

# CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 30

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2018

NO. 47

## INSIDE YOUR FORUM

### OUR TOWN



#### Give Thanks

Thanksgiving meals for 90 families thanks to Castro Valley Outreach  
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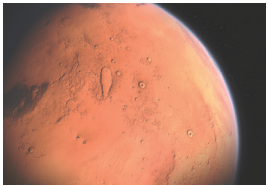
### SENIORS



#### Caring for Parent

Taking care of an aging parent can be physically and mentally exhausting  
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### NEWS



#### Out of This World

Chabot Space & Science Center to host livestream of Mars landing Monday  
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PHONE: (510) 537-1792



PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

Castro Valley Boulevard was shrouded in a dirty haze on Friday afternoon that masked street signs two blocks away. Air quality fell to a near-hazardous level and residents were urged to stay indoors. An overnight storm is expected to start bringing relief to the area today.

## Overnight Rainstorm Expected to Bring Relief from Noxious Smoke

Firefighters and sheriff's officers from Alameda County are continuing to provide mutual aid in the deadly wildfires that are plaguing the state.

The Camp Fire in Butte County is the

deadliest fire in California history with a death toll of 77, a number that is expected to rise as more than 900 have been listed as unaccounted for.

Three people have died in the Woolsey

Fire in Ventura County in Southern California.

Since Nov. 8, 25 local strike teams consisting of over 620 firefighters have been  
**see RELIEF on page 10**

## Donations Delivered to Fire Survivors

By Linda Sandsmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Twenty-three-year old Cameron Lewis of Castro Valley delivered a trailer-full of donations to the survivors of the Butte County fires this weekend, just in time for Thanksgiving.

"This was a family affair from the beginning. Butte County is like my second home," says Lewis. "A lot of our family is in the Oroville - Paradise area. We have an emotional connection."

The Lewises received news that their cousin, Nichole Jolly, nearly lost her life in the fire, and that their aunt, Jolly's mother, lost her home.

"We felt somewhat helpless down here, and wondered what we could do to make a difference," says Cameron. "My sister Kait, see DONATIONS on page 15



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMERON LEWIS

Stacks of locally donated supplies destined for Butte County fire survivors ready to be loaded onto trucks for delivery over this past weekend.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Museum Building For Sale

The Hayward Area Historical Society announced on Monday it is putting up for sale its showplace Museum of History and Culture building on Foothill Boulevard as part of a financial and operational restructuring of the organization.

The Society purchased its 50,000 square foot home at 22380 Foothill Blvd. in a foreclosure sale for \$1.87 million in 2010 and moved in four years later after an extensive but still incomplete \$5 million renovation project.

Today, however, the cost of those renovations combined with the expense of operating the facility have proven far greater than originally expected and are threatening the solvency of the Historical Society and its ability to continue to fulfill its important civic, cultural and educational mission.

"The Hayward Area Historical Society has been dedicated to preserving and interpreting our community history for more than 60 years, and the action we are taking today is essential for us to be able to continue to so for the next 60 years," said Historical Society President Richard Patenaude.

The Historical Society Board of Directors voted unanimously to sell its Foothill Boulevard property in June. It took the action after accepting the resignation of former Executive Director AT Stephens in March and appointing Curator and Archivist Diane Curry as interim executive director.

Curry said that in addition to shedding its property, the Historical Society is going to need to operate as a smaller organization on a smaller budget to survive — possibly in a smaller space in its Foothill building under the new ownership, or elsewhere in one or more locations.

"The main priority of the Board of Directors and staff is to maintain and protect the collection of artifacts and documents entrusted to us over the years, and to continue serving our community," Curry said. "Collection items will not be sold to cover any financial deficits."

During the transition, she said the Historical Society will continue to operate and provide access to its galleries and historical resources.

For more information on Hayward Area Historical Society educational programs, research services, exhibits, collections and other resources, visit online at haywardarea-history.org. For ways to become a financial supporter of the Society, contact Board President Richard Patenaude by email at president@haywardareahistory.org.



## Castro Valley Weather Nov. 21 - 25, 2018



Wednesday  
Possible Showers  
High 70° Low 42°



Thursday  
Showers Likely  
High 70° Low 43°



Friday  
Rainy  
High 69 Low 42°



Saturday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 66° Low 44°



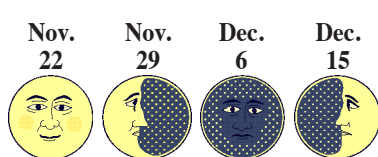
Sunday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 66° Low 46°

### Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00  
Season To Date: 00.05  
Normal To Date: 02.96  
Season Average: 21.22

### Moon Phases



Sun sets at 4:54 p.m. today, rises at 6:58 a.m. Thursday.



## Take the Plunge Tomorrow

Every Thanksgiving Day, the Hayward Plunge Staff sets aside the day to raise money for the Karen M. Gordin Scholarship Fund.

Karen was a lifeguard for the District who was tragically killed in a car crash in 2001. She was very much loved at the Hayward Plunge; and the staff wants to carry on her name and the values she held on to.

The scholarship is given to two individuals who are currently certified lifeguards and in school working towards their goals. One check is donated by the Greater Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Foundation, the other by the Scholarship Fund itself.

Beginning at 8 a.m. tomorrow, patrons can swim laps throughout the morning as well as receive assorted prizes and giveaways.

This year's checks will be awarded between 9 and 9:30 a.m.

So come burn calories in the morning to make room for all that turkey, while supporting a good cause.

The staff is asking for a minimum \$5 donation. All donations are tax deductible.

*The Hayward Plunge is located at 24176 Mission Blvd. For more information, call 510-888-0123.*

**GOT A NEWS TIP? CALL (510) 537-1792**  
**OR EMAIL: fredz@ebpublishing.com**



## You Can Help Feed Over a Thousand Families in Need This Holiday Season

The Davis Street Family Resource Center at 3081 Teagarden St. in San Leandro needs your immediate help to provide over a thousand low-income families with a complete holiday meal and toys for the children.

For 47 years, Davis Street, in collaboration with the Alameda County Fire Department, local schools, clubs, faith-based communities, and businesses, has provided food baskets complete with fresh poultry, canned goods and new toys to thousands of families in need.

Serving more than 15,000 individuals annually, it helps low-income families of the Eden area and surrounding communities to improve their quality of life through short and long-term assistance.

Distribution of holiday baskets to families in need will be on Friday, Dec. 21.

What's needed: non-perishable food (canned veggies, boxed stuffing, beans, rice, peanut butter, etc.), frozen turkeys (to be dropped off at the food warehouse freezers), new (unwrapped) toys for

children from infants to age 12, gift certificates for teenagers (suggested \$15-\$20 increments), monetary donations to purchase food.

How to help: The Center needs organizations to host food or toy drive bins now through Wednesday, Dec. 19. Davis Street will provide electronic and printed flyers, and will drop off and pick up bins.

To host a bin at your establishment, call 510-347-4620 ext. 113 or e-mail ksherman@davisstreet.

org with your address, the number of collection bins you would like, and a contact name and phone number.

If you are unable to host a bin, donations can be dropped off at the Basic Needs Department behind our Davis Street office on Teagarden Street weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (6 p.m. on Fridays). For monetary donations, call 510-347-4620 ext. 109. Even the smallest gift makes a difference.

## Exceptional Math Student

Espen Slettnes of Castro Valley has been selected to join a small group of 45 high school students from around the world in being named World Science Scholars.

Slettnes was one of three Bay Area students who were recruited through nominations from the World Science Foundation (WSF) in a new initiative created to nurture the next generation of students who have demonstrated extraordinary mathematical talent.

The students have been invited

to join a worldwide community of mathematicians, world-renowned professors and dedicated teaching fellows who are connected digitally through a robust social learning platform.

The program, which the Foundation said was "to prepare exceptional high school math students to change the world" will begin this fall.



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Offer valid at the specified location only and expires 9/30/2018. Amenities and pricing vary by membership level and location. Guest pass valid for 1st time guests with local ID and must be used for consecutive days. Additional fees and restrictions may apply. See club for details. © 2018 Crunch IP Holdings, LLC

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PHOTO BY LINDA SANDSMARK

Families and friends helped sort food for the Castro Valley Outreach food drive this week.

## Thanksgiving Meals for Families Thanks to Castro Valley Outreach

By Linda Sandmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Castro Valley Outreach held its annual Thanksgiving food drive this month, reaching out to the community in order to help local families in need.

"We've been doing this every year since we were in Kindergarten," said volunteer Abby Deorsey, who is now a high school sophomore. "It's a great service opportunity."

Chairperson Tracie Romo said that 90 families will be helped this year, with a box of perishables (turkey, rolls, onions, etc.) and a box of canned goods.

"We'll have a lot left over after making the boxes, so we'll take some to the St. Vincent DePaul

Society at Our Lady of Grace Church, and some to Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, which distributes food for the Alameda County Food Bank. We're keeping it all local," says Romo.

