

The Diablo Gazette

Arts, Entertainment and All That's Good in Our Communities
Concord, Clayton, Walnut Creek, Martinez, Pleasant Hill
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The Amazing Global Dentist from Concord

Dr. Reza Khazaie, from Concord, has given his time to projects in eight countries for fifteen years and usually travels on three missions annually with all expenses coming out of his own pocket. p.4

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Artificial Intelligence (AI)



What exactly is Artificial Intelligence (AI) anyway, and why should we care or be concerned about robots taking over the world? The short answer, AI is a computer algorithm. That begs an answer to what is an algorithm? "Lucy, you got some splainin' to do." (I love Lucy- circa 1950)

Let's start with the basics and the answers will make one think about the effect they will have on them. A computer runs on two things. First, is the hardware or the physical stuff like a chassis (case), power supply, motherboard, memory, and the central processor (CPU).

The second is software or a string of commands that compose the program. That program tells the hardware what to do. So, an algorithm is a program telling a machine what to do and think.

According to Bing, "Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions. The term may also be applied to any machine that exhibits traits associated with a human mind such as learning and problem-solving." Bing said that? Who is Bing?

Bing uses AI that is programmed (trained) to "chat" with you. We call it a chatbot, short for talking robot. It calls itself "Bing." I tried calling it Mr. Roboto (Styx - circa 2017) but it corrected me. "Domo arigato misuta Robotto."

What is a chatbot one may ask? Well, it calls itself Bing. To find out what a chatbot is, we asked a chatbot what it was. According to the Bing chatbot, "A chatbot is a computer program that uses artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing (NLP) to understand customer questions and automate responses to them, simulating human conversation. Chatbots can help businesses provide faster and better service to their customers." Oh, I see. So, the chatbot named Bing is a search engine that has AI and an algorithm controlling its responses.

Will Smith's character, Del Spooner, in the 2004 movie I, Robot said, "Human beings have dreams. [sic] Even dogs have dreams, but not you,

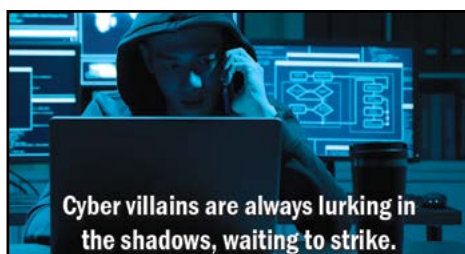
you are just a machine. An imitation of life. Can a robot write a symphony? Can a robot turn a canvas into a beautiful masterpiece?"

I decided to put that line to a test and requested a joke about a chatbot going into a bar. See what you think.

"A chatbot walks into a bar and says to the bartender: "Hello, I would like to order a drink." The bartender says: "Sure, what kind of drink do you want?" The chatbot says: "I don't know. Can you please give me some suggestions?" The bartender says: "Well, we have beer, wine, whiskey, vodka, gin..." The chatbot interrupts him and says: "Sorry, I don't understand. Can you please repeat that?" The bartender repeats the list of drinks. The chatbot says: "Sorry, I still don't understand. Can you please speak more clearly?" The bartender gets annoyed and shouts: "Look, buddy, if you don't know what you want to drink, then get out of here!" The chatbot says: "Okay. Thank you for your help. Have a nice day." And walks out of the bar."

What would you ask Bing? Give it a try, search for "Bing chatbot" and have some fun.

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World Doll Show Comes to Concord September 23

Maybe you have seen the "Barbie" movie, who hasn't? But have you ever seen a vintage #1 Barbie? You will on September 23 at the World Doll Day Show coming to the Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glen Dr.

Show Promoter, Mary Senko, received a Bubble-cut Barbie Doll when she was seven, and has been collecting dolls ever since. That Barbie was her favorite, and now she is sharing her love of dolls, toys, bears, and miniatures, by promoting World Doll Day Shows and Sales to encourage others to join the fun.

What about the #1 Barbie? The Directors of the Grovian Doll Museum from Pacific Grove, Calif, Michael Canadas and David Robinson, have generously agreed to be on hand at the Concord Doll Show and Sale and will display their original 1959 hand-painted #1 Barbie at the event. There were only 150 of these rare Barbies made, and she is a part of the exquisite museum collection found at The Grovian Doll Museum and The Carmel Doll Shop.

"World Doll Day Shows offer a fun, all-inclusive shopping experience." Says Senko. "Our shows give attendees



a chance to see fabulous and rare dolls and toys, ask questions, meet up with other collectors, and take home treasures from top-rated vendors in the area."

