

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 32

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

NO. 43

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



Staying Virtual

Public schools say now is not the time to move back into the classroom

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Elder Abuse

A big problem that has escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic

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NEWS



Campaign 2020

Four candidates running for two seats on Eden Healthcare District board

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PHONE: (510) 614-1560

FAWNED MEMORIES



This vintage painting of the Castro Valley Women's Club from the early '70s has been on display at the clubhouse for many years. The artist's daughter, a longtime member and past-president of the club, recently decided to bring the painting outside to take a picture. But the photo op was upstaged by a curious fawn out for a stroll along Redwood Road. The Women's Club is always looking for new members. If you're interested, call 510-461-7692 or visit www.castrovalleywomensclub.weebly.com.

DA O'Malley Calls For Pledge Against Human Trafficking

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Alameda County is a hotbed of prostitution and other forms of human trafficking, according to District Attorney O'Malley, who is calling on local neighborhoods to help stamp it out.

In a speech to the Castro Valley Rotary Club last week, O'Malley outlined the current problem of human trafficking, the progress being made to fight its spread, and suggestions for how government and businesses can work together to eliminate it.

"No community is immune. This happens in Danville as well as in Oakland," O'Malley said. "On any Saturday morning, you can see them lined up near businesses around the 580 and 238 Interstate zone."

"Until our communities say, 'no more,' we will have human trafficking in our communities. It is our hope that the community will continue to learn more about human trafficking and how to become involved in the effort to combat it."

District Attorney O'Malley formed the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) division in 2005 prior to the passage of California's Human Trafficking statute. The program coordinates with 50 different law enforcement and social services agencies in the Bay Area and has become the model for federal anti-human trafficking efforts.

In the last 15 years, the HEAT Watch has helped more than 6,000 minors find safer alternatives, according to O'Malley, who said the county has prosecuted more than 740 cases involving sex trafficking in the same time period and has 57 active cases currently.

"My first case was back in 1997 where the victim was a 12-year-old girl whose mom and sisters were under the spell of a trafficker," O'Malley said. "The day we rescued her, she had been raped and sold eight times in one night."

O'Malley said human trafficking is a \$150 billion global enterprise that is funded primarily by the purchasers, although more gangs are getting involved.

see **TRAFFICKING** on page 5

MAC UPDATED

Impact of Pandemic, Tiny Homes for Homeless

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) touched on a variety of subjects at their Monday night meeting, everything from more tiny homes for the homeless to art for banners on Castro Valley Boulevard.

The virtual meeting kicked off with a legislative update from Assemblymember Bill Quirk, who focused on how the pandemic has affected his District 20 constituents, especially financially.

"We're very worried because there are so many people without income and are going to be without resources to pay rent," said Quirk. He said that will mean a

domino effect with landlords then getting foreclosed on and then smaller credit unions taking a hit.

Quirk said the temporary solution is for evictions and related matters to be put on hold until February of next year.

MAC member Chuck Moore pressed Quirk for locally set speed limits. Moore has long been concerned with speeding, particularly in the eastern part of town near Crow Canyon Road where a young girl was struck and killed earlier this year.

Currently, speed limits are set by speed studies and extrapolated from average speeds on a given road, a process that Moore is concerned might actually raise speed limits in the area. He asked Quirk

to work to allow communities to set their own limits.

After Quirk, Alameda County Fire Chief Willie MacDonald gave the MAC an update on his department, specifically urging for a vote in favor of Measure X.

Measure X is a \$90 million, 30-year general obligation bond for repairing and replacing out-of-date fire stations and equipment. Assessed at 1.6 cents per \$100,000 of assessed home value, it would cost the average Alameda County homeowner about \$142 a year.

Members of the Alameda County taxpayers' Association oppose the tax, saying it will cost more than its worth and there are no guarantees it will be spent on the dilapidated stations.

"It's impairing our ability to provide services we need," said MacDonald of the state of some stations. "All of our buildings in the unincorporated area are at least 30 years old."

The MAC then got updates from Keith Rowan of the county's General Services Agency and Daniel Cooperman of the Housing and Community Development Department on homelessness issues.

Rowan told the MAC that the COVID-19 outbreak disrupted a proposed dormitory-style building for the homeless which had been planned for unused space on the Fairmont Hospital Campus.

Instead, an option for "tiny homes" was presented in May.

"It's a much more durable and

permanent type of construction," said Rowan, who hopes a portion of the homes could be open by the end of the year and all of them to be complete by the first quarter of 2021.

Plans call for 24 164-square-foot units and ten 220-square-foot ADA compliant units, all with kitchens, bathrooms, and heating. Laundry services would be in a communal area.

The average stay would optimally be between three to six months and residents would receive support in moving on to permanent accommodations.

"It's really a very small studio apartment," said Rowan, who added that they are basing the project

see **MAC** on page 5

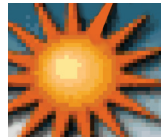
Castro Valley Weather Oct. 21-25, 2020



Wednesday
Sunny & Warm
High 81° Low 55°



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High 78° Low 50°



Friday
Mostly Sunny
High 78° Low 53°



Saturday
Partly Sunny
High 69° Low 51°



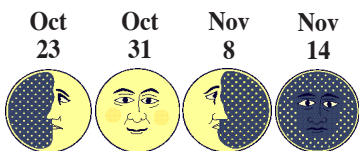
Sunday
Sunny
High 71° Low 49°

Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 00.00
Normal To Date: 00.00
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases



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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Hayward Rotary Club Lending a Helping Hand to Salvation Army

By Kim Huggett
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

For nearly 100 years the Hayward Rotary Club has been an active part of the Hayward Community.

One of the best examples of demonstrating the Rotary motto, "service above self" has been its relationship with the Hayward area Salvation Army.

From serving monthly Sunday dinners to fundraising, Hayward Rotary has been one of the leading service clubs to support the local Salvation Army's work in serving those in need by providing food, shelter, rent and utility assistance, and emotional and spiritual care throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Pre-pandemic, Rotary club members would cook and serve for nearly 50 men, women, and sometimes children, in the Salvation Army kitchen and meeting hall once a month for about 20 years.

Under new safety precautions, masked-up and gloved members in the kitchen now prepare and box the meals, which are then handed out through the front door.

Hayward Rotarians come from many diverse walks of life and are united in giving back to the community, often joined by other community folks, including students from California Crosspoint Academy and other local schools, the Rotaract and Interact clubs,



churches and even the Oakland Raiders Fan Club.

"I participate for two reasons," said Robert Pimentel, a Hayward Rotarian and retired professional caterer who has participated as a chef at the dinners for 14 years. "I have the ability that God gave me and I want to share it as part of 'service above self'."

Help for people who are hungry has been one of the most historic outreach efforts by the Salvation Army, headed locally by Capt. Carlos and Leilani Armendariz, who came from Tulare with their three children. The local operation contributes to the nationwide outreach that's provided more than 65 million meals, 1.46-million nights of shelter, and emotional and spiritual care to 778,887 people.

As of July 2020, it has distrib-

uted more than 10 times the number of food boxes as it did in response to Hurricane Katrina, and it doesn't expect the increased need to go away any time soon.

After the Great Recession in 2007, The Salvation Army served an additional 10 million people in need over the following three years. Participation in religious services is not required and services are open to all in need.

Hayward Rotary's support of the local Salvation Army extends to its volunteerism during the December holidays, when club members become bell-ringers for the Red Kettle Campaign, usually at the Foothill Boulevard Safeway.

"It especially thrills my soul to see families join us in our support of The Salvation Army, because it teaches our Rotary motto 'Service Above Self' to the next generation," said the Rev. Chuck Horner, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, a Hayward Rotarian and a regular at the Sunday meals. "Volunteers return for the joy they feel from serving others."

Do you want to give back to the community in an organized way, in the company of distinguished community leaders? For more ways to get involved in Hayward Rotary's community efforts, please contact Chuck Horner at churck@gmail.com or 510-589-9677.

Kim Huggett is president of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce.

