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AHEAD BY
ONE HOUR

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 30

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

NO. 10

**INSIDE YOUR
FORUM**

LIVING



An Early Start

Daylight Savings Time's arrival means breakfast comes an hour early!

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SENIORS



Policy for Sale

Selling a life insurance policy is an option for seniors in need of cash

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NEWS



Cold as ICE

Supervisor's ad hoc Committee steps up resistance to ICE

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PHONE: (510) 537-1792

Three Local Girls Officially Join CV Boy Scout Pack 722

A Castro Valley Boy Scout dinner became part of Scouting history last month when three girls officially accepted their initiation Bobcat badges.

Castro Valley Boy Scout Pack 722 initiated the three female scouts into their Tiger/Webelos 1 Den 9 at the annual Blue and Gold Banquet held on the last Saturday night in February.

Hosted at United Methodist Church this year, the dinner was a birthday party, honoring Scouting and celebrates the founding of Boy Scouts of America in 1910 and Cub Scouts of America in 1930.

Ziva Gorski, a 6-year-old first-grader at Golden Oak Montessori Charter School, as well as two fourth-grade twins, Faith and Hope Hudson, were welcomed into the nearly 90-year-old organization.

The unanimous decision was made last fall to allow girls into the club at the start of the new year.

The Blue and Gold dinner was the first time the girls were offi-



MAKING LOCAL HISTORY: From left, Ziva Gorski and twins Faith and Hope Hudson, all from Castro Valley, were officially recognized as member of Boy Scout Pack 722 at the annual Blue and Gold dinner February 24 in Castro Valley.

cially recognized as members, receiving their badges at the award ceremony along with their fellow

male scouts. Ziva, a Castro Valley resident, is the youngest of 3 children. Her

two older brothers are currently members of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and their father, Mike

Gorski, is a former Boy Scout and a Co/Den leader.

Faith and Hope Hudson are also Castro Valley residents. Their older brother just received his Arrow of Light and is now a Boy Scout. Their father, Derek is a Co/Den leader as well.

Two members of the San Francisco Bay Area Council were also in attendance that night.

"We believe We strive to bring what our organization does best – developing character and leadership for young people – to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation of leaders," stated, the

Boy Scouts of America's Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh has said the Boy Scouts believe "it is critical to evolve how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children."

For more information, please contact Kim or Mike Gorski @ 510-828-1352 or 925.998.4387

WWII EXHIBITION OPENS SATURDAY

Remembering Internment of Local Japanese Americans

Relocation. Evacuation. Internment. Imprisonment. Incarceration.

These are all words used to describe the Japanese and Japanese American experience of World War II.

The stories of those that lived through this period, as well as their descendants, are more relevant today than ever, while we as a society still grapple with issues of immigration, race, and discrimination.

"Loyal Americans: Japanese American Imprisonment During World War II" is an exhibition of artifacts and stories of people whose civil rights were violated. Conversely, they also show the courage and bravery of ordinary Americans in extraordinary circumstances.

"Working with the Eden Township Japanese American Citizens League, community members, and speaking directly with the families who were affected by the incarceration has been an amazing experience while heart wrenching at the same time," says Curator Diane Curry of the Hayward Area Historical Society.



PHOTO BY DOROTHEA LANGE, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

This farm family awaits evacuation bus at Hayward Plaza. Father and mother immigrated from Japan, and their eleven children were born in the United States. The father operated a small farm, growing tomatoes and berries.

"Their stories are touching, enlightening, and horrible. The atrocious violation of their civil rights is a lesson we can never forget." Complementing the exhibi-

tion are three programs. The first, on April 14, is a family friendly program celebrating traditional Japanese culture. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., families can participate in

making a thousand paper cranes. The cranes will be displayed in the museum lobby for the duration of the exhibition, and then sent to the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima,

Japan to honor those who lost their lives during the atomic bombing in 1945.

The Eden Aoba Taiko group will also be present during the program to demonstrate taiko drumming beginning at 11 a.m.

Then on May 12 at 2 p.m., internees who experienced the prison camps first-hand will share their stories and experiences. A third program focusing on civil liberties is scheduled for Aug. 11.

"Loyal Americans: Japanese American Imprisonment During World War II," supported by the Eden Township Japanese American Citizens League, will be on display from March 10 through Oct. 28 at the Historical Society's Museum of History and Culture, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

A member's reception, free to the public, will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. this Friday, March 9, thanks to a generous grant from the Edward E. and Donna L. Martins Foundation.

For more, call 510-581-0223 or visit: HaywardAreaHistory.org.

Castro Valley Weather Mar. 7 - 11, 2018

				
Wednesday Partly Cloudy High 67° Low 51°	Thursday Showers High 65° Low 48°	Friday Partly Cloudy High 65° Low 45°	Saturday Rainy High 63° Low 53°	Sunday Partly Cloudy High 64° Low 49°

Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 02.20
Season To Date: 10.19
Normal To Date: 18.40
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases

March 9	March 17	March 24	April 1
			

Sun sets at 6:10 p.m. today, rises at 6:29 a.m. Thursday.

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SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Watching U.S. in World Cup Guides Nick Lima to Soccer

Fifteenth in a series profiling the 16 new members of the Castro Valley Sports Hall of Fame. The induction banquet will take place Saturday, April 21, at Redwood Canyon Event Center. For tickets, call Ted Riche at: 510-537-2048.

By Dave Del Grande
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

It's really no surprise that soccer star Nick Lima finds himself playing his favorite sport for his favorite team these days. After all, it's what he dreamed of as a kid. But if you'd asked him, oh, about 15 years ago, to identify that sport and that team, he would not have said soccer and the San Jose Earthquakes. "Hockey was my favorite sport growing up. I was a big Sharks fan," the 23-year-old admitted last week on the eve of the Earthquakes' season opener.

"My buddies and I, we'd play hockey games in my garage. Really get after it. Let out some steam on each other." Lima had little to get steamed about as a youth athlete on his way to getting inducted into the Castro Valley Sports Hall of Fame next month. The Proctor Elementary/Creekside Middle School student was one of those kids who was good at just about everything: football, basketball, hockey, swimming, track... Oh, yeah, and soccer, too. Already well along the path to stardom at Castro Valley High in football, soccer and track, Lima's aspirations changed while watching the United States participate in the 2006 World Cup in Germany, where the Americans surprisingly tied Italy 1-1. "That big stage, I wanted to do that one day," he recalled. "I wanted to see what they do on that stage because that was my dream."

So, sandwiching successful seasons for the Trojans in football (he was a three-way player if you count, of course, punting) and track (his specialty was the sprints), Lima earned a coveted spot in the Earthquakes Soccer Academy while also dominating the competition on the high school field, helping earn him a scholarship to Cal. Amid all the individual success, Lima insisted he most enjoyed the team aspect of his Trojans' experience. "I remember double-days during the summer," he said of the sometimes unbearable football sessions that many would consider the lowlight of their high school careers. "Playing football with my best friends, that was my biggest memory of school sports. "Same with track. The 4 x 100 relay and getting to do that with different people."

see FAME on page 8

An Important Message to Our Readers...

For nearly 30 years, the Castro Valley Forum has arrived at the doorstep of nearly every home in Castro Valley as well as parts of Oakland and Unincorporated Alameda County. And it hasn't cost a penny!

For those who weren't born when the first issue of the Forum rolled off the press in 1989 and who now have kids of their own, it must seem like the Forum has been around forever. And, if all goes well, there will continue to be a home-owned local newspaper for you to enjoy with your Wednesday morning coffee.

But the time has come to ask for a little help from our friends, by buying a Loyal Reader Subscription to the Forum.

The cost of nearly every phase of publishing and delivering a newspaper has gone up dramatically in the past 30 years, while advertising revenue — our sole means of existence — has declined. That's a bad combination.

Here's our problem. Some ads aren't available to us unless we can demonstrate that a portion of the public is willing to subscribe to the paper. That's hard to prove when the Forum has always been delivered free.

So, if you value the Forum, we're asking that you make a small one-time-only investment of \$10 to help keep the presses rolling. It's the number of subscribers that's important.

