



Blue Devils win the DCI West Championship at Stanford. Next up, the Southeastern Championship in Atlanta..

**UNDEFEATED
 BLUE DEVILS
 INCREDIBLE
 YEAR**

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Calendar, movie, book reviews and much, more

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Clayton Community Shows Strong Support for Summer Events



Large crowd turned out for this year's Clayton BBQ Cook-off on July 9 and 10. Big Poppa Smokers is presented with the First Place Backyard BBQers check of \$1,600. Below a few of the competitors for the National KCS competition and their equipment. Photos CBCA Facebook.

Summer is here and Clayton's Maintenance Department and contractors have been diligently working to trim trees in medians and planter strips in preparation for the dry months ahead. Several residents have reached out in appreciation of their efforts as staff has caught up with much of the spring weed growth which was a topic of prior conversations. In addition to the above, our Engineering staff have been overseeing multiple pavement improvement projects and ensuring our contractors meet our city's needs. Conversations will be held in 2023 on future paving/road condition projects as we assess our funds and road priorities.

This summer has been fun with Clayton returning to a close-knit community vibe with its first annual Pride Parade on June 25th, followed by our treasured 4th of July parade, and then the CBCA's BBQ Cook-Off competition on July 9th & 10th.

Back stronger than ever are Clayton's "Concerts in the Grove" which happen every other Saturday. The final three concerts for this season take place August 13th, featuring The Houserockers, August 27th, with The Sun Kings (music by The Beatles), and finally September 10th with East Bay Mudd. Grab a picnic dinner, or dine at one of our local restaurants, and come join us from 6 PM to 8:30 PM, downtown Clayton.

Due to Covid, it has been a couple of years since we have held our annual Earth Day Celebration; "Clayton Cleans Up." This annual volunteer effort has been a staple in our community that features multiple groups and individuals coming together to beautify our town. I will spearhead the event on Saturday, April 22, 2023, and am



looking for volunteers to assist with the coordination. In addition, Drysdale Properties is considering a "Community Service Day" for Clayton on Friday, September 16, 2022, which we can all volunteer for this fall. Look for details to come.

I want to thank our small but mighty city staff. Their efforts and the hours that they put in are greatly appreciated in keeping our city functioning at a level of service that our residents enjoy. Just another reason that recent polling has found Claytonians have a 94% positive satisfaction rating for our city. Our future is indeed bright!

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

Split BART Board Approves Wage Increase for Workers Despite Looming Fiscal Cliff

By David King

On July 28, The BART Board of Directors ratified tentative agreements to existing labor contracts that will give wage increases to BART workers, BART officials said.

The wage increases will total 10.5 percent over three years for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Amalgamated Transit Union, and Service Employees International Union and non-represent employees and 10.5 percent over four years for the agency's police unions, BART officials said.

The total four-year cost of the wage increases for BART's operating budget is expected to be \$123.8 million, and the four-year capital budget costs, which are primarily reimbursable from capital projects and other sources outside of the operating budget, are expected to be \$42.2 million, officials said.

The last general wage increase for BART employees was in July 2020, though higher-level managers and executive staff did not receive a raise, transit agency officials said.

In 2020, most employees received a 2.75 percent increase. BART police received a wage increase in July 2021.

BART officials said not increasing wages would have compounded current staffing challenges in a tight labor market and would have potentially impacted service.

Not everyone voted for the increase. According to this response from Debora Allen, BART Director, on Claycord.com, "To be clear, seven of nine board directors ratified these contracts. I voted no."

In her comments, Allen stated that the increase was fiscally irresponsible to amend existing 2021 labor contracts only

one year into the three-year agreement without engaging in a robust bargaining process or attempting to address costly work inefficiencies that lead to excessive overtime costs in the system.

BART is still operating at 35% of the passengers it once carried pre-pandemic even though it is running more trains. Federal stimulus funding is projected to last until December of 2025, but the current contract changes would advance that fiscal cliff by approximately six months.

Allen's pleas for efficiency are to lower labor costs, which consumes 62% of a \$1B operating budget. She went on to state, "... before we, as a board, replace the 2021 bargained wage provisions, we should have been negotiating the most expensive and inefficient parts of our labor contracts, including all aspects: wages, benefits, worker safety and particularly the work rules that lead to excessive overtime costs, operational inefficiencies, and costs overruns. Those items should be collectively bargained all at once."

The labor leaders went to BART management in May of 2022 and asked to reopen negotiations on wages due to the current high inflation. The board authorized the General Manager to open negotiations.

"My input from the beginning was that I am ok with changing the 2021 deal for wage increases, but only if BART can gain considerable concessions on the work rules that create so much overtime pay."

They also left in place the previous raise provisions over the next two year for additional raises if ridership reaches 60%, though at this point it is very unlikely.



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Chill Vibes for Hot Summer Days

As the temperatures rise these final weeks of summer, Concord offers plenty of ways to chill out with some deliciously cool and easy summer fun. Dive in for a waterpark rush, hike or bike on a shady nature trail, stroll the new mural walk, or just kick back and enjoy some cool jazz.

If you love live jazz, this is your week. The Concord Jazz Festival returns August 3-7, bringing five days of live performances you will not want to miss at various locations around town.

This year's lineup features Jinx Jones, Carlos Reyes, Glib Rig, Chaz Gunter, Howard Wiley, and the Ben Ho Trio. Admission is free for the first four events and only \$15 for the Java & Jazz session on Sunday, August 7. Sit back and enjoy the groovy tunes of Stratify and KJ Focus, served up with plenty of refreshing iced coffee and tea.

All proceeds benefit the Concord Historical Society. You can purchase tickets in advance through Eventbrite. Get the full schedule and details at visitconcordca.com/concord-jazz-festival-2022.

If you missed the Creative Concord celebrations in June, see all the amazing works up close with a leisurely, self-guided walking tour. Just download the map at visitconcordca.com/things-to-do/visual-arts/creative-concord/creative-concord-2022-mural-map/. View works by Concord's own Urban Aztec (Jesse Hernandez) and Arsenio Baca, as well as other top Northern California artists Hyde, Felicia Gabaldon, Fernanda Martinez, Doran Dada, John Horton, Molly Devlin, and Emily Ding. Eight of the murals are located around the Todos Santos Plaza

area, and one at The Veranda shopping center. The walking tour is also the perfect outing when family and friends come to visit.

Hurricane Harbor always beckons on the hottest days with its myriad of splashy slides and rides and ever-popular Lazy River tube float. If you have not been in a while, it is time to rediscover the joy of having a waterpark in your own backyard (or so close to the hotels if you are visiting.)

For some light exercise or just a little Zen time, head to one of our many hiking and biking trails and take in the spectacular scenery as you go.

You can find information on all these things and more at the Visit Concord website at visitconcordca.com.

Welcoming guests this summer? Be sure to tell family and friends about Visit Concord's great Stay & Play hotel packages of deals. Themed packages include gift cards for local businesses, beer and wine vouchers, attraction tickets and exclusive Concord merchandise. Just send us the confirmation number when they book a room at any of Concord's nine great hotels, and the gift pack of their choice will be waiting for them when they check in.

The Concord Visitor Center is open and ready to help with free advice, maps, visitor guides, brochures, wearables and the latest Things to Do in Concord event listings card. 2151 Salvio Street, Suite T, Concord. Phone: 925-685-1182. Email: info@visitconcordca.com. Website: www.visitconcordca.com. We hope you take full advantage of these fantastic Concord summer days & nights, and we look forward to seeing you out there.

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Jennifer Stojanovich

Realtor, Better Homes Realty

How “Days on Market” Affects Your Home Sale

When homebuyers are looking at homes for sale, they are often checking things like the number of bedrooms or even the school district where the home is located.

But some homebuyers (and their agents) are looking at less obvious things, too, such as the number of days a home has been on the market, known as “days on market”.

In a seller’s market, homes sell faster than usual. That is why some buyers may be hesitant to look at a home that has been on the market for longer than others. But why would the number of days your home has been on the market ultimately affect your sale?

“Days on market” means the number of days that a home has been listed for sale before its status changes to pending. The more recently a home has been listed, the lower its days on market will be.

Homes that just hit the market tend to get the most attention from buyers. But at what point does a home go from being considered “just listed” to being on the market for too long? According to Realtor.com, the national average for days on market in May 2022 was 31 days. That is six days faster than May 2021 and nine days faster than May 2020. In a nutshell, any home that has been listed for more than a month is going to raise suspicions in buyers and their agents. Of course, this also

depends on your market and the price of your home.

If you are selling your home and it has been sitting on the market for longer than other homes in your area, then you are no doubt wondering what to do.

Fortunately, it does not spell doom – as long as you adjust your strategy. One option is to consider lowering your home’s listing price. In many cases, your home has not sold because the asking price was too high. Real estate markets can change from week to week and adjusting the price may be all it takes to entice potential buyers.

In some cases, your agent may temporarily withdraw your listing from the market. They will then relist it after a certain time period, which sometimes resets your days on market and helps to get your listing in front of new buyers. While relisting your home can work in some instances, your languishing home may need a different strategy to appeal to potential buyers.

Another option is to try making improvements to your home. This could include cosmetic changes such as new paint, updated fixtures, or refurbished landscaping. Make sure to take new photos that reflect the changes you’ve made. Understanding market conditions is key to picking the right strategy.

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NEWS & TALK

In case you missed it...



Pleasant Hill Opens New Library

The long awaited new Pleasant Hill's Library opened July 30. The Pleasant Hill Library is a multi-million dollar project made possible through voter-approved Measure K funding. The Library operating hours are as follows:

Tuesday 12:00PM - 8:00PM
 Wednesday 10:00AM - 6:00PM
 Thursday 10:00AM - 6:00PM
 Friday 9:00AM - 5:00PM
 Saturday 9:00AM - 5:00PM

The new library is located at 2 Monticello Avenue, in Pleasant Hill.

BART Reinstates Face Mask Requirement

BART's Board of Directors voted to reinstate a face mask requirement on BART trains effective immediately until October 1.

The temporary amendment to the transit district's Code of Conduct requires riders to wear face masks that fully cover a person's nose and mouth in paid areas of the system with limited exceptions. This requirement applies to trains and all portions of stations beyond the fare gates. Children ages 2 and under, as well as individuals with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing masks, are exempt from the mandate.

At its Sept. 22 meeting, the BART board will place an action item on its agenda to determine if the mandate should be extended.

Enforcement of the mask requirement could include a citation of up to \$75, or being ejected from the paid area.

"Plastics Piranha" Comes to Contra Costa County



"Plastics Piranha," an autonomous rover that collects debris from waterways, arrived at Point San Pablo Harbor in Richmond.

Developed by the startup Clean Earth Rovers, the autonomous rover skims waterways and can collect more than 100 pounds of waste per trip. It is 100 percent electric and uses obstacle avoidance software to stay clear of boaters and marine life.

"[It's] a way for us to tackle waste in our coastal waterways using autonomous vehicles and data-monitoring devices that act essentially as Roombas for coastal waterways," CEO of Clean Earth Rovers Michael Arens said.

The startup was initially focused on

cleaning up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a zone of garbage between California and Hawaii that is twice the size of Texas, according to the nonprofit The Ocean Cleanup.

However, Arens was encouraged to come up with a more focused goal, like garbage along the U.S. coastline.

Clean Earth Rovers wants to make data about water quality as readily available as data about air quality for Americans, so people know if their lakes are safe to swim in.

Goats Back on BART Property in Contra Costa County

Goats Back on BART Property in Contra Costa County

Goats are back on the BART property in Contra Costa County to eat dry brush and grass and decrease the risk of a wildfire.

According to Glen Eddy, BART's Assistant Superintendent of Way and Facilities, Grounds Maintenance, the goats are used in place of lawn mowers and other power tools, which increase the risk of sparking a fire on the drought-stricken grass and increase the safety of human workers, who once had to scale large inclines to clear very steep hillsides.

Congressman DeSaulnier Passes Effort to Exonerate the Port Chicago 50



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier announced he successfully passed a measure that would direct the Secretary of the United States Navy to publicly exonerate the Port Chicago 50, the 50 African American sailors wrongfully convicted of mutiny after standing against racial discrimination in the Navy during World War II.

The effort passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 329-to-101.

The passage of the effort comes almost seventy-eight years to the day after the devastating explosion that killed or injured 435 African American sailors at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Port Chicago, California on July 17, 1944. A cargo vessel exploded as they were loading munitions.

The measure now moves to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

"Fulfilling our nation's founding promise of equality and justice for all requires confronting our past and working to right historical injustices," said Congressman DeSaulnier.

This incident accounted for more than 15 percent of all African American Naval casualties during WWII and was the deadliest home front disaster during the war.

When 50 of these men understandably refused to return to the same unsafe conditions, they were discriminately charged and convicted of mutiny.

Articles have been abridged and updated from their original posts which can be found at claycord.com.



