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APRIL 4 AT NIGHTFALL

PASSOVER



CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 33

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

NO. 12

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



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PHONE: (510) 614-1560

SENIORS WELCOME BACK LOVED ONES



CAREFIELD LIVING PHOTO

After more than a year of social distancing and other precautionary measures, John Gouveia and his mother Maria Gouveia hug each other during a celebration last Wednesday at Carefield Castro Valley Senior Living Community. See story on page 5

Deputies Seeking Information In Shooting, Shoplifting Cases

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Alameda County Sheriff's deputies are seeking the public's help in their investigation of two separate crimes in Castro Valley this past week.

A shooting on San Miguel

One person died of multiple gunshot wounds following a shooting at San Miguel Ave. near Somerset at about 5:15 p.m. on March 16. The victim was found in a vehicle and was transported to Eden Medical Center where the person died.

Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly told the Castro Valley Forum that details of the shooting are being withheld because the investigation is ongoing, and detec-

tives are "following up on leads," including a suspicious vehicle that fled the scene and drove toward Oakland on Interstate 580 about the same time.

"Deputies pursued the vehicle onto Highway 13 and briefly lost sight of it," Sgt. Kelly said. "The vehicle was located a short time later near Highway 24 in the Oakland Rockridge District. Deputies spotted the suspects as they fled the vehicle on foot."

Shoplifting and Arrest

On Friday, March 12, deputies arrested a suspect involved in a shoplifting incident with two others at the Safeway on Redwood Road.

Sgt. Kelly said deputies responded to a call by store security after one man and two women fled

the store with about 20 bottles of whiskey worth about \$900 dollars. The trio drove off in a 2000 gold Toyota Camry at high-speed heading west along Castro Valley Boulevard. The vehicle lost control and crashed into a light pole at the intersection of Lake Chabot Road and Somerset Avenue.

The man and two women ran off from the scene. Deputies were able to arrest one of the women. She was currently on parole for assault with a deadly weapon and was found with illegal narcotics in her purse.

Detectives are currently looking for the other two suspects.

Anyone with information about either incident is asked to call the Alameda County Sheriff's Office at 510-667-7721.

Rowell Festivities Postponed; Parade And Cookoff Reset

The Rowell Ranch Rodeo Committee has announced that this year's centennial event has been postponed "until there is greater clarity on what the current pandemic will allow."

In a press statement, rodeo officials said "the health and safety of our community, fans, sponsors, volunteers, and rodeo family remains our top priority" and that they were working closely with the county and the Hayward Area Recreation Dept. to determine how and when to plan events to celebrate the rodeo's 100th anniversary. In the meantime, ticket sales have been delayed.

"We are proud to salute the frontline workers who are helping us navigate a time like no other. From COVID-19 to wildfires, the past year has been full of many challenges, yet we remain optimistic for what lies ahead," the statement continued.

With the rodeo on hold for now, the Rotary Club of Castro Valley has announced that both this

year's Rotary-sponsored Rodeo Ranch Parade and Chili Cook-off have been rescheduled to next year because of the continuing health concerns.

"The parade, chili cook-off, and rodeo are events that define Castro Valley. As soon as this pandemic is behind us, we will all be ready to celebrate and have some great times together again," said Rotary President Gary Howard, who thanked everyone who has been working hard in hopes of making Rotary's annual parade and chili cook-off a reality in May 2021.

Howard said he wanted to inform the community and all of the outstanding participants that "they have another year to prepare their parade entries and refine their chili recipes."

He expressed his regret "that we will not be able to honor our First Responders as well as so many others, young and old, who make Castro Valley so special."

Updates will be posted at www.castrovalleyrotary.org.

MAC MEETING

Decision on CVSan Facility Held Again

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The saga of the proposed new Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) facility continued at Monday night's Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meeting, with approval of a Conditional Use Permit once again put off to a future meeting.

After more than two hours of discussion, the MAC said they needed more information to make a decision about the project – a new facility at 21195 Center Street, on the eastern part of Castro Valley Boulevard.

CVSan wants to use the parcel, formerly a Caltrans stor-

age yard, to build a two-story, 20,000-square-foot building with office space, equipment storage, a vehicle maintenance bay, and a separate building which would be used to store paint, fuel, and other chemicals.

Neighbors and the MAC have been concerned about the vehicle maintenance bay, saying that such an industrial use isn't appropriate in a centrally located area of town.

The CVSan facility has been a topic of discussion for more than two years. At this week's meeting, MAC Chair Ken Carbone again said he has concerns about noise and industrial use, as well as a perceived lack of clear commu-
see MAC on page 10

Castro Valley Weather Mar 24-28, 2021



Wednesday
Mostly Sunny
High 69° Low 48°



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High 62° Low 42°



Friday
Sunny
High 70° Low 45°



Saturday
Sunny
High 74° Low 44°



Sunday
Mostly Sunny
High 71° Low 48°

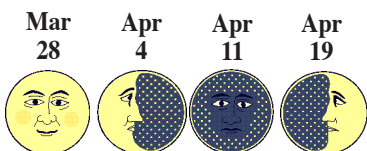
Almanac



Sun sets at 7:25 p.m. today, rises at 7:07 a.m. Thursday.

Past Week's Rain: 00.45
Season To Date: 10.09
Normal To Date: 16.21
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases



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ROTARY CLUB PHOTO

APPLAUDED FOR THEIR WORK: At left, Rotary Club member Mark Poniatowski presents a donation to Aiana Pillay, president of the Women of Color for Change Club at Castro Valley High School. Pictured at right are Club Vice Presidents Taylor Fried and Jasmine Ng.

March is for Meals on Wheels Program

For nearly 50 years, senior nutrition programs like those offered by Spectrum Community Services in Hayward have delivered more than just nutritious meals to seniors at risk of hunger and isolation. They've also delivered friendly visits, making sure seniors are safe in their own homes, where they want to be. Programs across the country celebrate the month of March to

increase awareness for Meals on Wheels and recruit the support needed to meet rising demand.

"The pandemic has introduced many of us to the newfound and harsh realities of food insecurity and social isolation – something that far too many seniors experience as their daily norm," said Ellie Hollander, president of Meals on Wheels America.

You can join in celebrating the power and importance of the Meals on Wheels program this month and always by donating to: spectrumcs.org/.

Rotary Recognizes Student Clubs For Promoting Inclusion, Diversity

The Rotary Club of Castro Valley recently applauded two school clubs for their outstanding work in promoting inclusion and diversity, and protecting students in the community.

The Black Student Union at Creekside and Canyon Middle Schools in conjunction with the African-American Alliance Network, and the Women of Color for Change were each presented with checks for \$300 to invest in their programs.

