

The Diablo Gazette

Arts, Entertainment and All That's *Good* in Our Communities
Concord, Clayton, Walnut Creek, Martinez, Pleasant Hill

NOVEMBER 2022

MOUSE-CON
BAY AREA

Disney Fans Flock
to Concord

See story page 6



Disney fan, Tina Elliott from Contra Costa wins in her Disneyland Dumbo Ride costume at the D23 Expo Mousequerade at the Anaheim Convention Center in September 2022. She has won three consecutive years.

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RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN & NURSERY

NOVEMBER 25TH – JANUARY 8TH

GARDEN OF D'LIGHTS

Get Tickets!

An outdoor holiday light experience!

For event info, visit ruthbancroftgarden.org/garden-of-dlights/ or email us: lights@ruthbancroftgarden.org

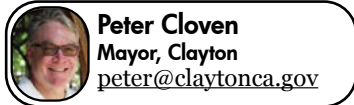
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Peter Cloven
Mayor, Clayton
peter@claytonca.gov

Citizens' Financial Sustainability Committee Formed

The Clayton City Council, at my suggestion, has approved the formation of a "Citizens' Financial Sustainability Committee." This five-person committee will be selected by the council from Clayton residents with government, finance, and accounting backgrounds to review finance, budgets, and operations. The desire is to have this committee be a non-political group with no direct council influence, as trusted advisory voices to the council, staff, and residents. This committee will assess Clayton's structural deficit and provide advice related to future cost-cutting or revenue-generation recommendations. If you have finance/accounting experience (especially in government), please download the application for the committee. It can be found at the bottom of the front page of the city website www.claytonca.gov. The application period is open through November 7, 2022.

Clayton is a city in transition. Caustic 2018 and 2020 elections caused significant changes in the council and city staff. Those transitions caused the retirement of our long-term city manager and gave way to the hiring of four city managers (two of them interim) in the past 4 years. Now our City Manager of the past 2 years, Reina Schwartz, will be moving on in February 2023. The City Council will, once again, begin the exhaustive and expensive search for a new City Manager to lead our staff in the years to come.

In addition, we have seen three Community Development Directors, three Finance Managers, and soon to be three Police Chiefs in the past four years. Hiring quality personnel is especially difficult today given labor shortages and increased compensation needs. Hiring future personnel will also require additional search and recruitment costs that were not anticipated.

The 2022 election is turning out to be another vitriolic and confusing season for our citizens. All candidates have signed the pledge of the California Code of Fair Political Practices. Item 6 of the pledge that candidates sign states "I Shall Immediately And Publicly Repudiate support deriving from any individual or group

that resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of my opponent, to the methods and tactics that I condemn ...". Some candidates are showing that they have a narrow definition of the words in that pledge.

Clayton is showing itself to be a microcosm of the polarization in national politics. Recently, anonymous defamatory fliers against candidates Ed Miller and Bridget Billeter were delivered with a smugness and joviality that continues to create division within our community, by an anonymous and pseudo political organization. If allowed to go unchecked, qualified residents who would otherwise consider being a candidate (or applicant), will reconsider due to such smear campaigns. I have made it very clear that candidates that benefit from that type of campaign tactic and do not honor their pledge will not get my support for a leadership position on the council.

Regardless of the results of the November election, it will take strong voices of unity within our community to come together and support our city staff with the resources needed to be successful in serving our citizens.

As mayor, I have fought to bring civility to city dialogue during council meetings and during public comment. It is my hope that this effort allows our newly elected representatives the opportunity to serve in the best interests of all Clayton residents. It is important for our Council and residents to seek to embrace our vast commonalities, rather than focus on our limited differences. As your mayor and council member, I will continue to uphold the traits of our "Do the Right Thing" motto – Kindness, Respect, Integrity, Self-discipline, Courage, Responsibility, and Inclusion. I will endeavor to be an example of those traits and provide that leadership accordingly for all of Clayton. While there will always be challenges, the future of Clayton remains bright.

You can reach me at peterc@claytonca.gov, or (925) 673-7320.

Inaugural Festival Latino Huge Success

by Dominic Aliano Mayor, Concord

September was Hispanic Heritage Month and Festival Latino was an event to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage of the Monument and the City of Concord.



The Unity Council, Los Rancheros, El Rancho, and I have been working for the past two years to make Festival Latino a reality. Covid did not make it easy for us, yet we were able to make 2022 the year for the first Festival Latino. We all thought it was important to have Festival Latino for several reasons: help the businesses that struggled during Covid by making this an economic driver, celebrating the Hispanic Heritage of Concord, and just providing a fun family friendly event for the community. The Monument has never had its own celebration/festival and we thought it was time for it.

Festivals like Festival Latino are important events for the community because they have a direct link to the quality of life among our residents and businesses. As the Mayor for the City of Concord, I know first hand how important it is to provide these community activities. Our residents work hard to survive this crazy world and it is not only important for us to pass policies and resolutions that help make their lives a little better, it is also important to provide safe and fun events for the community. Events that give our residents the opportunity to take a moment to relax, laugh, and have fun.

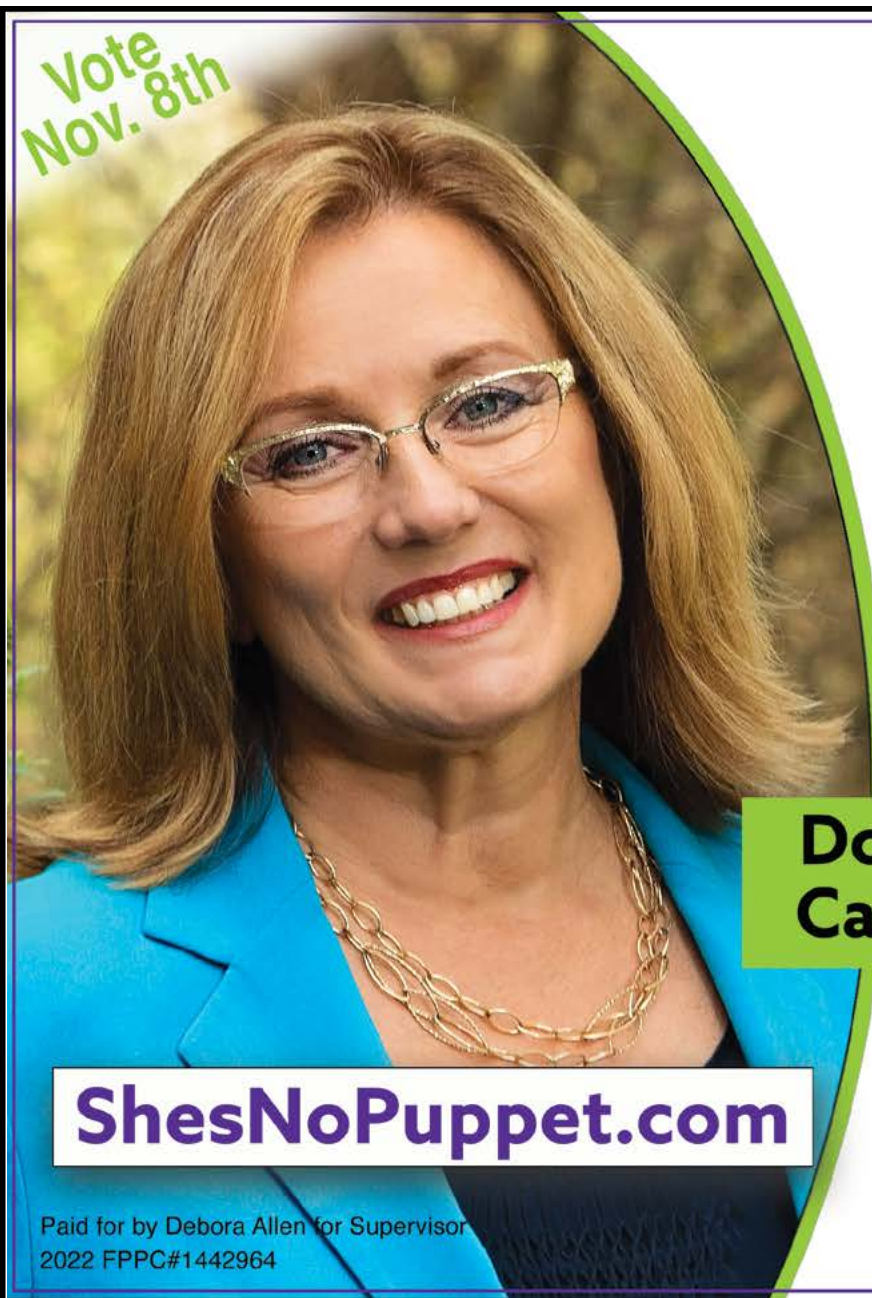
I hope everyone that attended had fun. Festival Latino included

music, arts and crafts, educational opportunities about the different Latin Countries, all kinds of food and information from different community organizations.

The Unity Council is a non-profit that provides a Head Start service for families in the Monument and they even partner with me on my turkey giveaways and toy giveaways. Their Head Start program provides free education for several hundred families that might have difficulties finding childhood education programs within a close proximity to their home. I thank them for their commitment to our community.

Los Rancheros and El Rancho are long-standing establishments that have been a part of our community's fabric for several decades. Los Rancheros was started by the Barragan Family and El Rancho is owned by the Lopez Family. A special thank you to Silvia Barajas, Hector Barragan, and Manuel Lopez for helping organize Festival Latino. They are business owners who genuinely care about the community they serve.

If you are interested to know more about the event or would like to participate next year, then please contact me at dominic@dominicaliano.com.



Vote
Nov. 8th

Debora Allen

for Contra Costa Supervisor

Debora Allen is an outspoken leader working for good governance – providing needed services in an efficient and effective manner. Debora is...

Protecting Our Communities and Your Pocketbook

Debora has a proven track record for challenging entrenched special interests and self-dealing politicians who do nothing about rising crime and homelessness -- while the cost of everything skyrockets. They've controlled Contra Costa for too long.

Don't Fall for the Disinformation Campaign Against Debora Allen!

It's no surprise Big Labor has spent over \$300k trying to stop Debora. She will demand accountability and transparency from county government. Debora has been a registered independent for almost 4 years, giving her the freedom to focus on our most pressing issues, not political parties.

ShesNoPuppet.com

Paid for by Debora Allen for Supervisor
2022 FPPC#1442964

TRUSTED. TESTED. ADVOCATE.

ROBERT
RING
for Concord City Council



District 1

RingForConcord.com

ENDORSED BY:

- ★ **Concord Police Officer's Assn.**
- ★ **Assemblymember Tim Grayson**
- ★ **The Deputy District Attorney's Assn.**
- ★ **The Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council**
- ★ **Deputy Sheriff's Assn.**

ROBERT IS A LOCAL LEADER, both in the business and non-profit sectors. He understands what it takes to solve challenging issues and work with others to get things done. Robert will focus on addressing homelessness, crime, housing, and infrastructure.

CRIME - "If you don't have safety, you don't have a city. If elected, I will support our men and women in blue and ensure they are adequately funded."

INFRASTRUCTURE - "Repair our infrastructure and fix our roads. I will make sure we prioritize and speed up road repair. I will also ensure we adequately fund road maintenance annually, so we are never in this dire position again."

HOUSING - "We have to get the Concord Naval Weapons Station off the ground, along with other abandoned lots in Concord."

HOMELESSNESS - "I will work with state and county officials to seek better and more responsive solutions for Concord's homeless."

**Vote for Fresh
Leadership in Concord**



Exposing the Truth in Negative Ads

by David King

As of this writing, there is a week to go to election day on November 8. The negative campaign tactics are inundating the mailboxes in an attempt to sway voters for whom not to vote. Clearly, the public disapproves of this type of campaigning especially if it contains misinformation, distorted hyperbole, or worse, undeniably untrue. These win-at-all-cost campaigns are not helpful to the process. But unlike ordinary advertising, truth in advertising laws do not apply to political ads. Voters must do their own research, making voting unnecessarily unpleasant. Here are a few truth benders in local candidate ads that you may have already received.

In Clayton, Claytonwatch, is an unregistered quasi-PAC of citizens disgruntled with the current political makeup of Clayton's City Council. They recently circulated a flyer targeting two candidates running for city council, Bridget Billeter and Ed Miller. The hit piece stirred heated conversations over social media platforms such as Facebook and NextDoor.

As for candidate Billeter, a California Deputy Attorney General, the flyer accuses her of abusing her power of office by using office time and resources (i.e., email), and publicly identifying herself in her position on personal issues. This claim goes back to her filing complaints several years ago at Clayton Valley Charter's CEO David Linzey of misusing funds. CVCHS retaliated by filing a complaint with the DOJ. The complaint asked for a reprimand and public apology and for her to cease and desist said activity, of which both sides can agree, that at least the latter did happen.

On Billeter's Facebook page, she offers an ad hominem denial, which attacks the register rather than the claim itself. Billeter categorically denies the accusations and claims her challenges to the school were valid as CEO David Linzey was eventually

ousted over misuse of funds and other violations. Unfortunately, that was not the issue of this flyer's attack.