Hayward Officials Apologize for Political Propaganda Distributed in Food Boxes

Several hundred boxes of food distributed last week during the weekly City of Hayward No-Contact Food Distribution at Chabot College contained something they shouldn't have: a letter on White House stationery containing language deemed to be political propaganda and carrying the signature of President Trump.

The boxes came to food pantry providers across the country

through the federal Coronavirus Food Assistance Program administered by the FDA.

The presence of the letter inside the boxes came as a surprise to administrators, staff members and volunteers at nutrition-assistance centers across the country who learned of the situation from the media.

Upon discovery, each of the letters was removed from the remaining 35-pound boxes of pro-

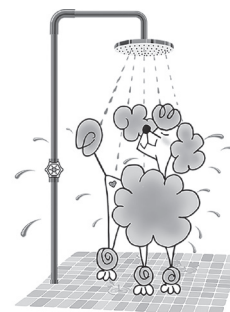
duce, meat, eggs and other dairy products. However, some 700 of the boxes were distributed prior to the discovery.

The letters were removed because "it is inappropriate and a potential violation of law for public officials to use public resources for political purposes and to attempt to influence the outcome of an election," according to Hayward officials, who apologized for the incident.

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PHOTO BY ALFREDO MENDOZA

ADDAMS FAMILY REUNION: From left, C. Conrad Cady, Rhonda Taylor, Roger Caetano, Francesca Cipponeri, and Jennifer Willis (masks removed for the picture).

Morticia Says 'Yes' to Gomez

Three years ago, Castro Valley's Chanticleers Theatre presented the musical production of "The Addams Family," which included onstage chemistry between the leads playing Morticia (Rhonda Taylor) and Gomez (Roger Caetano).

Turns out there was also a chemistry offstage, too. The couple began dating and their relationship blossomed since.

Caetano proposed to Taylor over the weekend in San Diego and arranged for a romantic beachside dinner, during which he surprised Taylor with a flash mob of Addams Family characters who performed a song from the show and a dance created by one of the original actors in the show, Francesca Cipponeri. Performers Jennifer Willis, and C. Conrad Cady who played Uncle Fester were also part of the original Chanticleers cast. For the reunion, Morticia and Gomez were played by singer Jaime Walker and actor Alfredo Mendoza. Lurch was played by Steve Allhoff.

Kiwanis Silent Auction, Gala

You are invited to attend the "Kiwanis Club of Hayward-Castro Valley Virtual Gala" at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow, Oct. 22.

Join us for an hour of fun including a live auction, door prizes and games, and learn how you can help Kiwanis impact the lives of children in our communities.

The silent auction is now open with everything from art to exciting travel packages, Lisa's amazing pasta sauce and more. Shop for gifts for others or for yourself. Don't miss the category of Kiwanis Special Items. The silent auction will close during the live auction at 6:30 p.m. Check it out and don't



forget to watch your bids during the week.

All of the money raised will be used for community projects.

For more info and to take part, please scan the code above.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Unwelcome Customer

Sunday, October 18: at 3:33 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 69-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of failing to leave a grocery store after management had asked him to do so repeatedly. The man had previously been banned from the store on the Boulevard near Redwood Road for causing a commotion. Store managers called deputies when they saw him return. The man was taken into custody.

Spousal Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Sunday, October 18: at 4:37 a.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to an apartment on Redwood Court near Redwood Road. There, they arrested a 29-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of felony assault with a deadly weapon, spousal assault, and aggravated assault. The woman was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Ignored Stay-Away Order

Friday, October 16: at 9:42 a.m., deputies arrested a 31-year-old CV man on suspicion of violating the terms of a court-issued restraining order. The man was spotted lurking outside a home on Oak Street near Grove Way when the owner called for help. Deputies took the man into custody.

Busted for Drug Possession

Thursday, October 15: at 9:43 a.m., a 37-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the man for questioning outside a home on Anita Avenue near Witcher Street when they discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

Family Fight

Wednesday, October 14: at 7:50 p.m., deputies arrested a 36-year-old man on suspicion of spousal assault, assault on a family member, and false imprisonment. An anonymous tip about a loud argument sent deputies to a home on Longmont Loop near Buren Place. The man was accused of preventing his wife from leaving after an altercation. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Assault and Battery

Tuesday, October 13: at 1:11 a.m., a 29-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of assault and battery, breaking a cell phone to call for help, and causing \$400 in damages. Deputies were called to a home on Grove Way near Betlen Way to investigate an altercation. The man was taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Drugs in Pocket

Monday, October 12: at 1:25 p.m., deputies arrested a 53-year-old woman with no permanent residence on suspicion of possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. The woman was hanging outside a business on Redwood Road near Grove Way when deputies stopped her for questioning and discovered her stash. Deputies took the woman into custody.

Illegal Drug Paraphernalia

Monday, October 12: at 4:52 a.m., a 66-year-old man with no permanent residence was arrested on suspicion of possession of a pipe used for smoking drugs. Deputies stopped the man for questioning in the parking lot of a gas station on Castro Valley Boulevard near Redwood Road. The man admitted to taking drugs and revealed the pipe to deputies. He was taken into custody.

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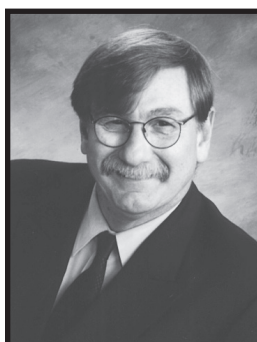
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ESTABLISHED: 1989 • CIRCULATION 22,500
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Published every Wednesday by EastBay Publishing Corp.
2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577
Corporate Address: P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501
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What's Up at Smalltown

● Friday, October 23: Castro Valley Street Eats

The Chabot has partnered with The Food Truck Mafia and Smalltown Society to bring food trucks and live music every Friday night in October to the First Presbyterian Church of Hayward parking lot behind Trader Joe's. These are safe and socially distant events with a portion of the profits supporting The Chabot while their doors are closed. You can also donate directly to The Chabot at these events; every donation of \$50 will receive a complimentary movie pack filled with concessions to elevate your next movie night!

● **Saturday, October 24: Live Riff-Along:** This week's movie is the 1960 Sci-Fi/Horror film "The Last Woman on Earth," in which three scuba-diving tourists in Puerto Rico return to the surface only to find that they cannot breathe the air. Relying on their scuba tanks for oxygen, they row back to shore to discover that they are the only survivors. You can watch and comment along at 8 p.m. with your community at thechabot.com or from our Facebook page!

Support The Chabot Theater: Online Gift Cards and Merch available at TheChabot.com. Donations to The Chabot can be made via PayPal/Venmo: @thechabot. Donations to Smalltown Society can be made via PayPal/Venmo: @smalltownsociety

THIS SUNDAY ONLINE



Free Performance: Cirque à Domicile

Experience the thrill of Cirque à Domicile and the fun of Halloween all in the comfort of your home for free this Sunday, Oct. 25, at 4 p.m. This has been an interesting year for us all and with Halloween just around the corner we wanted to come together and share some magic at home. The free virtual; circus, presented via Zoom, is being paid for by Keith Brown, Karen Bartholomew, Ashley Provost, Dan Willits and Todd Anglin. Register at <https://bit.ly/3k6pmKz>. It will also be live-streamed as well for unlimited space to join.

News Briefs

Free Online Classes: English as a Second Language

Castro Valley Adult & Career Education offers free English as a Second Language classes to immigrants who want to improve their English to get a job, help their children, or apply for citizenship. Morning and evening classes start Nov. 9, with required attendance and homework. To register, students must make an appointment to take an in-person test the first week of November. Tests will be done in very small groups and with masks. Visit www.cvadulthood.org and click on "Learn English" to make an appointment.

Rotary to be Updated on Polio Vaccine

World Polio Day is this Saturday. Dr. Raul Andino of UC San Francisco will describe via Zoom his research that developed the vaccine that WHO is using to finally eliminate polio from the world, at the next meeting of the CV Rotary Club at noon on Tuesday, Oct. 27. More information is available at castrovalleyrotary.org.