The Black Student Union has sponsored activities all year, most recently holding an outstanding virtual celebration of Black History Month.

The Women of Color for Change conducted an interview with District Attorney Nancy O'Malley on the dangers of human trafficking which was shown to CVHS students. During a virtual school-wide assembly, O'Malley described the problem and ways for students to protect themselves.

The Rotary Club has been deeply involved in its own study of racial justice for the past nine months in an effort led by Mark Poniatowski, Roland Williams, and Bernie Kempen.

"Racial justice is one of the most serious challenges of our time, and these clubs are working to make better and safer our community," said Rotary President Gary Howard. "We are happy to support them in their important work."



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Dan Allen, Heather Warren, Henry Halkyard and Kit Lanthier as they appear in the Chanticleers production of "Almost, Maine," a live streaming event running April 16 to May 9.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANTICLEERS THEATRE

Comedy Hit 'Almost, Maine' Opens Chanticleers' Season

Chanticleers Theatre in Castro Valley has chosen John Cariani's hilarious comedy "Almost, Maine" to open its 2021 Season on April 16 as an online streaming event.

Welcome to Almost, Maine, a town that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States – it's almost in Canada. And it almost doesn't exist. Because its residents never got around to getting organized. So it's just... Almost.

One cold, clear Friday night in the middle of winter, while the Northern Lights hover in the sky

above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways. It's love. But not quite.

Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. Love is lost, found, and confounded. And life for the people of Almost, Maine will never be the same.

The play premiered at the Portland Stage Company in Portland, Maine in 2004 where it broke box office records and garnered critical acclaim.

The Chanticleers production, directed by Carl Smith, Jr., fea-

tures Kit Lanthier, Heather Warren, Henry Halkyard and Dan Allen.

For tickets (\$20), go to: chanticleers.org/almost-maine/ or call 510-733-5483 (you will have to provide an email address). Tickets and instructions will be sent to your email. You can access the video any time between April 16 to May 9. Once you open the video you will have 48 hours to view it. Once viewed the video link will expire. Last year's Flex Pass holders can use their ticket credit for this show.

CVSan's New 'Green Neighbor' Award

Multi-family communities that are on the path to zero-waste qualify for Castro Valley Sanitary District's new Green Neighbor Community Recognition Program.

All multi-family communities may apply to become a certified "Green Neighbor Community" and receive an award ranging from \$160 to \$950, an ad in the Castro Valley Forum, and other publicity.

Awards are based on the number of multi-family units in a community, a calculation of garbage diversion including recycling and organics service levels, and completion of required and optional activities.

The property and its tenants will each receive part of the award, including credit for construction and demolition debris or white goods removal, mulch and compost, or biobags for indoor food scrap recycling pails.

To get started, get program details, tips on how to complete the 4R activities, and application visit: cvsan.org/GreenNeighbor. For more info and to schedule a free site assessment, call 510-537-0757 ext. 112 or contact@cvsan.org.

5-Piece Dinette Set

Perfect for a variety of dining spaces this set features vertical slat-back wood-framed chairs, with dark brown faux leather seating, that pair stylishly with the coordinating table. (Table measures 36"x36").

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SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Resisting Arrest

Sunday, March 21: at 12:09 a.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 22-year-old woman with no permanent residence on suspicion of resisting arrest. The woman was loitering near a business on Redwood Road near Norbridge Avenue. Deputies responded to a silent alarm about a trespasser and asked the woman to move along. The woman became confrontational and refused. She was taken into custody.

Public Intoxication

Thursday, March 18: at 2:15 p.m., a 40-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication. Deputies stopped the woman for questioning outside a church on Grove Way near Redwood Road and discovered her slurring speech and unable to walk in a straight line. The woman failed her field sobriety test and was taken into custody.

Couple Arrested

Wednesday, March 17: at 3:39 p.m., deputies arrested two people from CV as part of warrants for their capture. A 56-year-old man and a 52-year-old woman were arrested at a home on Almond Avenue near Grenadier Place. The man had previously been charged with assault on a family member, assault with a deadly weapon, and violating a restraining order. The woman had previously been charged with possession of stolen property and vandalism. The couple was transported to Santa Rita Jail.

Shoplifter Caught

Tuesday, March 16: at 12:04 p.m., a 52-year-old CV man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at a grocery store on Redwood Road near the Boulevard. Deputies responded to a call from the store manager about the man leaving with unpaid merchandise. The man was taken into custody.

Illegal Narcotics

Monday, March 15: at 11:55 a.m., deputies arrested a 57-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics. The man was hanging outside a motel on the Boulevard near 580 Market Place when deputies stopped him for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

Breaking and Entering

Tuesday, March 16: at 3:34 a.m., a 37-year-old woman with no permanent residence was arrested on suspicion of breaking and entering a vehicle, disturbing the peace, and resisting arrest. Deputies responded to a call about a suspicious person in a motel parking lot on the Boulevard near 580 Market Place. The woman claimed the vehicle was hers but became confrontational when she could not show proof of ownership. Deputies took the woman into custody.

CVSan SEEKS TO FILL BOARD SEAT



District officials will select a replacement for the current vacant Board seat from community candidates who formally apply with a letter of intent and a resume.

Those interested can forward their information by email to Stacy@cvsan.org or deliver them to CVSan offices at 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley. The deadline to apply is 3:00 p.m., Friday, April 2, 2021. Candidates must be a registered voter and live within the Castro Valley Sanitary District boundaries.

Per Government Code 1780, the remaining members of the Board shall have 60 days to fill the vacancy. For additional information, please contact the Clerk of the Board, Stacy Marcoux, at (510) 537-0757 ext. 106 or via email at Stacy@cvsan.org.

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			D	I	I	A	R	A	R	A
R	E	C	A	P	S	T	E	R	I	
A	C	H	S	T	Y	O	C	T	E	T
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S	A	T	C	H	A	R	L	A	T	A
A	G	E	E	T	U	D	E	A	V	I
P	A	R	S	I	S	S	Y	J	A	B

Passover's Culinary Traditions

The holiday that the most American Jews celebrate is, unquestionably, Passover. The celebration, which begins at sundown this Saturday, is also the one that brings out the most hand-me-down recipes.

The Seder dinner, held on the first night, is the principal ceremony of the festival—a time to remember ancient sagas; the deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, and also a moment to recall personal family sagas.

Special dietary laws are observed during Passover. All leavened food or any leavening ingredients are forbidden as well as grain or cereal products or any derivatives of these foods.

QUICK SPICY ROASTED CHICKEN

1 (3-pound) whole chicken
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon dried basil
1/4 teaspoon paprika

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 450°F.

Rinse chicken thoroughly inside and out under cold running water and remove all fat. Pat dry with paper towels.