Ed Miller, a Planning Commissioner, also denies all accusations made against him and on his Facebook page offers a video clip of the Planning meeting that disarms one of the claims outright.

As per the claim that Miller wants to outsource the Police, Miller claims that that notion was born from poor editing of his interview with the Pioneer. His intent was that in looking for ways to curb expenses, it may be feasible to share certain administrative costs with the departments of other cities.

In another claim the flyer states that Miller voted in favor of an extension for the developer of the Olivia Project. This is true. However, Miller says his vote was given out of a sense of fairness to the developer since the project was stalled due to a failed litigation brought against the project. Technically, the flyer is accurate in its claim, as the opportunity was there to ruthlessly shut it down or stall it.

Both candidates, Jeff Wan and Kim Trupiano supported by Claytonwatch disapproved of the flyers and claimed no affiliation with Claytonwatch.

In the Contra Costa County Supervisor District 4 race, campaigners are also resorting to negative ads. Ken Carlson's campaigners have produced several negative political ads attacking his opponent, Debora Allen. In several hit pieces, she is labeled as a Republican since 1998. It is a dubious claim for a couple of reasons.

First, it is not true. Allen has been a registered NPP (No Party Preference) since 2019. But the real headscratcher on this cheap campaign tactic is, Ken was

Works and Ken Carlson for County Supervisor 2022						
As of 10/28/2022						
Entity Name	Entity Type	Contributions to Contra Costa Works PAC	Percent of total PAC	Common Contributors to Carlson Campaign	Both Campaigns Combined	Total Contributions Both Campaigns
Labor-Construction Unions						
IBEW 302 Candidates PAC -- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	Construction	15,000	7%	2,500	17,500	5%
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers Local 549	Construction	30,000	13%	-	30,000	9%
Sheetmetal Workers Local Union 104 PAC	Construction	15,000	7%	5,000	20,000	6%
United Association #159 Consumer Fund, Sponsored by Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 159	Construction	5,000	2%	1,675	6,675	2%
Steamfitters Local 342 PAC Fund	Construction	5,000	2%	2,500	7,500	2%
Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 3	Construction	-	0%	500	500	0%
International Association of Firefighters Local 1230	Construction	-	0%	5,000	5,000	2%
Laborers International Union of North America LU 324	Construction	-	0%	1,500	1,500	0%
Northern CA Carpenters Regional Council	Construction	-	0%	3,000	3,000	1%
Subtotal Construction Labor		\$ 70,000	31%	\$ 21,675	\$ 91,675	28%
Labor-Contra Costa County Employee Unions						
AFSCME Council 57 PAC -- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	County Workers	15,000	7%	-	15,000	5%
Dignity CA SEIU Local 2015 CA PAC Los Angeles	County Workers	20,000	9%	-	20,000	6%
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21 TJ Anthony PAC Fund	County Workers	47,500	21%	-	47,500	15%
Contra Costa United Working Families (Traced mostly to SEIU Local 1021 contributions with small amounts from PG&E, Teamsters, and Operating Engineers)	County Workers	30,000	13%	-	30,000	9%
Contra Costa County Prosecutors Association	County Workers	-	0%	2,500	2,500	1%
DRIVE Committee (PAC of International Brotherhood of Teamsters)	County Workers	25,000	11%	-	25,000	8%
Teamsters Local 856	County Workers	-	0%	1,000	1,000	0%
SEIU United Healthcare Workers West PAC	County Workers	5,500	2%	-	5,500	2%
Central Labor Council Contra Costa County (in-kind rent)	County Workers	419	0%	-	419	0%
Subtotal County Public Employee Labor		\$ 143,419	64%	\$ 3,500	\$ 146,919	45%
Other Contributors						
Other Non-Labor Contributors	Corporate	10,000	4%	75,647	85,647	26%
Subtotal - Other		\$ 10,000	4%	\$ 75,647	\$ 85,647.00	26%
Total Contributions to Contra Costa Works PAC and Ken Carlson Campaign		\$ 223,419	100%	\$ 100,822	\$ 324,241	100%

a registered Republican for 30 years up until 2014. Also, some of his most touted endorsers including Mark DeSaulnier and Tim Grayson were once registered Republicans.

The claim that Allen is supported by an alt-right extremist group has no basis in fact, at least not in any substantial financial support. Nor does the claim on her stance on abortion. Allen has been clear in public forums, she is Pro-Choice.

These pieces state "not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by the candidate." Despite these continuous misinformation campaigns, attempts were made to redirect the attention on these tac-

tics by admonishing Allen for her negative campaign ads. We found no such ads from Allen or her PAC.

There is one potential exception. Her website shesnopuppet.com implies Carlson may be beholden to special interest.

Allen says she has a reputation for tough negotiations with labor unions. Her site identifies the funding sources behind Carlson and his PAC opposing her - with a whopping \$230,000 from labor unions.

Until truth in advertising laws apply to political ads, voters must do their own research and try not to reward such campaigning at the ballot box.

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(Next door to Harvest House Shaw Carpet)
925-680-4433

3191-J Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon
(Next to Sprouts in the Crow Canyon Plaza)
925-866-2200

Email: info@macfloor.com
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Cash Buyers Must Also Plan for Closing Costs

Due to rising mortgage interest rates, some buyers are making all cash offers on homes rather than obtaining a loan. Most financing buyers know to expect closing costs during the process. These include title insurance, taxes, appraisal fees, attorney fees, and more. But what happens when you do not finance the house and instead pay with cash? Let's look at some of the fees you may be required to pay at closing when buying with cash.

Taxes. You will be on the hook for taxes when you are closing on your cash purchase. These include real estate transfer taxes to Contra Costa County if that is where you are buying the home. And remember that even though your home is paid for, you will still be required to pay property taxes every year.

Title insurance. Title insurance is another fee that you may end up paying at closing. While title insurance is usually optional, it is strongly recommended when you purchase a home. Even though a title search may not have uncovered any outstanding issues with the title of the home, that does not mean something will not come up down the road. This could include liens, incorrect names, or title defects. The older the home, the more potential there is for problems. Title insurance helps to protect you.

Title Notary. Documents will need to be notarized as part of the closing process. You can expect to pay fees associated with a notary. They will verify your signatures and ensure that all documents are official.

Title record processing. All the documents that are processed during your closing will need to be processed and filed with the County Recorder. There will be

fees associated with these transactions.

Appraisal. If you are paying cash for a home, then you may not need to get an appraisal. Appraisals are generally required by a lender to ensure that a buyer has not agreed to pay more than what the home is worth. As a cash buyer, it is your option to have an appraisal done on the home, which will have associated fees.

Home inspection. A home inspection is another cost you may incur when paying for a home with cash. While you can opt to waive the inspection, most agents agree that getting an inspection is important. The home inspection will uncover any potential issues with the property which can inform your negotiations with the seller.

Escrow. Finally, you can't escape escrow even if you are purchasing a home with cash. An escrow company will act as a neutral third party to the buyer and seller. They handle collecting all the money and documents associated with the closing process. This includes the earnest money deposit and the completed and signed deed.

As you can see, even if you are paying all cash, you are not getting out of paying closing costs on your home purchase. In fact, you can expect to pay up to three percent of the cost of the home in closing costs with a cash purchase. Ultimately, if you are saving up to purchase a home with cash, then remember to factor in these costs when you make your offer.

Compliments of virtualresults.net. Brokers Jennifer Stojanovich and George Vujnovich at Better Homes Realty of Clayton (925)567-6170.

YOU DESERVE *PERSONAL SERVICE!* LET US HELP YOU

WITH YOUR HOME BUYING OR SELLING NEEDS!



\$1,095,000
120 Samuel Ct, Clayton
Sensational Single Story Rancher in Regency Woods tucked away at the end of the court in an irreplaceable location! 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx. 2011sf on an approx. .24 acre lot with inside laundry and an attached 2-car garage. Adjacent to open space and walking trail.



SOLD!
5508 Colorado Dr, Concord
Stunning Updated & Upgraded Single Story home in Clayton Valley Highlands! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1547sf on an approx. .16 acre lot with inside laundry room & an attached 2-car garage. Huge side yard with paved & covered RV/Boat parking! \$810,000.



SOLD!
3660 Morgan Territory Rd, Clayton
Custom Built Ranch Home nestled in the foothills of Mt. Diablo on 6+ acres with spectacular views! Main house is 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1955sf with updated kitchen & downstairs primary bedroom. Property offers two additional guest houses. City water! \$1,300,000.



SOLD!
140 Mt. Shasta, Clayton
Charming Dana Hills Single Story Rancher tucked away at the end of the court near greenbelt! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, approx. 2255sf on an approx. .25 acre lot with inside laundry room and an attached 2-car garage! \$985,000.



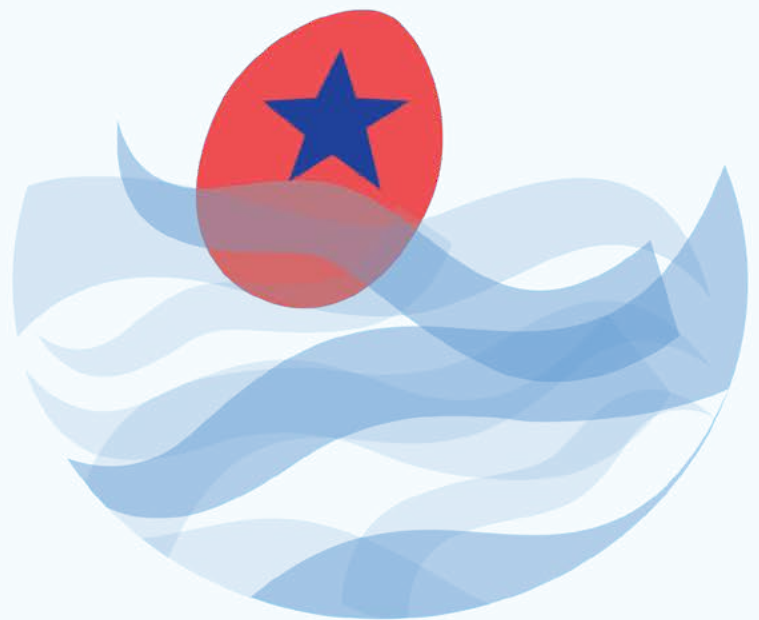
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Return of the Mouse, Mouse-Con in Concord

The 7th Annual Mouse-Con kicks off Sunday, November 6th, 10 AM at the Concord Plaza Inn (formerly the Crowne Plaza Inn). Mouse-Con has an all-star lineup of guests, speakers, and a wide assortment of vendors offering different merchandise.

The event starts Saturday evening with a Pin Trading Experience. On Sunday, special guests including celebrities, voice-artists, writers, comic designers and people with experience with the Disney franchise, will be on hand for meet and greet, and panel discussions.

Some Celebrity Guests include Heather Matarazzo, who starred in "The Princess Diaries," and "The Princess Diaries 2" alongside Anne Hathaway, Kevin Thompson, perhaps best known for his work on Blade Runner as one of the toys greeting J.F Sebastian, as well as working alongside Harrison Ford in Star Wars IV: Return of the Jedi as one of the Ewoks. C. Andrew Nelson is an award winning artist, actor, writer, producer, and public speaker. Andrew spent four years as a visual effects artist at Industrial Light & Magic with credits that include Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace, Galaxy Quest, Adventures of Rocky & Bullwinkle, The Perfect Storm, Jurassic Park III, The Time Machine, and Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones. And John



Finally, the event is holding the 6th Annual Mouse-Con Costume Contest where you can cheer on the folks in costume and also experience a Disney Costume/Cosplay Contest as well with multiple prize categories.



Morris known for Toy Story (1995), Toy Story 3 (2010) and Toy Story 2 (1999) as the voice of Andy. There are too many special guests to list here, but you can find the full list on the Mouse-Con website, <https://www.mouse-con.com>

In addition to guest appearances, the panelists will cover a wide range of topics, including 'We Were On Screen With Luke Skywalker... Were You?' a fun talk about working for George Lucas on one of the greatest Sci-Fi franchises in cinematic history... Star Wars.

Follow the Mouse-Con updates on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mousecon> as well as their website <https://www.mouse-con.com/home.shtml>

Sunday, November 6, 10:00am to 5:00pm, Concord Plaza Inn (Formerly Crowne Plaza Inn) 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord. Admission is Only \$10.00 (Children under 12 are Free)

In Case You Missed It..

Local News Items from Claycord.com and Other Sources

\$2 Million Small Business Reimbursement Grant Announced

Utilizing \$2 million of the remaining \$19 million that the City received from the federal government as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, Concord will provide one-time grants of \$5,000 to 370 small businesses. The grants will be distributed in two rounds, with one occurring this fall and the other in spring 2023.

The online application for the first round will open on Nov. 7 and close on Nov. 18. A webinar to explain the application process will take place on Nov. 1.

The reimbursement grant is intended to help businesses recover typical operating costs such as rent/lease payments, utilities, payroll, inventory, facility repairs, upgrades, and other expenses. Applicants will be considered based on priority criteria detailed in the application, and a lottery will be initiated if the number of qualified applicants exceed the amount of funding available.