Food was collected at Castro Valley schools during November, then sorted and boxed up by volunteers this Monday and Tuesday. Each school has a liaison that coordinates their drive, but anyone may donate.

Next up is a Christmas gift drive, where families in temporary need receive a tree and gifts in addition to food. Gift cards and monetary donations are also welcome, because this year CV Outreach will buy some bikes and a bed. Recipient families were chosen by referral.

"We have a great group of volunteers in Castro Valley," says Romo. "We're not an emergency outreach, but we do have contacts and referrals if families have an emergency."

Monetary donations may be sent to Castro Valley Outreach, P.O. Box 20367, Castro Valley, CA 94546. More information is available at [www.castrovalleyoutreach.org](http://www.castrovalleyoutreach.org). CV Outreach is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, funded entirely by donations from residents and businesses.

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



### Wanted Man

Thursday, November 15: at 7:29 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 21-year-old man from San Leandro as part of a warrant issued for his capture. The man was hanging outside a drug store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Yeandle Avenue when deputies showed up to serve the warrant. The man was previously wanted for multiple counts of auto theft, illegal drug possession, and breaking and entering. The man also submitted a false ID to deputies at the time of his arrest. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail where he was held without bail.

### Out of Camp Fire, Into Jail

Friday, November 16: at 4:17 a.m., a 50-year-old man from Paradise, Calif. (Butte County) was arrested as part of a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies stopped the man for questioning outside a business on Castro Valley Boulevard near Redwood Road when they made the identification. The man was previously charged with possession of illegal narcotics and violating his parole. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$75,000 in bail.

### 'Chasing the Dragon'

Tuesday, November 13: at 11:00 p.m., deputies arrested a 46-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and illegal drug paraphernalia. The woman was at an

apartment on Center Street near Grove Way when deputies conducted a probation search. During their visit deputies found drugs wrapped in tinfoil in the woman's apron as well as on a shelf in the kitchen labeled, "Chasing the Dragon." The woman was taken into custody.

### Violation of Probation And Illegal Narcotics

Monday, November 12: at 9:10 p.m., a 26-year-old man from Livermore was arrested on suspicion of violating his probation, and possession of illegal narcotics. Deputies pulled over a vehicle on Wilbeam Avenue near Norbridge Avenue as part of a routine traffic stop. The man was the passenger and previously charged with possession of stolen property, harboring a fugitive, and breaking and entering. Deputies also found heroin drugs in the man's pocket and took him into custody.

### Can't Stay Away

Tuesday, November 13: at 4:24 a.m., deputies arrested a 32-year-old man from CV on suspicion of violating his restraining order. The man was spotted outside an apartment on Center Street near Grove Way that he was asked to stay away from. Deputies identified the man and took him into custody.

### Spousal Abuse

Monday, November 12: at 11:40 a.m., a 23-year-old man from San Leandro was arrested on suspicion of spousal battery, possession of stolen property, and destroying a phone being used to call for help. Deputies responded to an anonymous call about an argument at a home on Miramar Avenue and Saratoga Street. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his arrest. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$35,000 in bail. The victim was treated at the scene.



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## Grass Fire Closes Road

A vegetation fire broke out on Palomares Road last Thursday afternoon and was only fully contained three days later.

The grass fire — dubbed the "Niles Fire" by the Alameda County Fire Department — burned 20 acres before it was fully contained on Sunday. The fire was 80 percent contained by the first evening, but firefighters remained on the scene to extinguish the remaining fire and watch for hot spots.

The location of the fire was in Union City, but it threatened to spread into the rural Castro Valley area.

Palomares Road was closed between Palo Verde Road in Castro Valley and Niles Canyon Road in Fremont until Sunday morning so the fire could be attended.

There are no reports of injuries or structures burned. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

**Forever Christmas**

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given..." Isaiah 9:6

Dec. 14th - Dec. 24th

Tickets \$5 online at [3CROSSES.ORG](http://3CROSSES.ORG)

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**Sunday, December 2 — 5:00 PM**

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**CHANUKAH CELEBRATION**  
*& Public Menorah Lighting*

**Thursday, December 6 — 5:00 PM**

at **SAN LEANDRO CITY HALL PLAZA**  
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*on Ice!*

**Sunday, December 9 — 4:30 PM**

at the **PALOMARES HILLS CLUB HOUSE**  
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- SCRUMPTIOUS DAIRY DINNER with Latkes and Doughnuts of course!
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- DECORATE YOUR DOUGHNUTS!
- AND MUCH MORE!



## The Week Ahead

### ● Thursday, November 22: *Free Vegetarian Dinner & Concert*

Enjoy an International Thanksgiving Dinner in a serene and welcoming environment with many vegan items and a concert, beginning at 3 p.m. tomorrow at Badarikashrama, 15602 Maubert Ave., San Leandro. Hindustani Classical Instrumental Concert by Amit Gud, sarod, and Omkar Bhavne, tabla. Reservations are recommended but no one will be turned away.

### ● Friday & Saturday, Nov. 23-24: *Castro Valley Blood Drives*

Three blood drives will be held this Friday and Saturday. On Friday, Nov. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Eden Medical Center, 20101 Lake Chabot Road. On Saturday, Nov. 24, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Redwood Chapel, 19300 Redwood Road. Also on Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. Appointments are encouraged. Sign up at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-733-2767.

### ● Saturday, November 24: *Craft Event: Mistletoe Madness*

Select items from 80 craft vendors' tables from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 24 at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro. For more info, visit [www.mistletoemadness.net](http://www.mistletoemadness.net)

## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

CASTROVALLEYFORUM.COM

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## THANKSGIVING DAY SCHEDULES

Thursday, November 22, 2018

### Government Operations

All federal, state, county and city offices will be closed, except for emergency services.

### Business Offices

Banks and nearly all other businesses will be closed. Many, including The Forum, will also be closed on Friday, Nov. 23.

### Stores & Restaurants

Some stores and restaurants will be open, but some will be operating on a shortened schedule. Check ahead, especially for food and pharmacy supplies.

### Public Transportation

BART trains and AC Transit buses will operate on a Sunday schedule.

### Garbage Collection

Garbage collection will occur one day later starting on Nov. 22 during the holiday week. Those with Thursday collection days will have pick-up on Friday and those with Friday collection days will have pick-up on Saturday. For questions, call 510-537-5500 (residential) or 510-613-8700 (commercial/business). On Friday, November 23rd, WMAC Call Center will be open but the 98th Avenue Cashier and Hayward Pay Station will be closed.

Castro Valley Sanitary District offices will be closed Thursday and Friday. Call 510-506-5821 for sewer emergencies. For other information, visit [www.cvsan.org](http://www.cvsan.org).

### ● Saturday, November 24: *Sports Memorabilia Show & Sale*

The Meridians of St. Leander's Church will hold their 34th Annual Sports Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday at the Ryan O'Connell Hall, 575 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro with a variety of vintage sports memorabilia for sale. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for under 10). Door prizes will be given away. Proceeds from the show benefit the parish and local charities. Call Mark at 510-538-6245 for more info.

### ● Monday, November 26: *Eden Garden Club Meeting*

Scott Bigelow of Wicked Gardens Nursery on Redwood Road will be speaker at the next meeting of the Eden Garden Club at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 26 at the Moose Lodge in Castro Valley. He will share his creative Garden Art and arrangements and demonstrate how to make one his creations. Selected plants and art items can be purchased. Meetings are free and guests are always welcome. For more info, call 510-397-1268.

### ● Monday, November 26: *Municipal Advisory Council Meeting*

The Castro Valley MAC will hold a land-use meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at the Castro Valley Library. Visit [acgov.org/bc/cvmac](http://acgov.org/bc/cvmac) for the complete agenda.

### ● Tuesday, November 27: *Rotary Meeting: County Fire Chief*

David Rocha, Chief of the Alameda County Fire Department, will update the Club on the activities of his department at the next buffet lunch meeting, from noon to 1:30 p.m. on November 27 at Redwood Canyon Golf Course, 17007 Redwood Road, Castro Valley. The cost of lunch is \$15 and reservations must be made by 9 p.m. on Sunday, November 25, by contacting Rotary at [cvrotary@iCloud.com](mailto:cvrotary@iCloud.com) or by calling 510-402-5123. More information available at [castrovalleyrotary.org](http://castrovalleyrotary.org)

## Holidays at McConaghy House

Open from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
on the following dates:

December 1 | December 2  
December 8 | December 15

For more information and Santa's visiting hours, visit  
[www.haywardareahistory.org/holidaysatmconaghy](http://www.haywardareahistory.org/holidaysatmconaghy)



18701 Hesperian Blvd, Hayward  
510.581.0223 | [www.haywardareahistory.org](http://www.haywardareahistory.org)



## Day of the Dead 2018

At the HAHS Museum of History & Culture  
September 29 – November 25, 2018

Day of the Dead at its core is a celebration of life. It's about remembering deceased loved ones and honoring their lives. This year's exhibition presents all forms of *ofrendas* from our community members, from traditional altars to innovative sculptures.