Put chicken into a small baking pan. Rub with olive oil. Mix the salt, pepper, oregano, basil, paprika and cayenne pepper together and sprinkle over chicken.

Roast the chicken in the preheated oven for 20 minutes. Lower the oven to 400°F and continue roasting to a minimum internal temperature of 165°F, about 40 minutes more. Let cool 10 to 15 minutes and serve. Yields 8 servings.

PASSOVER ZUCCHINI FRITTATA

1-1/2 pounds fresh zucchini
1 chopped onion
3 tablespoons oil
5 matzos
5 eggs (or egg whites equal to 5 eggs)
1-1/4 cups grated Cheddar cheese

1 cup cottage cheese

1 teaspoon salt

Parsley for decoration

Heat oven to 350°F; grease a 13x9-inch baking pan and set aside.

Peel and grate zucchini; place in medium-size pan. Add onion and oil; saute over high heat until tender.

Break matzos and soak in warm water for 5 minutes. Squeeze dry. Mix eggs, cheeses and salt, then mix with sauteed zucchini and onions. Stir in matzos and mix until ingredients are well combined. Spread mixture evenly in prepared pan and bake for approximately 50 minutes. Makes 12 servings.

MATZO BALL SOUP

Soup:

1 (5-pound) chicken
2 large celery stalks, chopped
2 large carrots, cut in chunks
1 onion, quartered
3 sprigs parsley
Salt and pepper, to taste

Matzo Balls:

4 eggs, lightly beaten
4 tablespoons chicken fat



(from the above soup)

1 cup matzo meal
2 teaspoons salt
1/4 cup hot water
12 cups salted water

Wash the chicken with water and place in pot. Cover with water and bring to a boil over high heat, skimming off bubbling foam as it forms. Add celery, carrots, onion, herbs, salt and pepper and simmer, half-covered at lower heat, for at least 45 minutes, until the chicken comes away easily from the bone. Pour soup through strainer to get a clear broth. Let cool. When broth

has completely cooled, skim off the fat and save for the matzo balls.

In a mixing bowl, mix together 4 eggs and 4 tablespoons chicken fat. Stir in the matzo meal and salt. Add the 1/4 cup of hot water. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Form the matzo dough into balls the size of walnuts. Bring the salted water to a boil. Add the matzo balls, cover, and cook for 20 minutes.

Bring the chicken broth to a simmer. Remove matzo balls from hot water with a slotted spoon

and add to the simmering chicken broth just a few minutes before serving.

TZIMMES

9 medium carrots, peeled
4 sweet potatoes
6 ounces bite-size pitted prunes
1 cup dried apricots
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1/3 cup fresh orange juice
1/4 cup honey
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2-1/2 teaspoons orange zest
1/4 teaspoon salt

Heat oven to 350°F. Cut carrots into 2-inch pieces. Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil, and lower heat to medium; add sweet potatoes in their skins, and cook for 20 minutes, adding the carrots after 10 minutes. Drain in a colander, and set aside until cool enough to handle.

Peel sweet potatoes, and cut into 1-inch chunks. Place in a large bowl along with carrots and remaining ingredients. Mix well, and transfer to a 2-quart baking dish.

Cover with foil, and bake for 30 minutes, basting with pan juices after 15 minutes. Remove from oven, and serve immediately.

Yields 10 servings.

PASSOVER MUFFINS

1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup peanut oil
1-1/2 cups boiling water
2 cup matzo meal
4 eggs

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Mix sugar, salt, oil and water in a saucepan and bring to full boil. Pour mixture over matzo meal and mix until well blended. Beat eggs thoroughly and add. Using wet hands, form mixture into small balls and drop into ungreased muffin tins.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, lower temperature to 350°F and bake for 50 minutes until golden brown.

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CV ADULT SCHOOL

Optimal Health at Any Age

By Linette Escobar
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Centers for Disease Control give tips on healthy aging including “Move more. Sit less throughout the day.” With many of us stuck at home or even dealing with mobility issues, this can be a challenge. Castro Valley Adult & Career Education (CVACE) has classes that can keep you at optimal health right from the comfort of your home.

Do you want to combine exercise with learning? Dallis Wright, our popular pilates teacher, has created a new class called, “Stay Fit for Life.”

You’ll exercise with others but also learn tools to help boost the immune system and move see *HEALTH* on page 7



MOVE MORE, SIT LESS: Castro Valley Adult & Career Education (CVACE) has classes that can keep you at optimal health right from the comfort of your home.

Carefield CV Welcomes Back Loved Ones with Celebration

After more than a year of social distancing and other precautionary measures, Carefield Castro Valley, a local assisted living and memory care community, hosted a joyous celebration commemorating the first day of visitation from loved ones last Wednesday, March 17.

“We’ve been extremely cautious this whole year during the pandemic, making sure our residents are safe with thorough safety measures and keeping them connected with their friends and family virtually,” said Parveen Singh, Senior Executive Director.

“But nothing beats seeing your

loved ones in person. And now that our residents are 100% vaccinated, we are happy to welcome back our friends and family members - who are delighted to see their loved ones again.”

The senior living community has started in-person visitation, with friends and family reserving appointment times to ensure safety measures. With thorough disinfecting procedures in between visits, Carefield Castro Valley welcomed back family and friends with cheerful décor, a photographer to take photos of families as mementos, and a note of gratitude

and a gift from the community’s team.

“I’m so happy to see my mom after all this time,” said John Gouveia, who was one of the first family members to visit on March 17. He and his wife, Hope Jones, always brought his mother Maria her favorite coconut water and special treats before the pandemic, and were glad to finally hug her in person again.

Carefield Castro Valley is located at 19960 Santa Maria Avenue. For more information, visit CarefieldCastroValley.com or call 510-362-0679.

Canyon Middle School is ‘Distinguished’

Canyon Middle School in Castro Valley was named a “2021 California Distinguished School” last week, one of more than 100 schools to be honored under the 2021 program.

The award is based on perfor-

mance and progress on state indicators in the state’s accountability and continuous improvement system, including test scores and suspension rates.

Amid the backdrop of uncertainty and hardship facing all Cal-

ifornia schools this past year, this recognition is especially remarkable, noted Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. “We are extremely proud of Canyon Middle School students and staff for their continued progress and achievement.”

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Low Appraisals Wreak Market Havoc

Recent statistics reveal that the number of homes for sale nationally is running approximately 50% lower than the same time last year. This unprecedented situation has buyers scrambling to find homes and fighting tooth-and-nail to get a contract accepted on one of the few properties available.

In this unprecedented environment with multiple offers on almost every listing, buyers will do almost anything to land a contract. One of the most prevalent tactics is to submit offers with all contingencies removed.

