

# HOLIDAYS AROUND *the* TOWN

PAGES  
4 & 5

## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 32

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

NO. 50

### INSIDE YOUR FORUM

#### NEWS



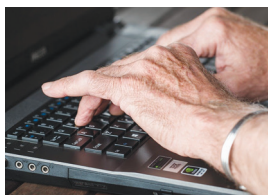
**Doyle to Retire**  
East Bay Parks' general manager Robert Doyle to retire at end of the year  
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**Sweet Eats**  
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**Well Connected**  
With most of us spending most of our days at home, make the most of Internet  
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PHOTO BY DEBBIE TEE

**Eden Hospital technicians and therapists represented by the Teamsters Union launched a one-day strike at Eden Medical Center on Monday over wage and benefit issues and protesting what they called a lack of staffing and equipment.**

## Eden Workers Strike

By Linda Sandsmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The COVID-19 pandemic has stressed hospital conditions around the country, and Sutter Health's Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley is no exception. On Monday, frustrations culminated in a 12-hour strike at the hospital, beginning at 6:30 a.m.

"On April 1 our contract expired," said Jennifer Lemke, a respiratory therapist who's been at Eden for 33 years. "We have come to an impasse with the administration. We offered to extend the contract for a year to get through the pandemic, with a modest raise."

Lemke said management did not accept the offer.  
*see STRIKE on back page*

## Bruce Johnson Takes on a New Role at Chamber of Commerce

The Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce has rebooted its operation to serve its members by focusing on business development through E-Commerce, since traditional in-person events like the Fall Festival are not possible during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In doing so, the chamber announced last week that Bruce D. Johnson, former longtime superintendent of Redwood Christian Schools, will act as Business Consultant to the Chamber Board of Directors.

Well-known and respected in the business communities served by the chamber, Johnson retired in 2016 after 42 years with Redwood Christian after serving there for 42 years, 30 years as superintendent.



Bruce D. Johnson

He is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors at Baywood Court Retirement Community and is an active member of the

Castro Valley Sports Foundation Board and the Rotary Club of Castro Valley.

The Chamber has also hired Josephine Taylor to work on E-Commerce business opportunities for chamber members. Taylor has been writing Chamber newsletters and Facebook posts over the past month.

Until the pandemic ends, the Chamber staff will be working remotely and meeting members at their places of business, not at a Chamber office, until it is safe to do so.

Chamber President David Gehrke and the board continue to work actively for its members and the community. Check out what's happening at [www.castrovalley-chamber.com](http://www.castrovalley-chamber.com).

## COVID Vaccine Arrives; When Will You Get It?

By Michael Singer  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The first shipments of a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 arrived in Alameda County this week. But how soon you can get a free shot will depend on where you work and other risk factors.

Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people 16 and older. Alameda County received 13,650 doses, just enough to cover a portion of hospital workers, first responders, and people living in and working at long-term care facilities.

More crates of the frozen drugs are expected to ship in a few weeks.

The vaccine is injected into a muscle, the first of two doses three weeks apart. None of the vaccines have been tested on pregnant women, according to the CDC as they typically do not include pregnant women in trial testing.

"Vaccines are the light at the end of the tunnel, but we must continue to keep each other safe during the roll-out," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer. "We are amid the worst surge of this pandemic."

**Who Gets the Vaccine First?**

Under the federal guidelines, Alameda County is using a phased approach. First to roll their sleeves up will be acute-care hospital workers and 911 first responders, who are at highest risk for exposure to the coronavirus.

Phase 2 will include "essential and critical infrastructure workers" — older adults, people with underlying health conditions that cause a higher risk of severe illness, and people in jail or prison or people living closely together in large numbers.

Phase 3 includes children, young adults, and people working in lower-risk settings. If you don't fit into any of these other categories, you can receive a free vaccination under a later Phase 4.

*see VACCINE on back page*

**Castro Valley**  
Confirmed Cases = 1,102

**Alameda County**  
Confirmed Cases = 38,064  
Deaths = 542

**California**  
Confirmed Cases = 1,585,044  
Deaths = 21,046

as of December 14, 2020

### MAC BOARD

## Land-Use Approvals At Final '20 Meeting

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Castro Valley MAC unanimously approved a variety of small land uses in its final meeting of 2020, from the construction of a set of townhouses on San Miguel Ave. to the continued existence of a cell tower in the Palomares area.

First on the agenda was the approval of an application to subdivide one parcel into two at 5219 Crown Court, part of the well-

known Eichler home master plan area.

Neighbors cited erosion, loss of property values and the general "feel" of the area, as well as wildlife habitat disruption as reasons to deny the additional construction.

But two other neighbors spoke up during the "virtual" MAC meeting via Zoom and said they welcomed the new house and it wouldn't be disruptive.

"If anything, I think a nice, new  
*see MAC on page 10*



## Castro Valley Weather Dec 16-20, 2020



Wednesday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 59° Low 50°



Thursday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 59° Low 42°



Friday  
Partly Sunny  
High 57° Low 39°



Saturday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 58° Low 44°



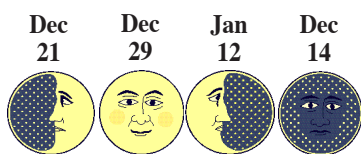
Sunday  
Partly Sunny  
High 61° Low 45°

## Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.93  
Season To Date: 01.64  
Normal To Date: 04.55  
Season Average: 21.22

## Moon Phases



Sun sets at 4:52 p.m. today, rises at 7:19 a.m. Thursday.

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## 'Revenge Porn' Laws

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley has announced the introduction of new legislation that will give victims of so-called "revenge porn" more time to seek criminal charges for these incidents.

Senate Bill 23 changes the statute of limitations for the intentional distribution of intimate or nude images from one year from the time of distribution to one year from the time that the victim discovers that the image has been distributed.

According to O'Malley, victims often aren't aware that an photo has been distributed online until the existing statute of limitations has lapsed.

"Image-based sexual abuse is an invasive and increasingly common crime, which involves nonconsensual posting of private or intimate photos or videos," O'Malley said in a statement. "These images are posted to social media sites to shame, embarrass, harass, and intimidate the victim."

The bill was authored by Sen. Susan Rubio and co-sponsored by the California District Attorneys Association.

FROM THE BOULEVARD

## The Power of Hope

By Thomas E. Lorentzen

*"Hope, the best comfort of our imperfect condition."*  
—Edward Gibbon



Tom Lorentzen

It is difficult to compose a column with light when dark clouds enshroud our days.