We can't give you a free toaster or an umbrella with your subscription — just the satisfaction that you helped keep your hometown newspaper around for awhile.

You can subscribe online at castrovalleyforum.com or use the coupon below. Make checks payable to Castro Valley Forum.

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Mail to: Castro Valley Forum, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Busted for Drugs

Saturday, March 3: at 8:05 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 44-year-old man from San Francisco on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and illegal drug paraphernalia. The man was spotted trying to shoot up in the parking lot of a grocery store on Redwood Road near Castro Valley Boulevard. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him into custody.

Domestic Dispute

Sunday, March 4: at 12:17 a.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to an apartment complex on Santa Maria Avenue near Jamison Way. There, they arrested a 26-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of assault on a family member. Deputies took the man into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Violated Probation

Saturday, March 3: at 4:35 a.m., deputies arrested a 42-year-old woman from San Leandro on suspicion of public intoxication and violating the terms of her probation. The woman was hanging around Eden Medical Center on Lake Chabot Road when hospital staff called for deputies as the woman was intoxicated and becoming belligerent. The woman was positively identified as violating her parole. She was treated and then taken into custody.

Intoxicated at Eden

Friday, March 2: at 7:45 p.m., a 49-year-old man from Oakland was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication while visiting Eden

Medical Center on Lake Chabot Road. Deputies were called to intervene after hospital staff could not restrain the man. The man failed his field sobriety test. He was treated and then taken into custody.

Drug Possession

Friday, March 2: at 9:43 a.m., deputies arrested a 22-year-old man with no permanent address on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics. The man was hanging out on a bus bench on the Boulevard near Lake Chabot Road when deputies approached him for questioning. Deputies discovered his stash and took him into custody.

Caught on Camera

Thursday, March 1: at 11:37 a.m., a 22-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of possession of stolen property and violating the terms of his probation. Deputies caught up with the man on Grove Way near Tanglewood Drive after he was identified as a suspect caught on surveillance camera taking a package from a nearby home and driving away. The vehicle was later found and reported stolen. The man was taken into custody.

Spousal Battery

Friday, March 2: at 2:07 a.m., deputies were called to an apartment on Center Street near Grove Way following a report of a domestic dispute. There they arrested a 35-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of spousal battery. Deputies took the man into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Wanted Man

Tuesday, March 27: at 9:12 p.m., a 48-year-old man from CV was arrested on suspicion of two counts of possession of illegal narcotics and one count possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies stopped the man for questioning on Yeandle Avenue near Catalina Drive and discovered his stash. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.

Passing a Phony Check

Wednesday, February 28: at 1:47 a.m., deputies arrested a 24-year-old woman from Suisun City (Solano County) on suspicion of trying to pass a phony check at a local business. The woman was pulled over for a traffic violation on John Drive near the Boulevard. Deputies positively identified her as the suspect in a counterfeit check operation and took her into custody.

Caught for Vandalism

Tuesday, February 27: at 11:03 a.m. a 52-year-old woman from Pleasanton was arrested on suspicion of damaging private property outside a fast food restaurant on Redwood Road near Redwood Court. The woman was handcuffed and taken into custody.



SIXTY YEARS OF INSPIRING LOVE

Longtime residents of Castro Valley, Ron and Marilyn Vanderbilt are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary today, March 7, 2018. Congratulating them on their six decades of inspiring love, generosity, and commitment, are their children - Randy, Robin, Rick, and Renee; grandchildren - Cheryl, Brian, Alex (d. 2017), Jennifer, Michael, Sam, Andrew, Ryan, Richard, Andrea, and Faith; their great-grandchild - Leo; and their hundreds of friends.

CVSAN

Public Records Online

Castro Valley Sanitary District has launched a new webpage for processing public records requests online. The new system will allow CVSan to track public records requests more efficiently and will allow residents to make public records requests more easily.

Individuals wishing to submit a public records request may do so by using an online form at www.cvsan.org/PublicRecords, emailing your request to publicinfo@cvsan.org, or requesting in person at CVSan's main office at 21040 Marshall Street. Hours are 7 a.m. - to 4 p.m. weekdays/

CVSan will respond to the request in writing within 10 calendar days of the receipt of the request, advising if CVSan has the records sought and whether they are wholly or partly available for disclosure, or if more time is needed to respond.

The time for notice may be extended up to an additional 14 calendar days in some circumstances.

The same fees still apply to records requests (25¢ per single-sided page). Costs for electronic files determined by costs to process the request.

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The Week Ahead

● Thursday, March 8: School Board Meeting

The Castro Valley Board of Education will hold a regular open meeting beginning at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the School District Headquarters, 4400 Alma Avenue. The complete agenda and board packet are available at bit.ly/CVUSDBBoardMeetings

● Thursday, March 8: International Women's Day Celebration

The Castro Valley chapter of Dining for Women invites you to celebrate International Women's Day from 4-7 p.m. tomorrow at the Hayward Arts Council, 22394 Foothill Blvd., Hayward. Space is limited. RSVP at diningforwomencv@gmail.com

● Friday, March 9: Where Does Your Garbage Go?

CVSan invites residents and business owners in the district to find out for themselves by attending a free tour on Friday, March 9, of the Davis Street Transfer Station in San Leandro, where 4,000 tons of materials are processed each day using state-of-the-art sorting facilities. Transportation is provided to the facility free of charge. For more info, or to register, visit www.cvsan.org/dststour

● Friday, March 9: Smalltown March Gathering

Hear from local artists and advocates at the March Gathering from 7 to 10 p.m. this Friday at 22222 Redwood Road, highlighting the work of artist Lili Mikaio and the work of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Free (suggested donation \$10). www.smalltownsociety.com

● Saturday, March 10: Hearing Loss Association Meeting

Michael Galvan, from CRIL (Community Resources for Independent Living), will discuss "Emergency Planning for the Disabled," at the next meeting on March 10. Refreshments at 9:30 a.m.; Program at 10, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., Lower Level, Room G26. Park free on Saturday in garage across Howe. Email: athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 510/886-4717.

● Saturday, March 10: Creating Modern Quilts

Amador Valley Quilters will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, when Peggy Martin will discuss how traditional quilting patterns can provide inspiration that leads to the creation of modern designs.

Meetings are at 1:30 on the second Saturday of the month at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org

● Saturday, March 10: CVHS Boosters' Crab Feed

Join the High School Boosters Club on March 10 for a crab, pasta and salad dinner served by CVHS athletes. Also raffle baskets and live auction beginning with a no-host bar at 5 p.m., dinner at 6. For tickets (\$55, or table of 10 for \$500), visit squareup.com/store/cvhs-athletic-boosters-club?t=merchant-fb or email crabfeed@athleticsboosters.org

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● Saturday, March 10: Meet Scientist Andrew Gunther

As part of the Castro Valley Library's Community Reads "Lab Girl" program, please join us for the next guest in our Meet a Scientist series at 1 p.m. on March 10 at the Library. Environmental Scientist Dr. Andrew Gunther will discuss the impact of climate change on Bay Area ecosystems, and identify actions that will preserve these ecosystems.

● Saturday, March 10: Yoga for Stress Relief

Overwhelmed? Overworked? The Aitken Senior & Community Center at 17800 Redwood Road is hosting a Yoga for Stress Relief Workshop from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on March 10, offering stress-relief tools to use at work, at home, or life on the go. Participants will learn postures, intro to meditation, aromatherapy and acupressure points for anxiety reduction. Cost is \$25 for students/seniors and \$30 adults. Space is limited, so sign up early. For info, call 510-881-6738.

● Saturday, March 10: Writers' Workshop

Local author Mark Cotta Vaz invites you to join his free writer's workshop series from 10 a.m. to noon this Saturday at the Smalltown Society Space, 22222 Redwood Road, open to any interest, whether it's forging a writing career, increasing one's communication skills, or writing the family memoir. More details: www.smalltownsociety.com

● Monday, March 12: Charity Bingo Luncheon

Eagles Auxiliary 1139 will hold its monthly charity bingo luncheon, with corned beef and cabbage, at noon on Monday at 21406 Foothill Blvd., Hayward. The proceeds for this St. Patrick's Day event will benefit FESCO. A donation of \$8 includes one bingo card. There will also be a raffle. Join us for a fun afternoon with food and friends. Call 510-584-1568 for further info.

