



DST BEGINS AT 2 A.M. THIS
SUNDAY, MARCH 14 • MOVE
CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR

Spring Forward



CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 33

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

NO. 10

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



Money & Power

New deal pays residents to lower their power use during peak times

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LIVING



Puddin' In Work

Pudding, custard and meringue recipes that require little effort

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NEWS



Fresh & Glean

Hundreds of pounds of fruit gleaned for CVS's annual Zero Waste Week

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Eucalyptus, acacia, bay and pine trees have been especially hard hit by dieback in Anthony Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley, home of a dense plantation of eucalyptus.

Troubling Mortality of Trees Under Study in Chabot Park

By Ned MacKay
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Along with some other public agencies in the state, East Bay Regional Park District is experiencing a troubling onset of tree mortality and dieback, first noticed in October of 2020.

Trees most affected are eucalyptus, acacia, bay and pine.

Regional parks most impacted are Reinhardt Redwood in Oakland, Tilden Regional Park near Berkeley, and especially Anthony Chabot in Castro Valley, because of its extensive eucalyptus plantation. In total, some 1,500 acres are affected in the regional parks alone.

The dieback has also been observed in Marin County, and San Diego.

The cause is not fully understood, but is be-

lieved to be due to recent droughts related to climate change.

Because of the serious implications for fire protection, the East Bay Regional Park District Fire and Stewardship Departments are partnering with the United States Forest Service, UC Berkeley and Cal Fire resource management in Sacramento to study the causes. Fire Chief Aileen Theile is the park district's lead on the project.

The district has created a Tree Mortality Taskforce including staff from the fire, stewardship and operations departments. The taskforce is developing a plan to treat some of the affected areas in the regional parks. The group will coordinate with other jurisdictions in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties where the dieback has also been detected.

Writer Ned MacKay is a retired East Bay Regional Park District employee.

Despite March Rain, Drought Season Likely

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The streets may be wet, and the flowers certainly enjoyed the showers this week, but the state is likely in for another drought season, say weather experts.

California had its driest February on record with 0.20 inch of precipitation, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That's a record that goes back to 1964 when weather scientists measured a mere 0.31 an inch of rain in the state.

"As California closes out the fifth consecutive dry month of our water year, absent a series of strong storms in March or April we are going to end with a critically dry year on the heels of last year's dry conditions," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "With back-to-back dry years, water efficiency and drought preparedness are more important than ever for communities, agriculture, and the environment."

To put this lack of rain in a local perspective, Oakland Airport has received 5.99 inches of rain since the beginning of October. By contrast, the average rainfall for this date at that site is 15.64 inches. In Hayward, rain totals are doing a little better but it's not a drought buster, say weather experts. Water meters at the regional airport measured 49% of the average or normal rain to date. Further north, rainfall at the Concord Airport is 29%.

The lack of rainfall in the East Bay also translates into a lighter than normal dusting of snow in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Last week, the California Department of Water Resources took its third measurement of the season. Noting this is the fifth month in a row, water experts are pointing toward possible drought conditions.

"While we have had 'a miracle March during past drought years, the current deficit is just too great to make up. We still could have a wet and cool Spring, however, it's not likely that it will relieve the current drought,'" according to former Bay Area TV meteorologist Mike Pechner, who operates a private forecasting service.

Current data from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) shows that the total water supply including local storage and High Sierra Lakes is at 72%. Weather experts initially forecast the current La Nina, drought-like conditions, would make way for a more favorable El Nino later this year. But that prediction has dried up as well.

"It's interesting to note that current medium-range forecasts show the possibility of some of the coldest weather this winter is possible this week. The prospects of an early fire season loom large statewide because of the drought," said EBMUD representative Andrea Pook.

With below-average precipitation across the state, California's reservoirs are showing the impacts of a second consecutive dry year.

see DRY on back page

CDC's New Guidelines for the Vaccinated

This week, on the one-year anniversary of the start of widespread lockdowns to limit the spread, the CDC said that those who have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 can visit with others in small indoor gatherings without masks or social distancing.

"You can visit your grandparents if you have been vaccinated and they have been too," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky,

who cautioned that under these new guidelines, masks and meeting outdoors were still necessary if vulnerable people are involved.

While there are some activities that fully-vaccinated people can begin to resume now in their own homes, "everyone, even those who are vaccinated, should continue with all mitigation strategies when in public settings," Dr. Walensky said on Monday.



Castro Valley
Confirmed Cases = 2,357

Alameda County
Vaccinations = 461,950
Confirmed Cases = 81,433
Deaths = 1,293

California
Vaccinations = 10,512,860
Confirmed Cases = 3,581,595
Deaths = 54,376

as of March 8, 2021



Castro Valley Weather Mar 10-14, 2021



Wednesday
Showers
High 65° Low 43°



Thursday
Partly Sunny
High 64° Low 39°



Friday
Partly Sunny
High 67° Low 43°



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
High 59° Low 40°



Sunday
Cloudy
High 60° Low 42°

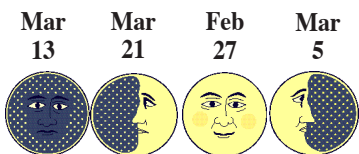
Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.30
Season To Date: 08.73
Normal To Date: 15.90
Season Average: 21.22

Sun sets at 6:12 p.m. today, rises at 6:28 a.m. Thursday.

Moon Phases



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Abbi Crutchfield Headlines Comedy Show

Plethos Productions 3rd annual "That's What She Said" stand-up comedy show returns via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, with a whole new lineup of five fabulously female comics.

The show will feature headliner Abbi Crutchfield, host of Hulu's Early Tonight, as seen on TruTV and Comedy Central, and Bay Area comics, Lin Sun, Annette Mullaney, Natasha Collier and Emily Van Dyke.

Every year, Castro Valley non-profit theatre Plethos Productions has celebrated Women's

Month with a lineup of ladies. This show promises to get the biggest laughs of the year.

So, in the comfort and safety of your own home, grab a drink and a snack, turn on your camera and mic and enjoy the fully interactive show via Zoom.

And stick around after the show for a digital happy hour to hang out, chit chat and generally enjoy the company of fellow humans for a while. For more information or to purchase Tickets (on sale now for \$10 per streaming device), please visit: Plethos.org.



Abbi Crutchfield

Grab-n-Stay Food Feast

Those craving a tasty treat from the Alameda County Fair don't have to wait until Fair to get it.