With the pandemic endemic to our daily lives, it dominates the ways in which we live. With Christmas on the horizon, we wonder about our ability to celebrate. We are inundated with do's and don'ts.

Fears about unknown factors and forces gray our outlook. Looking for inspiration, I take a break and walk to my front yard. It is there that I find something to write about – it is someone in my neighborhood.

Who is this person? I do not know her name. She does not speak English. She lives a few houses away. She lives with her family, which includes a daughter and grandchild.

A year or two ago she apparently had a stroke. Every day she walks with her walker. She walks slow, yet with determination. She does it not only once, but two or three times a day.

Sometimes she walks around the block. It takes her a long time, yet she does it. When I am in the front yard, we acknowledge each other with a wave. That is our only communication – a short and simple wave.

As she slowly works her way up the street, I stand and watch her for a couple of minutes. She inspires me. She has determination, strength, and courage.

see LORENTZEN on page 5

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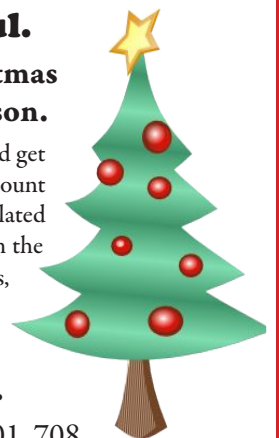
This is an annual Scouting Fundraiser. The Scouts work the tree lot and get paid for their hours. The money they earn goes into their Scout account and is used to pay for their summer camp, uniforms, any scout related adventures, merit badges and more. During their time on the tree lot, they learn people skills, business skills, life skills, a good work ethic and so much more.



**Thank you again for a great tree season. We will see you next year.**

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722, 726, 789) Hayward, (819), San Leandro (818) & Oakland (97)



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# East Bay Parks' GM Robert E. Doyle to Retire at End of Year

By Ned MacKay  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

After a distinguished career of 47 years at the East Bay Regional Park District, including the past 10 as its general manager, Robert E. Doyle has announced that he will retire at the end of December.

Doyle got an early start in the parks and natural resources field. While still in high school, he served as president of Save America's Natural Environment (SANE), a youth group in Contra Costa County that worked to acquire and preserve Las Trampas Ridge and Black Diamond Mines and to expand Mount Diablo State Park.

At East Bay Regional Park District, Doyle rose through the ranks. He began his park district career in 1973 as a park ranger at Tilden Regional Park near Berkeley.

He became chief of land acquisition and trail planning in 1986, then spent 20 years as an assistant general manager, leading land acquisition, trail planning and inter-agency and advanced planning.

He was appointed the park district's general manager by the district board in 2010.

"This has been a great adven-



Robert E. Doyle, G.M. East Bay Regional Park District

ture for me," Doyle said. "For a kid who had a passion for parks to be able to preserve for public

enjoyment so many beautiful East Bay open spaces."

see **RETIRE** on page 4

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



### Domestic Assault

Saturday, December 12: at 2:23 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 46-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of assault on a family member. An anonymous tip about a fight sent deputies to a home on Chester Street near the Boulevard. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

### Traffic Stop Ends in Arrest

Friday, December 11: at 2:30 p.m., a 66-year-old woman from Castro Valley was pulled over and arrested on suspicion of driving with invalid registration and possession of stolen property. Deputies stopped the woman while she was driving on Stanton Avenue near Somerset Avenue. The woman was taken into custody.

### Wanted Man, Stolen Car

Friday, December 11: at 12:57 a.m., deputies arrested a 42-year-old man from Castro Valley as part of a warrant issued for his capture. The man was also charged on suspicion of possession of a stolen vehicle and violation of a court-issued restraining order. The man was traveling on Castro Valley Boulevard near Redwood Road when deputies stopped him for

questioning and made a positive identification on his warrant. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail.

### Hit Boyfriend with Her Car

Wednesday, December 9: at 1:34 p.m., a 35-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and assault on her boyfriend after driving into him with her car. Deputies were dispatched to a parking lot on Redwood Road near Grove Way after getting a call about the incident. The woman was taken into custody. The man was treated at the scene.

### Squatter Does Not Go Quietly

Wednesday, December 9: at 5:04 p.m., deputies arrested a 21-year-old woman with no permanent residence on suspicion of breaking and entering a business on Redwood Road with the intent of staying there illegally. The woman put up a fight before being taken into custody.

### Illegal Narcotics and Drug Paraphernalia

Wednesday, December 9: at 1:07 a.m., a 37-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the man for questioning outside an apartment on Grove Way near Morales Court when they discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

### Methamphetamines and Drug Paraphernalia

Wednesday, December 9: at 3:27 a.m., deputies arrested a 35-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of possession of methamphetamine drugs and related drug paraphernalia. The man was parked outside a grocery store on Redwood Road near Castro Valley Boulevard when a passerby observed him taking drugs. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him into custody.

see **REPORTS** on back page

## Generosity Thwarts Thieves Who Stole from High School

Tennyson High School in Hayward was broken into multiple times last month with thieves making off with hundreds of jackets, sweatshirts and other items that had been collected for Middle and High School students who had been placed in homes in the surrounding communities after being detained by ICE.

The students have very few resources and the plan had been to distribute the items in early December to provide some warmth during the cold winter months.

Fortunately, a local organization, Crossstreets Neighborhood Alliance, learned of the situation and, thanks to the generous donations of many individuals and

Redwood Chapel in Castro Valley, brand new sweatshirts and knit hats will be available to all of the students.

Crossstreets also provided these students with back to school supplies in the Fall.

While Crossstreets is no longer able to serve our community through the Food Pantry at 3Crosses, it is still actively engaged in making a difference in the lives of people in Castro Valley, San Leandro, Hayward and Oakland.

*There are always ongoing needs in our community for both students and families. To find out how to get involved or other areas of need, please visit: crossstreets.org.*

—Tom Green

## EBMUD Won't Shut Off Water to Struggling Customers

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) took action last week to ensure water service to meet basic needs is maintained for those behind on their bills, ending water service shutoffs for long-delinquent accounts.

The action came as thousands of residential customers struggled to pay their water bills, many for the first time. The resolution, which allows the district to use flow restrictors to provide enough water for basic consumption,

cooking, and sanitary purposes, was approved unanimously by the utility's Board on Dec. 8. It will take effect after California's State of Emergency declaration is lifted.

