1947
21129 Dawe Avenue	94546	\$575,000	2 BD - 906 SF - 1948
4971 Henson Place	94546	\$1,005,000	4 BD - 3,036 SF - 1991
21266 Hobert Street	94546	\$580,500	3 BD - 1,166 SF - 1947
4855 James Avenue	94546	\$880,000	3 BD - 1,514 SF - 1954
2249 Kipling Street	94546	\$530,000	2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1948
19456 Merrill Place	94546	\$831,000	3 BD - 2,008 SF - 1986
21728 Orange Avenue	94546	\$590,000	3 BD - 1,288 SF - 1948
20115 Redwood Rd #22	94546	\$458,000	2 BD - 866 SF - 1988
3768 Somerset Avenue	94546	\$648,500	2 BD - 1,136 SF - 1942
20380 Stanton Avenue	94546	\$545,000	2 BD - 1,366 SF - 1930
2596 Stanton Hill Road	94546	\$789,000	4 BD - 1,707 SF - 1960
2354 Star Avenue	94546	\$525,000	3 BD - 1,764 SF - 1948
2246 Vestal Avenue	94546	\$500,000	2 BD - 1,147 SF - 1948
21003 Wilbeam Avenue	94546	\$600,000	3 BD - 1,314 SF - 1956
6533 Bellhurst Lane	94552	\$925,000	4 BD - 2,296 SF - 1987
23218 Canyon Terrace Dr	94552	\$690,000	4 BD - 1,463 SF - 1996
6449 Crestwood Drive	94552	\$1,020,000	5 BD - 2,817 SF - 1992
20426 Crow Creek Road	94552	\$850,000	3 BD - 2,358 SF - 1995
25761 Durrwood Court	94552	\$1,087,000	5 BD - 2,698 SF - 1998
5969 Greenridge Road	94552	\$1,110,000	4 BD - 1,901 SF - 1963
21001 Justco Lane	94552	\$712,000	4 BD - 1,652 SF - 1994

TOTAL SALES: 24
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$458,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$655,750
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,110,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$720,583

San Lorenzo

1891 Bandoni Avenue	94580	\$630,000	3 BD - 1,252 SF - 1955
1124 Elgin Street	94580	\$500,000	4 BD - 1,407 SF - 1951
825 Linnea Avenue	94580	\$525,000	3 BD - 1,034 SF - 1951
16222 Silverleaf Drive	94580	\$540,000	4 BD - 1,572 SF - 1994
15817 Via Alamitos	94580	\$510,000	2 BD - 898 SF - 1945
17061 Via Primero	94580	\$545,000	3 BD - 1,238 SF - 1944
15758 Via Sorrento	94580	\$587,000	3 BD - 1,164 SF - 1956
1689 Via Tovita	94580	\$610,000	4 BD - 1,672 SF - 1951

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$500,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$542,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$630,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$555,875

OPEN HOMES

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 18TH & 19TH

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	—	1-4	14828 Martell Avenue	\$498,000	3/1	Re/Max Accord	Louise Lovewell	351-5555
P	—	1-4	4119 Stanley Boulevard	\$696,000	3/2-1/2	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt Jones	357-0120
Albany	2-4	2-4	718 Adams Street	\$785,000	2/1	Pacific Union International	Amy Robeson	828-3478
C	—	1-4	17844 Center Street	\$1,186,000	3/2.5 - 2+ car	Coldwell Banker	Trish Radovich	367-7999

CITY GUIDE



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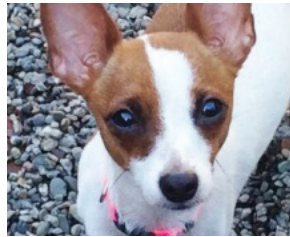
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BOBBY was found as a stray and needs a home. A black/grey striped tabby with white paws, he is about 5 1/2 months old. Visit: dustypawsrescue.org if interested for more information.



STELLA is a super sweet little dog, only seven pounds. She may be part Toy Fox Terrier and part Chihuahua. She is approximately 1-1/2-years-old. Please visit: dustypawsrescue.org

Course: Prone to Flooding

continued from front page

East Bay Regional Parks Police Lt. Alan Love reported the flood covering the exit was 300 feet wide, so special rescue vehicles were brought in to transport the restaurant's patrons and staff to safety.

The golf course has not had floods like this at any time in its existence with the possible exception of the storms of late 1982 and early 1983.

Castro Valley resident Cory Barrios caught the aftermath on video. His nine-minute narration on YouTube shows heavy flooding visible from Redwood Road. At one point, Barrios points out the roof of a portable outhouse mostly submerged in the fast-moving current.