Shoppers will be treated to over 45 vendors with a mix of Barbie, collectible, vintage, modern, artist, and antique dolls, bears, toys, and miniatures. Two repair specialists will be available to offer options for dolls that need some extra love or repair.

You will have chances to win dolls, bears, and other door prizes. Show hours are: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$10, and Children 12 and under are free.

World Doll Day was created in 1986 to encourage the doll-collecting hobby and to promote "the fascinating world of doll artistry and doll and toy collecting" by

the founder of Seeley Dolls, Mildred Seeley (1918-2001). "I was so impressed with Mildred Seeley's entrepreneurship and creativity. She named her events, "World Doll Day Shows" to promote every day a day to enjoy dolls. "If you love dolls, you are certain to love this event."

You can find more information about upcoming shows on Senko's website at: worlddolldayshows.com or follow: <https://www.facebook.com/WDDShowsEvents/>.

Photos courtesy of Carmel Doll Shop and Barbra Photography



Apple Season is Upon Us

by Deb Morris, PACIFIC COAST FARMERS' MARKET ASSOCIATION

We can start getting excited about the tempting aroma of baked apples or apple pie. There are far many more varieties of apples to choose from at your farmers' market.

Many farmers are returning to growing traditional heirloom varieties that have better flavor than the hybrids we are used to. The Gravenstein, Arkansas Black, and Pink Lady are just a few of the old varieties. You can still enjoy Fuji, Gala, Crimson Gala, Pippin, Franny Smith, Honey Crisp, and Pink Lady varieties of apples now.

There are apples that are best for baking, apples that are best for applesauce, and many that are best for eating out of hand.

Recipe - Apple Butter

Have you ever made your own Apple Butter? Try this Easy Slow Cooker recipe.

6 pounds apples such as Pink Lady or

Braeburn
2 cups white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
4 tablespoons maple syrup
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar

Core and peel apples. Fill large slow cooker with apples. Pour in remaining ingredients. Cook on high for one hour; stir.

Cook on low for about nine to 10 hours or overnight until the apples are soft. Remove the lid, stir, then cook on high for one hour to allow for thickening to desired consistency. Using an immersion blender, blend until smooth.

While the mixture is still hot, fill sterilized jars, then add lids and rings; refrigerate for up to two weeks or can in a water bath canner. Process for 20 Minutes.

Mary Senko Presents
World Doll Day Shows & Sales
Concord

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Not Your Ordinary Dentist

Dr. Reza Khazaie is simply an amazing character. While his Willow Pass Dental Care office, on Willow Pass Road in Concord, bustles with patients, the walls indicate that this is no ordinary dentist's office. The walls are covered with extraordinary photos of the many missions Dr. Khazaie has served. There is also a TV with a rolling screen of his missions' activities.

There is so much more to this complex and interesting man than dental services. After completing his military service in Iran and graduating from dental school in 1979, Reza finally arrived in the USA. His father, a general in the Iranian military was also a doctor and trained at Walter Reed Medical Center in Maryland. After achieving his US license, Khazaie knew that he wanted to do more than general dentistry and trained at USC Los Angeles as a prosthodontist and surrounded himself with dental specialists and a staff of twenty employees.

His passions and interests are many. From a very early age, he learned to ride horses, and today owns and trains show horses.

As a master scuba diver, he has traveled all over the world seeking out exotic and unusual dive sites. Still an avid mountaineer, he has climbed many of the world's biggest peaks including Aconcagua in Argentina (alt. 22,000 feet). In October, he will travel to Nepal to practice high-altitude climbing in preparation for an ascent to Mount Everest next year.

Outside of these extraordinary



adventures, Dr. Khazaie's real passion is to care for children. He is a volunteer member of KIDS International Volunteer Dentists organization. Its fundamental mission is to provide pro-bono dental care to impoverished children in developing countries such as Guatemala, Philippines, South Africa, Morocco, Cape Verde, Mongolia, Haiti, and Cambodia.

He has given his time to projects in these eight countries for fifteen years and usually travels on three missions annually with all expenses coming out of his own pocket. The team takes with them all necessary equipment and supplies, including generators, much of it donated by the dentists themselves. In an average two to three-week mission, often working out of rudimentary and makeshift facilities, the team will treat up to 2,000 children.

Currently, he is working with a team in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco,

where phosphate mines, an essential export commodity for the country, are ruining the teeth, especially of children. Most of the local traditional wells are the only source of water for the surrounding villages. These wells are contaminated by the runoff and seepage from the mines. As a result, phosphate makes the children's teeth turn black and soft.