Normally, a buyer's offer includes contingencies for their loan, appraisal and inspections. Since most sellers are providing full disclosures and inspection reports up front, many buyers feel comfortable removing their inspection contingency. Additionally, with lenders going to extra lengths to pre-approve their buyers, many buyers do not hesitate in removing loan contingencies as well.

The real rub comes with the appraisal contingency for properties on which a buyer needs to procure a loan. Even with properties that are fairly priced based on past closed sales, it is not uncommon to see multiple offers drive the purchase prices

of new listings to dramatic new heights.

In many cases, the offered prices are significantly above comparable sales, which in turn makes the requisite appraiser's task incredibly difficult.

While some appraisers understand the increasing market and try to justify soaring prices, others are not comfortable with the new reality and provide valuations more in line with previous sales.

This difference in appraisal styles adds confusion to the market and increases the difficulty for buyers determining how high they might go for any given property.

As an example, if a property is listed at \$500,000 but a buyer offers \$600,000, they are \$100,000 over the asking price. If they have an 80% loan approval and are putting 20% down, their loan will be \$480,000 and the down payment \$120,000. If the property only appraises at \$500,000, then the lender will only provide 80% of the appraised value: \$400,000. This means that a buyer needs to be able to provide a down payment of \$200,000 to make the deal work.

If the buyer has the extra cash, the deal can proceed. If

a buyer, eager to score a deal, writes a non-contingent offer and does not have the extra cash, the deal may collapse and the buyer could forfeit their deposit.

These are tough times indeed, and once again underscores the age-old saying, "Buyer beware."

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.

We would like to thank our clients for their trust, our vendors for their diligence and our Broker and co-workers for their continued support.

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TOP 5%
Nationwide



The Cathy Brent Team

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Mortgage Rates Continue to Inch Up

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage continued to rise last week, averaging 3.09 percent, up from 3.05 percent the previous week. A year ago at this time it averaged 3.65 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.40 percent, up from 2.38 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.79 percent, up from 2.77 percent.

"As expected, mortgage rates continued to inch up but are still hovering around three percent, keeping interested buyers in the market," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "However, residential construction has declined for two consecutive months and given the very low inventory environment, competition among potential homebuyers is a challenging reality, especially for first-time homebuyers."



Louise Lovewell presents a \$500 check from Bay East Association of Realtors to Dig Deep Farms.

Louise Lovewell Honored with 'Good Neighbor of Year Award'

Castro Valley Realtor Louise Lovewell has been honored with the "2021 Good Neighbor of the Year Award" from the members of the Bay East Association of Realtors, an organization of more than 5,500 real estate professionals.

A member of the association since 1979, Lovewell was cited for her continuing support of Building Futures for Women and Children, a shelter program for homeless women and children which she helped found in 1986, and her active involvement with other charitable organizations.

She also volunteers with Dig Deep Farms, Western Service Workers Association, Washington Elementary School and St. Leander Church.

Over the years, Lovewell's real estate team has held canned food drives in November for the Alameda County Food Bank and has assisted in many other community programs. The team includes Katie Lovewell, Elena Hupke, Nathaniel VanDyke, Cecile Law-



BAY EAST PHOTO

Louise Lovewell
"2021 Good Neighbor of the Year"

rence and Bridget Koopen. Lovewell was nominated for the award by her officer manager, Judy Rose. The agency is located at 3327 Castro Valley Boulevard.

Bay East contributed \$500 to Building Futures for Women and Children and \$500 to Dip Deep Farms in her honor.

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

1737 Grove Way	94546: \$735,000 3 BD - 1,610 SF - 1964
2242 Farley Street	94546: \$770,000 3 BD - 1,287 SF - 1947
20640 Summercrest Dr	94552: \$810,000 3 BD - 1,443 SF - 1998
18239 Reamer Road	94546: \$810,000 2 BD - 1,094 SF - 1947
18820 Lenross Court	94546: \$1,025,000 3 BD - 1,252 SF - 1954
18922 Crest Avenue	94546: \$1,140,000 2 BD - 1,229 SF - 1949
4723 Sorani Way	94546: \$1,150,000 3 BD - 1,869 SF - 1963
21561 Knoll Way	94546: \$1,150,000 3 BD - 1,757 SF - 1955
5651 Cold Water Drive	94552: \$1,172,000 4 BD - 1,669 SF - 1965
5821 Charter Oaks Dr	94552: \$1,175,000 3 BD - 1,645 SF - 1988
6354 Boone Drive	94552: \$1,430,000 3 BD - 3,058 SF - 1986
TOTAL SALES:	11

LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$735,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,140,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,430,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,033,363

San Leandro

516 Blossom Way	94577: \$432,000 3 BD - 2,000 SF - 1940
444 Caliente Drive	94578: \$450,000 2 BD - 1,060 SF - 1980
325 Bowling Green St	94577: \$649,000 2 BD - 1,035 SF - 1941
438 Castro Street	94577: \$659,000 3 BD - 1,152 SF - 1926
14967 Crosby Street	94579: \$700,000 2 BD - 1,404 SF - 1949
3948 Monterey Blvd	94578: \$750,000 3 BD - 1,076 SF - 1954
14633 Darius Way	94578: \$750,000 3 BD - 1,656 SF - 1946
15426 Brunswick Cir	94579: \$760,000 3 BD - 1,590 SF - 1960
775 Dowling Blvd	94577: \$785,000 3 BD - 1,475 SF - 1925
493 Tudor Road	94577: \$800,000 3 BD - 1,873 SF - 1948
251 Alcolade Drive	94577: \$810,000 3 BD - 1,599 SF - 2001
3451 Monogram Road	94577: \$820,000 3 BD - 1,769 SF - 2000
16575 Selby Drive	94578: \$825,000 3 BD - 1,193 SF - 1930
3766 Anza Way	94578: \$858,000 3 BD - 1,699 SF - 1954
207 Lexington Avenue	94577: \$862,500 3 BD - 1,285 SF - 1940
15075 Crosby Street	94579: \$880,000 3 BD - 1,305 SF - 1948
685 Sybil Avenue	94577: \$900,000 2 BD - 1,254 SF - 1944
2182 San Remo Court	94578: \$981,000 3 BD - 1,642 SF - 1964
13031 Neptune Drive	94577: \$1,165,000 3 BD - 1,646 SF - 1957
TOTAL SALES:	19

LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$432,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$800,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,165,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$780,868

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James, Rosalyn, Rachel & Jamie

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

● Today, March 24: School Board Meeting

The Castro Valley Board of Education will hold an open virtual board meeting today, March 24 at 7:00 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. The complete board packet and more 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

● Today, March 24: Sulphur Creek Virtual Workshop

Join a Sulphur Creek Nature Center Visioning Workshop to learn about the Master Plan process and help define a vision for the center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. today, March 24, where you can solicit your ideas for Sulphur Creek in order to inform the development of alternative concepts. A second workshop will held on May 22nd. Learn more and take an online survey at: qrco.de/sulphurcreeknaturecenter-mp

● Tuesday, March 30: Rotary Club of Castro Valley

No noon meeting scheduled for next Tuesday. Join the club for a social event at 6 p.m. More information at castrovalleyrotary.org.