22380 Foothill Blvd, Hayward | 510.581.0223  
[www.haywardareahistory.org](http://www.haywardareahistory.org) | Open Wed.- Sun.: 10 AM - 4 PM



### ● Wednesday, November 28: *Castro Valley Mothers Club*

Learn secrets of lifting up yourself, your children and other moms. Parents are invited to the Castro Valley Mothers Club "Learn and Share" speaker series with Rachel Sklar who will be covering "Moms In It Together" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 3160 Castro Valley Blvd., Suite 100. Space is limited, so please RSVP to [castrovalleymothersclub.com](mailto:castrovalleymothersclub.com) or contact Rebecca at [rebeccasayami@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccasayami@gmail.com).

### ● Wednesday, November 28: *Senior Housing Rights*

All over California seniors are facing eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness. To prevent these issues, Legal Assistance for Seniors, a non-profit that offers free legal advice and assistance, will present a practical overview on the housing rights of seniors, from 11 a.m. to noon next Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Learning Center at the Castro Valley Library. Topics include landlord and tenant's rights and responsibilities, the eviction process, security deposits, and how and where to seek more resources and assistance. No reservations are required.

### ● Wednesday, November 28: *Holiday Treasures Sale*

The San Lorenzo Village Homes Association will hold a Christmas gifts sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 28 in the Bohannon Room at 377 Paseo Grande in San Lorenzo.

### ● Saturday, December 1: *Moose Lodge Swap Meet*

Castro Valley Moose Lodge at 20835 Rutledge Road will hold a garage/swap meet sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 1. Space for rent is available. Sign up at the Moose Lodge or call 510-537-0830.

### ● Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 1-2: *Christmas Bake Sale*

Gerard Women's Club of St. John's Catholic Church at 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. in San Lorenzo will hold their famous Christmas Bake Sale and Raffle in the Community Room after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Dec. 1 and after all the Masses starting at 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 2. A continental breakfast will be available on Sunday and the raffle will be held after the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Come and enjoy a great weekend celebration. For more information contact Evelyn Long at 510-276-7239 or Pat Forsythe at 510-278-4161.

# Arts & Entertainment

## CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

*Tickets for Center for the Arts events listed below are available online at [www.cvcfa.com](http://www.cvcfa.com); or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. (phone 889-8961), or at the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue.*

● **"The Crucible"** by Arthur Miller, will be performed by the Castro Valley High School Advanced Acting Class at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8. This exciting drama about the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem is both a gripping historical play and a timely parable of our contemporary society. *For tickets (\$13, \$15), see above.*

● **Winter Choral Concert** will be presented by the Creekside Middle School Choirs at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4, at the Center for the Arts. Enjoy an evening of beautiful music celebrating the winter season. *For tickets (\$5-\$7) see above. Prices will go up the day of the performance.*

## OTHER THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"Dracula,"** adapted from the suspenseful legend by Bram Stoker, will be presented through Dec. 2 by Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, and at 2 p.m. on Sundays, with one Saturday matinee on Dec. 1. For tickets (\$29), visit [www.dmtonline.org/dracula](http://www.dmtonline.org/dracula) or call 510-881-6777. Some discounts are available.

● **"Follow the Star,"** a musical and dramatic Christmas production at Redwood Chapel Community Church, will be presented at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14, and at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, featuring the Redwood Chapel Choir and Orchestra, the Vertical Kids Choir and featured soloists and instrumentalists. This is a free, family-friendly event and kids are welcome. Childcare by reservation is available for up to age 4. Redwood Chapel Community Church is located at 19300 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. Call 510-886-6300 for more information.

## AT THE ART GALLERIES

● **41st Area Artists Annual Juried Exhibition**, a competitive exhibit which features artwork from 41 selected local artists reflecting the world as they see it, is being presented through Dec. 8 at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave., Castro Valley. The exhibit includes a variety of media. Visit [www.adobegallery.org](http://www.adobegallery.org)

## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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





## 1 in 5 Drivers Can't Fix a Flat Tire. Can You?

For many Americans, fixing a flat tire remains a mystery. According to a survey from AAA, nearly 20 percent of U.S. drivers don't know how to change a flat.

This is compounded by research saying there are 220 million flat tires annually - and each driver will experience up to five flat tires in their lifetime.

Before hitting the road, study up on these flat-tire-fixing hacks and build up the confidence to complete this all-American road test:

**Be spared:** Spare tires are usually hidden under the carpet in the trunk area, but they aren't always included in newer vehicles (allowing manufacturers to make lighter, more fuel-efficient vehicles). When purchasing a new vehicle, ask the dealer about the inclusion of a spare.

**Flatlining signs:** A flat tire is usually accompanied by a loud noise or rubber flapping. The vehicle will feel like it is being pulled toward the side of the flat tire, and it will feel as if the vehicle can no longer accelerate.

When in doubt, activate hazard lights and move the vehicle safely out of traffic, ideally on a flat area with enough space on the side of the road.

Once in a safe spot, remember to practice high visibility: Wear a reflective vest and position reflective emergency warning triangles to alert motorists - add these items to your roadside toolkit.

**Hit the road, Jack:** Having the right tools on board is critical, of course, and that's where a jack comes in, like a Strongway Jack. Remember, the jack is only used to get the vehicle off the ground, not to hold the vehicle in place - that's where the jack stands come in to ensure a safe and sustained lift.

Refer to the owner's manual for the proper placement of

the jack and the stands, typically the sturdiest part of the vehicle.

**Rider's block:** A common, and dangerous, error when changing a tire is not using blocks to prevent the wheels from rolling once the vehicle is raised. A tire-changing tool pack should include bricks or wooden wedges to be placed behind the wheels at the end of the vehicle that isn't being raised.

**Get loose:** Once the jack has been cranked up, and the wheel is slightly off the ground, it's time to remove the hubcap and then call for another key tool, a tire iron, to loosen the lug nuts and then pull off the flat tire. Be careful not to strip the lug nuts.

**On the road again:** With the flat tire off, line up the

spare tire's holes with the wheel bolts and push on, hand-screwing the lug nuts back on. Then, lower the jack a touch so the wheel is in slight contact with the ground. Use the tire iron to further secure the lug nuts in a "star-like" pattern: After tightening the first lug nut, tighten the one that is diagonally across from it and continue in that pattern. This will prevent the wheel from wobbling.

In an age of mobile phones and easy connection to roadside assistance, the knowledge of addressing a flat tire has gone out the window. But, motorists should know — and practice — the basics of changing a flat to ensure they are prepared for the dreaded pop.

—BrandPoint

## As Temperatures Drop, Check Your Tire Pressure More Often

You may notice when the weather turns colder, the tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) light on your dashboard lights up more frequently. The Car Care Council recommends checking your tire pressure regularly during the winter to help keep the TPMS light off and your vehicle safe.

It's typical at this time of year for motorists to get TPMS warnings and then get worried about their tires. Often drivers will see this in the morning when it's coldest. If the temperature warms, the light could turn off but it's likely that tires will still be a few PSI under inflated. This is why it's important to check tire pressure regularly."

According to the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association, for every 10 degree drop in temperature, tire pressure decreases one to two pounds per

square inch (PSI). Checking the tire pressure is important for vehicle safety, tire life and gas mileage.

Incorrect tire pressure can lower gas mileage by 0.3 percent for every one PSI drop in pressure of all four tires and improve fuel efficiency by up to 3.3 percent when the correct tire pressure is maintained.

Tire pressure should be checked at least monthly. It is important to note that newer cars with tire pressure monitoring systems may not alert you until the tire is significantly under-inflated, so you may want to check it more frequently. It is important to check tire pressure whenever there is a significant weather change and more often during the winter months.

For more information, visit [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org).

## Your Brakes May Be Trying To Tell You Something

If your brakes are trying to tell you something, you should pay attention. A properly operating brake system helps ensure safe vehicle control and operation and it should be checked immediately if you suspect any problems.

"While an annual brake inspection is a good way to ensure brake safety, motorists should not ignore signs that their brakes need attention," said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council.

"Knowing the key warning signs that your brakes may need maintenance will go a long way toward keeping you and others safe on the road."

### What To Watch Out For

Motorists should look for the following warning signs that their brakes need to be inspected:

- Noise: screeching, grinding

or clicking noises when applying the brakes.

- Pulling: vehicle pulls to one side while braking.

- Low Pedal: brake pedal nearly touches the floor before engaging.

- Hard Pedal: you must apply extreme pressure to the pedal before brakes engage.

- Grabbing: brakes grab at the slightest touch to the pedal.

- Vibration: brake pedal vibrates or pulses, even under normal braking conditions.

- Light: brake light is illuminated on your vehicle's dashboard.

Because brakes are a normal wear item on any vehicle, they will eventually need to be replaced. Factors that can affect brake wear include driving habits, operating conditions, vehicle type and the quality of the brake lining material.

Be sure to avoid letting brakes get to the metal-to-metal point as that can mean expensive rotor or drum replacement.