Blue Devils Wins DCI West Championship at Stanford Remains Undefeated in 2022

By Jeff Griffith and David King

For the Blue Devils, 2022 is shaping up to be a banner year as they remain undefeated in five events. On July 10 they won the Drum Corps International (DCI) West Championship at Stanford University Stadium against many of the nation's most exceptional competitors. The World Class Blue Devils are currently ranked #1 in the country ahead of Boston Crusaders.

Stanford University's Stanford Stadium, a longtime marquee DCI Tour event host, provided a scenic

visual backdrop and was excited to debut a brand-new uniform look near the end of its production.

While California's Open Class ensembles will stay in their home state eyeing a number of upcoming events that will culminate in the 2022 Pacific Coast Open Class Championships (July 22-24), their World Class counterparts will start making their way east for upcoming events in the Rocky Mountain region.

As of this writing, the World Class Blue Devils are competing in the DCI



Bay Area backdrop for 11 memorable performances.

For the fifth time in as many appearances on the 2022 DCI Tour, Blue Devils emerged victorious, becoming the fourth World Class Corps this season to eclipse 80 points.

Blue Devils B also took first in the Open Class by the narrowest of margins just a tenth and half, ahead of second Place Gold corps of Oceanside, CA thanks to leads in the general effect and music captions.

Blue Devils B drum major Maggie Early said that the DCI West event is one that her corps has been looking forward to both in terms of its size and its scope.

"We call this the Mini Indy," Early said as a nod to the season-ending DCI World Championships in Indiana this August. "And that got everyone really hyped. This was one of our better runs we have had (this season), and I am proud of them and how much they have grown."

The Southern California Open Class corps held a sizable lead in the total

Southeastern Championship in Atlanta and remain in the lead in a hotly contested event with just one point separating the top three corps.

Once rains cleared and fans reentered the stands at Center Parc Credit Union Stadium, following a brief weather delay, 16 drum corps brought vivid music and color to a crowd of 10,000 as part of the 2022 DCI Southeastern Championship presented by Ultimate Drill Book.

Blue Devils ended up atop the World Class leaderboard and continued the corps' undefeated season with a top score of 94.050

"That whole run felt electric," Blue Devils drum major Dina Bratanovic said. "During the run, I got goosebumps and chills; just listening to the horn line, I could feel the passion coming off the field from the performers. It was breathtaking."

Good luck in Atlanta, do Concord proud Blue Devils.



pair up!
By Maria Terry,
Sommelier

Vegetarian BBQ

I have many people in my life who choose not to eat meat. I believe that one can create delicious meals centered on vegetables, and no one even notices the meat is absent. Eggplant and mushrooms are frequently my protein replacements because of their dense texture and versatility.

Grilled Eggplant Crostini with Pine Nuts is an appetizer that can be made up ahead of time and does not require fork, knife, or serving utensil. The texture of the eggplant becomes soft as it grills, and the pine nuts provide a crunchy counterpoint.

Pinot Grigio has soft citrus and floral scents and is highly quaffable. It goes with just about any light dish and this one is no exception.

The Caesar Cocktail is a spicy, juicy drink. It will stand up to all of the usual accompaniments one finds with a burger: ketchup, mustard, and even raw onion. Great big portobello mushrooms grill up perfectly and seem to be made for a hamburger bun. Just season the caps with a bit of oil, vinegar, salt, pepper, and grill for five minutes on each side.

Spiked Watermelon can be served as a side salad with the burgers or saved until the end of the meal. Include the alcohol when your guests are over 21 or leave it out altogether. The mint is the kicker in this recipe.

So, go on. Pair Up!

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

Caesar Cocktail



INGREDIENTS

1½ ounces vodka
fill with clamato
juice
3 dashes Tabasco®
sauce
3 dashes
Worcestershire sauce

DIRECTIONS

Line the rim of a glass with celery salt. Over ice, add vodka, fill with clamato juice, then add the remaining ingredients. Garnish with a celery stick. Add more tabasco sauce if desired.

Yield: 1 drink

Spiked Watermelon

INGREDIENTS

1 8-pound watermelon, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces (about 16 cups)
1 cup fresh lemon juice
2/3 cup sugar
½ cup vodka
6 tablespoons crème de cassis
Salt (opt.)
¼ cup chopped fresh mint

DIRECTIONS

Place watermelon in large bowl. Whisk fresh lemon juice and sugar in medium bowl until sugar dissolves. Whisk in vodka and crème de cassis. Add a pinch of salt if desired to bring out the flavors.



Pour mixture over watermelon. Cover and chill at least 1 hour and up to 2 hours. Sprinkle with chopped fresh mint and serve.

Yield: 8 servings

Grilled Eggplant Crostini



INGREDIENTS

1 medium eggplant with skin, stem removed and sliced lengthwise into 4 strips
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 small shallot, thinly sliced and sautéed
1 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
½ teaspoon sea salt, or to taste
1/3 cup thinly sliced fresh basil leaves
2 tablespoons pan-toasted pine nuts

Crostini

3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Crostini

Take baguette and cut in 1/4" thick slices, drizzle with olive oil and brush evenly across each slice. Season with salt and pepper. Bake at 400 ° for 15 to 20 minutes. Makes 60.

Topping

Heat the grill over medium-high heat. Grill the eggplant 4 to 5 minutes per side or until lightly charred and cooked through. Meanwhile, combine the lemon juice, shallots, oil, and salt in a medium bowl.

Cut each grilled eggplant slice into small bite-size pieces. Toss the eggplant with the dressing until just coated. Just before serving, stir in basil. Place one tablespoon of eggplant mixture on top of each crostini and top with pine nuts. Serve warm, cool or at room temperature.

Yield: 2 cups topping



Summer Melons – Certified Delicious!

By Deb Morris, PCFMA

You have just found a new variety of melon, not the usual watermelon or cantaloupe, but a lovely yellow melon with rippled rind. Or there is one that is small, oval, and green with white flesh.

Fortunately, there are many varieties of melons grown in California. In California, only California-grown produce may be certified for sale in our state's farmers' markets.

The most readily available are the honeydew, watermelon, and cantaloupe, but within these common melons are variations. For instance, watermelon can come in "refrigerator" sized (small and round), or with bright yellow flesh, rather than red.

Many specialty melons offer remarkable flavor, texture, and color. The Crenshaw, Persian, Sharlyn, Santa Claus, Casaba and the bittermelon, an Asian variety, plus a myriad of other varieties are available this summer. Each have slightly different rind and flesh colors, sizes, and sweetness.

10 Easy Ways to Serve Melon

1 Cantaloupe wrapped with prosciutto, a sweet and salty bite that's a long-time favorite. Or make a salad with cantaloupe chunks, prosciutto, and mozzarella balls.

2 Melon ball and feta salad. Get yourself a melon baller, or just cut melons in cubes, toss with crumbled feta, pickled red onion, olive oil, and lemon juice.

3 Melon Frozé. Blend melon and rosé wine

4 Fruity Pizza With your favorite melon add ricotta cheese and top with fresh arugula.

5 Watermelon ice pops can be made by blending the flesh and honey or sugar, water, and lemon juice, a real tasty treat on a hot summer day.

6 Chilled cantaloupe soup, refreshing and sweet.

7 Honeydew Smoothie for the kids after school, or make an adult beverage out of it with a jigger of gin, rum, or vodka.

8 Honeydew and Cucumber Salad Toss them with red onion and feta or other salty cheese for a quick side salad.

9 Honeydew or Casaba Melon wrapped with thinly sliced Lox. Another sweet/salty appetizer

10 Bittermelon is often overlooked as being too bitter, but in many cultures, it is used in stews, stir-fries, or soups. Talk with your farmer for some great recipes.

Watermelons harbor a colony of nutrients inside that thick outer rind, making them an excellent source of potassium, magnesium, thiamine, and vitamins C, A, and B6, per the National Watermelon Promotion Board. They also contain high amounts of citrulline, which may improve muscle mass, and lycopene for heart and skin health, explains WebMD.

There are many other ways to enjoy summer melons, but sometimes the easiest is the best, especially when you slice into a perfectly chilled melon.

Desert Heat Leads to Watermelon Cultivation

The history of watermelon traces back to North Africa. The flesh of wild-grown watermelons had a hard texture, pale color, and either a bitter or bland taste.

According to a genetic study published in 2019 by researchers at the University of Munich, Egyptians were planting, harvesting, and enjoying watermelons that were similar to what we eat today more than 3,500 years ago, based on a watermelon leaf discovered in an Egyptian tomb.

Watermelons were a life-saving source of hydration for Egyptians, with the ability to survive the hottest, driest seasons when stored in the shade. As for the bitter taste and unappealing texture, that disappeared with selective breeding over the thousands of years.

Another juicy archaeological tidbit came with the discovery of watermelon seeds in the tomb of Egyptian King Tutankhamun, who was buried 3300 years ago. A DNA study confirmed that our current red and sweet versions of watermelon were closely related to the ones domesticated in Egypt.

David King contributed to this article



Painted reliefs in Egyptian tombs show watermelon in ancient Egypt. The image here is from the tomb of Chnumhotep near Saqqara, which is dated to 2500 (BCE). Left of the watermelon are lotus flowers. (photos courtesy of S. Renner)



YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SHOES

by Michael Barrington, www.mbwriter.net

The Mustang/Cobra Man



The Serb family opened the Cobra Experience in November 2014. L-R: Daughter Emily, wife Janet, Drew, and daughter Kate. Photo courtesy of Highland Autos.

If you saw the movie “Ford versus Ferrari,” then you may be a Cobra enthusiast. Did you know that one of the finest collections of Cobra cars in the country is on display in Martinez? Thanks to an enthusiastic collector, Drew Serb, founder and curator of the museum, The Cobra Experience. Among the many historic displays, it holds two cars that were used in the movie; an original car that was driven and a replica.

As a high school student in the 1960s, Drew Serb fell in love with the AC Cobra muscle car. In class he would hide car magazines in his textbooks and study the sexy sport car’s specs. Eventually, he bought a beaten-up 1964 Cobra for \$1,500 and rebuilt it. In 1978, he sold it for \$33,000. He winces when he thinks about that sale, since the car today would be worth close to half a million dollars.

As I interviewed this unassuming man, I was entertained by his impish sense of humor and enthusiasm over his collection. As he explained, he was captivated by the Cobra in the early seventies and began his journey of dedication and restoration.

The money he made selling his first Cobra enabled him to buy the electronics company he worked for at the time that has built giant sound systems for sports stadiums, including the 49ers, Raiders, Giants, Padres, and New York Jets. By 1997 he had grown and expanded the business and was providing sound systems for The Grateful Dead, the Dave Mathew’s Band, Luciano Pavarotti, Andrew Bocelli and Placido Domingo.

In the 1960’s, the Shelby Cobra captured the heart and imagination of car racing enthusiasts. Carroll Shelby, the designer of the famous Shelby Cobra, GT40, Daytona Coupe, and GT350, amongst others, from 1962 to 1968 built cars at Shelby American in Southern California. These cars remain giants for their contributions to the evolution of the muscle car industry in this country.

Drew has been a Cobra roadster owner/restorer for more than 30 years. He bought several Cobras, some severely damaged, to restore and added some of them to his personal collection. In 2002, he bought a business known as “Cobra Performance,” that started out in Pacheco. That company had stockpiled all the remaining Cobra parts from Shelby American when it shut down in 1970.



The idea of a museum emerged as his storage space filled to overflowing with Cobra material: “I had about 10 cars at the time . . . and a whole basement full of parts,” he explained. “If anyone wanted to sell Cobra parts, I was interested — a hard top, a grille, a set of wheels — so that’s really how it all started.”

In 2014 Drew moved his sound system business to a new commercial building in Martinez. This facility would not only serve as the home of his business operations on the first floor but also provide 25,000 square feet upstairs to house his personal collection of Shelby cars and memorabilia. That same year together with his wife, Janet, and daughter, Emily Serb Lambert, now the Executive Director, and several business partners, he was able to transform his passion for the cars into “The Cobra Experience.” It opened for business as a Non-Profit enterprise on November 1, 2015.

Drew has spent a great amount of time and effort into the creation of a world-class exhibit, displays, lighting and signage in the creation of the museum. Visitors will surely agree that The Cobra Experience has successfully captured the essence of the early years of the Shelby American legacy. Even the restrooms here are themed, and you can hear background

rock music from the 1960’s playing everywhere.

As East Bay residents, the Serb family is immensely proud of being able to share their passion with the community “There’s a lot of history that people don’t know about what Shelby did in just a few years, and starting from nothing,” he explains in his animate voice. “Those guys went out and beat Ferrari, got the World’s Manufacturers’ Cup, and won Le Mans five years in a row. The importance of this collection is education through the

preservation of this special time in Shelby American and Ford Performance history in America.” He paused as if to gather his thoughts.

On display are many unique cars and a collection of original Shelby-American shop equipment, Shelby engine and wheel displays. There is an impressive amount of period memorabilia and what must be every collectible toy Cobra roadster ever made. Other event spaces include a complete research library, a classroom/lounge area, a banquet facility for up to two hundred people for private events, and a gift shop.