"The pandemic has highlighted the importance of maintaining access to water for all EBMUD customers for hygiene and to prevent the spread of this disease," said Board President Marguerite Young. "This progressive policy is an important step forward in supporting the state's goal of provid-

ing access to clean, reliable water for all."

EBMUD's action, among the first of its kind in the nation, comes in response to the historic public health and financial crises.

In March, the district suspended water shutoffs in response to the pandemic and restored water service to customers who were shutoff due to non-payment, days before a statewide order placed a moratorium on water shutoffs.

In a statement to the press, EB-

MUD said it will only install flow restrictors on single-family residential accounts with water bills more than 90 days overdue after all other options, including multiple outreach attempts and payment plan offers, have been exhausted. After a flow restrictor is installed, it will remain in place for accounts that continue to be delinquent.

Customers seeking assistance with payment options should visit: [www.ebmud.com/CAP](http://www.ebmud.com/CAP) or contact EBMUD at: 1-866-403-2683.

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PHOTO BY CHRIS MATTHEWS, ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPT.

From left, Rotarian Cliff Sherwood, firefighter Paul Mahar, Rotarian Todd Anglin, Thania Anglin, Natalie Anglin, firefighter Erik Robertson, Dawn Deardorf from Aurora Catering, firefighters Patrick Kennedy and Gerald Jacobs, Rotarian Ceta Dochterman and firefighters Ryan Richter and Mark Bennett from Castro Valley Fire Station No. 25.

## Rotary Keeping Spirits Bright

Thirty-two Alameda County Fire Department firefighters received meals last Tuesday prepared by Aurora Catering and personally delivered by members of the Rotary Club of Castro Valley.

The Rotarians donated more than \$1,000 in partnership with the caterer to show their appreciation for the firefighter's hard work during the 2020 wildfire season and the pandemic. The meals were delivered to all on-duty firefighters

at Stations 6, 7, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

Rotary also was able to provide meals to Eden Church to feed families who have been quarantined.

This year has been extremely challenging year for local firefighters with historic fires, injuries, losses, the coronavirus and the emotional strain on their families while they were gone.

The Rotary Club of Castro Valley is also actively promoting the

County Fire Department's Annual Toy Drive. To participate, drop off new, unwrapped toys at any local fire station or make a financial donation at [www.alcoff55toys.com](http://www.alcoff55toys.com). Thank you for your support!

Castro Valley Rotary meets online on Tuesdays at noon and welcomes those who want to make a positive impact locally, nationally, and internationally. Speakers and links to the meetings are posted at [castrovalleyrotary.org](http://castrovalleyrotary.org).

## Two Awarded for Academic Excellence

Wade Evans of Castro Valley qualified for the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C. Approximately 55 percent of Belmont's students this semester qualified for the Fall 2020 Dean's List.

Anya Mortensen of Castro Valley, a freshman at Biola University in Southern California, was among 338 freshmen who

received one the college's highest scholarships – the President's or Provost's scholarship – for the 2020/2021 academic year. Mortensen is studying Human Biology. Students who receive either scholarship have achieved a high level of academic excellence.

## Retire: Park District GM

*continued from page 3*

Doyle also is gratified that the district has been able to continue its operations despite the challenges of the pandemic, the terrible wildfire season, and climate change impacts.

Because of the pandemic, the district has lost more than \$7 million income, while at the same time public use of the parklands has surged district-wide. So it has been a challenge for the staff to safely manage all park and trail use, Doyle noted.

"Nevertheless, we've been able to provide a valuable public service at a time when it is badly needed," he said.

In the time since he became chief of land acquisition, Doyle's efforts have doubled the park district's size, including 20 new parks. The district now comprises 73 regional parklands totaling 125,000 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, hosting 25 million visits per year.

Among many awards and recognitions for his service to the park district and public, Doyle received the prestigious Cornelius Amory Pugsley Award in 2018, conferred by the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration.

Doyle's post-retirement plans include continuing involvement in parks and recreation issues, but also hiking, traveling, kayaking, and generally "enjoying the fruits of my labor."

The park district's elected board of directors is conducting a nationwide search to select a new general manager.

Ned MacKay is a writer for the East Bay Regional Park District.



The Hayward-Castro Valley Kiwanis Club is instrumental in the Salvation Army Angel Tags program, spending over \$4,500 to provide Christmas gifts and clothing to families.

## A Kiwanis Christmas

The Hayward-Castro Valley Kiwanis Club is working through the coronavirus challenges to make sure local families will have a merry Christmas.

Continuing a tradition of many years, the club members volunteer as bellringers for the Salvation Army. On December 5th, with their kettle at the Lucky Store in Castro Valley, the club raised \$1,200 for Salvation Army client families.

The club is also instrumental in the Salvation Army Angel Tags program, spending over \$4,500 to provide Christmas gifts and clothing to specific families. The Kiwanians provided presents and pajamas for 44 children, and 65 games and toys for families.

To keep spirits bright, the club also donated cookies and cocoa for the upcoming Salvation Army Family Christmas Party via Zoom, and made decorations for their After-the-Bell Kids Party.



Kiwanis Club members volunteer as bellringers for the Salvation Army

For other giving programs the club donated over \$1,000 to the Alameda County Food Bank and made a sizeable donation to Castro Valley Outreach for their holiday food delivery program.

The Kiwanis Club will be back at the Castro Valley Lucky's this Saturday, so please wave and stop by the "touchless" kettle.

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## Lorentzen: Maybe She Has Something to Do With the Hopes Christmas Will Bring Us

continued from page 2

With that said, I re-enter my home to compose this article. Then, I get interrupted with a phone call. Two friends that have been doing intensive caregiving for a few years call to tell me that the person they have been caring

for (a friend of mine) has only a few hours to live.

Then, another friend calls to inform me that her husband has Alzheimer's. A couple of days earlier was the anniversary of the loss of a close friend. Then, a lifelong friend visits a few hours later to discuss

his own difficult health condition.

As I write, these things are on my mind. Then, I return to the lady on the walker. I return to the front yard and spot her coming from the opposite direction. She has nearly completed a circuit around the block. Once again, her determina-

tion inspires me. She has family she wants to live for and to be with. She provides the stimulus to write this column. She keeps on moving forward – one step at a time.

With that said, I know we can complete our own walks in this troubled period of time, as well as

overcome the obstacles we face.

