FROM 1 - 7 P.M. THIS SATURDAY AT THE HAYWARD ANIMAL SHELTER

ADOPTION PTBULLS IN PAJAMAS



CASTRO VALLEY FORUM A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 29

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017

NO.9

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



The Road Ahead Fairmont Road will be getting an estimated \$2 million makeover Page 3

LIVING



It's Bean a While Rich in fiber and protein but most of all in flavor. Try these bean recipes Page 5

SENIORS



Medigap Policies Tips to help you choose an appropriate Medicare supplemental policy Page 7

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| PHONE: (510) 537-1792 |

MAC MEETING Dispute Over Pot Goes On

By Amy Sylvestri CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) continues to push back against the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' proposal to locate more medical marijuana dispensaries in the county.

The Supervisors are considering allowing up to five dispensaries in unincorporated areas and up to three in the "west county," which includes Castro Valley.

operating in Ashland and Cherryland.

Previously, MAC members gave their recommendations under a certain amount of duress, concerned that if they rejected the proposal outright, the supervisors could simply ignore them and do what they wanted, including plac-Eden area.

But at Monday's meeting, the grass in areas that were accessible. MAC, by unanimous vote, made from pot sales would go to the banks. sheriff's office to offset the cost of

PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDER

That includes the two currently Work crews on Monday were shoring up the bank of San Leandro Creek with heavy boulders at the entrance to Redwood Canyon Golf Course. The creek, swollen by mandatory releases from a bank-full upper reservoir, recently flooded all 18 holes of the golf course.

Golf Course Restoration

at Redwood Canyon Golf Course swamped the access road for a the front 9. ing additional dispensaries in the Monday removing fallen trees, short time following record rainclearing away debris and mowing falls that began in January.

Some parts of the golf course, allowed at sales sites, and that all upper reservoir which sent San or damaged and will need repairs. tax money the county receives Leandro Creek gushing over its

see MAC on page 8 through much of the golf course, open to walkers, but that the flood- days a week.

Maintenance crews were out flooded all 18 holes and even ing was much more detrimental to

At least five of the 20 bridges

that allow golfers to cross the creek Redwood Canyon General

Stewart told the Forum that a counter proposal that there be which sits between two reservoirs, have been destroyed and will have be back in operation. But he said a limit of four total dispensaries, remain underwater – the aftermath to be replaced by temporary struc- he was hopeful that the back 9 that no ingestion of cannabis be of unavoidable releases from the tures. Many others were displaced holes would be open by the end of Owner Craig Semmelmeyer told next week.

Manager Jake Stewart said the Restaurant is operating daily, and Grocery about opening a store at The creek, which meanders back 9 holes are close to being the driving range is open seven the site.

until all the damage could be assessed, it wasn't possible to predict when the entire golf course would

Meantime,

ers advocated razing the building and using the space as a public gathering spot for concerts and other community activities. But the county figures it might

cost up to \$800,000 just to get the building torn down and the large basement filled in. An early contender for the spot

is Main Street Property Services. the MAC that he is talks with a the Meadows company called Alameda Natural

see SITE on page 2

CV Rotary's Chili Cook-Off Returns to Friday Night

has moved its signature Chili Vanderbilt said the Rotary Club the Boulevard Saturday morning, Cook-Off from Saturday after- is recruiting its annual slate of or both. noon back to Friday evening at the some 25 chili cookers from among Rowell Ranch Rodeo Grounds, so Castro Valley Area businesses and cal Heroes, Service Above Self. this year's event will be held on citizens. And new entrants are en-May 12th from 5 to 8 p.m.

Saturday last year in response to Cook-Off. continuing suggestions that a Saturday event would attract more both the Cook-Off and the annu- at www.rowellranchrodeoparade. people," said Randy Vanderbilt, al Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade, com. Chili Cooking Team registrathe event's chairman. "But, the which will step-off at 10 a.m. on opposite happened. Fewer people found the time on Saturday afternoon to get out to the Rodeo local organizations to raise their grounds. And we can't use the lo- community profiles by entering has run the companion Chili Cookcation Saturday evening. So, the the annual chili competition Fri- Off for close to 30 years.

couraged to put their secret chili and sign-up to march with that per-We moved the Cook-Off to recipes to the test at the popular son or group in the parade," Nott

Registration is now open for Saturday, May 13.

Parade Chair Bill Nott urged

The Castro Valley Rotary Club best move is back to Friday night." day evening or marching down

This year's parade theme is "Lo-"Find a local hero to celebrate

said. Registration for the parade is tion is at www.cvchilicookoff.com.

The Rotary Club has organized and sponsored the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade since the 1970s, and



2014 FILE PHOTO

CV Rotary's annual Chili Cook-Off will return to its former Friday evening time slot this year after last year's trial run on Saturday afternoon following the Rowell Ranch Parade.

'Natural Grocery Proposed

DAUGHTREY SITE

By Amy Sylvestri CASTRO VÁLLEY FORUM

The fate of the former Daughtrey's building has been discussed for decades, but last week marked the start of a new era for the development, according to Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley.

"As far as I'm concerned at this point in time, we are resetting the odometer," said Miley. "It's a clean slate."

Last Wednesday, the Municipal Advisory Council held a special meeting to discuss the county's plan to send out "Requests for Interest" or RFIs from developers.

As in previous meetings on the

Daughtrey property, many speak-





PHOTO BY AUDREY MANZANO

Grade-In: Castro Valley Teachers Demonstrate for Higher Salaries

About 50 teachers from schools in the Castro Valley Unified School District gathered at Peet's Coffee and inside the Safeway Starbucks for a "Grade-In" last Wednesday to demonstrate what they do every day after school then they are no longer getting paid for that day's work. Above, school board member Gary Howard listened to the concerns of high school teachers Clare LePell (center) and Colleen Mullany. The district has agreed to raise teachers' salaries by two percent, but the teachers are fighting for three percent, to be on par with surrounding districts.

-Haley Booth & Audrey Manzano, CVHS journalism students

Site: Natural Grocery Store is Proposed

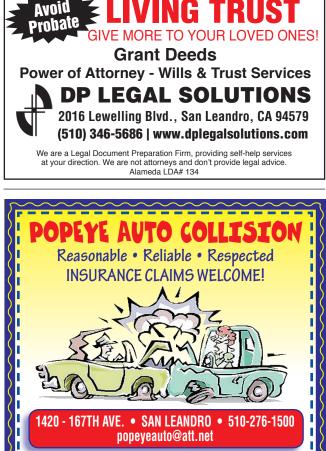
continued from front page

"We work with misunderstood properties," said Semmelmeyer. "We are super excited about this opportunity.

Semmelmeyer says Alameda Natural Grocery envisions open produce stalls, cafe seating, and

ly has a location in Alameda, complete with roof-top bee hives. Whoever winds up as the tenant,

the county says that the Daughtrey building won't remain empty for much longer because the county pledges to be more proactive this time around, according to Eileen using the basement for storage. Dalton, director of economic and The organic grocery store current- civic development.



"We don't want a dead building sitting for another two years," Dalton said.

And the timeline for the project will be progressing more rapidly than in the past.

The RFIs will be issued today and interested developers will be able to tour the site on March 8. All responses are due by March 24. The developers will then be interviewed during the spring and a tentative selection is expected in mid-June.

Since Daughtrey's department store closed its doors 25 years ago, the building at 3295 Castro Valley Boulevard has largely sat empty.

In 2011, the county bought the building for \$2.7 million with plans for commercial development. But when the state dissolved all redevelopment agencies, the approval of any action meant miles of red tape and lengthy delays.

In February of 2016, developer David Greensfelder was selected to find a tenant for the building, but last November, the MAC soundly rejected Greensfelder's proposal so he withdrew from the project.

So now, it's time for the MAC and the county to find a anoth developer and another tenant.

Even before that happens, expect to see some activity near the Daughtrey building beginning later this month.

Construction on a shared parking lot that will run behind the building, past the Ice Creamery and other shops to Wilbeam Ave. is set to begin soon, as is construction on a landscaped pedestrian walkway on the east end of the Daughtrey property.



Recent storms have left the pavement on Fairmont Drive rutted and in need of repair.