● Monday, March 12: MAC Meeting

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council will hold a land-use meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday at the Castro Valley Library. Included on the agenda is the Castro Valley Sanitary District's private sewer lateral inspection-upon-sale program. The complete agenda is available online at acgov.org/bc/cvmac

● Tuesday, March 13: Zero Waste in Businesses

The Rotary Club of Castro Valley will host Jessica Nusse from CVSan who will speak on "Zero Waste Initiatives in Commercial Businesses," exploring the CVSan Zero Waste goal and the ways CVSan supports increased recycling and organics through technical assistance and donations. A buffet lunch and the presentation takes place at Redwood Canyon Golf Course (17007 Redwood Road, Castro Valley) noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost of lunch is \$20. Reservations must be made by 9 a.m. on March 12th by contacting Rotary President Jim Negri at 650.996.9173 or ciaojim_cvrotary.org. More information available at castrovalleyrotary.org

● Wednesday, March 14: Hayward Toastmasters Open House

Hayward Top of the Hill Toastmasters is hosting an Open House at 7 p.m. on March 14 in the Hayward All Saints Faith Formation Center, 22824 2nd St., a great chance to practice public speaking, networking and hearing other great speeches. Free food and drinks, too. For more information, email Eugenia Lau at laumerr@yahoo.com.

● Thursday, March 15: "Taste of Castro Valley"

The cuisine, culture and commerce of Castro Valley come together from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on March 15 as the Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the "Taste of Castro Valley" at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road, where restaurants, caterers and home-based businesses will showcase themselves to the community. For more information, visit info@castrovalleychamber.com or call 510-537-5300.

● Saturday, March 17: Discussion on Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is an estimated \$32 billion-a-year global industry and California is one of the nation's top four destinations. Learn about local trafficking at a panel discussion from 2 to 4 p.m. March 17 at the Castro Valley Library, sponsored by the American Assoc. of University Women. Representatives from the Alameda County DA's office, Hayward Police and Family Services will speak. For more info, see "Events" at www.aclibrary.org/branches/CSV.

● Saturday, March 17: 'St. Pities Day' Pet Adoptions

Hayward Animal Shelter Volunteers and SantaCon are hosting special low-cost adoptions of pitbulls and pitbull mixes from 1 to 5 p.m. March 17 at the Shelter, 16 Barnes Court, near the DMV in Hayward.

The reduced \$20 adoption fee includes spay/neuter, vaccinations and microchip (Hayward residents pay a \$17 licensing fee). More information at www.facebook.com/haywardanimalshelter

Arts & Entertainment

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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

● **Pops 2018 Y2K, Songs of the New Millennium**, a Castro Valley High School Choral Pops Concert, will be presented at 7 p.m. on March 7, 8 and 9, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 10. For tickets (\$13-\$16), see above.

● **"Jangala,"** presented by Oakland Ballet, a family-friendly performance inspired by Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, fusing contemporary ballet with south Indian classical bharatanatyam dance, will be presented at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13. "Jangala follows the story of Mowgli, a lost boy who is adopted by a pack of wolves and must use his wits to survive in the wild. For tickets (\$20 all seats), see above.

● **Concerto**, presented by Castro Valley High School, will be presented at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 16. For tickets (TBD), see above.

● **Spring Concert**, presented by the Castro Valley Adult School Orchestra at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 18, will feature Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, Lee Actor's Divertimento, and Gershwin's Porgy & Bess Suite. For tickets (\$19 adults, \$5 children and seniors) visit cvtartsfoundation.org. Tickets at the door are \$12-\$7. Turn off the TV and brighten your week with this lively event.

OTHER THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **Standup Comedy Show**, will be presented by Plethos Productions at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 24, in the Smalltown Society Space at 22222 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. Check us out on Instagram @PlethosProductions & Facebook @PlethosProductions

● **Auditions for Plethos' "In the Heights"** will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 at Smalltown Space, 22222 Redwood Road. It's a fun blend of salsa, merengue and hip hop that is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Information and signups (age 16 and over) for this Tony Award-winning musical – to be presented in June – are available at plethos.org/auditions

AT THE GALLERIES

● **"For the Love of Trees"** – Matthew Plexman presents uncomforably beautiful, large format, panoramas of clear-cuts in Northern Ontario, Canada. Glenn Hemanes works with found wood to create small vessels inspired by provenance. John Dotta, photographs each tree as an individual, approaching them as a portrait photographer would. See their exhibition through April 9 at PhotoCentral Gallery, 1099 E St. in Hayward. A public reception will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. March 7. For info visit info@photocentral.org or call 510-881-6721.

● **Hayward Art Council Members' Works**, is now on display at the Community Gallery of the Museum of History and Culture, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward, highlighting 60 artists in a dynamic collection of media.

● **29th Annual Children's Book Illustrator Show**, a local favorite of young and old alike, is currently at the Sun Gallery, 1015 E St. in Hayward, featuring a wide variety of artists and their books. Normal gallery hours are Friday through Sunday from 11-5.

● **"Anything Goes, Almost,"** an exhibition by A.R.T. Inc. members, is currently at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. See the Gallery's Artist-in-Residence, Philip Denst, at work during exhibit hours. For more information, call 510-881-6735.

● **"Asian Inspired Art Exhibition,"** featuring 21 local artists and a variety of techniques including calligraphy, brush painting, ink, sculpture, poetry, mixed-media, quilts and acrylics, will be on display through March 22 at the John O'Lague Galleria at Hayward City Hall.

● **Hayward Arts Council Member Show** will be on display through May 27 in the Community Gallery at the HAHS Museum of History & Culture, 22380 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. For more information, visit www.haywardartscouncil.org

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

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Tel: 510-537-1792 • Fax: 510-814-9691

Fred Zehnder, Editor & Publisher
fredz@ebpublishing.com

Howard Morrison, Assoc. Publisher
howardm@ebpublishing.com

Helen Burkett, Advertising Design Mgr.
helenb@ebpublishing.com

Moxie Morrison, Layout Design
moxmore@yahoo.com

Claudette E. Morrison, Business Mgr.
cm@ebpublishing.com

Patrick Vadnais, Classified Ads / Obituaries
patrickv@ebpublishing.com

Mary Florence, Advertising Sales
861-3270 Mpominville4582@aol.com

Linda Nakhai, Advertising Sales
915-1513 lnakhai@comcast.net

Amy Sylvestri, News
amys@ebpublishing.com
510-614-1561

Jim Carrizo, Sports
jimcvsports@gmail.com
510-967-3759

Reporters & Writers:

Linda Sandsmark

Michael Singer

Gene Osofsky

Carl Medford

Terry Liebowitz

Linette Escobar

Thomas Lorentzen

Buzz Bertolero

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Submissions To The Forum

The Community Calendar is for publicizing activities of non-profit organizations, government agencies, charities and community groups. It is not intended to be used for advertising commercial events, whether admission is charged or free. Items for the Community Calendar as well as news submissions must be received by 6 p.m. Friday for inclusion in the following Wednesday's newspaper. Send information in an email to: fredz@ebpublishing.com Do not send flyers or posters as we cannot use them.

After-Hours Bike Permit

The East Bay Regional Park District is testing an after-hours permit program for bicyclists who wish to commute on the Regional Trails after normal open hours.

The program is designed for cyclists who follow a regular route to or from their destination.

"This pilot program is a way to provide access to the trails to people who commute in the evening hours and get an idea of how much demand there is for this type of program," said East Bay Regional Park District Board President Dennis Waespi. "The Regional Trails are an important part of the Bay Area's green transportation network and help keep cars and congestion off the roads."

The pilot program is limited to specific sections of four of the paved Regional Trails. Applicants who commute on one of the four trails may apply for a one-year permit by contacting the Park District's Public Safety Division. A \$10 fee covers processing costs.