● Saturday, April 10: Free Art Demonstration

Members and friends of A.R.T., Inc. are welcome to a free virtual demonstration by artist JulieCohn from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on April 10. Please email artincv@gmail.com for registration by April 8.

Have an item for the Community Calendar?
Send an email to: fredz@ebpublishing.com

New Chapter: Two County Libraries Open Their Doors

There was good news for library patrons this week as two Alameda County libraries opened their doors for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic shut them down a year ago.

On Sunday, the Dublin and Fremont Main libraries began providing limited visiting hours for people to come in and browse, use computers and study spaces, and check out books.

The county library system plans to expand limited visiting hours to Castro Valley and other branches in accordance with the Alameda County Public Health Reopening Plan.

Members can continue to place library materials on hold for no-contact pickup by appointment at libraries in Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Albany, Centerville, Newark, Niles and Union City.

"We know we cannot serve everyone online. That's why we're so happy to be able to provide in-person services once again," said Cindy Chadwick County Librarian. "While our spaces and services may look a little different, we're committed to providing our communities with the great service they know and love, while prioritizing the safety of all."

As libraries reopen, visitors must follow all county health and safety rules, including mask-wearing and social distancing. The libraries will limit occupancy inside, and will disinfect high-touch surfaces regularly.

Library officials remind patrons to stay home if you are sick or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

For more info, please visit the Alameda County Libraries website at: aclibrary.org/welcome-back.

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
MAR 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021
329-CVF

FILED MARCH 2, 2021
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 576823

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
R & J Quick Clean Center located at 2522
Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546,
in Alameda County, is hereby registered by
the following owner(s): Chris Lorge, 2511
San Carlos Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546.
This business is conducted by an individual.
This business commenced 1962.
/s/ Chris Lorge
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated
by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 2, 2021
MAR 24, 31, APR 7, 14, 2021
330-CVF

Health: CV Adult School Has Classes

continued from page 5

optimally for longevity. Dallis will cover topics including injury prevention, improving strength and mobility, improving sleep, reducing stress and building better habits.

She also teaches a popular fitness class: Pilates, Power and Posture. That class focuses on working core strength with an emphasis on standing poses and making sure you have the upper body strength to get yourself off the floor.

Do you have injuries or mobility issues? Chair yoga, gentle yoga or Tai Chi may offer you the modifications you need to keep stretching and pumping blood through your body.

They have the added benefit of helping everyone at all fitness levels to take some time in their day to de-stress.

Do you want to keep your mind sharp and make new friends? A community interest class is a great way to meet people and have fun. CVACE's Italian and Spanish teachers create a fun group atmosphere that will delight your inner armchair traveler or get ready for that future trip.

There are also a series of hands-on tech classes that will get you using your Apple products to the fullest.

This quarter's classes will be on Zoom so you can exercise and learn from the comfort of your own home. Maybe invite your friend in another city to meet you in the class! These classes and many more including career training, ESL, GED and more can be found at www.cvadult.org or call (510) 886-1000.

Linette Escobar is Marketing Chair of Castro Valley Adult & Career Education.



Dale S. Huemoeller



Megan Sinisi

RCS Announces School Appointments

Redwood Christian Schools Superintendent Dr. Al Hearne has announced two RCS appointments that will become effective June 1.

Megan Sinisi will become Principal of Redwood Christian Elementary School and Dale S. Huemoeller will take over as RCS Director of Athletics.

Sinisi joined the RCS administration in 2017 as Elementary Assistant Principal. During the past four years she has been actively involved in all aspects of the Redwood Christian campus, from recess supervision to parking

lot duty, from Chapel speaking to leading professional development.

In the last four years she has helped with the implementation of Saxon Math, Deep Roots Bible, and English Language Arts Benchmark Advance curriculums, and the adoption of standards based grading in TK-2. She is currently helping to lead the adoption of the new standardized assessment that students will take later this spring.

Coach Dale Huemoeller arrived at RCS in the fall of 1993 to teach PE and coach basketball, volleyball, soccer, and track. He is

currently Redwood Christian Elementary Principal.

Dale and his wife Kathy, are alumni parents of three RCS lifers: Jacob (class of 2011), Jay (2012), and Jordan (2015). Jordan currently teaches Elementary PE and Art.

During his 28-year career at RCS, Coach Huemoeller has worn many hats and held many positions, each which brings unique experience to his new role.

Current Athletic Director Jim Cleveland, announced earlier this month that his family will be moving to Virginia after 27 years of service at RCS.

Olivia Fryling Wins Rotary Speech Contest

Olivia Fryling, a senior at Redwood Christian High School (RCHS), won the Rotary District 5170 Area 4 Youth Speech Contest last week and will now advance to the Northern Regional Contest on April 2.

The winner from that contest advances to the District Finals on April 24 and will compete against entrants from Rotary Clubs in Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and

San Benito counties.

The theme of this year's contest was "Rotary Opens Opportunities" and was held virtually. The title of Olivia's speech was "An Homage to the Heroes Behind the Scenes."

Jonathan Burckin, a RCHS senior, also represented the Castro Valley Rotary in the contest and received a \$25 gift card for being a finalist locally, and internationally.



Olivia Fryling

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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.

Health & Fitness: Never Quit Trying to Quit

By Haley Townes
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

With the ongoing threat of COVID-19, it's more important now than ever for Californians to keep their lungs healthy. We know our lungs work better when we don't smoke or vape. And most tobacco users wish they could quit. Nearly 70 percent of smokers would like to live smokefree. But turning that wish into a reality isn't easy. According to one study, the average smoker will attempt quitting 30 times before they succeed.

If cigarette sales are any indication, the pandemic seems to be making a difficult situation that much harder. People are stuck at home. They are stressed. And they appear to be smoking more. After decades of consistent declines, cigarette sales held steady this past year.

No matter what, they should keep trying to quit.

"Most people have mixed emotions about quitting, and they often

want to wait for the perfect time to try," said Sharon Cummins, Director of the California Smokers' Helpline, a free service which has helped nearly a million Californians quit smoking over the past 30 years.