Without knowing her name, my neighbor picks up my spirits. She inspires me, which I share with you. The next time I see her I will make sure and not only wave, but quietly say "Thank you." Maybe she has something to do with the

hopes that Christmas will bring us.

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.

## HOLIDAYS AROUND the TOWN

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## Sugar & Spice

For the next couple of weeks, the kitchen is going to be a favorite gathering spot for the family, drawn there by the unmistakable scent of cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, mace... all of the spices that we associate with the holidays.

### ENGLISH PLUM PUDDING

1/4 cup butter  
1/3 cup brown sugar  
1 cup milk  
12 dates, pitted and chopped  
1/2 cup raisins

1/4 cup dried currants  
1/4 cup candied mixed fruit peel, chopped  
Zest of 1 orange  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup self-rising flour  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
Pinch salt

Grease a pudding mold.

In a large saucepan combine butter, sugar, milk, dates, raisins, currants, mixed fruit peel and zest of the orange; bring to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in baking soda. Sift in the flour, cinnamon and salt; mix gently until blended. Pour into prepared pudding mold.

Cover with a double layer of greased wax paper and steam for 2 hours. Yields 6 servings.

Serve with custard, whipped cream or ice cream.

### WOLFGANG PUCK'S FRUITCAKE

1 cup Marsala wine  
1 cup water  
1 cup raisins  
1 cup dried apricots  
1 cup walnuts  
1/2 cup dried pears  
1/2 cup dried figs  
1/2 cup pecans  
1/2 cup butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350°F. butter an 8-1/2 by 4-inch loaf pan and dust with flour. In a medium saucepan, combine Marsala, water, raisins, apricots, walnuts, pears, figs and pecans. Simmer until fruits are tender, about 5 minutes. Cool.

Drain, reserving liquid. Coarsely chop fruits and nuts. Transfer to large bowl with reserved liquid. In small saucepan, melt butter with sugar, cinnamon and cloves, stirring occasionally, until sugar is completely dissolved. Cool.

Meanwhile, in bowl, sift together flour, soda and salt. Stir in melted butter mixture. Pour batter into fruits and nuts, combining thoroughly. Scrape into prepared pan, level out and bake 60 to 70 minutes until cake is firm to touch and nicely browned. Invert onto parchment-lined wire rack. Cool. Serves 6.

### CHOCOLATE GINGER CAKE

1/2 cup butter, softened  
1/2 cup unsweetened Dutch process cocoa powder  
1/2 cup unsulfured molasses  
3/4 cup packed light-brown sugar  
2 large eggs  
1/4 cup whole milk  
2 teaspoons finely grated peeled fresh ginger  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
3/4 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ginger  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
Hard Sauce

Preheat oven to 325°F. Butter a 9-inch Bundt pan. Dust with cocoa powder, and tap out excess; set

aside. Put butter, molasses, brown sugar, and 1/4 cup water in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until butter has melted. Transfer mixture to a large bowl. Let cool 5 minutes.

Add eggs, milk, and grated ginger to the molasses mixture; whisk to combine. Sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, salt, ground ginger, and cinnamon into a medium bowl. Gently fold the flour mixture into the molasses mixture until just combined. (There should be lumps remaining.) Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake cake until a cake tester inserted into center comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Let cake cool completely in pan on a wire rack.

Invert cake, and unmold onto a cake stand or a large serving platter. Using a spoon, drizzle the warm Hard Sauce over the cake in a back-and-forth motion. Serve immediately. Serves 10.

### HARD SAUCE

2 tablespoons butter, softened slightly  
1 cup powdered sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
2 tablespoons brandy or rum  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
Allspice to taste

With a hand-held mixer, beat softened butter until creamy. Add powdered sugar and mix while scraping sides of the bowl, so the sugar and butter come together evenly. Add the vanilla extract, brandy, rum, and spices.

Mix, scraping the sides again, to combine. Spoon the sauce into a bowl. Serve immediately.

### CLASSIC APPLE PIE

Pastry for double-crust pie  
1/3 to 1/2 cup sugar  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
8 cups thinly-sliced peeled tart apples (8 medium)  
2 tablespoons butter

Heat oven to 425°F.

With floured rolling pin, roll one pastry round into round 2 inches larger than upside-down 9-inch glass pie plate. Fold pastry into fourths; place in pie plate. Unfold and ease into plate, pressing firmly against bottom and side.

In large bowl, mix sugar, 1/4 cup flour, the cinnamon, nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon salt. Stir in apples until well mixed. Spoon into pastry-lined pie plate. Cut butter into small pieces; sprinkle over filling. Trim overhanging edge of pastry 1/2 inch from rim of plate.

Roll other round of pastry into 10-inch round. Fold into fourths and cut slits so steam can escape. Unfold top pastry over filling; trim overhanging edge 1 inch from rim of plate. Fold and roll top edge under lower edge, pressing on rim to seal; flute as desired. Cover edge with 2- to 3-inch strip of foil to prevent excessive browning.

Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until crust is brown and juice begins to bubble through slits in crust, removing foil for last 15 minutes of baking. Serve warm.

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### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Although taking advice isn't always easy for the headstrong Sheep, you might want to consider what someone you respect says about an upcoming decision.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** A new offer is tempting, but don't be bullied into a quick decision. Rely on your keen Bovine business sense to alert you to anything that might be questionable.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Your Gemini Twin nature rallies to help you deal with this week's hectic schedules, both in your personal and professional lives. One caution: Watch your diet.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Avoid rushing to make up for time lost on a stalled workplace operation. Best to set up a schedule and pace yourself. Welcome the help of colleagues.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Despite those glittering holiday distractions you love so well, be sure to keep your feline senses set on high to alert you to anything that might require fast action.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Making an effort to restore fraying relationships proves to be more successful than you dared hope. The holidays also bring new friends into your life.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it, and for how long.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one, and taking energy-restoring timeouts between each job.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party's advice just might prove helpful.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Reach out to ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress you've made.