The Car Care Council offers a free custom service schedule and e-mail reminder service to help car owners remember to have their brakes inspected and take good care of their vehicles. It's an easy-to-use resource designed to help motorists drive smart, save money and make informed decisions.

The Car Care Council is also the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers.

Learn More: For a copy of the council's "Car Care Guide" or for further information, visit [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org).

—North American Precip Synd., Inc.

## Seeing Is Believing for Road Safety

Although properly functioning vehicle lights, wipers and mirrors allow for better visibility while driving, these items are all too often forgotten or ignored when people perform basic auto care.

"Making sure that you can see and be seen on the road is essential to avoiding motor vehicle accidents, yet many motorists overlook simple maintenance steps that can improve driving visibility," explained Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council.

Following a few auto care visibility tips can be illuminating, helping to ensure the safety of you, your passengers, and other vehicles around you.

- Replace any exterior or interior lights that are dimming, rapidly blinking or nonfunctioning and be sure headlights are correctly aimed.

- Make sure that vehicle mirrors are clean and properly

positioned.

- Check windshield washer fluid level and, when it gets low, replace it.

- Replace wiper blades if they show cracking or if they chatter or streak when operating. Don't forget to check the rear wiper blade.

- When in doubt, turn your lights on to help you see and help other drivers see you. Some places even have laws that require headlights

to be on when windshield wipers are operating.

- Don't overdrive your headlights. Maintain a speed that will let you stop within the illuminated area; otherwise, you create a blind crash zone in front of your vehicle.

For a free copy of the popular "Car Care Guide," visit the council's consumer education website at [www.car-care.org](http://www.car-care.org).

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# Small Business Saturday: Why Shopping Locally is So Important

Consumers and small businesses in communities across the U.S. are preparing to celebrate Small Business Saturday, taking place this year on November 24.

Because an average two-thirds of every dollar (\$0.67) spent at small businesses stays in the local

community, consumers' local impact during the important holiday shopping season could be significant.

Further, every dollar spent at small businesses creates an additional 50 cents in local business activity as a result of employee

spending and businesses purchasing local goods and services, according to the Small Business Economic Impact Study.

American Express created Small Business Saturday in 2010 as a way to help small businesses get more customers, and the

celebration has since become an annual shopping tradition on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

"What began nine years ago as an effort to support local stores during the holiday shopping season has become the Shop Small movement, bringing together

millions of shoppers, small businesses of all kinds, civic leaders and organizations in thousands of towns and cities across the country," said Elizabeth Rutledge, Chief Marketing Officer at American Express.

"Shopping small has a signif-

icant and positive effect on local communities, and we hope Small Business Saturday will help to amplify that effect during the crucial holiday shopping season.

When we spend local, small businesses thrive. And when small businesses thrive, we all thrive."



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

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

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

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

As you probably know, eligibility for both SSI and Medi-Cal depends upon her having very modest resources.

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

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

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

**Repurchase "Grace Periods"**

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

During those grace periods, she would maintain eligibility. There is a three-month grace period to do so under the SSI program and a six-month grace period under the Medi-Cal program.

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

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

If she does not plan to repurchase a replacement home, or if she anticipates having excess sales proceeds after she does so, then the planning becomes a bit more complicated. Yet doing so is still essential to maintaining benefit eligibility, at least under the Medi-Cal program.

Here are some planning options that would protect her Medi-Cal eligibility, although there is some



question as to whether they would also protect her SSI.

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

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

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

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

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).



Taking care of an aging parent can be physically and mentally exhausting. But help and resources are available.

## Need Help Caring For Aging Parent

**Q:** Where can I turn for caregiving help? I help take care of my 78-year-old mother and work too, and it's wearing me to a frazzle.

By Jim Miller  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

**A:** Taking care of an aging parent over a period of time – especially when juggling work and other family obligations – can be physically and mentally exhausting. But help and resources are available.

To help you determine and prioritize the kinds of help you need, a good first step is to make a list of everything you do as a caregiver, big and small.

Note the amount of time each one takes every day, week or month. Identify the times when you need help the most and which tasks others might be able to do for you, like making lunch for your mother when you're at work.

Then list the types of care needed, such as simple companionship or doing active chores, like food shopping. Once you determine this, here are some tips and places you can reach out to for help.

### Caregiving Help

If you have siblings or other

loved ones close by, schedule a family meeting, in person or by phone, to discuss specific tasks they could provide. See if friends, neighbors or faith group members could help too.

You should also investigate resources in your mom's town. Many communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that help seniors and caregivers with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, companion services and respite services, which offers short-term care so you can take an occasional break.

Call your Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 for contact information) for referrals to services available in your community, or for respite services see [ARCHrespite.org/respitelocator](http://ARCHrespite.org/respitelocator).

If you can afford it, you may want to hire someone part-time to help with things like preparing meals, housekeeping or even personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. To find someone, ask for referrals through your mom's doctor or area hospital discharge planners, or try websites like Care.com, CareLinx.com, CareFamily.com or CareSpotter.com.

see CARING on page 9

### RETIREMENT TIPS

## Single Senior Women

By Jim Miller  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

It's an unfortunate reality, but most single women – whether they're divorced, widowed or never married – face much greater financial challenges in retirement than men. Why?

Because women earn less money – about 80 cents for every dollar that men make, on average, and they have shorter working careers than men due to raising children and/or caring for aging parents. And less money earned usually translates into less money saved and a lower Social Security benefit when you retire.

In addition, women live an average of five years longer than men, which requires their retirement income to stretch farther for living expenses and healthcare costs.

Because of these issues, it's very important that women educate themselves on financial matters and learn how to save more effectively. Listed below are some tips and resources that may help you.

### Start Saving

If your employer offers a retirement plan, such as a 401K, you should contribute enough to at least capitalize on a company match, if available. And if you can swing it, contribute even more.

By law, you can save as much as \$18,500 in a 401(k) in 2018, or \$24,500 to those 50 and older, due to the catch-up rule.

If you don't have a workplace plan, consider opening a Traditional or Roth IRA. Both are powerful tax-advantaged retirement savings accounts that let you contribute up to \$5,500 annually, or \$6,500 when you're over 50.

And if you're self-employed, consider a SEP-IRA, SIMPLE-IRA and/or a solo 401(k), all of which can help reduce your taxable income while putting money away for retirement.

If you have a high-deductible health policy, you should consider opening a health savings account (see [HSAsearch.com](http://HSAsearch.com)). This is an

see WOMEN on page 10

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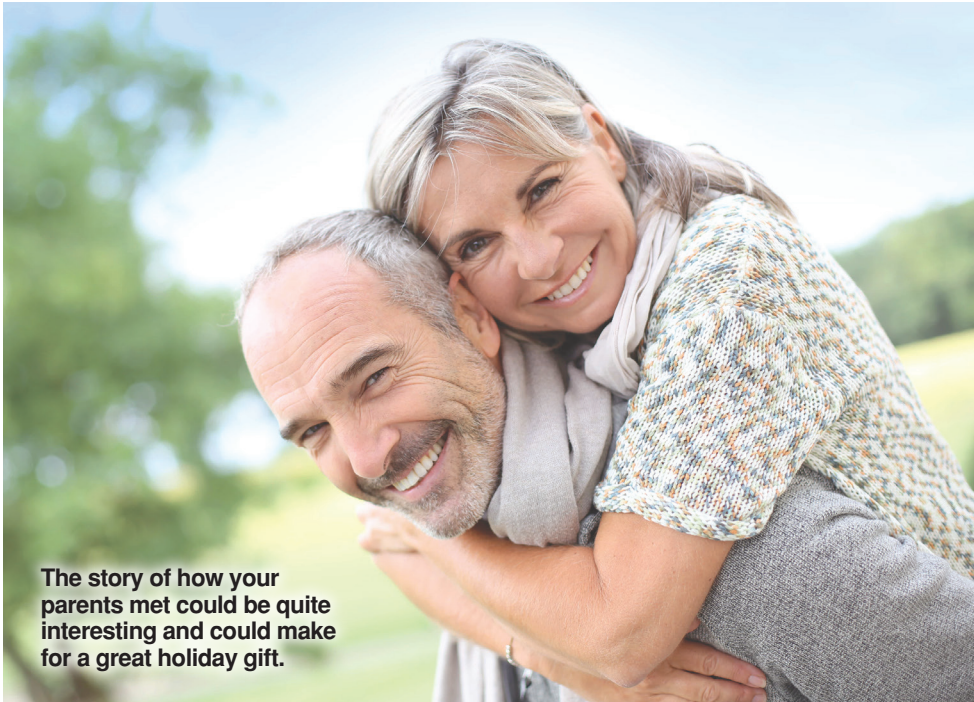
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The story of how your parents met could be quite interesting and could make for a great holiday gift.

## Capturing a Loved Ones' Story

By Jim Miller  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A personal recording of your parents' life story could be a wonderful holiday gift and something you and your family could cherish the rest of your lives. Here are a few tips to help you get started.

