



CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 29

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017

NO. 18

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

OUR TOWN



Earth Day

Community volunteers do their part during CVSan's Earth Day 2017 Clean-up

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LIVING



Feeling Chili?

Get your tastebuds in gear for the upcoming Rowell Chili Cook-off

Page 5

SENIORS



Senior Drivers

The CHP will hold another of its senior drivers safety seminars next Tuesday

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PHONE: (510) 537-1792



PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDR

After a Long Wait, JP's Family Restaurant Opens Tomorrow

By Linda Sandsmark
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Castro Valley's long-awaited new restaurant, JP's, opens for business tomorrow morning. The family restaurant/sports lounge has been under renovation for almost two years.

"Everything is completely brand new," says general manager John Polychroniou. "What took so long is we had a 50-year-old building that had to be brought up to code."

What was hoped to be a five-month turnaround of the former Dino's Restaurant site took much longer, as the remodeling process uncovered major systems that were too old to be fixed.

As one problem was addressed, it would lead to another. Eventually all the floors, walls, electrical systems, plumbing, lighting, sewers and drains, air conditioning, ceilings, and just about everything else were replaced rather than repaired.

"If we had known this at the begin-

ning, we would have done it all at once," said Polychroniou. "As it turned out, we had to go back to the drawing board at each step. It was a lot of hard work and stress. We're thankful to the county, the MAC (Municipal Advisory Council), the fire department and everyone who did the inspections. They were all really helpful."

Beautiful upgrades are visible in every room. A fountain, counter and dining room area has hand-rendered

see JP'S on page 6

Few Days Left To Compete in Rowell Events

Two big annual events – both reminders of Castro Valley's Old-West heritage – are coming up at the end of next week, and there are still few days left for you to take part in either.

The 22nd Annual Chili Cook-Off will be held Friday evening, May 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Grounds. Then, on Saturday morning, the Rowell Ranch Parade steps off on Castro Valley Boulevard at 10 a.m.

Both events are major fundraisers for Castro Valley Rotary to assist the club in its support of local charities, community initiatives and student scholarships.

Here's how you can be a part of the fun.

Chili Cook-Off

There's no entry fee for this popular competition and the winners earn more than just bragging rights. First prize for Best Chili is \$500. Second place winners will take home \$200 and third place receives \$100. There's also an extra \$100 prize for best booth decoration.

And, by popular demand, Rotary is bringing back the "People's Choice" award.

The Cook-Off will enjoy two rounds of judging to ensure accurate results. Entries will be judged on such factors as the texture of the meat, chili pepper taste, blend of spices, and aroma. Beans or no beans? You decide.

Each chili chef gives his or her recipe a personal touch and flair. The quantity to cook is 10 gallons, with about a half gallon extra for the judges (collected at the start). Most cookers just about run out with that quantity. The servings are in 2-ounce tasting cups, so 10 gallons serves about 320 tastes.

see Rowell on page 15

'Community Identifier': Residents Offer Ideas on Proposed Sign Mural

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Artists in the running to design a mural on the I-580 Redwood Road overpass heard from Castro Valley residents at a special community roundtable last Tuesday night, but it will be more than a year until the paintbrushes come out.

The idea was to get a sense of what people think of their hometown and how they want it represented in a "community identifier" mural for all to see – including the estimated 20,000 daily commuters who use the Redwood Road on and off ramps.

The Alameda County Arts Commission is spending a total of over \$400,000 to paint the overpass murals in Castro Valley, in

San Lorenzo at I-880 and Hesperian Boulevard, and on the border of Cherryland and Ashland at I-238 and Mission Boulevard.

The local mural will feature the words "Castro Valley" and the same design will be used on both sides of the overpass. The exact design will be up to the artist who is eventually selected, but Caltrans has nixed using any colors typically associated with traffic signs.

At Tuesday night's roundtable, Executive Director Rachel Osajima, of the Alameda County Art Commission asked everyone to say what they love about Castro Valley in a few words.

People mentioned Lake Chabot, the glow of moonlight on the hills, the Fairmont Ridge, the history



PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDR

Both sides of this Redwood Road overpass will be the setting for a new "community identifier" for all to see.

and ranches, the small-town feel, redwoods, nature, and more.

Five artists, all from the East

Bay – Suzanne Gayle, Andrew Kong Knight, Robert Minervini, Christine Pacheco, and John Weh-

re – took notes.

Once the artists get an idea of the public's desires, they will create their proposed artwork, which will be on display at the San Lorenzo and Castro Valley libraries and online over the summer for public comments.

In September, the selection committee will make a recommendation on an artist and design which will have to be approved by the arts commission, the county supervisors, and Caltrans.

Actual painting isn't expected to start until mid-2018 and be completed in the fall of that year.

If you would like to receive updates on the project, join the arts commission email list by sending an email to artscommission@acgov.org or call 510-208-9646.

Castro Valley Weather May 3 - 7, 2017



Wednesday
Sunny & Warm
High 87° Low 59°



Thursday
Sunny & Warm
High 81° Low 55°



Friday
Partly Sunny
High 68° Low 50°



Saturday
Poss T-Storms
High 65° Low 50°



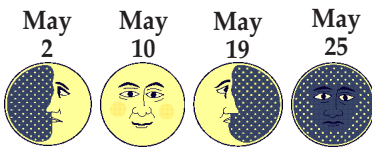
Sunday
Showers
High 69° Low 49°

Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 36.22
Normal To Date: 21.07
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases



Sun sets at 8:02 p.m. today, rises at 6:08 a.m. Thursday.

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Family Restaurant
and Sports Lounge

*Come Celebrate with Us
Thursday, May 4th*

At JP's Family Restaurant & Sports Lounge, we're all about three things: eating well, drinking well, and living well. As a true local spot, we're focused on our community above all else. We're here as a gathering place for the young and young at heart, and with a ton of variety, we've really got something for everyone. Variety is important to us, and we only use quality ingredients. Stop by for a simple cup of coffee, or enjoy a local brew while watching the game. Bite into the best burger of your life, or share a freshly-fired pizza. No matter what you order, we'll make it an experience you won't be forgetting. Our voice online is friendly and positive. We want to be the go-to for people of all ages and backgrounds, and we're excited to keep spreading the word about the unique way we do things. We'll highlight our customer-first spirit and our commitment to making each detail matter and every moment count.



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PHOTOS BY LINDA SANDSMARK

Adobe Art Center (above) will host the Chamber's Castro Valley Street Eats with the Food Truck Mafia each Tuesday through November 14. Below, HARD's new mascot, Hardee the Squirrel, greets the crowd at last Tuesday's event

Food Truck Mafia Dishes Up New Location for 'Street Eats'

By Linda Sandmark
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Castro Valley Street Eats' new location at Adobe Art Center Park promises to be a popular setting for Food Truck Mafia's weekly outdoor event.

Each Tuesday from now through November 14, a variety of catering trucks will sell food there from 5 to 9 p.m. The adjacent park offers lots of space to sit at a table, or spread out on a blanket and let the kids climb on playground equipment.

"People love this location," says April Bibbins, owner of Food Truck Mafia mobile restaurant group.

A rotation of different food trucks will arrive each week. At the April 25 opening night, selections included Streets of Seoul Korean BBQ, Southern Comfort Kitchen, Mae Mae's Kitchen, Tacos de Los Altos and Kona Ice.

HARD (Hayward Area Recre-



ation District) will also provide activities each week. Art in the Park, face painting, blow-up bouncers and games will be available at different times. Hardee the Squirrel, HARD's new mascot, greeted kids and posed for pictures on opening night.

"Adobe Park is our facility, so we're a partner," says Nicole Roa

of HARD. "The Castro Valley Eden Area Chamber of Commerce is the main sponsor."

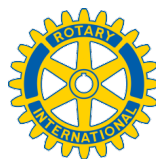
The park has restrooms onsite, but parking is limited.