The Fair has rolled out a brand-new Grab-n-Stay Fair Food Feast, happening Tomorrow, March 11, to 14 and again March 18 to 21, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Vendors will be offering up some of the classic Fair favorites, including corn dogs, churros, funnel cakes and more. Guests can stay and enjoy their food on the grounds or pre-order ahead for a designated curbside pick-up time.

Fair Food Feast attendees can park in the Ace Train Lot located off of Pleasanton Avenue and pedestrian entry is located at the Yellow Gate. The Fair Food Feast will celebrate the most popular fair concoctions, while also helping to support the many food vendors who have been impacted by Covid-related closures.

For more information, visit alamedacountyfair.com/grab-n-stay/

CORRECTION:

In the story, "Push to Recall Newsom Gains Steam" (Page 1, March 3), in the quote from Elizabeth Stump that said "it's hypocrisy that the State of California now hires freelance sign language interpreters, making them exempt from state law, AB5," it should have included that she was speaking about out-of-state freelance interpreters.

HATTY BIRTHDAY



A Sombrero for Superintendent

Castro Valley School Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi received a potted plant and a colorful birthday hat Friday, a gift from her executive assistant and assistant superintendents, both stuffed with food gift cards. The \$10 food cards will be distributed through the CVHS Health & Wellness Center to students experiencing food insecurity. The March 5 birthday tradition touches the daily lives of Castro Valley's most vulnerable students who struggle to learn when they are hungry.

Jue, Loftis on Dean's List

Students Micah Jue and Caleb Loftis, both of Castro Valley, were named to the Biola University Dean's List in fall 2020. The list honors those who have a GPA of

3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2. Biola is a private evangelical Christian university in La Mirada, California.

Public Notice

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Sabrina Landreth Named New Regional Park General Manager

Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District appointed Sabrina Landreth as the district's new general manager last week.

Landreth, the first woman to serve in that role, has deep roots in the East Bay as a 5th generation native who has held the top executive positions in the cities of Oakland and Emeryville.

"She has all the right elements of urban public sector leadership experience and especially understands the diversity of the East Bay communities we serve," said Dee Rosario, President of Park District Board of Directors.

Landreth is a U.C. Berkeley graduate with a master's degree in Public Policy. She also holds a bachelor of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I look forward to continuing to build upon the great work the District does to improve the quality of life for our East Bay community, while adhering to its social and environmental responsibilities," Landreth stated.

Most recently Landreth served as City Administrator in Oakland from 2015 - 2020, where she is credited with strong fiscal management and with developing a capital improvement program with community equity goals which have become a model for local governments around the country.



PARKS DISTRICT PHOTO

Sabrina Landreth
New East Bay Regional Parks District GM

She also worked as Oakland's Deputy City Administrator, Budget Director, and Legislative Analyst to the City's Finance Committee.

Landreth succeeds Robert Doyle, who retired as General Manager after a 47-year career with the Park District. She will begin her job as the 10th general manager of the 87-year-old district

next Monday.

The East Bay Regional Park District is the largest regional park system in the nation, comprising 73 parks, 55 miles of shoreline, and over 1,300 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and environmental education. It hosts more than 25 million visits annually throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Caught with Drugs
Monday, March 8: at 3:00 a.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 53-year-old CV man on suspicion of possession of stolen property, illegal narcotics, and related drug paraphernalia. The man was traveling on the Boulevard near Crow Canyon Road when deputies stopped him for questioning and discovered his stash. Deputies took the man into custody.

Assault at the Hospital
Sunday, March 7: at 6:26 p.m., a 41-year-old CV man was arrested on suspicion of assault on a family member at Eden Hospital on Lake Chabot Road. Deputies were called to the scene after security reported an altercation. The man was taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Fight at Fast-Food Restaurant
Friday, March 5: at 1:20 p.m., deputies arrested a 37-year-old man

with no permanent residence on suspicion of assault on a family member, assault with intent to do bodily harm, false imprisonment, possession of methamphetamine drugs, and possession of burglar tools. The man was spotted in an altercation in the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant on Stanton Avenue near Castro Valley Boulevard. Deputies broke up the fight and took the man into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Busted on Her Birthday
Saturday, March 6: at 10:40 a.m., a 37-year-old CV woman had her birthday celebration cut short after deputies arrested her for possession of methamphetamine drugs and related drug paraphernalia as well as burglar tools to pick locks. Deputies stopped the woman for questioning in the parking lot of the Castro Village Shopping Center on the Boulevard. The woman was taken into custody.

Wanted Woman
Thursday, March 4: at 10:35 p.m., deputies pulled over and arrested a 34-year-old woman from Castro Valley as part of a warrant issued for her arrest. The woman was driving on Grove Way near Tanglewood Drive when deputies pulled her over for a traffic violation. The woman was previously charged with possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia. Deputies report the woman was traveling with an expired license. The woman was taken into custody.

Joy Ride Ends in Three Arrests
Thursday, March 4: at 3:48 a.m., three men from Castro Valley were arrested following a traffic stop on Castro Valley Boulevard near Anita Avenue. Deputies report the driver, a 23-year-old, was in possession of a stolen car. The passengers, a 35-year-old and a 28-year-old, were also arrested. *see REPORTS on back page*

Get Paid to Lower Your Power Use

East Bay Community Energy which provides electric generation service throughout most of Alameda County, has signed an agreement with a virtual power plant and a home energy management company that will allow customers to reduce the strain on the state's electric grid when power is most expensive and the grid is most vulnerable.

The deal, with Resi-Station and OhmConnect's over 150,000 active consumers, pays residents to lower their power use in the evenings — when solar power in California wanes — by shutting off appliances.

PG&E customers can get more information and sign up with OhmConnect for free at ohmconnect.com. Also, follow OhmConnect on Twitter @OhmConnect, see the OhmConnect blog or check it out on Facebook and LinkedIn.

For more information about East Bay Community Energy, please visit: ebce.org.

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- **For proper FOG disposal:** please do not pour cooking/fryer oil or grease scraped from cookware down the drain or into the garbage. It can be temporarily collected in a compostable container (paper milk or ice cream carton) and disposed of in small amounts in your green organics cart. You can also pour the grease directly into your cart (it's best to pour on top of leaves, grass clippings, or other yard trimmings).

Thank you for your cooperation in disposing of FOG properly.
For more information, please visit our FOG web page at cvsan.org/FogForHome. #EveryoneHasARole

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The Proof of the Pudding

Eggs and milk, gently cooked until they set – what could be simpler? This basic formula for dessert harkens back to your great-grandmother's day.

Cup custards, cremes, flans, pudding and souffles – although they each have their own characteristics – are all variations of a theme.