You can experience the unmistakable feel and sound of the Shelby-modified Ford 427 V-8 through clever special effects backed by an impressive Surround Sound system in its 40-seat in-house theater.

Currently there are 24 cars on display. The Cobra Experience in Martinez is open every third Sunday each month between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., or by private event or appointment. If you drop in, you will have an amazing experience and likely meet Drew who will be happy to fill your ear for an hour or two of non-stop fascinating information about his Cobra passion.

And he is your neighbor.

Staying connected to your roots makes your health blossom

Center For Elders’ Independence is here to help you flourish through personalized PACE healthcare and services that keep seniors living safely and independently at home, because home is where your roots are.

East Bay seniors 55 and older with health needs can rely on us for medical, dental, and vision care, plus services like transportation, a senior gym, group activities and more, all with no deductibles for you.



Call 833-802-1150 or visit Elders.org to find out if you qualify for PACE



Food Rescue Hero Volunteer Drivers Wanted



White Pony Express (WPE) is expanding to meet the growing need for healthy food in our communities.

Hunger is on the rise due to inflation and supply chain disruptions and fresh, nutritious food is out of reach for many.

WPE needs volunteers willing to drive to help them meet this need. This can happen in a personal vehicle or one of their fleet vehicles.

If you have a little time to spare and a good driving record, consider joining the team of food rescue heroes.

Contact Mandy and Ana at volunteer@whiteponyexpress.org for more information.



Tech in English

PG&E is Tinkering - Hide the Computer

I just received a notice in the mail from PG&E that reads "A Safer Electric System For You" [sic] and that makes me think about all the fun things that can happen to computers when the power is shut off willy-nilly.

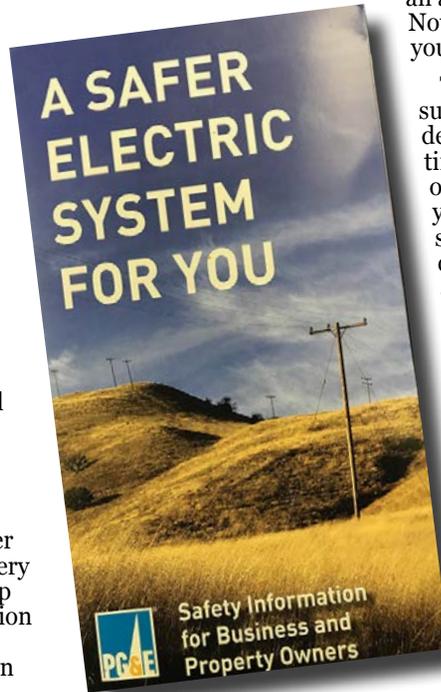
I appreciate the heads up warning that our electrical grid is having upgrades. The warning indicates outages are coming because of this upgrade work. In addition, because of the risk of fires from electrical sources they will have, "Public Safety Power Shutoffs."

Translated that means your computer power supply will be operating under increased stress. Stress on a computer will cause them to fail.

To avoid expensive, frustrating, and nerve-racking repairs to your computer when the power gets shut-off -- get a battery backup. A battery backup is a simple low cost solution to power failures and interruptions. Also known as, a UPS (uninterrupted power supply), this device will automatically "kick-in" when the power fails or experiences a brownout, or fluctuates.

Plug the UPS into a normal power plug in your home or office, then plug your computer's power cord, monitor

and modem into the receptacles on the UPS chassis. Your battery will charge normally until it senses an outage then automatically activate and keep your computer running for a few minutes. When the battery is in use protecting your computer, it will sound an alarm (beep-beep). Note: Do NOT plug your printer into a UPS.



The battery will sustain power to your devices and allow you time to turn them off normally. If you desire, install software on your computer that will automatically start a shutdown sequence when the UPS senses a power issue. This type of UPS is known as a "smart" UPS (the software makes it smart). A REMOTE connection to your local tech guru can assist with the software installation if needed.

The batteries in the UPS have a physical life of about three years. At the end of the three years, replace the UPS batteries with new ones. It can be as simple as replacing batteries in your flashlight, but if you need help, a computer tech is nearby. Recycle the old batteries, and any other computer

components, with ComputersUSA in Clayton at no charge.

Which UPS to purchase? There are several very good choices. Among them is APC, Tripp Lite, and CyberPower to name a few. Get a smart UPS that will shut down your computer normally during a power incident. You will need a rating of 500VA or higher for laptops and 600VA for typical desktops and more for servers and gaming systems. Prices are around \$60-100.

Now go do the right thing – upgrade to UPS and save your data from extinction.

Get Back Up

Computer Down?

Get Back-Up Fast with
CUSA Care: Backups \$4.99/Mo.

Call Now, you know, before you need it.
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ComputersUSA is CUSA Care

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Poetry With Dad

By Amaris White

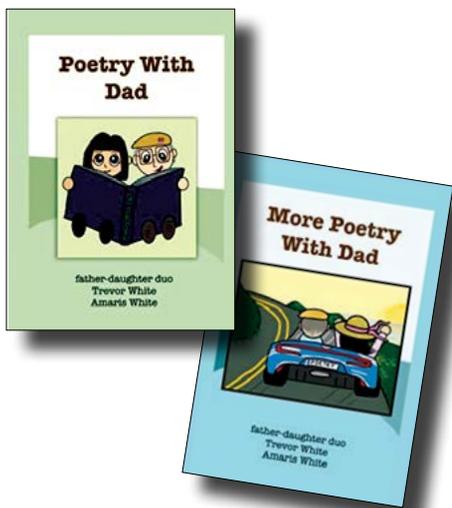
My father, Trevor White, passed away last month and has lived in the Clayton and Concord area for nearly forty years. He was a frequent patron of the Clayton Club Saloon and the Clayton Library. He was born in London, and came to the US when he was 21 years old, where he met my mother from Tokyo. They were the first couple (perhaps only still?) to get married in the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Over the last nine months of his life, we collaborated on a project called "Poetry with Dad." He wrote witty and silly poems, and I would illustrate them. You can see our poems here -- <https://www.instagram.com/poetrywithdad/>.

We also published two books -- "Poetry With Dad," and the second was published in his memory last week, "More Poetry With Dad."

I started this project as a way for us to connect during the pandemic. My father's health had been declining, and with the pandemic, his social life completely disappeared as well. I live on the East Coast now, and we didn't have much to talk about during this time.

This project gave us an opportunity to have something other than physical ailments or problems in the world to focus on. It gave us both something to dream about -- he had big dreams of doing poetry readings in bookstores after the pandemic, and of publishing children's books. I'm so grateful to have been able to share this with him.



Mary had a little frog.
Its coat was green and sticky.
One day she fried it up for lunch,
Oh boy, now that was icky!

Amalaina took a nap lying on the beach.
A crab came by and nipped her toe,
then scuttled out of reach.

He tried to race back to the waves,
laughing like a winner.
But Amalaina snatched him up and
cooked him for her dinner.

That bratty boy tugged on my braids,
His name is Tommy Tuppence.
I've put a spider in his lunch to give
him his comeuppance.

A mummy kangaroo is weird, it's called Ma-supial.
So I suppose a daddy one is called Pa-supial.

The sun creates the seasons and the moon affects the ocean.
It's all explained by gravity and planetary motion.

I love to study hard in school, it's fun to gather knowledge.
Because if I stopped doing that I'd be as dull as porridge.

My caterpillar went to sleep,
became a butterfly.
Now, when I sit among the flowers,
he'll often flutter by.

Amaris, Our condolences to you and your family. May your father rest in peace. We are happy to share his poetic wit and your creative illustrations. Good luck with your books, I am sure children will enjoy them, they are delightful. - David King, Publisher



The Perseids meteor shower is regarded as one of the best of the year. Famous for producing a large number of fireballs, the shower began July 17 and will continue until August 24.

At its peak, August 12-13, it is expected to produce up to 60 shooting stars an hour.

The shower, discovered in 1862, is produced by the comet 109/P Swift-Tuttle. A nearly full moon will cause viewing problems, but the Perseids are so bright that skywatchers should still get a good show.

How many will you see?



Chess with Yoo

Composed by Christopher Yoo, 15, Grandmaster, Dublin, Calif.

In July I won the US Junior Championship! It's the biggest title I've ever won. I was super excited, and the victory also earned me a spot in the US Championship in October!

Here is a tactic that helped me win an important game in the US Junior.

White to play and win.



SOLUTION:

1. Rxg5!
White has a good advantage after nearly any move, but this is the only knockout punch.

1... Qxg5
1... Nxd4 was what really happened in the game, followed by 2. Rg6! Ne2+ 3. Kh2 Qh5. Many moves win, but I think I found the cleanest. 4. Qe7! Black's position is in shambles, and the game ended after only a few more moves.

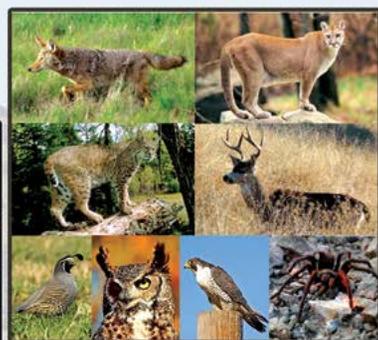
2. Rf4!
All of White's pieces come together for a decisive attack.

2... Nxd4 3. Rxh4+ Kg8 4. Qd5+!
And a nasty discovered check is waiting.

4... Rf7 5. Bh7+ Kf8 6. Qxg5+-

MT. DIABLO WILDLIFE

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- BOBCAT
- MOUNTAIN LION
- COTTONTAIL
- OPOSSUM
- COYOTE
- QUAIL
- DEER
- RACCOON
- EAGLE
- RATTLESNAKE
- GOPHER
- SKUNK
- GRAY FOX
- SQUIRREL
- JACK RABBIT
- TARANTULA
- KING SNAKE
- TURKEY
- KITE
- VOLE
- LIZARDS
- WILDBOAR
- MOLE
- WOODPECKER

Solution on page 12

calendar of events

FUNDRAISERS

White Pony Express

Calling All Restaurants and Catering Companies!

Local restaurants and catering companies are invited to donate their surplus food to White Pony Express. WPE will distribute it upon receipt – free of charge – to dozens of nonprofit partners and school pantries that serve our hungry neighbors. When you donate food to WPE, you help end food insecurity in our county and reduce the production of methane gas caused by rotting food in landfills. If your business would like to donate excess food, please contact WPE's Food Sourcing Manager at donatefood@whiteponyexpress.org.

October 21-22

Craft Fair. Concord Elks is looking for vendors to participate in their upcoming crafts fair at Concord Elks Lodge. If interested, email elkscraftfair20-lodge@yahoo.com, or call 925-685-1994. Fair Hours 10am-4pm. 3565 Clayton Road, Concord.



pm. 2751 Buena Vista Ave.

September 9

Live Strong Health Expo Concord Senior Center. Free. All ages welcome. Health Screenings, Demonstrations, and presentations. 2727 Parkside Circle, Concord.

September 17

Martini Shake Off! Celebrate

Martinez, the birthplace of the Martini at Ignacio Plaza. Eight competing bars/restaurants' master mixologists will create their signature Martini. You vote your favorite to decide the winner of the People's Choice Award. Purchase tickets online only. Go to martinezmartini.com.



September 24

Pleasant Hill Community Service Day. Now accepting applications for projects. Do you have a project you would like to see undertaken? Fill out the form Online at <https://fs12.formsite.com/xDcOz6>

CLUBS

SIR Branch 146 – Social Activities for Men.

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Contact John Kendrick at jmkendrick23@gmail.com or 925-827-0585

August 15

Audition Singers -Diablo Women's Chorale. Want to have some fun? Sing with the Diablo Women's Chorale! Fall season starts August 15, with auditions by appointment that evening between 6 and 9 PM. We encourage any woman with a love of music and spirited company to audition. Choral Experience and music-reading ability are a plus, but not required. Contact Nancy Hickman, Membership Chair, at 925-899-5050 or hickmandg@gmail.com. www.DiabloWomensChorale.org

ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC



August 3-7 Concord Jazz Festival 2022

August 3: Jinx Jones kicks off the festival with a FREE show at The Veranda as part of The Veranda Unplugged series. Showtime is 6:30pm to 8pm.

August 4: Catch Carlos Reyes for a FREE show at Todos Santos Music & Market Series from 6:30pm to 8pm.

August 5: Glib Rig performs at Jazz Night at the Concord Tap House, 5pm to 7pm. The show is FREE and features special guest KJ Focus.

August 6: Jazz in the Park - 1pm to 4pm in Todos Santos Plaza featuring performances by Chaz Gunter and special guest Howard Wiley. This show

is FREE.

August 7: Java & Jazz with Stratify and special guest KJ Focus at the Concord Museum and Event Center from 11am to 2pm. \$15 and includes a collectible cup and unlimited pours of iced coffee and iced tea (while supplies last). Proceeds benefit the Concord Historic Society.