<https://concordfirst.com/local-business/covid-19-resources/arpa-reimbursement-grant/>

Construction Affects Grant/East Streets Through Mid-December



Pavement rehabilitation for Grant Street from Broadmoor Avenue to High School Avenue, and East Street from High School Avenue to Salvio Street has begun and is anticipated to be completed by Dec. 16.

Expect delays if traveling through the area.

Parking will be temporarily restricted on Grant Street and East Street. Drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians are encouraged to take alternate routes.

The District Will Replace & Upgrade 2.5 Miles Of Aging Water Pipes. Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is starting work to replace and upgrade over 2.5 miles of aging water pipes in the Gregory Gardens area of Pleasant Hill.

The older pipes in this neighborhood have a history of leaks, which result in costly repairs and disruptive water outages. When complete, this critical infrastructure upgrade project will improve water service reliability in the neighborhood.

CCWD will also install additional hydrants in the neighborhood.

Taco Bell On Clayton Road About To Get New Dutch Neighbor

Dutch Bros., the Oregon-based chain of drive-thru coffee shops, plans to open next to Taco Bell on Clayton Rd. near Bailey Rd. in Concord. The property that has been vacant for decades.

Plans for the property also include an 8,000-square-foot Kiddie Academy

educational childcare facility, which would be in the back of the property, further away from Clayton Rd.

CCWD anticipates the construction of the entire project to be completed by the Summer of 2024.

Wing-Stop, The Kebab Shop Moving Into Meridian Square Shopping Center On Concord Ave. In Concord

Wing-Stop and the new Kebab Shop will be located where Jimmy John's and Blaze Pizza were located, backing up to Concord Ave. in the Meridian Square shopping center on Concord Ave. at Meridian Park Blvd. in Concord (Trader Joe's shopping center).

Wing-Stop recently closed their location in the Clayton Valley Shopping Center on Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Concord, and the Kebab Shop recently opened another restaurant in the Orchards shopping center on Oak Grove at Ygnacio in Walnut Creek.

Chick-fil-A Signs Lease, One Step Closer To Building First Concord Restaurant

If all goes as planned, the future home of Chick-fil-A in Concord is where the old Claim Jumper was located on Diamond Blvd. in the Willows Shopping Center.

A lease has already been signed between Chick-fil-A and the property manager. The company only needs to go through the approval process with the City of Concord.

If constructed, this would be Chick-fil-A's first restaurant in Concord.

Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery To Hold Dumpster Day For Concord Residents

Concord Residents can sign up for Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery's Concord residential drop-off event at Concord Pavilion parking lot otherwise known as Dumpster Day. This free event will be on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. This is for Concord residents only. One trip per household. Residents must show proof of address such as a current utility bill and form of ID when arriving at 2000 Kirker Pass Road.

Vehicles with inappropriate materials will be turned away. For more information and to pre-register go to: mdrr.com/concord-residential-drop-off-event.

Claycord Online Museum: The National Enquirer Article About Concord's Legendary Spirit Poles



Back in the 90s, the National Enquirer labeled Concord's spirit poles as the ugliest publicly funded sculpture in America. The 91 poles, which are legendary in Concord, costing taxpayers about \$400,000. The poles were constructed and set in concrete in the middle of Concord Ave., between Salvio and Market. Thanks to Joy Rosenberg for sharing this piece of history with us.

The Claycord Online Museum is made up of historical photos, documents and anything else that has to do with the history of our area sent to news@claycord.com by its readers. For more local stories visit Claycord.com.



Let The Holiday Festivities Begin

'Tis the season for holiday guests to come to town and celebrate. Whether it's one night or many, Visit Concord has some terrific ways for you and your guests to grab the holiday spirit in Concord!

Shopping At The Concord Visitors Center

Come by the Concord Visitors Center (Downtown Concord) for a terrific holiday experience. You can find something for everyone on your list in our stress-free holiday shop.

We'll greet you with delicious treats and bubbly beverages along with featured "hot-ticket" items and deals like buy one/get one offers, or a gift with purchase.

For something special and unique, the Concord Visitor Center has partnered with our friends at the Concord Art Association for Small Business Saturday, November 26th.

This is the perfect opportunity to find a truly creative gift, including handcrafted items designed by local artists.

Another Great Idea...Visit Concord Merch

We recently refreshed our Visit Concord logo and have included this new look into our line of merchandise. In addition to our popular "I Heart Concord", Beer Trail, Jazz Fest and Taco Trail wearables, we now have key chains, fanny packs and bucket hats with the new Visit Concord brand and, of course, they all make for great holiday gifts.

Shop all merchandise at the Concord Visitors Center (Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm) or online at visitconcordca.com.

You Are Invited

Visit Concord looks forward to celebrating the holidays with you and yours this November and December. During Concord's Tree Lighting celebration on Friday December 2, we will be welcoming all at our gala Open House event with special extended hours from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Visitor Center is also the check-in point for TSBA's (Todos Santos Business Association's) Holiday Sip & Stroll event where you can enjoy pop-in tastings of cocktails and treats at participating Todos Santos restaurants starting at 5 p.m. December 2. Tickets are available on our website for just \$15 per person.



Follow us on social media for info on additional Concord holiday events!

Stay And Play

If you have family or friends coming to town for the holidays, Visit Concord is offering Stay & Play Packages. This is a terrific way for guests to stay close while you immerse yourself in your holiday planning. Your confirmed reservation at any of our hotels allows guests to receive specially themed packages filled with fun goodies like local gift cards, restaurant coupons and wearables. Concord has nine hotel choices, each accommodating different needs and budgets. Most are pet-friendly. For more information go to: <https://www.visitconcordca.com/hotels/specials-deals/stay-play-hotel-packages/>

We look forward to seeing you here soon. The Concord Visitor Center is located at 2151 Salvio Street, Suite T in Concord. Contact us at info@visitconcord.com or 925-685-1182. Website: www.visitconcordca.com.



Tom Quinlavin Exhibit Comes to aRt Cottage

aRt Cottage is pleased to present Tom Quinlavin's LARGE works, November 9th through December 3rd. 'It's all about COLORS.'

Tom is a well-respected artist with a wide audience of followers. Here's what he said about starting his career.

"I started thinking seriously about art in high school. When I saw works by Jackson Pollock and Clifford Still in the museums, the huge forms and colors took me away and set a fire in me.

I went to a 2-year School in Morrisville. From there I worked on a design project for Annie Blow Your Horn. Later, in Suffix County, at the CW Post Campbell Campus I worked on large floor pieces, pouring paint out, working on art.

My mentor was Ted Stamm. In 1982 I had my first one man exhibit with large scale paintings. The Hutchinson Gallery was reserved for professional artists only. This was the first time a student was invited. That's when I decided to be an artist.

After that, I found myself in the East Village, New York for 10 years with the Rivington School. One could have the freedom



Tom Quinlavin with dog in his Concord studio

to do whatever. It was art for art's sake, not for money or for being accepted into any particular group. This was during the time when the SOHO district/movement was popular. I sold some work and two years later moved to California, around the time when SF

MOMA opened. There was a rebirth of painting going on. It was in Emeryville that I started experimental paintings on large canvases with eggshells, grass, and more. I have been in the East Bay for 25 years and currently live in Concord.

My earlier work was about a transfer of energy. The influencer was Jackson Pollock-experimenting with push-pull theories, making circles, putting in energy, keeping the color intense and limiting the palette.

Now it's more about reduction, removal and the visual experience. It's psychological, and it's all about what you see."

We will have a reception for Tom on November 19th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The public is welcome to meet the artist and enjoy the afternoon with good art, refreshments, music, and friends.

aRt Cottage, located at 2238 Mount Diablo Street, Concord.



Yellow #1, by Tom Quinlavin

AM/PM Tree Service Competes in Reality TV Show, The Blox

By David King

Brittany Parsons, co-owner of AM/PM Tree Service (with her husband David Engel) inadvertently became a contestant on a reality TV show recently.

Waking up one morning, she picked up her phone and saw an ad that read, "Does your business need an acceleration program?" So, she responded and signed up, uncertain what to expect. She received a message thanking her for applying for "The Blox."



"The Blox" is an Online TV reality show which claims to be "The greatest show on entrepreneurship." The show is hosted and produced by Wes Bergmann, a leading contestant on MTV's "The Challenge." The message instructed her to download the show's app and discover what she just applied to do.

"I told my husband, 'I think I just applied to a reality TV show.'" They laughed at first until they discovered that the show was Bergmann's show. Laughter became excitement as they realized this may not be a scam after all.

"We were already fans of Bergmann's intelligence on the MTV show. He's an entrepreneur himself and very invested in helping Start Ups."

She submitted a description of her business and why she would be interested in competing on the show, expecting to never hear from them.

Soon, Parsons was contacted by one of the show's producers. She was one of 60 companies chosen out of 60,000 applicants, they told her.

Off she went to Overland Park, KS, for a week of education, competition, and filming.

Each day started with a lesson from Bergmann himself, breakfast, and then more lessons involving topics of fundraising, lead development, sales, and web development.

The 60 contestants were divided into six pods of 10 companies and assigned a judge for one-on-one sessions to discuss each contestant's business.

Contestants would earn points if they can take the day's lesson and apply it to their business. The best of each day's pod winners also competed each night in a "Blox Off" by answering a series of questions. At the end of the week, contestants with the most points were announced as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place, plus most valuable and most investable entrepreneurs.

How did Parsons fair? She said you will have to watch the show, but she hinted she finished in the top tier. As for the overall experience, she summed it with:

"Being part of "The Blox" was amazing, educational, and life changing. It was beyond education and competition. It was a week of deep bonding and idea exchanging with the most brilliant and eccentric group of people I have ever been in the same room with. The energy and creativity were pouring over... I would do this over and over."

Currently Season 4 is airing. Brittany is in Season 6 which she projects will be ready near the end of the Holidays. In the meantime, you can catch up and watch earlier seasons at betablox.com/theblox.

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Southern French Turkey Leftovers

This southern French menu was inspired by the age-old question of what to do with the leftover turkey from Thanksgiving. I love the idea of apples, bacon, turkey, and cheese all together. This meal is great paired with a variety of Southern French white wines.



Start with a fresh salad made from mixed greens, chopped apple, honey-Dijon vinaigrette, and top with crunchy sunflower seeds. The dressing's earthy mustard and sweet honey will begin the bridge from salad to wine. However, it is the nutty, salty sunflower seeds that will really make the wine pairing work.



Choose a zippy wine such as a Pic Poul from Southern France. The aromatics of this grape are primarily notes of Fuji apple and it will be a perfect match to the chopped apple in the salad. If you can't find a Pic Poul, a sauvignon blanc is a fine substitute.

The main course utilizes leftover turkey.

Turkey noodle casserole is not truly French but is certainly delicious. I like Rachel Ray's recipe. The meaty bacon and gruyere cheese both add depth; the nutmeg and parsley match the spicy, herbal notes found in the wine of choice, a dry Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon blend from Bordeaux France. There are both sweet and dry versions of white Bordeaux, be sure to choose the dry one for this dish.

The crisp refreshing acidity of Sauvignon Blanc is offset by a creaminess found in Semillon. The two grapes together will complement the dish and cleanse your palate for your next bite. A dry Semillon from multiple regions are good alternatives.

Finish the meal with a beautiful store-bought fruit tart and make it even more special by pairing it with one of Southern France's lovely white wines, Muscat de Beaugues de Venice. It is light and slightly sweet and will work well with the sweetness of the custard. If you can't find this small production wine, a readily available Prosecco will suffice.

So, go on. Pair Up!

Honey-Dijon Vinaigrette

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- Pinch red pepper
- 3/4 tsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon onion salt

DIRECTIONS:

Blend all ingredients and refrigerate.
Yield: 1 1/2 cups dressing

Rachel Ray's Turkey Noodle Casserole

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 pound extra wide egg noodles, cooked *al dente*
- 3 slices bacon or turkey bacon, chopped
- 1-pound white mushrooms, sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3-4 cups diced cooked turkey
- Black pepper
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme or poultry seasoning
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons softened butter
- 8 ounces grated Gruyere
- 1 cup plain breadcrumbs
- 2 to 3 tablespoons chopped parsley leaves

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat a large, deep skillet over medium high heat and crisp bacon. Remove bacon and sauté mushrooms and onions 3 to 5 minutes in remaining bacon fat. Add back bacon and diced turkey. Season the mixture liberally with salt and pepper, then sprinkle in the ground thyme or poultry seasoning. Cook another 5 minutes then add wine. Deglaze the pan, stir in stock, and bring to a simmer, then stir in cream and reduce the heat to low. Add nutmeg and stir. Taste to adjust seasonings.

Preheat broiler to high. Combine noodles with turkey mixture and sauce. Grease a casserole dish with a softened butter and transfer turkey noodle mixture to the dish. Top the casserole with Gruyere then breadcrumbs. Place the casserole 8 to 10 inches from the broiler and brown 2 to 3 minutes until cheese is melted and the crumbs are brown. Remove from oven and garnish with parsley.