Permit holders are allowed on the following trails up to two hours after the usual nighttime curfew of 10 p.m., and up to 1 hour before the usual morning opening hour of 5 a.m. Interested cyclists may obtain information or a permit by contacting the East Bay Regional Park District's Public Safety Records Office at (510) 690-6508 or email: records@ebpark.com



Children Have The Power to Empower

Gia Mitra of Castro Valley has been awarded a "Children Have the Power to Empower" Award for her influence and participation in creation of a library and resource center in Ukwala, Kenya. Mitra raised thousands of dollars and collected art supplies, books, musical instruments and shoes for the children of Ukwala. The award was made by Yours Humanly, an East Bay nonprofit organization.

CV Adult & Career Education Summer Enrichment Program

By Linette Escobar
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Whether you've got a child who is entering kindergarten or elementary school, Castro Valley Adult & Career Education is sponsoring an exciting summer enrichment program to promote future academic and career success.

Classes run Monday-Friday mornings from June 18 to July 13 (no classes July 4th) at Independent Elementary School.

For children making the transition to kindergarten this fall, Pre-Kindergarten prepares them for the structure, academics and fun of "big kid" school.

"Attending Pre-Kindergarten helps students feel more confident because the experience mirrors what they will encounter on the first day of school," says Susie Passeggi, Director.

The program is taught by Castro Valley teachers in real kindergarten classes. Children will socialize and learn music, math and more. The cost is \$399. Class times are 8:45am-12:45pm.

For K-5 students, Summer Enrichment gives them the opportunity to explore a topic in-depth while also sharpening their academic, leadership, and team-building skills.



Slavi Kyuchukov (right) was recognized by the Castro Valley School Board in January as a student of Excellence at Castro Valley Adult & Career Education where he is a student in their wastewater treatment program. He's pictured with his mother, Ivanka Kyuchukova, who is a paraprofessional in the school's Adults with Disabilities program.

The program offers hands-on courses in art, science, writing, and engineering, with a focus on college and career readiness. The cost is \$425 and classes run from 8:30am-12:30pm. Classes include:

- Tinker Time: STEAM Studio: Using Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) students will investigate roller coaster design, fire catapults, and use a variety of materials from duct tape to circuits and motors.

- Young Actors' Studio: Students learn the fundamentals of acting and auditioning, then put on a play for family and friends.

- I Dig Dinosaurs! Learn all about dinosaurs and how fossils are formed.

- LEGO Engineering and Robotics: Use LEGOS to bring science, technology, engineering and mathematics to life building every-

thing from bridges to robots.

- Pre-Med Community Hospital: Students learn about the medical field while working in a simulated hospital.

- Creating and Connecting with Art Around the World, and Creative Side to Literacy: Your budding Picasso or Toni Morrison will build their artistic skills and experience multicultural literature and art in a whole new way in these classes.

Registration is open now for Pre-K. K-5 registration opens March 20. Parents are encouraged to register quickly as space in each class is limited. Visit www.cvadult.org or contact Castro Valley Adult & Career Education at (510) 886-1000.

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

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60th Wedding Anniversary

Long time residents of Castro Valley, Ron and Marilyn Vanderbilt are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on March 7, 2018. Please join us in congratulating them on their six decades of inspiring love, generosity, and commitment.

With love from their children - Randy, Robin, Rick, and Renee; grandchildren - Cheryl, Brian, Alex (d. 2017), Jennifer, Michael, Sam, Andrew, Ryan, Richard, Andrea, and Faith; and their great-grandchild - Leo.

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PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Crescent Ave. is one road that will be repaved later this year.

Sections of Seven CV Roads to be Repaved

Some streets in Castro Valley will be a little smoother soon. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors recently voted to spend almost \$1 million to repave some roads around town.

The board has budgeted \$979,000 for road repaving on parts of Sydney Way, Wilson Ave., Edwards Lane, Veronica Ave., Crescent Ave., Ruby St., and Knox St., according to the Public Works Agency.

The project is now being put out for bid to contractors. Road work is expected to begin in June and will be completed by next October, according to Public Works' officials.

"The resurfacing of roadwork pavement has been found to be an economical and effective method of extending the life of asphalt," Public Works Director Daniel Woldesenbet told the board. He said the roads that will be repaved have been prioritized by condition.

On a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 0 to 100, with a score over 80 is considered to be "very good to excellent," the average PCI for Alameda County is 68, according to the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission. No PCI number for just Castro Valley is available.

—Amy Sylvestri

Medi-Cal Resource Strategies

Q. I need to qualify my mother for a Medi-Cal subsidy to help pay for her nursing home care, due to her progressive dementia. However, she has about \$20,000 in a bank account with just her name on it, and no power of attorney in place to allow me to draw upon it. I was told that these funds will place her over the Medi-Cal resource ceiling and prevent eligibility. What can I do?

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

A. It is unfortunate that your mother had not previously arranged for you to have access to that account, and now with her dementia she likely does not have sufficient mental capacity to arrange for your access now.

That said, recall the old expression: "If life deals you lemons, turn them into lemonade"! That adage may have particular application to your situation. Here's why:

As you may know, Medi-Cal typically divides the world of resources into two (2) categories, i.e. those which are exempt [such as a home, furnishings and the like], and those which are countable [such as savings and a second home].

In order to qualify an unmarried individual for a Medi-Cal nursing home subsidy, the applicant's "countable" resources must be less than \$2,000.

Note: countable resources are the key to eligibility, and monthly income is only considered afterwards in calculating applicant's co-pay ("share of cost").

But, in fact, there is a little known third category, which embraces resources which are considered "unavailable." If an asset is unavailable, it is — during the time that it remains unavailable — treated the same as if it were exempt!

Most social workers, and even many Medi-Cal eligibility work-see **MEDI-CAL** on back page



SENIORS GET CASH FOR YOUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

By Jim Miller
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Selling a life insurance policy, even a term life policy that you don't want or need any longer — a transaction known as a "life settlement" — has become a popular option among retirees in recent years that could use some extra cash. Here's how it works.

A life settlement is the sale of an existing life insurance policy to a third party company for cash.

Life settlements are typically best suited for people over age 65 who own a policy with a face value of \$100,000 or more or someone younger who has experienced a significant change in health.

Historically, if an owner of a life insurance policy decided they no longer needed it, they would either let the policy lapse or turn it in for a meager cash surrender value.

But now, with the life settlement option, you can actually sell your policy for more than the cash

surrender value would be, but less than its net death benefit.

Once you sell it, the life settlement company then becomes the new owner of the policy, pays the future premiums and collects the death benefit.

How much money you can expect to get with a life settlement will depend on your age, health and life expectancy, the type of insurance policy, the premium costs and the cash value of your policy.

see **POLICY** on back page

Chan to Head Schools' Business Services

The Castro Valley School Board has appointed Suzy Chan as the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. She has been serving as Interim Assistant Superintendent since last fall. Chan has more than 20 years of experience in the field. She joined the Castro Valley School District as Director of Finance last year.

11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Castro Valley Home for Sale

Castro Valley - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away alto-

gether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-844-767-8796 and enter 4003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



This week's Athletes of the Week are the members of the Castro Valley High School's Varsity girls basketball team. The team finished their Northern California Section playoffs run with a loss to, number 2 seeded Heritage, 71-66, on Wednesday, February 28. Since the team made

it as far as the semifinals round in NCS, they qualified for the CIF playoffs. They begin their California Interscholastic Federation playoff run tonight, at home, against the Consummes Oaks Wolfpack, from Elk Grove. The game starts at 7 p.m. Please come out and support our team!

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Fame: Lima Now Plays for Earthquakes

continued from page 2

Lima noted that being an all-around athlete helped him succeed at multiple positions in his soccer career. But there comes a time when a young standout must specialize, he claimed.

"Focusing on one sport in the soccer world is a little more important than the other sports, just because you're competing against the world, and that's what they're doing," he said.

"Soccer, it's not football, where you have to play in college two or three years. Soccer, you can turn pro as a 16-year-old. Here, if you're playing four sports at age 16, you're behind."