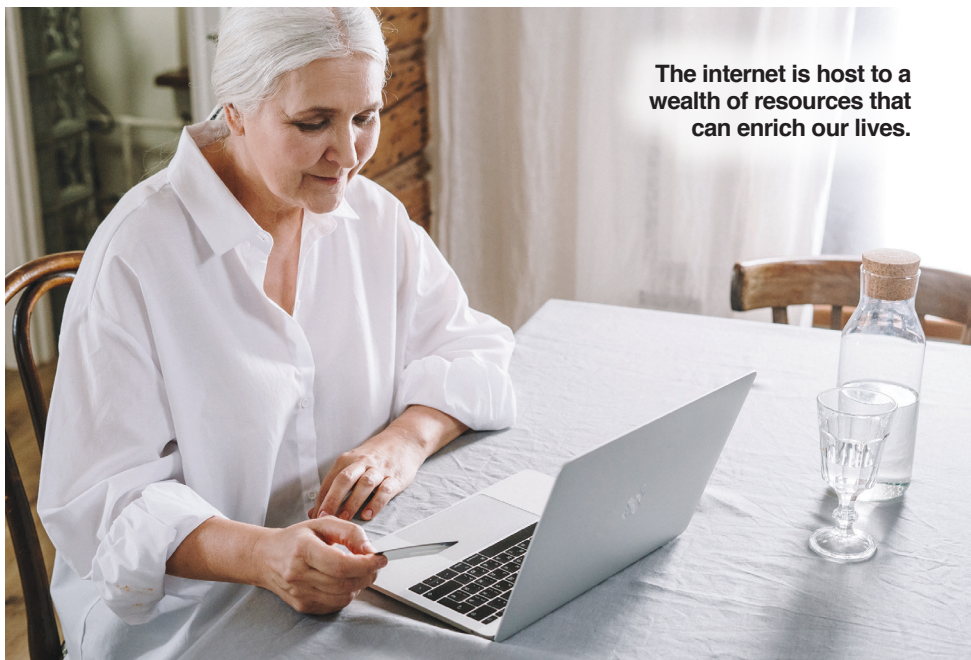


**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** You often go out of your way to show kindness to others. So, don't be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** People in your life respect your Piscean wisdom, so don't hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn't being handled quite the way it should be.





The internet is host to a wealth of resources that can enrich our lives.

## Using Internet to Enrich Life

By Matilda Charles  
SENIOR NEWS LINE

With most of us spending most of our days at home, it's time for us to take advantage of the Internet. Here are some resources that can enrich our lives.

Inquire at the local senior center about any exercise classes online. Some classes will be live on Zoom and others will be videos that the instructors record and post on the center's website.

If they're not hosting any classes, search online for "seniors exercise at home" and look for some that are produced by other senior centers.

Virtual art classes can open up new areas of interest and reveal talents you didn't know you had. Better yet, if you're a beginner or are exploring a new art medium, look for videos that you can review over and over. Look online for free art classes online for seniors.

Exercise and art aren't the only free classes you'll find online. Yoga and tai chi, sewing, baking and cake decorating, creative writing, a new language — if it can be done online, there's a class for it somewhere.

And don't forget Class Central (www.classcentral.com). Check the website for a list of MOOCS (massive open online courses).

There 15,000 different free and low-cost classes in its searchable database from colleges and universities around the world.

Imagine taking a philosophy course from the University of Edinburgh or Introduction to Classical Music via Yale University. (I put art history into its search box and got back 165 results.)

Read the details for any class

you're considering. It will tell you if the class is self-paced, whether it's free to audit, the class level and how much time per week you can expect to spend on the work, as well as reviews from other students.

If you're unsure of your internet skills, search for "Internet basics for seniors" on Google.

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## Major Changes Coming Soon to California's Property Tax Rules

*Q: I understand that the recently passed Prop. 19 on the California Ballot will make major changes in the property tax structure. Is that true?*

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

A: Yes, indeed. California voters just narrowly approved Prop. 19, overhauling our property tax rules originally stemming from the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978.

Most notable are the new restrictions to the parent-child exclusion established by "Prop. 58" in 1986. Here are some of the features of the new law, with the corresponding "winners" and "losers":

### The Winners:

Seniors over age 55, persons who are severely disabled, and victims of wildfires or natural disasters, are the "winners," as the new law allows them to transfer their home's low property tax rate to the purchase of a replacement home anywhere in the state, albeit with only modest adjustment in property tax if the replacement home's taxable value is more than

the original residence.

Under existing law, seniors could only opt to do so if they purchased a replacement home within their own county (or within nine designated other counties opting into the program), and then only once in a lifetime.

After April 1, 2021, this new right may be exercised up to three times during lifetime by seniors and the disabled, and unlimited times by victims of natural disasters, all so long as the re-purchase occurs within two years of the sale of their original residence.

### The Losers:

Children, who had hoped to inherit their parents' home and up to \$1- million of other property, along with their parents' low property tax rate, are the losers.

Since the passage of Prop. 58 in 1986, children have been able to retain their parent's low tax rate when property passed from parents to children via sale, gift or inheritance. That blanket rule has now been substantially modified:



Under newly enacted Prop. 19, a child will not be able to assume his parents' low property tax rate for their home, unless the child actually moves into the parents' home and claims it as his own principal residence within a year of the transfer.

This will pose problems for children who already have their own homes. Further, even if the child moves in, the carry-over tax rate will still be increased if the value of the home upon transfer to the child is greater than \$1-million more than the parents' taxable value. Still further, there will be no carry over tax benefit at all for the transfer of non-residential property.

This move-in requirement, and the prospect of some property tax increase even then, will make it more difficult for children to inherit and keep their parent's home and other real property. Many will be forced to sell.

### Window of Opportunity:

The effective date of the new rules regarding the Parent-Child Exclusion is Feb. 16, 2021. This delayed effective date creates a short window of opportunity for

see OSOFSKY on back page

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MELISSA WILK  
DECEMBER 4, 2020  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 575030

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):  
Lucas Ilic Construction located at 18069  
Center Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in  
Alameda County, is hereby registered by  
the following owner(s): Mihail Ilic, 18069  
Center Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This  
business is conducted by an individual. This  
business commenced May 17, 2017.

/s/ Mihail Ilic  
This statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated  
by file stamp above.

Expires DECEMBER 04, 2025  
DEC 16, 23, 30, 2020, JAN 06, 2021  
304-CVF



## Obituaries

### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

may be emailed to: [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com) or faxed to 510-483-4209. Include a phone number. For help, call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558

### Norman Angelo Luengo

September 29, 1941 ~ October 26, 2020

Resident of Castro Valley

Norman Angelo Luengo passed away peacefully at Kindred Hospital in San Leandro, CA. He was the eldest son of Rose and Angelo Luengo, and raised in San Leandro with his brothers Clifford and Douglas.