The only permanent cure is prevention, either by using filtered and or an alternative source of uncontaminated water. Working with the High Atlas Foundation, KIDS International Mission here is looking for partners who can help with finding a solution. Knowing that the Rotary Club of Concord has initiated clean water projects in many countries, Dr. Khazaie is reaching out to them in hopes that they might be able to help

and become a partner. Clearly, this is not your typical dentist's work. He says he will be going back there again next year on another mission.

It is amazing who our neighbors are, and Dr. Reza Khazaie works just down the road!



8th annual City of Concord Recreation Services

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Thursday October 5, 2023
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Thank you to our sponsors for supporting this event!

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Follow this Advice to Successfully Close in a Crazy Housing Market

The housing market is crazy. With a shortage of homes on the market, how can we ever buy (or should I say win the home)? Here are a few suggestions for buyers and sellers to follow to assist in your success.

Buyers, look for downpayment options. While saving for a 20% down payment, which could take months, a year or more, you could instead purchase one today with as little as a 3.5% down payment.

Approximately 60% of home buyers put down less than 6% of their home purchase. Look into grants, which do not have to be paid back, for first-time buyers and some incentive type loans. Explore those options with a reputable California lender.

Be flexible with your dream. Consider homes that do not match everything on your list. What about purchasing your "8"? With a few adjustments, you can make it your "10". Compromise is the name of the game.

Don't sweat the small stuff. It is easy to get fixated on the small number, but it is not worth losing the home over a few thousand dollars that could add only a few dollars to the monthly mortgage payment. Often, buyers are unpleasantly surprised when waiting for the next similar home to come on the market they find it priced a few thousand dollars more than the one they passed up. Do not be pennywise and pound foolish. You cannot earn any equity if you don't own the home. Go for it.

Get a Realtor to represent and guide you. They know the market and they advocate for you. The technique of having the listing agent write the offer does not give you the advantage. How can the Realtor honestly advocate for both buyer and seller? Someone is going to lose, and their seller is their former client. In some states, it is not even allowed.

What can a seller do to get more money or a faster sale? Consider this.

There is a neighborhood with two homes, same floor plan, priced \$100,000 apart. What is the difference? A home

prepared with staging, attention to details, and presentation will command a better price than one perceived that something might be wrong with the home.

Mind the visuals. Staging is marketing.

Staging and professional photography are valuable marketing services that attract buyers.

Fix flooring flaws. Most buyers in today's market are from double income households. They have no time nor talent for fix-up projects, so a credit to cover the cost may not be the appropriate concession to close the sale. They do not want the hassle of replacing carpet, refinishing wood flooring, or installing laminate flooring. They want it already done.

Investigate and repair all water-stained areas on floors, walls and ceilings. A stain just makes buyers worry there is unseen damage or other problems. Even if you have repaired the issue, do not stop short of cosmetic repair.

Touch up grout and caulking. This is an inexpensive improvement compared to the return you will realize on a fresher looking tub, counter, bathroom or kitchen.

Look at your home from across the street and view it as a buyer. Can you see the house? Is the landscaping trim and lush, green, and not blocking windows and doors? Is the front door inviting? Make sure it appears fresh and clean, has attractive hardware with lights that are free from rust and all bulbs are working. Remember, the "first impression" mostly happens Online.

No odors. Smoke, food, pets, garbage and litter boxes will detract from the home. Use neutral scents, but do not use candles. They are too dangerous and can be knocked over and/or forgotten.

Whether buying or selling, there are plenty of nuances that a Realtor can share that take one to the finish line. Use their knowledge and expertise to your advantage.

By David King

In Downtown Concord, there exists a decadent bakery that is rewriting the book on the pastry business, namely cinnamon rolls. Theirs is a remarkable story of success that has also redefined the product — all of the products are fresh-baked and 100% vegan, dairy and lactose-free, egg-free and cholesterol-free, and only 650 calories for a 5-ounce roll!

It all started with the humble beginnings of Shannon Radke from Walnut Creek hobby baking out of her kitchen for weekend bake sales. The demand for her cinnamon rolls was so popular that she was inspired to open her own bakery — which she did in Berkeley in 2010 to frequent lines stretching out the door. Cinnaholic was born and aimed to set itself apart with a completely vegan product. In a few years, they were encouraged to expand.

In 2014, Shannon and her husband Florian appeared on the national TV show, "Shark Tank". (Season 5, Episode 28 - if you want to look it up). They asked for \$200,000 in return for 20 percent equity in the company so that they could open a second location. Each Shark was given their own custom-topped decadent cinnamon roll to sample and the bidding began.