Two Million Dollar Makeover: Fairmont Dr. to be Resurfaced

By Amy Sylvestri CASTRO VÁLLEY FORUM

ting an estimated \$2 million makeover this summer.

The road is currently a patchwork of previous minor repairs March and construction is exand has developed potholes following the recent storms.

Hope Hospice Class on End Of Life Issues

For those facing the loss of a loved one, Hope Hospice presents, Facing End-of-Life Issues and Handling Grief and Loss, from 9:45 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 11.

During this class, caregivers will receive information about what to expect in the final days, transitioning to palliative (comfort) care, hospice services and making funeral arrangements.

Additionally, the complexities of grief and loss will be examined and participants will be provided with coping strategies for themselves and their families.

Anyone engaged in the role of family caregiver or expecting to soon become a caregiver is invited to attend these classes. Light refreshments will be served.

Classes are held at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin in the 2nd floor conference room. Register online at HopeHospice. com or contact Debbie Emerson at debbiee@hopehospice.com.

These classes are available at no cost to all community members; however, donations to Hope Hospice are greatly appreciated.

FU

Works Agency is currently ac- will be installed. cepting bids for contractors to Valley.

The bids will be accepted in traffic during construction. the public works agency.

the asphalt base repaired, and re- subcontractors.

The Alameda County Public inforcing material under the road

Then the asphalt will be resur-The stretch of Fairmont Road resurface a 1.8 mile segment of faced and pressed, any manholes that runs between I-580 and over Fairmont Drive from Foothill will be adjusted to the new road the hill to Lake Chabot will be get-Blvd. to Lake Chabot Road in the surface, and the whole road will unincorporated area next to Castro be re-striped. The price tag also includes staffing flag men to guide

For this project (and any project pected to begin in June and last over \$100,000), the county has through the summer, according to a mandatory requirement for the

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Drug Possession

Saturday, February 25: at 1:00 a.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a the car when deputies stopped 36-year-old man from Castro Vallev on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance. The man Road near Castro Valley Boulevard when deputies stopped him bers. for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

Squatter Arrested

a.m., a 25-year-old woman with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of breaking in and illegally squatting a residence on Wilbeam Avenue near the Castro were called in to investigate after and taken into custody. an anonymous tip. The woman was also found with illegal drug paraphernalia in her possession. She was taken into custody.

Child Endangerment

Castro Valley on suspicion of drivhol and child endangerment. The was taken into custody.

woman was driving down Castro her near Anita Avenue for a traffic field sobriety test and was taken picked up by other family mem-

Trespassers Will Be Caught Saturday, February 25: at 4:22

p.m., a 37-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested Saturday, February 25: at 11:43 on suspicion of trespassing and destroying private property at an Street near Grove Way. Deputies were called after an anonymous

Public Intoxication

Thursday, February 23: at 5:35 p.m., deputies arrested a 47-yearold man with no permanent address on suspicion of public in-Saturday, February 25: at 1:49 toxication. The man was hanging Wednesday, February 22: at 12:45 a.m., deputies pulled over and ar- around a grocery store on Som- p.m., deputies arrested a 42-yearrested a 42-year-old woman from erset Avenue when deputies approached him for questioning. The address on suspicion of public ing under the influence of alco- man failed a field sobriety test and intoxication. The woman was



Narcotics Bust

Valley Boulevard with minors in Thursday, February 23: at 1:38 p.m., a 40-year-old man from Hayward was arrested on suspicion violation. The woman failed her of possession of illegal narcotics and drug paraphernalia. Deputies was traveling on Lake Chabot into custody. The passengers were stopped the man for questioning outside a gas station on the corner of San Carlos Avenue and Stanton Avenue. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Wanted and Unwanted

Wednesday, February 22: at 11:21 p.m., an emergency tip about a suspicious person in the neighborapartment complex on Center hood sent deputies to a home on Farley Street near Dolores Street. There they arrested a 33-year-old tip reported a suspicious person in man from Castro Valley on sus-Valley BART station. Deputies the quad. The man was handcuffed picion of violating a court-issued restraining order. The man also had an active warrant issued for his capture. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$20,000 in bail.

Over the Limit

old woman with no permanent see REPORTS on page 8



Community Calendar

The Week Ahead

• Thursday, March 2: Parkinson's Support Group

Ysela Jimenez of the county's Senior Injury Program will speak on emergency preparedness, at the next meeting of the San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the San Lorenzo Community Church, 945 Paseo Grande. For info, call Lona White at 510-276-3119.

• Friday, March 3: Eden Area Village Meeting

Eden Area Village is developing a non-profit membership based neighborhood "Village" that will help people in the Castro Valley, Hayward, and the San Lorenzo areas stay in their homes as they age. Public outreach meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at Hayward City Hall. Next meeting is this Friday, March 3.

• Saturday, March 4: Pitbull Adoption Party

SantaCon will sponsor a "Pitbulls in Pajamas" Adoption Party from 1 to 7 p.m. this Saturday, March 4 at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court, with adoption fees waived for all pitbulls and pitbull mixes. Cats, dogs, kittens, puppies and bunnies will also be available for adoption. For more information, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200 or visit www.facebook.com/haywardanimalshelter

• Saturday, March 4: Community Garden Open House

See what your neighbors are growing at Paradise Community Garden, 20095 Mission Blvd. in Hayward this Saturday at an open house from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and a seminar "Beekeeping in the Eden Area" at 11 a.m. by Joe's Honey of Cherryland. Local Beekeepers will talk about raising bees and importance of our pollinators. This free event is sponsored by the Eden Area Food Alliance and Eden Urban Farms. Local honey, native plants, and handmade pottery will be for sale. For more information, call Rick Hatcher 510-909-4077.

• Saturday, March 4: Creative Writing Workshop

Register now for the 2017 Creative Writing Workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday, at the Castro Valley Library. Middle and high school students should sign up by today, March 1, at www.cvef.org/ writing_workshop. Lessons in fiction, non-fiction and poetry by local writers Amy Franklin-Willis, and Allie and Anne Parris. A panel discussion on how to get published will be conducted during the lunch session. Sponsored by CV Educational Foundation, http://www.cvef.org/

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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Submissions to The Forum

To submit Calendar listings or news stories for possible publication, send information by the prior Friday in an email, or attach a document with photos to: fredz@ebpublishing.com, or fax information to 510-814-9691.

REGULAR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

• Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meets on landuse issues on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, and holds general purpose meetings on most 3rd Mondays. Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library Chabot Room, 3600 Norbridge Avenue.

• Castro Valley School Board usually meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4400 Alma Ave.

• Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the District Headquarters, 21040 Marshall St.

• Alameda County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers at the County Administration Bldg., 1221 Oak St. in Oakland.

• Saturday, March 4: Spring Flea Market

The Aitken Senior Center at 17800 Redwood Road will hold its annual Big Spring Flea Market from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. this Saturday. Everyone is invited to come to this free event where more than 55 vendors will be selling one-of-a-kind items and unique treasures. A snack bar and bake sale will also be available. The event is rain or shine and takes place indoors. For more information, please call 510-881-6738.

• Sunday, March 5: Spanish Tours at McConaghy House

Take a tour in Spanish of the historic McConaghy House, 18701 Hesperian Blvd. in Hayward this Sunday. \$5 General Admission, \$3 Seniors and Students, Free for HAHS Members. Spanish tours of Mc-Conaghy House will now be offered on a quarterly basis. Please visit haywardareahistory.org/calendar for upcoming dates.

• Sunday, March 5: Meet a Muslim at the Library

Moina Shaiq, a Muslim, a mother of four, and an active member of the Fremont community, invites you to the Castro Valley Library this Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. to learn about her family and her faith. Moina will share her thoughts on many common questions: Are women oppressed in Islam? How does Islam view other religions? What is Sharia law? What is the Islamic view of terrorism? Come hear her insights and bring your own questions. No tickets are required for this free event.

• Tuesday, March 7: Learn About Toastmasters

Get a taste of the Castro Valley Toastmasters program at a free International speech and table topics contest from 7 to 8:30 p.m. March 7 at 21966 Dolores St. in Castro Valley. For more information, call 510-566-9761 or visit 961.toastmastersclubs.org/

• Tuesday, March 7: Diabetes Support Group

A discussion of medications by a Registered Pharmacist will be presented at the next meeting of the Community Diabetes Support Group at 5 p.m. on March 7 at the San Leandro Surgery Center, 15035 East 14 St. Meetings are free and open to the public.