### What You'll Need

Your first step is to find out if your parents are willing to make a legacy video, which would entail you asking them a number of thoughtful questions about their life in an interview format in front of a video recording device.

If they are, all you'll need is a smartphone or camcorder and a list of questions or prompts to get them talking.

### Recording Equipment

If you have a smartphone, making a video of your parents' story is simple and free. However, you may want to invest a "smartphone tripod" to hold the phone while you conduct the interview, and a "smartphone external microphone," which would improve the audio quality. You can find these types of products for under \$20.

Most smartphones today have good quality cameras and have the ability to edit/trim out the parts you don't want. Or you can download a free video-editing app like Magisto or Adobe Premiere Clip that can help you customize your video.

If you want a higher quality video, consider purchasing a HD

camcorder. Sony, Panasonic and Canon are the top-rated brands, according to Consumer Reports. These can run anywhere from a few hundred dollars, up to \$1,000 or more.

### Questions and Prompts

To help you prepare your list of questions for your parents' video interview, go to "Have the Talk of a Lifetime" website at TalkofALifetime.org.

This resource, created by the Funeral and Memorial Information Council, offers a free workbook that lists dozens of questions in different categories. Some of these include: earliest memories and childhood; significant people; proudest accomplishments; and most cherished objects. This will help you put together a wide variety of meaningful, open-ended questions.

Old photos of your parents, their family members and friends are also great to have on hand to jog your parents' memory and stimulate conversations.

After you select your questions and photos, be sure to share them with your parents ahead of time so they can have some time to think about their answers. This will make the interview go much smoother.

### Interview Tips

Arrange an interview time when your parents are rested and relaxed, and choose a quiet, comfortable place where you won't be interrupted. You may need several

sessions to cover everything you want.

When you get started, ask your parents to introduce themselves and ask a warm-up question like "When and where were you born?" Then ease into your selected questions, but use them as a guide, not a script.

If your parents go off topic, go with it. You can redirect them to your original question later. Think of it as a conversation; there's no right or wrong thing to talk about, as long as it's meaningful to you and your parents.

Also, be prepared to ask follow-up questions or diverge from your question list if you're curious about something. If you'd like to hear more, try "And then what happened?" or "How did that make you feel?" or "What were you thinking in that moment?"

And end your interview with some reflective questions, such as "What legacy would you like to leave?" or "How do you want to be remembered?"

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

## Caring: For Aging Parent

continued from previous page  
Financial Aids

If your handling your mom's financial chores, make things easier by arranging for direct deposit for her income sources, and set up automatic payments for her utilities and other routine bills.

You may also want to set up your mom's online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor her account anytime. Or, if you need help, hire a daily money manager (AADMM.com) to do it for you. They charge between \$25 and \$100 per hour.

BenefitsCheckup.org is another excellent resource to look for financial assistance programs that may help your mom, particularly if she's lower-income.

### Technology Assistance

To help you keep tabs on your mom when you are away or if she lives alone, there are affordable technologies that can help.

For example, there are medical alert systems (like Bay Alarm Medical, BayAlarmMedical.com), which provide a wearable "help button" that would allow your mom to call for help anytime.

Or, you could install a video-monitoring camera that lets you check in on her anytime via your smartphone or computer. These cameras have built-in motion and sound detection that will let you know when something is detected, and two-way audio that will let you talk and listen to her.

There are even websites (like LotsaHelpingHands.com) that can help you more easily coordinate care with other family members.

### Insurance Questions?

If you have questions about Medicare, Medicaid or long-term care, your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) offers free counseling and advice on these issues. Call 877-839-2675 or visit ShiptaCenter.org to locate a nearby counselor. You can also get help through the Medicare Rights Center, which staffs a help-line at 800-333-4114.



## English High Tea At Senior Center

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

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



This week's Athlete of the Week is Taylor Hodges, an eighth grader at Creekside Middle School. Hodges is a member of the Wildcats' track team and set a new record of 1:02.77 for the girls 400 meter, at the (SACMAL) Southern Alameda County Middle League's track meet on Fr., Oct. 19. Hodges, also, competes in USA Track and Field events for the Steele Gazelles of CV.

## CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE



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PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL IGLESIAS

## Headfirst Holds College Camp

Headfirst Baseball Academy held College Camp for grades 8-10 at Ohlone College over the weekend of Nov. 10-11 with 90 players in attendance, and 10 college coaches instructing and evaluating them. Players gain exposure in this atmosphere and college coaches get an early glimpse of up-and-coming prospects. Coaches attended from UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly, USF, and UC Davis. Over 350 Headfirst players have gone on to play college baseball.

## SPORTS NOTES

•The CV Little League is having live registration on Friday, Dec. 7, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Creekside Middle School, 19722 Center Street. Live registrations are for new players to show proof of residency, or school enrollment form and birth certificate. It is not necessary for returning players to attend live registration as long as they have not moved in the last year. Please register online at: [Castrovalleylittleleague.org](http://Castrovalleylittleleague.org)

•CV Independent Sports League opened online registrations for 2019. Visit [cvisportsleague.org](http://cvisportsleague.org)

•The CV girls softball League opened online registration. Visit: [castrovalleysoftball.com](http://castrovalleysoftball.com)

## GOT SPORTS NEWS?

EMAIL: [JIMCVSPORTS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JIMCVSPORTS@GMAIL.COM)



## Relief: Rain Expected to Better Air Quality

*continued from front page*

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

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

Winds continue to carry noxious smoke into the Bay Area where air was listed in the "very unhealthy range" on Friday. Air quality in parts of the Bay Area were listed as the worst on the planet. People were advised to stay indoors and to wear masks when going outside.

### Events Canceled

All Alameda County public schools were closed on Friday as were most scheduled outdoor events.

Castro Valley's Meet-in-the-Street and annual Christmas Light Parade, which had been scheduled for Nov. 10, then postponed for a week, finally had to be cancelled on Thursday afternoon as air quality continued to worsen.

Parade organizer Mel Speed, who had been working on the proj-



ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

**An Alameda County firefighter on duty at the Woolsey fire in Ventura County in Southern California.**

ect for months, sent out an email saying, "We are deeply saddened to make this decision and recognize the amount of community effort it takes to put on such a large event that is filled with so much pride, love and togetherness!"

"Public health and safety is our first priority here at the Light Parade/Meet in the Street and we hope to see everyone back on the Boulevard in 2019!"

"Our hearts go out to the fire victims all over California. Thank you again for your patience and stay safe during the difficult time for California!"

### Rain on the Way

A storm — the first of two — was expected to move into the Bay Area overnight which should begin to clear the air for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

By Amy Sylvestri & Fred Zehnder

## Count Me In: Performing Arts Programs Returning to Schools

By Amy Ramos  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

I've got some great news! I am proud to announce an exciting adventure: Performing Arts Programs are coming back into our schools!

With support from the Castro Valley Unified School District, our Parent-Teacher Association and Castro Valley Education Foundation have teamed up with Bay Area Children's Theatre to bring Performing Arts to our schools.

This year we are piloting a program with five schools — three elementary and two middle schools.

In order to make this program start off with a roar, we need to fundraise! I am asking for your support. Come see a show! Stanton, Palomares, and Proctor will be performing The Jungle Book KIDS (in February). Creekside and Canyon are performing Singing in the Rain JR (in May).

Buy your tickets at this link! [www.bactheatre.org/classes/tickets/CVUSD](http://www.bactheatre.org/classes/tickets/CVUSD)

Want to donate? Please go to the CVEF fundraiser page or send in a check directly to: Castro Valley Education Foundation, Attn: Theatre Program, P.O. Box 2693, Castro Valley, CA 94546

GoFundMe:  
[www.gofundme.com/castro-valley-school-plays-program](http://www.gofundme.com/castro-valley-school-plays-program)

Donations are tax deductible!

Amy Ramos is a resident of Castro Valley, and president of Stanton Parent Club and a School District parent. You can contact her at [adramos@mac.com](mailto:adramos@mac.com)

## Women: Retirement Planning for Singles

*continued from page 8*

excellent tool that can be used to sock away funds pre-tax and use them before or after retirement to pay for medical expenses.

### Find Your Number

It's also important to get a handle on how much you need to save for a comfortable retirement. You can do this through a number of free online calculators like ChooseToSave.org or FinancialMentor.com/calculator.

### Pay Off Debt

If you have debt, you need to get it under control. If you need some help with this, consider a nonprofit credit-counseling agency that provides free or low cost advice and

solutions, and can help you set up a debt management plan. To locate an agency, use the National Foundation for Credit Counseling website at NFCC.org or call 800-388-2227.

### Find Help

To help you educate yourself on financial matters like retirement planning, saving and investing, health care, annuities and more, a top resource is the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement at WiserWomen.org.

And to help you get up to speed on Social Security, visit SSA.gov/people/women. This web page, dedicated to women, provides helpful publications like "What

Every Women Should Know," along with links to benefit calculators and your personal Social Security account to help you figure out your future earnings at different retirement ages.