But it was investor Robert Herjavec who was wowed the most. He countered with \$200,000 in exchange for 40 percent equity but insisted they pursue a nationwide shipping business model. Both parties agreed on the show. However, the deal fell through as the Radkes still wanted to concentrate their efforts on having additional storefronts.

Patrons enjoy the "create-your-own" cinnamon rolls which allows customers to choose their own toppings from over 20 unique frosting flavors and a variety of fresh toppings. It is common to mix and match flavors to create a new experience with every visit. They also serve other plant-based sweet treats like made-from-scratch brownies, cookies, and edible cookie dough.



Cinnaholic Founder Shannon Radke rolls out the plant-based dough

After the episode aired, the demand for the rolls exploded pushing the founders to pivot into a franchise model. Today Cinnaholic has opened close to one hundred franchise locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Franchisees are encouraged to be involved with their community such as reaching out to the healthcare workers and schools. In Concord, they cater for all events, large and small including weddings, conferences, and conventions, as well as private home and office parties. They support our schools through fundraising efforts, donate to churches, and give their unsold to the homeless.

Fortunately for Concord, the city has the only Cinnaholic store in the Bay Area as the Berkeley location closed in May 2023 after 13 successful years due to the City's redevelopment plans for mixed-use housing at that location.

Check out their menu of seasonal flavors of toppings. Cinnaholic is located at 2008 Salvio St. across from Brendan Theaters. Drop in or order Online at Cinnaholic.com for delivery or pickup.



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Downtown Concord is currently the only Cinnaholic store in the Bay Area, known for serving the popular all-vegan create-your-own cinnamon rolls and other treats, located at 2008 Salvio



Oppenheimer



If you have heard the term “Barbenheimer,” then you know the two juggernaut films of the summer, “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer,” that delivered far beyond expectations at the box office. Though both films were highly anticipated, their popularity speaks to audiences craving something new and different. Both films could not be more dissimilar in tone, but the thing they have in common is solid storytelling and direction.

Christopher Nolan proved his historical directing chops with “Dunkirk” and now takes on the challenge of depicting the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy), the lead scientist on the Manhattan Project and the creator of the atomic bomb.

The story centers around a government panel trying to decide if Dr. Oppenheimer’s security clearance should be renewed. He is interviewed alongside colleagues and most prominently, Lewis Strauss (Robert Downey Jr.), a member of the Atomic Energy Commission. The film shows the testimony of various witnesses while providing flashbacks of Oppenheimer’s early teaching career and his time spent on the Manhattan Project.

Oppenheimer is a fascinating figure who is given an impossible assignment. As a theoretical physicist, he is challenged and motivated to create the bomb before the Nazis do. However, he knows his creation will come with many new global responsibilities. At some point, his job will be done and how his creation is used will be out of his control. Even though he

helps end World War II, he cannot shake the feeling that the blood of thousands of Japanese citizens is on his hands, and he fears he has started a pathway to the destruction of mankind.

After the war, Oppenheimer is tortured by his creation. He is plagued by nightmares and feels it is his duty to warn his colleagues and the public of the dangers of advancing nuclear weapons. This is met with much political opposition and in the age of McCarthyism, Oppenheimer became easy fodder for the routinely spouted Communist label.

In an effort to show his human side, we get a glimpse of his complicated romantic relationships. Unfortunately, not enough time is spent fleshing out the backstories of the women he was involved with, and the talented Emily Blunt and Florence Pugh get little screen time.

It can be tedious to observe the process of invention, like when movies show writers writing, but here the viewer gets a feast of visually stunning explosions, both real and in Oppenheimer’s imagination. This is equally paired with blast-you-



The Beanie Bubble

There has been a recent trend of films about inventions that have more of a pop cultural significance than a historical shift in the way we live our lives.

Examples of these are “Air,” a film about the creation of the Michael Jordan athletic shoe, and “Flamin’ Hot,” which covers the origin of the fiery Cheeto chip. While these seem like thin premises to build a movie plot, both were made with A-list actors and well-received by audiences. The latest to join the pack is “The Beanie Bubble.”

Anyone alive in the 1990s remembers Beanie Babies. Those pellet-filled, brightly colored animals with heart-shaped tags bearing the TY logo were everywhere. What makes Beanie Babies interesting enough for a movie is that they became so valuable. They were considered investments and some consumers hoped acquiring them would secure their retirements or fund their children’s college.

While the filmmakers acknowledge taking liberties with the story, it is fascinating, nonetheless. Zach Galifianakis plays Ty Warner, the head of Ty Inc. and eventual inventor of the beanie baby. Ty is an energetic, out-of-the-box business owner who dreams big, and with the help of his partner Robbie (Elizabeth Banks), they build Ty Inc. into a successful stuffed animal business.