Yield: 4-6 servings

Maria Terry is a Certified Sommelier and Wine Educator in the Northern California. www.LaSommeliere.com

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Walnut Creek Lands its Second Nobel Prize Winner in as Many Years

By David King

Congratulations to John Clauser, 79, of Walnut Creek for winning his share of the Nobel Prize, it was announced early October 4. Clauser was honored along with Alain Aspect and Anton Zeilinger for their pioneering achievements in quantum mechanics.



Photo courtesy AP. John is busy talking to media most of the day.

Clauser was an experimentalist mostly at Lawrence Livermore. He conducted his first experiment a half-century ago in 1972 at UC Berkeley. However, he had little support for his efforts as his peers and most of the physics faculty there referred to his experiments as "junk science" and a waste of time.

In short, his quantum physics experiments suggest particles can be entangled and influenced irrespective of the distance between them. The groundbreaking experiments are now paving the way for quantum computing and sensing technology, quantum networks and quantum encrypted communication.

From 1969 to 1997, he worked mainly at the University of California, Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

In an interview posted on AIP.org, Clauser recalled his childhood. "My dad took a job at Johns Hopkins to create an aeronautics department there. As a kid, I would just sort of wander around the lab and gawk at all of the nifty laboratory equipment. And I kept thinking, 'Wow, boy do these guys have fun toys. When I grow up, I want to be a scientist so that I can play with neat toys like this.'"

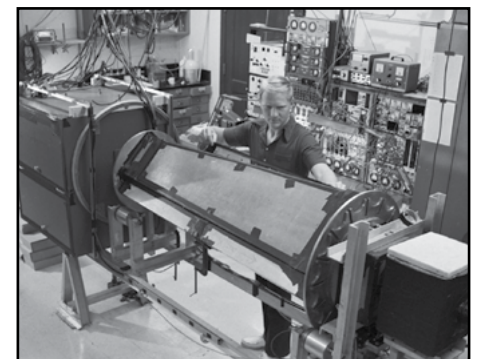
He became an electronic wiz kid. "My dad taught me some of the basics of electronics, and I just went off and built some of the earliest computers and the like. I built the world's first video games. I won a whole bunch of prizes in the National Science Fair for doing this."

Clauser has shared his knowledge with some local schools speaking to an elementary class in Walnut Creek and at Acalanes High School.

Clauser will split the prize money of \$910,000 with his two co-winners. The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895."

Last year, UCSF Professor David Julius, also of Walnut Creek, won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his Work on Pain Sensation using chili peppers.

Clauser, now retired, enjoys his time sailing on his yacht. Congratulations to him, he certainly deserves it.



John Clauser with the quantum mechanics experiment he and Stuart Freedman built to test Bell's theorem in the 1970s. (Credit: Steve Gerber/Berkeley Lab)

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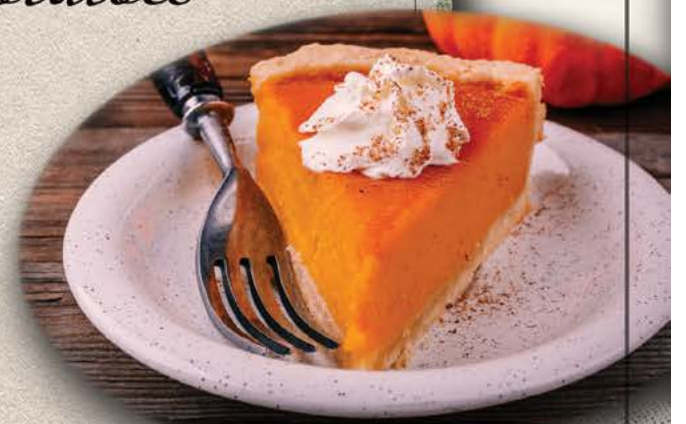


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Give Brussels Sprouts a Second Chance

by Deb Morris, Pacific Coast Farmers Market

Generally speaking, Brussels sprouts are not well-liked vegetables. Could it stem from a childhood memory of being served mushy, overcooked sprouts? Can it be from their strong odor? We highly recommend you give them a second chance. When cooked properly, they are full of lovely texture and delicious flavor. We are on a mission to prove this often-overlooked vegetable should be a staple in your meal rotation.

It's not just the taste that will interest you in this tasty veggie. Along California's Central Coast, you will see stalks of mini cabbage-like orbs sprouting from a 4-foot stalk and crowned with large, rippled leaves. You can purchase fresh Brussels sprouts at your local farmers' market in bulk or still attached to the stalk they grew on. These stalks are an interesting way to visualize how they grow and provide a learning experience for children and adults.

Growing in this perfect environment gives them a mild, earthy flavor that is also nutty and sweet when cooked properly. That is the key to enjoying Brussels sprouts, cooking properly.

There are many ways we think we can convince you to cook some very tasty dishes with farm-fresh Brussels sprouts. For consistent cooking, select sprouts that are similar in size.

- **Sautéed** with olive oil, pancetta, and onions, topped with grated Parmesan cheese.
- **Roasted** in the oven to crispy perfection with olive oil, minced garlic, salt, and pepper.
- **Shaved** or thinly sliced raw into a



salad or slaw with nuts, pomegranate seeds, and a vinaigrette

- **Chopped** or sliced into potato gratin or other casseroles.
- **Baked** with butter, salt and pepper, grated sharp cheddar cheese, and breadcrumbs.

When purchasing sprouts, choose tight, compact sprouts with no signs of yellowing, good color, and no softness. Store in a bag in your refrigerator for no more than 2 to 3 days. Freshness is very important when it comes to their flavor and reduction in bitterness.

You will find the tastiest Brussels sprouts from Ventana Farms in Hollister and J&M Farm out of Gilroy. Try fresh Brussels sprouts from your farmers' market using the ways we have suggested above, and we are sure you will change your mind about liking them.



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“Concord History 101”

An introduction to Concord's history: Native Americans, Rancho Days, agriculture and economy, communications & transportation, education and home life.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

The SRVB Model Railroad Layout Group presents an N-scale model railroad layout of Southern Pacific's former branch line (circa 1914-1924) that connected Avon, Concord, Walnut Creek, Alamo, Danville and San Ramon to destinations beyond. Operated by local model railroaders and Branch line historians.



Shows: November 19,20; December 4, 18; January 15. Open 1-4PM

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Shop for hostess gifts and crafts for the holiday and all occasions!

Sweets, Oils/Vinegars, Photography, Soaps and Home Goods, Jams, Quilts, Fine Jewelry, Cards, and more!

Concord Museum and Event Center 1928 Clayton Rd. Concord
(Parking available on Marina Court)

Concord Museum to Celebrate 52nd Year

by Carol Longshore, Concord Historical Society

The history of the Concord Museum is very serendipitous. The Concord Historical Society couldn't celebrate its 50th year anniversary during the pandemic so now, in its 52nd year, the Society will have a grand opening for the Concord Museum

A little museum, that was in the Kelly House on Bonifacio Street, was opened in the mid 2000s. After three years they had to close it because it wasn't paying for itself. That was almost 20 years ago. Since then the Society has been collecting donated accessions.

Aside from saving the Masonic Temple from destruction, the Historical Society was allowed to move the building across the street and onto its present home next to the Galindo House or, as the Society calls it The Heritage center. There existed a little plot of land next to the Galindo House,

owned by a doctor who had tried to sell it several times. When one of the Society's beloved board members, Art Bonwell left his house to the Society, the organization was able to sell it and then buy the land from the doctor for the Concord Museum and Event Center. They then raised as much money as they could, in addition to being bestowed substantial donations from the Betty Barnes Trust and other financial gifts from supporters of the Society.

The Society is proud, and excited for this day, and all the work that's been put into this beautiful spot in Concord. The Concord Museum will open with a grand celebration November 19 and 20, 2022. Come see the museum and feel some of the pride that still remains here in Concord. See our ad on this page.

<https://www.concordhistorical.org>

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Resistance over Seeno Selection Met at Dana Estates Neighborhood CNWS Presentation

by Colleen Coll

On October 10, 2022, Guy Bjerke, Concord Director of Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) Reuse was the guest speaker at the Dana Estates Neighborhood Association with approximately 25 people in attendance. Bjerke presented a sanitized overview of Concord CNWS chronological chain of events from 2005 to present.

The selection of Master Developer is the City's responsibility, recognized as the Local Redevelopment Authority. The Navy's direct relationship and transfer agreement is with the City, and according to Bjerke, changing a Master Developer does not alter that relationship.

The City Council granted Concord First Partners Exclusive Negotiation Rights (EIR) to become Master Developer. Seeno Discovery Builders owns 45 percent and Tagami California Capital and Investment Group owns 10 percent. Together they control the partnership with 55 percent.

In May, Seeno/Tagami proposed material amendments to their original proposal in August 2020. Their rationale was that the Comprehensive PLA (Project Labor Agreement), Community benefits and costly infrastructure costs were prohibitive and did not pencil out. They could not make a profit. However, their proposed amendments were rejected by the Navy, followed by staff.

Councilmember Laura Hoffmeister made a motion to extend their EIR for approximately 210 days. Staff requested a 90-day extension. Councilmember Hoffmeister motion carried 4-1.

At this meeting, Bjerke stated that the Seeno's/Concord First Partners, LLC consortium is working jointly with him and will present a Term Sheet after Thanksgiving. The public will have a 30-day review period for comments and analysis. The Term Sheet will appear on the City Council's agenda in Jan. 2023.

The Dana Estates Neighborhood Association voiced their strong opposition to Seeno's Discovery Builders. One woman, representing her neighbors general attitude stated that she had emailed the Council and written letters like her neighbors had and was stonewalled or ignored. Shaking her fist, her frustrations were reflected in her voice and emotions. She clearly represented her neighborhood's disapproval.

Speaking from the audience, mine and other rebuttals highlighted the strong anti-Seeno sentiment that permeates throughout our community. Overwhelming, the residents of Concord are appalled and outraged that Seeno was given the EIR to become Master Developer given their track record of litigations, and environmental and legal issues so often reported in the media. Is such a risk necessary?

Why would the council vote for a company with a history of felonious behavior? You only need to follow the money of whose funding their campaigns. Our Councilmembers have indicated their aspirations of earning higher political offices. The Council needs to set aside their future political aspirations and respect their constituents. The residents of Concord need to become their number one



Aerial view of the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Photo courtesy of Daniel Schwen Wikimedia Commons

priority.

Community pressure needs to be continued. Anti/SeeNo petitions are in circulation in neighborhoods and are receiving a very favorable reaction. As a former Mayor and 13-year councilmember, I can assure you, your

voice if heard, matters.

If you feel like many others that the Council made a mistake, voice your opposition by emailing your council representative.

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November Author Talks

November 12, California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch. That One Sure Thing that works to promote each speaker's work 11AM-2PM.

- Jill Hedgecock, an award-winning and internationally-published author. She writes book review columns for The Diablo Gazette and Books 'N Pieces Magazine. She is the author of four novels.



Jill Hedgecock

- Michael Barrington has published four books and numerous articles both fiction and non-fiction.



Michael Barrington

- Suzy Orpin has always had a vivid imagination and keen desire to write. Suzy views the world through her own narrative, weaving in the fascinating challenges, triumphs, and lifestyles of the people she meets.



Suzy Orpin

November 26, Flashlight Books Presents: Transformed by Travel, 2-3:30PM.

Three authors speak about how travel changed their lives.

- Jill Hedgecock is an award-winning and internationally-published author.

Her fourth novel, Queen of the Rhino, was released this summer. Learn how her travels to Africa inspired two of her novels.



Jill Hedgecock

- Heidi Eliason is an internationally published author and editor. Her solo motorhome adventures living and traveling in the US and Mexico for five years inspired her memoir, Confessions of a Middle-Aged Runaway: An RV Travel Adventure.



Heidi Eliason

- Lucinda Jackson—scientist, executive, and author—left the corporate world to join the Peace Corps at age 66. Project Escape: Lessons for an Unscripted Life reveals when she and her reluctant husband landed in the island nation of Palau, things were not as advertised.