A two-time first-team all-conference selection at Cal, Lima was signed by the Earthquakes in January of 2017 as what is known as a "Homegrown Player." He was just the second in the history of the franchise to earn the distinction.

He hasn't disappointed, scoring a goal in just his second game last season against Vancouver, getting his first game-winner in July in a 1-0 win over Colorado, and earning consideration for Major League Soccer Rookie of the League honors (he finished fourth in the balloting).

This season, he started at right back in the season opener against Minnesota United with an eye on greater team success.

And, he hopes, a World Cup ap-



Former Castro Valley and Cal soccer standout Nick Lima now plays for the San Jose Earthquakes.

pearance of his own in the future.

"That's No. 1 on the list. On the international level, that's every player's dream," he said of the World Cup. "Not just to play in it, but to win it."

Lima assured Castro Valley's proximity to championship teams in multiple professional sports over the years has spiked his desire to be the focal point of a ticker-tape parade some day.

"Being so close to so many Bay Area sports teams -- getting to see the professional game, the level of competition, the intensity," he gushed.

"Especially the Earthquakes. Living in Castro Valley provided me the opportunity to see them, and play with them (at the Academy) when I was 15. Letting me see I could do this, and keeping me on that path."

TENNIS RESULTS: WASHINGTON AT CV TUES., FEB. 27 • CV 7, WASHINGTON 0

SINGLES

1. Edward Wang (CV) - Mohnish Sandi 6-1, 6-4
2. Micheal Chu (CV) - Kashyap Patel 6-0, 6-1
3. Spenser Lin-Jones (CV) - Kaushik Verukonda 6-0, 6-2
4. Dustin Fong (CV) - Harshil Jain 6-3, 6-1

DOUBLES

1. Gabe Priem / Leon Chen (CV) - Will Cooper / Vivek Ellanti 6-3, 5-7, 10-1
2. Ashir Gupta / Colby Fong (CV) - Jonathan Weng / Harsha Moyya 3-6, 6-1, 11-9
3. Scott Coleman / Brendan Soo (CV) - Madhau Sharma / Matthew Toy 6-1, 6-



CVHS CHEER TEAM TAKES 3RD PLACE AT NATIONALS

Congratulations to The Castro Valley Varsity Competitive Cheer Team, under the direction of Coach Eileen Drury, for Advancing to Finals at the USA Nationals and bringing home a 3rd place trophy! Go Trojans!

REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



RESPA Violations Plague Transactions

It's a scenario seen multiple times a day in the Bay Area – a buyer's agent writes an offer and includes a specific title company.

The listing agent counters back and specifies a different title company for the transaction. The inference is clear: use the listing agent's preferred title company or the offer will not be accepted.

Problem: that's a violation of RESPA* rules and could result in significant fines for the seller and potential ethics charges for the listing agent.

"It's not unusual for a listing agent to have a favorite closing agent and want the buyer to close the transaction using that agent, along with the agent's title insurance and settlement services," writes Phillip L. Schulman, former assistant general counsel at HUD.

"What many practitioners don't realize, however, is that Section 9 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act prohibits sellers from conditioning the home sale on the use of a specific title insurance company, and in fact violators can be subject to penalties, with the most typical being a fine of up to three times the amount of the title insurance fee."

Section 1024.2 of RESPA clarifies, "'Required use' means a situation in which a person must use a particular provider of a settlement service in order to have access to some distinct service or property, and the per-

Mortgage Rates Continue to Rise

Long-term mortgage rates rose again last week for the eighth consecutive week, according to Freddie Mac's nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.43 percent last week, up from 4.40 percent a week earlier. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 4.10 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 3.90 percent, up from 3.85 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.62 percent last week, down slightly from 3.65.

son will pay for the settlement service of the particular provider or will pay a charge attributable, in whole or in part, to the settlement service."

In other words, if a seller or listing agent insists that a buyer use a specific title company and pays the related fees, they are violating the law.

If, however, the seller covers the applicable fees, there is no problem.

Local listing agents open themselves up for penalties when they state, in writing, that a certain title company must be used.

I frequently see confidential comments on the MLS declaring that a pre-escrow has been opened at a specific title com-

pany. Instructions for Writing or Counter Offers which assert that a specific title company must be used are also an open invitation to fines.

Buyers and their agents, eager to get an offer accepted, frequently play along, even though they know it is wrong. "Better to play the game and get a sale than push back and get nothing," they reason.

It's a choice they should never have to make. It's the law.

*Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act

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.

RECENT HOME SALES

San Leandro

255 Best Avenue	94577: \$750,000	2 BD - 1,154 SF - 1924
359 Bristol Boulevard	94577: \$563,000	3 BD - 1,451 SF - 1944
357 Castro Street	94577: \$600,000	2 BD - 990 SF - 1880
485 Maud Avenue	94577: \$440,000	2 BD - 792 SF - 1920
1599 164th Avenue	94578: \$540,000	2 BD - 778 SF - 1952
337 Caliente Circle	94578: \$402,000	2 BD - 1,060 SF - 1980
1457 Plaza Drive	94578: \$530,000	2 BD - 1,090 SF - 1946
997 Portola Drive	94578: \$670,000	3 BD - 1,135 SF - 1955
15939 Selborne Drive	94578: \$600,000	3 BD - 1,689 SF - 1951
766 Woodgate Drive	94579: \$525,000	N/A BD - 1,356 SF - 1973

TOTAL SALES:	10		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$402,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$551,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$750,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$562,000

Castro Valley

3797 Almond Court	94546: \$775,000	3 BD - 1,198 SF - 1957
19213 Almond Road	94546: \$740,000	3 BD - 1,422 SF - 1949
4221 Beverly Place	94546: \$840,000	3 BD - 1,650 SF - 1986
19052 Center Street	94546: \$919,000	4 BD - 2,348 SF - 1955
4431 James Avenue	94546: \$920,000	6 BD - 2,730 SF - 1977
18124 Judy Street	94546: \$800,000	3 BD - 1,396 SF - 1953
19559 Parsons Avenue	94546: \$765,000	3 BD - 1,220 SF - 1946
5214 Reedley Way	94546: \$930,000	3 BD - 1,618 SF - 1965
21452 Rizzo Avenue	94546: \$685,000	3 BD - 1,104 SF - 1941
17054 Rolando Avenue	94546: \$740,000	3 BD - 1,875 SF - 1942
3591 Somerset Avenue	94546: \$480,000	3 BD - 1,370 SF - 1949
22792 Princeton Place	94552: \$1,125,000	3 BD - 2,082 SF - 1999

TOTAL SALES:	12		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$480,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$787,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,125,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$809,917

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Now You Can Paint Like a Pro

By **Samantha Mazzotta**
Special to the Forum

Preparation is the biggest part of painting. It can be maddening getting everything ready, but if you do it right, putting down each coat is really satisfying. Here are some key points:

- ✓ Get clearance from the landlord or building management before painting and follow any specific instructions, such as which colors to use.

- ✓ Remove as much furniture and stuff as possible. Move what remains to the center of the room

and cover with dropcloths or old sheets. Cover the floor or carpets with overlapping dropcloths.

- ✓ Take down pictures and carefully remove nails and screws; fill the small holes with spackling compound and let dry for 24 hours before sanding smooth.

- ✓ Remove cover plates from wall switches and outlets, and cover light fixtures.

- ✓ Brush away loose plaster, cobwebs, dirt and peeling paint. Sand bumpy areas using fine-grit sandpaper. Wash the walls with a soap-and-water mix or wall-clean-

ing product, and let dry.

- ✓ Use blue painter's tape to mask off window and door trim, and other areas where you don't want paint to go.

- ✓ Assemble all the stuff you need to paint: brushes, rollers, paint trays, stirring sticks and old rags or towels for cleanup.

Paint a 3-inch border where the wall meets the ceiling. Then start rolling on paint, using a "W" pattern in various directions until the wall is covered. Once the walls are done, paint the trim.