Adobe Art Center Park is located at 20395 San Miguel Ave., Castro Valley. More information on Food Truck Mafia is available at www.thefoodtruckmafia.com

*Your chance to celebrate

Local Heroes

Service Above Self



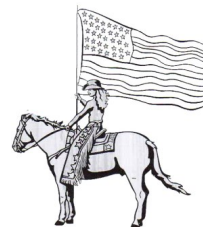
Castro Valley

Chili Cook-Off

Friday, May 12—5pm

CVChiliCookoff.com

Enter



Rowell Ranch Rodeo

Parade

Saturday, May 13—10am

RowellRanchRodeoParade.com

Buy Tickets

Rowell Ranch Rodeo

May 13-21

RowellRanchRodeo.com



*Parade Theme: Join the Parade and celebrate your Local Hero - (A hero could be an individual, group, organization, or animal!)



PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

Earth Day Clean-Up

Sunday, April 30: at 11:55 a.m., a 56-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of attempted arson and burglary at a trailer park on Castro Valley Boulevard near Marshall Street. Deputies arrived on scene following a 911 call about a fire at the site. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.



PHOTO BY LINDA SANDSMARK

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Fake Identity

Monday, May 1: at 4:58 a.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 42-year-old man from Livermore on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and presenting a false identification to authorities. The man was hanging outside a drug store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Yeandle Avenue when deputies approached him for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

Attempted Arson and Burglary

Sunday, April 30: at 11:55 a.m., a 56-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of attempted arson and burglary at a trailer park on Castro Valley Boulevard near Marshall Street. Deputies arrived on scene following a 911 call about a fire at the site. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.

Contempt of Court

Friday, April 28: at 9:27 a.m., deputies arrested a 43-year-old woman with no permanent address on suspicion of public intoxication.

The woman was additionally wanted as part of a warrant issued because she failed to appear in court for a health and safety violation. Deputies spotted the woman in front of a home on Jamison Way near Redwood Road and positively identified her. The woman was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.

Violating Court-Issued Restraining Order

Friday, April 28: at 11:17 p.m., a 32-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of violating a court-issued restraining order and violating the terms of his probation. Deputies were called to an apartment complex on Marshall Street following a suspicious person report. The man fitting the description was handcuffed and taken to Santa Rita Jail and held without bail.

Domestic Assault

Friday, April 28: at 9:43 p.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to a home on Charter Oakes Drive near Columbia Drive. There, they arrested a 46-year-old man from Castro Valley on sus-

picion of assault on a spouse and destroying a cell phone intended to call for help. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Family Fight

Friday, April 28: at 3:59 a.m., a 38-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of assault on a family member. Deputies were called to an apartment complex on Wilbeam Avenue near Castro Valley Boulevard following an anonymous tip about a fight in one of the units. The woman was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

From Hospital to Psych Ward for Evaluation

Thursday, April 27: at 6:09 p.m., deputies arrested a 27-year-old woman from Oakland on suspicion of battery. The woman had been at Eden Medical Center on Lake Chabot Road when security reported the woman was involved in an altercation. Deputies cited the woman with battery and transported her to John George Psychiatric Pavilion for evaluation.

see REPORTS on page 6

BUYING OR SELLING? SEE PAGES 10 & 11

AGENTS in ACTION

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MAY 19 - 21



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Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21
Rowell Ranch Pro Rodeo

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- | | | |
|----------|--------|---|
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| Saturday | May 13 | CV Rotary Rodeo Parade
Rodeo BBQ, Dance and Team Sorting |
| Thursday | May 18 | Cowgirl Picnic and Team roping |

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The Week Ahead

● Wednesday, May 3: School Bond Oversight Committee

The Measure G Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. today in the Boardroom of the Castro Valley School District at 4400 Alma Ave., concerning the expenditure of bond revenues.

● Thursday, May 4: Third Annual Hayward Film Festival

This free festival, held from 6-8 p.m. tomorrow at the HAHS Museum, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, gives students the opportunity to tell their stories and further introduces them to the world filmmaking. For info, visit: haywardareahistory.org/calendar or call 510-581-0223.

● Thursday, May 4: Parkinson's Support Group

Physical Therapist Prity Chatale will be speaker at the next meeting of the San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the San Lorenzo Community Church, 945 Paseo Grande. For more info, call Lona White at 510-276-3119.

● Thursday, May 4: Senior Health & Wellness Fair

The Aitken Senior Center at 17800 Redwood Road hosts its 11th Annual Senior Health & Wellness Resource Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow with more than 55 vendors, informational seminars, class demonstrations, expired medication take-back and Clipper Card Registration for those 65 and older. First 100 people through the door receive a special gift. For more info, call 510-881-6738.

● Friday, May 5: Eden Area Village

Eden Area Village is developing a non-profit membership based neighborhood "Village" that will help people in the Castro Valley, Hayward, and the San Lorenzo areas stay in their homes as they age. Public outreach meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at Hayward City Hall. Next meeting is Friday May 5th.

● Saturday, May 6: Native Plant Sale & Garden Talk

Bring your questions and get help selecting water-wise California native plants for your garden 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday at 16276 E. 14th St. in San Leandro. Free garden talk at 3 p.m. For more info, contact Sandra Nevala-Lee at 510-502-0992.

● Saturday, May 6: A Swallow's Niche

A swallow's unique wing design delivers fluid flight and maneuvers conquered only by adept aerialists. Discover these acrobatic fliers' favorite Bay Area habitats and learn how they are beneficial to humans and wildlife at a special adult nature program from 2 to 3:30 p.m. this Saturday at Sulphur Creek Nature Center, 1801 D St. in Hayward. Advance registration (\$20) is required. Register online at www.Hayward-Rec.org or call 510-881-6700.

● Saturday, May 6: Hike for Hope 2017

Gather your family, friends and co-workers or come solo for Hope Hospice's 7th annual "Hike for Hope" fundraiser Saturday at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore. Check-in and start your hike from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The event ends at noon. Registration fee is \$45. Proceeds enable Hope Hospice to continue its 35-year tradition of providing comfort and compassion to patients and their families at the end of life. Sign up at TheHikeForHope.com or call 925-829-8770 for a registration form.

● Saturday, May 6: Science & Career Fair

The Castro Valley Educational Foundation presents its annual free Science and Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday at Castro Valley High School, featuring hands-on science exhibits, physics experiments, microscopes, and other exciting science displays. Exhibitors will include 2007 California Teacher of the Year Charles Reynes, Eden Area ROP, Chabot College Biology and Chemistry labs, and Lawrence Lab, among others.

● Sunday, May 7: Mt. Eden High School Choir

Enjoy the Mount Eden High School Chamber Choir as it performs at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday at Eden United Church of Christ, 21455 Birch St., Hayward. For more info, visit www.edenucc.com

● Sunday, May 7: 2017 CVHS "Run to Play"

Support CVHS sports by joining in this 5k/10k Run/Walk on May 7. Registration at 7 a.m. for the 8 a.m. race. Register now for \$40 (\$45 on May 7) at onyourmarkevents.com. Free T-shirt for all participants. For more info, call Stacy Kinsella 510-305-7505. Sponsors needed!

● Sunday, May 7: California Healthcare Discussion

The screening of "Now is the Time," a film on single-payer healthcare, will be followed by a "Healthcare for All" discussion on proposed California legislation SB 562-single payer plan from 2 to 4 p.m. this Sunday at the San Lorenzo Library, 395 Paseo Grande. Light snacks.

● Sunday, May 7: Garden Tour

Take a free self-guided tour of native plant gardens in the East Bay from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Sunday and plan to make San Lorenzo High School's 1-acre native plant garden (at 50 E. Lewelling Blvd.) your mid-day stop. Plant sales and informative talks will be taking place. Visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net. For more information, contact Steve Wiley at 510-305-0153.

● Monday, May 8: Eagles Charity Bingo Luncheon

Eagles Auxiliary No. 1139 will host a chicken-and-rice luncheon and bingo at noon Monday at the Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd, Hayward for a donation of \$8 which includes one bingo card. For further info call 510-584-1568.