Lucinda Jackson

Flashlight Books: 1537 N. Main Street, Walnut Creek (925) 278-1797

Sign-in 11:00 a.m. *Members display and sell their published books from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Lunch: 12:00 p.m., Business Mtg. 12:45, Speakers 1:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Reservation To reserve a spot, go to <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/meetings-and-workshops/> (\$25 members/ \$35 guests)

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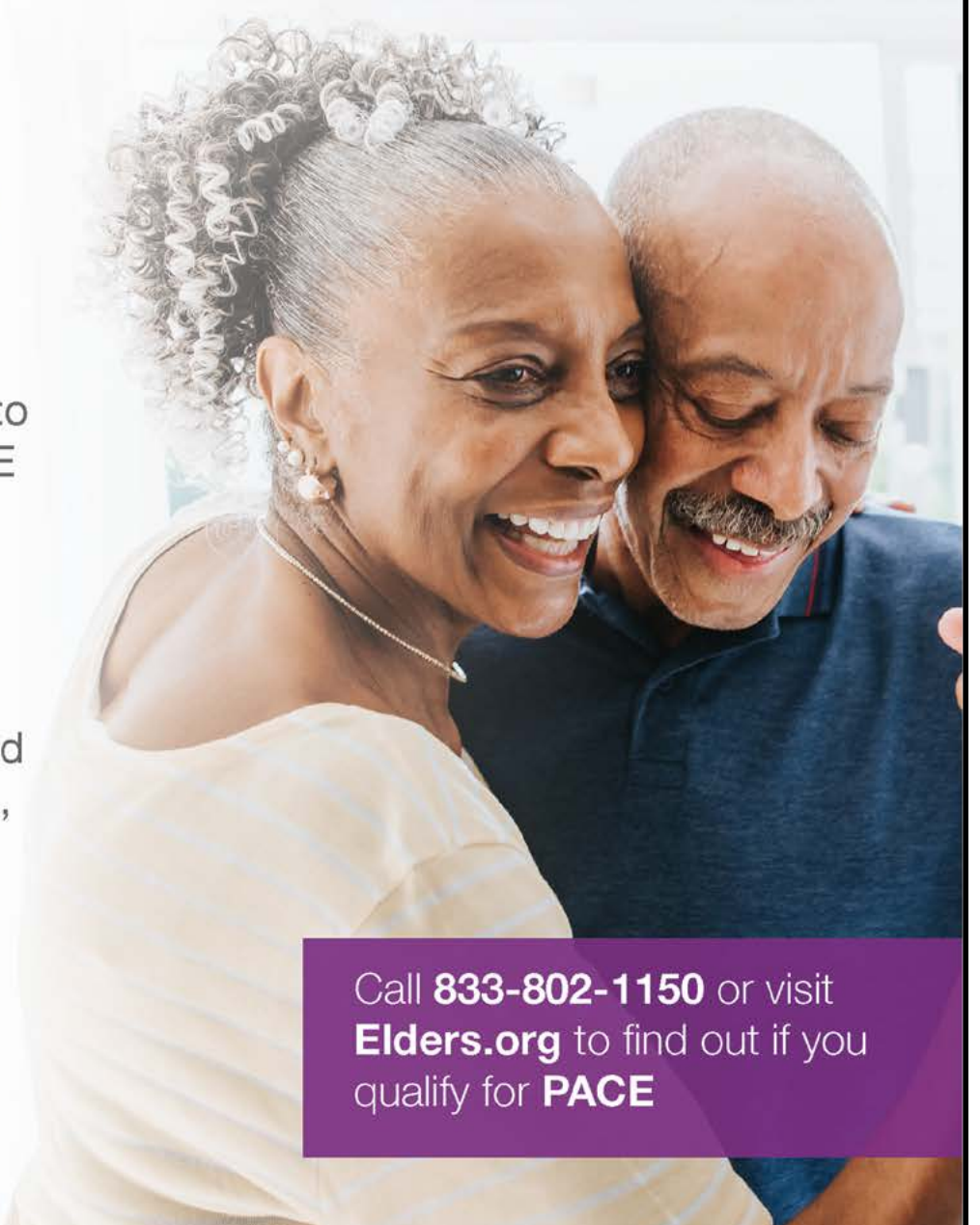
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November 8
Job Fair: 8:15 AM - 11 AM. Interview with multiple recruiters from Concord's top employers. Register today and land your dream job. <https://jobfairx.com/job-fairs-near-me/california/concord>

November 25
Consult-An-Attorney (Free), 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM. Legal advice provided to seniors 60+ who live in Contra Costa by a pro bono attorney in collaboration with CCLS. Concord Senior Citizens Center, 2727 Parkside Cir, Concord. <https://www.cityofconcord.org/Senior>

EVENTS

FARMERS' MARKETS
Pacific Coast Farmers Market
Concord Todos Santos Plaza
Tuesdays, 9:00am to 2:00pm.
Thursdays 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Martinez Sundays, 9:00am to 2:00pm, 700 Main St.
Walnut Creek Kaiser 1425 South Main 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Rossmoor Golden Rain Rd.
Saturdays 9:00am-1:00 pm. Shadeands North Wiget Ln. and Mitchell Dr.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 1799 Locust St.
Concord Farmers Market, Nov 1,15,29 9 AM - 2 PM, Concord High School, 4200 Concord Blvd, Concord

Ruth Bancroft Gardens

November 25-January 8, 2023
Garden of D'Lights



an outdoor experience. <http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/garden-of-dlights/>

Ruth Bancroft Gardens, 1552 Bancroft Road, <https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/events/>

November 6
Duo Sonics perform. 2 - 5 PM, Concord Tap House, 3513 Clayton Rd, Concord. <https://concordtaphouse.com>

November 8
Clayton Valley Woman's Club Presents Lauren Thor A Retired Nurse
8 AM. Clayton Community Church, 6055 Main St, Clayton.

November 5
Friends of the Martinez Library
9:30 to 10:30 am \$5 a bag of books Sale for Members (Membership available at the door)
10:30 am to 4:pm for the general public. Martinez Public Library, 740 Court Street, Martinez

November 5
Diablo Women's Chorale 'Grand Sale Fundraiser'
10 AM to 3 PM, 10 Mount Eden Place, Clayton. Women's very gently used Clothes and Accessories; Fabulous New Designer Jewelry; and Bargains Galore!

November 6
Mouse-Con, 10 AM TO 5 PM. The 7TH annual Mouse-Con, Bay Area. Concord Plaza Inn (Formally Crowne Plaza Inn) 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord <https://mouse-con.com/home.shtml> (661)829-2962 [See cover]



November 8
Scavenger Hunt!
10 AM - 8 PM, All you need is your own mobile device and a data connection. The Veranda, 2001-2003 Diamond Blvd, Concord. <https://allevents.in/concord/its-a-savenger-hunt-concord/10000358701203957>

November 12
PHIG Fall Healthy Gardening Open House & Garden Tour
11 AM to 3PM. Celebrate 15 Years at Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden. Learn how you can also practice healthy gardening! Garden Tour tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-healthy-gardening-open-house-tickets-448254981717>. Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden, 1 Santa Barbara Rd (at Hawthorne Rd.)

November 13
Herb Toor Blues
2 - 5 PM. Celebrate November with Herb Toor Blues and craft beer goodness from 24 rotating taps. Concord Tap House, 3513 Clayton Rd, Concord. <https://concordtaphouse.com>

November 15 & 22
Family Storytime
6:30 - 7:00 PM. Join Miss Rosa for Family Storytime, Concord Library, 2900 Salvio St, Concord. <https://concordlibrary.org>

November 19 & 20: Grand Opening of Concord History Museum with Model Train Display
1PM. 1928 Clayton Road, Concord. <https://www.concordhistorical.org>. [See our ad p. 10.]

November 19
Harvest Festival & Celebration
11-4 PM. Morello Hills Christian Church, 1000 Morello Hills Dr, Martinez. <https://morellohills.org>

November 19 Head West
performs. 11 AM - 4 PM, Todos Santos Plaza, 2175 Willow Pass Rd, Concord. <https://www.cityofconcord.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Todos-Santos-Plaza-36>

November 24
Concord Turkey Trot
8 - 10 AM. The Concord Turkey Trot, a 5K run/walk benefits Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa. Newhall Community Park, 1351 Newhall Pkwy, Concord. <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Concord/ConcordTurkeyTrot5k>



November 27
Armando's Presents...The Delta Wires



3 PM. Delta Wires is a big, high-energy harmonica and horns blues band known for their originality, versatility, and crisp, tight sound. Martinez Campbell Theater, 636 Ward St, Martinez. <https://www.campbelltheater.com>

CLUBS

November 12 - Mt.Diablo Branch California Writers Club. Three of Our Own
11 AM- 2 PM. Jill Hedgecock, Michael Barrington and Suzy Orpin. Register online at cwcmtdiablo.org/meetings-and-workshops/

ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC

November 9-December 3
aRT COTTAGE:
"Quinlavin!" Exhibit from 2238 Mt. Diablo St. Concord.

November 19
Reception for Tom Quinlavin, claimed artist, 2PM to 4PM. 2238 Mt. Diablo St. Concord. [See p.7]

Lescher Center for the Arts:

November 4
Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt Together On Stage



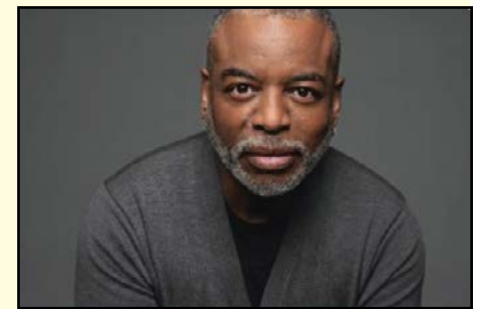
7:30PM-9:00PM. An acoustic evening with prolific songwriters.

November 5 & 6
All Things Strings, Presented by the California Symphony



Elgar—Introduction and Allegro, Bacewicz—Concerto for String Orchestra, Finzi—Eclogue for Strings, Dvořák—Serenade for Strings.

November 8
News-makers: LeVar Burton



7:30PM - 9:00PM. Award Winning Actor, Writer, Producer and Host.

November 11 & 12
Diablo Ballet's The Nutcracker Suite



The 29th Season opens with Julia Adam's smash holiday hit. See showtimes on website.

November 18
Metamorphoses, Presented by The Ballet School Performing Arts

7:15PM-8:45PM. The Ballet School Performing Arts' Theatre Program, with the Teen Production Workshop students, presents Metamorphoses. A play based on myths of Ovid written and originally directed by Mary Zimmerman.

November 20
Smuin's The Christmas Ballet



2:00 - 3:55 PM, Smuin's fiercely festive 2022 edition of The Christmas Ballet.

November 29, Holiday Concert, Presented by Walnut Creek Concert Band, 7:30PM-9:15PM. Ring in the Holiday Season with classics and favorites.



Early fall can be a tough time for movies. All the splashy Summer blockbusters are gone, and many studios hold off releasing movies they feel might be Oscar contenders.

Luckily, some gems sneak in. This fall it's "Amsterdam," a movie that delivers on many fronts. It is star-studded, which can be a red flag, but here everyone relishes their roles and give the audience eccentric characters with an extra shine.

Director David O. Russell thrives on the formula of quirky characters in semi-historical situations. He has found his muse in Christian Bale who creates another memorable character, just like he did for Russell's "American Hustle."

This time Bale plays Dr. Burt Berendsen, a World War I veteran who feels it is his duty to use his medical training to help his fellow ailing veterans. His social-climbing wife and in-laws, however, are mortified by the constant barrage of limbless and disfigured patients that frequent his NYC office.

Burt's best friend is lawyer David Woodsman (John Davis Washington), who served with him in the war. Elizabeth Meekins (Taylor Swift) asks them to perform an autopsy on her father and their former infantry commander, Bill Meekins, who she feels died under suspicious circumstances. From there, everything quickly spirals out of control. Burt and David are framed for a crime and as they try to clear their names, they become entangled in a deeper and more sinister scheme.

We also get to travel back to Burt and David's wartime relationship where we learn they were part of a trio. They were both seriously injured during their deployment in Europe and while recovering from their wounds, they met nurse Valerie Voze (Margot Robbie). She began a romantic relationship with David and after the war, they all briefly escaped to return to real life by going to Amsterdam where life and love were good. This, of course, could not last as

In Theaters Amsterdam



they all had to return to their pre-war responsibilities and the men lost contact with Valerie.

Back to their post-war life, Burt and David need help to clear their names. Along the way, they reunite with people from their past and meet a bevy of interesting new characters. You must wait until the end to see who the good guys are and who are part of the menacing plot. In the meantime, there are many fun cameos and over-the-top situations that will have you laughing more than expected for the serious subject matter.

The theme of the film is that history repeats itself. And with our knowledge that the main characters will soon be thrust into the horrors of WWII, the message rings as true today as it did then.

Rated R language, violence, and graphic material

Now Streaming Catherine, Called Birdy



Adapted from the beloved 1994 young adult novel, "Catherine, Called Birdy" tells the story of fourteen-year-old Birdy (Bella Ramsey) growing up in medieval England and doing everything she can to avoid marriage.

Birdy is a spirited and mischievous girl who loves to spend her days with her birds and rough house with the goat boy, Perkin. Her life is mostly without worry until she finds out her family is in crippling debt due to the extravagant lifestyle of her father, Lord Rollo (Andrew Scott).

Lord Rollo's plan is to marry Birdy off for a handsome sum. Once Birdy hears of this, though, she makes it her mission to thwart off every suitor that comes to call in hilarious and imaginative ways.

Birdy desires to be a child for just a bit longer and stay close to her mother. After birthing six stillborn babies, Birdy fears her mom's current pregnancy

may kill her. While Birdy bides her own time, the futures of friends and family unfold around her, and she comes to realize that she is not the only one facing an undesirable fate.

Although some of the subject matter is heavy, this movie is told with bawdy humor and carried by the effervescent Ramsey. She

plays a believable young girl, and it is hard to imagine that she would be ready for the responsibilities of married life.