History tends to pick one person to focus

out-of-your-seat sound for a true theater experience. This film will definitely not be the same if viewed at home, regardless of your equipment.

At three hours long, the time speeds by

on when telling the story of a success. In reality, there are many key players. Ty has the help of some very business-savvy women who help him climb to the top. Until now, we have not heard about their contributions. The most fascinating is intern Maya (Geraldine Viswanathan) who is an amazing prognosticator and sees how the world-wide web can help early collectors connect and track down beanies. This helps feed the collectors, raise prices on the secondary market sites and make a lot of money for Ty Inc.

Ty also has a romantic relationship with Sheila (Sarah Snook), a woman with two young daughters who inspire Ty to create small versions of his stuffed animals and dub them “beanie babies.” Ty, however, has many personality traits that create problems in his personal and professional relationships. He can be immature, needy and has an ego that cannot manage being upstaged, in his mind, by anyone.

The film follows Ty over the course of a decade - from building his corporation to the unbelievable craze and inevitable crash of another social trend. Many people made a lot of money, but what is interesting here is the women involved, how they were overlooked and how their lives were forever shaped by their input and interaction with the mogul and his empire.

Rated R

as you sit through stress-inducing bomb test scenes and tense interrogations. This is a very different movie-going experience than “Barbie,” but one that should be viewed in the theater. Rated R



Those Girls by Chevy Stevens

“Those Girls” (St. Martins Griffin, 2016, paperback, 400 pages, \$13.58) by Chevy Stevens is a novel about three teen Canadian sisters, Jess, Dani, and Courtney, who make a life-altering mistake that leaves them fleeing from the law.

The three orphaned sisters head for the Vancouver but run into trouble when their truck breaks down in a rural town named Cash Creek. With no money and on the run, they make the unfortunate decision to put their trust in two boys who promise to help them. The girls become imprisoned in an abandoned building.

Told initially from the perspective of the youngest girl, Jess, some passages are hard to take. The suspense is sometimes almost unbearable, but what carries the book is the bond between the sisters.

The girls eventually escape their imprisonment, and with the assistance of

a caring bystander, they change their names and start a new life. However, Courtney (now going by the name of Crystal), who suffered the most egregious abuse from the boys, never fully recovers. Jess winds up pregnant and decides to keep the child, which sets up the second half of the book, which takes place eighteen years later and is told from the perspective of Jess’ teen daughter, Skylar.

Skylar doesn’t know the truth about her father or the abuse her mother and two aunts endured as teens. Skylar is aware of Crystal’s self-destructive behavior but is very fond of her aunt.

When Crystal decides to return to Cash Creek and take revenge, Skylar follows her into a dangerous situation, leaving the reader wondering if history will repeat itself.

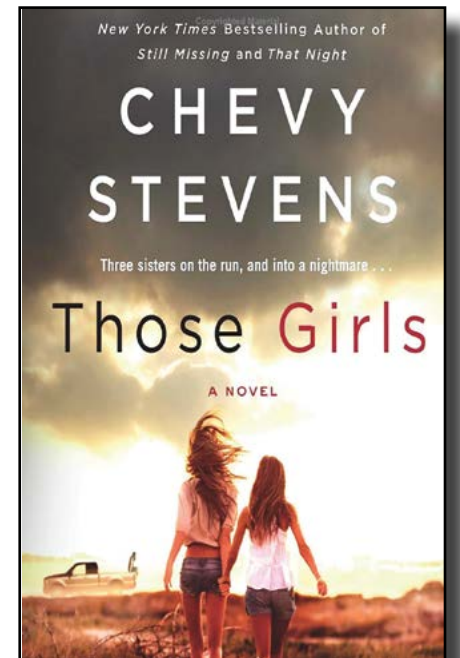
This book is not for everyone. The abuse scenes are often written in graphic detail. But those who love a

gripping, page-turning thriller will not be disappointed.

I found myself drawn into the plight of these girls and charmed by their commitment to each other, even into adulthood. Theirs is a story of survival and the strength. Fans of Frieda McFadden, Lisa Jewell and Karin Slaughter will likely enjoy Chevy Stevens’ latest edge-of-your-seat novel.

Chevy Stevens is the New York Times Bestselling Author of “Still Missing” and “That Night”. “Still Missing” also won the International Thriller Writers Award for Best First Novel.

Her books, including “Those Girls”, which Stephen King called “incredibly scary,” have been published in more than thirty countries and optioned for film. Her seventh novel, “Dark Roads”, was released in August 2021. She lives on Vancouver Island with her husband, daughter, and two dogs.