● Monday, May 8: Rubber Stamp Class

Join the Happy Stampers to learn how to make your own greeting cards using rubber stamps and dies. The class meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Beginners are welcome. For more information, call Janie at 510-483-0389.

● Tuesday, May 9: Castro Valley Street Eats

Join the Castro Valley Eden Area Chamber of Commerce, HARD, and the Food Truck Mafia for Castro Valley Street Eats at Adobe Art Park, 20395 San Miguel, from 6 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday. Food truck lineup will be announced on Tuesday on the Chamber's Facebook page. HARD will have children's activities and Mobile Rec. Parking is available in the park, on San Miguel and neighboring side streets, but is limited. Walking or biking to the event is encouraged.

● Wednesday, May 10: Sons In Retirement Meeting

SIRs, an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Wedgewood Center at the Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Drive in Oakland. Happy Hour at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Great guest speakers, neither religious nor political. Guests are welcome. For more information, call Mel at 510-357-0601.

Arts & Entertainment

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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

● **Mads Tolling Quartet** will present an eclectic concert of jazz, classical and Hollywood selections at 7:30 p.m. this Friday, May 5. Tolling is a two-time Grammy winner whose five CDs have received rave reviews in major publications. *For tickets (\$40-\$50), see above.*

● **Lighten Up for Spring** with Brian Copeland and 10 of the funniest comics you've ever seen in another evening of uproarious laughter at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. Suitable for ages 14 and up. *Tickets (\$40-\$60) available at the door.*

● **Canyon Middle School's "Spring Fling,"** a 6th-grade instrumental music concert with Canyon's beginning string orchestra and beginning band, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9. *For tickets (\$5-\$7) see above.*

THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"Life is Good!"** this year's free annual spring musical, will be presented by "Vertical" at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the 3-Crosses Main Auditorium, 20600 John Drive in Castro Valley, with an opening mini concert titled "Once Upon a Parable" presented by Project Praise. This is the 10th anniversary of the Community Christian Kids' Choirs that features kids from all over Castro Valley and the surrounding area.

ART GALLERIES & EVENTS

● **Artist Open Studio Every Thursday:** Join this informal gathering of artists working together in a friendly and helpful atmosphere. Begin something new or work on an unfinished art project. Adobe Art Center hosts provides tables, chairs and easels. \$3. Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redwood Studio 1 at the Adobe Art Center, 20395 San Miguel Ave., Castro Valley.

● **"Unmentionable: The Indiscreet Stories of Artifacts,"** an original exhibition exploring topics and artifacts that we, as a society, find uncomfortable to talk about, including race, lifestyle, politics and personal adornment, will be on exhibit thru July 30 at the HAHS Museum, 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward.

● **Art IS Education**, sponsored by Hayward Arts Council, features the works of Hayward students at the John O'Lague Galleria in Hayward City Hall thru May 25. Meet and greet the artists from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28. Gallery hours: M-F 9-5. For more exhibits and events, visit www.haywardartscouncil.org

● **Artist Demonstrations**, sponsored by ART, Inc. every 2nd Saturday of the month. Free. Elizabeth Hack will demo acrylic and ink, 2-4 p.m. on May 13.

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Calendar listings must be submitted by Friday for the next week's publication.



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Copeland's Comedy Show This Saturday

Carolina Productions presents "Lighten Up For Spring" with Brian Copeland and nine of his funny friends for an evening of laughter at 7 p.m. this Saturday, May 6, at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts.

Joining Copeland on stage will be KGO's Joe Klosek, Leslie Small of San Francisco Sketchfest, Mickey Joseph (Joey Bishop in the Rat Pack Show), Comedy Central's Dan St. Paul, KGO Radio's Chip Franklin, SF Comedy Competition winner Johnny Steele, NPR's Don Reed, Late Night's Bob Sarlatte, and the Legendary Doc of Comedy Rock Dr. Gonzo.

"It's the funniest show ever to hit the East Bay," says Copeland. For tickets \$40 now (\$60 at the door), call 510-889-8961 or visit cv.k12.ca.us/cfa.

Reports: Driving With Illegal Drugs

continued from page 3
**Traffic Stop Reveals
Illegal Narcotics**

Friday, April 28: at 2:47 a.m., a 26-year-old woman from Livermore was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics. Deputies stopped the woman for a traffic violation just outside of the 580 Market Place shopping center on East Castro Valley Boulevard when they discovered her stash. The woman was taken into custody.

**Driving Under Influence
Of Drugs and Alcohol**

Tuesday, April 25: at 7:00 a.m., deputies pulled over and arrested a 22-year-old man from Oakland on suspicion of driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The man was traveling on Crow Canyon Road near Coldwater Drive when deputies noticed him swerving and decided to pull him over. The man was taken into custody.

**Drug Dealer Caught
Shoplifting at Grocery Store**

Monday, April 24: at 1:31 p.m., a 51-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of attempted theft at a grocery store on Redwood Road near Castro Valley Boulevard. Deputies arrived on the scene after store security stopped the man as he was leaving the store with an unspecified amount of unpaid merchandise. The man was additionally charged with possession of illegal narcotics with the attempt to sell, possession of illegal drug paraphernalia, giving false identification to authorities, and violating the terms of his probation. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him to Santa Rita Jail and held without bail.



JP's: A Look Inside CV's New Restaurant



JP's Chef Michael Erwin was longtime chef at Francesco's Restaurant in Oakland.

continued from front page

pictures of old Castro Valley sites, including an early school, fire station and bank. The sports lounge walls are decorated with team logos and aerial views of stadiums.

The entire stainless steel kitchen, counter areas, and restrooms are brand new. A huge Fire Deck Wood Stove pizza oven was installed, weighing nearly two tons.

In the bar area, a state of the art beer-on-tap cooler, 12 TVs and surround-sound system were added.

Chef Michael Erwin of Castro Valley, who was formerly chef at Francesco's, will oversee food prep.

"A couple weeks ago the

Chamber was given an exclusive sneak peek tour of JP's," says Ashley Strasburg of the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce. "The inside looks incredible and the owners have put in so much work to turn it into a first class restaurant."

The restaurant will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Hours will be 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekdays, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekends. (Hours may be adjusted on game days.)

JP's Family Restaurant and Sports Lounge is located at 3600 Castro Valley Blvd. More information is available online at dinejps.com or by calling 510-876-5151.



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Listen Up! There Are Some Nifty Gadgets That Can Help Seniors with Hearing Loss

Q: What types of products can you recommend to help people with hearing problems? My 65-year-old husband has some hearing issues, but doesn't think he needs a hearing aid, so I'm looking for some alternative devices that can help.

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A: If your husband feels he's not ready for a hearing aid but needs some hearing help, there are dozens of "assistive listening devices" on the market today that can make a big difference.

Assistive listening devices are over-the-counter electronic products (they are not FDA-approved hearing aid devices) that can amplify and improve sound to help your husband in different listening situations.

It's also important to know that these products are best suited for people with mild to moderate hearing impairment, and they usually aren't covered by insurance or Medicare.

Here's a breakdown of some of the different devices that can help.

Personal amplifiers: For better hearing, especially in noisy environments, there are personal sound amplification products that can be



Assistive listening devices are over-the-counter electronic products (they are not FDA-approved hearing aid devices) that can amplify and improve sound in listening situations.

worn in the ear like a hearing aid, and are designed to amplify sound while reducing background noise. Two top rated products to consider that were recently recommended by Consumer Reports are the SoundWorld Solutions CS50+ and the Etymotic Bean.

The CS50+, which costs \$350, looks like a Bluetooth cell phone

headset, and has customizable settings that can be programmed with a smartphone. The Etymotic Bean, which costs \$399 a pair or \$214 for one, is ready to use right out of the box and is best suited for those with high-frequency hearing loss.

If these are too pricy, there are also a number of small hand-held or body-worn amplifiers – like

the Williams Sound Pocketalker (\$139) and Bellman & Symfon Mino Personal Amplifier (\$188) – that have a microphone and headphones or earbuds that are very effective too.