CONCORD PAVILION

Tickets @ livenation.com

August 9 - Backstreet Boys: DNA Tour

August 20 - Big Time Rush: Forever Tour

August 23 - Chris Brown & Lil Baby

September 17 - John Mulaney Comedy

September 22 - Bone Bash XVIII: Lynard Skynard with Tesla and Petty Theft

September 27 - Iron Maiden

Music and Market Series

6:30PM - 8PM Todos Santos Park, Concord

August 4- Carlos Reyes jazzy violin and harp

August 11 - The Killbillies, Quatro with Mel Bears

August 18 - Matchbox Twenty Too

August 25 - Zeperella

September 1 - The New Frantics and Garageland Rodeo

PLEASANT HILLCONCERTS

SUNSET BY THE LAKE 6:00 P.M. - 8:00P.M. FREE. 100 Gregory Lane at the City Hall lake.

August 7 - Cut Loose

August 21 -The Landbirds

September 4 -The Big Jangle



aRT COTTAGE

July 6 - August 26 "en Plein Air";

Leshner Center for the Arts

1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek Tickets Call 925-943-7469 Wednesday - Sunday Noon to 6:00 p.m.

August 12-20

Moana Jr. Poison apple Productions. - Strong-willed Moana sets sail across the Pacific to save her village and discover the truth about her heritage. An epic journey of self-discovery and camaraderie.

August 10,17, 24 - Moveable Feasts

- an upscale food and beverage tour at three of Walnut Creek's best restaurants each Wednesday in August. Guests will be treated to gourmet bites with beverage pairings and chef presentations at three downtown restaurants. Led by Bedford Gallery docents, the culinary tour includes stops along the way at interesting public art displays. (all day)

August 21

Wizard of Oz presented by Fantasy Forum. 11:30 AM.

August 28

Dare, Dream, Dance - 2:30 PM Showcasing the dance stylings of urban hip hop, ballet, modern jazz. Bay Area renowned dancer/choreographer India Marie Little

August 30

Newsmaker Speaker Series - Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of the 1619 Project and staff writer of New York Times. (rescheduled from August 22)

September 3

Robert Dubac's "The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron?" A benefit performance open to the public for Trust in Education. Trust in Education informs and enlists Americans to become directly involved in the support of Afghan children and their families. 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. "... one of the funniest solo shows you will ever see."

SUNVALLEY FITNESS SERIES

Complimentary Yoga and Zumba. Grand Court. 10 AM - 11AM Zumba August 10 & 17 Yoga August 11 & 18

EVENTS

FARMERS' MARKETS

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., Ross-moor Golden Rain Rd.

Saturdays 9:00am.-1:00 pm. Shade-ands North Wiget Ln. and Mitchell Dr.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 1799 Locust St.

Ruth Bancroft Gardens

July - Aug 27 - Sculpture in the Garden Show. Tour the Garden enjoy the sculptures.

August 12 - Common Poorwill

Twilight Hike - Mitchell Canyon. Bring flashlight, binoculars, liquids, and hiking poles if you use them. Please dress for the weather. Hike is about 3 miles round trip, with some elevation gain. Reservations required: blkittiwake@yahoo.com

August 13-14

Contra Costa Crystal Fair -

Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 10am-4pm. Civic Park Community Center 1375 Civic Drive Walnut Creek. More info, go to www.crystalfair.com. Call 45-383-7837.

August 22

Gardens at Heather Farms 50th Anniversary. 5:00 - 7:00 PM. 1540 Marchbanks Drive. Wlanut Creek. Advanced tickets required. Refreshments, music. \$75 gardenshf.org

August 26

The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society - (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. Enjoy several running model trains running through miniature cities and mountainous terrain. 8:00pm - 10:00

The City of Clayton Proudly Presents

Concerts in The Grove 2022

Saturdays 6:00pm to 8:30pm
Downtown Clayton

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| August 13 Houserockers | The Houserockers - This 10-piece powerhouse Rock and Soul band plays the greatest songs recorded. Their high energy gets everyone dancing to the music of the Rolling Stones, Earth Wind and Fire, Tower of Power, Springsteen and more. They bring together elements of Rock, Swing, Blues, 60s Soul and R & B. www.svhouserockers.com |
| August 27 The Sun Kings | The Sun Kings - Northern California's premier Beatles tribute band. For years, the Bay Area's Sun Kings have been thrilling packed houses and outdoor festivals with their musical tribute to The Beatles. Their energy is reminiscent of the joy and excitement of a Beatles concert with the tunes that changed rock & roll. www.thesunkings.com |
| September 10 East Bay Mudd | East Bay Mudd - This dynamic nine-piece band is a great finale for our concert season with their upbeat take on Classic Soul, Funk and R&B classics. This horn-heavy, funk-inflected, rhythm & blues ensemble with a soulful, dynamic lead vocalist, a tight four-piece horn section and a solid rhythm section will rock you with the best of Tower of Power, Chicago, Earth Wind and Fire, and more. www.eastbaymudd.com |

In Theaters



ELVIS



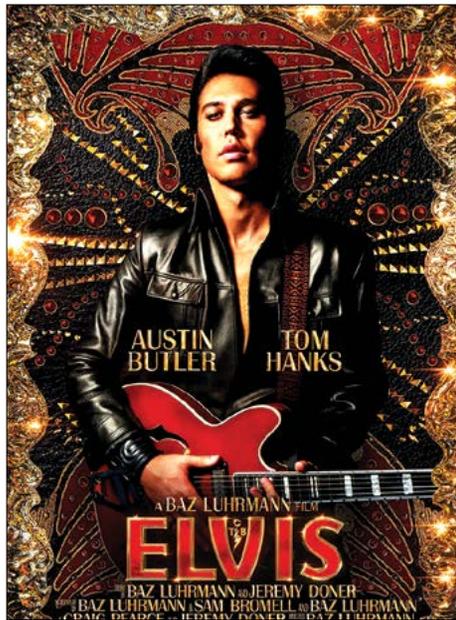
Watching a Baz Luhrmann movie is like going to the circus. Bright lights, color overload and the frenetic pace are to be expected at both venues. So, it's befitting that Luhrmann decides to center his new film, "Elvis" around a circus theme.

The film opens with an introduction to Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis' longtime controversial manager. He is our ringleader as we walk through the stages of Elvis' life that lead him to become The King. The Colonel, who starts his career in the circus and finds he has a knack for promoting spectacles, longs for the ultimate act that he can package and sell and he finds it in the young, hip grinding, rollicking Elvis.

Tom Hanks takes on the role of Tom Parker. Behind pounds of prosthetics and makeup, you would think he would be unrecognizable, but he still looks like Tom Hanks, which can be a bit jarring at times. He plays the role over the top and it is the right call. The film unfolds more like a Grimm's fairy tale than a biopic, so as Hanks' elderly Parker narrates and frolics around spinning his tale and oxygen tank, it somehow seems to fit.

The main attraction is, of course, Austin Butler as Elvis. Filling Elvis' blue suede shoes is a tall order, but Butler meets the challenge and will hopefully be remembered during awards season. He studied Elvis for two years and his hard work shows. Butler does more than move and sound like Elvis; he gives Elvis an emotional core that allows the viewer to connect on a human level with an icon. While the film blinks and spins and shines all around us, Butler brings Elvis down to earth and we get a glimpse of his ambitions and struggles.

This film blends not only Butler's and Elvis' singing voices, but it also stirs fact and fiction. This is not the film to



give you a factual account of Elvis' life. Instead, this film does its best to capture what it felt like to be in his presence and in this way, the film scores. The concert scenes are transportive. You literally feel like you are seeing a young Elvis in the flesh and it is easy to forget you are in a movie theater.

The relationship between Elvis and Colonel Tom Parker is the main focus, while wife Priscilla and his parents have only minor roles. The film also depicts the changing times in America and how this also affected Elvis as he matured.

Some may not like the flashy style of this film, but as someone who would not call themselves an Elvis or Baz Luhrmann fan, I thoroughly enjoyed this movie. It wasn't originally on my summer movie list, but I'm glad I saw it. I think you will too.

Rated PG-13

Available on Hulu

Good Luck to You, Leo Grande



the only actors in the film. And since most of the plot unfolds in a hotel room, the restricted setting can make you feel as if you're watching a play. We do not see the characters' lives outside the hotel, so the audience learns about them only through their conversations with each other.

While the sex talk is frank and both actors have nude scenes, the audience does not see the characters engage in intimate contact. Thompson goes out on a limb here by showing her mature body, a bold move, yet necessary to drive home the points of the film.

McCormack holds his own with Thompson. He gives Leo depth and you feel that this young man takes his job seriously. Whether he is hired for sex or companionship, it is important that he give his clients what they are searching for.

This is an intimate film, perfect for home viewing. It will bring up stimulating discussions about how we view sex work, aging, intimacy and body image.

Rated R, language and nudity

Recent widow Nancy Stokes (Emma Thompson) has an unusual bucket list. Since her sex life with her now deceased husband was unsatisfying, she decides to hire a sex worker to help her explore her sensuality.

Enter Leo Grande (Daryl McCormack), a young, confident, sexy companion for hire. He has his work cut out for him as he combats Nancy's neuroses and constant questions about his personal life.

With the exception of a few minor roles, Thompson and McCormack are



The Maid

The Maid (Ballantine Books, hard-cover, \$16.90) by Nita Prose is one part cozy mystery, one part romance, and 100% endearing character-driven book.

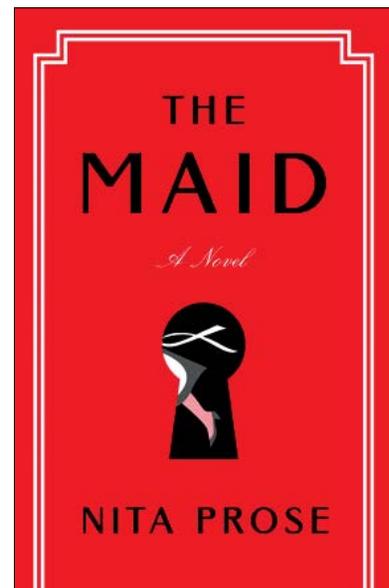
Twenty-five-year-old Molly Gray is on the spectrum, but she has found the perfect job for her quirky personality: she is a maid at a high-end hotel. Cleaning is her forte.

Because she relates to the world in a literal way, her ability to comprehend the intentions of others is warped. Her Gran helped guide her through her social difficulties and taught her the importance of etiquette.

But when the old woman passes and a wily predator boyfriend walked away with the nest egg that Gran had squirreled away, Molly finds herself struggling to pay the rent.

Her troubles go from bad to worse when she befriends Giselle, the wife of Charles Black, a man involved in nefarious business dealings. Then one morning, Molly enters the Black suite with the intent of "returning their room to a state of perfection" only to discover her friend missing and Mr. Black dead.

Gran and Molly's habit of watching reruns of the TV detective show, "Columbo", come in handy for Molly when she makes several questionable decisions to help Giselle and fellow co-workers at the Regency Grand Hotel, Juan Manuel and Rodney. While Molly's tip-stealing supervisor compounds her problems, the grandfatherly doorman proves to be a true friend.



Filled with pithy observations about life's lessons, Molly will steal your heart and you will root for her until the very end.

"The Maid" was an Amazon Best Book of January 2022. A film adaptation by Universal Studios is in the works featuring Florence Pugh ("Midsommar", "Black Widow") as Molly. Fans of "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman, and "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon will enjoy this book.

Nita Prose, the pen name, of Nita Pro-novost, is a Vice President and Editorial Director for Simon & Schuster, Canada. She was listed as one of the 50 Most Influential Torontonians by Toronto Life. "The Maid" is her debut novel. She lives in Toronto, Canada, in a house that she describes as only moderately clean.



A Walk Through Time

with Misty Bruns



All because of a Hat-140 years ago



Dragged by a Car.

An accident occurred last Sunday on the line of the Northern Railway which was almost a tragedy, and which may yet result in death. Among the passengers on the up train from San Francisco was Thomas Davis, a man who was formerly foreman at the Martinez Packing Company's cannery, and who has since been foreman at the Benicia cannery. He had gone outside of the car in which he had been sitting, and was on the steps of the sleeper to car No. 1, as the train was passing along near the Grangers warehouse, by Crockett. While riding in that position his hat blew off, and in attempting to regain it, he fell. He held on for a while with one hand, with his legs dragging on the ground. The train was then passing a trestle-work, and running at quite a high rate of speed, and the unfortunate man's legs were bruised and mangled in a fearful manner. He at length fell, before the train could be stopped or assistance procured; He was picked up and conveyed to Martinez, and placed in a room at the Centennial Hotel, where he was examined by Drs. Leffler and Brown. One leg was found to be broken in two places, one arm was also broken, and there was a severe gash in his head. He was made as comfortable as possible during the night, and on Monday was sent to San Francisco. The physicians stated that an amputation of the leg would be necessary and that if he survived that operation he would probably recover.