• Tuesday, March 7: Bake Your Own Hamentash!

Getting ready for the Holiday of Purim? Join the Chabad Jewish Center at 20912-B Redwood Road in Castro Valley for the Kids Hamentashen Bake, with games, arts and crafts, music and food, all for \$10, at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7. RSVP required at chanie@jewishcastrovalley.org



• Thursday, March 9: Toddler Time – Art is Education

Celebrate the creativity of the little ones around you by joining us for stories and crafts from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. March 9 at the HAHS Museum, 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward. Free with Museum Admission. For more information, visit www.haywardareahistory.org

• Friday, March 10: Meet Your Elected Officials

Elected officials representing Castro Valley and the surrounding communities have been invited to "report to the residents" at a forum and reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 10 at the Hayward City Hall, 777 B Street, sponsored by the League of Women Voters Eden Area. A representative from each has been asked to present their jurisdiction's vision and major goals for 2017. RSVPs are appreciated to: lwvea@aol.com

• Saturday, March 11: Bayland Birds Walk

Walk the newly-opened trail at Eden Landing Reserve for views of migratory and year-round birds in an adults-only program from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 11. Register for program No. 40476 (\$18) at www.HaywardRec.org, or call 510-881-6700 for more information. Meet at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve Parking Lot, wear walking shoes and bring binoculars for this interesting 3-mile excursion.

• Sunday, March 12: Purim Celebration

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will hold a secular Purim celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St. in Livermore, with hamantaschen, crafts, games, and our annual Purim skit. Attendees are welcome to come dressed as their favorite Purim character. Free for TVCJ members, \$10 for non-members (which can be applied to a membership).

Job Opportunity – **ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE** *East Bay Publishing, the publisher of the San Leandro*

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degree preferred.

Please email resume to: howardm@ebpublishing.com or fax to 510-483-4209.

Arts & Entertainment

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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

• Castro Valley Adult School Orchestra, conducted by Josh Cohen, will present its Winter Concert at 2 p.m. this Sunday, March 5, featuring Sharon Lin, Deus Ex Machina; Edvard Grieg, Suites 1 and 2; and Mozart's Symphony No. 40. Turn off the TV and brighten your week with this lively event! *For tickets in advance (\$10 regular admission, \$5 for seniors and children) see above; or at the door \$12 and \$7.*

• California Beach Boys Tribute Band performs all your favorites, "Surfin' USA," "Fun, Fun, Fun," "California Girls," Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. What band says "California" better than the Beach Boys? *For tickets* (*\$17-\$32*) *see above*.

• **Disney's "Mary Poppins"** will be presented by the award-winning Castro Valley High School Drama and Music departments at 7 p.m. on March 17, 18, 24, 25, and at 2 p.m. on March 19, 26. This visually stunning musical features over 75 of our high school's finest performing artists. It is our most technical show to date featuring many spectacular special effects including flying with actors. *For tickets (\$15-\$20) see above.*

• Castro Valley Adult School Band Concert will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 27. The event is free.

● Troika Ensemble, with Larry London on clarinet; Victor Romasevich on violin, viola and piano; and Arkadi Serper on piano, will be presented at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 10 – one night only – by Smith Center at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd. in Fremont. The ensemble's performance includes music by Bartok, Andriasov, Mozart, and Stravinsky. For tickets (\$15-\$20) visit smithcenter.com or call 510-659-6031. Event parking is \$4.

ART GALLERIES & EVENTS

• "Unmentionable: The Indiscreet Stories of Artifacts," an original exhibition exploring topics and artifacts that we, as a society, find uncomfortable to talk about, including race, lifestyle, politics and personal adornment, on exhibit today, March 1, through July 30 at the HAHS Museum of History & Culture, 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward.

• Hayward Area Photography, the work of 23 local photographers including 10 members of the Castro Valley Photo Club will be on display through March 31 at the John O'Lague Galleria at Hayward City Hall, sponsored by the Hayward Arts Council.

• "Getting to Know the Map," an exhibition of 40 years of photography by Geir and Kate Jordahl, featuring the images and projects which have been shaped by forty years of exploring, studying, traveling and teaching, is now on display at PhotoCentral Gallery, 1099 E Street in Hayward. A Book Release & Signing will be on April 13 from 7-9 p.m. For more, visit info@photocentral.org

• "Finding the Quiet Places," a display of pastel paintings by Castro Valley artist Sarah Schneider, is on view at the Castro Valley Library. These landscapes show calm and restful scenes, a reminder of the local beauty of our area. Schneider is a member of A.R.T., Inc.

• "Looking Forward," an exhibition by the members of A.R.T., Inc., featuring a variety of media including two and three-dimensional art, will be on display through March 4 at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. Art judge Angela Johal selected the exhibition awards.

• Celebrating Community: Black Families of Fairview and Kelly Hill, depicting the diverse experiences of past and present residents of these two areas of unincorporated Hayward, will be on display in the Hayward Area Historical Society Community Gallery at 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward through March 5. The exhibit was guest curated by Karen McHenry-Smith. For more information call 510-581-0223 or visit www.haywardareahistory.org.

• "Identity," an art show that engages with race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, politics, world view, personality, individual characteristics, what we have in common, and how we differ. Students from area high schools will express their view of Identity; how they see themselves and how they relate to the world, in conjunction with Art is Education Month March 11 through April 16 at the Community Gallery at the HAHS Museum of History & Culture, 22380 Foothill Blvd, Hayward.



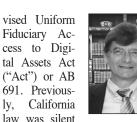
Seniors

New Law: You May Now Give Access to Your Social Media Accounts After Death

I am a frequent user of vised Uniform Facebook and Twitter, Fiduciary Acand I sometimes won- cess to Digider what would happen tal Assets Act to my accounts upon my death. ("Act") or AB Would my family be able to access 691. Previousmy posts?

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

Under a new California January 1, 2017, the answer is "yes," provided that you counts, which the Act calls "digital take proactive steps during your assets", after your demise. lifetime to authorize access after your death.



on the right of family members to Document: Under the new law, munications. access such records after the owner's death

Under the new law, there are esloved ones may access your ac-

1) Use On Line Tool: You may not be sufficient. may give consent in the "Online The new law is called the Re- Tool" set up by the custodian, ment: If you have failed to grant

such as Facebook and Twitter, in access by using the custodian's response to the new law. The consent you provide in this tool over- authority in your Last Will or other rides anything to the contrary in legal document, then the custodithe custodian's "terms of service", an's Terms of Service ("TOS") or any contrary intention in your will or other legal document;

you may grant access in your Last Will, Power of Attorney, Trust, or other legal document. However, law that went into effect sentially four ways in which your this authorization must specifically grant the right to access your digital assets; a general grant of authority to deal with your estate

3) Terms of Service Agree-

How to Get Low-Cost, High-Speed Internet

By Jim Miller SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

There are two great resources low-cost or discounted Internet all Americans. services, but what's available to where to begin.

Low-Cost Internet

On, a national nonprofit organiza- very low cost. tion dedicated to making affordyou can turn to, to help you locate able Internet services available to charge around \$10 per month,

Through partnerships with Inyou will depend on where you live ternet providers like Comcast, and/or your income level. Here's Cox, AT&T, T-Mobile, Mediacom and others, the EveryoneOn orga- plans will vary too. nization can help you search for

Your first step to locate cheaper services in your area that provide site, locate the "online tool" estabhigh-speed Internet is Everyone- high-speed (4G LTE) Internet at a

> Most participating companies with no contract and no equipment fee. However, for non-income qualifiers, there may be a one-time setup/equipment fee of \$62. Data

> > see INTERNET on page 7

"Online Tool", nor given specific would control, and the TOS may or may not grant authority to ac-2) Grant Authority in a Legal cess records of your digital com-

> 4) Court Order: Finally, unless you have specifically objected to the release in the Online Tool or in your Will or other legal document, your executor might apply for a court order, provided that he or she can show that disclosure is reasonably necessary for estate administration.