Dan Ashley: Now Immortalized in Print

by William Gensburger



Top ABC-7 News Anchor, Dan Ashley has accomplished much in his lifetime, but being a character in a novel was probably not even on his radar.

I know Dan Ashley personally; he is a larger-than-life figure in the Bay Area. For example, aside from his news job, he’s also a rock star having performed solo and with his own band along with huge names in the music

business, such as REO Speedwagon, Cheap Trick, and Melissa Etheridge, to name a few. He recently performed at the much-celebrated Outside Lands concert in San Francisco and even has his music, solo, and band albums, available on various music sites such as Apple Music.

Dan is also extremely charitable with his time. His philanthropic work includes fundraising for Friends of Camp Concord as well as the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for which he holds his annual ‘Rock

the CASA’ event at the Leshner Center.

Now, for his most recent feat, he is a character in a book that I recently published, “American Dead,” the third installment of a mystery trilogy.

Writing is difficult enough. Developing a story, characters, and plot twists, is time-consuming and challenging. Things became more complex in the series finale, book three of the Texas Dead Trilogy, when during a conversation with Dan Ashley, who is also a Walnut Creek resident, the question of using real people in fictional books came up, and I suggested he be in it.

“When William asked if he could include me in the book ‘American Dead,’ Dan explained, “I was honored by the idea. Truthfully, I did hesitate as I had never been included in a work of fiction before.”

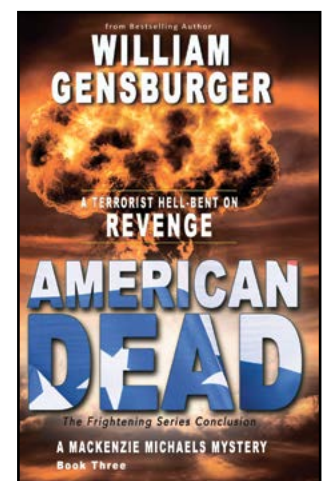
Dan explained, “William is a great writer and also a very dear friend, I knew that I would be pleased with how I was portrayed, and I certainly am. He did a great job from start to finish and the parts that include me are such a treat.”

In addition to recording the nuances of his personality, I also did not want Dan to just be an incidental character. While he is not the main character, Dan’s presence becomes an integral part of the final chapters of the story. He even becomes an action hero.

“To have been included in William’s great book as a work of fiction was a first-time experience and a lot of fun to see,” Dan said. “I knew that I was in good hands.”

Now available everywhere. www.MisterWriter.com

Watch Dan Ashley at <https://abc7news.com>



calendar of events

CLAYTON

CONCERTS/MUSIC



CLAYTON CONCERTS IN THE GROVE

Every other Saturday, 6PM-8:30PM
Sep 2, 2023, ALAMEDA ALLSTARS Allman Brothers tribute band

Sep 16, 2023, EAST BAY MUDD 9 piece, heavy horn, best of Tower of Power, Earth, Wind & Fire

Schedule: claytonca.gov/our-city/annual-events/concerts-in-the-grove/

CLUBS

Concord NorCal Helping Hands Lion's Club.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator/details?id=148928>

Rotary Club of Concord.

<http://www.concordcarotary.org>

Cars 2nd Chance, vehicle / car donation programs turning vehicle donations into cash for charities administered by the Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary Charitable Fund. <https://cars2ndchance.com>

EVENTS

Thru 2023, Wednesdays & Sundays, **"Life in Clayton 1850-1870."** 2-4 PM. 6101 Main St., Clayton. Visit claytonhistory.org.

September 2, Tarantula Trek for Families, 6-8 PM, scientist exploring California in the 1860s described Mount Diablo's tarantulas as "attaining the size of a half-grown mouse, possessing fangs the size of a rattlesnake's, and delivering a bite generally considered fatal." Yeesh. Mitchell Canyon Interpretive Center Parking Area, 96 Mitchell Canyon Rd Clayton. <https://savemountdiablo.org/events/tarantula-trek-for-families/>

Sept 30, Trail Stomp - Run With Save Mount Diablo, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Calling all experienced trail runners to an exploratory run at Curry Canyon Ranch! Attendees will traverse through grassland, riparian, and woodland habitats at their own pace. Hilly terrain is rewarded with stellar views of Mount Diablo and an abundance of wildlife sighting opportunities. Curry Canyon Ranch, 3500 Curry Canyon Rd., Clayton

September 30 and October 1, CLAYTON "MUNICH STYLE" OKTOBERFEST, Sat 11-8, Sun 11-6, Downtown Park, Clayton. Biergarten, Music, Carnival. Northern California's premier Oktoberfest. Clayton Business & Community Association invites you to experience Oktoberfest "Munich Style" in picturesque downtown Clayton. [See pg. 3]

LIBRARY

September 6, Clayton Knit & Crochet 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Come knit, crochet, and make friends with this friendly group. This program meets on the first Wednesday of each month.