An accident occurred in June 1882 on the line of the Northern Railroad which was almost a tragedy. Thomas Davis was among the passengers on the train from San Francisco heading towards Martinez. Thomas Davis was the former foreman at the Martinez packing cannery company and who then became the foreman at the Benicia Cannery. He had gone outside of the train car in which he had been sitting and was on the steps to sleeper car #1 as the train was passing along near the Grangers Warehouse by Crockett. While on the step of sleeper car #1, his hat blew off, and while trying to regain his hat, he fell. He held on for a while with one hand, with his legs dragging on the ground. The train then passed a trestle work, running at a high speed, the poor man's legs were bruised and mangled in a fearful manner. He at length fell, before the train could be stopped or assistance procured. He was picked up and conveyed to Martinez and placed in a room at the Centennial Hotel where he was examined by Dr. Leffler and

Brown. One leg was found to be broken and there was a severe gash in his head. He was made as comfortable as possible during the night and then was sent to San Francisco. The physician said the amputation of the leg would be necessary, and if he survived the operation, he would probably recover.



Ruby Dooby Do to the Rescue

Sergeant Rocky

Ruby Dooby Do is Concord's Online celebrity with 1.8 M TikTok followers, 1M FB, and 299K followers on IG. Each month a hard to place dog in foster care will be featured to give them extra exposure to find their forever home.



of a single lot of Freshpet Select Fresh From the Kitchen Home Cooked Chicken Recipe (4.5 lb. bag), with sell by date of 10/29/22, due to potential contamination with Salmonella. The sell by date, along with the UPC code (627975011673), can be found on the bottom and back of each bag. Pet parents who have questions or would like to report adverse reactions should call 1.800.285.0563.

Diggin' It

Sergeant Rocky is an approximately 5-year-old, short coat husky with blue eyes that will melt your heart. This 55-lb black-and-white beauty loves going for walks and being with his human(s). He would do best in a home with people experienced with the breed, and a six-foot fenced yard. His ideal situation is with someone who is not forceful and wants a loving companion. His adoption fee is \$400.

Sergeant Rocky is:

Charmed by people, but best in a home with older children

Crate-trained and good on leash

Not good with cats or small dogs/pets

Proficient in basic obedience and is not a barker

In need of only moderate grooming and exercise

NorCal Sled Dog Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded by donations. The goal of NorCal Sled Dog is to rescue, rehabilitate, foster, and find homes for unwanted, abandoned and abused Northern breed dogs: Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Samoyeds, and mixes of these breeds.

Bone to Pick

Bad Fido. Does your dog bark too much? Pull so hard on the leash that you fear your shoulder will dislocate? The root cause of bad dog behavior often stems from lack of training and a misunderstanding of pack behavior. All too often, dog owners forego training because they don't want their dog to feel "dominated," or people feel guilty for not letting their dog "be a dog." But our canine companions are pack animals that are hard-wired to want structure and to please their owners. Dogs with consistent guidance are actually more relaxed. Petco, ARF, and Mount Diablo Dog Training Club are just a few options for group obedience classes are offered, but there are numerous options to find private or group obedience classes in the Bay Area.

Dog Food Recall. On 6/17/22, Freshpet Inc. announced a voluntary recall



August 6th Annual World Dog Surfing Championships will take place on Linda Mar Beach in Pacifica from 9am - 12:30 pm. During the event, there will also be a dog beach fashion contest, dog adoptions (Rocket Dog Rescue), and a ball-and-fetch competition (\$15 fee to enter). To enter the surf competition (\$50 fee), register at <https://www.surfdogchampionships.com/>. Attendance is free and open to the public.

August 27th HEAD WEST at Todos Santos Plaza at 2175 Willow Pass Rd in Concord is pet friendly. Open from 11 am to 5 pm. Bring your pooch and check out everything from hand-made ceramics to locally sourced vintage.

Furever Home Found. Stormy, the beautiful 5-year-old, black, white, and tan Siberian husky/shepherd mix featured in February's column, has found a wonderful home with a retired gentleman and now has a husky sibling!

Column by Jill Hedgecock, author of "Between Shadow's Eyes" and "From Shadow's Perspective" whose book covers feature Ruby. www.jillhedgecock.com.

ARF ADOPTION STARS Pinto & Miffy

Looking for a furry friend? Visit arflife.org to view all of ARF's adoptable animals or read more about ARF's adoption process. [.arflife.org](http://arflife.org).

Pinto



One-year-old Pinto is a sweet, social boy who likes to be the center of attention.

This big boy enjoys being outside and romping around. He loves playing with other dogs and training for yummy treats. Pinto's exuberant play style and size would allow him to thrive in an active family with mature kids or a home with adults. Pinto has a positive history with other dogs, but would prefer a home without children younger than 12 years old. He currently weighs 60 pounds.

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.

Miffy



Miffy, 12, is an absolute sweetheart who loves to be held, cuddled, and loved on. She is an older gal who is making the best of her golden years and still has so much love to give. She has also purr-fected the art of biscuit making, and her tongue adorably sticks out all the time.

She enjoys being held and leans in to be close. She would do best in a home without other cats, but is truly medicine for the human soul. If you're looking for a calm, snuggly lap cat to relax and unwind with, Miffy is the perfect kitty for you. Plus, her adoption fee has been prepaid by a generous donor!

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.

Mount Diablo State Park Installs 30 Bike Turnouts

Mount Diablo State Park installed 30 bike turnouts on its roadways, something avid cyclists consider to be a historic win.

Last year, some 150,000 cyclists rode up Mount Diablo which was 60 percent of all vehicle traffic on its roads.

Cyclists urged the California State

Parks and Recreation Department to install turn-outs to allow cars to safely pass cyclists climbing up the winding, steep road. In response, the state park installed three pilot bike turnouts, which Mount Diablo Cyclists said were "overwhelmingly successful" in reducing bike-car collisions.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

From page 9

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Local Races Unclear the Closer You Look

When you hear the term: local races, do you think about election races or the population races? There is an interface between both that can be looked at, but as with everything in both politics and history, the more you examine, the less clear things become. With the increase in what is called ID politics where the racial/ethnic/etc. characteristics are used to simplistically identify an individual is used to garner support in terms of votes, the same thing applies — the closer you get the less clear it is.

For example, a recent effort by one of my colleagues looking at 19 City Councils in Contra Costa County, they were not able to clearly identify all “BI-POC” members, which is the growing term relating to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color that started to become more common in use two years ago with the George Floyd killing. After much research through Google, they were able to take a guess that:

- 11 of 19 city councils have at least one BI-POC member
- 6 of the 19 have majority council members BI-POC
- 6-8 of the 19 have no BI-POC

What do we make of this information? Is this more than you thought, not enough, or a good start, or who cares?

There is the classic problem of what constitutes the ethnic or racial identification. Who makes that determination: an observer or the individual, and to whom does it matter?

With the advent of DNA research, most people are finding that their ‘racial and ethnic’ history is not quite as clear as they thought.

Take for example myself. My mother’s side came from the Greek Island of Lesbos and, according to them, goes back there for thousands of years. My grandmother joked that Aristotle stayed at our house (~360 B.C.).

Whereas on my biological father side, his father, my grandfather, was an orphan raised in Northern Italy by the Salesian Brotherhood. It turns out that the DNA research confirmed that 40% was indeed from the Greek Aegean Islands, but the next chunk of 30% was from the Iberian Peninsula, centered in Madrid, with another 15% being grouped as Corsica, the Balearic Islands and North Africa, some 11% scattered in Balkans with 1% in Finland (sneaky Viking hiding in gene pool) and 1-2% in the Middle East.

Under the famous court case of Plessy vs Ferguson of 1896, a person who was 1/8th Black was considered ‘colored’ or non-white by the Supreme Court (and you think the current group are conservative!)

Raised in New York City, I was taught that Hispanics were Caucasians much in the same way that Scandinavians or Slavs were. Coming to California in 1981, after living in Europe for four years, Hispanics here were expressed with a totally heightened distinction, such that, Latino’s (which we understood to include Brazilians) were considered People of Color, despite a large section of them self-identifying as white. Also, the history of prejudice in California was more pronounced than in New York.

The claim of “Racially Polarized Voting” was used in 2018 to force many cities to adopt city districts as opposed to at-large voting for City Council’s. There are many other good reasons for city districts, but the interface with local race was the trump card in the legal fight.

Which brings us back to the original question, looking at the rough estimate of city council members: What do we make of this information? Is this more than you thought, not enough, or a good start, or who cares?

Views herein are those of Edi Birsan and do not reflect the statement of any racial or ethnic group other than that maybe of a Brooklynite transplanted to Concord struggling to live in concordance with all. EdiBirsan@gmail.com

Nomination Papers for Concord City Council, City Treasurer are Available

As of July 18, nomination papers for seats on the Concord City Council in Districts 1, 3, and 5 and City Treasurer will be available by appointment.

To be eligible to run for City Council, a candidate must be a resident of Concord and a registered voter in the District of the office sought at the time nomination papers are issued.

The Treasurer is an at-large position, and a candidate must be a resident of Concord and a registered voter at the time nomination papers are issued.

The candidate nomination period is determined by Election Code and begins 113 days prior to the election date.

If any incumbent does not file by the deadline, the nomination period will be extended.

November 8, 2022, Nomination Period: Monday, July 18 – Friday, August 12, 2022

Extended Nomination Period: Monday, August 15 – Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Candidates may obtain a nomination packet from the City Clerk. Forms include, but are not limited to, the Nomination Paper, Ballot Designation Worksheet, Candidate Statement (optional), Code of Fair Campaign Practices (optional), Statement of Economic Interests Form 700, and Campaign Finance Disclosure statements.

Candidates must schedule an appointment with City Clerk Joelle Fockler, 925-671-3390 to obtain a nomination packet.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Monday
August 1, 2022

Cloven’s Clayton

Issue
#1

Small Town Mayor, Big Town Ego Leadership Style: Elitist

Cloven pushes for a new \$400 parcel tax on all Clayton residents

With inflation and gas prices at an all-time high, why are Clayton residents being threatened to pay a \$400 parcel tax?

With a projected \$107,000 budget shortfall next fiscal year, what has the **Cloven-led trio** done? They inflated the budget deficit to a false \$629,000 and then voted to spend \$30,000 on a survey telling them that voters would not support a \$400 parcel tax increase for 4,500 households. What a waste of money on something we already know to be true.

What was this **Cloven-led trio** planning to do with that additional \$1,800,000? Nothing fiscally responsible, that’s for sure!

Cloven, Tillman, and Wolfe lied to the Clayton residents about the budget deficit to scare them into supporting a new parcel tax and got caught.

As Councilman Jeff Wan said in his May 4th meeting report: “Shouldn’t the goal be to address the structural budget shortfalls rather than jump straight to a tax? Myopically focusing on a tax neglects the potential to reduce spending, or to increase revenue via other sources. We should be addressing the city’s excessive use of consultants, the utilization of reserves for discretionary items, potential reductions in expenses and additional sources of revenue other than a parcel tax. Unfortunately, none of these things were done and we’ve squandered time that we could have been doing outreach, and squandered money for consultants to conduct a survey that gave us predictable results.”

Weeds Weeds everywhere

With weeds everywhere, plants along the roadways dying or dead, what does this **Cloven-led trio** do about it? They blame it on a group of disgruntled residents (and lack of Round Up) yet does nothing. They won’t even return email inquiries to residents.

New sod at The Grove left to die

This past spring, the City of Clayton installed new sod at The Grove Park; then this **Cloven-led trio** lets it die and plans to charge Clayton taxpayers to replace the sod again. Have you seen the park? It’s a disaster and still nothing has been done.



Cloven votes “NO” for Asian American Mayor

Cloven says he supports inclusion, diversity, and kindness, and is against Asian hate, yet he voted against Vice Mayor Jeff Wan for Mayor not once, but twice. This was also a total disregard for the historical council rotational policy.

Damaged street lights and directory signs missing

Several damaged street light poles and directory signs have been missing for months, what has this **Cloven-led trio** done about it? Absolutely nothing!

Low-Income housing advocate

Cloven has promised to build more low-income high-density housing in Clayton to promote diversity. He has proven time-and-time again to support low-income housing as long as it is not in his backyard.

Cloven continually pits neighborhood against neighborhood without solving our housing problem.

Cloven aggressively fought against an affordable housing project in his backyard and was successful in killing it.

Cloven then votes, not once but twice, to approve an 81-unit, 3-story story apartment building in historic downtown with inadequate parking, which will impact multiple existing housing developments, parking downtown and nearby businesses.

For more information on the Cloven-led trio, please contact Claytonwatch94517@gmail.com



The Naked Gardener

David George, UC-certified Master Gardener

Avoid Sun-Spoiled Fruit and Itching Welts in Hot August

Mother nature has blessed us with (mostly!) milder summer temperatures so far, but more hot days are likely. Vegetable and landscape plants may wilt during the intense heat of mid-day but if properly watered, will bounce back overnight.