A

So, if you would like others to have access to your digital assets after your death, the two best ways to do this are:

(a) go to the custodian's weblished pursuant to this legislation and specifically consent to disclosure to your executor, successor trustee, or other designated loved ones; and/or

(b) specifically authorize dis closure in your Last Will, Powe Of Attorney, Trust or other lega document.

If you have already prepare your estate planning documents you might consider the creation of a stand-alone Power Of Attorney for Digital Assets. Note: normally a power of attorney expires upor the death of the maker. However, under this legislation, a consent in a power of attorney to access dig ital assets would apparently sti be valid, for that limited purpose after the death of the maker.

There are some shortcomings i the new law, namely:

(1) it does not authorize access upon the owner's incapacity, bu only after the owner's demise: (2) it does not appear to authorize

rize access to financial account such as bank or brokerage ac counts, but only to social medi and email accounts.

Still, if you desire to provide access to your digital assets afte your demise, you may now do so provided that you take proactive steps as outlined above.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elde law and estate planning attorne in Hayward. Visit his website a www.LawyerForSeniors.com.

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1883 East 14th Street San Leandro

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): The adventurous Aries won't be disappointed with taking on a new challenge, despite some initial misgivings. Look for this move to open other opportunities down the line.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Let that beautiful Bovine smile not only put you at ease, but also show that you're ready, willing and more than able confound the naysayers around you. A new admirer has important news.

© 2017 King Feat

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Be careful how you handle a relationship that you're hoping to save. You already have the facts on your side. Avoid weakening your position by embellishing it with unnecessary dramatics.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Taking definitive stands isn't easy for the often-wavering Moon Child. But you not only need to stay with your decision, but also reassure others it was the right thing to do.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): As a proud Lion, you're right to be upset about those who might be lying about you to others. But the best revenge is proving them wrong by succeeding at what you set out to do.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Caution is still advised before making a financial commitment to a "promising" project. Look for the facts behind the fluff. Devote the weekend to loved ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A Taurus offers comfort and advice as you deal with an upsetting event. Use this as a learning experience that will help you avoid similar problems in the future.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A romantic situation creates some chaos for single Scorpions. But it's well worth the effort to work things out. A trusted friend can offer some helpful advice

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Expect to make new friends as your social circle expands. Also, remember to tell that family member how proud you are of his or her achievements.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): New ventures continue to be favored. And with your self-confidence rising all the time, you'll want to see how well you can do with a new challenge. So, go to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): This is a good time for the usually 'serious-minded" Aquarian to let loose and enjoy some fun times. Expect to get good news about a workplace issue.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Changed plans might upset some people, but your needs should be respected. Offer explanations when necessary. But don't let yourself be talked into changing your decisions.

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 5

BUSINES March 15 (CVF) & 16 (SLT), 2017 Here is your chance to tell your career success story in the Castro Valley Forum and the San Leandro Times. These special pages pay tribute to the women movers and shakers in our community. Whether you have started your own business, manage a local retail store, sold over a million dollars in real estate or have been a community leader, this section salutes top women employees and entrepreneurs through photo profiles. 2 columns by 3 inches





There are two great resources you can use to help locate low-cost or discounted Internet services, but's what's available will depend on where you live and/or your income level.

Internet: How to Qualify for Discounts

continued from previous page

To start your search, go to EveryoneOn.org and type in your ZIP code and click on the "Find Offers" button, or you can call 877-947-4321. You'll then need to answer a few questions regarding so the Internet services you're eligible for can be located.

Some providers offer their ser- Lifeline Assistance Program. vices only to people with limited financial resources, however there What's available to you will depend on where you live.

low-cost Internet services, Ev- or Internet (home or mobile), but eryoneOn also provides referrals to affordable computers and free computer classes. Most of the that your annual household incompanies they work with offer come is at or below 135 percent der \$100, and computers for under - which is \$16,281 for one person, of "The Savvy Senior" book.

one. And, they provide referrals to receiving certain types of governfree computer classes, which are ment benefits, such as Medicaid, typically offered in public libraries across the U.S.

• Discounted Internet If you don't have any luck findyou household financial situation ing a low-cost service through lands. EveryoneOn, and your income is low enough, another option is the

This is a federal program that provides a \$9.25 monthly subare others that offer low-cost deals sidy to help pay for broadband to everyone regardless of income. Internet service, or for a home or wireless phone. Only one benefit is available per household; either Also note that in addition to the phone service (home or wireless) not both.

To qualify, you'll need to show

\$160 that are available to every- or \$21,924 for two. Or, that you're food stamps, SSI, public housing assistance, veterans pension or survivors pension benefit, or live on federally recognized Tribal

> To apply, you'll need to contact an Internet provider in your area that participates in the Lifeline program and ask for an application form.

> visit LifelineSupport.org or call 888-641-8722. Once the provider verifies your eligibility, they will begin service.

(Note: The Internet companies that partner with EveryoneOn do not currently accept the lifeline subsidy.)

refurbished tablets usually for un- of the Federal Poverty Guidelines the NBC Today show and author



By Jim Miller SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

f you plan to enroll in original Medicare, getting a supplemental policy (also known as Medigap insurance) too is a smart idea because it will help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. Here are some tips to help you choose an appropriate plan.

Medigap Plans

Medigap plans, which are sold by private health insurers, come in 10 standardized benefit packages labeled with the letters A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, M and N.

Plan F is the most popular policy followed by plan C because they provide comprehensive coverage. Plans K and L are high-deductible policies that have lower premiums but impose higher out-of-pocket costs. Plan F also offers a high-deductible version in some states. And a popular middle ground policy that attracts many healthy beneficiaries is plan N.

For more information on the different types of plans and the coverage they provide, including Medigap options, see Medicare's "Choosing a Medigap Policy" guide at Medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/02110-medicare-medigap.guide. pdf, or call 1-800-MEDICARE To locate providers in your area, and ask them to mail you a copy. How to Choose

To pick a Medigap policy that works best for you, consider your health, family medical history and your budget. The differences among plans can be small and rather confusing.

To help you choose, visit Medi-Jim Miller is a contributor to care.gov, and click on "Supplements & Other Insurance" at the top of the page, then on "Find a



To pick a Medigap policy that works best for you, consider your health, family medical history and your budget.

Medigap policy" and type in your ZIP code.

This will give you a list of the plans available in your area, their price ranges and the names, and contact information of companies consider buying a separate Medithat sell them. But it's up to you to contact the carriers directly to get there specific pricing information.

You can also compare Medigap prices on most state insurance department websites (see NAIC.org/ state web map.htm for links), or you can order a personalized re-WeissMedigap.com.

Since all Medigap policies with the same letter must cover the by law), you should shop for the cheapest policy.

You'll get the best price if you sign up within six months after enrolling in Medicare Part B. During this open-enrollment period, an insurer cannot refuse to sell you a Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norpolicy or charge you more because man, OK 73070, or visit SavvySeof your health.

You also need to be aware of the pricing methods, which will affect your costs. Medigap policies are usually sold as either: "community-rated" where everyone in an area is charged the same premium regardless of age; "issue-age-rated" that is based on your age when you buy the policy, but will only increase due to inflation, not age; "attained-age-rated," that and starts premiums low but increases as you age. Community-rate and issue-age-rated policies are the best options because they will save you money in the long run.

You can buy the plan directly from an insurance company, or you can work with a reputable local insurance broker.

Drug Coverage

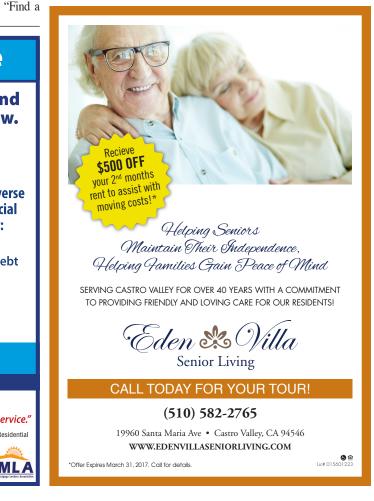
You also need to know that Medigap policies do not cover prescription drugs, so if you don't have drug coverage, you need to care Part D drug plan too. See Medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare plans. Also note that Medigap plans do not cover vision, dental care, hearing aids or long-term care either.