TV amplifiers: To hear the television better, there are TV listening devices that will let your husband increase the volume and adjust the tone to meet his needs, without blasting you out of the room.

Some of the best options include wireless infrared, radio frequency or Bluetooth devices that come with standard or stethoscope headphones.

Sennheiser makes a variety of quality products with prices running between \$130 and \$450. Or, for a more affordable solution, consider the Serene Innovations TV Sound Box for \$120. This is a wireless amplified TV speaker that would sit near your husband, and provide clear stereo sound from the TV without the need for headsets.

Amplified telephones: To have clearer phone conversations, there are a wide variety of amplified telephones that offer enhanced volume and tone adjustments, and they usually come with extra loud ringers and flashing ring indicators to alert him when a call is coming in.

see LISTEN on back page

Q&A: Can I Inherit Debt From Parents?

Q: What happens to a person's debt after they die? My mother has taken on a lot of medical and credit card over the past few years and I'm worried that my brother and I will be responsible for it when she dies.

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A: In most cases when a person with debt dies, it's their estate, not their kids, that is legally responsible. Here's how it works.

When your mom dies, her estate – which consists of the stuff she owns while she's alive (home, car, cash, etc.) – will be responsible for paying her debts. If she doesn't have enough cash to pay her debts, you'll have to sell her assets and pay off her creditors with the proceeds.

Whatever is left over is passed along to her heirs as dictated by the terms of her will, if she has one. If she doesn't have a will, the intestacy laws of the state she resides in will determine how her estate will be distributed.

If, however, she dies broke, or there isn't enough money left over to pay her "unsecured debts" – credit cards, medical bills, per-

sonal loans – then her estate is declared insolvent, and her creditors will have to eat the loss.

"Secured debts" – loans attached to an asset such as a house or a car – are a different story.

If she has a mortgage or car loan when she dies, those monthly payments will need to be made by her estate or heirs, or the lender can seize the property.

There are, however, a couple of exceptions that would make you legally responsible for her debt after she passes. One is if you are a joint holder on a credit card account that she owes on. And the other is if you co-signed a loan with her.

In California, any debts that one spouse acquires after the start of a marriage belongs to the other spouse too. Therefore, spouses in community property states are usually responsible for their deceased spouses debts.

Protected Assets

If your mom has any IRAs, 401(k)s, brokerage accounts, life insurance policies or employer-based pension plans, these are assets that creditors usually cannot get access to. That's because these accounts typically have designated beneficiaries, and the money goes directly to those people without passing through the estate.

see Q&A on back page

Special Needs Trust May Protect Benefits in a Divorce

Q: Our 35 year old daughter is going through a divorce. She is on disability and gets SSI and Medi-Cal. We worry that she may lose her benefits once she is awarded support and receives her share of community property.

You recently wrote about a Special Needs Trust to protect benefits for a senior in a nursing home. Might that trust also be used in her situation to protect her benefits?

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

A: Yes, indeed, and my compliments for asking the question. Very few attorneys and judges are familiar with the use of the Special Needs Trusts ("SNT") in the divorce context. As a result, the sad fact is that many persons on SSI and/or Medi-Cal lose their benefits when they divorce.

A bit of background: To qualify for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), an individual with a disability must meet two conditions: She must (a) have less than \$2,000 in non-exempt resources (e.g. savings), and (b) her monthly income must be less than the SSI benefit rate, currently \$895.72 (in 2017).

An award of SSI also entitles the beneficiary to Medi-Cal.

In the divorce context, a spouse would typically be awarded both spousal support and a division of marital assets, such as bank accounts, IRA's, etc.

If that spouse were receiving SSI and/or Medi-Cal, the award of support and/or marital assets could render that spouse ineligible

for these public benefits if they put her over the respective income or resource ceilings. The question, then, is whether there is a way to preserve both a spouse's public benefits and her right to support and share of marital assets?

Answer: Yes. Enter the Special Needs Trust. If handled with proper care, the SNT could hold both court-ordered support and awarded assets, thereby preserving for the spouse with a disability both her public benefits and the divorce award, and help make her life post-divorce more comfortable.



Once inside the SNT, the Trustee would handle the funds in a manner compliant with the SSI and Medi-Cal rules.

This typically would mean that the Trustee would not disburse funds directly to the beneficiary, herself, but instead would pay third party providers, selected by her, directly for goods and services that she needed, such as a car, computer, clothing, etc.

A good trustee would comply with the beneficiary's requests for payment to her selected providers, so long as those payments did not undermine her ongoing eligibility for the public benefit programs.

The trustee would also typically make periodic reports to the government programs to affirm compliance with the program rules.

If mentally competent and under age 65, the beneficiary

could, herself, establish the SNT and even select her own Trustee, who might be a parent or trusted friend. Alternatively, she could join a Pooled SNT established by a non-profit organization, which would provide professional trustee services for a reasonable fee.

To make this option work in your daughter's case, it is essential that she engage an Elder Law or Special Needs attorney familiar with the use of the SNT in divorce.

The SNT attorney would then work with her divorce attorney and might also help educate the judge and opposing counsel to the benefits of this technique. It is important that the SNT attorney be engaged early in the case.

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

Senior Driver Safety Seminar

The California Highway Patrol will conduct another of its "Age Well / Drive Smart" traffic safety seminars this month at the Castro Valley Library. Set for 1 to 3 p.m. next Tuesday, May 9, it will include safe driving tips and cover such topics as: Compensating for Age-Related Changes; Tuning-Up Your Driving Skills; Rules of the Road. On completion of the seminar, participants will receive a certificate for completing the course which may entitle them to an automobile insurance discount! Registration is required for this free program. To register, or for more info, call the Library Information Desk at 510-667-7900.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

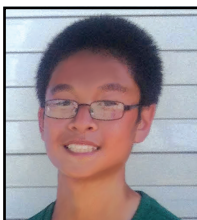
Timothy Wu and Edward Wang

This week's Athletes of the Week are Edward Wang, a sophomore at Castro Valley High School, and Timothy Wu, a CVHS freshman.

These two Trojan tennis players competed in the West Alameda County Conference's annual singles and doubles Championships, held at Chabot College last Friday and Saturday. Both players had a very good tournament, meeting each other in the final match.

The Championship match between Wu and Wang was a hard fought match, with Wu prevailing, 7-6 (5), 6-3. As a result of the win, Wu will be entered into the North Coast Section Championships, that will be held tomorrow and Friday at James Logan High School. Wang will apply for an at-large berth.

In their quarterfinal matches, Wu faced Kai Zimmer from Piedmont, winning 6-1, 6-0. Wang's quarterfinal match was against Michael Gutierrez from Berkeley, winning 6-0, 6-4. In the semi-finals, Wu faced Berkeley's Tyler Riverbay, with Wu winning 6-2, 7-5. Wang's semi-final match was with Piedmont's, Carson Breber, and Wang won 6-2, 6-1, setting up a Castro Valley Championship match.



Timothy Wu



Edward Wang

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FIND MURFEE the stolen German Shepherd

On Sunday, April 30, between 3:30 and 5 p.m., Murfee was stolen from his yard in East Castro Valley, near Palomares Road, Castro Valley, CA.

Murfee is 3 years old, about 80 pounds, tall and lean, with traditional black and tan coloring. He was last seen wearing a lime green collar with ID tags. He is microchipped, neutered and extremely friendly.

At four weeks old, Murfee was initially taken into police protective custody after being thrown against a wall during a domestic violence disturbance. Because he was so young, Animal Control reached out to local German Shepherd Rescue volunteer JJ to care for him while the case went through the court process. A few months later, the suspect gave up all rights to the puppy, and JJ adopted Murfee.

Murfee received his AKC Canine Good Citizen before he was 1 year old. He has mentored a few hundred rescued German shepherds before they move onto their new homes.

Murfee's owner JJ has worked tirelessly with German Shepherd Rescue organizations since 2002. She founded her own GS Rescue and has taken in as many as 3500 German shepherds to save from shelter overcrowding and eventual euthanasia.