The simplest puddings are usually starch-thickened mixtures made with milk and sometimes eggs. True custards, on the other hand, are set by eggs alone and are gently baked, usually in a protective water bath.

Egg custards cooked on the stove top are actually custard sauces or cremes. And those tricky, elegant souffles are really nothing more than a custard base that has been lightened with egg whites and baked.

Homemade puddings are simple to make from everyday ingredients. Once you try to make them from scratch, you may never go back to the packaged stuff.

End your next meal on a sweet note with one of these classic and comforting desserts.

CHOCOLATE PUDDING

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar, cocoa, cornstarch and salt. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in butter and vanilla. Spoon into individual serving dishes. Chill until serving. Yields 6-8 servings.

COCONUT FLAN

- 8 eggs
- 1-3/4 cups sugar
- 2 (12-ounce) cans evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 tablespoon coconut extract
- 2/3 cup shredded coconut

Beat eggs until fluffy. Gradually add 3/4 cup sugar, evaporated milk, vanilla and coconut extract.

Add shredded coconut and continue to beat until thoroughly mixed. Set aside.

Place remaining 1 cup sugar in skillet over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until sugar dissolves and turns amber. Pour into 9-inch square baking pan. Add egg mixture.

Place baking pan in larger pan of hot water. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes to an hour or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Makes 9 servings.

BUTTERSCOTCH PUDDING

- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups low-fat milk, divided
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 6 tablespoons whipped topping

Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt in saucepan. Gradually add

2 cups milk; stir with whisk until blended. Cook mixture to 180°F or until tiny bubbles form around edge (don't boil). Combine remaining 1 cup milk, egg and egg yolk in bowl and stir with a whisk. Gradually add 1 cup hot milk mixture to egg mixture, stirring constantly with a whisk.

Add egg mixture to saucepan. Bring to a boil; cook 1 minute or until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in butter and vanilla. Place pan in a large ice-filled bowl for 20 minutes or until mixture cools to room temperature, stirring occasionally. Cover surface of pudding with plastic wrap. Chill.

Serve with whipped topping or whipped cream. Yields 6 servings.

BAKED CUSTARD

- 3 large eggs
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk, scalded and cooled
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Grated nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly beat eggs with sugar and salt. Stir in milk and vanilla. Pour into 1-1/2 quart casserole dish; sprinkle with nutmeg. Set casserole in a baking pan and add enough hot water to come 1 inch up sides of pan.

Bake for 30 to 35 minute, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean and the top is lightly browned. Serves 4.



OLD-FASHIONED CARROT PUDDING

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

- 1 cup grated carrots
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

For the lemon sauce:

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 pinch salt
- 1-1/4 cups hot water
- 3-1/2 teaspoons butter
- 3-1/2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla

In a large bowl, cream together the shortening and 1 cup of sugar until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves; stir into the creamed mixture until well blended. The mixture will be dry. Stir in the carrots, raisins and chopped walnuts. Pour into a well-greased pudding mold. Cover the top with aluminum foil.

Place the pudding mold into a large pan or Dutch oven filled with 2 inches of water. Cover the pan and bring to a simmer. Allow the pudding to steam for 4 to 4-1/2 hours over low heat. Remove from mold. Serve with warm lemon sauce.

To make the lemon sauce, mix together 3/4 cup of sugar, cornstarch and salt in a saucepan. Stir in hot water, butter, lemon juice and vanilla. Cook over medium heat until thickened. Serve warm over the pudding. Serves about 12.

TAPIOCA PUDDING

- 2 cups milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 1/3 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Combine the milk, 2 eggs, the sugar, tapioca and salt in the top of a double boiler. Stir to combine. Place over rapidly boiling water and cook for 8 minutes, then stir again and cook for 5 minutes.

Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla. The pudding will thicken as it cools. Serves 4.

CVSan AERIAL PIPELINE AND PUMP STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT UPDATE



The Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) Aerial Pipeline and Pump Station Rehabilitation Project has begun! An aerial pipeline is a pipe that is installed above ground and usually passes over certain geographical features, such as creeks or streams. The project includes the rehabilitation of high-priority aerial pipelines located near the end of Knox Street and off of Crow Canyon Road, as well as, CVSan's eight pump station locations.

The project's rehabilitation work will involve the use of Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP), which minimizes the need to dig any trenches. The project was awarded to the contractor, Mountain Cascade, Inc. If you have any questions regarding future CVSan repair projects, please visit cvsan.org/Projects for more information.

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Hundreds of Pounds of Fruit Gleaned for CVSan's Sixth Annual 'Zero Waste Week'

To help residents learn more about how to select their path to zero waste, Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) presented its Sixth Annual Zero Waste Week during the first week of February.

Participants joined community events that were held each day, Monday through Saturday.

CVSan coordinated an Independent Tree Fruit Gleaning to kick off the event, with some 50 members of the community gleaning more than 1,500 pounds of oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, and lemons on their own throughout the week.

CVSan connected volunteers to local trees to glean fruit from and donated equipment to help volunteers reach fruit higher up on the trees.

The fruit harvested was donated to Faith Lutheran Church Community Food Pantry, Dig Deep Farms, and other local food assistance agencies.

For the first time during Zero Waste Week, CVSan offered virtual presentations to the public. The presentations are now available on CVSan's website and YouTube channel.

The "Zero Waste at Home" virtual discussion on Feb. 3 featured a panel discussing practical ways to implement a zero-waste lifestyle at home.

Participants asked questions to zero waste experts, who were featured in CVSan's 2020 Calendar and Annual Report. Topics included environmentally friendly home remodeling, hygiene products, reusable food ware, and gardening.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CVSAN

Independent Tree Fruit Gleaning volunteers collectively donated over 1,500 pounds of fruit for community members in need during the kick-off of Zero Waste Week in Castro Valley.

CVSan thanks Pamela Evans, Leticia Padilla, and Rosy Torres for being panel members.

At the "What Goes Where?" webinar on Feb. 4, participants learned about what goes in recycling, organics, garbage, and more. All the questions participants had about sorting waste were answered. Other ways to get on

the path to zero waste, by reducing waste and reusing materials were also shared.

The "Bicycle Repair" virtual discussion on Feb. 5 wrapped up Zero Waste Week. Tommy Bensko of Bay Area BikeMobile demonstrated how to repair a flat tire and responded to questions about general bicycle repair. Resources for

bicycle repair and donation in the East Bay were also shared.

For more information and links to all recordings from Zero Waste Week's virtual presentations, visit cvsan.org/ZeroWaste. For personal tips about selecting your path to zero waste, visit the Select My Path section of the CVSan homepage at cvsan.org.