Alternative Option

Instead of getting original port from Weiss Ratings for \$99 at Medicare, plus a Medigap policy and a separate Part D drug plan, you could sign up for a Medicare Advantage plan that provides allexact same benefits (it's required in-one coverage. These plans, which are sold by insurance companies, are generally available through HMOs and PPOs. To find and compare Advantage plans visit Medicare.gov/find-a-plan.

Send your senior questions to: nior.org.







Students Attend Health, Wellness & Career Fair

A successful Health, Wellness & Career Fair was held at Castro Valley High School last Thursday, jointly coordinated by Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce, the high school, and Eden Area ROP. Representatives from more than three dozen local businesses and non profits in the field of Health and Wellness shared information with some 1,800 students on opportunities to work, volunteer and intern in their industries.

CV Boys Basketball at NCS

The CV Varsity boys basketball team entered the North Coast Section playoffs as the 12 seed. They Freedom - Okwaas Muhammed traveled to Freedom High School (13), Daniel Bessolo (15), Thomas in Oakley to take on the 5 seed and Faustka (14) and Reggie Conley surprised Freedom by winning 69-63, on Tuesday, February 21.

Chabot College last Friday to play Faustka 12 rebounds (4 offensive) Logan, the 4 seed, and lost 41-33 with 2 blocks, Justin Poole had 4 to end their season.

Castro Valley had four players score in double figures against (13).

In addition, Bessolo 13 re-Next, the Trojans traveled to bounds (6 offensive) with 6 blocks, assists.

CV Girls Basketball at NCS

The Castro Valley Varsity girls 21. basketball team entered the North Coast Section playoffs as the 5 San Ramon to play California, the seed, with a 19-7 record. They 4 seed, and won 60-48, last Friday, hosted Foothill High School, the to advance to tonight's semi-finals 12 seed, and won 51-40, on Feb. at Carondelet, at 7 p.m..

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*If You Sign-Up Early

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50 Fitness Classes Weekly

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• GYM & Tennis

Next, the Trojan girls traveled to

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Less are Not eligible for this Promo. Can't be combined with other offers.

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Reports: Elder Abuse; Drugs

continued from page 3

hanging outside a bar on Castro Valley Boulevard when deputies approached her for questioning. The woman failed her field sobriety test and was taken to a sobering center.

Elder Abuse

Tuesday, February 21: at 10:07 p.m., a 64-year-old woman was arrested as part of an active warrant issued for her capture. Deputies were called to Eden Medical Center on Lake Chabot Road following an alert by hospital security. The woman had been previously charged with elder abuse. Hospital security detained the woman until deputies arrived. The woman was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$50,000 in bail.

Drugs and School Don't Mix

Monday, February 20: at 10:44 p.m., deputies arrested a 44-yearold man from San Leandro on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics. The man was spotted parked outside an elementary school on Vannoy Avenue. Deputies stopped the man for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

Woman Stopped with

Methamphetamine Drugs Monday, February 20: at 9:32 p.m., a 46-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and methamphetamine drugs. Deputies stopped the woman for questioning outside of a gas station on Stanton Avenue near San Carlos Avenue when they dis-

SPORTS LEAGUE

Ken Carbone of the county ordinance. The MAC has long gone on record about not wanting any dispensaries in Castro Valley. In November, MAC Chair Marc Crawford met with Supervisor Nate Miley

MAC: Proposed Dispensary Ordinance

ley to his word," said Crawford. we don't want any in Castro Valley."

One complication is that the Maribel. county's Fairmont Hospital is a possible location for a dispensary. County-owned property would be exempt from the ordinance, so it may not "count" as a dispensary, allowing another dispensary to open additionally.

Three dispensaries are set to over a year. sees fit.

ries would go in Supervisor Scott of all of Alameda County," said

The Board of Supervisors is dispensary ordinance in April.

Also at Monday night's meeting, the MAC unanimously approved a gym - LaLanne Bootcamp-to open at 20948 Redwood ew of the late fitness personality Jack LaLanne, Chris, and his wife

The MAC also unanimously

"The whole place is brand

Mary Florence: 510-861-3270 Linda Nakhai: 510-915-1513

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CASTRO VALLEY FORUM WWW.BOVSWIM.COM

continued from front page saries. "It's really unfortunate to be

force fed," said MAC member

Eden Area.

Livermore and Dublin. writing and Crawford now thinks the MAC should insist that no additional dispensaries come to the "I'd like to hold Supervisor Mi-

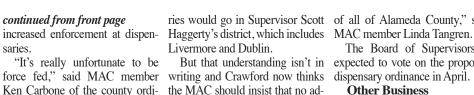
CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

Youth Baseball and

Flag Football Programs

www.CVISPORTSLEAGUE.org

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



This week's Athletes of the Week are (from

left) Zmata's Louis Benitez, Jesiah Tubby, Jus-

tin Zaragoza and Dania Silva, all four crowned

Champions at the Pan Kids IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu

Zmata in Castro Valley sent 12 of their ath-

letes to compete at the 2017 Championships,

Championships held Feb. 19, in Long Beach.

covered her stash. The woman was and said they had a "gentlemen's handcuffed and taken into custody. agreement" that new dispensa-

But that understanding isn't in expected to vote on the proposed

Other Business "We can stick to our position that Road, to be run by the grand-neph-

competing against students from across the US,

The Castro Valley crew faced the best of the

best at the toughest kid's competition in the world.

The Zmata team brought home seven medals; four

gold, one silver and two bronze. Congratulations

Japan, Brazil, Europe and all over the world.

to all competitors from Zmata.

approved allowing JP's Family Restaurant and Sports Lounge to sell alcohol in a tavern area at the

restaurant. JP's is located at the former Dino's site at 3600 Castro Valley "It's a shell game," said Craw- Boulevard, and the owners have

been remodeling the building for MAC Chair Crawford said he estimated that the sales tax from had the opportunity to tour the

each will add \$100,000 annual- restaurant, which is set to open in

new," said Crawford. "It's going to be distributed however the county be the coolest place in town very soon. I think we are very fortunate "I don't want the unincorporat- to have someone putting this level

DOUBLES:

- 3. Sohum Sheth / Aneesh Konda (W) Alexander Long / Tony Gugg 6-3, 7-5

ford.

open in San Leandro where it is ly to the city's coffers. But in the about a month. unincorporated area, the sales tax would go to the general fund and

ed area to be the marijuana capital of investment into our town.'

CVHS BOYS TENNIS RESULTS:

Washington 5, Castro Valley 2, on Thursday, February 23.

- **SINGLES:**
 - Moksh Jawa (W) Edward Wang 6-1, 6-2
 Timothy Wu (CV) Mohnish Sandi 6-1, 6-1
 Rohit Sinha (CV) Spencer Palumbo 6-1, 6-0
 Kaushik Verkonda (W) Dustin Fong 6-2, 6-1

1. Will Cooper / Harsha Moyia (W) - Gabe Priem / Brendan Soo 5-7, 6-3, 10-8 2. Vivek Ellanti / Ethan Mehta (W) - Leon Chen / Alex Low 6-1, 6-1

REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALIT

By Carl Medford, CRS Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



t's been one of the wettest much has negative effects. Espe- qualified repairmen who are not cially on homes. Recent rainfalls overwhelmed with weather-relathave been wreaking havoc on lo- ed work. Some deals have been cal real estate

"drought mode," recent down- tant problems. pours shocked us with a flood of es, soil erosion issues, damaged currently have water in their crawl retaining walls and/or foundations, spaces. I know of one buyer who falling trees and more.

homeowners substantial grief at celled the deal. the best of times, it has been espein contract.