As the director, Lena Dunham has the tough task of adapting a book many loved when they were young. She succeeds in delivering an entertaining film that may veer from its source material, but hopefully keeps enough of the spirit intact to please its original fans.

If you are looking for something different and would like to delve into medieval times without the darkness (literally and figuratively) of "House of the Dragon," give this one a try.

Rated PG-13

Currently streaming on Amazon Prime



Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

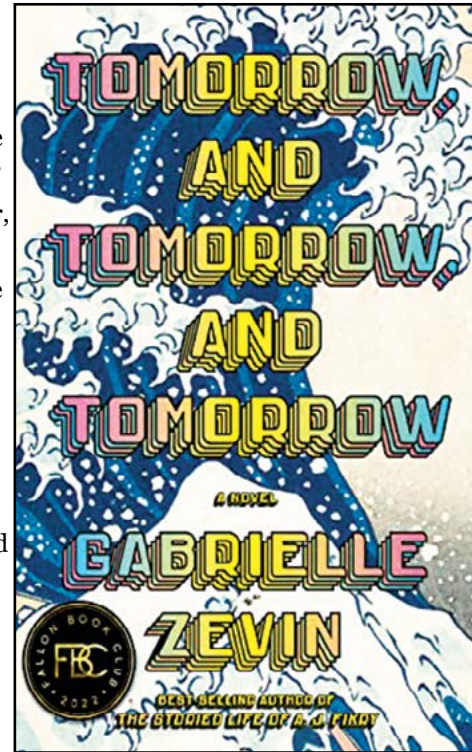
Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow (Knopf, hardcover, 416 pages, \$14.66) by Gabrielle Zevin is at its core stories of Sadie Green and Samson "Sam" Masur, two friends who are also brilliant video game designers in the 1990s. Sadie must overcome professional obstacles because women were a rarity in technology fields. Sam struggles with physical and mental challenges caused by a car accident that injured him and killed his mother.

The novel opens with Sam Masur and Sadie Green meeting as adolescents in a Los Angeles hospital. Their shared love of video games makes them fast friends, but they soon have a falling out over Sadie's deception. But the two are later reunited and their complicated relationships soon pull the reader deeper into the story, which spans a 30-year timeframe.

Sadie and Sam love each other but their timing is always off, and their gaming intimacy interferes with finding romantic love for each other time and again. And while they share a deep friendship, it remains a rocky road. During one college break (Sadie from MIT and Sam from Harvard), they agree to collaborate on a video game called "Ichigo."

"Ichigo" is inspired by Hokusai's famous Japanese woodblock print called "The Great Wave at Kanagawa." The success of their debut video game launches their careers. Its popularity further cements Sadie's and Sam's partnership when they join forces with Sam's roommate, Marx Watanabe, to build a company called Unfair Games.

But just like Sadie and Sam's friendship which never quite blossoms into romance, their creative vision also diverges. Sadie wants to explore the artistic side of video gaming, while Sam, who



has landed in the public eye by being the face of "Ichigo", wants to create another version of their blockbuster hit. And so it goes, these three masterminds clash and reconnect until an act of violence changes everything.

In "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow", her 10th novel, Zevin masterfully develops realistic, yet flawed characters, which makes the novel so much more than a story about the process and evolution of video gaming. In doing so, she has created an unforgettable book.

"Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow" is a New York Times Bestseller, a Jimmy Fallon Book Club Pick, and an Amazon Best Book of July 2022. Fans of "Ready Player One" by Ernest Kline, "Warcross" by Marie Lu, and "Mayflies" by Andrew O'Hagan will probably love this book.

Gabrielle Zevin is the author of ten novels including "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" which sold over 4 million copies worldwide, and the award-winning, "Elsewhere." Her debut, "Margaritaville", was a selection of the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers program and was long listed for the James Tiptree, Jr. Award. Her books have been translated into thirty-nine languages. She wrote the screenplay for the movie version of "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry". Paramount has optioned film rights for "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow." Zevin is a graduate of Harvard University. She lives in Los Angeles.

Jill Hedgecock is the award-winning author of Rhino in the Room and Queen of the Rhino. www.jillhedgecock.com

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For the Love of Pets
By Jill Hedgecock, Jillhedgecock.com

Do Turkeys Make Good Pets?

In Washington D.C., one lucky turkey has regularly received a presidential pardon or reprieve since 1989. These chosen feathered gobblers have often been sent to children's petting zoos to live out their lives, but none have become pets allowed to roam the White House lawns.

People rarely think of turkeys as companion animals. But these giant birds could become wonderful backyard pets in appropriate environments. Because they are big, they need more space than a coop and a nesting box. A large shed or small barn is needed so they have adequate space to roost and wander. An area for dust baths is also a good idea. Be aware that they can be loud, so make sure your neighbors won't mind the high-pitched chirping of a female or loud gobble of the tom.

Domestic turkeys can be docile and loving. They form strong bonds with their humans and will follow them around the yard. Believe it or not, they like to play, be petted, and can be excellent pets for children. Because they choose to keep their living spaces clean, they select distinct areas to relieve themselves (not that they don't poop a lot). They also are less prone to scratch up the ground. Females generally make better pets since they are quieter and toms can be territorial.

Thinking about adopting a turkey? The website www.petturkeys.com offers advice on care and feeding. Facebook Groups on pet turkeys offering advice and information include pet turkeys and Turkeys for Pets and Raising Turkeys as Pets.

Thanksgiving Can Be Hazardous to Pets

A small bit of turkey meat can be a wonderful festive treat for your pet but be aware that extreme diet changes in a dogs and cats used to dry kibble can upset their stomachs, so keep the special delicacy to a tiny portion. Avoid giving your pet the skin, gravy, and fat drippings, which can trigger a life-threatening condition in pets known as pancreatitis.

The chaos of Thanksgiving preparations and guests can create oppor-



tunities for some sneaky business. An unguarded turkey carcass sitting out on a table or counter or left in an unsupervised trash bin could be deadly to your family pet. The bones can be a choking hazard. The tying strings, baking bags, or packaging can also pose a lethal hazard. And skip the temptation to indulge your pet by slipping them a portion of your dessert. Chocolate and artificial sweeteners such as xylitol will make dogs, cats and birds very ill and can be lethal. The same taboo goes for feeding your pet, including birds, alcohol, avocado, garlic, and any type of onions. Raisins and nuts, as well as mushrooms, are a no-no for both cats and dogs.

Ribbons, strings, and sticks are a danger, as cats love to play with them and if ingested, they can become caught in the intestinal tract. Potpourri also contains herbs and oils that can be toxic.

Festive floral displays of lilies and poinsettias also could result in a trip to the emergency vet.

Poisoned pets may show sudden changes in behavior, depression, pain, vomiting, or diarrhea. If you believe your pet has been poisoned, call your veterinarian or local veterinary emergency clinic immediately. Put these phone numbers into your cell phone today: ASPCA Poison Control Hotline (888-426-4435) or the Pet Poison Helpline (855-764-7661).

Jill Hedgecock, a local author of several books featuring animals. "Between Shadow's Eyes" and the second installment of this trilogy, "From Shadow's Perspective" features a ghost seeing Doberman. "Rhino in the Room" and the just released sequel, "Queen of the Rhino" addresses the perils of poaching. All available on amazon.com and some local books stores. www.jillhedgecock.com.

ARF ADOPTION STARS

Looking for a furry friend? Visit arflife.org to view all of ARF's adoptable animals or read more about ARF's adoption process.

Bojack



Three-year-old Bojack is a handsome guy who is ready to steal your heart! With a golden personality to match, it won't take long for this dreamboat to do just that. A born charmer, he's got an easygoing air and loves to socialize. He's not too cool to lean in for some pets from his pawrents, though – this guy wears his heart on his fur! Being as he's smart and athletic, too, an active home that gives him plenty of mental and physical outlets would be ideal for him. Bojack can't wait to meet you so he can steal your heart and run with it. Bojack has a positive history with other dogs. He currently weighs 62 pounds.

ARF adoption fees: \$250 for an adult dog, \$375 for a puppy (<6 months), \$150 for a special-needs dog, \$200 for a special-needs puppy (<6 months), and \$150 for a senior dog (7+ years). Adoption fees are waived for US military Veterans.

Garnet



Seven-month-old Garnet is a laid back, debonair, and handsome boy who truly knows how to play, and balance it out with some relaxation as well. He's a smart cookie who has started learning to 'sit' on cue and greatly enjoys interactive play, especially with a variety of toys to cycle through and keep his interest. He's a gentle teenager who likes to always be in the company of others, be they feline or human. This grateful boy always appreciates what he's got, but that doesn't mean he isn't longing for more – more being a loving family and forever home, as he so deserves! Garnet has a positive history with other cats.

ARF adoption fees: \$125 for an adult cat, \$175 for a kitten (<6 months), \$200 for two adult cats, \$300 for two kittens, \$75 for a special-needs cat, \$100 for a special-needs kitten (<6 months), and \$75 for a senior cat (7+ years). Adoption fees are waived for US military Veterans.

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Together we are making a difference!

MDRR is donating \$2 for every customer that newly signs up for EFT or recurring credit card billing to their account.

All proceeds will be donated to:

sign up by 12/31/2022

It's Back!
Concord High School Athletic Boosters

Crab Feed & AUCTION

Saturday, February 4th, 2023
from 6pm-11pm **SAVE THE DATE**

Dinner, Silent Auction and Dancing. Let's help raise money for our CHS Athletic teams! **BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW** - the \$75 price will go up on December 1st! Make it easy and check it off your to-do

<https://www.concordhighschool.net/crab-feed>

Important Holiday Information

We ARE picking up Thanksgiving week!

Please have carts out for collection on your normal service day.

Our Recycling Center & Transfer Station (RCTS) is open Thanksgiving Day.
www.mdr.com/rcts



The Naked Gardener
David George, UC-Certified
Master Gardener

Plant Your Berries in the Fall

Who can resist sweet, ripe berries for breakfast or dessert? Now that the tricks of Halloween are behind us, what treats can we anticipate from our garden harvest?

My very favorite harvested treats are the berries: plump, juicy Ollalie blackberries, sweet red raspberries, healthy and organically grown strawberries, and pop-in-your-mouth blueberries. My fall harvest of red raspberries is still on the vine, ripening in these early November days. My other berries ripen from April through July and make delicious toppings for cereal, ice cream, or all by themselves with whipped cream or dipped in warm chocolate.

Is your mouth watering yet? Their prices can be exorbitant in supermarkets, so harvest your own sweet, healthy treats. Late November through January is the time to buy and plant bare-root berry bushes during their dormancy. Grow them in raised beds or containers to limit their spread, and in a sandy-clay soil mix. The original plants will produce runners that root and grow into new plants. They are easy to maintain if you locate them in the right spots with the right soils, and water and prune them on occasion. Let's look at my favorite homegrown berries.

Strawberries

Strawberries are perennials, but individual plants only produce for several years, then their offspring take over. They are natives to California, but the horticulturally sold varieties are bigger and sweeter. With proper water and care, they spread to fill your planting area for years to come. Strawberries bloom in early spring and their fruit ripens from late April through June. They are full of vitamin C and other nutrients. In Contra Costa, plant them in part shade and protect them from snails and slugs with a sand, table salt, or diatomaceous earth barrier.

Blackberries



Ollalie Blackberries are a tasty treat. Photo courtesy Shutterstock.

These perennial vines grow 12 or more feet per year in full sun. The Eurasian blackberry has naturalized throughout California, but only produces small berries that only sweeten in the warmest locations. Most horticultural blackberry varieties are native to coastal Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. They include my favorite Ollalie blackberries (thorny), and Marion berries (thornless). Allow new canes to grow long and twine through your trellis during their first growing season. They will then flower in March and produce mature fruit June through July.

Cut back the spent producing canes in August to promote fast growth of next year's canes. Blackberries are full of antioxidants, essential vitamins, and sugars. Protect them from birds and rodents.

Blueberries



Blueberries grow well in containers. Photo courtesy Shutterstock.

Blueberries are native to northern and northeastern bogs but not native to California. Indigenous people gathered them for centuries before a biologist discovered the way to cultivate them in 1911. The secret he discovered is that they love acidic (low Ph) soils. Blueberries are difficult to grow in the ground in Contra Costa because of our clays and sizzling summer climate. Instead, you should grow blueberries in containers or planter pots near your home in part shade so you can control their acid and moisture needs. Add peat moss and forest products to planter soil to lower the PH and supply regular water. Healthy blueberry plants will produce tall, straight canes with spring blooms and early summer fruit. Cut them back after fruit production. Nutritionists consider blueberries to be a "superfood" because they are rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and trace minerals. Protect your ripening blueberries from birds.

Raspberries

Black raspberries are native to Europe with red raspberries being native to North America. You can also enjoy golden and blue-red varieties. Annual canes grow to four feet and are straight. Blooms appear the first fall at the tips of new canes with rapid maturing of fruit about two weeks after bloom, then they bloom again on side shoots in spring with a heavier fruit production in May. After the spring harvest, you should cut the spent canes to the ground to promote growth in the new canes popping up. Prickly hairs from canes can stick in and irritate your fingers, so wear gloves when working with them. The tasty fruit contains the same antioxidants and vitamins as their cousins, the blackberries. Protect ripening berries from birds, western fence lizards, and rodents.