"We've found that it's best to jump in and take action. Set a quit date, make a plan and get support. Quitting, even for a few days or a week, can build confidence that it's possible, and can help you develop the skills to achieve a smokefree life."

Studies show smokers and people who vape are at increased risk of developing chronic lung conditions which puts them at a high risk for severe illness from Covid. With no end in sight for the pandemic, such findings can create a new incentive for people to quit using tobacco.

The research and the experience of the many thousands of people who have successfully quit make this clear. One time, ten times or 100 times, it's the trying that counts.

Take Steven Littles for example, from Los Angeles, who smoked his first cigarette when he was 15. He started — like so many others — because his friends did it, and it was the cool thing to do.

Looking back on his life as a smoker, Littles says he couldn't give an exact figure for the number of times he tried to quit. He does remember that most times he didn't last more than a day.

Most people who try to quit will slip up. Yet each try is meaningful. Each time a person tries to quit, they learn more about what it takes to quit for good. They take one more step toward the finish line.

One of the reasons it was so hard for Littles to quit was because he was surrounded by smokers.

"At my work, there was a culture of smoking and a group of us would take several smoke breaks together every day," said Littles.

That kind of pressure is especially problematic for smokers during the pandemic.

According to a recent study, smokers experience worse symp-

toms after getting COVID-19. Another study found that those who smoke were 2.4 times more likely to get admitted to an intensive care unit, need mechanical ventilation, or die compared to those who did not smoke.

However, once a smoker puts their plan into action and throws out the cigarettes or vapes, it's important to remember that the going will be tough. Withdrawal is common.

Despite the difficulty and all the times he tried and failed, Littles sees a message of hope in his story. As he says, "To those who want to quit, keep trying. I know it's hard but you can do it. I did it, and I used to smoke a pack a day."

There is a free resource to help Californians quit smoking or vaping. A supportive voice, tips to deal with triggers or creating a plan of action can be found at nobutts.org.

Haley Townes is an Account Associate with WeAreRALLY.com in Los Angeles, an issue-driven communications firm.

ADOPT-A-PET



Dottie is a friendly, 7 years young girl. Dottie is super social, and is an absolute belly rub QUEEN who walks well on leash and fancies herself a lap dog. Her favorite pastime is spending time with her favorite people. To adopt, please call Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293 - 7200.



Tiger is a male bunny who is microchipped, neutered, vaccinated, and ready to go home! He has been in foster for several weeks and is hoping to find his forever home soon. He enjoys snacking on fresh greens and exploring his room. To adopt call Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293 - 7200.

Big Drop in State Covid Infection Rates

Rates of Covid infection in California have dropped dramatically to fewer than 7 cases per 100,000 residents as of Sunday.

California loosened its tier guidelines on Tuesday, allowing more counties to start opening up, including three in the Bay Area — San Francisco, Marin and Santa Clara. The earliest Alameda County could move into the less restrict tier would be on March 31.

Governor Gavin Newsom an-

nounced on Monday that the state has administered 15 million vaccines to date.

The governor said the state will likely make shots available to anyone who wants one by the end of next month. Vaccines have been limited based on age and risk factors.

The State Health Dept. reported 1,823 New Cases and 51 more deaths on Tuesday.

The 7-day rate of positive tests

in California is 1.7%, which is a 0.2% decrease from a week ago. There have been 52,525,010 Covid tests administered in California so far.

The CDC on Friday relaxed its guidelines on distancing between students' desks in the classroom from 6 feet to 3 feet. California currently recommends that desks be kept 6 feet apart, but health officials say updated guidelines will be coming out soon.

BY THE NUMBERS

Castro Valley
Confirmed Cases = 2,393

Alameda County
Vaccinations = 682,919
Confirmed Cases = 82,593
Deaths = 1,369

California
Vaccinations = 14,819,755
Confirmed Cases = 3,622,686
Deaths = 56,545
as of March 22, 2021

MAC: Other Discussions

continued from front page

nication between CVSan and the MAC.

"I don't want to be worried about getting ignored in the future," said Carbone

Specifically, the MAC called for CVSan to clearly define the term "basic maintenance," ensure that truck maintenance will occur off-site, remove plans for a car wash rack, provide clarification about on-site welding, and state the number of vehicle bays and carports planned.

MAC Member Chuck Moore said that he was worried that ap-

proving an industrial use would set a precedent and that East Bay Municipal Utility District or other operators might try to move onto Castro Valley Boulevard with industrial uses.

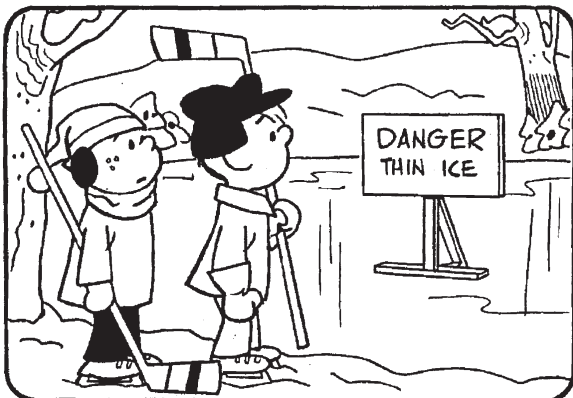
"I can't think of another community with this type of service on a main boulevard," said Moore.

Also at Monday night's meeting, the MAC approved the extension of a permit that allows an existing day care facility for up to 70 kids at 20001 Carson Lane and gave a one year extension to allow continued operation of a wireless cell phone tower at 3542 Quail Avenue.

TIME OUT FOR FUN AND GAMES

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF

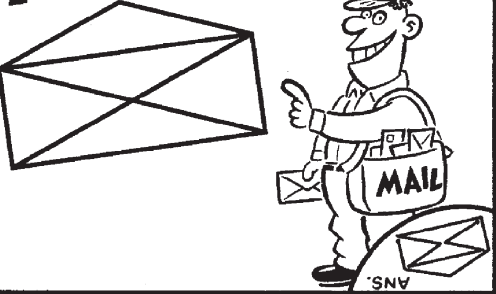


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Stick is shorter. 3. Skates are gone. 4. Mitten is shorter. 5. Skates are different. 6. Cracks in ice are added.

PUZZLE CARD



PUZZLE CARD: Postman Pete challenges you to draw the above envelope using one continuous line that never crosses itself at any point.

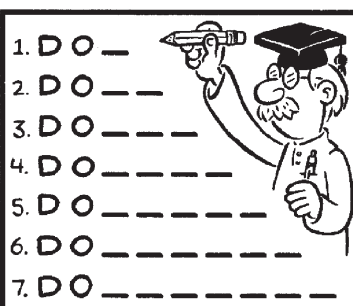
TWO QUICKIES! (1) The gym teacher wanted the boys and girls to line up as follows: Behind each boy would be a girl and behind each girl would be a boy. What is the smallest number of children needed to do this? (2) What two-digit number is equal to twice the product of its digits?
Answers: (1) Two. One girl and one boy standing back to back. (2) 36. The product of its digits (3 times 6) is 18. Two times 18 equals 36.