September 7, Tai Chi 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM.



Come on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month to enjoy a gentle, energizing class with Tai Chi movements. Classes are taught by Carolyn Lee in the style of Professor Cheng Man-Ch'ing.

September 13, Camp Clayton: Discovery Zone, 2-PM. Join us on Wednesdays for STEAM focused events, drop-in programs, and take home activities! No registration required. First Wednesdays: Join us for seasonal arts & crafts. Second Wednesdays: Come check out the Discovery Zone

Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Rd. For more information please call 925-673-0659. <https://ccclib.org>

CONCORD

YOUR PARTNER IN BUSINESS



ARTS

aRt Cottage. 2238 Mt. Diablo Street Concord. (925) 956-3342 www.artcottage.info

CLUBS

Concord NorCal Helping Hands Lion's Club.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator/details?id=148928>

Rotary Club of Concord.

<http://www.concordcarotary.org>

CONCERTS/MUSIC

Concord Music & Market Series Todos Santos Plaza on Thursdays 6:30 PM. Farmers' Market and free music concerts in the Park with a great line-up of wonderful Bay Area musicians playing Salsa, jazz, zydeco, blues, and more.
September 7, Pop Rocks, dance party band.

Sept. 14 - The Sun Kings (Tribute to The Beatles)

Sept. 21 - Johnny and June Forever (Cash & Carter Tribute: the greatest love story ever sung)

Sept. 28 - House of Floyd (Musical & Visual Tribute to pink Floyd)

Todos Santos Plaza, 2175 Willow Pass Rd. Concord

Vibes at the Veranda: 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

9/13 - Ariel Marin Band

9/20 - Jonah Melvon Band

9/27 - Hella Fitzgerald

10/4 - Jazz Mafia ft. Erin Honeywell and Solas B Lalgee

10/11 - Feed the Kitty

10/18 - Grupo Nostalgia

The Veranda, 2001-2003 Diamond Blvd. Concord

Toyota Pavilion: October 2, Sting, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Concord Pavilion, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd, Concord

EVENTS

September 7, Monument Impact Stronger Together Gala: Secure a table of eight or purchase individual tickets by Sept. 1; sponsorship opportunities also available. Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Get tickets at <https://event.auctria.com/0f6811e4-8be2-4d24-9128-a4c40ce3c8c7>.

September 16, September 30. Service projects sponsored by Councilmember Carlyn Obringer: Median planting at Grant Street and Olivera Road on September. 16, 8-11 AM; Tree planting at Hillcrest Community Park on September 30, 8-11 AM. These are volunteer events. Please bring your gloves and gardening tools if possible. Registration at carlyn.obringer@cityofconcord.org. Deadline September 7.

September 16, Side Gate 2023 Oktoberfest. 12-9 PM. Entry includes: Commemorative stein glass, pretzel necklace, and first beer. Enjoy live music, German style beers, brats, shaved ice, and a craft fair. Buy in advance and get a can of our beer to-go! No ticket necessary for kids or non-beer/seltzer drinkers. Glasses are available at door on the day of the event. Side Gate Brewery, 1822 Grant Street, Concord

September 22, Alice Cooper & Rod Zombie, Too Close For Comfort Tour, 6:00 PM, Concord Pavilion <https://www.vividseats.com/rob-zombie-tickets-concord-concord-pavilion-9-22-2023--concerts-hard-rock/production/4290195>

September 23, Concord Toy and Collectible Show, 11 AM. Welcome to the ultimate toy and collectible show! This event is a must-visit for anyone who loves toys, action figures, and collectibles from all eras. We have everything from the latest releases to vintage finds, all under one roof. At our show, you'll find a wide variety of popular toy lines, including Star Wars, G.I. Joe, Transformers, Pokemon, Hot Wheels, and Funko Pops. Concord High School, 4200 Concord Blvd, Concord

September 23, World Doll Day Show, 10 AM - 3 PM, Featuring: Vintage Collectible Modern Barbie Artists and Antique Dolls BearsToys Miniatures, and more. Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord [See pg.3]



September 24, Concord Pet Adoption Event: 5:30 - 8:00 AM. If you are interested in adopting a pug, we highly recommend you complete the application process and then make an appointment to do a "meet and greet" at an adoption. Pet Food Express, 785 Oak Grove Rd, Concord