Free Flu Shots this Friday

Everyone from age 3 and older can get free flu vaccinations from noon to 7 p.m. on the Fridays of Oct. 23 and Nov. 6 at the Castro Valley Adult & Career Education, 4430 Alma Avenue. Drive through or walk up! For drive-through shots, enter at the Seven Hills Road parking lot. For walk ups, park on Alma Avenue and follow signs to the MultiPurpose Room.



A.R.T., Inc.'s Viral Exhibition Online

HOLIDAY CHEER is the theme of A.R.T., Inc.'s fourth viral exhibition of members' works which opened last week at photos.app.goo.gl/ELfuGyZtNoNcF4Ek8 and continues through January 15. Above is Kathleen Ries' "Beauty Never Dies," 8X10-inch Digital photograph.

Iliza's Comedy Tailgate Tour

Comedian Iliza Shlesinger will hit the Alameda County Fairgrounds' drive-in theater with Iliza's Comedy Tailgate Tour on Friday, Oct. 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Shlesinger is one of today's leading comedians with a legion of fans who create and wear their own Iliza inspired swag to her shows. Socially distanced and safe in their cars, fans will catch every second of Iliza's set in real time through their car radio. Tickets on sale now at www.iliza.com.



Iliza Shlesinger

Independent Theatre Plays

Producers Susan E. Evans and Scott Munson, operating as The Brecht Project, are launching the premiere performances of five new short plays under the title of "The Private Life of the (Not So) Master Race."

The plays — "The Informer," "I'm With Her," "The People Upstairs," "Judicial Process" and "Judith" — were inspired by Bertolt Brecht's 1938 documentary "Fear and Misery of the Third Reich."

The team of playwrights has transported the theme to 21st Century America. The playlets are directed by Evans, assisted by Kimberly Ridgeway. The Brecht Project ensemble comprises 12 performers, some local, some from far afield.

The plays will be presented online at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, 28 and 29. Tickets are free, at thebrechtproject.org, with suggested \$10-50 donations to The Brecht Project welcomed.

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Time: 10am to 1pm
Location: Faith Lutheran Church,
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This is a drive through event and all Covid-19 precautions will be strictly followed. All participants will stay in their cars and be directed to the pick-up area. No physical contact or conversations. There will be music and a supportive group of volunteers but this is not a gathering.

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OAR	SON	
SHADY	BUD	SPA
HIFI	CANADIAN	
OKRA	AWN	OGRE
PEON	PLY	GNAW



PUMPKIN & SPICE

For the past few weeks we've all been bombarded with pumpkin-spice everything. And for good reason. All of our favorite spices — cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, allspice, cloves, mace — can be combined to enhance the mild, delicate flavor of pumpkin in all kinds of delicacies.

SPICY PUMPKIN BREAD

2/3 cup vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing pan
2 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup solid-pack canned pumpkin
1/3 cup dark corn syrup
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1-1/2 cups flour, plus extra for preparing pan
1 teaspoon baking soda
2-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon allspice
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup dried currants
Butter, optional

Beat oil, eggs and sugar with electric mixer until thick and flowing, about 1 minute. Add pumpkin, corn syrup and vanilla and mix well.

Combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, allspice, salt, walnuts and currants in medium bowl. Add to pumpkin mixture and mix well.

Pour into buttered and floured 9x5-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350°F until dark brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, about 1 hour, 10 minutes.

Cool in pan 5 minutes. Turn onto wire rack to cool completely. Cut into thin slices and serve with softened butter if desired. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

PUMPKIN GINGERBREAD

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup whole-wheat flour
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
3/4 cup butter or margarine
2 large eggs
1 can (1 pound) pumpkin
1/2 cup light molasses
1/4 cup milk
1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda

Whipped cream

In a large bowl, stir together flours, sugar and spices. With a pastry blender or your fingers, cut or rub in butter until mixture resembles coarse meal. Set aside 2/3 cup of the mixture.

In a small bowl, beat eggs, pumpkin, molasses, milk and baking soda to blend. Add to dry ingredients and stir until just evenly moistened. Pour into a greased 8- by 12-inch baking pan. Sprinkle with reserved flour mixture.

Bake in a 350°F oven until top is firm to touch, about 50 minutes. Cool slightly.

Serve gingerbread warm, adding whipped cream to taste. Serves 8 to 10.

PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE

2 pounds cream cheese
1-1/2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 cup whipping cream
2 (15-ounce) cans Libby's Pumpkin
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
Graham Cracker Crust
Sour Cream Topping

Blend cream cheese with sugar until smooth. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating until blended. Add whipping cream, pumpkin, vanilla and spice, blending thoroughly.

Pour into Graham Cracker Crust. Bake at 300°F for 1-1/2 hours or until cake sets. Remove and let rest 10 minutes, then pour Sour Cream Topping over cheesecake. Cool thoroughly before removing from pan. Chill. Makes 1 (10-inch) cheesecake.

Graham Cracker Crust

1 teaspoon soft butter
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1-1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup melted butter

Brush 10-inch springform pan with soft butter. Mix crumbs, cinnamon, sugar and melted butter. Press onto bottom of pan.

Sour Cream Topping

1 pound sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
2 teaspoon vanilla

Blend sour cream, sugar and vanilla until smooth.

PUMPKIN-RAISIN MUFFINS

1 cup pumpkin puree
3-1/2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1-1/4 cup 2% milk
1/4 cup soft butter or margarine
1 cup raisins
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 400°F and grease muffin tins.

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in pumpkin and eggs. Dredge raisins in 1/2 cup of flour.

Sift remaining flour and spices together. Pour milk into a mixing bowl. Mix in dry ingredients by hand until just mixed, then stir in raisins. Spoon mix into muffin tin.

Bake at 400°F for 20 - 25 minutes. Serve warm or cool.

Trafficking: Typically Through Sex, Labor

continued from front page

Most of the exploited are girls under the age of 22 she said, adding that Alameda County's average is 14-years-old. There is also a small percentage of young men who are also involved. The majority (83%) of sex-trafficking victims are from the United States. And while trafficking can take many forms, they typically fall into two categories: sex and labor.

One recent case involved a woman who was trafficking labor in the construction industry in unsafe conditions. When authorities uncovered the scheme, they also found rows of sewing machines where workers were forced into labor.

"Many of those exploited are reportedly brought to Los Angeles and Las Vegas," O'Malley said. "Our office has been trolling them on the Internet. Back on October 2, we found 1,165 ads posted with 750 profiles of girls on the Internet. There has been a 16.6 percent increase in online ads since last year.

"The traffickers are also using the threat of violence as well as the use of crystal methamphetamine drugs to keep their victims captive," O'Malley said.

Alameda County is considered a hotspot because the weather is conducive to being outside all year round, according to O'Malley who also noted that her office recently

secured a \$2 million grant to fight trafficking in the county. O'Malley is hoping that an overwhelming number of people adding their name to support anti-trafficking will be the catalyst for more state and federal funding.

"It takes a village to rescue those who are trafficked and hold those who exploit them accountable," O'Malley said. "You are that village. By taking the pledge, our village grows stronger and those in need of protection grow safer."

To find out more about H.E.A.T. Watch, visit heatwatch.org. To make an anonymous report, call the HEAT Watch Tip Line at 510-208-4959.

MAC: Art for Banners Along the Boulevard

continued from front page

on a similar tiny home community at First Presbyterian Church.

The project would cost \$6.4 million with funding from the county homeless capital project and federal "CARES" coronavirus relief sources.

Elsewhere on the Fairmont campus, safe space has been provided for people to park and stay in their cars overnight since March of 2019. Cooperman said that so far 68 people have participated in the

safe parking program and 38 have left successfully, 25 to permanent housing and all participants must have a housing plan.

Finally, Jaimie Orfanos of the Alameda County Economic and Civil Development Department gave the MAC a few options for 158 banners which are going to be put up on streetlights along Castro Valley Boulevard between John Drive and the 580 Marketplace

Some banners will feature landscape and wildlife artwork which

is already on utility boxes and the overpass identifying mural. Others will simply read "Castro Valley."