Murfee has his own Facebook page, FIND MURFEE. A GoFundMe page has been set up as a Reward for Murfee's safe return. No Questions Asked! Go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/reward-for-returning-murfee>.

If you have any information about Murfee, please call 925-998-4211 or 925-451-8228.



Murfee the German Shepherd

CV Acrobatic Gymnastics Champions

Castro Valley resident and Independent Elementary School fifth grader, Cassidy Cu, competed, along with two teammates, Ana Marie Stonich and Emma Kumasaka, in the California Acrobatic Gymnastics State Championships, held in Tracy, on the weekend of April 22-23. Cu, Stonich, and Kumasaka form an acrobatic trio that compete for the West Coast Training Center in Livermore and competed in the Level 8, Women's Group, ages 13 and under division, performing two routines, a Dynamic routine (scoring 33.033) and a Balance routine (scoring 34.233). Their combined total of 67.267 points won them the first place gold medal for their age division, and that combined score was the highest score for the State Championship meet in Level 8.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN CU

SPORTS NOTES

CVHS Fundraiser-Run to Play

Always held on the first Sunday in May, the Castro Valley High School Athletic Boosters will be hosting their annual Run to Play, a 5k/10 k timed walk/run, this Sunday, May 7, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the CVHS 600 Lot to raise much needed funds to help keep the CVHS Athletic Program up and running. With all of the recent budget cuts, they need your support to bridge the constantly growing gap between funding and expenses.

Run to Play is a family-friendly, dog-friendly event. Participants can race to the finish for a medal or stroll along the route with some friends with coffee in hand.

Please help CVHS spread the word, by sharing this event with all of your friends and family. Get a group together, make some fun t-shirts and form a team to participate.

On behalf of all CVHS athletes, thank you! Please send e-mail with any questions to Marie Gray at: mgray@cv.k12.ca.us

TENNIS RESULTS

CVHS at Bishop O'Dowd on Thursday, April 27

CV 4, Bishop O'Dowd 3

SINGLES

1. Timothy Wu (CV) - Noah Linde 6-0, 6-0
2. Edward Wang (CV) - Brandon Khuu 6-1, 6-0
3. Rohit Sinha (CV) - Freddy Buckers 6-1, 6-0
4. Alex Low (CV) - Ivan Fong 6-0, 6-0

DOUBLES

1. Ian Thomas / Grant Craney (BOD) - Gabe Priem / Dustin Fong 6-0, 6-4
2. Michael Jayasuriya / Brandon Choy (BOD) - Brendan Soo / Tony Gugg 7-5, 4-6, 6-2
3. Aidan Forth / Bryce Suzuki (BOD) - Monav Aulakh / Eric Moehle 6-0, 6-1

CV Season record 9-4 - 3rd place in WACC Foothill conference

Two all league singles players (Both unanimous selection):

Timothy Wu
Edward Wang

Honorable Mention:
Rohit Sinha
Gabe Priem

Berkeley at CVHS, Tuesday, April 25

Berkeley 6, Castro Valley 1

SINGLES

1. Thomas Wright (B) - Timothy Wu 6-0, 1-6, 6-4
2. Tyler Riverbay (B) - Edward Wang 6-4, 6-4
3. Rohit Sinha (CV) - Sohun Sanka 3-6, 6-2, 6-3
4. Michael Gutierrez (B) - Alex Low 6-2, 6-0

DOUBLES

1. Cameron Henritzy / Daniel Kivel-Goldstein (B) - Dustin Fong / Gabe Priem 6-2, 6-2
2. Fintan O'Sullivan / Max Wintroub (B) - Scott Coleman / Ashir Gupta 6-2, 6-4
3. Ari Libenson / Roderick Tan (B) - Tony Gugg / Alexander Long 6-2, 6-1

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Put Closet Doors Back on Track

By Samantha Mazzotta
Special to the Forum

A common problem in apartments with closet doors that fold open on sliding tracks is that they stick and sometimes completely come off the track and just swing open.

If the slider attachment at the top of the door isn't damaged, you should be able to easily put the bifold door back on its track.

Reach up to the top of the detached door — or climb onto a sturdy stepladder or footstool so you can reach — and feel along the top near the front edge of the door. You should feel a round disc, or wheel, sticking up.

Place your finger on top of the wheel and push down. If it's spring-loaded, the disc will depress down and then spring back up.

Check the bottom of the door as well. If the door opens along a top and bottom track, a similar wheel, or a simple metal pin called a pivot, will be located in the same position near the front of the door. It may or may not have a spring.

If both wheels are in good shape, great. If either one is broken or missing, contact apartment maintenance to have them repair the door. Or, if they don't respond, contact management and ask if they can either speed up the repair, or if you can do the repair yourself and have them take the difference off the bill (you'll need to give them a receipt for parts and labor).

Let's start from the premise that both wheels are all right. It's a pretty easy fix, made easier if a friend helps steady the door. If one of the wheels isn't spring-loaded, carefully ease that rigid wheel into the corresponding track. Then reach up (or



If the wheels of the door are still in good shape, it is fairly easy to guide the door back into place.

down) to the spring-loaded disc, depress it with one finger, and guide that part of the door back into its corresponding track, sliding your finger out of the way until the disc pops up into the track. Move the door back and forth a couple times to test it.

What if the door doesn't seem to be straight? That can cause the wheels to stick in or jump out

of the tracks. You can adjust the door in a number of ways: The Family Handyman website (www.familyhandyman.com) has a step-by-step description of how to do it.

Home Tip: To smooth a sliding door's path, put a thin coat of wax or silicone spray on the wheels.

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REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Get Ready for Summer

Having weathered the first "hot" weekend of the year, our pool suddenly went from dormant to Party Central. With winter officially behind us, it's time to start getting your home ready for the summer months. Here is what we recommend:

1. Get your air conditioning serviced NOW.

Once the first official heat wave kicks in and people realize their A/C units are not working correctly, everyone will be calling the service techs. Whereas techs are looking for business right now, once the heat begins in earnest they get booked quickly. It could mean many long, hot days before they show up.

2. Get the pool running now.

If you have a pool, consider getting the filters changed now. Pools function better with clean filters, and a visit from a pool tech can head off any other potential issues as well. A quick tune up of the entire system, including any sweeps, can make sure summer fun goes uninterrupted by pool equipment failures. To save energy and keep the water warmer, consider getting a removeable cover.

3. Consider upgrading your barbecue to natural gas.

For many, summer kicks off with visits to the propane supplier to make sure the BBQ has enough gas for its first official use. If this is the year you are looking to upgrade to a new system, consider getting a unit that runs on natural gas. We did this at our house a few years ago and we love the fact that trips to get tanks refilled are a thing of the past. Running a gas connection out to the barbecue area is usually quite easy for any qualified plumber, and the cost to operate on natural gas is much lower

than propane. Most important, you will never run out of gas halfway through cooking!

4. Consider changing your landscaping.

The drought may be over, but California's incessant demand for water is never ending. Make this the year that you upgrade your landscaping to items that do not have high water requirements. Drought-resistant plants should top your list, and artificial turf is showing up in ever-increasing numbers of yards.

5. Add new outdoor features.

Consider hiring an outdoor consultant to upgrade your yard to add exciting features such as fire pits, conversation centers, gazebos, lighting systems and more!

It won't be long before home centers have long lines, beat the rush and start today!

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

Mortgage Rates Increase After Weeks of Decline

Average mortgage rates rose last week for the first time in five weeks.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.03 percent, up from 3.97 percent the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 3.66 percent.

Fifteen-year home loans averaged 3.27 percent, up from 3.23. A year ago at this time, the 15-year rate averaged 2.89 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.12 percent last week, up from 3.10 percent.



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Prune Lilacs in the Spring; Make Your Own Earwig Traps

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q I've been told to prune lilacs in September. This is an old-fashioned lavender lilac, grown from a cutting of one that would be about 60 years old now. I've always removed the deadwood but I'd like to find out how to get longer stems and larger blooms?