ANIMAL PAIRS: In the diagram at right we have 14 words that we want you to pair to form seven two-syllable words of varying lengths. The words on the left provide the first syllable and the ones on the right provide the second syllable.

A good way to start is to take the top word at the left, find a compatible word at the right and draw a line connecting the two. Move to the second word, etc.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



DO-AS-I-DO STEPWORDS

PROFESSOR Wordsworth has a word test for you. He wants you to find seven progressively longer words all beginning with DO (see left).

The following definitions should help you pass this quiz:

1. A four-legged pet.
2. Gloomy.
3. Heads, in slang.
4. Golf course feature.
5. Type of tree.
6. Game played with 28 blocks.
7. Places for boats.

Time to beat: 5 minutes.

Answers: 1. Dog. 2. Dour. 3. Domes. 4. Dogleg. 5. Dogwood. 6. Dominoes. 7. Dockyards.

CAT | MAN
BIRD | SKIN
DOG | CALL
FISH | FLY
BEAR | TROT
DEER | EYE
FROG | SHOT

Illustrated by David Coulson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM



Comparing School Openings

Editor:

I must disagree with Martin Wilmington's conclusions from his letter ("School Openings: 'Florida Got it Right'," Letters March 17).

His premise was that even though the vast majority of Florida's schools have been open for in-person instruction and California's have not, Florida has had fewer Covid cases and deaths in the under 17 demographic compared to California.

If you want to compare the two states' Covid case and death rates for children under 17, you need to take into account that California has more than twice as many children as does Florida (actually 2.32-times more as of 2019-2020 data).

As of 2019-2020, Florida's population of under 17-year-olds was 3,987,907 children while California's was 9,263,709 for the same period.

Taking population into account, Florida experienced 54.6 Covid cases per 1000 under 17-year-olds, while California had only 39 cases per 1000 of that age group. Similarly, Florida has had 2.5 deaths per million for under 17-year-olds, compared to California's 1.5 per million.

These statistics show that even though California has over twice the population of school-age children compared to Florida, it had far fewer cases and deaths per capita.

Keeping California's schools closed may have led to fewer deaths here compared to Florida, not the other way around. One can't say that Florida "got it right" by reopening schools to in-person instruction, especially considering that its 17-year-old and under case and death rate is higher than California's.

One thing we have all learned in the past year of suffering, there is no simple solution to keeping Covid's human toll as low as possible. While it is true that the hospitalization and death rate is much lower in school age children, is that a good reason to put them at risk?

—Darryl Ray, Castro Valley

'The Homeless Epidemic'

Editor:

I just don't understand what we are doing to fix the homeless epidemic in California. I truly do not see much being done about it.

The trash is building up on our streets and a large percentage of them are mentally/physically incompetent to make good decisions or even function in the real world.

One solution could be to use the *billion* dollars our governor keeps talking about for housing and mental/medical service and provide a safe and humane facility to house them. I wrote to the governor about this and, of course, got no answer. He seems to be too busy worrying about his hairdo and \$1,000 suits.

We have thousands of acres of land in this great state where we can build a facility to house and help the homeless. It would have medical/mental facilities, manufacturing and farming business as well as. The people that are capable would work at this facility that is self-stable. There would not be fences or armed security, so it's not a prison. If you don't want to work there will be a place for them as well at this facility.

During their stay they would be evaluated and if it is deemed that they are at a functioning level they would have the option to leave the facility. They would be given a Cal debit card and housing and counseling on the outside as well as a job.

The state should partner with companies to buy the product they produce and make. If they go back to being homeless after all the free assistance they receive, they will be found and brought back to the facility and the evaluation process would start all over. Some people may never leave the facility, but they will at least have a humane safe community to live and be productive. If someone has a better idea for this pandemic please let us know.

—Michael Croghan, Castro Valley

Farm Fresh to You – a Good Offer

Editor:

The cards sent out by farmfreshtoyou.com are a good offer. Farmer delivers a box of organically grown vegetables. You choose how often you want them.

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—Lois Gogin, 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. 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.

East Bay's Burned Parks Now in Recovery

By Ned MacKay
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

As the spring wildflower season begins, there's some good news on the fire recovery front. The SCU Lightning Complex Fire of 2020 burned almost 400,000 acres within five regional parks: Mission Peak, Morgan Territory, Ohlone Wilderness, Round Valley and Sunol Wilderness. It burned more than four million acres in total. All five parks have now reopened.

Destructive though it was, firefighting agencies have determined that the SCU fire was "best case" in terms of intensity.

Although the fire was high-intensity in some locations, it burned less hot in many. This allowed wildlife time to burrow or escape to safer areas, and let seedlings survive for future regrowth.

Grazing practices and properly managed fire roads likely reduced the intensity of the SCU fire in many areas. In some places it burned itself out at fire roads or slowed down in grazed areas.

If winter rain totals are adequate, grasslands may experience an exceptional wildflower bloom. Some plants associated with chaparral actually require fire or smoke to germinate. They only bloom briefly, then disappear until the next fire. District staff will look for and record these species this year.

We may see more animal activity, too. Animals that took refuge in areas not affected by the fires will likely venture out in search of new homes.

The park district has established a Post Fire Monitoring Task Force within its Stewardship Department to track the recovery of vegetation and wildlife, and to help coordinate management needs for the burned areas.

The burned area has many protected species such as golden eagles, which nest high up in the trees. It's not known whether they will re-nest in the area if the fire destroyed their original nests.

Ohlone Wilderness

If you are willing to put in the work, it's usually one of the best places in the regional parks for wildflower displays.

The Ohlone Wilderness Trail goes for 30 miles or so, connecting Del Valle, Ohlone, Sunol and Mission Peak regional parklands in southern Alameda County.

In the springtime, wildflowers abound along the way. But you don't have to hike the entire trail.

Start at the Lichen Bark picnic area at Del Valle Regional Park south of Livermore. From there it's a two-mile climb up the Sailor Camp Trail and Ohlone Wilderness Trail to Rocky Ridge, whose rocky soil stimulates wildflower growth. Not to mention the views, which are spectacular. After lunch it's downhill almost all the way back to Lichen Bark.

Hiking the trail requires a permit. It costs \$2 and is good for a year. Permits can be obtained at the Del Valle and Sunol entrance kiosks, when staff is present.