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OPEN HOMES SATURDAY & SUNDAY MARCH 10TH & 11TH



CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	—	1-4	791 Elsie Ave.	\$658,000	3/1.25	Re/Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	925-251-2536
H	—	1-4	19425 Waverly Ave.	\$675,000	3/2	Coldwell Banker	Trish Radovich	510-583-5400
A	—	1-4	640 Oakes Dr.	\$679,000	2/1.5	Varos Real Estate	Terry Martinez	510-772-3746
A	—	1-4	1000 Begier Ave.	\$799,000	2/2	Varos Real Estate	Terry Martinez	510-772-3746
A	—	1-4	974 Arbor Dr.	\$929,000	3/3	Varos Real Estate	Terry Martinez	510-772-3746
A	—	1-4	9001 McGurrin Rd.	\$1,333,888	4/4.5	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt Jones	510-357-0120

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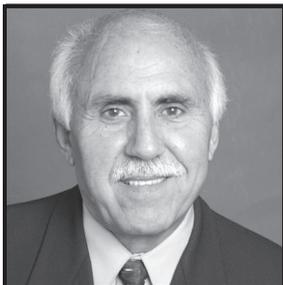
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Root-bound Camellia Needs Release

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q I have a camellia in a terracotta pot who's roots have grown through the drainage holes and rooted into the ground. I'm not entirely sure what to do next to fix things.

A This is not as much of a problem as it might seem. Your camellia is root bound. I suspect it's been in the same container for a very long time or planted in too small of a container.

Either way, now and for the next month, is an excellent time to remedy the situation.

The solution is quite simple: push the container over as far as you can and cut the roots off at the drainage hole. Now, you have two options: root prune the camellia and replant it in the same container or transplant it into a larger pot.

Containerized maples, roses, azaleas, gardenias and many others are transplanted once every 36 to 48 months as a standard practice. This prevents them from becoming root-bound and declining.

Root pruning allows you to keep a plant in the same container indefinitely by creating room for new roots, while transplanting enables you to increase the container size gradually over time.

With either technique, you'll be cutting the rootball, and this makes people very, very nervous, as they are concerned about permanently damaging the plant. Unless you grossly overdo it, this shouldn't be the case.

When you try to remove the camellia from the container, exposing the rootball, it may be necessary to break the pot.

As plants become root-bound, they develop a thick and tightly bound rootball in the shape of the container. You'll need to break this pattern by severing the roots with a serrated knife, pruning shears or a pruning saw.

Slice, trim or cut away two to six inches from the sides of the rootball and 4 to 8 inches off the bottom. If it's being transplanted, make 4 to 12 slices or slashes depending on the size of the rootball, and don't forget the bottom.

Next, add fresh potting soil



Camellias in containers should be transplanted every 36 to 48 months to prevent them from getting rootbound.

to the new or existing container, insert the camellia, fill the vacant space with soil to complete the transplanting project, and water. Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers (www.dirtgardener.com). Email dirtgarden@aol.com.



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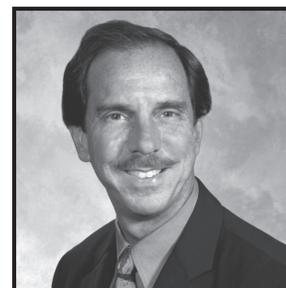
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Our office will not be open prior to March 12, 2018. All pre-applications received by March 23, 2018 will be randomly ordered. Disabled senior applicants are encouraged to apply. Income, age, and other restrictions apply. Rents subject to change. EHO.



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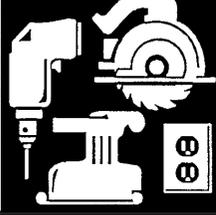
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A Plea to Save Castro Valley from a Devastating Forest Fire

Editor:

I live on the Proctor Road and Ewing Ridge. During each fire season my neighbors and I are constantly concerned. Observing what happened during the Santa Rosa fire, abruptly notched up our level of concerns.

Why? Not alone were the properties adjoining the open space destroyed but whole neighborhoods were wiped out.

Could that happen in Castro Valley? Absolutely. The terrain is similar. A fire starting down at the golf course, along Redwood Road or in the many forest trails in the Chabot Park and fueled by the dry undergrowth and shrubbery, could result in an inferno that would demolish Castro Valley.

Can we take steps to avoid this catastrophe? Yes! We can.

The popular Ten Hills Trail runs right behind our homes. It has

vehicle access at Redwood Road at Governor and up at Park Headquarters. It is constantly used by East Bay Park District Maintenance and patrol vehicles. It can accommodate fire equipment.

Yet, this strategic road never was equipped with fire water lines or hydrants. Getting such improvements back there to stop a wild fire, is a no-brainer.

There are fire hydrants on streets that back up to this road. There still is vacant land where roads could be cut through, to give extra access points to fire equipment.

There are other fire preventive options available, such as further improving this Ten Hills Trail roadway, including widening it, to create a firebreak.

An important meeting will be held Monday, March 19 at 6 p.m. at Castro Valley Library when our MAC Board will be addressing this critical issue.

Hopefully, our Fire Department, Parks Department and East Bay M.U.D., who owns the park land, as well as our Board of Supervisors, will be represented.

All of Castro Valley is vulnerable!

Mark your calendar. Let's all show our concerns. Take action now. Don't wait for the fire.

—John Sullivan, Castro Valley

Raising an Issue About Raising the Flag

Editor:

I visited the local USPS Post Office in Castro Valley on March 1. I needed to mail some letters and buy some stamps. I had noticed that the American Flag was not displayed outside on the flag pole.

I asked the clerk if he or the Post Office was under duress? (As a former member of the Armed Forces, this could be a sign, as with flying it upside down). The Clerk say "Well, it's raining."

Oh, really? Aren't the letter carriers delivering the mail in the rain? (Sleet-Gloom-extra) He directed me to his Supervisor. As I approached her, she disappeared into the back. I waited at the Dutch-door. After 5 minutes I left.

I spoke to Congressman Eric Swalwell's (D) office about this and was told they would take action. I realize this may seem like a "who cares?" I Care.

—Thomas B. Fentress, Castro Valley

A Word of Thanks

Editor:

Deepest thanks to the very kind woman who helped me up from the floor in the Castro Valley Post Office on Friday, Feb. 23 about 6:30 a.m.

—Ellen Gould, Castro Valley

Is the County Playing Political Games with Castro Valley?

Editor:

Let me understand why the County Unincorporated Services meeting on the old Castro Valley Library was held on Feb. 28, in San Lorenzo!

To me this is a typical political move to have such a meeting not in Castro Valley, but in a different locality. Why? Because citizens of Castro Valley like me would learn of this meeting too late to attend!

Those of us that live in Castro Valley want to have a say on what is to be done with the old library. As I understand the proposal, veterans would live there after conversion for living space.

As Mr. Crawford states, he does not want to see the building torn down. Neither do I! Mr. Turner says there is not sufficient space for any apartments even if the is parking built under the building. He is so correct!

Also as it has been pointed out, the veteran services are either in Fremont or Livermore. This just not make sense. I am all for homeless veterans to have a place to live. However, such living conditions should be near where they can receive help in job placements and benefits! Alameda County is playing political games with us that live and love Castro Valley!

—Richard "Dick" Purdee, Castro Valley

Calls Arguments Against Gun-Carrying Teachers 'Bogus'

Editor:

Last week a flurry of letters offered many phony excuses for not letting teachers carry concealed handguns. For example, "(If only two teachers are armed), what if they are both out sick?"

The mass shooter would not know which teachers are armed, so he could not possibly plan to take advantage of such a situation.

Another false claim was "You can't bring a handgun to an automatic weapon fight." The average person (with decent vision, and using careful aim) can use a handgun to hit a man sized target from at least seventy five yards away. I have done this from a hundred yards, and I am only an average shooter. A handgun can be very effective against a rifle. And a handgun is infinitely more effective than no gun at all.

Another bogus argument was, "What if the mass shooter is wearing body armor?" A head shot can also be made (by the average shooter, using careful aim) from at least twenty to thirty yards away. Problem solved.