The MAC picked a yellow and green color scheme with block lettering for those banners to honor the high school. The cost is \$35 per banner including fabrication and labor to put up and pull down. It's expected they'll be up in late January after the holiday banners are taken down.

"I can't wait to see them," said MAC Chair Ken Carbone.

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Katy Del Rio Owner & Operator



Katy has been in business for over 37 years, 24 of which have been in Castro Valley. She is well-known for artistic styles, bridal, and special up-dos. Her knowledgeable staff updates their education to make sure they keep their clients in style. Some of the many services offered are facial microdermabrasion, eyebrow and eyelash dyeing, hair coloring including highlighting, multicolors, permanent waves, ear piercing, waxing and massage.

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COVID-19

Public Schools Hold Off on Returning to In-Person Instruction

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Public Schools in Castro Valley and San Leandro say now is not the time to move boldly back into the classroom. The boards of both districts last week put off even announcing when students would come back despite Grades 5 and younger being cleared for in-person instruction.

Alameda County announced last week it had moved into the "Orange Tier" of the state's blueprint for reopening after it had suppressed enough new COVID cases and showed fewer positive tests over a two week period. Earlier this month, public health officials granted schools permission to allow younger students to return to classrooms if they met guidelines and contingency plans.

The Castro Valley School Board voted last Wednesday to postpone a decision on distance learning and its timeline for reopening until its meeting on Jan. 13. The Board cited its work with the Alameda County Public Health Department and noted that teachers and staff have been working hard to provide the best possible instruction during distance learning.

Superintendent Parvin Aman-

di said CVUSD opened a support hub on school sites for small groups of students who are experiencing challenges with online learning at home.

"We all recognize the need for social and emotional support and connection that students thrive on when they are in school," Amandi said in a statement. "We continue to look for ways to find opportunities that allow our students to experience social connections and collaboration that help them grow."

The district has been asking parents and students for feedback.

San Leandro's school board has revealed results of its family survey which showed more than **see SCHOOLS on back page**

COVID BY THE NUMBERS

Castro Valley
Confirmed Cases = 590

Alameda County
Confirmed Cases = 22,657
Deaths = 442

California
Confirmed Cases = 878,791
Deaths = 16,979

as of October 19, 2020

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I practice law in the areas of Estate Planning, Probate, Trust and Conservatorships and offer practical advice to assist my clients including seniors, people who require Special Needs Trusts and young families. I provide a free initial half-hour consultation which can be in person or by phone.

I attended Golden Gate University in San Francisco, where I received my J.D., M.B.A., and L.L.M. degrees. I hold a black belt in Karate and I'm an avid runner.

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Creating an Online Memorial For a Departed Loved One

Q: My mother passed away last week, and because of the coronavirus we didn't have a funeral. I would like to create some type of online memorial for her so family and friends can express their condolences and share their stories. What can you tell me about making an online memorial for my mom?

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A: Creating an online memorial for your mom is a great idea and one that's become increasingly popular in the age of COVID.

Thousands of families have created them for their departed loved ones, especially those who didn't have a proper funeral because of the pandemic. Here's what you should know.

• What is an Online Memorial?

An online memorial is a website created for a deceased person that

provides a central location where their family and friends can visit to share stories, fond memories, photographs, comfort one another and grieve. The memorial can remain online for life, or a specific period of time, allowing people to visit and contribute any time in the privacy of their own space.

Online memorials started popping up on the Internet in the late 1990s but were created primarily for people who were well known. But now, these sites are for anyone who wants to pay tribute to their departed loved one and ensure they will be remembered.

Content typically posted on an online memorial includes a biography, pictures and stories from family and friends, timelines of key events in their life, along with favorite music and even videos.

Another common feature is an online guestbook where visitors sign their names and write tributes to the departed.

Online memorials can also direct visitors to the departed person's favorite charity or cause to make a donation, as an alternative to sending funeral flowers.

Some online memorial sites today even offer virtual funeral/event capabilities as a replacement for an in-person funeral. And they'll help you get the word out by offering invitations and RSVP tracking.

• Top Online Memorials

To make an online memorial there are a wide variety of websites available that make it easier than ever to create a thoughtful, personalized profile for your mom to celebrate and honor her life, and the process of creating it can be very satisfying.

You also need to know that some online memorial sites are completely free to use, while others offer a free and a paid version that provides additional features.

see MEMORIAL on page 9



Adverse Tax Consequences of Giving Property to Your Child

Q. I am thinking about giving my home to my son now, so that probate can be avoided and my affairs simplified when my time comes. Any comment as to whether this plan makes sense?

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

A. Caution: Giving your home to your son during your lifetime can have adverse tax consequences.

Example: Assume that you purchased your home many years ago for \$50,000, and suppose it is worth \$750,000 today. If you give it to your son during your lifetime, he "steps into your shoes" and the IRS will treat the home as if your son had acquired it for \$50,000. This is called "carry over basis."

If he then sells the home for \$750,000, he will be obliged to recognize the \$700,000 difference (\$750K - \$50K) as capital gain and pay tax accordingly. This could result in a whopping tax bill for him and actually lessen the net value of your gift.

True, there would be some relief from this tax situation if your son moved into the home and lived in it for at least two years before sale. In that event, he would be entitled to exclude a part of the capital gain, i.e. \$250,000 if he is then single and up to \$500,000 if married. However, this two-year principal residence requirement is often impractical if your son already owns a home, and even more impractical for parents who have more than one child to whom they wish to give their home.

By comparison, if you hold the home until your death and pass it to your son as an inheritance, this tax problem can be avoided. The IRS will then treat the home as if your son had acquired it at its date of death value.

In tax parlance, the home's tax basis would be "stepped up" to its market value at the date of your death. Example: if it is worth \$950,000 at your death and your child then sells it for \$950,000, his capital gain would then be "0" and no tax would be due. Quite a difference!

In your situation, you may wish to consider a Living Trust, which would accomplish your objective of avoiding probate while simultaneously obtaining the favored tax treatment which accompanies transfers upon death.

This arrangement would also allow you to retain home ownership in case you later need to obtain a reverse mortgage to help with your future long-term care expenses.

Sometimes parents who have received long term care benefits from the Medi-Cal program, consider a gift of their home in order to avoid a Medi-Cal recovery claim after their passing. However, if that is the motivation, there are ways to both avoid a recovery claim while still preserving favored tax treatment. If this is a concern, professional guidance from an attorney knowledgeable in Medi-Cal planning is extremely important.

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

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Recognize, Stop Elder Abuse

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Elder abuse is a big problem in the United States that has escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the National Council on Aging, as many as 5 million seniors are victims of abuse each year, but studies suggest this crime is significantly under-reported. Only 1-in-14 cases of elder abuse ever get reported to the authorities because victims are usually too afraid, too embarrassed, too helpless or too trusting to call for help.

The term "elder abuse" is defined as intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that causes or can cause harm to a vulnerable senior.

Elder abuse also comes in many different forms: emotional, psychological, physical or sexual abuse, abandonment, neglect and self-neglect, and financial exploitation.

Those most vulnerable are seniors that are ill, frail, disabled, socially isolated or mentally impaired due to dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

It's also important to know that while elder abuse does happen in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, the vast majority of incidents take place at

home where the senior lives. And tragically, the abusers are most often their own family members (usually the victim's adult child or spouse) or caregiver.

How to Recognize Abuse

So, how can you tell if an elderly relative or friend is being abused, and what can you do to help?

A change in general behavior is a universal warning sign that a problem exists. If you notice that your relative or friend has become very depressed, withdrawn or gets upset or agitated easily, you need to start asking questions.

Here are some additional warning signs on the different types of elder abuse that can help you spot a possible problem.

Physical or sexual abuse: Suspicious bruises or other injuries that can't be explained. Sudden changes in behavior (upset, withdrawn, fearful). Broken eyeglasses. Caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see an elder alone.

Neglect or self-neglect: Weight loss, poor hygiene, unattended medical needs, and unsanitary, unsafe living conditions.