Deadline Approaching for StopWaste Grant Applicants

The deadline for nonprofits and businesses to apply for a StopWaste grant is 5 p.m. next Monday, March 15.

Total funding of up to \$475,000 is available to organizations that

have individual, business, and community involvement in the prevention of waste in Alameda County. Areas of focus can be on waste prevention, reuse, and recovery of goods and materials, as

well as development, marketing, and use of recovered products.

Proposed projects must be located in Alameda County or serve county residents. Applicants with open StopWaste grants must check

with their grant managers to assess eligibility to apply for additional grant funding. Grants will be made on June 15. Contact Meri Soll at: msoll@stopwaste.org or call 510-891-6522 for questions.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

● Today, March 10: School Board Meeting

The Castro Valley Board of Education will hold an open virtual board meeting today, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. While the meeting will be held remotely, public participation is encouraged. To observe the meeting by video conference, click on LINK on the agenda at the noticed meeting time. Instructions on how to join a meeting by video conference is available at: support.zoom.us/jc/en-us/articles/201362193 -Joining-a-Meeting. To listen by phone, call at the noticed meeting time 1-669-900-6833, then enter the meeting ID on the agenda, then press #. Instructions on how to join a meeting by phone are available at: support.zoom.us/jc/en-us/articles/201362663 -Joining-a-meeting-by-phone. The complete board packet and other information are available at www.cv.k12.ca.us. For questions, contact Aimee Cayere, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent at acayere@cv.k12.ca.us

● Sat. & Sun., March 13-14: Newsom Recall Petition

This weekend is the final Gov. Newsom Recall Signature Drive from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the northwest corner of Castro Valley Blvd. and Redwood Road, for Alameda County registered voters only. For other counties, visit recallgavin2020.com/ for petition locations.

● Tues., March 16: Rotary Topic: Options for CVHS Students

Kevin Batchelor, Mindy Holmes, Jessica Porter, and Angela Anthony from Castro Valley High School, will describe some of the intriguing options for students, including American History from an African American Perspective, engineering as a career, and new resources in the library, at the next Rotary Club of Castro Valley meeting via Zoom from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit castrovalleyrotary.org

A.R.T., Inc. Online Exhibit

Members of A.R.T., Inc. and other artists are invited to enter a new online show, "For Art's Sake," in April.

It will be juried by Paul Kratter, a signature member of the California Art Club who taught at the Academy of Art in San Francisco.

Entries may be submitted online from April 1 to 21. The exhibit will run online from Apr. 28 to July 31. Non members become A.R.T., Inc. members automatically with their show entry fee.

Members may enter one piece free. Non-members pay \$15. All entrants may enter a second piece for \$10. There will be awards, which the Board must vote on at its April meeting.



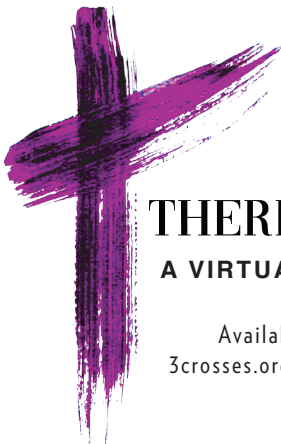
Artist Paul Kratter

Two additional awards are the Eupha Thompson award of \$100 in honor of Gerry Thompson's mother, and the Margaret Robbins Award of \$100 in honor of Winnie Thomson's mother.

For more information, visit art-inc.org.

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SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 186

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ESTABLISHING RATES FOR SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

A public hearing will be held on May 4, 2021 by the Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 186, which will amend Castro Valley Sanitary District Code Article IV, Section 4403, Regulation of Sewer Service Charges Administrative Provisions – Schedule of Charges.

The proposed Ordinance will amend the schedule of charges for the classifications of use for the next two fiscal years (FY), FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23, effective on July 1, 2021 and July 1, 2022.

The adjustments to sewer service charges are for all classifications of use, including residential and non-residential categories. The average adjustment is five percent per year for residential categories and up to ten percent per year for non-residential categories.

The Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors voted on March 2, 2021 at the Castro Valley Sanitary District Regular Board meeting to approve the proposed Ordinance and set the public hearing as follows: Johnson – Yes; Appleton – Yes; McGowan – Yes; Akagi – Yes; Sadoff – Yes.

The above summary constitutes the major highlights of Ordinance No. 186. A reading of the entire proposed Ordinance may be necessary to obtain a full understanding of the Ordinance. The full text of the proposed Ordinance is available at www.cvsan.org, upon request via email at contact@cvsan.org, or by calling 510-537-0757.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Castro Valley Sanitary District intends to conduct a public hearing to discuss the proposed two-year budget for Fiscal Years 2021/22 and 2022/23's operation and maintenance of the Sanitary District. An annual adjustment to the current residential, commercial, and institutional rates is proposed due to numerous factors including: an increase in the cost of goods and services essential to business operations; to provide continued fiscal sustainability; and, anticipated capital improvement projects for long-term reliability of the sanitary sewer system.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on Tuesday, the 4th day of May 2021, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., via teleconference only, said Board will hold a public hearing to hear and consider all comments, protests, and objections to said proposed budget and fee increases. Written protests against the proposed rate increases may be mailed or delivered to Castro Valley Sanitary District, 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546. All protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing and must identify the owner(s) of the property or properties.

March 2, 2021
Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager
Castro Valley Sanitary District

REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Buyer Beware Once You Are in Contract

A few years ago, in a market similar to today's, after significant effort, we managed to get a family into contract.

They had been blown out in many multiple offer situations, but we prevailed and finally had a contract accepted. We scheduled the inspections and when they pulled up to the home, I noticed they were driving a brand-new BMW.

"You borrowed that car, right?" I asked them. The husband replied, "Nope – that's ours – now that we are going to have a garage, we bought a car to go in it."

I looked at them with shock, and then replied: "I'm sorry to say this, but you no longer have a garage ... in fact, you no longer have a house."

Sad to say, with the purchase of their new car, their debt ratio exceeded the limit, and they no longer qualified for the mortgage required to buy the home.

It was a bitter lesson and one that changed the messaging we provide to buyers *before* they even begin looking for homes.

Here are the top 5 things to *not* do once you are in contract on a home purchase:

Do not make any large purchases. This is hard, because buyers are excited about their new home and want to start shopping for furniture, appliances and so on. The rule of thumb is to wait until the transaction has closed, then make the purchases.