Finally, someone actually claimed that teachers would not volunteer to carry a gun. Really? This week, in Butler County Ohio, the Sheriff offered free gun training to any teacher or school employee who wanted to carry a gun to protect children. After 300 people volunteered, he had to refuse accepting new applications. There were so many volunteers, the Sheriff could not train them all.

Of course California is not Ohio. We Californians are so brain-washed by anti-gun hysteria, we refuse to let teachers carry guns. That means we refuse to protect children. So Instead of preventing the next tragedy, we would rather let it happen again, just so we can keep screaming for "tougher gun laws."

—Peter Hauer, Castro Valley

Guns in Teachers' Hands: 'Great in Theory, But...'

Editor:

I think the idea of putting guns in the hands of teachers is great in theory but in reality, not a chance. What Mr. Becker has failed to see is the big white elephant in the room called Bureaucracy.

Among the parties who will get their hands involved in what they will call the, "Arms For Teachers Act" are the teachers union, the federal government and here in California no doubt the state legislature. Has anybody ever seen a project that truly worked to the people's advantage once in the hands of unions and politicians? The cost will go through the roof.

No, I do not have a better idea than Mr. Becker's. But I'm sure not willing to pay for this.

—Charles Scott, Castro Valley

Obituaries

Arthur Dennis "Denny" Waal



Arthur Dennis "Denny" Waal was born in San Francisco on June 8, 1954. Son of the late Arthur Waal, Jr. and Jane Christian Waal, and one of nine brothers and sisters. Denny leaves behind a daughter, Jaelyn Waal, and his soon-to-be Grandson, Enzo.

He will be remembered as a great story teller who used the art of laughter to get through any situation. Denny's strong work ethic and independent nature helped him battle the multiple health issues that eventually took his life. He will forever be remembered as a thoughtful, loving, and caring father, brother, friend and colleague.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life on Wed., March 7 at 6 p.m. at Duggan's Serra Mortuary, 500 Westlake Blvd., Daly City. Donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donation Services, PO Box 98018, Washington DC 20090-8018.

- AMARAL, Charles E.
- SANDSMARK, Lois
- WALL, Arthur Dennis "Denny"

AMARAL, Charles E., passed on February 24, 2018 at age 85. Lived in San Leandro, from Lihue, Kauai. Services were held at Grissom's Chapel & Mortuary, in San Lorenzo, March 1.

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Lois Elaine (Koepe) Sandsmark



Lois Elaine (Koepe) Sandsmark, 91, passed away February 20, 2018 of natural causes. Lois was born Sept. 27, 1926, on a farm near Claire City, South Dakota. She was the eldest child of Nilda and Fred Koepe. Lois had four brothers and sisters: Marlys (Marv Weispfenning), Myron (Betty) Koepe, Phyllis (Hermann Lentz) and Dean (Elaine) Koepe, whose families still live in the Midwest.

Lois graduated from high school at age 16 and from Northern State Teachers College (now Northern State University) in Aberdeen, South Dakota at 17. Her teaching career began at age 18 in South Dakota, in the same schoolhouse from which she had graduated two years earlier. In 1948 she married Hardy Sandsmark, also of Claire City. They moved to California and became charter members of Epiphany Lutheran Church in San Leandro.

Lois taught elementary school for 40 years in the Hayward Unified School District. She completed her California teaching credential by taking night and weekend classes at San Francisco State University while teaching by day. She taught at Fairview and Kimball schools, and completed her teaching career at Baywood Elementary School. The site of this school later became Baywood Court Retirement Community, where Lois was a resident since 2010.

Lois and Hardy were worldwide travelers, especially after retirement. They were married 51 years, until Hardy's death in 2000. They are survived by their three children, Linda (Paul Bouchard), Michael (Carol) and Fred (Angela Brassinga), grandchildren Nicole, Jennifer and Michelle Sandsmark, Mark and Jeffrey Bouchard, Andrew Brassinga, and many relatives and dear friends. She was predeceased by her husband Hardy, sister Marlys, daughter-in-law Jane Sandsmark, and Ed Sommer.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 18, at 11:45 a.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 16248 Carolyn St., San Leandro. Burial was private. Memorial gifts may be sent to Women of Epiphany Lutheran Church (WELCA) at the above address.

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Fighting for The Rights of Immigrants

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A special ad hoc committee on immigrants' rights created by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, held an open house in Fremont last week to inform county immigrants – legal and undocumented – about their rights and the services available to them.

The committee, formed just a month after President Trump's election, has met a half-dozen times in the past year in Hayward, Union City, and elsewhere around the county.

Out of 1.6 million people in Alameda County, about 439,000 were born in another country and around 105,000 are undocumented, the county estimated.

A centerpiece of last week's open house was a presentation from Yoshi Mendez, a "know your rights coordinator" with the Centro Legal de la Raza, about the legal rights of undocumented immigrants who may be facing deportation.

Mendez recommended that no one – even someone not directly involved in a particular case – cooperate with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

Mendez advised people not to open their door to ICE agents, even in some cases where the feds have a warrant, and should instead slip a pre-printed "red card" under their door.

The card reads in part: "I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my Fifth Amendment rights under the United States Constitution... I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my Fourth Amendment rights. I choose to exercise my constitutional rights."

The crowd also heard about services available to them, including health care, food aid, and child services.

In Feb. of 2017, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$1.5 million for the county's immigrant population, including legal aid and health care.

"It's important to get across as county officials that we support you and your families," said District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who sits on the ad hoc committee. "Immigration and refugee rights are something the board takes seriously and will continue to do so."

Named to Dean's List

Meiling Zhang, of Castro Valley, has been named to the Dean's list at Northeastern University in Boston. Zhang is majoring in Pharmacy. To achieve the dean's list distinction, students must carry a full program of at least four courses and have a quality point average of 3.5 or greater.



Grand Night of Music at Canyon

The CVHS A Capella choir under the direction of Larissa Sadoway, above, appeared with all of the choirs, bands, and orchestras from Canyon and Creekside middle schools, and CVHS as the Castro Valley Music Parent's Society (MPS) held its annual Spaghetti Feed fundraiser last Friday. The society provides funds, volunteers, and support for vocal and instrumental music for all of the schools in the district. It also provides music scholarships for graduating high school seniors who are considering pursuing a career in music. MPS is always looking for additional support and interested individuals can join with a donation of any amount. Visit cvmps.org for information.

Book Space for Big Salvation Army Event

Got some items around your house that you no longer use?

If you're de-cluttering, have arts and crafts, handmade or home-made items, antiques and collectibles to sell, book vendor space (\$25) now at the Salvation Army's annual indoor Community Flea Market to be held on Saturday, May 26 at the Veterans' Memorial Building, Hayward.

Vendors retain 100 percent of their earnings. They need to provide their own booth preparations (tables, chairs, tents, etc.).

Spaces will be assigned in the order in which applications are received, so respond as soon as possible to secure a spot at this big annual event.

Funds raised go to the Salvation Army's Summer and Day Camps. Contact Captain Kyna at Kyna.Kelley@usw.salvationarmy.org or call 510-581-6444 for a vendor-application form which should be completed and returned to The Salvation Army Hayward, 430 A St., Hayward 94541, by Friday, May 18.