In 1963, Norman enlisted in the US Navy Reserve and served as an Air Crewman for six years. In June 1964, he married Lucinda Ann Saroyan of Oakland, CA and raised their three children, Gregory, Jeffrey, and Lindsay in Castro Valley. He worked as a master carpenter for R. Zaballos & Sons, Inc. in Hayward, CA for his entire career.

Norman's passion was coaching boys' and girls' soccer, and was a leader in C. V. Boy Scout Troop 708. He was very proud that Greg and Jeff achieved the Eagle Scout rank and Lindsay attained the Girl Scout Gold award from CV Troop 1222.

Norman is predeceased by his parents, his brother, Douglas, and mother-in-law Constance Emily Saroyan. He is survived by his loving wife, Cindy, and children, Greg (Gina), Jeff (Holly) and Lindsay Paper (Brian). He will greatly miss his grandchildren Jocelyn Luengo, Isabel Westerman, Ryan Luengo, JP Boyles, and Grant Paper, brother Clifford (Carole) and sister-in-law Nancy Luengo.

Norman was buried in a private family service at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville, CA on November 11. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who had a great sense of humor. He was known for his outgoing manner and for being a great talker who put everyone he met at ease.

Donations may be made in Norman's name to the DSAL- Sheriffs' FC (Deputy Sheriffs Activities League) Soccer program, c/o Hilary Bass, 1500 Foothill Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94578 or donate at [www.acdsal.org](http://www.acdsal.org)



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### Lois Diane Grasseschi

July 4, 1936 ~ December 2, 2020

Resident of Castro Valley, CA

Lois Grasseschi (Pike) passed away at home, Tuesday, December 2, 2020.

Born in Milwaukee, WI July 4th, 1936 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Helen Pike. Lois, along with her Father, Mother, sister Sally, and brother Claude came to Hayward, CA in 1942, and settled in Hayward. Lois attended grammar school (Burbank) in Hayward then to Bret Harte and then to Old Hayward High School on Foothill Blvd. Lois graduated in 1955.

Lois and Rudy met in the summer of 1953, through friends but Hayward was a very small town, and everybody knew everyone else. We started dating in 1954. Rudy graduated from Bishop O'Dowd High School in 1955. Rudy and Lois married July 21, 1957 in Hayward at All Saints Catholic Church and had two sons, Dino, born in 1958, and Rodney, born in 1960. When they married, Rudy and Lois lived in Castro Valley, in a one-bedroom house on Crow Canyon Road and raised both children there. They then moved to Hayward, into a two bedroom, in 1962. Then, in 1965, they bought a house in Fremont and lived there until 1974 when they moved back to Castro Valley to the original house they had first lived in. They rebuilt into a 2 bedroom house, from a 700 sq. ft. home to a 1800 sq. ft. home. This house was originally owned by Rudy's mom and dad and Rudy and Lois had been there for over 46 years.

Lois was a Cub Scout leader for her two sons in Fremont, and she made sure everyone went to church on Sundays. Lois worked at the Shop (The Cobbler) owned by Rudy and his brother, Al for many years. She would work until 2 p.m. and then go back home to Fremont and take care of the boys when they got out of school. She was always there for Dino and Rodney's baseball games and the biggest cheerleader. She followed this tradition for her grandchildren as well.

Lois has many friends in Hayward, Fremont, Castro Valley, and Discovery Bay. She loved, most of all, to dance at parties with all her friends, she loved to have good times. She loved all of Dino and Rodney's friends that hung around the house after school, and they loved her, all their friends said she was cool.

Lois is survived by her husband, Rudy; her sons, Dino and Rodney; her grandchildren: Dominic, Kenneth, Chelsea, Miranda, Kathleen, Seven, Justin, Danica, Nickolas, D.J., and Trevor; and her great-grandchildren: Kaylor, Isaiah, Eden, Titus, Preston, and Olivia.

Services for Lois will be held at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery & Funeral Center, with a visitation Thursday, December 17 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. and a Funeral Mass Friday, December 18, at 10 a.m.

Donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

## MAC: San Miguel Townhomes Approved

*continued from front page*

home there would increase the value of the neighborhood," said Nicole Collins, who lives next to the proposed construction.

The MAC went on to approve the continued use of a kennel and pet-boarding, animal daycare facility for up to 65 dogs at 10671 Crow Canyon Road. The permit was due for a routine extension.

The MAC not only approved the contract renewal for 10 years (more than the initially requested five years), but two members

personally thanked the owners for their quality of business.

MAC member Shannon Killebrew said she had used the kennel and was impressed, and MAC member Chuck Moore thanked the owners for keeping the area vital with a well-run agricultural use.

The MAC also approved the continual use of an existing AT&T telecommunication facility at 38000 Palomares Avenue.

Finally, the MAC gave the go-ahead to the construction of five two-story townhomes at

20109 San Miguel Avenue. This project has been in the works for years and faced a bit of push-back from neighbors, who cited concerns for parking and traffic. Several schools including Castro Valley Elementary, Our Lady of Grace, and a pre-school have pick-up and drop-off spots near the street.

The developer promised three dedicated off-street parking spaces per unit, two for residents and one for guests. A plan for proper trash pick-up was also discussed.

## LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR  
[FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM](mailto:FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM)



### Volunteers Create Thousands of Masks

Editor:

In the April 8, 2020 issue, the Forum graciously printed my article "Volunteer to Make Hospital Masks." From that article over 100 crafters from our local community have given their time, skills, materials, and love to create over 11,519 pieces of PPE for essential workers, the homeless, seniors in care facilities, schools and places of worship.

The Eden Area Interfaith Council cannot thank these individuals enough. Through their efforts we were able to receive a \$5,000 grant from East Bay Community Energy that continues to finance our PPE project.

We also want to thank the local businesses that supported our efforts with discounts on fabric and thread. My heart and that of my co-organizer, Diana Ryan, are so filled with gratitude.

To our volunteers, know that your efforts have helped to soothe the anxious, stop the spread of the virus, and most importantly saved the lives of those we love. Continued blessings to you and the Forum!

—Debra A. Collins  
Castro Valley

### Says Rodeo Laws Need Amending

Editor:

The 2021 legislative session begins in early January. Most legislators decide in November which bills to carry. It's been said that people who care about animals comprise the single largest lobby in the country. Here are three bills needing an author:

- (1) Amend state rodeo law, Penal Code 596.7, so as to require an on-site veterinarian or Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) at all rodeos--the "on call" option is not working;
- (2) Ban the Mexican rodeo's ("charreada") brutal "steer tailing" event (now outlawed in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Nebraska and Brazil);
- (3) Ban the rodeo's non-sanctioned "wild cow milking contest," children's "mutton busting" event, and all animal "scrambles": cruel and dangerous for all concerned.