New Visitor Center

While you are at Del Valle, check out the newly redesigned Rocky Ridge Visitor Center, which is near the Lichen Bark picnic area. It's the district's first bilingual visitor center (English and Spanish), featuring interactive and state-of-the-art exhibits telling the story of Del Valle's cultural and natural history.

The center will open as soon as the status of the COVID-19 pandemic permits.

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

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): With change dominant this week, don't be surprised to find new facts emerging that could put another slant on a situation and offer you another choice. Think it through before you decide.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): There could be some lingering problems from a previous matter that involved a decision you felt you had to make. Resolve the situation with your strong Taurean no-nonsense approach.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): The Gemini's carefully made plans could be undone by someone's unexpected decision. Getting the full story behind that surprise move can help you decide how to deal with the matter.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Recently uncovered information might put a new light on a situation you thought had been resolved. Keep an open mind about possible changes that you might have to consider.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): With a potential revision of an old agreement, you can't beat the Big Cat for knowing how to sharpen a "clause" to the best advantage. Someone close could have the news you've been waiting for.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Certain issues in the workplace could put you in the middle of a dispute you'd rather not deal with. Express your honest feelings before the pressure to take sides builds up.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): You might feel uneasy disagreeing with someone you've been close to. But your relationship should be able to withstand and even thrive when confronted with your true feelings.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A romantic situation seems to be creating more confusion than you can handle. If so, own up to your feelings. The sooner you do, the better your chances are for working things out.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): With change directing the Archer's aim, consider a second look at your plans and see where they might benefit from a revision. A workplace matter is close to a resolution.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): New contacts help you learn some important information about upcoming developments. The week calls for the Sea Goat to be more flexible than usual in a number of matters.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): With both change and uncertainty in your aspect, you might feel less confident in a previous decision. That's OK. Check it out and see where it could be modified, if necessary.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Old relationships that seemed to be sinking are buoyant again, and new relationships are benefiting from Cupid's loving care. This could be a good time to make a major move.

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Senior Softball Day League Schedules and Covid Rules

The HARD-sponsored Senior Softball Day League will begin practices in early April with the 50's league starting practice on April 1 and play on April 15 at Oliver Park in Hayward.

The 60's and 70's divisions will tentatively start play on June 1 (this could be moved up). 60's will play on Tuesdays, 70's on Wednesdays. Games start at 9:30 a.m.

The Co-ed league has three divisions- 50's, 60's and 70's. Anyone interested in joining the league should go to hardseniorsoftball.com, where they'll find directions on how to sign up.

The league has published these guidelines which must be followed



regarding the upcoming season:

- All players will wear masks while at the fields, with the exception of when they are playing in the field defensively, batting or running the bases.

- No Spectators are allowed at the games.

• No more than three players are permitted in the dugout at a time. Others will be socially-distanced in the bleachers or in folding chairs.

• Players must leave the fields in a timely manner when the game ends.

The league will provide sanitizing equipment.

Players can only participate in one division this season. (It is anticipated that this current restriction will be lifted prior to the start of 60's and 70's, but there are no guarantees).

If a player tests positive for Covid, that player must notify his manager right away, and the manager must immediately notify the commissioner. The league will be suspended for a minimum of 14 days and the player must obtain two negative tests prior to his/her returning to play.

If you have any questions email me at farias23718@comcast.net.

—Joe Farias

Softball Umpires Sought

The Hayward Softball Umpires Association is recruiting year-round umpires for paid work at Hayward Area Rec Dept. recreation softball games – men's,

women's and co-ed slow-pitch. The association provides training for all age groups. For more info, call the Education Director at 510-586-8592 between 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Cameron Calvillo

Cameron Calvillo is our Athlete of the Week. This Senior at Castro Valley High School is a triple-threat (Football, Baseball, Basketball) but had to quit football where he was the starting QB because baseball and football have the same season this year. Currently, Cameron is a shortstop and right-handed pitcher on the Boys Varsity Baseball team. The team won their first game of the season 7-6 against Bishop O'Dowd. His coach J. Connor Buestad says Cameron gets good grades and is very personable. In addition to playing for the Trojans, Cameron played with the Headfirst Baseball Bercovich 35 travel team. His current scouting report says Cameron is "fun to watch," with "explosive bat speed," and "a talented prospect who has what it takes to play at a very high level."

HAVE YOU FILED?

Deadline For Taxes Extended

Californians will have an extra month to prepare their federal and state tax returns.

Both the Internal Revenue Service and California's Franchise Tax Board (FTB) have delayed the traditional tax filing deadline from Thursday, April 15 to Monday, May 17.

Taxpayers do not need to claim any special treatment or call either tax agency to qualify for this postponement and both agencies will waive any interest and late payment penalties that would otherwise apply if the returns are filed and the payments are made by May 17.

The move provides breathing room for taxpayers who have been coping with the extra strain of the coronavirus epidemic.

The postponement only applies to individual taxpayers, and it does not apply to estimated tax payments, which are still due on April 15.

During this public health emergency, the FTB and IRS continue to process tax returns, issue refunds, and provide phone and live chat service to taxpayers needing assistance.

If possible, taxpayers should continue to file tax returns as soon as possible to get fast refunds and to claim any applicable credits, including the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and the Young Child Tax Credit.

Debt Collection Suspensions

California's FTB has temporarily suspended the collection activities of its income tax refund offset program until July 31, due to the ongoing public health emergency.

This means state tax refunds will not be reduced to offset taxpayer debts for parking citations, tolls, and various fines, in keeping with Gov. Gavin Newsom's March 12 executive order.

Debts for child support are the exception and will continue to be collected.

Resources are available for taxpayers experiencing a financial hardship. For more information, visit: ftb.ca.gov/covid-19/help-with-covid-19.

WIN FREE SOLID WASTE SERVICES FOR A YEAR!



Please take our five minute outreach survey by the end of March to help us determine community appetite for our outreach materials and allow us to identify areas where cost savings might be achieved.

Complete the survey and be entered into a drawing to win one year of solid waste services provided by Alameda County Industries. Get complete contest rules and take the survey at cvsan.org/survey. Your participation and opinions are important, and your responses are confidential. Thank you in advance for your participation. Your survey answers will help us better serve you and the rest of the community.

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HARD Picnic Table Rentals

The Hayward Area Recreation Dept. began registering park picnic rentals at eight sites last week, including Palomares Park, Alden E. Oliver Park, Birchfield Park, Cannery Park, Greenwood Park, San Felipe Park, San Lorenzo Park and Weekes Park.

Only those with rental permits

will be allowed to use the picnic tables. Rentals are for two hours. Up to three households may attend at the same time. Masks are required when not eating, and all County and State guidelines will be enforced.

Rentals are available at haywardRec.org/Register.

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