Sun-scorched cherry tomatoes, courtesy UCANR

Fruits and vegetables are a different matter. Once an unripe plum or tomato is sun-scorched, it becomes permanently damaged. Despite the intense August sunshine, you can protect your ripening veggies and fruits with shade cloth above your little darlings.

My favorite shade cloth is a light-colored woven fabric rated for 40-60% sun radiation prevention. The light color reflects away most of the sun's harmful heat, but still allows about half of the needed radiation to reach the ripening produce.

I recommend that you build a temporary support structure out of unglued PVC sprinkler pipe and attachment pieces. You can then anchor down the shade cloth to the supports with twist ties to prevent wind from relocating the cloth.

Don't drape the protection directly on your plants because its weight (or creatures climbing on it) may harm your plants.



Shade cloth in various colors and densities. Photo courtesy of UCANR.

Protect Against Bug Bites

While you are working in your lush garden, remember to protect yourself from itchy and painful bug bites. Invisible biting pests may target you for a blood meal because human blood contains an enzyme they need for reproduction. Our dry summertime weather used to protect Bay Area gardeners from non-flying biters as they prefer moist, warm summer climates such as in the Midwest and southern states. But with our increasing numbers of lawns and gardens, ticks, chiggers, and oak itch mites have moved into our watered and lush areas. The peak season for tick and mite bites is now, in



25% DEET in a Pump spray bottle

August.

Ticks – Our area has abundant blacklegged deer ticks in weedy meadows, but also dog ticks this time of year. Both can hitch a ride into your garden on wild creatures, dogs, cats, or even you. Always check your skin for ticks after you've been gardening. Pluck them off and toss into a toilet before they bite. If you do get bit, see your doctor because they sometimes transmit serious diseases. Medium-strength DEET or strong natural repellents on skin or clothing keep ticks off. Ticks hate the smell of lemon, orange, cinnamon, lavender, peppermint, and rose geranium so they will avoid latching on to anything that smells of those items.

Chiggers – These infamous invisible mites have spread to the Bay Area. Moist vegetation, such as lawns or lush vegetable gardens are favorite hangouts. They are so small that they can crawl around on your skin for hours without feeling them. Clothing does not keep them away from your skin. Their bites leave intensely itchy or painful welts, usually around your ankles or mid-section that last for weeks. Spray a 24%+ DEET solution onto your ankles and socks, around your mid-section, and on any exposed skin areas while you garden in July and August. Shower immediately after you come inside from working in moist garden areas then change into your "indoor clothes".

Oak Itch Mites – If you live like me in or near an oak woodland, be careful to spray yourself with 24+% DEET solution while you are walking or working beneath these shady trees. Oak itch mites are invisible like chiggers and can drop by the hundreds at times from infested trees. Their biting habits are similar to chiggers, and bites are equally itchy or painful. But oak itch mites are not a problem unless oaks are near your garden.

Protect your produce and yourself from injury by taking these extra precautions this time of year. Use shade cloth on hot days. And I apply my "deep woods" DEET repellent whenever I head to work in my garden and always shower when I come indoors. Being a naked gardener does not mean you have to be covered in painful welts.

I welcome all comments and questions. Email me at NakedGardener@diablogazette.com. In some cases these may appear in future columns.



LIVE STRONG HEALTH EXPO

Free admission! All ages welcome!

Friday, 9/9/22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Concord Senior Center
2727 Parkside Circle, Concord, CA

Free Health Screenings
Blood Pressure - Glucose - Cholesterol - Bone Density

Demonstrations & Presentations

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- "Why CBD Supports Chronic Pain, Anxiety & Our Immune System"
- "Hoarding" and more!

Vendors Wanted!
To reserve your booth space visit concordreg.org:

Non-Profit Organization:
Activity #120578
For Profit Company:
Activity #119631

For more info: 925-671-3320 or email concordsc@cityofconcord.org



Gardens at Heather Farms to Celebrate its 50th Anniversary



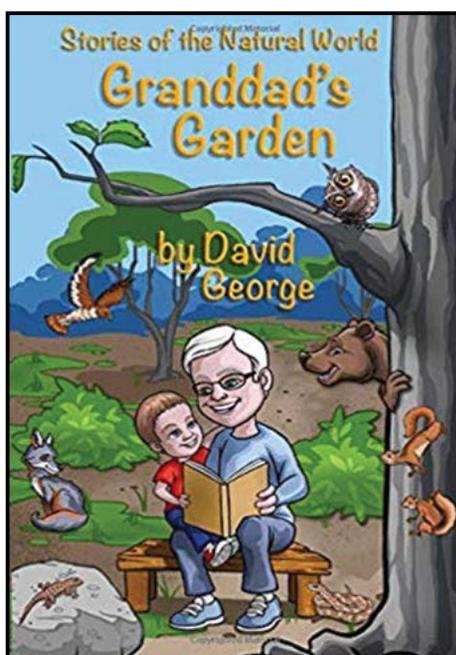
On August 20, 2022, from 5:00 pm-7:00pm, public is invited to Walnut Creek for a summer garden party to celebrate the Gardens at Heather Farms 50th anniversary.

Walk through The Gardens and enjoy vintage photos of the development of the garden, savor local wines, beer and delicious appetizers all in the summer vibe of steel drum music.

Established in 1972, The Gardens serves as a sanctuary in the heart of Walnut Creek. With over 6.5 acres of lush gardens and a renowned Rose Garden, The Gardens remains dedicated to remaining free and open to the public seven days a week.

The Gardens continues to focus on education, horticulture, and weddings while honoring its nonprofit mission.

The Garden is located at 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Advanced ticket (\$75) is required. Go to Gardenshf.org.



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CVCHS Ugly School Year Begins August 9

By Dave Fehte, Executive Director, Clayton Valley Charter High School

CVCHS is excited to welcome our new and returning students, teachers, and staff for the 2022-23 school year. The first day of instruction is August 9.

The Ugly Eagles are anticipating another exciting and promising school year as we return to campus from a fun and relaxing summer break. It is a great, positive environment when everyone is here at CVCHS and fortunate to be back in classrooms for a second, post-pandemic year.

CVCHS will be celebrating our 10th year anniversary as a public charter school. We plan to unveil numerous sponsored events and activities to commemorate our school's great history and highlight the amazing achievements of our past and present students. If you have any connection with CVCHS – either pre-charter or current – we want you to be involved. Stay tuned for more announcements.

As we begin a new school year, CVCHS is ready to welcome our students and support their enthusiasm to take on new challenges and aspirations. Our Week of Welcome prepares incoming ninth graders and new students for a positive and enriching first year as an Ugly Eagle.

CVCHS recognizes the importance of a successful high school transition and why it matters. Consider the national statistics where freshmen are the largest at-risk population in schools:

- Most of the students who drop out of high school fail at least 25% of their ninth-grade courses.
- More students struggle in ninth grade than any other grade as transition to a larger high school can be challenging.
- Low attendance during the first 30 days of the ninth-grade year is a strong indicator that a student will drop out.

That is why we offer a unique transition program providing a structure to connect upper class students to underclassmen called Link Crew. It includes effective training and the necessary support to make the relationship meaningful and allow new students to focus on school – rather than “wondering” if they are going to fit into their new academic environment.

Link Crew is a national youth organization that assists school staff to train Link Crew leaders who guide first-year students to discover what it takes to be successful at CVCHS. All Link Crew leaders at CVCHS must maintain a 3.0 GPA and sign a code of conduct to be a part of the program.

Link Crew's main goal is to address the fundamental needs of every student in order to understand the social, extracurricular, and academic climate of CVCHS. Over the four-day process, new students participate in a variety of academic and social orientation activities to promote student safety, a sense of wellness, better communication among peers, and more importantly, to encourage students to think about the path they will take during the next four years, and beyond.

CVCHS owes a special thanks to teacher Sarah Lovick, Link Crew student leaders



Link Crew leaders host new CVCHS students at Week of Welcome.

and our awesome school counselors for their tireless efforts hosting amazing activities at our Week of Welcome. It is a rewarding experience for our upper-class students who share advice and tips for a smooth and spirited opening to the school year. And our group of dedicated staff and volunteers provide the support and encouragement for all our new students to become proud Ugly Eagles.

Music and arts performances, extra-curricular programs, and athletic season.

CVCHS is fortunate to have an amazing group of committed student-performers who excel in their musical, theatrical and artistic talents. Thank you to our outstanding instructors – Kevin Cline, Chance Krause, Sunny Shergill, Elizabeth Emigh, Liz Abbott, Kelsey Power, Nick Hansen, Katie Nolan, Michael Bellew and Jennifer Moore – 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.

And finally, onto our Fall athletic teams. The Ugly Eagles football season begins August 26th when we host the Salinas High School Cowboys. I am excited to announce that Coach Tim Murphy is back leading our seasoned varsity team with Coach Nick Tisa running our masterful defensive schemes. CVCHS is poised to have another epic state championship run with an aggressive new look. But while the Ugly Eagles football has the highest profile of the Fall sports, Cross-Country, Volleyball, Tennis, Water Polo, and Golf are all in full swing (no pun intended). I encourage the Clayton/Concord community to join us and support all our Ugly Eagle student-athletes this year.



Ugly Eagles football season begins on August 26.



Neuroplasticity: Sometimes You Just Really Need a Hug

By Jessica Raam Foster, NeurologyofPresence.com

Humans are social creatures and (consensual) physical contact is extremely important to our well-being.

For anyone that has experienced increased isolation over the last two years, you know that it can take its toll on your health. There is obviously a psycho-emotional aspect to this, but there is also a physical one.

Physical contact is an extremely important input for the brain. The novelty of being touched by someone else helps our brain understand our own physical form - it clarifies the internal maps of our own body and its relationship to the world. In neurology, we call this ability to feel oneself “INTEROCEPTION.”

You know that “gut feeling” you get sometimes? That is a great example of your interoceptive system at work. The VAGUS NERVE is the main communication channel for the interoceptive system; it literally connects your guts to your brain. This is useful information because it gives us an insight into how to actually improve the interoceptive system.

Improving interoception can not only improve movement, balance, and strength, but it can also improve gut function, breathing patterns, and immunity. On top of all of this, it can help decrease anxiety and stress.

So how do we do it?

Think about what physically feels good about a hug... warmth and pressure on your torso.

If you are: feeling run down, have chronic pain, have digestive issues,



suffering from motion sickness, or finding yourself in a period of physical isolation, you may want to try one of the following suggestions.

Heating Pad on Your Stomach

Weighted Blanket

Neoprene Waist Trainer (it's sold as a weight loss device.. but maybe it has less to do with sweat.. and more to do with gut function. A future newsletter perhaps.)

Core Work, such as Pilates

Pelvic Floor Exercises

Breathing Exercises

Singing

Vision and Vestibular (aka Balance Training - that's a more complicated conversation but deserves a mention!)

All of that said, if you do have an available snuggle buddy; know that cuddling, hugging, massages, or whatever feels good to you can improve just about everything!



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Pricing Moves the Market

With Interest rates at about 5.5% and rising, will there be any buyers who want to buy? Will this change pricing? Will your home sell? What things give you a better opportunity for a quicker sale?

Ultimately, when a real estate agent is determining how to price your home for sale, they are factoring in three things: what are the current market conditions; how does your listing compare to others in the area (condition, amenities); how long they anticipate the property to sell based on the previous two factors.

Pricing is your best negotiation tool. What your neighbor sold for may no longer be market value for your home. Pricing strategy may mean you price at or under today's market, to obtain the best offer more quickly. You can depend on your Realtor® to give you the market data that will help you decide what your start price should be. Given what you paid for the home and what appreciation you have seen in the past few years, most homes are up 20-40% over what you paid for them. Don't look back, look forward.

Buyers still buying?! They are buying because they would like to lock in the interest rates before they go higher still. They are buying because their dream of home ownership is still possible in most cases. They buy because they are tired of renting and rents are skyrocketing. Even at these interest rates, they want to put their money into their equity vs, the landlords equity.

So, selling may be different, but not impossible, and a good pricing and marketing strategy is more important than ever. Here are four pricing strategies that are proven to help.

Set your price low to set yourself apart from the crowd. A buyer's market

is where the supply of homes outnumbers the number of buyers looking for homes. If it is too low, you will get the price bid up by multiple buyers. If it is not, you will know what the market value is based on your offer. Defined, market value is what a willing buyer will pay.

Choose a time sensitive price. What is the slow season, is school about to start or end, is it rainy season when fewer folks are out and about? The difference between peak and downtime is sometimes as much as 5-20%. Price to sell quickly so that you do not miss the season.