Emotional or psychological abuse: The senior is extremely upset, agitated, withdrawn, unresponsive, fearful or depressed, or demonstrates some other unusual behavior.

Financial exploitation: Missing money or valuables. Unexplained withdrawals from bank accounts, or transfers between accounts. Unauthorized use of credit, debit or ATM card. Unpaid bills despite available funds. Checks written as a loan or gift. Abrupt changes in a will or other documents.

For more tips on how to recognize the warning signs of abuse during the pandemic, see the National Center on Elder Abuse website at [NCEA.acl.gov/Resources/COVID-19.aspx](https://www.ncea.acl.gov/Resources/COVID-19.aspx).

What to Do

The best ways to help stop elder abuse is to be in touch and keep the lines of communication open. If you suspect any type of abuse or neglect in your relative's or friend's home, report it to your local protective services agency.

see ABUSE on back page

A Comfy Nest for Winter

By Matilda Charles
SENIORS NEWSLINE

Since it looks like this terrible coronavirus isn't going away soon, we might as well take a few steps to make our lives more comfortable over the winter. Here are some ideas:

- Investigate a new wireless router to speed up your Wi-Fi connection, especially if you have multiple devices that put a drag on your connection. Be sure it's at least Wi-Fi 5, not Wi-Fi 4. The newest, Wi-Fi 6, is top of the line.
- Buy a warm fleece blanket, one-person size, for watching TV at night. These 50x70 throws are just the right length.

- Consider getting a Kindle, with a free three-month subscription to Kindle Unlimited.
- If you have someone who can deliver and assemble it, an outdoor propane grill can be a bit of summer fun during the cold winter.

- Keep an eye on sales if you need an additional pot for the extra cooking you're doing. Stores like Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond have curbside delivery, so if you pay online you don't have to go in the store. Get freezer bags to store individual portions you can pull out and heat up without cooking every day.
- Splurge on one good, thick sweater or zip sweatshirt to wear in the house.
- Think about getting an air cleaner for inside the house to clean up dust mites, stale air and pet dander. Be cautious about the price of replacement filters.
- And don't forget to stock up on batteries!

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An online memorial provides a central location where their family and friends can visit to share stories, fond memories, photographs, comfort one another and grieve.

Memorial: Online Options

continued from previous page

Some of the best sites that offer both free and paid options are MyKeeper.com (free or \$75) and iLasting.com (free or \$49/year or \$99 for a lifetime membership).

Or, if you're interested in one that's completely free to use, some top options are GatheringUs.com (they do charge for virtual events), Memories.net, InMemori.com and WeRemember.com.

• Memorialize Facebook

If your mom used Facebook, you can also turn her profile into a memorialized account for free when you show proof of death. This option will let your mom's family and friends share stories, photos or memories to celebrate her life, with the word "Remembering" shown next to her name.

Once her account is memorialized, the content she shared is still visible on Facebook to the audience it was originally shared with, however, her profile will not show up in public spaces such as people

she may know, ads or birthday reminders.

In addition, you can also request a Look Back video, which is a short video created by Facebook highlighting your mom's pictures and most liked status messages.

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

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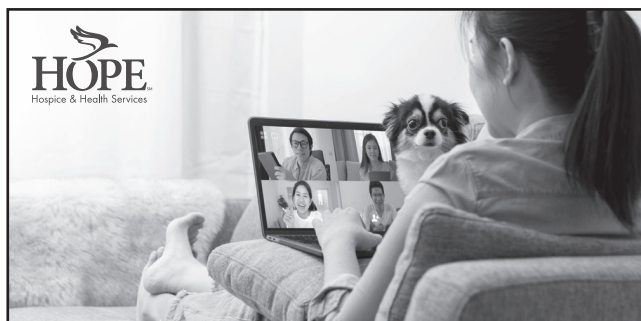
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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Record Low Interest Rates Not Necessarily Good

Listening to a buyer recently, I heard them complaining about interest rates. "We can't get a 2.5% rate," they were stating. "We think rates should be lower." I happened to be chewing at the time and almost choked.

I have been around long enough to have witnessed rates over 18%. To put that into perspective, a buyer currently looking to buy a \$600,000 home with 20% down and an interest rate of 3.25% would have a monthly payment of \$2,088.00 and need to be earning \$82,331.00 a year to qualify.

That same buyer looking to buy an identically priced home in 1981 would be looking at interest rates of 18.25%. Their monthly payment would be \$7,332 and they would need to be earning \$235,000 a year to qualify.

For those of us who actually had mortgages back in the day, we are grateful beyond belief for today's unprecedented low rates. I was also building homes in the early 1980s and the only construction loans available had rates of 24.5%.

So record low rates are a

good thing, right? In some ways, yes. They allow buyers with lower incomes to get into properties they would otherwise never be able to purchase. Consequently, today's record low rates are propelling a mass of homebuyer wannabes into the market to try to grab their slice of the American homeownership pie.

All of which brings up a significant problem: there are not enough homes available for them to buy.

In a classic supply and demand scenario, as hordes of buyers have descended on the limited numbers of available listings, multiple offers have ensued pushing prices higher. Consequently, home prices in Alameda County have jumped 22% since 01/2020.

While good for sellers, it is bad news for buyers. A home that would have cost a buyer \$600,000 at the beginning of the year is now priced at \$730,435 and instead of requiring an income of \$82,331 to qualify, buyers now need to earn \$102,229 to buy the same house.

Bottom line, lower rates are affecting housing affordability.

The short-term solution would be to build more homes. Unfortunately, increased building regulations and escalating costs have slowed new home starts to a crawl.

Further complicating things, lower rates have flooded lenders with purchase and refinancing applications, effectively clogging the pipeline and slowing transactions. While a blessing in many ways, lower interest rates have a dark side as well.

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.



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Another Record Low for Mortgage Rates

Long-term mortgage rates hit another record low last week for the tenth tenth time this year, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.81 percent last Thursday, the lowest rate in the survey's history which dates back to 1971. A year ago at this time, the 30-year interest rate averaged 3.69 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.35 percent, down from 2.37 percent from

the previous week. And five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.90 percent, slightly up from 2.89 percent a week earlier.

"Low mortgage rates have become a regular occurrence in the current environment," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "As we hit yet another record low, the tenth record this year, many people are benefitting as refinance activity remains strong."

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

21712 Ada Street	94546: \$480,000 2 BD - 905 SF - 1948
20638 Maria Court	94546: \$690,000 2 BD - 1,266 SF - 1992
21767 Dolores Street	94546: \$705,000 2 BD - 1,236 SF - 1948
1829 Riverbank Ave	94546: \$715,000 3 BD - 1,174 SF - 1947
22063 Betlen Way	94546: \$762,000 3 BD - 1,322 SF - 1954
19226 San Miguel Ave	94546: \$780,000 3 BD - 1,195 SF - 1949
21311 Kahlert Street	94546: \$799,000 3 BD - 1,301 SF - 1959
20376 Summerpark Pl	94552: \$849,000 4 BD - 1,666 SF - 1998
18455 Hastings Way	94546: \$860,000 3 BD - 1,540 SF - 1950
22019 East Lyndon Loop	94552: \$920,000 3 BD - 2,328 SF - 1998
18444 Magee Way	94546: \$950,000 3 BD - 1,383 SF - 1952
19511 Heyer Heights	94546: \$1,025,000 4 BD - 2,043 SF - 1996
3572 Jerald Court	94546: \$1,120,000 3 BD - 1,312 SF - 1954
22838 Rancho Palomares Pl	94552: \$1,280,000 4 BD - 2,560 SF - 1996
18725 West Cavendish Dr	94552: \$1,280,000 2,292 SF - 1978
TOTAL SALES:	15
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$480,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,280,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$849,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$881,000