A Lilacs are not that difficult to prune. It doesn't take any special technique as they are pruned annually to shape

and to remove the dead wood which you already do.

So, I'd stand back and eyeball the plant to see what needs to be done. It's very subjective.

While pruning can occur at any time of the year, I prefer to prune lilacs in the spring after flowering. They bloom on the current year's growth.

September pruning reduces the growth that flowers the following year. So, I'd prune in the spring to have the maximum flowers the following year.

Once the flowering cycle is

completed, I'd prune to reshape the plant again.

Pruning will not have any effect on the stem length or the size of the blooms. These are genetic characteristics which can't be altered.

When a cutting is taken from a vegetative plant part, rather than started from a seed, the new plant(s) will be identical to the parent. So, your plant's stem length and flower size are mirroring the original plant.

Applying an organic all-purpose plant food is recommended

after pruning to encourage the new growth.

This is an excellent time to prune lilacs and other flowering shrubs and trees that have finished blooming.

Q Earwigs are eating the leaves, flowers and stems of my vegetable plants. How can I control them without using any harsh chemicals?

A When planting vegetable and/or annual seedlings, earwigs and snails are the

two biggest pest problems gardeners face.

Earwigs can be controlled without using chemicals with Sluggo Plus or you can make an earwig trap out of newspapers. Sluggo Plus is an organic bait that is safe to use around edibles, non-edibles, kids and pets; and it's reapplied monthly.

Using an earwig trap is more involved. Earwigs, like snails, are nocturnal, so their damage is done at night. So, as the sun is setting, take several sheets of newspaper and moisten them lightly, then

roll them into a tube (secured with rubber bands). The tubes are placed throughout the garden where you're having a problem.

As the sun rises, earwigs begin searching for a cool, damp, dark location to hide out during the daylight hours. The newspaper tubes are an ideal habitat.

In the morning, collect the tubes and dump the contents into a pail of soapy water. Repeat the process until problem is resolved.

see TRAPS on page 11



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Traps: Be patient

continued from page 9

Also keep in mind that earwigs are less likely to be a problem once the herbaceous plants mature.

The key to being successful with earwig traps is to be patient and persistent.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and the Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. His web address is www.dirtgardener.com. Send questions by email to dirtgarden@aol.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero).

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4639 Malabar Avenue	94546	\$1,160,000	3 BD - 2,457 SF - 2009
3442 Middleton Avenue	94546	\$680,000	3 BD - 1,160 SF - 1948
18880 Sydney Circle	94546	\$710,000	4 BD - 1,901 SF - 1993
3159 Terry Court	94546	\$795,000	3 BD - 2,016 SF - 1961
19538 Yuma Street	94546	\$825,000	3 BD - 2,964 SF - 1962
18525 Buren Place	94552	\$848,000	4 BD - 2,251 SF - 2003
37789 Palomares Road	94552	\$1,333,000	3 BD - 2,120 SF - 1976
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TOTAL SALES: 11

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L	1-4	1-4	1319 Belfast Court	\$849,999	4/2.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Lisa Ferraris	510-304-1271
C	—	1-4	4950 Beacon Hill Drive	\$975,000	4/2.5	Coldwell Banker	Trish Radovich	510-367-7999

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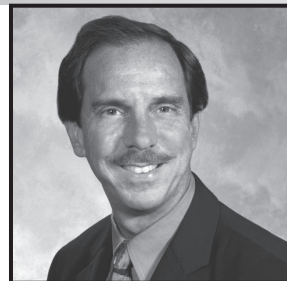
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Disappointed in Supervisors' Response To Opponents of the Pot Ordinance

Editor:

Thanks to you 120 Alameda County voting constituents who signed my petition in opposition to proposed cannabis ordinances.

Unfortunately, the April 25 Board of Supervisors meeting was very disappointing. Husband and I were only ones representing opposition. We did not look like 120 people.

Our comments were basically dismissed by Nate Miley as "cynical." He insists that we need to "embrace" the cannabis industry and regulate it.

He ignored our allegation that we can keep and regulate present operations. Instead, he takes firm stand that *expanded* drug propagation, dispensaries, delivery and sales are necessary. (Not surprising: on this issue his office repeatedly rejects individual concerns). Haggerty agrees, but vehemently goes on record as saying essentially "Not in MY backyard." Just wait.

— Vicki Stadelman, Castro Valley

Wants Swalwell to Pursue Impeachment of Trump Instead of Probe of Russia

Editor:

Randy Shandobil writes ("A Man to Watch," Page 1, April 26) that Eric Swalwell says his constituents want him to pursue the Trump-Russia story because this is the most pressing concern with his constituents.

I for one am not keen on this excuse, not because I love Trump, but because there are real impeachable things he could be pursuing. For one, bombing a sovereign country (Syria) without the approval of congress, nor the backing of the UN Security Council under "Trump"ed up evidence is clearly an impeachable offense, though for some reason, so many of our congressmen on both sides of the aisle supported this war crime.

Also, antagonizing Russia, with shaky (if any) evidence of collusion, seems counterproductive and dangerous, to say the least.

— Camille Sauvé, Castro Valley

Says 'Community Can't Come Together To Accomplish Anything'

Editor:

I have lived in Castro Valley since 1970 and I am very proud to say I live here.

I can't understand why everything the MAC and County try to do about the Daughtrey's building

turns into a fight. It seems that this Community cannot come together to accomplish anything.

I have been to MAC Meetings and cannot say that I agree on every decision, but believe that the County and MAC laid out a comprehensive plan and invited our Community to voice their opinions.

It seems that most of the opinions were not economically feasible yet people do not understand that and continue to object to every solution. If people believe that a brew pub would be the best solution, they have the option to pull the funding together and submit a proposal just like every other developer.

I believe that Castro Valley is fortunate to have a MAC to represent us, a strong Chamber of Commerce that is continually supporting businesses in the area, as well as promoting community events, and the many volunteers who work these events.

We also have a Supervisor who I believe has Castro Valley's best interests in mind. I highly resent the statement by Michael Croghan that "the MAC only approves projects that will benefit their own pockets." That is totally absurd.

— Carolyn Darcey, Castro Valley

Wants to 'Stop Republican's 'All Out War on The Health of the Planet'

Editor:

I was happy to join the Climate March on Saturday in Oakland. It was a sister march to a dozen in the Bay Area and hundreds across the nation

including a march of 200,000 in Washington.

My sign: "Stop The Washington Menace." We need to stop the all out Republican war on the health of our only planet.

I believe protecting the environment is the most important issue of all because it is the table that is the foundation of all life. If you cut the legs off the table, it doesn't matter what is on top.

The best way to create good jobs across the nation for the poor and suffering Middle Class: jobs in clean, renewable, alternative energy.

Worried about terrorism? Protect the environment. Many of the hot beds of unrest in the last few years are the result of man-made climate change. Civil war in Syria and rebellion in Egypt and droughts and famine in Africa are likely the results of climate failure.

We have a regime in Washington that has declared all out brutal war on the environment. Millions more people need to rise up to help protect what is on the table, Planet Earth.

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

Obituaries

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

may be emailed to: 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

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DILLON, Julie Villarreal
FARMER, Jo-Ann Sonja (Foreman)
MANSFIELD-KILMARTIN, Dawn
MCCANN, Robert

SARA L. ENNOR
LAWYER

- Wills & Trusts
- Benefits, ERISA
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Dawn Mansfield-Kilmartin

After a long and fierce battle with cancer, Dawn Mansfield-Kilmartin was released from pain on March 1, 2017.

Dawn was born in Bremerton, Washington on April 1, 1979. Her family moved to California shortly thereafter and she attended school in the Bay Area, graduating from Mt. Eden High School in 1997. Dawn attended classes at Los Positas Junior College and eventually became a Payroll Processor for Challenge Dairy in Modesto. After experiencing several serious medical issues, Dawn gave birth to her daughter, Lily Anais Melodie, on May 10, 2010. Dawn frequently called Lily "my life's greatest accomplishment." Dawn met David Kilmartin in September 2013 and told friends a few days later that she felt he was her "karma reward." Dawn moved to Castro Valley in March 2014 and she and David were married on May 10, 2016.