Do not apply for any new credit or cancel any current credit accounts. While it makes sense to not open new credit lines, it seems counterintuitive to not close existing accounts. Lenders actually use existing credit lines to gauge your credit, so leave them open unless your lender specifically requests you close one.

Do not change bank accounts. If you are looking to consolidate accounts, open new ones or switch banks, talk to your lender before doing anything.

Do not co-sign loans with anyone. Period.

Do not deposit cash into your bank accounts without first talking to your lender. If

the money is from a family member, it must be accompanied by a gift letter. If it is cash from any other source, your lender is going to need to verify its source *before* it hits your account.

It's hard enough getting into contract these days – make sure you do not do anything to blow things up once you are there.

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.



Mediterranean Beauty, close to downtown & amazing schools! Built in 2020, this 5,188 sq ft home includes an ADDTL detached garage w/ 1/2 bath, ready to convert into 685 sq. ft of livable space (see mock up photo). 2-Story Main House boasts marble & dark hardwood, high ceilings, 3 fireplaces, & gorgeous modern features. Formal living & dining, opens up to kitchen, equipped w/ample storage including wine closet, spacious walk in pantry, a large island & high end appliances. Kitchen opens to great room w/slider access to yard w/Trex deck patio & 2nd covered patio space, complete w/stone fireplace & built-in BBQ. Large lawn area! Upstairs hosts 4 bedrooms: large master suite w/ fireplace & balcony, 2nd En-Suite, 2 additional bedrooms, laundry room & hall bath. Addl. features include: mudroom w/built in storage, rooftop solar, auto window coverings, NEST system, hook ups for car battery chargers, outlets, roof eaves, spacious wine storage, etc. Welcome to your forever home!



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Linda Neff: 510-557-9185 / linda@lindaneff.com / DRE #01495978

Kelly McCoy: 925-786-2681 / DRE #02095209



Lichen Not Causing Tree Decline

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

I'm concerned about a greenish fungus growing on the stems and trunk of my apple tree. How do I go about treating it?

The light green growth is not a single fungal organism but a combination of algae and a fungus called Lichen.

It is a common occurrence in the Bay Area growing on both healthy and declining trees. I've seen it growing on almonds, apricots, plums, and

cherries.

Lichen can be a light green color, or it can have a blueish tint. It grows on the surface of the host plant and doesn't penetrate it. The host plant is nothing more than a resting place.

With apples, it's relatively flat, while on other trees, it raised and flares out like cabbage leaves. Lichens will grow on pretty much on any firm, well-lit surface like the bark of trees.

It grows best when exposed to full sunlight, and dead or dying trees can be the perfect

habitat. On healthy trees, you're more likely to find it on the southwest side of the side the receives the majority of the sunlight.

Lichen is never a cause for a tree's decline. Each Lichen has fungal cells that make up the main body and algae or cyanobacteria. This gives its green or blue color. The fungal part of a lichen cannot create its own food; thus, it relies on photosynthesis in the algae cells for the energy it needs to grow.

In turn, the fungus provides the algae with water and minerals and prevents it from drying out. This mutually beneficial relationship is called symbiosis. They only use the bark on the tree as a place to live and grow.

Trying to scrape lichens off of the bark will likely do more harm than good, and applying a fungicide has absolutely no effect at all.

Note: I've been told that there is an upside to having lots of lichens on your trees. Lichens are extremely sensitive to air pollution and are only found growing in places with good air quality. Hence, you rarely see them growing along city streets.

healthy with green leaves and plenty of oranges, but they're sour. Besides citrus food, would epsom salt help?

Sour oranges are not a fertilizer problem so no, epsom salt is not a solution. The sourness indicates that oranges have not matured. It has more to do with growing location.

Getting oranges to sweeten up is a problem in areas where the summer is cool and mild. It's a problem the closer you get to the ocean. The simple solution is to be patient and let the fruit hang of the trees for an extended period.

I'm assuming this is a navel orange which typically ripens December through March. Every two to three weeks, pick one and taste test for sweetness. Your tree may take an extended period to fully mature. Also, it's not a problem to have a new crop of oranges maturing with last year's fruits still on the tree.

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



How do I get my oranges to be sweet? My tree is two years old, gets plenty of sunshine, and is

WEAR A MASK

The plant called **ox-eye daisy** thrives in a wide range of conditions, but prefers a sunny or part-sun location in soil that is slightly damp. It is commonly found growing along roadways or spread across fields. It is also widely cultivated commercially, popular for home gardens and in flower arranging. It can be invasive and difficult to eradicate. There are some types that begin blooming in early spring, such as the "May Queen" cultivar. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: wikipedia.org, www.missouribotanicalgarden.org, www.sandysplants.com

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

3009 Grove Way	94546: \$540,000 2 BD - 1,042 SF - 1992
20111 West Ridge Ct	94546: \$600,000 2 BD - 1,467 SF - 1977
22250 Moyers Street	94546: \$810,000 3 BD - 1,392 SF - 1949
18623 Sandy Road	94546: \$865,000 2 BD - 1,048 SF - 1949
20052 Center Street	94546: \$875,000 4 BD - 1,589 SF - 1948
3161 Brent Court	94546: \$928,000 3 BD - 1,490 SF - 1967
5029 Tyler Lane	94546: \$1,040,000 3 BD - 2,413 SF - 1965
4830 Lodi Way	94546: \$1,047,000 3 BD - 1,682 SF - 1954
4032 Stevens Street	94546: \$1,090,000 2 BD - 1,821 SF - 1953
18411 Clifton Way	94546: \$1,090,000 4 BD - 2,063 SF - 1959
4854 Crow Canyon Rd	94552: \$1,200,000 2,246 SF - 1978
20018 Jensen Ranch Rd	94552: \$1,300,000 4 BD - 2,453 SF - 2000
5647 Shadow Ridge Dr	94552: \$1,300,000 4 BD - 2,711 SF - 1972
20930 Elbridge Court	94552: \$1,325,000 4 BD - 2,814 SF - 1994
3629 Corte Rubiola	94546: \$1,328,000 4 BD - 2,620 SF - 1990
5714 Thousand Oaks Dr	94552: \$1,620,000 5 BD - 4,017 SF - 1984
TOTAL SALES:	16
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$540,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,620,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,068,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,059,875

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4 Tips for Reducing Your Plastic Footprint at Home

Plastic contributes to climate change and is a major pollutant, harming wildlife and people. With Earth Day around the corner, here are a few

tips for reducing your plastic footprint at home that will also contribute to a healthier planet.