"It's just a mess of water everywhere," Barrios said in the video. "It's crazy. It's like the rapids. You can kayak on this creek." (To see Cory Barrios' video, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=luCAX-WH0aV0)

With full reservoirs and continued rain, many man-made lakes in Northern California are spilling, but none nearly as critical as at the dam above the town of Oroville,

where thousands of residents have been evacuated.

EBMUD's local reservoirs – San Pablo, Upper San Leandro, Briones, Lake Chabot, and Lafayette – are all full. The East Bay received 4.5 inches of rainfall last week, bringing the monthly total to 337 percent of average, and more rain is expected tonight and tomorrow.

To ease the buildup of water, EBMUD makes controlled releases between storms, an essential step to create space for additional rain and snow runoff. Those occur only when those reservoirs are completely full, according to District spokesperson Andrea Pook.

"The golf course is a known flood plain," Pook told the Forum. "We are operating the reservoirs as they are designed. We closely watch the forecasts, but must work with the weather as it happens."

As much as 700 cubic-feet-per-second was pouring from the Upper San Leandro Reservoir at the peak of last week's storms. One cubic-foot-per-second is about 7.48 gallons of water.

While the golf course is prone to flooding in extreme conditions, regular maintenance of the surrounding land is managed by the



Portions of Redwood Canyon Golf Course were under several feet of water last Thursday, as EBMUD released water from the Upper San Leandro Reservoir.

East Bay Regional Park District.

Streams and creek beds around the golf course had been cleared by the previous golf course owners. However, years of drought conditions often cloud the memory of what can happen in a deluge. When Lake Chabot is full, water typically backs up into the golf course by holes 12 and 13, leaving branches, leaves and other debris in its wake. There is no current published plan to mitigate this debris.

While EBMUD and the East Bay Park District do regularly coordinate on scheduled releases, the water agency does not encroach on park property, Pook said. If San Leandro Creek remains obstructed in key areas, flooding will likely continue.

The utility district is working with the county to provide continued information to property owners along local creeks at www.acpwa.org/storm-closures-information/.

Spelling Whiz Kid Wins Proctor Elementary Championship Again

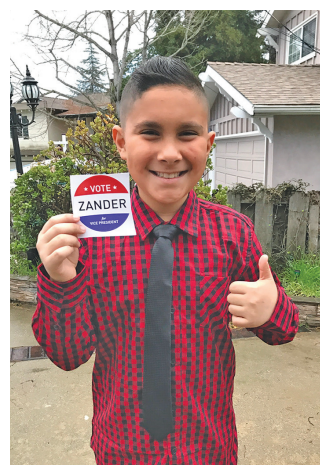
"Interminable" almost tripped him up and "gesticulation" was a tough one, but Proctor Elementary School fourth grader Zander Calderon spelled both those words correctly at his school spelling bee and entered the final round. His word was "Stilton."

The stinky British cheese is also the name of a village in England. It's not so difficult to spell, but the key is remembering that it's a proper noun and needs to be capitalized.

Zander, 10, remembered to capitalize it and was the last man standing at Proctor's bee. They gave him one last word to finalize his victory: "legitimately," and he became his school's champion speller for the second year in a row.

That's a big accomplishment, because when he won last year, Zander became the only third grade student ever to win the bee in Proctor's history.

Zander moved on to the Castro Valley School District bee and



Zander Calderon

placed sixth out of all school-wide champions in the fourth through sixth grades.

He had a chance to compete in the regional spelling bee among hundreds of other Bay Area super-spellers at the Scripps Spelling Bee Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley last Saturday, but Zan-

der's such a busy guy that he had a scheduling conflict.

"He had basketball playoff last weekend," explained mom Danielle Calderon. "I told him it was his choice and there was no bad decision, so he chose basketball."

Zander says he plans to study hard and be back in the competition as a fifth grader.

"I'll absolutely be in it next year," said Zander.

Zander plays baseball in addition to basketball, when he's not busy hanging out with friends and doing school work. And earlier this month, he was elected to his school's student council as vice president.

"My campaign slogan was 'Let me spell it out for you: Z-A-N-D-E-R for vice president,'" said Zander.

Mom Danielle is understandably proud of her successful son.

"I love his drive," said Danielle. "At the end of the day, he's an amazing little boy."

CV Women's Club Showcase at Library

The Castro Valley Women's Club – now in its 69th year – is being showcased at the Castro Valley Library during the month of February. Shown from left, are the exhibit's committee members (top row) Charlotte Lusschen, Janna Lusschen and Margaret Kosiba; (bottom row) Gloria Johanson, Carolyn Darcey, and President René Besold.



CV DENTISTS STEP UP TO THE PLATE

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