Dawn was a free spirit with a love of life that was infectious. Her brilliant smile, warmth, intelligence and sincerity gained her a wide circle of friends, from all walks of life. Dawn was multi-talented, with a beautiful voice, natural drawing skills, and a gift for saying just the right thing to make those around her feel special. She loved the number three, the color purple, going barefoot, fantasy and science books, vintage clothes, and road trips with no destination. Dawn was passionate about her immediate family and commented several times that she felt happiest in her role as wife and mother. She was also fiercely loyal to her friends and never missed an opportunity to either cheer them on, or cheer them up. Dawn's inner strength and determination to make each day count impacted everyone she met, and her life's journey will continue to inspire others for many years to come.

Dawn was preceded in death by her beloved mother, Marsha Melody Mansfield. She is survived by her husband, David; daughter, Lily; and siblings Michael (& Clara) Dunn, Jenny (& Michael) Plaskon, Brandi (& Rick) Bryan-Dorer and Shannon Durval; numerous nieces and nephews; and her faithful companion, Inara.

A Celebration of Life will take place Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7. Please email dlkilmartin@hotmail.com for details.



Julie Villarreal Dillon

August 30, 1968 – April 29, 2017 • Resident of Castro Valley

Julie Villarreal Dillon passed away on Saturday after a courageous battle with cancer. Although cancer won the battle, it did not define her spirit and courage.

Julie was born in Teaneck, New Jersey and graduated from Moreau High School and the University of California, Berkeley. After graduation, she worked in the biotech industry, most recently at Grifols in Emeryville.

Julie is survived by her loving children, Dawson and Carly; her sister, Sharon Villarreal; and her parents, Nancy Love Villarreal and John Villarreal. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends.

This bright and brilliant mother, daughter, sister and friend has left us after fighting an insurmountable battle with cancer. Her strong faith comforted her, gave her strength, and helped show all of us how to live life and face adversity.

Julie's children were the love of her life and she lived each day for them. Their wellbeing and happiness gave meaning to her life each day.

Friends and family are invited to a visitation at Jess C Spencer Mortuary, 21228 Redwood Road, in Castro Valley, on Thursday, May 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. with the vigil service at 7 p.m.

The funeral service is on Friday, May 5, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 3433 Somerset Ave., in Castro Valley. There will be a gathering at the home of Julie Dillon, 18440 Center St., in Castro Valley following the service. Burial services will be private.

Donations to the children's 529 plans can be made to Nancy Villarreal. For more information, call 510-432-6588.



Robert (Bob) McCann

1944-2017

Bob passed peacefully on February 28, 2017 at home in Castro Valley in the loving care of his son, John. Bob was born in Brooklyn, New York, served in the U.S. Army, was a Cable Car Conductor, Safety Engineer in Silicon Valley and held advanced degrees in Physics and Astronomy. He was most proud of his service as a parishioner tending the altar and church functions at Transfiguration Church.

Bob was the loving husband and caregiver to his wife, Margaret (Meg), and father to his son, John, and daughter, Lillian (Lilly) — both grew up and attended schools in Castro Valley.

Family, friends and fellow parishioners will gather for a Memorial Mass at Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley on Friday, May 19, at 10 a.m.

Jo-Ann Sonja (Foreman) Farmer

1940-2017

Jo-Ann is survived by the family she so dearly loved: Jen, Kirk, Hillary, Tyler (Lauren), Jessica (Kyle, Norah, Harper), Emily (Jason, Sonja) and numerous relatives. Quietly and courageously she fought a very aggressive cancer. A native Californian, Jo-Ann attended school in Oakland and later lived in San Leandro. Her greatest gifts were a fierce loyalty and duty to those she loved, and an unbelievable knack to make us laugh at her bold beliefs.

Thanks to special friends, Lisa, Ronny, Nancy, Lynn, Jaret, her Moose and Shooters buddies, and everyone who was lucky enough to find themselves listening to one of her crazy stories.

A Celebration of her Life is being planned for a later date.





PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

The former senior care home known as Valley Springs Manor as it sits today at 17926 Apricot Way. The county approved a 10-bed facility last week for new owner Steve Chou over the objections of the Castro Valley MAC.

New Care Center OK'd; Action Put Off on Pot Dispensary Law

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has granted Steve Chou a conditional use permit to open a new care center with 10 beds at the location of the senior care home that made national headlines back 2013 when its owners abandoned patients.

Chou has been trying to open a facility for non-ambulatory seniors at 17926 Apricot Way for more than a year. Last fall, the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) granted Chou permission to open a facility with eight beds.

Chou's original plan called for up to 30 patients and that never sat well with the MAC, who said Chou appeared to be trying to cram elderly residents into the home in order to increase profits.

MAC member Ken Carbone accused Chou of "sardine-canning" patients, chair Marc Crawford

called Chou "disrespectful" and former MAC member Janet Everson called him "arrogant."

"It's clear to me that this project is a project for profit," said Everson at a MAC meeting in October.

After MAC approved of only eight beds, Chou went to the county Board of Zoning Adjustments in November to try to get approval for more patients. The BZA unanimously turned down his application.

Finally, Chou filed an appeal to the Board of Supervisors and they approved 10 beds at their meeting last week. Supervisor Nate Miley made a proviso that Chou come back to the board in one year and they would consider allowing up to 20 beds after evaluating the home.

"I've been intimately involved in this," said Miley. "This particular property has a lot of angst that comes with it."

The care home has 15 bedrooms, nine toilets, four showers,

and a total of 18 staff members. Chou has said there will not be more than two residents per room. Chou currently operates senior facilities in Pleasanton and Alamo.

Several people who live on and near Apricot Way spoke to the Supervisors, asking them not to grant the permit, citing concerns about parking, traffic, and overcrowding.

"It breaks my heart that we are going to warehouse people, stack them up, and basically just let them die," said one man.

Another neighbor called the project "Valley Springs Manor 2.0," referring to the name of the abandoned previous facility.

"I know in my core that this is wrong," said another woman.

County Pot Ordinance

Also at last week's Board of Supervisors meeting, the board continued discussion of a proposed ordinance that would increase the number of medical marijuana dispensaries allowed in the unincorporated areas from three to five, with three in the western part of the county.

The MAC has been critical about the new ordinance, asking that the dispensaries be kept out of Castro Valley. Two dispensaries are already open in the unincorporated area, one in Ashland and one in Cherryland.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty continued the item to a later date, saying there had been tweaks to the ordinance as recently as the day before and more discussion was necessary. Haggerty said he wanted more information on possible cultivation sites as well as any potential delivery services.

Supervisor Nate Miley has been a driving force behind the new ordinance. He had drawn criticism that he was being unduly influenced by the cannabis industry after he received \$60,000 in campaign donations from parties interested in the marijuana business.

Rowell: Annual Chili Cook-Off and Parade

continued from front page

"Most local businesses participate as cooking teams for three reasons," says Rotary Cook-Off Chairman Randy Vanderbilt. "First, they promote their businesses to upwards of a thousand attendees. They set up their own booth with signage, and usually create a theme based around their chili name."

"Second, they get to have fun interacting with a large crowd of fellow community members, while supporting a great cause. Finally, it is a team-building exercise, as a group of owners and employees work together to put the booth together, prepare the chili ahead of time and serve it."

Full information on the rules as well as the entry form can be downloaded at www.cvchili-cookoff.com

If you haven't entered the contest in a few years, this is the year for you to return!

Rowell Ranch Parade

Individuals, organizations and businesses can still enter Castro Valley's big parade on Saturday, May 13, continuing a tradition of

35 years. This year's theme is "Local Heroes, Service Above Self."

There are many, many categories, including amateur, student and commercial floats, musical groups, drill teams, car clubs, clowns, novelty acts and more than a dozen equestrian classifications.