Set your price to maximize online views. Over half of buyers found their future home online. Capture more buyers with this simple strategy. Online real estate sites typically set their prices in ranges of \$25,000 or \$50,000 increments. For example, if you price your home at \$805,000 you miss the opportunity to have the \$700,000 to 800,000 buyers find your home. Price at \$800,000 and you capture the buyers above and below that price. You need maximum exposure and one good buyer. Increase your chances by pricing with the round numbers in strategic increments.

Make sure your price accommodates for your condition, location and amenities. You can not change your location, you can improve your amenities and condition. This involves a consultation with a certified staging professional who is trained to give you value added improvements or ideas for increasing value. A proper home staging can increase perception of value for the buyer, improve the flow of the home, and add function and flexibility to that floor plan. Don't skip this important step.




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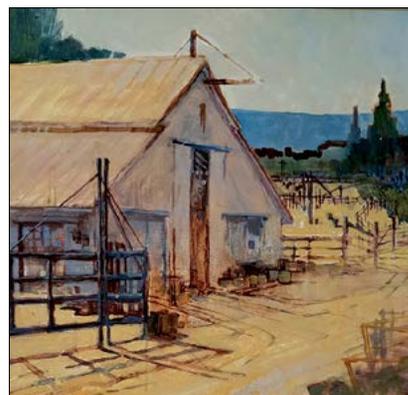
Our current show at the aRt Cottage celebrates rates the outdoors with art from the Contra Costa Plein Air Group. It continues through August 26.

There are many local scenes on display ranging from Contra Loma trail, many of Mount Diablo paintings, of the Bay Point shoreline, Spring at St Mary's, to Bancroft Gardens.

aRt Cottage is not only about the gallery and the paintings on display. It is also featuring many artists in our tiny house gift shop with arts and craft items ranging in price from \$5 to \$100. You will be surprised at the darling and unique gifts created by our local artists.

Let art Cottage help you explore your own creativity. Discover the artist in you through our classes tailored for both adults and children. aRt Cottage is open Wed- Sat 11-5. Call 925 956-3342 for class information.

Photos: Below Plein air art, "Hagemann Ranch Rhythms" by Nancy Roberts; Top Right, Inti and Amira enjoying mother/daughter art class Gift shop items: Crocheted summer hats, assorted birds, felted owls, fabric picnic napkins, and painted rocks.



Youth Basketball League Launched

Concord's Parks & Recreation Department is excited to announce a new youth basketball league that begins in August.

Participants will learn the fundamentals of basketball, have fun with a team sport, and make new friends at Stealth Sports Center Concord. Divisions are designed for youth ages 5-8, 8-11, and 11-14.

Games last approximately one hour and are held every Saturday for seven weeks. Fees include a jersey, six games, and guaranteed playoffs. Players must attend skill observation on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. to noon. Games will begin on Sept. 10.



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Want to have some fun? Come sing with the Diablo Women's Chorale! Our Fall season starts on August 15, and we'll hold auditions by appointment that evening between 6 and 9 P.M. We encourage any woman with a love of music and spirited company to audition. Choral Experience and music-reading ability are a plus, but not required. Contact Nancy Hickman, Membership Chair, at 925-899-5050 or hickmandg@gmail.com

www.DiabloWomensChorale.org/join-us

Views of the Valley Photos by Micah



Concord's July 4 celebration starts off with the annual Rotary Pancake Breakfast at Todos Santos Park.



Todd Rex, from Concord, now a Hollywood stuntman, practicing his bull whip at New Hall Park. Rex was inspired



with whips at the age of 12 after watching "Indian Jones." He's practiced one hour a day, every day, for the last 11 years which has him now working in movies. He has worked with Jason Momoa in "See" and also worked on "The Underground Railroad." You may also have seen him on an episode of the "Late, Late Show" with James Corden.

Grand Opening event of Pleasant Hill's long-awaited new library at 2 Monticello Avenue. July 30.



Monument Crisis Center's Back-to-School event offered free backpacks and haircuts on July 30 in Concord.



Large fan turnout for Contra Costa Con 4 at the Hilton Concord on July 17.

Why Age 7 is the Right Time to See an Orthodontist...

By the age of 7, the first adult molars erupt, establishing the back bite. During this time, an orthodontist can evaluate front-to-back and side-to-side tooth relationships. For example, the presence of erupting incisors can indicate possible overbite, open bite, crowding or gummy smiles. Timely screening increases the chances for an incredible smile.

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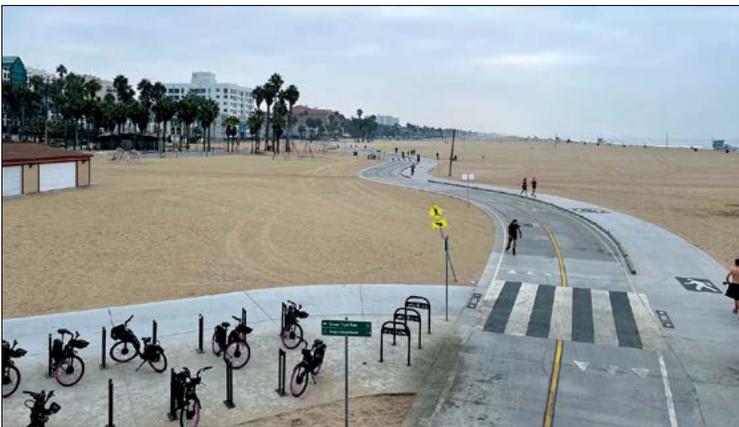
JOURNEY-MAN'S JOURNAL

by Fran Cain

The Lesser Known Spectacular Sights of Santa Monica and Los Angeles

I used to hesitate to travel to L.A., all that traffic and driving through the Grapevine, but the discoveries I have made there make it worth the effort. I took a recent trip to Santa Monica and Los Angeles with my husband. We hit up the Getty Museum, The Getty Villa, The Petersen Automotive Museum, and the new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. I found each of these to be wonderful places to visit, and only about five hours from the Bay Area, if timed right.

A charming place to stay, the Channel Road Inn in Santa Monica, was a perfect jumping off point for my excursions. With the beach less than five minutes from the front door, my husband and I took early morning strolls on the biking/walking trail known as The Strand.



They say nobody walks in L.A., but they do in Santa Monica. In fact, the beach isn't the only place to get a good workout. We used the steep Santa Monica staircase (also used by firefighters in keeping fit) to climb out of the Santa Monica Canyon and meandered to Palisades Park. When we returned famished, the delightful innkeeper, Dominique, cooked up a five-star breakfast.

GETTY VILLA MUSEUM



For our first excursion, we headed about 10 minutes north on the Pacific Coast Highway to the Getty Villa where I felt transported to another time and place. This fabulous world-class museum was originally built by J. Paul Getty adjacent to his home to display his personal art collection to friends and family.

The building and gardens, inspired by the luxurious Villa of Papyri at Herculaneum, covered by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, were reason enough to visit. The central garden of Mediterranean plants and replicas of Greek and Roman statuary surrounds a 220-foot-long shimmering blue pool.

No small museum, the Getty Villa's art collection consists of Greek, Roman and Etruscan pieces exhibited in 48,000 square feet of galleries. Built on a hillside, the views are beautiful. The property is handicapped accessible but has many sets of yet more stairways inside and out to explore. Entrance to the Getty museums is free. However, parking is \$20/day.

GETTY CENTER

Unlike the romantic Getty Villa, The Getty Center feels like an ultra-modern collection of buildings housing an art museum and educational and research facilities. A quick tram ride up the hill from the parking garage dropped us at the main grounds.

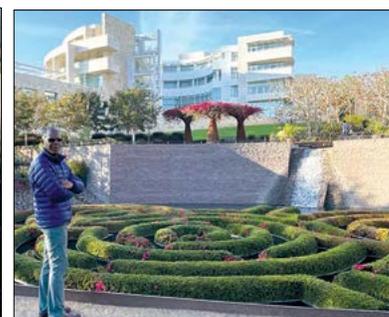
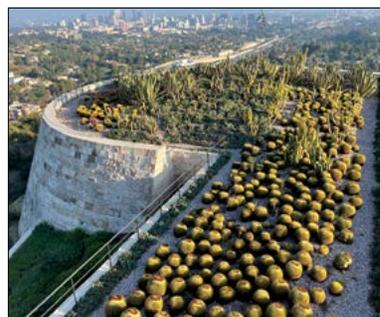
I loved the huge plazas with fountains, walkways, and stairs everywhere that give a feeling of vast, Romanesque spaciousness. Everything is composed of white travertine stone imported from a quarry in Tivoli, Italy. Over a million tons of it. Each block of stone is cut to matching sizes giving the entire compound a geometrically unified appearance.

At the south museum pavilion, I walked through a giant cactus garden framed by city views. At the always-changing central garden, rolling green lawns and a stream led to a waterfall which fed a floating azalea garden shaped like a labyrinth.

These spectacular gardens provided us with plenty of places to

rest in between viewing the galleries of artwork starting with pre-1300's European artworks, and early-to-present American art. The collection is enormous.

I felt sure I would be dining with celebrities at the Getty Center Restaurant — alas none I could recognize. But wraparound views of the Santa Monica mountains add to the simple but elegant ambiance and menu.



Getty Center Cactus Garden and Getty Center Central Garden

Petersen Automotive Museum

After so much art, the Petersen Automotive Museum on Wilshire Boulevard was altogether different.

Everything I could imagine, from antiques to concept cars, is there on four floors. The very first mass produced electric car, the 1996 General Motors EV1 with a range of 100 miles and top speed of 80 mph is there. An exhibit dedicated to the 90 Years of Pininfarina displays, a breathtaking collection of luxury car designs in mind-blowing colors.

Another exhibit features exotic hypercars with price tags over \$1 million. A collection of movie cars including the 1989 Batmobile, the 1981 DeLorean DMC Time Machine from "Back to the Future", and the "Ghostbusters" ambulance, plus planes, boats, motorcycles and even a submarine or two were on display.

My favorite was the Bond in Motion Exhibit running until October 30th. These are the original vehicles used in the 007 movies. Some are bashed and smashed. Monitors mounted behind the vehicles show clips from the scenes where the cars appeared in the movies.



TOP LEFT: 1996 GM EV1 Electric Vehicle. LOWER LEFT: 007 James Bond Car ABOVE: 90 Years of Pininfarina Design exhibit: 2019 Automobili Pininfarina "Battista," an early design model of the luxury hypercar.

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES

By now, it might sound like I'd had enough of museums. But who could resist seeing the actual ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland as Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz", or the extraterrestrial from the movie "Alien", or C-3PO and R2-D2 from "Star Wars", or study up close the uniform of Okoye from "Black Panther"? These are just the tip of the iceberg.

Millions of items are on display at the recently opened Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, just across the street from the Petersen Automotive Museum.

There are special exhibits such as tributes to Spike Lee and Judy Garland, darkened galleries to wander through and watch ongoing film clips, and getting up close and personal with the objects, creatures and costumes of movie lore.

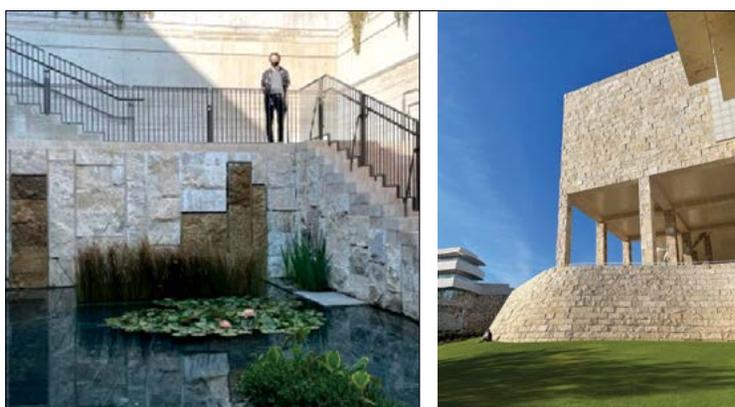
A gallery honoring the animation filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki is an impressive collection of video, storyboards, and amazing artwork.

A room dedicated to the Oscars displays many of the glamorous-to-outlandish outfits worn by the honorees over the years. I stood a foot from Cher's wild and iconic Bob Mackie-designed feather headdress and barely-there sequin "gown" worn for the 1986 Academy Awards ceremony. That is as close as I could ever hope to get to one of my all-time favorite performers.

Where did the weekend go? There was so much more to see. I had so much fun, I can't wait to go back.



Photos by Fran Cain. Left, Getty Villa Pond. RIGHT: Getty Center Lawn. ABOVE TOP: Infamous Ruby Slippers for "Wizard of Oz". "BELOW: "ALIEN".



BUSINESS UNUSUAL:



Engage Customers With Community Connection

By Sheri Nelson, The Local Shop

Your customer has many choices when purchasing from you or others in your industry. Always look for ways to stand out so your business can always be top of mind.

A wonderful way to do this is by connecting with community.

Partnering with a cause that is personal to you allows your customers to know more about you and what you value. They will engage with your business more often knowing they are also contributing to others.