For more information about successfully growing your own berries, explore the UC ANR Master Gardener Berry web pages here: <https://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Berries/>.

You can email certificate requests, comments, and questions to: NakedGardener@diablogazette.com. In some cases these may appear in future columns.



theRIGHTmove
By Terrylynn Fisher, Broker Associate
www.BuyStageSell.com

Sellers Must Check Market Reality

For many years, sellers' expectations have been that they would go on the market, entertain multiple offers in days or, at the most a week, receive over asking price and even better, for more than what their neighbor sold their home. There would be no contingencies for loan, appraisal or inspections and buyers would not negotiate anything along the way. Add in quick closing dates, no contingency on the sale of the buyer's home and buyers paying cash differences over appraisal if the property sold higher than appraised value. That was then, this is now.

Now the market has balance. Buyers are writing offers, often the only offer a seller might see, making the offer contingent upon getting an offer on their own home. Some buyers will just walk away if given a counteroffer. The property might be on the market for one to three months. In addition, the property is expected to appraise for as much as the offer, which is often 10-20% less than list price. Fixed interest rates have surpassed 7%, which raises payments by hundreds of dollars over what they would have been six months ago.

They are getting inspections for roof, chimney, drainage, sewer, home inspection, termite, pool inspections, even if you already got inspections done. Then they will negotiate from what is in the inspections. The closing dates may be longer or shorter and the offer withdrawn if those terms are not met. Recently I had an agent tell me a buyer backed out the day before the scheduled close. Yikes!

What does all this mean? It means this is your reality if you need to sell your home today. Everyone wants to think their home is better than their neighbors, that it has more features and buyers will be willing to pay them more. It is not likely that the buyer will be as attached to your home as you are. The smallest thing can be the reason they do not make an offer.

The buyer we showed homes to a couple of weekends ago, saw three homes in their price range, similar models that they are looking for, and their reasons for declining were that one was too windy, another had a floor color they did not like, and the third home had more yard on the side vs. the back.

Other reasons a buyer might not

buy or make an offer may be that they wanted gas, but your range is electric, or they do not like the color of the countertop or appliances. Six months ago, buyers would have clamored for these homes. They are all already priced under what the last sales were of their model, and they are on the market for anywhere from two to five weeks.

If you are entering today's market and nothing changes, your buyer is more nervous than before over affordability of payments, not being able to refi at a reasonable rate within a few years, and will have no money left for improvements or upkeep. They are also worried that they may be paying too much if the market continues to drop.

The Realtor "reality" consultation is more important than ever. They will tell you the reality of the market, the terms and time frames. Then you can decide if you want to jump into the market or wait, taking the chance on whether it will be better or worse a few months from now.



If you must sell, be realistic with pricing. You do not want to chase the market down. It wastes time and in a declining market, costs you money and extra mortgage payments. Be ruthless. Get presale inspections and complete any recommendations. Prepare your home, allow staging, and leave as little undone as possible to limit, or avoid objections when that buyer comes through. It is more important than ever that buyers do not have repairs to do in addition to the high payment these interest rates bring with the purchase.





Terrylynn Fisher

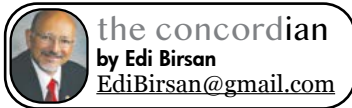
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I have not and will not verify or investigate information provided or supplied by third parties.



Miles Hall Center - A Community Meets Confusion

On Oct 26, there was a presentation by the County to the community on the Miles Hall Center for mental illness. This was a follow-up to the August presentation to the Concord City Council that for the first time provided some details of what they were planning to do on Oak Grove.

The panel for the County was made up of County Supervisor, Karen Mitchoff, and representatives from County Health Services. Early in the meeting they apologized for not coming to the local community first before developing their detailed plans or vision for the facility, acknowledging that trust is important in the working of the site. In the course of the next three hours, they then wove a series of statements, back statements and then contradictions that left folks confused.

The audience was about 25 local residents, plus City Councilmembers Birsan (me-the facility is in my district), the City Manager and the Assistant Manager, as well as the Captain of the field operations.

As expected, no one objected to the facility being used as a call center or a dispatch center for 34 teams of responders. But upon the discussions of sobriety respite, peer-to-peer, treatment aspects, and the hours, then came the problems.

Not revealed in the August presentation, we were told the real vision for the center. While there were some sleeping arrangements for residential stay, after an original period of opening from 8AM to 8PM, in a year or so they would go to 24/7 drop-ins.

The panel reaffirmed that they were not going to accept people in a 5150 criteria (those who are dangers to themselves and others); those would go to the Martinez hospital. However, they later admitted that whenever the field teams cannot make a resolution on the site, and there is not an assignment to a 5150 hospital, that they would be bringing them back to this facility.

At one point, it was announced that they would be receiving drunks, but later

they used the term alcoholics, implying that these people were sober seeking services. Similar nebulous statements were made regarding drug users. While they said it was not a detox center, they said they had a respite area for people intoxicated due to drugs and alcohol.

When people objected to their lack of advance notice on the whole thing, a panelist deflected blame to the City saying that the County had worked with city staff and there was a negative declaration of impacts.

This was immediately denied by me and the City Manager, who responded that the staff had received nothing, and no such declaration had been made. The City Manager made it clear that as this was County property, it had been used as a treatment center for the last 40 years and that the city had no means to challenge their intended use if the county ignored the issues of the neighbors and provided no satisfactory mediation.

So the panelist acquiesced and said

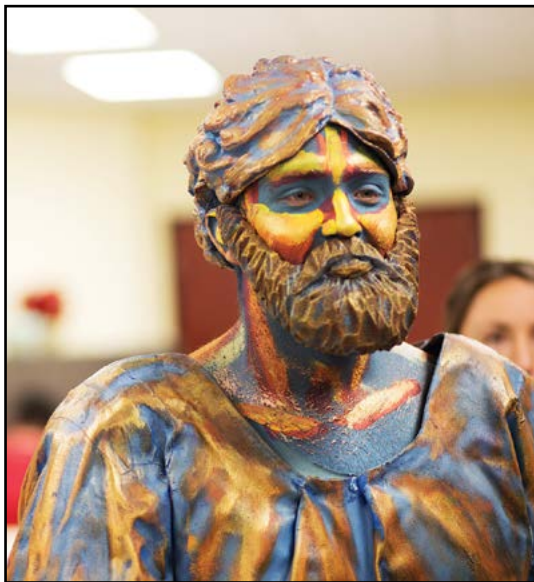
they would be in communication with the people. However, when it was asked what if the people do not want a 24/7 facility, County offered a very terse response. The County is responsible for the whole county and must make decisions for the good of the whole county. The message was clear, that they are going to do whatever they want.

The worst part of this, had they placed the center outside of an urban/residential area, this would be a slam dunk. After three hours, most were not interested in a tour; there had been no success in relieving the fears of the community, nor in increasing the level of 'trust' that the county would do right by the neighbors.

The "communications" will continue.

Edi Birsan lives four blocks from the facility and is reporting as a neighbor that may be in need of a respite center for the stress this is going to generate until a consistent and acceptable plan for the whole of this facility can be found.
EdiBirsan@gmail.com

This Christmas Art Comes to Life



The Story, NorthCreek Church's unique Christmas program, returns for a tenth year. The concept of The Story is based on the tableau vivant method of presenting the artwork.

For many months, volunteer artists, seamstresses, construction and fabrication teams work to build new pieces of art representing different stories found in the Bible. From the old-testament prophets, a manger scene, to the last supper, and resurrection pieces, the art is displayed.

Once complete, volunteer cast members ranging from age seven to 75 are adorned in elaborate costumes and detailed makeup, then placed in the artwork.

Accompanied by a full orchestra, choir, original videos, and carefully crafted narration, the artwork leads the audience through the

Biblical story. In the past ten years, over 35,000 people have witnessed The Story. We encourage you to take time this holiday season to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Dates: December 15-18. Tickets at NorthCreek Church in Walnut Creek, or at thestoryinart.com [see ad on p7]

Turkeys Can Attack

by Ron Glas

Watch out for those turkeys, they can attack and it can be quite the ordeal. Let me explain.

A few years ago, I was walking with my wife and my two Chihuahuas along Lime Ridge open space and were heading up the hill towards the cul-de-sac at the end of Via Montanas. Having seen a number of coyotes in the area recently, we were cautiously anticipating seeing one cross our path.

Sure enough, out of a grove of trees comes the charging nemesis. Wait, it was not a coyote, but a TURKEY! And it was mad as hell charging at us with wings flapping and squawking.

Not knowing exactly what to do but having heard that it is best to stare down rather than run from an attacking critter, we bravely faced the turkey. But this turkey just kept coming. Our two dogs attempted a rescue straining at their leashes and barking. There was no deterring this bird.

I had no weapon, if only I had an



umbrella. But I was holding a leash.

Twirling the end of the leash madly above my head, I was able to keep the turkey at bay, only to suddenly realize that I had also managed to pull the harness off my dog. This was actually fortunate, or this turkey would have received a beatdown by a twirling chihuahua.

Now, I had to figure out how to keep my freed, brave little dog from going after the turkey. Fortunately, my wife was able to grab him, and still fending off the turkey, I managed to pick up the second dog.

With both dogs in our arms, we finally

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10 am - 2 pm P.H. Community Center
320 Civic Dr. off Taylor Blvd.

Sun., Dec. 4 • Concord

11 am - 3 pm Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Rd. by Clayton Valley Bowl

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manage to back slowly away from the turkey and gave it as wide a berth as we possibly could. After a while, it lost interest in us and slowly retreated into the trees, most likely to its nest.

This is still one of our favorite Thanksgiving memories. Dinner was particularly enjoyable that year.

Wild Turkeys

Turkeys can become aggressive during the breeding season, occasionally charging, threatening, and acting aggressively toward people. You can most often shoo them away if you are aggressive about it.

Turkeys dislike water. If they refuse to budge, give them a good spraying.

Do not feed them or a few stray visitors will soon become a flock of permanent residents that have lost their natural fear of humans.

In 1959, and over a 40-year period, nearly 3,800 wild turkeys were released throughout the state. Now, wild turkey estimated population is reaching 240,000.

Permits are required to kill wild turkeys that are causing property damage. To get a depredation permit, contact the regional California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) office at (707) 428-2002.

This story has been updated from an earlier version.

Ukrainian Leaders Visit Concord, Examine Healthcare Administration

by Michael Barrington

Six years ago, Dr. Michael Barrington brought to the Rotary Club of Concord the idea of being part of the Open World Program. The program is operated and implemented by the Federal Government and several non-profit organizations (NGOs), the largest being Rotary International.

Open World is a ten-day program which brings emerging leaders from Eurasia to the United States to engage with professional counterparts. The program was established in 1999 to foster cultural and political ties with Russia but has since expanded to other countries of the post-Soviet region. Since its inception the program has brought over 24,000 delegates to 2,300 communities throughout all 50 states.



Concord.

Delegates will collaborate on best practices for Health Care Administration with visits to Davis Medical Center, John Muir Medical Center, San Ramon Medical Center, Stanford Medical Center, and UCSF/San Francisco General. They will also visit Sacramento where they will tour the State Capital and meet with local Assembly Members.

In the past the club has hosted groups from Uzbekistan, two from Tajikistan and this will be the second one from the Ukraine.

The Open World Program is the only exchange program within the US legislative branch and receives annual funding from US Congress. Open World provides programming in areas such as Rule of Law, Accountable Governance and Social Services.

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in us communities, and in ourselves. Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues.

They provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community

leaders.

The Congressional Office for International Leadership (COIL, formerly known as the Open World Leadership Center) maintains a vast network of more than 30,000 alumni in strategic countries including Russia, Ukraine, and others in the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Program participants are provided with exposure to the work of Congress, American politics, accountable governance, and volunteerism while being home hosted by American families. To learn more about the Open World program, please visit www.openworld.gov/.



Delegation of local legislatures from Ukraine travel to Cheyenne, WY to learn about accountable governance in February 2018. Source: Openworld.gov

As such, on November 4-12, a delegation of six Ukrainian professionals accompanied by a bicultural/lingual facilitator and an interpreter will come to Concord after receiving a one-day orientation in Washington D.C. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Concord, they will home-stay with local Rotarian families and participate in an intensive eight-day program of meetings, interviews, presentations, and panel discussions with experts in their fields. A professional interpreter is also provided.

The focus of this delegation is "Healthcare Administration," and the delegation is composed of doctors, all hospital administrators. Among the local facilities they will be visiting will be the campuses of the John Muir Health Care System both in Walnut Creek and



Apply Neural Hygiene Habits Daily to Feel Better

Learning how the brain works shifted perspective on how I live my life. I do not always have the time or resources I would like to devote to my own self-care, but I have developed some simple NEURAL HYGIENE HABITS that I sprinkle throughout the day to keep my nervous system functioning as optimally as possible. Most of these habits don't require setting aside time, extra energy, tools, or a change of clothes.