All legislators may be written c/o The State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Email pattern for all: [senator.lastname@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.lastname@senate.ca.gov), [assemblymember.lastname@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.lastname@assembly.ca.gov).

As Gandhi noted, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

—Eric Mills, coordinator  
Action for Animals, Oakland

—Dennis Cassalia  
Castro Valley

### Wear Your Mask Correctly

Editor:

I would like to thank Sean Edens of Scout Troop 726 ("Keeping Community Safe," Letters, Dec. 9).

My occupation is that of city bus operator. All too often I see people wearing their masks incorrectly, which is usually after I have to ask them to put one on.

Sean's simple plea was so well put. It's unfortunate that it's even necessary, since you would think these days severity would be more important than fatigue, disregard and just plain laziness. Sadly, it isn't.

At 57, I often shake my head in wonderment at the youth of today, but it's clear that Sean Edens is thoughtful with clear insight – a model others should look up to.

—George Metzger  
Castro Valley

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. Not all letters can be published. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. We do not withhold names or publish unsigned letters. Email letters to: [fredz@ebpublishing.com](mailto:fredz@ebpublishing.com) or mail to: The Forum P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.

### Wear Your Mask - Stop the Spread



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like ...

Written in 1951 by Meredith Willson, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" has been a holiday favorite for years. You know Christmas is around the corner when you can hear Bing Crosby crooning the lyrics from almost every location you visit.

We are not certain what it is looking like this Holiday Season ... certainly not like anything any of us have seen before. With a shelter-in-place back in force, those who were planning large family events are being asked to stay home.

There will be no live holiday concerts, no carolers going door-to-door, no one sitting on Santa's knee ... the list goes on and on. It has been a most bizarre year indeed.

Things are strange on the real estate front as well. Everyone assumed that COVID-19 would cripple the housing market and force prices down. In reality, the exact opposite has happened as a lack of inventory and super-low interest rates have fueled a red-hot housing market in most corners of the region.

Normally December is the slowest month of the year, as changes in weather and holiday preparations tend to cool the market.

Not so this year. Many neighborhoods, especially those with entry-level single-family homes, are seeing continuing jumps in prices as buyers are trying to get a home into contract for the holidays.

Fueled by remarkably low interest rates, multiple offers are everywhere, propelling values unseasonably high. If this continues into 2021, it could mean a windfall for local sellers hoping to relocate.

While the housing market is sizzling, the continued mandatory lockdowns are putting a definite chill into the holidays.

Two groups have been hit the hardest.

The first group are seniors – many of who have had to cancel holiday plans to be with their families.

The second group are the homeless. Their numbers are increasing as the region continues to deepen its way into the housing crisis. The encampments seem to be growing in size and appearing everywhere.

Like many, we have pledged support to local non-profit organizations that provide support to the homeless communities. To assist those who wish to

be part of the solution, the SF Chronicle has published its yearly directory of services at <https://projects.sfchronicle.com/sf-homeless/how-to-help/>.

We would encourage you to consider others this year and to provide whatever support you can to make this, the strangest holiday season of all time ... the one we remember the fondest.

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.

## Getting Rid of Willow Roots; Transplanting Cactus

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Forum

*This spring, we removed two invasive, 13-year-old willow trees. I had expected that the roots would eventually die back, but was I surprised when tree shoots sprouted up over 20 feet from the original tree, in planters and the middle of the lawn!*

*I'm slowly digging out the roots in the planter areas, but the lawn presents a dilemma. Is there something I can use to treat the sources, so they die and dissolve in the lawn? I've been spot treating the non-lawn areas with RoundUp.*

Like the Energizer bunny, tree roots from many invasive plants keep going, going and going. Eliminating the tree does not end the problem; instead, the roots are stimulated to form new plants.

The rogue shoots appear well beyond the canopy of the main tree. Elms, poplars, liquidambar, some fruit trees, and roses are notorious for suckering.

Unfortunately, I'm not aware of any product that will decompose the existing tree roots. Tree stump removal products take care of the core roots but are ineffective on the ones far away. So, you are faced with a war of attrition with two battlegrounds, one in the landscape areas and the second is the lawn.

In the non-turf areas, you'll need to spot treat the shoots as they appear. You're not going to see many new shoots during the winter months. Any non-selective herbicide such as RoundUp will work except in the lawn.

The battle will last for several more growing seasons. In turf, I'd spot treat with any of the broadleaf herbicides for dandelion control. There are any number of ready-to-use or aerosol products. Still, it could be more economical to buy the herbicide in the concentrated form and apply it in a dedicated tank sprayer.

Also, keep in mind that you should spray a couple of days before the grass is mowed to give you the maximum surface area for the herbicide to be

effective.

The suckering should slow down significantly now but increases starting in mid-February with the longer days.

*I want to transplant my blooming Christmas cactus into another pot, but I'm scared to touch it. Can I move a blooming plant to another pot without shocking it?*

It's okay to transplant a Christmas cactus and most other plants while they are in bloom. This is when an evergreen plant is technically dormant, as it's not actively growing. There is no reason why you have to wait until it finishes flowering. I'd transplant it carefully as not to damage the flowers.

Christmas cactus is also known as the Zygocactus or crab cactus because of their segmented leaves. Along with cyclamen, they are a great red and white alternative to poinsettia during the holiday season. Zygocactus and cyclamen are not sensitive to warm rooms,

as is a poinsettia so the foliage doesn't discolor quickly and has a long blooming period.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt

Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com) and questions can be sent by email to [buzz@dirtygardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtygardener.com).



## Mortgage Rates Remain at Record Lows

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.71 percent for the week ending Dec. 10, unchanged from the previous week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.73 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mort-

gages averaged 2.26 percent, also unchanged from a week earlier. A year ago at this time, the 15-year rate averaged 3.19 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.79 percent, down from 2.86 percent.

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— Brenda Weaver

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## Vaccine: Plans for Wider Distribution

*continued from front page*

The vaccine's arrival could not come at a more needed time. Alameda County saw a 14 percent increase in the number of infections over last week. More than 14 percent of beds in the county are filled with COVID-19 related cases, according to new data from a University of Minnesota Tracking Project.