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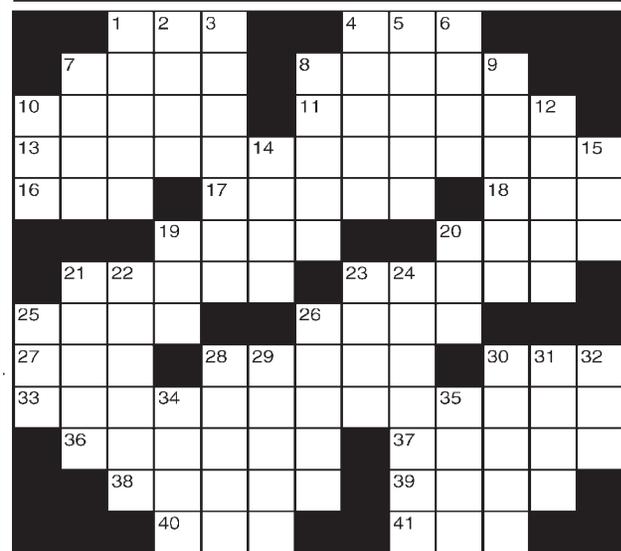
— Maria Montessori

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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- ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Your soft-hearted self is drawn to a tempting offer. But your hard-headed half isn't so sure. Best advice: Do it only after every detail is checked out to your liking.
- TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Your inventive mind should help you find a way to get around an apparently impassable barrier and make yourself heard. Your efforts get you noticed by the right people.
- GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You're enjoying this creative period. But by midweek, you'll need to emphasize your more pragmatic talents as you consider a risky but potentially lucrative move.
- CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** An unexpected rejection could turn into something positive if you pocket your pride and ask for advice on how you can make changes that will make the difference.
- LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Your Lion's heart gives you the courage to push for answers to a job-related situation. Stay with it. You'll soon find more believers coming out the ranks of the doubters.
- VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Your curiosity pays off this week as you push past the gossip to find the facts. What you ultimately discover could lead you to make some changes in your plans.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** A new sense of enthusiasm helps get you out of on-the-job doldrums and back into a productive phase. Family matters also benefit from your more positive attitude.
- SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** A bit of nostalgia is fine. But don't stay back in the past too long or you might miss seeing the signpost up ahead pointing the way to a new opportunity.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** If you feel you need to take more time to study a situation before making a decision, do so. Don't let anyone push you into acting until you're ready.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** As the Great Advice Giver, the Goat really shines this week as family and friends seek your wisdom. Someone especially close to you might make a surprising request.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Spiritual concerns dominate part of the week before more worldly matters demand your attention. An old promise resurfaces with some surprises attached.
- PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** You're in a highly productive period and are eager to finish all the projects you've taken on. But don't let yourself get swamped. Take a breather now and again.

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ACROSS

- 1 Chaps
- 4 Insane
- 7 Location
- 8 Skeptical sort
- 10 Original "Trivial Pursuit" edition
- 11 Traitor Benedict
- 13 Monopoly avenue neighboring "Go"
- 16 Winehouse or Poehler
- 17 Wooden strips
- 18 I love (Lat.)
- 19 Big party
- 20 Always
- 21 Fischer's game
- 23 Cloys
- 25 "Hey, sailor!"
- 26 Legend
- 27 ___ de Janeiro
- 28 Occurrence
- 30 Hot tub
- 33 1970s TV hospital drama
- 36 Ending that may be grand
- 37 Point-and-click device
- 38 Follow
- 39 Bridge, in Brest
- 40 That woman
- 41 Powerful stick

DOWN

- 1 TV's "The -- Project"
- 2 Needle case
- 3 Gets snug and cozy
- 4 Gift from a wise man
- 5 Paquin and Pavlova
- 6 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
- 7 Appear to be
- 8 ___ blanche
- 9 Stick firmly
- 10 "Today Show" rival, for short
- 12 Knighted women
- 14 Chows down
- 15 Neither mate
- 19 "30 Rock" star
- 20 Biblical verb ending
- 21 Main
- 22 Sweatshirt that can cover your head
- 23 Harmonization
- 24 Try
- 25 Upper limb
- 26 Brawl
- 28 PayPal currency
- 29 Worth
- 30 "Beat the Clock" challenge
- 31 Nuisance
- 32 Exist
- 34 Quaint stopovers
- 35 Middy

ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

ADOPT-A-PET



TEDDY is a sweet and gentle 2-year-old pup who knows "sit" and "shake" and walks well on leash. He's neutered and needs an adult-only home. Hayward Animal Shelter: (510) 293-7200.



MILES is a friendly, neutered 6-year-old who enjoys walks and spending time with his humans. He's playful with toys. OK with kids 10 yrs+. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter: (510) 293-7200.



MITTY is a lovable, outgoing 5-month-old kitten. He is very playful, especially with toy balls, carrying his toys around in his mouth. For more information, visit: dustypawsrescue.org



SWEETIE is a lovely, 6-month-old orange tabby. True to his name, he really is a sweetie. He loves attention and purrs even while he is napping. Please visit: dustypawsrescue.org

Policy: Shop Around to Ensure You Get the Best Price

continued from page 7

You may be able to receive four to eight times more than the policy cash surrender value.

If you're interested in a life settlement here are some things you should know:

Shop Around

Because payout can vary, to ensure you get the best price for your policy get quotes from several companies. Also, find out what broker and transaction fees you'll be required to pay.

Coventry, the nation's first and largest provider of life settlements, offers some of the highest cash payouts for life insurance policies. To get started, visit Coventry-Direct.com or call 888-858-9344. To search for other providers or brokers, the Life Insurance Settlement Association provides a directory at LISA.org.

Protect Your Privacy

When you sell your life insurance policy, you will have to sign a waiver authorizing the release of medical and other personal information so that the buyer can determine how much to offer for your policy. Understand the tax implications: The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

recently updated the tax treatment of a life settlement to be treated the same as the surrender of a policy back to the insurance company. This can be complicated, so be sure to consult a tax advisor.

Other Options

If you want to keep your life insurance policy but could use some extra cash, you may have

some other options. For example, some life settlement companies may allow you to keep part of the policy's death benefit while eliminating your premium obligations.

You can also ask your life insurer if you can borrow against your policy, or if you're in poor health, see if you're eligible for accelerated death benefits. You should also

find out if you're able to convert the cash value of your policy into an immediate annuity (through a 1035 Exchange), which would make regular payments to you for a set number of years or for the rest of your life.

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

Medi-Cal: 'Unavailability' Comes Into Play

continued from page 7

ers, either are not aware of this third category or forget to apply it in appropriate situations, such as yours.

An asset is unavailable when it cannot be readily accessed to pay for the care of the proposed beneficiary.

This rule would apply to your mother's situation, and here's why: (1) she previously set up her bank account so that only she can access the funds and she does not have the capacity to do so now on her own; (2) there is no existing power of attorney in place to permit you to access it on her behalf; and (3) she does not now have

sufficient mental capacity to either add your name to the account or to sign a Durable Power Of Attorney to allow you access.

Under these circumstances, it would be deemed "unavailable" under relevant Medi-Cal regulations.

Further, for so long as it remains unavailable, it would be treated the same as an exempt asset and not counted toward her \$2,000 Medi-Cal resource allowance.

There are indeed other situations where "unavailability" may come into play. Examples: where an asset, such as a second home or a promissory note, cannot be readily redeemed for cash and must be

first marketed for sale; and, where the applicant owns only a partial interest in a rental property and the other co-owners refuse to sell.

For cases like yours, it is best to engage a knowledgeable elder law attorney for assistance, as it may be necessary to first lay appropriate groundwork to justify the claim of "unavailability," to then educate the Medi-Cal eligibility worker as to its application in the particular case, and to thereafter shepherd the Medi-Cal application through to approval.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com.



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Baby Girl is a sweet, quiet 10 year old female Calico cat who is content to sit beside you while you read or watch television. She loves to be petted and brushed. She is playful and acts like a younger cat. She is spayed and passed her vet check with flying colors and was pronounced in perfect health.



Belle is a sweet, friendly 4 year old female cat who loves being petted. She will follow you around the house. She liked to lounge with her people and will cuddle up and sleep with you. She is good with other cats and with dogs. Her foster mom says Belle sometimes acts like she is part dog herself. She is very playful and will chase things you throw for her. She is spayed.



Milo is a 10 month old cat who gets along with dogs and other cats and is a super friendly and playful boy. He is a real lap cat who loves to cuddle with his foster mom. He is neutered.



Angel is a super friendly, 2 year old female cat, sweet-tempered, talkative and who loves to have company and basks in attention and affection. She is spayed.



Rodney is a quiet little guy who appreciates attention and affection. His foster mom says he is the sweetest, most gentle cat she has ever fostered. He likes the company of other cats and is unafraid of dogs.

Roz His sister is also a very sweet cat but a little shy. We think it would be best if they could be adopted together. Rodney and Roz are one year old. Female, spayed and Male, neutered.