1. Move often.
2. Look Up and Look Out.
3. Breathe.
4. Go Outside.
5. Enjoy Your Meals!
6. GET SENSUAL.
7. Sing.
8. Touch: Hug someone.
9. Have your feelings.
10. Share these tips with a friend!

5. Enjoy your meals! SMELL your food before you eat it! TASTE your food! Chew it. Feel it go down as you swallow. Have a piece of fruit. (Brains need sugar.)

6. Get sensual: When you shower, pay attention to the water. Notice the temperature. Feel the towel afterward. Be with your body as you put on lotion. Enjoy the aroma if it has one. Explore lighting options. Wear clothes that feel good to you.

7. Sing. Hum if you are shy. It doesn't have to

sound good.

8. Touch: Hug someone. Don't like people? Get a cat.

9. Have your feelings: Smiling and laughing have positive benefits to your nervous system. So does expressing grief, anger, and fear. Find a safe place to express them fully, and then let them go.

10. Share these tips with a friend! Enrolling others in your goals goes a long way to achieving them!

Jessica Raam Foster is a Neuro Performance Coach. For more information: www.NeurologyofPresence.com, IG: @JessicaRaamFoster, FB: @NeurologyofPresence

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Homecoming Spirit Week & More

October was a busy month here at Clayton Valley Charter High School including our Homecoming Spirit Week – a favorite time of the academic year to demonstrate Ugly Eagle pride and generate high school memories.

Homecoming has become an annual October tradition here at CVCHS where students, staff, alumni, and community members come together to honor our collective history and cheer on our favorite football team. This year, CVCHS dominated the California High School Grizzlies (San Ramon) in a conference

Here on campus, Homecoming was a terrific opportunity for our students to have fun taking part in Spirit Week while giving back to our community. CVCHS honored Breast Cancer Awareness Month by donating proceeds from the sale of our PINK t-shirts to support life-saving screenings, education, and women needing assistance. It is refreshing to witness our students developing a sense of citizenship – in terms of individual engagement, participation in a collective school activity, and engendering a broader sense of social responsibility.



A lot of planning and logistics go into our Homecoming activities including on-campus rallies and the “Music Festivals” themed dance held at the Concord Pavilion. CVCHS is grateful for all our students, staff, parents, and community sponsors who come together to organize these memorable events. It often goes unsaid how lucky we are to have such dedicated and tireless volunteers.

Also impressive are the performances by the Ugly Eagle Marching Band. CVCHS took first place at two high-profile competitions, the Del Oro Field Show and the Foothill Fall Band Review. Congratulations to Band Director Chance Krause and all members of our talented marching band.

And a final note for those students looking to attend a great, tuition-free, public charter high school next year, it is open enrollment time for the 2023-24

league game 49-14.

Varsity football fans were also treated to outstanding on-field performances by our Choir Ensemble, Cheerleaders, Flag Team, and Marching Band. Each was exceptional and deserving of praise. Thank you to our outstanding instructors for their inspiration and encouragement to our students. Be sure to support these programs, performances, and showcases here at CVCHS and throughout the Clayton/Concord community.



academic year.

On Tuesday, November 1, CVCHS hosted our New Student and Parent Preview Night for potential members of the Class of 2027. Each year, CVCHS welcomes hundreds of families to visit our school and meet our teachers. Students learn about our many academic programs including our Academies – small schools within CVCHS which prepare students for college and careers in Arts, Digital Arts and Technology, Engineering and Design, Medical Careers, and Public Service. If you missed this event, please check our website for the date of the make-up night.

If your student is interested in attending a CVCHS Academy, be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 15. Our Academy Information Night will provide an overview and expectations for each of the five Academies at CVCHS and the opportunity to meet with teachers and current students to ask questions about the programs.

For area students looking for a great independent study program that gives access to on-campus extracurricular activities and sports, our EAGLEi

program may be the right fit. EAGLEi provides additional flexibility for families with guidance from dedicated program teachers.

To learn more about our great high school, key enrollment dates, and information, visit <https://www.claytonvalley.org>. We look forward to your family becoming a part of our Ugly Eagle family next year!

Clayton Valley Athletic Hall of Fame Seeks Nominees for 2023

Clayton Valley High School Athletic Hall of Fame will host its seventh induction ceremony May 19 at Centre Concord including a Social hour, followed by dinner and the presentation of inductees. Nomination forms are available at the CVHS Athletic HOF website. HOF committee members, alumni and the community are able to nominate athletes for consideration. The deadline is November 20, 2022. Ticket information will follow. The Hall of Fame committee is delighted that they will finally be able to select another class of honorees since last celebrating its sixth class in May 2019. Check cvhshof.com for more information.



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MARTINEZ HAPPENINGS

Camp Hope is Closing in Martinez



Martinez, Calif. – In a sad turn of events, Camp Hope, the extraordinary project helping Martinez homeless population, is closing. The encampment organized by a community of volunteers provided services such as free showers, haircuts, clean clothing, breakfast, medical and psychiatric services, and a place to live at the Martinez Waterfront. It was an intriguing model of success closely monitored by cities throughout the county and recognized by the State.

Founder Noralea Gipner submitted the emotional announcement in a letter.

“Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write you this letter. The time has come for me to shut the gates of Camp Hope. For the last 2 1/2 years Barbara (Lucero) and I along with a team of volunteers have been helping people who have come through our gates receive many services. Getting them a birth certificate, a driver's license, social security card and access to healthcare is impossible for them to do on their own.

We have provided a safe place during the pandemic, filling a gap, giving them a safe place to live and learn how to build their life skills to help them to be able to enjoy a more productive life.

We are proud of the work we have been able to provide for our community. During Covid when our governor said you cannot move encampments, we saw that in the amphitheater, homeless folks were moving in. We knew that problems would result without supervision. With relationships already built with the homeless community at the weekly Friday showers, I had the confidence this could be done successfully.

I had a vision of what a successful transitional program could look like. I have a 501(c)3 non-profit and donations from our community to make this happen. We were able to successfully get people off of the streets who were creating a mess, trash everywhere and using sidewalks as bathrooms.

We have provided our campers with food, tents, toilets and much more. We provided masks, sanitizer, and clean clothing. Contra Costa Health provided monthly Covid testing and access to healthcare when needed. Camp Hope was the first encampment to receive the Covid vaccine from Contra Costa Health.

We have helped hundreds of folks in many ways over the past 2 1/2 years. Some chose not to follow the rules at the camp, and they were asked to leave.

The closing of the camp has been discussed at weekly meetings with the residents over the several months. Everyone there has been offered opportunities with shelter, detox /rehab programs. Unfortunately, some are not interested at this time in making a better life for themselves.

Please do not believe the baloney that is being said. I am simply done with this chapter. I can no longer run this camp on my own. I am 69 years old, a grandmother for the first time. I have two beautiful daughter in-laws I would love to get to know better and build a relationship with. My husband has health concerns that need my attention.

We will be removing all of the items that were brought into the camp. My goal is to leave things as clean as possible. The city has offered to provide help with the cleanup if needed. We are working with our new City Manager Michael Chandler during this transition. I have already met with him to discuss our plan and will be talking more about this over the next few weeks.

I realize it's time to move on from Camp Hope, but this will not be the end of the services that Homeless Action Coalition provides. We will still be working collaboratively at the weekly Friday showers.

If the city is finally interested in doing something to invest in a transitional program that is run by a nonprofit in a commercial area, my hope is our community will support that. These are not flop houses, these are small places with a small number of residents. This will provide a place for them to transition off of the streets and become productive individuals.

I will end this very long letter that hopefully explains everything to squash all of the rumors. Thank you, community, for all of your donations. You are truly outstanding and have always been there to support me. I appreciate you all and know that there is more love out there vs hate. I will continue to ask for help and support as we change direction.

Thank you for your love and support. - Noralea “

No doubt, the Martinez community and those served by Camp Hope thank you and all who helped make Camp Hope the support it took to improve the lives of many.

Long Line To Replace Martinez Mayor

by Tony Hicks

Six people want Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder's job. Council members Lara DeLaney, Mark Ross, and Brianna Zorn; former mayor and council member Mike Menesini, city planning commissioner Sean Trambley, and resident Michael Ayers are all vying for the position.

Schroder is retiring having served as mayor since 2002.



Lara DeLaney has been on the council for two decades and is also a senior deputy administrator for Contra Costa County.

On her campaign website, DeLaney says she wants to strengthen the city's revitalization and support small businesses. She wants to “move forward with the marina, once and for all,” meaning overhauling the fishing pier with new amenities for boaters and more restaurants and entertainment.

She also says it's time to bring the proposed Joe DiMaggio museum to life.

DeLaney also wants to develop and maintain parks and open space and rebuild the city's workforce and restore confidence in City Hall.

“We need to re-open City Hall to full-time hours and get back to full strength, especially our police,” she said. lara4mayor.com



Mark Ross was first elected to the council in 1996. A realtor, he has also served as a director with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

On his campaign site, Ross touts the city's \$10 million reserve and takes credit for helping increase work on the city's roads and renovating city parks. Ross is a vocal proponent of open space and championed keeping the 297-acre Alhambra Highlands as open space rather than development.

“I will make sure Martinez continues to be among the top 50 safest cities in California, while enhancing a progressive police force,” Ross says on his site. markross.info



Brianna Zorn is a wetlands scientist and councilmember. Her website counts among her accomplishments adopting an independent redistricting commission, supporting the Alhambra Highlands ballot

measure, helping implement the Nights on Main program, approving funding for marina dredging and emergency repairs to the pier, and helping to guide the city's general plan update. briformayor.com



Former mayor Mike Menesini works as a prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. On his website, the former San Jose police officer and Vietnam veteran

counts among his accomplishments on the council as helping protect the Briones Agricultural Preserve and the Franklin Hills ridgeline, facilitating the inclusion of Mt. Wanda into the John Muir National Historic Site, rebuilding the city's water treatment plant, city hall, senior center, and train station.

Menesini says on his site that he wants to be mayor again because “Martinez is at a crossroads. The current city malaise, reflected by an out-of-control homeless crisis and a concerning rise in crime rates, cannot be reversed by the current political establishment. Their inability to come together, find solutions, and strengthen our city has helped lead us here. mikeformartinez.com



Sean Trambley has been on the city's planning commission for five years and helped lead the effort to get the sales tax Measure X passed in 2018, which he says on his campaign site has provided critical funding

for the city's police and public works departments. seantrambley.com

Trambley says he wants to engage more with business owners and patrons, cut red tape, and support a vibrant downtown and citywide business community. He says he wants to increase housing access and is committed to “smart and sustainable options to support Martinez residents.”

Trambley says he wants to restore the waterfront and “provide a sustainable and lasting solution with effective services to connect the unhoused with essential health services and job opportunities.”

Trambley also says the council “doesn't need to spend \$100,000 of taxpayer's money on yet another downtown parking study when we know we need to modernize parking meters and create more spaces. We also need alternative transit options and expanded bike lanes throughout the city.”



Michael Ayers, who didn't submit a formal campaign statement to the city, says on his website that his priorities include government transparency, safe streets, parks and neighborhoods, restoring the waterfront

amphitheater — currently used as a shelter for unhoused people — “to what it was intended for.

He says his “goal is to approach homelessness with compassion, not enable it.” He also wants to increase the number of city police officers and provide more support for the city's public works department.

michaelformartinezmayor.com

Visit the candidates' websites for more information on their positions.

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Chess with Yoo
by Christopher Yoo, 15, Grandmaster,
Dublin, Calif.



A Critical Position

In October, I played in the US Championship against the strongest players in the United States. This was the first time I had qualified for the event.

I was the youngest in the field at age 15 and one of the lower rated. It was a round robin tournament of 14 Grandmasters. In Round 2, I defeated the defending US Champ, GM Wesley So, who was also the highest rated player in America and #5 in the world.

Playing black, I thought my best chance would be to get a complex position and try to make him nervous. However, I didn't want to force a lot in the opening and went for a solid Petroff. I was certain he would play for a win, and I was hoping to get a complicated position in the middlegame.

He played the opening ambitiously, and we got the complex position I had hoped. He was playing well until I went for a bit of an unsound but interesting attack.

He was not able to calculate everything correctly, making my attack lethal. He resigned on move 48.

The rest of the tournament did not go as well as that game, but I still had a decent result, scoring 5.5/13.

I was also happy to play (but lose) against my coach, GM Sam Shankland, a former US Champion himself. Sam is from Walnut Creek. I really enjoyed playing the strongest players in the US and hope to play in many more US Championships.

This was a critical position from my game with GM Wesley So. Can you find best move for Black (me)?



Composed by Christopher Yoo, Grandmaster

SOLUTION

1...Nxh3!

This leads to a decisive attack.

2. gxh3 Rxh3 3.Qg2 Qh5 4.Rf2 Re8 5.Ne2 Re3-/+

With Rxf3 and Rxd3 and Rh1+ in the air,

White's position is in shambles

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