Castro Valley

5038 Tyler Lane

TOTAL SALES:

5887 Greenridge Road

Hayward

18450 Robscott Avenue

665 Dartmore Lane #357

31011 Everett Court #8

410 MacKenzie Place

27586 Sebastian Way

2505 Oliver Drive

24901 Bland Street

1720 Sumner Place

26630 Call Avenue

15 Astrida Drive #8

505 Banbury Street

1272 C Street

1997 Nina Court

20121 San Miguel Ave #6 94546

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$418,500

HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,100,000

We've seen transactions de- uge or there on a more permanent winters in recent history and, layed as sellers, struggling to make basis. Couple this with the fact that while water is needed, too repairs, have had difficulty finding many property inspectors will not cancelled outright as buyers seek tion. With most of us locked in to distance themselves from resul-

One issue bothering many buyleaking roofs, flooded crawl spac- ers is the fact that numerous homes a house are readily visible culprits, pried open the access hatch, saw While any of these would cause water below and immediately can-

This highlights the fact that it's cially troublesome for properties important to figure out if the water is there because of the recent del-

\$418,500 2 BD - 1,117 SF - 1972

\$680.000 3 BD - 1.720 SF - 1957

3 BD - 2,159 SF - 1964

4 BD - 1,901 SF - 1963

4 BD - 2,016 SF - 1963

4 BD - 2,535 SF - 1969

3 BD - 1,051 SF - 1951

2 BD - 1.020 SF - 1992

3 BD - 2,314 SF - 1990

3 BD - 1,425 SF - 1984

3 BD - 1,176 SF - 1957

2 BD - 894 SF - 1988

2 BD - 1,435 SF - 1981

3 BD - 1,176 SF - 1957

3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1954

3 BD - 1,254 SF - 1970

\$440,000

\$497,974

\$880,000

\$799,500

enter a crawl space with standing water and you have a problem with no readily discernable solu-

Water can get into a crawl space a number of ways.

Solid surfaces sloping towards as are downspouts that are not diverted away from the foundation.

Less visible, especially in homes built on a slope, is water traveling underground that makes its way under a home unseen. A drainage expert can usually help determine if the issue is temporary or permanent and provide a longterm remedy, including French drains, sump pumps and the like.

Moisture appearing under a home during record-breaking rains is not necessarily a bad thing in and of itself. It typically dissipates quickly and simple measures can usually be taken to control it in the future, including diverters and downspouts that deliver water away from the home.

Water more permanent in nature can cause extensive problems. Excessive moisture can buckle hardwood floors and promote mold es, with proper planning and easy and/or fungus damage.

Foundations are susceptible to moving water that can undermine a plan, but choosing the best vegand cause failure. Our recommendation? Hire an expert to locate the source of the water and implement a plan to stay dry in the future.

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





Judy Grubb

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Grow a High-yield Vegetable Garden this Season

By Melinda Myers Special to the Forum

pend less time and money while growing a bounty of flavorful vegetables this growing season. Increase your harvest, even in small garden spaccare, high-yielding vegetables.

etables to grow and where to plant You can break out the graph

paper and pencils to design your garden or turn to technology for help. Many websites and apps provide ready-to-use garden plans or

require proper soil preparation harvest.



The high-yield vegetable garden plan enables gardeners to grow more than 50 pounds of produce in only 18 square feet of space.

to maximize productivity. Invest time up front to reduce ongoing or other organic matter into the top Intensively planted gardens maintenance and increase your 8 to 12 inches of the soil. This im-

Dig several inches of compost see GARDEN on page 11



BRE# 00550782

www.castrovallevforum.com Linda Nakhai 510-915-1513

736 Shawnee Court 94544 \$650,000 3 BD - 1,430 SF - 1959 166 St. Andrews Street 94544 \$627,000 3 BD - 1,410 SF - 1955 26220 Ventura Avenue 94544 \$440,000 3 BD - 1,130 SF - 1953 27738 Del Norte Court 94545 \$345,000 2 BD - 988 SF - 1970 2 BD - 1,286 SF - 1982 25930 Kay Avenue #208 94545 \$405,000

RECENT HOME SALES

94546

94552

94541

94541

94541

94541

94541

94542

94544

94544

94544

94544

94544

94544

3

\$880,000

\$650.000

\$367,000

\$498.000

\$400.000

\$735,000

\$390,000

\$487.500

\$392.000

\$415,000

\$575,000

\$565.000

\$410,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT:

AVERAGE AMOUNT:

\$1,100,000

21100 Gary Drive #120 94546 \$430,000 2 BD - 1,037 SF - 1981 TOTAL SALES: 19 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$345,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$735,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT:

94545

Real estate is my full-time job. When you partner with me, it doesn't have to be yours.





A productive garden starts with them can be overwhelming.



New Homeowner Says Oranges Turned Sour

By Buzz Bertolero The Dirt Gardene

We moved into a new 🖊 unknown orange tree.

ness is because the bees are pol- is basic plant genetics. linating it from the lemon.

Can you please let us know answer to the sour fruit. how we can get the oranges to sweeten up?

ple around us believe the sour- fruit of the pollinated plant. This

Pollination from a lem- answers, especially those orang- My suggestion is to let the fruit on or any other citrus es grown along the coast. But, continue to mature on the plant. will not cause the fruit I don't believe that this is the Every three weeks going forward home in 2015. We have or the plant to change any of case here. Instead, I believe it is from the expected ripening date, a lemon tree, several its original characteristics. In- a varietal issue. Oranges don't I'd pick one and taste it. It should other varieties, and a very sour, stead, they pass the changes on necessarily ripen in one calento the next generation. You see dar year. It is common for a new

through March, while Valencia or-

I think you have a late-rip-

sweeten up as the year progresses.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced fessional and the Senior Garden-Centers. His web address is www. dirtgardener.com. Send questions by email to dirtgarden@aol.com Cool summer temperatures ening variety and, if you sample or on Facebook at Facebook.com/



March, while Valencia oranges ripen April through June.

The previous owner said the the results of this in plants that crop of oranges to form with last California Certified Nursery Protree was very sweet at first. Peo- germinate from the seeds in the year's crop still on the plant. Hence, the bees are not the anges ripen April through June.

Naval oranges ripen December ing Professional at Sloat Garden



or the lack of heat is one of the the fruit today, it would be sour. Buzz.Bertolero. FOR EXPERT ADVICE CONTACT ONE OF OUR LOCAL.... Kristy Peixoto Wayne Licsak Leslie Peterson Trish Radovich Cathy Brent Kathi Townsend **Berkshire Hathaway J. Rockcliff Realtors** Top Selling Agent • Lic. since 1975 **Berkshire Hathaway Berkshire Hathaway ReMax Accord** kpeixoto@rockcliff.com **Coldwell Banker Realty Home Services** leslie@lesliepetersonteam.com **Home Services Home Services** www.lesliepetersonteam.com 510-367-7999 510-381-1065 925-251-2536 510-303-7765 510-333-9404 510-697-1208 David & Matt Wilhite Masoud Dehdari Graig Cahill, Broker/Owner Lisa Ferraris, GRI Marilyn & Bill Swisher Ted Von Roll & Liz Dunbar CAHILL & CO. REAL ESTATE **Re/Max Accord REALTY** Broker® CalBRE#00759835 **Turning Houses Berkshire Hathaway ReMax Accord** graig@cahillandco.com into Homes **Home Services** www.homesbyswisher.com **Von Roll Real Estate Group Intero Real Estate Services** tedvonroll@gmail.com www.DavidandMattWilhite.com 510-881-7500 510-304-1271 www.askmasoud.com 510-888-3300 J. Rockcliff Realtors 510-909-0507 510-919-1234 510-329-0728 Lynn Levin Jill Gregori **Don Morris** Kenneth A. Kremer Sharon Luther Liz Lucero, Realtor Senior's R.E. Consultant **Berkshire Hathaway Home Services** Gregori Group RE, Inc. **Results Guaranteed! Senior Real Estate Specialist 30 Years Experience ReMax Accord** (Formerly Prudential) Realtor®/Owner **Re/Max Accord** There is no substitute for experience. **Coldwell Banker** Sharon.Luther@comcast.net www.lynnlevin.com 510-909-4888 Kremer & Company, Realtors® lizzilucero@sbcglobal.net 510-220-7796 510-593-7377 510-435-8842 510-583-5444 510-301-1957 GregoriGroup.com Julie Keys, Realtor® **Carrie Miles Brian Cooney** Nick Asturias Realtor® Willie M. Campbell Mario A. Reyes

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Garden: Mulch conserves water, suppresses weeds

continued from page 9 improves drainage in heavy soil and increases the water holding ability in fast-draining soils. Incor- tions on when and how to plant porate a slow-release organic fertilizer at the same time. This provides needed nutrients throughout the growing season.

seeds. Many gardeners like to start long-season plants like tomatoes bit more shade tolerant. and broccoli from seeds indoors. This provides the greatest selection of vegetable varieties.