This kind of connection has always been available to local businesses but with social media and websites, your business can now offer so much more.

Instead of simply donating or volunteering, use your website and social media to invite your customers to add their support, credit your team for their help or highlight more about the non-profit and what they do. Share why you champion this cause or group.

Here are some common ways to connect with community:

Promote the local school or after-school program. Host special events on game days or during finals. Students, teachers, and parents will all appreciate your support.

Have the local animal shelter host an adoption day or clinic at your location. Animals are appealing to virtually everyone. Social media posts with animals receive some of the biggest engagement numbers.

Organize volunteer days at the Food

Bank, park clean-ups, and city events with your staff.

Invite customers to participate with your team. There is no better way to create a more significant link between your business and your customer.

Highlight a customer or staffer who volunteers regularly on your social media or website.

Let patrons know with in-store signage and on social media that you will be donating once a month to a different non-profit (501c3) and ask them for their suggestions.

Tell customers on social media and your website how you donate leftover products to shelters or senior homes.

Use your social media and in-store signage to support local community events by giving details and tagging them.

Be sure to tell others what you are doing. In this age of social media, it is more important to share your work and bring a bigger awareness to the cause.

Capture photos of everything: your staff at volunteer events, campaigns running at your store, or products that you are donating.

Post these pictures on social media or website. Always include your customers in any credit for their support.

Sheri Nelson is a passionate marketer helping local businesses. She spent 27 years in Bay Area radio before starting The Local Shop. Follow her on Instagram for more tips at the_local_shop_bay_area or email her your questions at sheri@welcometotheshop.com.

Where have all the students Gone?

By Thomas Peele – EdSource



California's K-12 enrollment decline of more than 270,000 students since the pandemic began is largely attributable to people leaving the state, not enrolling children in transitional kindergarten or kindergarten, or deciding to home-school their children but failing to file the paperwork to account for them, the head of the state's largest school district and other experts said Sunday.

Across California, the number of students enrolled in the public school system dropped below 6 million this year for the first time in two decades. As districts navigated the sudden shift to virtual learning amid the pandemic, declines steepened as many families

considered alternatives to the public school system or chose to delay enrollment for their youngest learners.

The enrollment declines, both in California and nationally, are going to lead to fiscal impacts and school closures in the years ahead, said Daniel Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators.

Perhaps the biggest problem in figuring out the decline student by student is the lag in parents letting the district officially know they have decided to home-school their children by filing an affidavit with school officials.

State Board of Education Denies Petition to Create a New Northgate Area School District

The State Board of Education has unanimously voted to deny a petition to create a new unified school district in the Northgate area of Walnut Creek.

"Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) leaders, staff, parents and community members are 'thrilled,'" said MDUSD Board Member Cherise Khaund. The State Board found that the petition failed to meet required legal criteria, there was no compelling reason to create a new district, and there were compelling reasons not to approve it.

During the MDUSD's presentation to the State Board, Khaund stressed that many exemplary programs in the district would have been split into two districts if the petition had been approved.

Such a split would have created a less diverse and more affluent Northgate Unified District and a Mt. Diablo Unified District with a greater percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged and minority students in the remaining cities of Concord, Pleasant Hill, Clayton, Pacheco and parts of Lafayette, Martinez and Pittsburg and unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County including Bay Point.

Twenty-six parents, staff members, union representatives, teachers, MDUSD Board Members, a County Supervisor, community members, a former student, and Concord City Council members called into the State Board meeting in support of MDUSD and in opposition to the petition. There were no callers in support of the

petition.

State Board members voted 10-0 to deny the petition, saying they were impressed by the public comments and did not hear any compelling arguments in favor of creating a new Northgate district. Instead, they said all students deserve the kind of education the petitioners were trying to carve out for their students.

"I personally found the public comment quite thunderous," said State Board Member Kim Pattillo Brownson, noting that the Board heard from people whose lives and whose children's lives would be impacted. "What I didn't really hear was anything terribly specific as to what was not working." She said the proposal would have created an isolated and less diverse smaller district and a larger district that would isolate "majority minority students and majority minority schools on the other side of that divide."

After the hearing, Khaund said there are many ways that students, parents, teachers, staff and community members can get more involved in the District, such as by joining a parent or student advisory committee, joining a school site council, or volunteering for the nonprofit Mt. Diablo Education Foundation.

Local Chambers Hire New President/CEOs



Melissa Rea

The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce is happy to announce the promotion of Melissa Rea as the new President/CEO as of July 1, 2022. Rea started with the Concord Chamber in August 2014 as the Membership Coordinator as her first job out of college and has since worked at the chamber as the Events and Marketing Manager, Director of Operations and Marketing, and now as President/CEO.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration of Marketing from Sacramento State in 2013.

Rea served a Marketing Internship at Sunvalley Shopping Center and at Make-A-Wish Northeastern California and Northern Nevada as the Communications and Outreach Intern.

She also worked with Visit Concord assisting the Executive Director with promotional efforts, and continues to collaborate with them to bring travelers, leisure, and business, into Concord.

Rea believes in giving back to the community and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Kiwanis Club of Concord.

Her goal is to establish the Concord Chamber as the premier chamber in the Bay Area and promote Concord as a desirable city to conduct one's business.



Lisa Bonnington

The Martinez Chamber CEO Search Committee hired Lisa Bonnington as the new President/CEO in May. Bonnington is an accomplished and respected professional in Contra Costa County for over three decades. She brings an extensive background in marketing, public relations, and tourism, as well as local chamber experience and first-hand knowledge as a business owner to the position.

Outgoing President/CEO, Julie Johnston, stepped down after serving seven years as she and her family relocates out of state.

Chair of the Board Adam Hoffert said, "We are confident that Lisa will represent our business community with compassion and professionalism. Her experience not only makes her well-positioned to lead our chamber but also compliment the economic initiatives our city has been focusing on."

Step Back in Time and Visit Nobel and Pulitzer-Prize Winner Eugene O'Neill's Danville Tao House

By Jill Hedgecock

Back in the early 20th Century, playwright Eugene O'Neill's name was as recognizable to the public as film director Stephen Spielberg's is today. O'Neill's genius in bringing realism into the theater was unparalleled in the 1930s and well after his death in 1953. Over the course of his lifetime, he was honored with four Pulitzer Prizes, an accomplishment he shares with only a few fellow authors, including poet Robert Frost. Eugene O'Neill is also the only U.S. playwright ever to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, the highest international award.

Between 1937 to 1944, O'Neill lived and wrote in a secluded home in the bucolic hills of Danville with his third wife, the former actress Carlotta (Monterey) O'Neill. While living in Danville's Tao (pronounced "dow") House, O'Neill produced three works that are considered his greatest achievements, including O'Neill's autobiographical and most well-known play, "Long Day's Journey into Night". Carlotta and Eugene did not have children together, but both had children from earlier marriages. One of Eugene's daughters (Oona O'Neill) married Charlie Chaplin.

The house and a portion of the property that O'Neill purchased with his Noble Prize money has been designated as a National Historic Site which is open to the public for free tours. Access to the property is provided by the National Park Service (NPS) which operates a shuttle through a narrow, gated road to the two-story, three-bedroom house and the grounds.

NPS tour guides provide a general overview of O'Neill's life and the property, and provide brochures for the self-guided tour of the house. A small gift shop is operated at the rear of the house. Private vehicles are not permitted to drive to the property, but the effort to make a reservation on the shuttle is well worth the effort.

It is fortunate that this historically significant Bay Area treasure still exists. Without the hard work of dedicated volunteers, political leaders, and East Bay Regional Park staff who banded together to prevent the house and a portion of the O'Neill property from being bulldozed for development, including the house, old barn and their beloved Dalmatian's gravesite would not have been preserved.

In 1974, a group of O'Neill supporters organized the nonprofit Eugene O'Neill Foundation. Its purpose was to buy the Tao House and historic grounds and use



the site as a center for performing arts and study.

Shortly after the property was purchased, actress Katharine Hepburn, initiated the idea of opening the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site to artists after the late Travis Bogard, professor emeritus of Dramatic Arts at UC Berkeley and The Eugene O'Neill Foundation's first artistic director, invited Katharine Hepburn to visit the newly acquired Eugene O'Neill property.

In 1962, Hepburn had played the part of Mary Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical play, "Long Day's Journey into Night" and had become an honorary Board Member to the Foundation.

"After the Foundation acquired Tao House," said Linda Best, a Eugene O'Neill Foundation Board Member, "Travis Bogard asked Katharine what the Foundation should do with the site. Hepburn said that you should open the place to artists so they can experience the ambience that inspired Eugene O'Neill."

However, people don't have to be artists to appreciate the serenity of the site. The architecture and furnishings of the house and grounds was inspired by Daoism, a philosophical and religious belief that emphasizes existing in harmony with nature. If tourists take a moment to observe their surroundings, they might hear the lowing of cattle, raucous calls of acorn woodpeckers, or the shriek of a red-tailed hawk.



In the courtyard, evidence of the O'Neill's love of gardening remains. Many of the types of plants that they would have nurtured are on display.

The entrance door to the house is red, a color Daoism believes helps ward off evil spirits. It's clear O'Neill found inspiration from his Danville home when writing his play, "More Stately Mansions", when he describes a garden courtyard and red door similar to those found at Tao House.

The Asian influence seeps into the interior design of the house with guardian lions, or foo dogs, decorating the base of the staircase. These mythical creatures represent prosperity, success, and guardianship.

To the right is a living room and a music room sits at the base of the stairs. Upstairs,

Carlotta and Eugene had separate bedrooms. As you walk through their sleeping areas, the low rumble of O'Neill's voice draws you to his study. Here, his staccato voice reads a portion of his play, "A Long Day's Journey into Night." The two desks created an environment where he could work on multiple projects simultaneously.

A brick red colors the ceiling of O'Neill's study. His love of the sea is evident in this room where several model ships are on display, as well as the color scheme in his bedroom of blue and white. He referred to the house as his "safe harbor." Examples of his handwriting show how debilitating his cerebellar atrophy condition was to his writing. It was Carlotta who would transcribe his work into a readable form. To imagine his struggles to produce his plays is to experience the courage of the human spirit.

It seems appropriate that a time capsule has been placed on the property. While touring the main Tao House, it seemed like time had frozen and I could envision the life that Carlotta and Eugene shared. Visitors can find the capsule marker near the picnic area outside the gift shop where the tour concludes. When the time capsule is opened over sixty years from now in 2088, onlookers will be treated to newspaper clippings, play programs, and assorted photographs.

I was deeply humbled when I was accepted into Travis Bogard Fellowship Program at the Tao House earlier this year.

The Day Use program allowed me to have exclusive use of the Trunk House (named as such because it housed Carlotta's Louis Vuitton luggage) in the courtyard of Tao House.

Besides taking the public tour, I spent two weeks immersed in writing on the property where I experienced firsthand how magic happens when an artist is offered a quiet environment, free from the distractions of everyday life.

On the last day of my fellowship, it was bittersweet walking along the narrow path bookended with concrete engraved with the names of his famous plays, past the whitewashed old barn where, even today, performances of his life's work are brought to life, past the brick bench under an old oak tree where Eugene would sometimes sit, past the sign marking the location where his pet chickens lived—many named after prize fighters—until I reached the edge of the parking lot.

I lingered at the sign spelling out their beloved Dalmatian's Last Will and Testament. Taking one last look at the dog's gravesite before I hefted my backpack higher on my shoulder. Filled



Brick bench where O'Neill often sat after a long day of writing. The old barn is now used for theater performances (right)

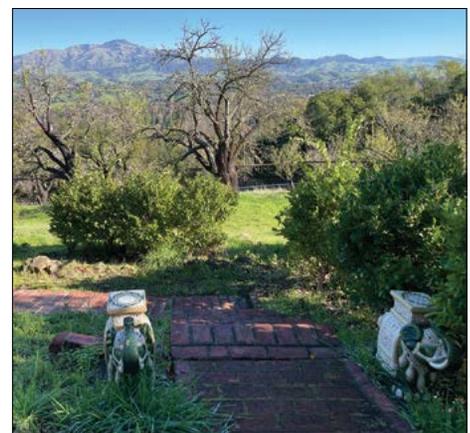
with two weeks of productive writing, the bag seemed somehow heavier. I think Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill would be pleased that their home continues to provide a safe harbor for visitors, and an inspiring place for artists to pursue their craft.

Free tours of Eugene O'Neill's Tao House are offered Wednesday to Friday and Sunday at 10 AM and 2 PM with advanced reservations, except on major holidays. Call 925-228-8860 ext 6422. Self-guided tours are offered on Saturdays without reservations with shuttle pickups at 10:15 AM, 12:15 PM or 2:15 PM. Allow 2 1/2 hours for the visit.

Jill Hedgecock is an award-winning and internationally published author. Her books include "Rhino in the Room," "Between Shadow's Eyes" and "From Shadow's Perspective."



Eugene O'Neill's study



View of Mt. Diablo From the back of the house.



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