You should also consider getting a financial assessment with a fee-only financial advisor. Costs for these services will vary from around \$150 to \$300 per hour, but this can be very beneficial to help you set-up a retirement plan you can follow. See NAPFA.org or GarrettPlanningNetwork.com to locate an advisor in your area.

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



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Give Thanks, Give Relief

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

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

The hazy skies we've seen the past few weeks are a reminder that, while the destruction is miles away, we, as one family here in California, are still integrally connected to those suffering losses and can play a part in their recovery. The Realtors of the Central County urge you, this Thanksgiving, to provide the gift of hope.

As was the case with the fires in the Santa Rosa region, sup-

port organizations are primarily asking for financial contributions instead of clothes, furniture or other items: funds are critical so that those affected can purchase immediate needs.

As always, when disaster occurs, the potential for fraud is escalated, so we encourage vigilance when providing relief so that the funds go to reputable organizations.

Organizations that are helping include:

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

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

**The Salvation Army:**

www.deloro.salvationarmy.org/del\_oro/camp-fire-response

From their website: Monetary donations are needed at this time. If you would like to support our immediate response efforts, make an online gift here, or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769). Donations by mail may be designated "Camp Fire" and sent to: The Salvation Army, PO Box 348000, Sacramento, CA 95834

**United Way of Northern California:** www.norcalunitedway.org or text BUTTEFIRE to 91999.

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

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association.

## Lush Trumpet Vine, but No Trumpets

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

I have a problem with my three-year-old trumpet vine. It has never bloomed. It is planted in a ten foot by two foot trellis box and watered frequently. On a weekly basis, I feed it an organic plant food. The plant is thriving and producing abundant, healthy leaves but no flowers. What do I need to do to get it to flower?

You're being too generous with the fertilizer and overfeeding the trumpet vine. Although most organic fertilizer is low in nitrogen your frequent application rate is escalating the nitrogen level, so all your plants want to do is produce vegetation — all leaves and no flowers. So you'll need to reduce the nitrogen level by stop feeding



it for rest of the year.

Next year I'd feed it every other month, April through October. I wouldn't expect any flowers this year as the days are getting shorter and nights colder. Depending on the variety I would look for flowers starting in June.

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

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## Mortgage Rates Stabilize

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

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

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

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

## WEEKEND GARDENER

### Spray

Plan your dormant fruit spraying schedule to coincide approximately with cool-weather holidays, when the rain lets up for a few days. Specific cues are the fall of the last leaves (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year's Day) and when buds swell, but before they show color (Valentine's Day).

### Wildflowers

Now, with showers expected, is a good time to sow wildflower seeds for spring flowers. California poppies are a good bet for anybody's yard.

### Vegetables

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

## OPEN HOMES

SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>

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

One-Line Open Home Listings run Wednesdays in the Castro Valley Forum (22,500 circ.) and Thursdays in the San Leandro Times (38,500 circ.) for \$25. For more information and a listing form, Call 614-1558. DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT NOON.

### CITY GUIDE

A = SAN LEANDRO • B = SAN LORENZO • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DANVILLE • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD • K = CONCORD  
L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • O = OAKLAND • P = PLEASANTON • S = SHEFFIELD VILLAGE • W = WALNUT CREEK



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

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Castro Valley

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**Coldwell Banker Real Estate**  
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21060 Redwood Rd. Ste. 100, Castro Valley



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## TO VIEW THE CLASSIFIED ADS

Visit our Websites 24 hours a day  
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**www.castrovalleyforum.com**  
 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

## CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE

New ads, cancellations or ad changes:  
**MONDAY BY 5:00 P.M.**  
 Call 510-614-1558 (Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m - 5 p.m.)  
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**\$35** 10 words  
(3 weeks)

## GARAGE SALES

**\$30** 10 words  
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## HELP WANTED

**\$35** 10 words  
(1 week)

## MISC. FOR SALE

**\$30** 10 words  
(3 weeks)

## RENTALS

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## SERVICES

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**\*MP CONCRETE.** Driveways, Patio, Retaining Walls, Stamped Concrete, Asphalt, Hauling. Lic.#1004427. Milo 510-502-9336.

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## CONTRACTOR SERVICE

**Need Contractor Service?** Check our HOME SERVICE & CLASSIFIED ads for help! Castro Valley Forum/San Leandro Times

**NEED - MUSIC LESSONS** or **PIANO TUNING?**  
 Check the Classified Ads under "MUSICAL SERVICES" for help.

## CONTRACTOR SERVICE

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

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

## EMPLOYMENT WANTED

**\*LOOKING FOR WORK?**  
 Check the **Help Wanted** ads on the next page of this newspaper.  
**Also: Limited Time Offer!** You can run a FREE 15 word "Employment Wanted" ad. Ad runs in the San Leandro Times & Castro Valley Forum. Call 510-614-1558 to place an ad or for more info. (Some restrictions may apply)

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## FENCES/DECKS

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE MONDAY 5PM**  
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 Time to clean out your Attic, Garage, Basement (House)!!!  
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**JAIME'S GARDENING** Maintenance, Trimming, Cleanups, Hauling, Sprinkler Repair/Timers. FREE Estimates. Insured. 510-299-9583

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Your ad will run in and the Castro Valley Forum on Wednesday and the San Leandro Times on Thursday. Find help and support your local newspaper at the same time!  
- Thank you -

### \*LOOKING FOR WORK?

Check the **Help Wanted** ads in this newspaper.  
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**The City of San Leandro** is now accepting online applications for:  
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\$5,586-6,790/month  
For more detailed information, please visit [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org)  
EOE

  
**The City of San Leandro** will be accepting online applications starting November 21, 2018 for:  
**Project Specialist I**  
\$6,790 - \$8,253/month  
For more detailed information, please visit [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org)  
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All private party ads are prepaid (paid in advance). Use your M/C, VISA or DISCOVER card, mail in your payment, or stop by our office to place an ad.

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Patrick V.

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[www.bartplazaapartments.com](http://www.bartplazaapartments.com)

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**LANDLORDS** - Advertise your units! A vacancy day is money lost forever ... R. Bowman

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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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**LANDLORDS** - Advertise your units!  
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R. Bowman

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## Obituaries

### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

may be emailed to: [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com) or faxed to 510-483-4209. Include a phone number. Brief notices are published free. Longer obituaries, including pictures, are available for a fee. For help, call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558

■ Darlene Renee Castro  
■ Philip Steven Girmant

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### Philip Steven Girmant

February 14, 1935 -  
November 7, 2018

Phil was born in Rochester, NY on Valentine's Day, 1935.

He was preceded in death by son, Brian, and daughter, Brenda.

He is survived by his wife, Janet, of 62 years; daughter, Karen; son,

Steven; 2 grandsons, James and Shane; and great-granddaughter, Lillian.



### Darlene Renee (Masloski) Castro

February 23, 1935 - November 3, 2018

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

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

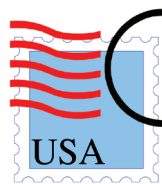
Darlene is survived by her two children, Michael and Robert Castro of Castro Valley; her two siblings, Judy Wonsavage and Ron Masloski on MN; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family. Darlene was preceded in death by her husband, Toney; and her brother, Pudge.

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



## LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR  
[FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM](mailto:FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM)



### Enjoy the East Bay Regional Parks Free This Friday

Editor:

This year marks the East Bay Regional Park District's fourth annual "Green Friday" where the Park District makes Regional Parks free the day after Thanksgiving to encourage residents to connect with nature rather than shop.

There's no better and healthier way to spend time with family and friends than getting outside and experiencing nature together.

The Park District's Green Friday is part of the "#OptOutside" movement started in 2015 by REI when they closed their doors on Black Friday to encourage employees and the public to explore the outdoors. For more info visit, [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org).

Please come out to your favorite park the day after Thanksgiving and discover "nature nearby."

—Dennis Waespi, President  
East Bay Regional Park District  
Board of Directors

### Blocked Sidewalks at Post Office a Longtime Problem

Editor:

Regarding the recent letter "Surprised to Find Blocked Sidewalk at Post Office," (*Letters*, Nov. 14), Ms. Smith, you shouldn't be surprised as this has been going on for years. These are minions of the Lyndon LaRouche organization. You can look them up online.

I had contact with them back in 2012 when they were trying to compare President Obama with Hitler.

You called the wrong people. Yes, they do have the right to be there, but they do not have the right to block the sidewalk as this is a safety hazard, and against the law.

Next time call the Alameda Sheriffs Dept. at 510-677-7721, or the California Highway Patrol at 510-581-9028. Express your concern for your safety and the others that are there for business. An officer will usually be sent within 15 minutes. Tell them you are willing to file a complaint.

They'll go away, but they'll be back as this has been an on-going problem.

Yes, anyone can set up a table to express their political views. It's legal as long as you don't violate other's rights to use the post office. That means having enough space to use the sidewalk. People in wheel chairs will need more space. Hope this helps.