Start seeds of shorter-season

the growing season begins. Check the seed packet for specific directhese seeds indoors and out.

varieties suited to your climate and known for their disease resistance Maximize your planting bud- and high yield. Most vegetables get by starting your plants from produce best when grown in full sun. Greens and root crops are a

> Once planted, cover the soil shredded leaves, herbicide-free

squash directly in the garden when dles. This mulch helps conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Plus, it improves the soil as it breaks down. You'll save time and improve your plants' health and When shopping for seeds, select productivity with this one task.

> After it's planted and mulched, you'll spend minimal time maintaining your garden. But be sure to plan a bit of time to enjoy the big, flavorful harvest your high-yield garden is sure to provide.

Melinda Myers has written surrounding the seeded rows and more than 20 gardening books. transplants with a thin layer of Her website is www.melindamyers.com. For free gardening plans, visit gardeners.com.

| (| Ŋ | | E | N HOM | ES | | AY & SUNDAY CH 4 th & 5 th | | | |
|-----|-------|---|-----|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|---|-----------|--------------|--|
| CIT | 'Y SA | Т | SUN | ADDRESS | PRICE | BDRMS/BATHS | REALTOR | AGENT | PHONE | |
| Н | 1- | 4 | 1-4 | 26270 Parkside Drive | \$995,000 | 4/2.5 - 1 acre | J. Rockcliff Realtors | Kristy P. | 925-251-2536 | |
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12 CASTRO VALLEY FORUM Wednesday, March 1, 2017 **Classified Advertising**



Classified Advertising

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM Wednesday, March 1, 2017 **13**

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Bruce Huber Duncan

Bruce Huber Duncan, a resident of Castro Valley for over 60 years and youngest son of Lillian and Laurel Duncan, passed away at his home in Kelseyville, California January 15, 2017.

Born February 15, 1946, Bruce was a Vietnam veteran, building contractor, dedicated volunteer, inventor, writer, world traveler, artist, Shakespearean actor, pilot, avid kayaker and passionate outdoorsman. All who knew him experienced his creativity, passion and generosity. He touched a wide variety of lives from Alaska to the Bay Area.

He is survived by his brothers, Don and Robin Duncan, and their families A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, March 11, at 1 p.m. with military honors at the Castro Valley United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., in Castro Valley. Friends of Bruce are welcome to attend.



On February 23, 2017, Bonnie Marie Plotner, at age 50, passed away due to cancer. She was born in Berkeley, California on July 1, 1966, and lived all her life in Alameda County.

Bonnie worked at Walgreen's in Castro Valley for over 25 years. She had a great smile for everyone. If you met her, she would engage you in deep conversation, and always had a positive look on life. She recently got involved in the FA (Food Addicts) program, and was able to lose over 180 pounds. We were so proud of her. She recently was working at the Chabot College Student Book Store, as well taking courses for a career in the medical field at the same college.



She is preceded in death by her father, Peter E. Plotner. She is survived by her mother, Adrienne C. Plotner; her brothers, John (Jack) D. Plotner, Nick C. Plotner and James E. Plotner; sister-in-law, Rochelle R. Plotner; as well as many cousins. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. Services will be held in Castro Valley

tion to a down with a wide weight

Ruth Marie Hill 1922 - 2017

Ruth Marie Hill passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday morning, February 18, 2017 at the age of 94. Ruth was born on June 11, 1922 in Akron, Ohio to her parents, Mary Thacker Maguire and Gordon Maguire. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Frank Hill; and her 4 brothers, Gordon, Paul, Bob and Bill

Maguire. Ruth is survived by her daughter, Pamela Hill; her son, Bill Patton; her grandchildren, Bill Patton, Lorraine Liebes Thomas Hurst, Cody Hurst, Joseph Hurst, Jaime Liebes and Michael Zeigler; and many more loving greatgrandchildren, nieces, nephews and great-great-grandchildren.

Before moving to Tampa, Florida in 2010, Ruth was a long-time resident of Castro Valley. She spent the majority of her time after her retirement enjoying a full life that included involvement with the church communities of Redwood Chapel Community and 3Crosses, and devotion to her family and grandchildren. Ruth will be remembered by her extended family and friends for her kind heart, generosity, wonderful sense of humor, and her great spirit for life. Those who were fortunate to know Ruth were touched by her warm affection, love and genuine regard for others.

Family and friends may gather for a memorial service to be held at 3Crosses Church, in the Chapel, located at 20600 John Dr. in Castro Valley. The memorial service will begin at noon on Saturday, March 4. A celebration of Ruth's life will be held immediately following in the 3Crosses Church Social Hall

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the 3Crosses Church in remembrance of Ruth Marie Hill. Let the memory of Ruth be with us forever. Condolences and personal messages are welcome and may be left on the online guest book at www.forevermissed.com/ruthmarie-hill





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Lisa M. Bradshaw

William Ballinger

January 18, 1951 – February 22, 2017 • Castro Valley Resident On Wednesday, February 22, the world lost a really nice guy! Bill Ballinger, a 1969 graduate of Canyon High School, lost his battle with COPD surrounded by his family at the young age of 66. Bill was a family man! He was hardworking, hon-set kind and an ell served evend any. Bill served est, kind and an all-around good guy. Bill married his high school sweetheart, Pat, in 1971. He was the proud father of John W. Ballinger and Elizabeth P.

Fulop, proud father-in-law of Norbert Fulop, and even prouder grandfather of his namesake, Liam N. Fulop. Bill loved casinos; penny slot machines were his favorite... Big spender!

calhood fiel lamath River with his p and his wife. Bill liked cold beer, TV re-runs, any televised sport and enjoying a good laugh with family and friends. His favorite place in the whole world was his little yellow house in Castro Valley. He was preceded in death by his parents, John F. Ballinger, Helen Ballinger

Bettencourt and Melvin Bettencourt; and sister, Joan McDonald. In addition to his immediate family, Bill is survived by his sister, Janice Estee; beloved dogs, Boone, Gretyl and Bella: as well as many other family and friends. He supported his family by driving big rigs for 42 years, primarily for Yandell Truckaway.

Honoring Bill's love of rescue dogs as well as the Klamath River and its inhabitants, donations in his memory may be made to the East Bay SPCA at www.eastbayspca.org or the Mid Klamath Watershed Council at www.mkwc. org. A funeral mass was celebrated on February 28 at The Church of the Transfiguration.

Good bye my Love. RIP Gam Pa!

tion to to to



A Tribute to Alameda County Fire Fighters

On Thursday, February 9, I awoke to the sight of my neighbor's house on fire - flames bursting through the windows and billowing smoke, the ferocity of pure destruction unleashed.

- But the Alameda County Fire Department was already on the scene. It was amazing to watch them up close, coming at the fire strategi-
- cally, first containing and then extinguishing a roaring inferno. My understanding is the fire was so dangerous that it was "all hands
- on deck," and there were dozens of fire fighters on the scene, along with the Sheriff's Department and other support.
- One homeowner suffered a horrifying loss, but a potential disaster was ended through their skill and courage.
- We all hear and see fire trucks driving by with sirens blaring, but it's something else again when their destination is one's own neighbor-
- There are heroes in our midst and it was a privilege to watch a whole team of heroes. Thank you, Alameda County fire fighters. -Mark Cotta Vaz, President Drive, San Leandro

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. Email Letters to: fredz@eb-publishing.com, or mail to: The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.

A Poem

group of Castro Valley middle school student poets who call themselves the Creekside and Canyon Publications Group will be holding a "Poetry Cafe" this Friday "to provide an opportunity for those poets who possess stage presence as well as writing talent to share their poetry."

In advance of the event, the group has submitted a poem titled "Compassion" for publication in the Forum this week, written by 8th grade Creekside student Sophia Siopack.

Siopack responded to the prompt, "What do I want to fix when I grow up?" Fifteen students in the club chose her poem "to represent some of the best of the best."