San Leandro

1900 Joan Drive	94578: \$185,000 5 BD - 2,254 SF - 1957
15837 Maubert Avenue	94578: \$200,000 2 BD - 960 SF - 1938
14101 East 14th Street	94578: \$350,000 1 BD - 642 SF - 1986
1575 166th Avenue	94578: \$443,000 3 BD - 1,400 SF - 1943
2481 Marina Boulevard	94577: \$535,000 3 BD - 988 SF - 1943
477 Nabor Street	94578: \$628,000 2 BD - 1,256 SF - 1947
15072 Fleming Street	94579: \$650,000 2 BD - 821 SF - 1948
14995 Portofino Circle	94578: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,582 SF - 1984
244 Best Avenue	94577: \$705,000 2 BD - 1,193 SF - 1925
855 Evergreen Avenue	94577: \$730,000 2 BD - 1,176 SF - 1948
3973 Monterey Blvd	94578: \$730,000 3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1954
456 Linnell Avenue	94578: \$740,000 3 BD - 1,212 SF - 1952
1648 Lanier Avenue	94579: \$750,000 3 BD - 1,107 SF - 1957
16829 Selby Drive	94578: \$891,000 3 BD - 1,371 SF - 1955
1801 Astor Drive	94577: \$1,280,000 4 BD - 3,301 SF - 1958
TOTAL SALES:	15
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$185,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,280,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$680,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$633,133

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Powdery Mildew, Not White Flies

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

Q My pretty hibiscus plants are almost covered with a white sticky, flimsy netting-like substance. A few years ago, we were told it is white flies and to use neem oil. My son tried using the oil, but it didn't help that much. I think we didn't do it correctly or not enough. Is there an excellent homemade remedy we can use?

A White flies do not produce a white sticky, flimsy netting-like substance. They're found on the underside of a host plant's leaves causing them to turn yellow. When distributed, white flies fly off in mass and get their name from their color. So the original diagnosis was incorrect.

Although, neem oil is a recommended control, powdery mildew or spider mites are the

primary suspects.

Powdery mildew is an airborne disease that coats the foliage with a white film. Spider mites produce a white netting usually found on the undersides of the leaves.

So from your description, I'm going with powdery mildew as your problem. It attacks a wide range of plants, especially those in the afternoon shade with poor air circulation.

Moist air from the marine influence is also a cause as the leaves stay moist after the sun goes down. It's continuously a summertime problem.

There are several organic controls for mildew. They include baking soda, horticultural oil, and neem oil. Again, these are only controls and do not eradicate the problem. You'll need to make frequent applications to keep the mildew under control.

Unfortunately, the final solution may be to replace the plant with those that will cope

with this location.

Q Can I divide an old rhubarb plant?

A Absolutely. Dividing rhubarb is the primary method of propagating it.

Rhubarb should be divided every four to six years or when the stalks begin to thin out. It's recommended to divide the clumps in the late fall or early spring.

You first cut the foliage off at the ground, weeks beforehand. With a shovel or a garden fork, the clump is dug up, and the dirt is washed off, exposing the root tubers and crown.

With a sharp knife, segment the root tuber, including a portion of the plant's crown. Select the largest tubers with three to four eyes for transplanting and discard the rest. The eyes are the pink buds

located at the top of the roots.

It's not necessary to transplant them right away. Bareroot rhubarb clumps are planted in February through early March. Those dug up in the fall can be stored in a dry location until your ready to plant.

The new plants should be spaced every three to four feet, and the holes should be generously amended with soil amendments or compost. Rhubarb is a heavy feeder, so feed frequently, March through September, with an organic fertilizer for shade-loving plants.

The edible portion is the vegetative stalk. You would harvest the new Rhubarb in the second season after planting.

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

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Monotropa uniflora lacks chlorophyll pigments and appears white. It grows in the decaying debris of dark, dense-growth forests across the Northern hemisphere. Each stem bears a single delicate flower that hangs downward, which protects its pollen from the rain and lets insect pollinators access it. The clear fluid from its stems has been used to treat eye problems, skin problems, seizures and pain by native Americans and traditional medicine practitioners. — Brenda Weaver

Source: medium.com



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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR
FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM**Editor's Note:**

The October 28 issue of the Forum will publish no letters attacking local ballot measures or candidates since there would be no opportunity to respond prior to the Nov. 3 Election.

'All is Supposed to Mean All'

Editor:

Last week, Stacy Spink submitted a letter in support of fellow School Board candidate Sharon Parker. Mr. Spink has repeatedly written letters to the Castro Valley Forum against the LGBTQ community.

We, as candidates for School Board, wanted to share a message of support for our diverse community. We face difficult times and want our diverse community of students, parents, teachers, and staff to know

that here in Castro Valley, all is supposed to mean all.

We applaud the progress our community has made, and believe it is critical to speak up for LGBTQ, communities of color, and special education communities.

All five of us are the only candidates endorsed by the Castro Valley Teachers Association, and the teachers running in this group are the only candidates that have taught in public schools.

We support public schools that welcome all.

—Lavender Whitaker

—Monica Lee

—Michael Kusiak

—Dolly Adams

—Kristy Dooman Woerz

Candidates for CVUSD Governing Board

Wonders About Candidate's Stand on LGBTQ

Editor:

Last week one of your frequent contributors penned a letter supporting Castro Valley School Board candidate Sharon Parker.

This particular writer consistently and vehemently stands against LGBTQ civil rights and equality, almost to the point of obsession.

Hmmmm.

Anyway, in supporting the candidate the author stated that Ms. Parker would "listen to and represent the concerns of parents regarding classroom curriculum." That is clearly code for opposing comprehensive sex education and a curriculum which includes LGBTQ relationships and families.

Now to be clear, this letter was from a supporter of Sharon Parker only, and I do not know where Ms. Parker stands on LGBTQ issues, but she taught at Evangelical Redwood Christian School and never at a public school.

I would be interested in hearing from the candidate herself to find out if she endorses and supports LGBTQ students and their families.

—Billy Bradford, Castro Valley

'Keeping the Riff-Raff Out'

Editor:

In your Oct. 14 issue, you reported on the MAC meeting ("Francis Street Subdivision Gets Approval from MAC," Page 1, *The Forum*) in which a proposal to build five townhomes on San Miguel Avenue was discussed.

In response to a resident's concerns, a MAC member "stressed" that the development would not be low-income housing.

All Castro Valley residents should rest assured that the MAC would not approve low-income housing in CV north of the 580 freeway. There will be 422 low-income units in three locations, all built close to Grove Way in the small Baywood area south of the freeway.

Meanwhile, 42 mansions with gorgeous bay views are being built on Proctor Avenue. This allows Castro Valley Unified School District to keep its district affluent.

Castro Valley south of the freeway is in the Hayward School District, while the Castro Valley Unified School District has managed to gerrymander its boundaries to include the affluent developments in the Hayward hills as far south as Union City.

When Baywood residents pleaded with the MAC to move one of the proposed low-income developments away from a sensitive riparian habitat to an alternative location very close by, one of MAC members said, "I don't think of that area as part of Castro Valley."

So if you live in the CV School District, as do the MAC members, be assured that they will keep the riff-raff out.

—Anita Wah, Castro Valley

Free 'Black Lives Matter' Lawn Signs Available

Editor:

In support of all of the Black lives in our community and beyond, I am giving away "Black Lives Matter" yard signs for free from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday, October 24, at Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road.

I am hopeful that we can spread the word in our big-hearted community of Castro Valley that Black Lives Matter to all of us.

If anyone has questions, or would like to volunteer to help at the event, they can email me at BLMCastroValley@gmail.com.

—JoAnne Lauer, Castro Valley

Letters continue on next page

Obituaries

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

may be faxed to to: 510-483-4209

or emailed to: obits@ebpublishing.com

Include a phone number. For more information, please call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558

John Cornelius Brosnan

December 22, 1934 – September 30, 2020

John Cornelius Brosnan (aka Coach Brosnan), age 85, died peacefully at home in San Lorenzo on September 30, 2020 after a short illness. His three daughters and his favorite caregiver, Ngozi Eze were by his side.