—Carl J. Lawler II  
Lawler Photography, Castro Valley

### Construction Noise at 5:30 a.m. — a Rude Awakening!

Editor:

I sure would like to know who, if anyone, authorized construction to begin on Jameson Way, CV, at 5:30 a.m., this past Friday, November 16th.

My apartment complex, is only separated from the construction site of 27 new town homes, by a property line. There are three sides to this new development, and I believe I was not the only person (persons) rudely awakened. Was the MAC aware of this?

I awoke to workers hammering to strengthen the foundation forms. When I looked out my second floor bedroom window, I could view workers using lighted head gear and flashlights.

At 5:50 a.m., began the pouring of cement via a portable crane. This crane while transferring the wet cement to the site, sounds as if a person is using a sledge hammer beating on an empty fifty gallon drum every two seconds. Two seconds? Yes! I timed it. This went on for nearly five hours.

I thought there was a law that prevented construction in urban areas, not to begin until 7:00 a.m.!

I lay odds that no person from the construction company notified home owners and those who live in the apartment complex of the starting time.

Perhaps the MAC could communicate with the construction company of this problem, and advise them not to begin before 7:00 a.m.

—Richard "Dick" Purdee, Castro Valley

### Says Democrats' House Majority was, Indeed, a Blue Wave

Editor:

Blue wave? Yes indeed.

I would call 30 new Democrats voted in, giving them the House majority a pretty big wave. It is no wonder, considering Trump's incompetence, irrational behavior and constant lies. Not to mention that 56 members of his cabinet have left him in the first year, with more to leave, and at least 7 of his campaign staff, including his personal attorney having been indicted on criminal charges, with more to come, including perhaps the president himself.

So, C. Scott ("Says 'Liberal Media Hype Machine' Got it Wrong Again," *Letters*, Nov. 14) get your head out of the sand and grasp reality. This isn't the liberal media, it is Trump's own doing.

—Robert S. Thomas, Castro Valley

### 'Saddened' by Democrats' Talk of Trump Impeachment

Editor:

When the Democratic party won back control of congress I was optimistic that party leadership would have designs on better health care for all, a plan for immigration and fair foreign trade, especially with China.

I am saddened and depressed to hear nothing from our representatives on the left (including Congressman Swalwell) except talk about further investigations of Russian collusion, impeachment and the really tired talk of President Trump's tax returns.

None of this has anything to do with making my life or our great country better.

After eight years under President Obama and now, once again having some control over policy and important issues, it has become crystal clear that those on the left have no clue. And, in fact, they want to do nothing about illegal immigration for this is their future voting base.

And, if liberal democrats were thinking of their — and this country's — future at all there would be no talk at all about impeachment. If President Trump goes, ultra-conservative Mike Pence becomes president. Lets see just how well that works out for the left.

—Jane Mason, Castro Valley

### Calls 2018 Election a Foreshadowing

Editor:

Election Day was a great day for the American people and is simply a sign of things to come.

The people understood that Trump and the Republican Party are attacking their health care and income by providing massive deficit-driven tax cuts for the Top 1%. They are sacrificing our national security and promulgating climate disaster. After what these criminals have done to us who could continue to support them?

Trump has continued his assault on the Constitution by appointing a fellow grifter, Matt Whitaker, as Attorney General to assist in obstruction of justice in the Robert Mueller investigation.

His family's business associates in Saudi Arabia murdered an American journalist in cold blood. In response to the outrage of the Turkish government, the Trump Administration is attempting to extradite a law abiding US citizen to Turkey to quell this heinous scandal. This is thug mob behavior that the people will not abide.

As long as Trump and the Republicans continue their assault on the American people, the economy and the rule of law, 2018 is just a foreshadowing of things to come in 2020. The purge of Republicans from the state government continued with the flipping of 6 of the 14 remaining Republican-held seats of 58 in California. At least 8 state legislatures and 7 governorships also flipped.

With California leading the way for the nation, and the continuous incompetence of the current administration, 2018 is likely to be just the beginning of the return to sanity, reason and democracy.

—David Siegel, Castro Valley

### Claims Gov. Brown Responsible for Wildfire Plague

Editor:

Back in 2016, our state legislature passed SB 1462 (written by a Republican). This proposed law would have given local governments far more say in deciding how many dead trees would be removed from nearby forests. Even Democrats in the state legislature supported this bill, because everyone knew the increase in dead trees over the past decade was a time bomb waiting to go off.

But Governor Brown killed the bill with his imperial veto. Why did Governor "Nero" deliberately put Californians in greater danger from wild fires? Brown gave no explanation for his veto. This leaves us common folk free to speculate on what Governor Moonbeam was thinking.

For years, Brown has been telling us that "man-made global warming" would cause "catastrophic wild fires." But increasingly, global warming is seen (by both scientists and laymen alike) as caused by the solar cycles; not man-made pollution.

Perhaps the governor's veto of SB 1462 back in 2016 was his way of deliberately setting the stage for the horrible wild fires we have suffered this year. Brown's veto may have been his way of making sure his "prophecy" about wild fires would come true. Maybe Brown thought a few catastrophic fires would give him "evidence" to support his global warming crusade.

Could Governor Brown really be this diabolical? Does it matter? You see, regardless of whether Brown was motivated by evil intent, (or pure stupidity), he is still largely responsible for our recent fire plague. This is what happens when you place an ideological left-winger in a position of responsibility.

—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 every letter can be printed. We do not print unsigned or anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Email Letters to:  
[fredz@ebpublishing.com](mailto:fredz@ebpublishing.com) or mail to:  
The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.



## Live Stream Of Landing On Mars

Chabot Space & Science Center will host a live stream of the NASA InSight landing on Mars next Monday, Nov. 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Planetarium and Megadome theaters.

According to NASA, InSight is set to touch down on Mars at around noon Pacific Time.

The lander will plunge through the thin Martian atmosphere, heat-shield first, and use a parachute to slow down. Then, it will fire its retro rockets to slowly descend to the surface of Mars, and land on the smooth plains of Elysium Planitia where it will deploy a seismometer and burrow a heat probe.

This is a once in a lifetime experience to watch live as the probe enters Mars atmosphere and prepares for its long journey of discovery on the Red Planet while Chabot's resident astronomers will talk about InSight project.

Those attending can explore Chabot's new exhibit, "Going the Distance: Our Reach into Space" where they can pilot a rover across a Martian terrain and view stunning 3-D images taken by rovers on the dusty Planet.

Tickets are \$8. The Chabot Space & Science Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in the Oakland Hills. For more information, call 510-336-7300 or visit [chabotspace.org/events/events-listing/insight-landing/](http://chabotspace.org/events/events-listing/insight-landing/).



Sister and brother Kait and Cameron Lewis stand with the loaded trailer that brought supplies to Camp Fire victims.

## Donations: Fire Survivors

*continued from front page*  
who works at Studio W Salon, started collecting donations. We put out the word on social media. I got my employer, USA Hot Cars in San Ramon, on board and they let us use their warehouse to fill one of their trailers to take up there."

Additional help arrived from Deja Blue Salon and Faith Lutheran Church's Boy Scout Troop 722 (where Cameron earned his Eagle Scout). Many others from the area stepped up as well.

They collected gift cards, new blankets, pillows, and towels, pet food, gloves, food, first aid kits, toiletries and more. A huge USA Hot Cars trailer, which usually transports classic cars, was completely filled. Cameron drove the

donations to Oroville Hope Center on Sunday.

"It was really up to the community. Everyone was great," he says.

Cameron's story was broadcast on local TV stations this past weekend, and his cousin Nichole, a registered nurse at Adventist Feather River Hospital in Paradise, told her dramatic tale of survival on CNN and Good Morning America. Cameron says that seeing his cousin on national TV was "surreal."

"She didn't lose her house, but she can't go back for several months until the utilities are working again," he adds.

The Lewis family sends thanks everyone in the community who helped bring much-needed comfort to the Camp Fire victims.

FROM THE BOULEVARD

## Paradise Lost: 'The Great War'

By Thomas E. Lorentzen  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The 20th Century was birthed in optimism, but what followed became "blood, sweat and tears."

This article is being written on November 11th — the centennial of the Armistice that ended the mass killing of "The Great War," commonly called World War I.

It ended up being the opposite of optiAmism — not "the war to end all wars and to make the world safe for democracy." Instead, turpitude was birthed that marched to the tunes of Nazism, Fascism and Communism. With that a second "World War" came.

Upon its end, further troubles emerged in the continuum with the Cold War. Finally, however, after three-fourths of a century of chronic warfare, the Berlin Wall came down and Communism joined its ugly relatives on the ash heap of history. During this period of time and tragedy, however, tens of millions of people died. Hundreds of millions suffered.

As I sat down to write about this subject, it was my intent to pay homage to this story, including the countless victims and to the military veterans that gave their lives, limbs and liberties for our nation.

Then, the paradise that was lost in the killing fields of the 20th Century was brought back home here in Castro Valley as smoke from nearby wildfires ensconced our town.