COMPASSION

Friends Family A world of bliss However, Our world is far from harmony Sympathy and empathy are not as different as they seem, when society is full of bullying

An enemy's brutality, a friend spreading rumors, a broken promise Compassion could fix it all, the path to utopia, unconcealed for those who want it, welcoming for those who find it,

this one simple word could change us all, compassion

101 keys on the keyboard, there's so much you could say; You could torment,

torture. abuse

But a good soul can deliver so much more,

with just one guide:

compassion Compassion is medicine for the broken heart

preventing people from falling apart,

Compassion, perfect in every way

Someday I will take away sorrow with one simple action compassion,

compasión,

tosturi,

tóng qíng

We can strengthen the essence of humanity if we work together, hand in hand,

tied with the secure, delicate string of compassion

-Sophia Siopack



Clean Water Program Now Offering Grants

Alameda County's Clean Water tapping into the experience, en-Program is seeking applications thusiasm and creativity of groups for its 2017 Community Stewardship Grant program to help fund projects that protect local waterways.

be aimed at preventing stormwater munity groups, environmental pollution in the county and contain a public outreach element.

A total of \$25,000 will be awarded in grants ranging from restoration, wildlife habitat im-\$1,000 to \$5,000 per project.

'Creeks, wetlands and the Bay are threatened by a lot of pollut- events, videos and printed materiants from litter to automotive and garden chemicals that get washed into storm drains," said Jim Scaner. "One of the best ways we can downloaded at www.cleanwaterprotect our local waterways is by program.org/grants.

CORRECTION:

The caption for a Castro Valley Women's Club photo in the Feb. 15 edition of the Forum was incorrect. It should have identified Carolyn Darcey as the president of the club.

right here in Alameda County.'

Eligible applicants for the grants include teacher and student groups, youth organizations, These proposed projects must homeowners associations, comgroups and other non-profit organizations.

> Activities range from creek provement and litter cleanups to public education using art projects,

Deadline for submissions is April 12. The application packet lin, Clean Water Program Manag- and additional information can be and ballerina who lived and

—Bruce Springsteen By Thomas E. Lorentzen

and an ear to your heart."

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM ne of the most isolated and difficult places in the world is Death Valley. It is one of the hottest and most intimidating, hence its ominous name.

geological wonder – a natural work of art. Other than Mother Nature and God, Death Valley als, among others. recently lost its most notable and important artist - Marta Becket.

performed at a once-abandoned opera and vaudeville theater in Death Valley Junction for nearly

> 50 years. Her recent passing was noted in major newspapers around the country. Her story was not only inter-

Despite these factors, it is a

She was a New York dancer

esting, but a bold statement about life - both philosophically and

"If you're an artist, you try to keep an ear to the ground artistically. From my perspective, she raised and practiced profound questions about our life-journeys, and the importance of finding meaning, value and fulfillment.

To the wonderment of many, she found these things in Death Valley, not in Manhattan.

Death Valley has been an attractive place for me to visit for decades. Not only is its environment unique, but the sense of natural art and spirituality it provides is potent.

Marta Becket was the person who not only perceived it that way - she enhanced it. Her theater - the Armagosa Opera House, was to many of us who saw her perform there what the Globe Theater perhaps was centuries ago to those who experienced original plays written by an obscure writer named Shakespeare.

Her live presentations were noted by such accomplished figures as Red Skelton and media entities such as "60 Minutes." The walls of the small opera house became canvasses for her to paint make-believe audiences.

AMARGOSA PLRA HOUSE

From the Boulevard: Dancing in Death Valley

Armagosa Opera House

reflecting the fact that sometimes nobody came to see her perform. In these situations, she performed anyway, entertaining the audiences she had painted upon the walls.

Those paintings, including the ceiling, are both somber and humorous, and provide an almost Sistine Chapel-like experience. One senses the spirit akin to Michelangelo within this chapel of vaudeville, comedy, dance and opera.

Her performances reflected the diversity of her talents - dancing, singing, comedy, drama, and poetry. She designed her own plays

and wrote her own scripts. Contained within were characteristics of Broadway, Shakespeare and Vaudeville – creating a mosaic reflecting the diverse melodies of life and time.

Having attended several of her performances, I would not have traded those experiences for any of the many shows I have seen on Broadway or in Las Vegas. Marta's performances were more than entertaining - they were opulent with meaning and significance. Her entire life was led this way - deep and profound, but also humorous and fun.

My last visit to Death Valley Junction was four months ago. Marta was unable to visit, and had not performed since her final shows a few years ago, which was called the "Sitting Down Show." Since she could no longer dance or perform on the stage - she sat in a chair and reflected upon her life and mimicked her dances and songs.

To her the show went on, even if you can only sit. At the end of see LORENTZEN on back page

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Free Pitbull Adoptions Saturday

Jersey is just one of the pitbulls looking for homes during the "Pitbulls in Pajamas Adoption Party" from 1 to 7 p.m. this Saturday at the Hayward Animal Shelter, sponsored by the shelter volunteers. Adoption fees for all pitbulls and pitbull mixes will be paid by SantaCon (a \$17 license fee applies to Hayward adoptions). Other dogs, cats and bunnies will also be available for adoption during the event. Party snacks, too, for all attendees. The Hayward Animal Shelter is located at 16 Barnes Court, near the DMV at Jackson and Soto Road. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/haywardanimal shelter or call 510-293-7200.



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Register by April 17th at

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RECYCLE at Canyon Middle School from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



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Bay Area Children's Film Fest

The Bay Area International Children's Film Festival returns for its 9th consecutive year next week at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland.

The full weekend Festival begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 10, featuring a full line-up of high-quality, family-friendly films from around the world, along with a weekend packed with innovative hands on classes, designed by award-winning Pixar Animators and a variety of new workshops.

The Festival will include over 41 animated, live action, shorts and feature-length films, special "How did they do that?" presentations, and Q&A sessions with award winning guest filmmakers. Films hail from countries around the globe.

The Chabot Space & Science Center is located at 10000 Skyline Drive in Oakland. The full program and ticket information are available at: baicff.com/films.

ADOPT-A-PET



Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200. Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



and needs a home. A black/grey dog, only seven pounds. She striped tabby with white paws, may be part Toy Fox Terrier and he is about 5 1/2 months old. part Chihuahua. She is approx-Visit: dustypawsrescue.org if imately 1-1/2-years-old. Please interested for more information. visit: dustypawsrescue.org

BESSY is a 4-year-old pup who **BEV** loves cuddles and people. loves cuddling, going for leisure- She already understands "sit" ly walks and playing with toys. and "down". She loves squeaky Best as an only dog and good toys and tennis balls. Good with kids 5 yrs+. Info: Hayward with kids 7 yrs+. Info: Hayward



BOBBY was found as a stray STELLA is a super sweet little

Lorentzen: Opera House in Death Valley

continued from page 15 one of her final performances I quieted tears, knowing that her end was nearing and what was being experienced was hallowed.

During my last visit a friend and I arranged for a private tour of the Opera House and adjoining motel (one room is still designated the Red Skelton Room where he would stay during his visits).

if we could go on the stage. Permission was granted. My friend and I felt spirited and mimicked a ballet performance. It was inane, but full of frivolity. There was no audience, except for Marta's friend. She took photos, capturing two senior citizens

acting childlike. It was a magical moment – to do what Marta did for nearly a half century – to play on her own personal stage in Death Valley.

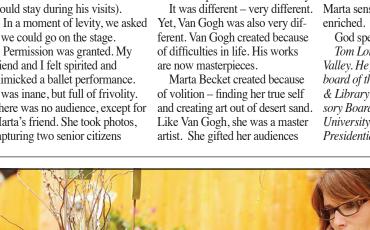
With her passing, I have reflect-ed upon Marta and her unique and unusual life. It was a statement about life – of the meaning she found in a place like Death Valley.

with thought, art and levity. Her life provided a lesson for our own lives.

From a personal perspective, I was gifted with the privilege of recently dancing upon the stage that she danced upon for nearly a half century at the Opera House in Death Valley Junction. For those few minutes I sensed what Marta sensed, and felt free and

God speed Marta.

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





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