Fees to enter range from free to youth groups, \$25 for non-commercial and car-club groups, \$50 for Chamber of Commerce members, to \$100 for politicians and commercial enterprises. Full information and registration is available at www.rowellranchrodeoparade.com/parade-registration/ or by calling 510-402-5001.

The deadline to take part in the parade is next Monday, May 8. After that date, applications are subject to committee discretion.

Street Closures

Motorists are reminded of the following street closures and parking restrictions for the parade. The Boulevard will be closed from Redwood Road to Lake Chabot Road from 9 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m., as will Norbridge from the BART entrance to Stanton (BART

will be accessible from Redwood Road), and all local streets bounded by the above.

There will be no parking from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Boulevard from Redwood to Lake Chabot roads, on Norbridge from Wilbeam to Stanton avenues, on Nunes and San Miguel avenues between the Boulevard and Norbridge, and on Kerr St. from Baker Road to San Miguel, and on the northeast side of Baker Avenue.

Streets will be open and parking available as soon as the parade is over and it is safe to do so.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

F	C	C		E	W	E	R		A	R	G	O
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T	A	S	H	K	E	N	T		O	V	A	L
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O	P	E	D		E	E	R	Y		S	E	X



CVSAN ANNUAL CONTRACTORS MEETING:

The Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) will be hosting its annual Contractors Meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at CVSan's main office, located at 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served.

Topics of discussion include, but are not limited to:

- CVSan's Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP)
- List of Qualified Contractors
- Inspection Availability and Requirements
- Planned Projects for 2017/18

A finalized agenda will be available on Monday, May 8, 2017, which can be accessed online at www.cvsan.org/acm, via emailed request to melody@cvsan.org, or via written request to CVSan, Attn: Melody Knapp, 20211 Patio Drive, Suite 200, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Space is limited so we highly encourage all contractors to pre-register to secure a spot.

For additional information, please contact Melody Knapp at (510) 537-0757 ext. 127 or via email at melody@cvsan.org.



Free Comic Books

Crush Comics at 2869 Castro Valley Blvd. will join thousands of other comic book shops around the world celebrating Free Comic Book Day. Stop by and pick up a free comic book this Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Q&A: Can A Debt be Inherited?

continued from page 7
Settling Her Estate

You also need to be aware that if your mom dies with debt, and she has no assets, settling her estate should be fairly simple.

Her executor will need to send out letters to her creditors explaining the situation, including a copy of her death certificate, and that will probably take care of it.

But, you and your brother may still have to deal with aggressive debt collectors who try to guilt you into paying.

If your mom has some assets, but not enough to pay all her debts, her state's probate court has a distinct list of what bills get priority. The details vary by state, but generally estate administering fees, funeral expenses, taxes and last illness medical bills get paid first, followed by secured debts and lastly, credit card debts.

Need Help?

If you have questions, consult with a consumer law or probate attorney. Or, if you can call your state's legal hotline (Legal Services of Northern California at: (800) 222-1753 or visit the website: lsnc.net/slh).

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



Meet Wylie and a lot of other small dogs up for adoption at reduced fees through Saturday at the Hayward Animal Shelter.

'Chihuahua Palooza'

If you love Chihuahuas, you'll definitely want to make it over to the Hayward Animal Shelter this week.

Volunteers at the shelter are staging their annual Chihuahua Palooza through Saturday with adoption fees for all small dogs reduced to \$20 which includes spay/neuter, 5-in-1 canine vaccination, Bordatella vaccination, rabies vaccination, and microchip. Hayward residents must also pay a city dog licensing fee of \$17.

Saturday's hours are 1 to 5 p.m. with doggie fashion shows scheduled for 1:30 and 3 p.m. and sales of spay/neuter vouchers for all small dogs at half price.

The Hayward Animal Shelter is located at 16 Barnes Court, near the Dept. of Motor Vehicles office at Jackson and Soto roads

CV Student Nominated To Academy

Ryan M. Warren, 17, who will be graduating from Castro Valley High School, will attend the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

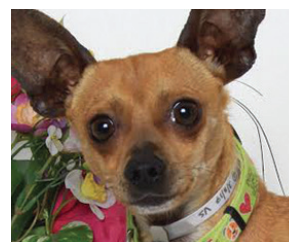
One of nine students nominated by Rep. Eric Swalwell, Warren, who lives in Hayward, is president of the school's Academics for Athletes club, maintains a rigorous academic schedule, and is captain of his JV baseball team.

He also volunteers for many community service events with Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley and was a research assistant to Dr. Jagdish Agrawal, dean of the College of Business and Economics at Cal State East Bay.

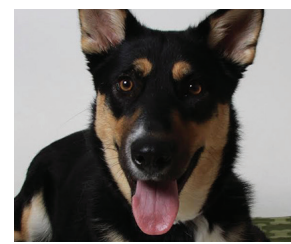
Warren works as a ranch hand at Graceland Equestrian Center in Castro Valley.

"These young people, among our communities' very finest, now are making a solemn commitment to serve and protect our nation," Swalwell said following the reception for the nominees and their families last week in Pleasanton.

ADOPT-A-PET



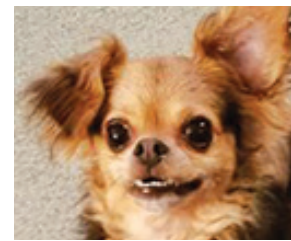
CHEEWINIE is a 4-year-old pup who's a bit shy. Once he feels comfortable, he loves attention and pets. Good with kids 10 years +. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



PETUNIA is a sweet, easygoing 3-year-old who likes going for walks. She needs a somewhat active family and is good with kids 7 years+. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



DILLON is a very active 1-year-old who runs, jumps, twirls and plays constantly. For more information on Dillon, complete an online application at: www.dustypawsrescue.org



DEUCE is an adorable 6 lb, approximately 4.5-year-old little guy. He may be Papillon mixed with Chihuahua or possibly Pekingese. For more information, visit: www.dustypawsrescue.org

Listen: Alerting Devices for Hearing Loss

continued from page 7

Some top makers of these products are Clarity, ClearSounds and Serene Innovations, and a top seller today is the Clarity XLC2+ Amplified Phone (\$144), which is a cordless phone that provides three tone settings and 50 decibels of amplification.

Alerting devices: There are also a variety of alerting devices that can help people who have trouble hearing the doorbell, phone, alarm clock, smoke detector or even

weather radio. These products use flashing lights, multi-tone ringers or vibrating devices as a means to alert you.

Some popular products in this category include: The Bellman & Symfon Care Home Alerting Solution that provides door and phone notification with a flashing alert (\$198); the Silent Call Weather Alert Radio with strobe and bed shaker (\$165); and the all-in-one Serene Innovations CentralAlert CA-360 Clock/Re-

ceiver Notification System, which provides alarm clock, doorbell, phone, motion and storm warning alerts (\$180).

To locate these and any other hearing loss products visit Harris Communications (HarrisComm.com, or call 866-476-9579), which offers more than 2,000 assistive devices and provides customer support services to assist you.

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

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Hayward Film Festival Tomorrow

The Third Annual Hayward Film Festival Showcase will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. tomorrow, May 4, at the HAHS Museum of History and Culture, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward.

The free festival gives students the chance to tell their stories and develop their creativity in Animation, Documentary, Experimental, Narrative, and Public Service

Announcements, and further introduce them to the world of film-making.

Focused on bringing attention to the East Bay, the Hayward Film Festival is dedicated to the future storytellers within and surrounding the city of Hayward.

For more information, visit: haywardareahistory.org/calendar or call 510-581-0223.

CV Residents to Phi Kappa Phi

Three Castro Valley students were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Nicole Fong was initiated at San Diego State University, Nancy Tamaki was initiated at San Jose State University and Christopher Cruz was initiated at University of Illinois at Chicago.

The three are among some

30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses.



CORRECTION

Last week's Forum reported incorrect ticket prices for this Friday's appearance of Mads Tolling and his Quartet at the Center for the Arts. Tickets range from \$40 to \$50 and may be obtained by calling 510-889-8961 or visit www.cv.k12.ca.us/district/center-for-the-arts

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