Born in Oakland, California to John and Lea (Panconi) Brosnan, John grew up in San Leandro attending St Leander school and then St. Elizabeth High School in Oakland CA. There he met and fell in love with his wife Maureen. Upon graduation he joined the army and was stationed at the DMZ in South Korea. After his military service ended, he attended San Francisco State University on the GI bill where he played on the 1960 conference championship baseball team. He graduated with an MA in Physical Education and began teaching physical education (including driver training) at Castro Valley High School in 1962. It became his second home; he practically lived there until he retired in 1994.

John coached varsity football for his entire teaching career; it was his favorite thing to do. His grandfather told him "you can't make a living playing football" and that was all the motivation a stubborn kid needed. He served as the Trojans' Athletic Director for much of his career and he also coached some baseball and golf.

He was predeceased in June 2019 by Maureen, his loving wife of 62 years who attended every CVHS game he coached. She was his biggest fan. No one spent more time in the bleachers at Castro Valley High School than her!

John was also predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law, Emma and Jorge Orozco, and sister- and brothers-in-law Claire Noonan, James Smith and Dan Lydon. He leaves behind his brother Patrick (who worked the chain gang on the sidelines at every game) and sister-in-law Patricia Brosnan, and sisters- and brothers-in-law Rosemarie and John Smith, James Noonan and Patricia Lydon, and his lifelong best friend, Tom Davis. He also leaves his three wonderful daughters (who also attended almost every game and later brought grandchildren) and their spouses: Susan and Tom Gannon, Maureen (Mo) Brosnan and Kathleen and Richard Wood. He was a funny and loving "Papa" to five grandchildren, James Casarotti, Carrie Mendez (Manny), Kelsey Wood, Michaela Wood and Erica Alexander Brosnan, and three great-grandchildren, Hailey Aquino Casarotti, John Casarotti and Isabelle Mendez. He also leaves his many fantastic cousins, nieces and nephews, many of whom attended plenty of CVHS football games themselves, as well as a great number of lifelong friends and fellow coaches. And, his former football players, many of whom became friends for life.

There is so much more to say about him as he had many interests, such as reading and gardening and making beautiful stained glass lamps and windows, but he truly enjoyed coaching high school football with a bunch of boys and turning out men of good character who learned the valuable life lessons that playing football imparts. Guys all over Castro Valley and beyond still talk about their experiences with love and laughs.

A funeral mass will be held Friday, October 23, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 500 Fairview Ave. in Brentwood CA. 100 people are allowed inside and there are two large outdoor courtyards where mass is broadcast (bring a chair). Masks and Social Distancing required. Mass will also be live streamed at ihmbrentwood.com

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 14

Urges a Yes Vote on Proposition 19

Editor:

I'm writing in support of Prop. 19, a measure that actually limits property tax increases for seniors, wildfire survivors and people with severe disabilities when they need to move to a smaller home or to be near family.

It fixes the current property tax law so that these vulnerable individuals and families can move anywhere in the state. Right now, if their family lives in another county they may not be able to afford to move because they may not be able to afford to pay the new property taxes.

Prop. 19 also creates a fund specifically for firefighting resources. This is so important and we see entire communities burned by wildfires. The fund will be used for fire prevention and emergency response so our firefighters have the resources they need to protect lives and homes. I hope everyone will vote yes on Prop. 19.

—Sheila Cunha, Castro Valley

Managing California's Forests

Editor:

Recently Marilyn Anderson claimed that state Democrats were not to blame for California wildfires, because most of the forests in California are on federal land.

However, the federal government has long permitted states to clean up federal forests. This is permitted under the "Good Neighbor Act," and such mutual cooperation is supervised by the aptly named, "Federal Good Neighbor Authority." Therefore, the failure of Democrats to manage the forests in California is inexcusable.

Our last chance to avoid disastrous wildfires was in 2016 (just before the horrible fires of 2018 and 2020). A major bill was finally passed in Sacramento, to reduce both dead trees and excess undergrowth. However, Democrat Governor Jerry Brown vetoed that bill. That's why you could not breath clean air last month. That is also why we suffered the same thing back in 2018.

Ms. Anderson claimed I was ignoring a so-called "scientific consensus" about climate change. There is no such "consensus," no matter how many times NPR and the NY Times tell you there is.

There are plenty of PhD climatologists and other earth scientists who dispute man-made temperature change. They are simply never asked to appear in the mainstream news media. And computer models are not "evidence" of anything.

Back in 1913, California set the world's high temperature record, at 134 degrees. That heat-wave was not man-made. Back then, most Californians were still riding horses, not cars. So please stop panicking about the few hot weeks we get every Summer. Global warming is a pitiful excuse for our severe wildfires.

I recommend "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming," by Christopher Horner. It documents the outright fraud committed by the UN and by several universities, and their financial motives for pushing this secular crusade.

—Peter Hauer, Castro Valley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. Not all letters can be published. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. We do not withhold names or publish unsigned letters.

Email to: fredz@ebpublishing.com or mail to: The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.



Pam Russo



Chike Udemezue



Varsha Chauhan



Winnie Knowles

Four Candidates Vie for Two Seats On Eden Healthcare District Board

By Mike McGuire
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

More outreach to the community, especially during the pandemic, seems to be the common thread among candidates running for two seats on the board of the Eden Township Health Care District, now known as the Eden Healthcare District.

The district, which is headquartered in Castro Valley, supports community health care in Castro Valley, San Leandro, Hayward, and nearby unincorporated areas, although it no longer runs any hospitals. It was originally founded in 1948 to build and operate Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, but that hospital is now operated by Sutter Health.

The district's board makes grants to community nonprofit organizations and collaborates with them to provide health care services. During the pandemic, they have offered testing and masks to many residents.

Recently-appointed incumbent Pam Russo is running along with Varsha Chauhan, Chike Udemezue and Winny Knowles.

At a Sept. 25 online forum sponsored by the Eden Area League of Women Voters, Russo and Chauhan both stressed their experience in health care and the need to serve currently underserved areas and populations better. Candidates Udemezue and Knowles did not participate.

Chauhan is a medical doctor who is chief executive officer of Kindred Hospital, a long-term acute care facility in San Leandro. She had previously served as a top official of the Oregon Health Authority.

Russo is a longtime nurse and nurse administrator at St. Rose Hospital in Hayward who just retired as executive director of the Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District (HARD) Foundation, where she led fundraising efforts among other duties.

Both Udemezue and Knowles also have considerable back-

grounds in health care. Udemezue, an accountant, has served for three years on the Eden district advisory board, and has a long history of community volunteering in the schools and elsewhere.

Knowles is a career nurse who worked for Kaiser Hospital in Hayward for four decades, beginning when she was 19. Since her 2013 retirement, she works as a lactation specialist at Kaiser's San Leandro Hospital and elsewhere.

At the Sept. 25 forum, both Chauhan and Russo spoke of the importance of reaching all segments of the community to get through the current pandemic. Russo saw limited hours of facilities as a barrier to access for those who are often working two or three jobs, and those lacking transportation options. Chauhan said lack of insurance limits access for some, while non-English-speaking residents were often effectively denied access to services.

The biggest problem is access, followed by education, Chauhan

said. In particular, people speaking any of the area's many languages need to know how to use personal protective equipment during the pandemic, and need to be persuaded to be vaccinated for Covid once one is available.

Russo spoke of both language and poverty as barriers in pockets of Ashland, Cherryland and South Hayward, areas that are as high-risk as parts of Oakland or Berkeley, for instance.

Chauhan spoke of her listening skills and her experience in business management and finance.

Russo pointed to the board's partnership with the Hayward Fire Department to provide about 30 percent of all the Covid tests given in Alameda County. When the firefighters were pulled away to fight wildfires, she helped coordinate their replacement with student nurses from Cal State University East Bay.

"Not only did that ensure that Covid testing would not be inter-

see **CANDIDATES on back page**

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By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 572587

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The name of the business(es):
BED ZONE located at 3959 East Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, CA 94552, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MMM ZONE INC., 2140 Cristina Way, Brentwood, CA 94513. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced N/A.
/s/ MMM ZONE INC.