Start a Garden

From cartons of berries

and tomatoes to individually-wrapped cucumbers, it can be difficult to avoid plastic in the produce aisle of your supermarket. By growing your favorite fruits, vegetables and herbs at home, you may avoid some of this waste and reduce your carbon footprint at the same time, as foods found in the store are often shipped from distant places.

Keep Your Produce Green

When you do have to grab a staple that's not in your garden, bring some reusable produce bags with you. Check out this cute set from Food52's shop: food52.com. Then, stick to the loose fruits and veggies not already wrapped in plastic.

Green Your Hydration

In the pursuit of having a constant source of great-tasting, healthy water at home, you may be stocking your fridge with bottled water. However, bottled water contains microplastics and is a significant part of the global plastic waste problem. To stay hydrated healthfully and sustainably, use a water filter

pitcher. One great option is the LifeStraw Home Glass Water Filter Pitcher, which protects against over 30 contaminants, including bacteria, parasites, microplastics, lead, mercury and chemicals, including PFAS and chlorine. To shop or learn more, visit LifeStraw.com, Target.com, or CrateandBarrel.com.

Rethink Garbage Collection

Plastic garbage bags may seem necessary, but there are reusable alternatives available today that can help to drastically reduce your plastic waste. For example, Bagito makes durable, washable, water-resistant garbage can liners from 100 percent post-consumer recycled plastics. They are available in three sizes that are ideal for bathroom wastebaskets, kitchen-sized trash cans and outdoor yard debris bins.

By doing your part to find sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic, you can reduce your contribution to a global environmental crisis right at home.

—StatePoint

Mortgage Rates Hit Three Percent

Interest rates on benchmark long-term home loans breached the 3% mark last week for the first time since last summer, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.02 percent for the week ending March 4, 2up from the previous week when it averaged 2.97 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.29 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.34 percent, unchanged from last week.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.73 percent, down

from 2.99 percent.

"Since reaching a low point in January, mortgage rates have risen by more than 30 basis points, and the impact on purchase demand has been noticeable," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "While purchase activity remains high, it has cooled off over the last few weeks and is currently on par with early March, prior to the pandemic. However, the rise in mortgage rates over the next couple of months is likely to be more muted in comparison to the last few weeks, and we expect a strong spring sales season."



March Jobs

With clear weather for a change, take time to get caught up on the chores you skipped during the rainy days. Pull weeds while the soil is still very moist. And don't forget those snails and slugs. The early March rains brought them out in force. Hand pick them in the evening, or use copper barriers or crushed eggshells around newly transplanted flowers and vegetables.

Strawberries

Remove strawberry blooms through May to concentrate the plant's energy into big, sweet berries.

Roses

Check roses and trees for suckers, those little shoots that grow from the rootstock. Cut them off with shears or a spade, since they sap the plant's energy.

Wildflowers

Wildflowers still can be sown and are excellent for erosion control on hillsides in the East Bay.



We want to give a special thanks to Mimie and the Palomares 4H club for spearheading a coat drive that contributed an additional 32 coats to our coat drive.

We have now collected a total of 218 coats and will continue to accept donations until 3/31/21.



19633 Center Street, Castro Valley

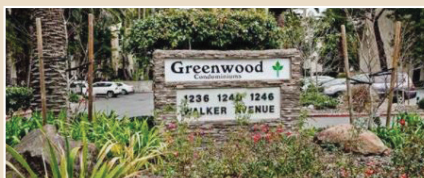
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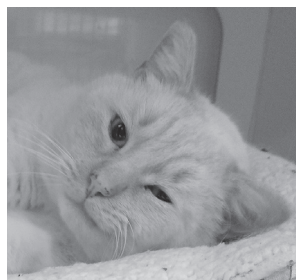
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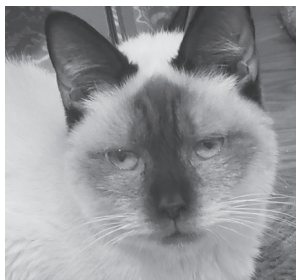
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Creola is a petite Siamese gal who was rescued from a tough life on the street. She'd love a calm home with no dogs or small children. Spayed, vaccinated, chipped, FIV/FelV negative and a dental. Email Loveall-pawzrescue@gmail.com.



Ollie is a 15-week-old black and white tuxedo. He's playful and friendly. This wonderful boy needs a home with another cat to play with. Neutered, vaccinated, chipped and FIV/FelV negative. Info: email Loveall-pawzrescue@gmail.com.

Prevent Back Pain While Working at Home

By Dr. Russell Amundson
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

As many people in California transitioned to working from home amid COVID-19, office furniture may have been replaced by makeshift desks and household chairs.

However, the dining room table or a spot on the couch may not have the same ergonomic design as a traditional office setup, which may have contributed to a spike in low back pain since the pandemic emerged.

About 80% of people experience low back issues at least once, with pain ranging from a minor nuisance to a major disability. When severe pain lingers, people may think about seeking a prescription to help – however, clinical guidelines recommend avoiding these medications as the initial treatment for low back pain.

Unfortunately, low back pain ranks as a driver of opioid prescriptions in the United States, and opioid usage comes with possible unnecessary risks of addiction and potential complications.

While sometimes low back pain can't be avoided, it's important to focus on your CORE: correct posture, overweight (avoid it), relax, and exercise.

To build on that concept, here are five preventive steps and evi-

dence-based care methods to help address this common issue:

Focus on Posture. Whether you are now working at the kitchen table or on the couch, focusing on proper posture may help.

Make sure you are sitting up straight with your knees at a 90-degree angle, with your shoulders in a straight line over your hips and your ears directly over your shoulders.

If you're working at a computer, adjust the screen height to eye level and consider elevating the keyboard to help keep your hands, wrists and forearms in line and parallel to the floor.

Also, note how often you are on the phone, which may contribute to poor neck posture. Instead of tilting your chin down, raise the device to eye level and avoid tucking it between your ear and shoulder, or opt for a speakerphone or headset.

Take Breaks. You may notice you feel sore even if you maintain good posture throughout your workday. If you stay in one spot for too long, your muscles and joints may get stiff.

Consider taking quick breaks every 30 minutes to get up and stretch or walk around. This may promote better blood flow for your muscles and joints, and it may also give your eyes and mind a break.



Dr. Russell Amundson

Stay Active. While some people with low back pain may be tempted to consider bed rest, staying active in many cases may be the best option.

Low impact activities to consider include walking and swimming, while research indicates that strengthening leg muscles may also prove helpful. You might also try yoga and tai chi, as they've been shown to ease moderate to severe low back pain. If time is a factor, a brief walk at lunch or going up and down the stairs a few times can help you stay active.