To our northeast, the town of Paradise was lost — suffering from a holocaust of nature. Nearly all homes and buildings were destroyed. Lives were lost and life in the gentle town of Paradise was ended. It continues as I write.

As I do, I reflect upon one of the most important and poignant writings of the entirety of our human experience. It is the epic poem written in the 17th Century by John Milton.

There is much subject matter contained within this classic composition. As tragedy continues to unfold in Butte County and other nearby areas it is fully realized that the town of "Paradise is Lost."

It is impossible to ignore, as the tragedy is deep, current and nearby. Like the celebration of the Armistice to end WWI, we are reminded that all good comes with bad, and all life contains risk and danger. Tragedy runs deep within the wells of the human experience.

As we honor the centennial of the Armistice, we also mourn the

tragedy unfolding around us.

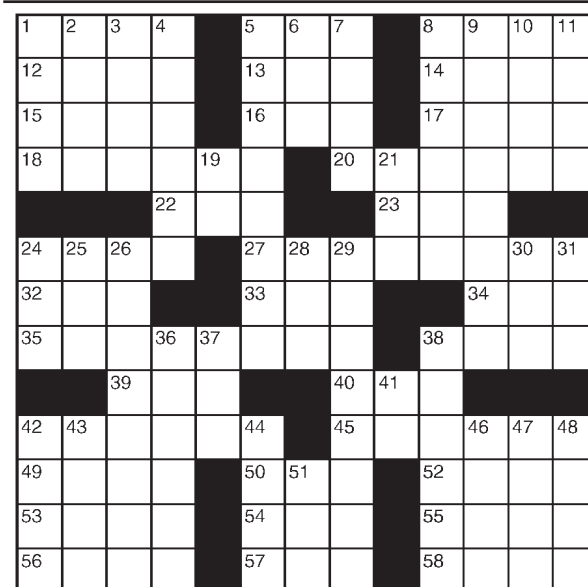
It is important for us to find altruism within us to help the victims. Although the town of Paradise is lost, our hearts and minds need to listen to a thought profound from Milton, that "The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven."

The perseverance of those who toil in the tragedies of life are where we can find the best within us. With "Paradise Lost" in our own time and in our own terrain, the "right stuff" needs to be found, and will be, to continue on with the rough surf inherent within the sea we call life.

The town of Paradise will be birthed again, and, with that, the hope that drives all of us in our common pursuits for happiness.

Tom Lorentzen lives in Castro Valley. He formerly served on the board of the Institute of Museum & Library Services and the Advisory Board to Southern Oregon University, and has served three Presidential Administrations.

## THE FORUM CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Troubadour's instrument
- 5 Brit. fliers
- 8 Legal document
- 12 Tiny bit
- 13 Right angle
- 14 Present
- 15 Poetic foot
- 16 By way of
- 17 App symbol
- 18 Stingy, slangily
- 20 Majorettes' props
- 22 One of the kin (Abbr.)
- 23 Yon maiden
- 24 Wait in hiding
- 27 Porches
- 32 Eisenhower
- 33 Before
- 34 Wapiti
- 35 Barack Obama, e.g.
- 38 Quarry
- 39 Altar affirmative
- 40 Blond shade
- 42 Baseball division
- 45 Weather-map line
- 49 Extinct bird
- 50 Web address
- 52 Author Morrison
- 53 Stead
- 54 "A pox upon thee!"
- 55 Not ignorant of
- 56 Blunders
- 57 Supporting
- 58 Method (Abbr.)

### DOWN

- 1 Secular
- 2 Western state
- 3 Heavy reading
- 4 Set off on a journey
- 5 Six-gun, e.g.
- 6 "The Greatest"
- 7 Cellulite, e.g.
- 8 Bleach
- 9 Flute's cousin
- 10 Press
- 11 Sawbucks
- 19 Gym class (Abbr.)
- 21 "Eureka!"
- 24 Cover
- 25 Luau musicmaker
- 26 String around your finger
- 28 Geological period
- 29 Merchant
- 30 Hearty quaff
- 31 Firmament
- 36 Hateful
- 37 Inmate
- 38 Snapshots
- 41 Baseball position (Abbr.)
- 42 Not working
- 43 Bleak, in Hollywood
- 44 Verbal abuse
- 46 Skeletal
- 47 Picnic invaders
- 48 Laugh-a-minute
- 51 Carnival city

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

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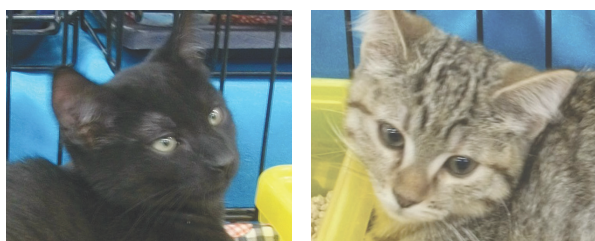
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## ADOPT-A-PET



**SAMMY AND TIGER** are 6 months old and almost identical siblings. They can be a bit shy at first. Both warm up quickly once they get to know you and turn into sweet, playful cuddlebugs. They're hoping for a patient family who'll give them a little time and TLC to help them blossom into the sweet souls they truly are. Call the Hayward Animal Shelter at: (510) 293-7200.



**BEN AND MAE** are sweet siblings. Ben, with sleek black fur, and Mae, a cute brown tabby, were born August 1. They pretty much fit the definition of perfect kittens – playful, curious, active and affectionate. Ben and Mae hope to find a loving forever home soon. Both are healthy, altered, microchipped, and current on vaccinations. Please email: [Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com](mailto:Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com).

## Park Road to Close to Help Migrant Newt

South Park Drive in Tilden Regional Park in the East Bay will be closed to all motor vehicle traffic to protect migrating and breeding California newts, a native species of salamander five to six inches long.

After spending the dry season in sheltered upland locations, the newts migrate in the winter for breeding.

Bicycles are allowed, although bicyclists are asked to proceed slowly and avoid newts crossing the road. Dogs may be off-leash on South Park Drive during the closure, but they must be under voice control, and owners must carry a leash.

Although not an officially threatened species, the overall newt population has decreased over the past several decades primarily due to loss of habitat.

The public is welcome to use the road during the closure, however, please keep dogs away from the newts as they are poisonous.



Middle and high school students along with teachers and community members share poetry, art, and song last Wednesday at the CV Stands United Against Hate Poetry/Art Slam.

## This Week at Smalltown Society

### ● Friday, November 23rd: Reimagining Black Friday

Is Black Friday a story we want to be telling? Or can we tell a better one? This Nov. 22 to 25, we invite you to join the movement transforming the Black Friday through Cyber Monday weekend into a celebration, a practice in giving without purchasing, days we look forward to, because with it brings rest, relief from anxiety, and a narrative our communities can be proud of. Go to [abetternarrative.com](http://abetternarrative.com) for more info.

### ● Saturday, November 24th: Smalltown Art Sessions

Join Smalltown and Pampas Cafe in the parking lot at Pampas, highlighting local art and the music of singer/songwriter Clay Bassard. *Free 10 a.m.-1 p.m.* Pampas Café at 3483 Castro Valley Boulevard

### ● Thursday, December 6th: A Christmas Carol at Smalltown

New York Times best-selling author Mark Cotta Vaz will read "A Christmas Carol in Four Staves," an abridged version of Charles

Dickens' immortal Christmas ghost story! The public reading of this shortened version was Dickens' own holiday tradition--Come enjoy some holiday treats and join us as we relive the tradition and honor Dickens, Scrooge, and the Christmas Spirit! *Free. 7-9pm*

More details on these events and others visit [www.smalltown-society.com](http://www.smalltown-society.com) or text "Smalltown" to 797979. Smalltown Society is located at 22222 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

## KNOW WHAT TO FLUSH?



### WIPES CLOG PIPES

From medications and kitty litter, to deceased pet fish and cigarette butts – if it fits, people flush it. Even some cleaning products claim to be "flushable." **Body waste and toilet paper should be the only items flushed down the toilet.**

CVSan is asking residents and businesses to help us keep our sewer system clog-free and working efficiently! Remember, the only items that belong in the sewer system are body waste and toilet paper. All other items, including "flushable" wipes, rags, diapers, and other hygiene products clog sewer pipes and damage sewer pumps and equipment. Discard these items in your garbage cart. Know what to flush!

#### CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

Effective Environmental Services since 1939  
510-537-0757 | [www.cvsan.org](http://www.cvsan.org)

This ad was paid for by WW Outreach

CVSan



## REWARD MISSING CAT



**All Black Female, 5 years old, 8 Lbs., Named "Snowball" has Micro-chip, may still have Red collar.**

Snow Ball was last seen about 4 pm on October 27th, 2018 at a Private Club next to our property at the end of Cull Canyon Rd. in Castro Valley. May have gotten into someone's car/RV, jumped out down the road.

Please Call or Email:

**510-581-0932**  
**[dalpa9@gmail.com](mailto:dalpha9@gmail.com)**