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**SEPT 30, OCT 07, 14, 21, 2020
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The name of the business(es):
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/s/ Gretta Noe

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Expires SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

**OCT 21, 28, NOV 4, 11, 2020
291-CVF**

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Riff Rafts located at 17539 Via Rincon, San Lorenzo, CA 94580, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Jesse Cervantes and (2) Lisa Cervantes, 17539 Via Rincon, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a married couple. This business commenced N/A.
/s/ Riff Rafts

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**OCT 14, 21, 28, NOV 4, 2020
292-CVF**

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The name of the business(es):
Evolve Real Estate located at 19633 Center Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leslie Peterson Team Inc, 20824 Glenwood Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an corporation. This business commenced 8/15/2020.
/s/ Leslie Peterson Team Inc

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**OCT 21, 28, NOV 4, 11, 2020
293-CVF**

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FILE NO. 573178

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
Pursuant to Business and
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Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
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/s/ Abdul Alim Joyaa

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Dylan Hawthorne

Our Athlete of the Week is Dylan Hawthorne. Dylan played Baseball for 12 years for Castro Valley Little League and four years for the High School. He also played for the local Extreme and Bay Area Elite Travel Ball teams. Dylan graduated this past May and was the recipient of the CVLL Joe Kinsella Scholarship. He is currently attending Fresno State (virtually).

CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs
www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org

Abuse: Adult Protective Services Agency

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Adult Protective Services is the government agency responsible for investigating elder abuse cases and providing help and guidance. Call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 to get the agency contact number in your area or visit NCEA.acl.gov/Resources/State.aspx.

The agency will ask what you observed, who was involved, and who they can contact to learn more. You don't need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the professional.

Or, to report suspected abuse in a nursing home or assisted living facility, call the local Long-Term Care Ombudsman – see LTCCom-

budsman.org for contact information.

If, however, you feel the person is in immediate danger, call 911 or the local police for immediate help.

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

Schools: Satisfied with Distance Learning

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half of the respondents were satisfied with the distance learning program. The majority said stress and anxiety about the pandemic have stoked fears of returning to class. Some 54 percent said they were unlikely to send their students to in-person instruction any

time soon.

Meantime, the county's public health department revised its restrictions on live performances and arts-related events, reinstating visual and performing arts camps for young people as well as dance and fitness classes.

"Arts organizations are essen-

tial to our community and are an instrumental part of rebuilding our economy," said Rachel Osajima, Director of the County Arts Commission.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is expected to proclaim October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

Candidates:
Eden Board

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rupted, but it also allowed the nurses to finish their program and graduate, something that might not have been possible otherwise under pandemic conditions," Russo said.

Winnie Knowles said she would bring to the board the perspective of a nurse who spent her entire career at people's bedsides.

"I've always been a working person," she said. "I've never been in management or administration."

Knowles said that the district keeps quite a low profile in the community, so that many people don't know it exists or what it does, especially those most in need of services. She would like to spread awareness of it, meeting people where they still gather, even during a pandemic: laundromats and supermarkets.

"People may be looking at their phones all the time, but they still need to know where to look," Knowles said, noting that she has been a wife, mother, bedside nurse, and union and community activist. She said she was heavily involved in the unsuccessful effort to have a pediatric surgical unit included in Kaiser's San Leandro Medical Center, so parents would not have to take children to either Oakland or Santa Clara for any needed surgeries.

Chike Udemezue wants the district to provide equal services to all residents, overcoming barriers that now exist for some. He also wants it to boost its effectiveness by building bridges among the community, service providers and families while building needed infrastructure and controlling costs.

"I'd bring new energy and a fresh perspective to everybody from decades of volunteering in my community," Udemezue said.

In addition to currently serving on the Eden Township Health Care District's advisory board, Udemezue has been San Leandro parks and recreation commissioner and currently serves on the city's Personal Relations Board as well as on the Bayfair Transit Oriented Development advisory board. He also has considerable involvement with advisory boards for the San Leandro schools, where one child attends high school and the other middle school.

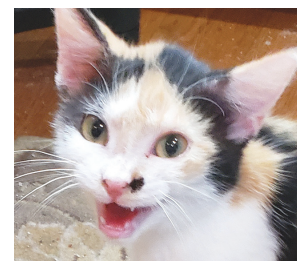
He has a doctorate in applied management and is a professionally qualified accountant, with experience in business administration.

Udemezue thinks the Eden board should be stricter on conflicts of interest between health care nonprofits they fund and board members who are or have been involved with those groups. He would also like to see regular reviews of how effectively nonprofits are using grants awarded them by the district.

Two Castro Valley Students
Attending Biola University

Caleb Loftis and Anya Mortensen, both of Castro Valley, are attending classes remotely this fall through the "Biola at Home" digital program. Biola University is a Christian university in Southern California.

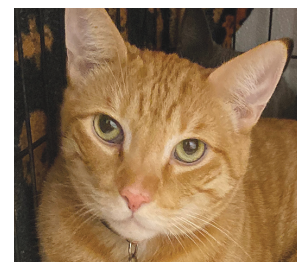
ADOPT-A-PET



KANDY is a sweet 18-week-old calico. She is full of personality and very playful. Kandy is spayed, vaccinated, micro-chipped and FIV/FELV negative. For more information, please email: Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.



ARISSA is a 4-month-old medium hair Siamese mix with gorgeous blue eyes. She is playful and independent. Arissa is spayed, vaccinated, micro-chipped and FIV/FELV negative. Please email: Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.



SIMON, TANNER AND VENUS: This affectionate feline trio is looking for a home together. Their elderly owner passed away and his wish was that the cats not be separated. Venus (7 years old spayed female) is confident and friendly, she will happily greet new people with a purr. Simon and Tanner (both 5 year old neutered males) are sweet and laid back. They love eating greenie treats, and taking turns getting pets from their favorite people. All three have wonderful personalities and like to keep things neat and tidy. Please call Hayward Animal Shelter: (510) 293-7200.



HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You might be growing impatient with a situation that seems to resist efforts to resolve it. But staying with it raises the odds that you'll find a way to a successful resolution.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Travel and kinship are strong in the Bovine's aspect this week. This would be a good time to combine the two and take a trip to see family members for a pre-holiday get-together.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): A colleague could make a request you're not comfortable with. If so, say so. Better to disappoint someone by sticking with your principles than disappoint yourself if you don't.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): The Moon Child's ability to adapt to life's ebbs and flows helps you deal with the changes that you might confront at work or at home, or both. Things settle down by the week's end.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): It's a good week for Leos and Leonas to get some long-outstanding business matters resolved. Then go ahead and plan a fun-filled family getaway weekend with the mate and the cubs.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A possible workplace change seems promising. If you decide to look into it, try not to form an opinion on just a small part of the picture: Wait for the full image to develop.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A newcomer helps keep things moving. There might be some bumpy moments along the way, but at least you're heading in the right direction. You win praise for your choices.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): You could be pleasantly surprised by how a decision about one thing opens up an unexpected new option. Also, assistance on a project could come from a surprising source.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): With more information to work with, you might now be able to start the process that could lead to a major change. Reserve the weekend for family and friends.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): This could be a good time to begin gathering information that will help you turn that long-held idea into something substantive. A personal matter might need extra attention.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): That new challenge might carry some surprises. But you should be able to handle them using what you already know. That new supporter should be there to lend assistance.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Someone might be trying to disguise his or her true motives. But the perceptive and perspicacious Pisces should have little or no problem finding the truth in all that foggy rhetoric.

CIRQUE À DOMICILE

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Sunday October 25, 2020 4pm to 5pm for a FREE VIRTUAL CIRCUS via Zoom

REGISTER HERE <https://bit.ly/3k6pmKz>

Join us for Cirque à Domicile on October 25, 2020 4 pm.
Experience the thrill of the Circus and the Fun of Halloween all in the comfort of your home for FREE.

2020 has been an interesting year for us all. With Halloween just around the corner we wanted to come together and share some magic at home. We plan to live-stream as well for unlimited space to join. Keith Brown, Karen Bartholomew, Ashley Provost, Dan Willits and Todd Anglin are proud to present

Cirque à Domicile