Kaiser Permanente hospitals are taking the brunt of patients in Alameda County. Their campuses in San Leandro, Fremont, and Oakland average as many as 50 newly infected patients in a seven-day period. Last week, San Leandro

Kaiser was found to have 32 percent of their adult beds occupied with COVID cases, the highest in the county.

While getting a vaccination is not mandatory, Public Health officials say the more people that receive the drug, the more likely the county can recover socially and economically.

The key is to make sure they alleviate any concerns by socio-economic groups against receiving the vaccine, says Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Alameda County Public Health Director.

"Equity considerations are central to Alameda County's plans for

wider distribution of the vaccine, and engagement with our community partners is essential to reaching our high-risk and disproportionately impacted communities," Watkins-Tartt said.

If you do get the vaccine, Pfizer says to be on the lookout for such symptoms as pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever.

Reports from the first vaccination recipients in Europe suggest those who generally have severe allergic reactions or with extreme compromised immune systems should check with their doctor before getting any vaccine treatment.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Cameron Brown

Our Athlete of the Week is Cameron Brown. The Castro Valley native and former CVHS All-WACC recipient is now a Junior linebacker for the Columbia Lions. In 2019, Cameron played in all 10 games, mostly on special teams as a sophomore linebacker. He earned his Varsity letter after he ranked tied for second on the squad with his seven tackles at Cornell.



## CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

**Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs**  
[www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org](http://www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org)

## Reports: Stolen Vehicle; Burglar Tools

*continued from page 3*

### Joy Ride Ends in Arrest

Tuesday, December 8: at 9:10 p.m., a 51-year-old CV man was arrested on suspicion of driving a stolen vehicle. Deputies pulled the man over on the Boulevard near the 580 Market Place after a check of the license plate showed the car stolen. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

### Customer Refused to Leave

Tuesday, December 8: at 11:54 a.m., deputies arrested a 56-year-old CV man on suspicion of refusing to leave a business on Castro Valley Boulevard near San Miguel Avenue. The store manager called the Sheriff because the man refused to leave the store after being asked to leave several times. Deputies took the man into custody.

### Burglar Tools

Tuesday, December 8: at 4:06 a.m., a 39-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of possession of burglar tools. Deputies stopped the man for questioning outside a business on Redwood Road near Redwood Court when they discovered his lock pick and other tools. The man was taken into custody.

## Strike: Understaffing, PPE, Benefit Cuts

*continued from front page*

fer, and that many non-economic issues caused further stumbling blocks, including shortages in staffing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Lemke acknowledged that some problems are not the fault of the hospital. Many registries for fill-in help are depleted due to the pandemic, and medical equipment can be hard to come by.

But when employees leave, "they don't replace them," she said.

"The nursing staff at Eden is wonderful. We love our hospital. We used to love coming to work. The community has been wonderful too, bringing us cards and food. We just don't have the leadership we need right now."

Teamsters Local 856 has been negotiating since March on behalf of 140 front line workers, including lab technicians, imaging technicians, and respiratory therapists.

"Sutter Health Eden Medical Center is publicly calling their employees 'heroes,' but internally, they are understaffing, restricting access to PPE, and proposing wage freezes, cuts to health benefits, and more," said Matthew Mullany, lead negotiator for the union. "It's unconscionable that Eden CEO Pat Ryan and Sutter Health would treat its front line healthcare professionals in this manner during a pandemic."

Judy Frazier has been an ultrasound technician for 34 years at Eden.

"I was here before we were unionized, and this is the only time we've had trouble like this," Frazier said. "It just seems like this



new administration doesn't care about anything, including employees.

"We've tried for nine months to work with them, but we're stuck. We were hoping to resolve it, and we had a Federal mediator come in. But here we are, and who knows who is taking care of our patients."

Sutter Health issued the following statement Monday in response to the strike:

"Eden Medical Center values our caregivers and their continued commitment to compassionate patient care in the face of an unprecedented health crisis.

We are deeply disappointed by the Teamsters decision to engage in this highly disruptive one-day strike during the largest surge our state has seen, especially when the union has summarily rejected 98% of our proposals and they are demanding pay increases while making 7-14% more than their peers in this market.

Responding to COVID-19 and serving the needs of our patients and community during the pandemic has been an incredibly cost-

ly and difficult endeavor.

Despite that, we have prioritized securing and providing appropriate PPE for our workforce, implemented robust exposure management and testing protocols and worked diligently to support our employees despite constantly shifting patient volumes and government mandates.

Actions like those orchestrated by the Teamsters today only serve to distract from patient care and create fear at a time when people who need care – whether COVID-19 related or not – should feel safe and comfortable seeking it.

Additionally, seeing healthcare workers stand less than six feet apart during these demonstrations sends a message to our communities that invalidates physical distancing requirements, and disrespects our shared commitment to fighting virus spread.

It is disheartening that Teamsters are choosing to take this unnecessary action at a time when we should be focusing our attention on the patients who need us most."

## CVSan SEWER REPAIR PROJECT UPDATE



The Santa Maria Avenue and Redwood Road Sewer Repair Project for the Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) has begun! The project includes the rehabilitation of CVSan's sewer mains near Santa Maria Avenue and Mabel Avenue and the sewer mains near Redwood Road and Castro Valley Boulevard. The project was awarded to the contractor, APB General Engineering, to perform the work. CVSan would like to thank the businesses and residents affected by this project, and remind the community that the affected businesses will remain open during construction.

If you have any questions regarding CVSan repair projects, please visit [www.cvsan.org/Projects](http://www.cvsan.org/Projects) for more information.

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## Osofsky: Consider Tax Work-A-Rounds

*continued from page 7*

those parents who wish to pass their homes and other property, along with their low property tax rate, to their children under existing law.

But before any parent does so, he or she should first consider the "downside" of doing so, including the following:

(1) Capital Gains Taxes: A present transfer surrenders the adjustment to the property's cost basis at the parents' death, which

would otherwise eliminate all taxable appreciation from the time of the parents' original acquisition to the time of the parents' death. This loss would substantially increase the capital gains tax payable when the child later sells the property;

(2) Long Term Care Needs: The possible effect of such a transfer on the parent's eligibility for a Medi-Cal subsidy to help finance long term care.

### Work-A-Rounds?

Some attorneys, including this

author, are considering work-arounds for those parents who – prior to the law's effective date on Feb. 16, 2021 – wish to take action under existing law to both pass their low property tax rate to their children AND who desire their children to receive favorable tax treatment when they later opt to sell.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in the East Bay. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).