Eat a Healthier Diet. The bones, muscles, discs and other structures in your back may need proper nutrition to help support your body. Eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean protein and healthy fats may help reduce inflammation, often a contributing factor to chronic back pain.

Eating a healthier diet may also help you maintain a healthy

weight, which may also reduce your risk for back pain.

Consider care options. The American College of Physicians (ACP) recommends exercise-based therapies as the first line of treatment.

If low back pain persists, ACP encourages the use of nonsurgical options for initial treatment, including physical therapy, chiropractic care, acupuncture and over-the-counter anti-inflammatory drugs. These noninvasive treatment options, which in some cases may be covered by your health benefit plan, may help 95% of people with low back pain recover after 12 weeks.

Muscle relaxants should be secondary options, and imaging (such as an MRI) and surgery should be a last resort. However, certain "red-flag" symptoms, such as fever or loss of bladder and bowel control, may require immediate testing and intervention.

Even for people with chronic low back pain, only a small percentage may need more invasive procedures or surgery. Taking preventive steps – and selecting evidence-based care approaches – may help reduce the risks and complications associated with low back pain.

Dr. Russell Amundson is the National Senior Medical Director of UnitedHealthcare.

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR
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Cult-Like Beliefs

Editor:

In an age of increased access to information it seems that instead of increasing our IQs, we appear to be headed in the opposite direction.

When I hear people say such things as; "I'm not getting vaccinated because I'm not sick", or "I don't want a chip imbedded in my arm so Bill Gates can control me", or "The election was fraudulent", or "Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden are Pedophiles, and Trump will be inaugurated as president on March 4th." I begin to wonder where this nonsense is headed?

Will people go back to burning witches again? Of course I am exaggerating. However, one thing is certain. George Orwell was astute when he prophesied that greater media access would lead to tribalism. We have divided ourselves into discrete cult-like belief systems, with little to no tolerance for others.

—Robert S. Thomas
Castro Valley

Supports Newsom Recall

Editor:

A number of years ago, my wife and I took a vacation on the Caribbean island of Dominica. When we arrived at the local airport on our way home, we were greeted by a long line of tourists and locals waiting to check in.

While we waited, two men in blue blazers with fancy insignia patches on their breast pockets walked past the line and cut in at the front. I asked one of our line mates what the heck was going on, and he replied "They work for the government."

Fast forward to March, 2021 in California and the Covid crisis.

Federal and State health authorities agree that adults over 65 should be first in line for scarce Covid shots after health workers, police and firemen. Why? Because older people are at much, much higher risk of dying from Covid than younger people.

This was the settled view until about two weeks ago when the state teachers' unions demanded and got from Governor Newsom the right to displace seniors from their Covid vaccinations, even though teachers are younger and at much lower risk.

Because they contributed lots of money to his election campaign, and will, likely, contribute to his recall fight, teachers will be able to displace seniors from scarce covid shots leading to a guaranteed increase in senior deaths.

Should our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles be sacrificed so that Governor Newsom

can hang on to teachers' union money? I say shame on him and shame on them.

You can sign a petition to recall the Governor this weekend between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the corner of Redwood Road and Castro Valley Blvd. or download, print, sign and mail in your own petition from: RecallGavin2020.com/petition. The deadline is March 17th.

—Steve Rosenberg
Castro Valley

Opposes Newsom Recall

Editor:

Regarding "Push to Recall Newsom Gains Steam," Page One, The Forum, March 3), I'm appalled supporters of the Gavin recall have fallen into a Republican's trap. Considering Orrin Heatlie began the recall before the pandemic, you don't have to be wise to see his motives.

Newsom's sin is his dining at the French Laundry restaurant in Napa, and because California is pro-choice.

I know Gavin made a mistake going to that dinner, but haven't you made mistakes in your past? In addition, "Recallers" forget this mandate saved people's lives and prevented the extra surge in infection, sparing hospitals from being inundated with infected patients!

Finally, Elizabeth Stump's comment only tells me she's a narrow-minded person because the fact that we live in a pro-choice state, does not give us the liberty to infect others just to satisfy our selfish, egocentric convictions and disregard people's health and rights.

—Hugo Torres
Castro Valley

Swalwell Not Busy Enough?

Editor:

First, our esteemed congressman Eric Swalwell had a run for president that lasted about two cups of coffee.

Then he wrote a book about impeachment that few found any interest in.

We may never know the com-

plete truth about his relationship with Chinese spy Fang, for which Congressman Swalwell had at least a two year relationship with.

Now Congressman Swalwell has proposed a frivolous lawsuit against former President Trump over the capitol riots that has been rebuked over and over again by the liberal media.

I just have one question for our congressman: Are we, your constituents in this district, not keeping you busy enough taking care of everything we need from our alleged political leadership?

—Scott Thomasson
Castro Valley

Some Random Thoughts

Editor:

I just made the journey from Del Valle Lake and made a pit stop at the 7-11 for a newspaper. I played the Daily 3 and this lady asked me for my ID.

I replied, "what?" I'm exhausted, tired, confused as usual. I guess the mask made me look 18., but I'm 67 years old. I pulled out my driver's license and paid for the newspaper and Lotto.

I really overreacted when she asked me for my phone number. I would have been stupid if I spoke my mind. I wanted to shut out loud "invasion of privacy!"

I read Sunday's paper and realized the real world is starving. Poor people are begging for food and money. This country is spending \$2.3-billion to send a Rover to Mars. The federal government spent over \$3-billion in the early '90s for a satellite to Mars.

Half the prisoners are mentally impaired and the other half keep returning to prison. That is very stupid.

There are many individuals who want to defund law enforcement. Who will police the neighborhood, the Neighborhood Watch Club?

Finally, 20/20 vision is hindsight. History always repeats



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEALS ON WHEELS

From left, Declan, (the pup); Marisa Melo, Executive Director at Meals on Wheels of Alameda County; Peter Avery, Board President at Meals on Wheels; Colleen Roeser, Administrative Assistant; Nick Chaset, CEO at East Bay Community Energy; and Jim Shandalov, Vice President at NextEra Energy Resources.

Meals on Wheels Gets Big Boost From Renewable Energy Company

Meals on Wheels of Alameda County got a helping hand when NextEra Energy Resources donated \$10,000 to help feed seniors in need in the community, during the increased need for meals and delivery services because of the pandemic.

"We are so thankful for NextEra Energy Resources' support," said Marisa Melo of the county's Meals on Wheels program. "Throughout the pandemic, our commitment to delivering meals to seniors hasn't wavered. And, the need for services has never been greater, so this very generous gift will ensure that more one thousand meals are delivered to homebound senior neighbors."

"Being a good neighbor and supporting the communities we serve is so important to us," explained Jim Shandalov, of NextEra Energy Resources, "That includes supporting Meals on Wheels to care for our communities' most vulnerable residents."

NextEra Energy Resources is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and the sun.

Due to an increase in demand, Meals on Wheels needs the community's financial support more than ever. Gifts can be made online at www.feedingse-niors.org or mailed to Meals on Wheels of Alameda County, 1721 Broadway, No. 201, Oakland 94612.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. 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. For help, call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Consider moving beyond the usual methods to find a more creative means of handling a difficult on-the-job situation. Avoid confrontation and, instead, aim for cooperation.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Seasonal change creates a new look for the outdoors. It also inspires Taureans to redo their own environments, and this is a good week to start redoing both your home and workplace. Enjoy.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): A misunderstanding needs to be straightened out so the wrong impression isn't allowed to stand. If necessary, offer to support the use of a third party to act as an impartial arbitrator.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): A career change offering what you want in money and responsibilities could involve moving to a new location. Discuss this with family members before making a decision.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Feeling miffed over how you believe you were treated is understandable. But before you decide to "set things straight," make sure the whole thing wasn't just a misinterpretation of the facts.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Showing you care makes it easier to build trust and gain an advantage in handling a delicate situation. What you learn from this experience also will help you understand yourself better.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Planning for the future is fine, especially if you include the roles that family members may be asked to play. Don't be surprised if some hidden emotions are revealed in the process.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Making choices highlights much of the week, and you have a head start here, thanks to your ability to grasp the facts of a situation and interpret them in a clear-cut manner.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Carrying a torch can be a two-way situation: It can either keep you tied to the past or help light your way to the future. The choice, as always, has to be yours.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Your watchwords this week are: "Focus." "Focus." "Focus." Don't let yourself be distracted from what you set out to do. There'll be time later to look over other possibilities.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): A workplace opportunity might require changes you're not keen on making. Discuss the pluses and minuses with someone familiar with the situation before you make a decision.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Love and romance are strong in your aspect this week. If you've already met the right person, expect your relationship to grow. And if you're still looking, odds are you'll soon be finding it.

FILED FEBRUARY 16, 2021
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 576646

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
S & K Enterprise located at 116 Ratto Road, Alameda, CA 94502, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
(1) Stephen V Sum Jr and (2) Kathleen M Sum, 116 Ratto Road, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by a married couple. This business commenced 1/22/2021.
/s/ Stephen V Sum Jr, Kathleen M Sum
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires FEBRUARY 16, 2021
FEB 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021
329-CVF

DO YOUR PART
WEAR A MASK

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Marcus Young

Marcus Young is our Athlete of the Week. Marcus is a Freshman at UNLV William F. Harrah College of Hospitality where he studies recreation and hospitality business, focusing on the golf industry.

As a Freshman, Marcus was named to the PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) Faculty directory as a student. As a Junior at Castro Valley High School, Marcus was rated 32nd overall in the Global Junior Golf Rankings for the JGANC East Bay Junior Golf Championship in Alameda, Calif.

A left-handed player, Marcus' bag includes a Titleist 915 and Cobra Baffler 3/F drivers as well as a set of Srixon Z765 irons.



Reports: Squatter

continued from page 3
old were additionally charged with possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia. All three were taken to Santa Rita Jail.

Deputies Serve Warrant to Squatter

Monday, March 1: at 1:06 a.m., deputies arrested a 44-year-old CV man as part of a warrant issued for his capture. The man was previously charged in contempt of court and violating a court-issued order to stay away from an abandoned property on Grove Way near Gary Drive. Deputies caught up with the man at the same address and took him into custody.

Public Intoxication

Tuesday, March 2: at 4:08 p.m., a 44-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication. Deputies caught up with the man in front of a business on Center Street. The man failed his field sobriety test and was taken into custody.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INNER WHEEL CLUB

A Proud Day for Inner Wheel Club

Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro – again awarded a generous grant to provide 260 Rape Care Kits to Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR). Sweats, tee-shirts, socks, toiletries, nutrition bars, and journals were placed in back-packs and distributed by members-Sherrie Barnes, Kristi Barnes, JoAnn Cornelius, Linda Muhadevan, and JoAnne Frazier. Gift cards were also delivered to Children's Hospital Protective Services. For more info, visit iwclubofsanleandro@gmail.com

Call now to get your ADT security system starting at \$19.99/mo.*

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*Requires 36-month monitoring contract for intrusion only with a minimum charge of \$28.99 after the 12 month term. Equipment shown requires ADT Secure or higher. Early term. and installation fees apply. Taxes add'l. For full terms and pricing see below.

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We're available 24/7. See if you qualify for same-day service!

***\$19.99/month + \$100 off Installation:** Requires 36-month monitoring contract with a minimum charge of \$28.99/mo. (before instant savings) (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees from \$695.76 (before instant savings) and enrollment in Easy Pay. Service and installation charges vary depending on system configuration, equipment and services selected. Offer includes (i) \$9.00 instant savings per month applicable only towards monthly monitoring charge for the first 12 months of initial contract term (total value of \$108.00) and (ii) \$100 instant savings on installation with minimum purchase of \$449 after promotion is applied. Traditional Service Level requires landline phone. Excludes ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. Upon early termination by Customer, ADT may charge 75% of the remaining monthly service charges for the balance of the initial contract term. Limit one offer per new ADT customer contract. Not valid on purchases from ADT Authorized Dealers. Expires 4/15/2021.

Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36 month monitoring contract ranging \$45.99-\$57.99/mo with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,391.76), enrollment in ADT Easy Pay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

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DF-CD-NP-Q121



CALIF. WATER RESOURCES DEPT. PHOTO

The Department of Water Resources conducted the third manual snow survey of the season last week at Phillips Station (elevation 6,873 feet) in El Dorado County. The manual survey recorded 56 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 21 inches, about 86% of average at this location. The amount of water contained in the snowpack is a key component of the department's water supply forecast.

Dry: Look at Ways to Reduce Water Use

continued from front page

Lake Oroville is currently at 55 percent of average and Lake Shasta, California's largest surface reservoir is currently at 68 percent of average for this date.

Precipitation in the form of rain – and snowfall at higher elevations – is critical because it refills reservoirs, packs away snow for spring runoff, and helps stem the risk of wildfires, said DWR Director

Karla Nemeth. As dry conditions continue to persist, Californians should look at ways to reduce water use at home. Each individual act of increasing water efficiency can make a difference.

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