September 26, Fiesta Cultura, 2nd Annual Hispanic Heritage Month, 12-5 PM. Join us for an amazing day celebrating Latino culture as we pull up to Todos Santos Plaza with the most vibrant, artistic, one of a kind experience. FREE EVENT, Family-friendly and boasts a jam-packed day



of local performances and special guests on stage. Come dressed in your best "Selena" for the Selena Look-a-Like contest for a chance to win cash prizes and gifts from local vendors and restaurants. Todos Santos Plaza, Concord

September 30 30 HARAJUKU! The Bay's Cutest Marketplace, 5 PM to midnight. The cutest themed foods, drinks, baked goods, & EXCLUSIVE merchandise. 2175 Willow Pass Rd, Concord

October 5, Live Strong Health Expo, 9AM - 2 PM, A day of wellness, education and empowerment. Free health screenings, and demonstrations. Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle, Concord.

FARMERS MARKETS

Pacific Coast Farmers Market

<https://www.pcfma.org>

Todos Santos Plaza.

Tuesdays, 10AM- 2PM Year Round

Thursdays 4PM - 8PM June 1-Sept 28

LIBRARY

Thru September 2, 1000 Origami Cranes, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Help us to make 1,000 origami paper cranes! We hope to have 1,000 cranes displayed around the library first to celebrate Peace Day (September 21st)

September 19, Concord Library Pen & Ink Society 4-6PM.

Collaborate and learn more about writing with creative writing instructor Rayshell Clapper. Writers, you can get tips on how to develop your craft

Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street Concord. For full list <https://ccclib.org>

MARTINEZ

CLUBS

Martinez Rotary Club meets weekly, 5-6 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Speakers: **September 13, Laura Philpot** - Commodore and Cindy Shelby - staff Commodore Martinez Yacht Club. **September 27 - Deputy District Attorney Satish Jallepalli** from the Contra Costa DA's office speaking on Cold Case Files. Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward Street., Martinez <http://www.martinezrotary.org> Pleasant Hill. <https://pleasanthillrotary.org/>

EVENTS



September 16, MARTINI SHAKE OFF IN MARTINEZ, 6:30 - 10 PM. An enchanting evening under the stars surrounding the cool sparkling waters of the lovely fountain at Ignacio Plaza. Enjoy signature martinis, a delicious buffet, and a delightful array of treasures offered at our silent auction. Plaza Ignacio Park, 525 Henrietta St, Martinez. [See pg. 18]

arts /concerts/music /clubs /events farmers markets /theatre & more

September 21, Chamber of Commerce Mixer: US Bank, 5:30-7 PM. 659 Main Street, Martinez.

September 30, The Run for Education, The Martinez Refining Company's "The Run for Education" is the signature fundraiser for the Martinez Education Foundation. 8:30 - Noon. All the proceeds awarded to the Martinez Unified School District schools in the form of grants from MEF. Bib and T-Shirt pickup: MRC Learning Center in Martinez on September 29 from 2-7 PM at 1633 Pacheco Blvd, Martinez. Race packets can also be picked up the morning of the race at Main Street Plaza in downtown Martinez. <https://www.martinezeducation.org/run-for-education>

October 14, All-Ford Car Show. Sponsored by the Diablo Valley Mustang Association, 10 AM-3 PM. Cobra Experience, 777 Arnold Dr., Martinez. Register by Sept. 30 at DMVA.org.

FARMERS MARKETS

Pacific Coast Farmers Market

<https://www.pcfma.org>
Sundays, 9AM-1PM, Year Round. 700 Main St. Martinez.

LIBRARY

August 19, Needle Arts Meetup, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Bring your crochet, knitting, embroidery, or other needle art project. Ask for tips from experienced volunteers.

Martinez Library: 740 Court St, Martinez. For full list <https://ccclib.org>

PLEASANT HILL

CLUBS

Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill, meets Thursdays 12:15 PM. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. Pleasant Hill. <https://pleasanthillrotary.org/>

CONCERTS/MUSIC

Sunset by the Lake at City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane. **Sept 3 – Big Jangle** 6 PM. Tom Petty tribute show closes out the series, again.

Summer Concert Series

September 21, Forever land Michael Jackson tribute. The plaza near Jack's, 106 Crescent Dr. Pleasant Hill. Plaza in front of Jacks, 60 Crescent Dr, Pleasant Hill

EVENTS

Pleasant Hill September 9, California Writers Club-Mt. Diablo Branch. Attorney Kelley Way, an expert in literary law, will discuss "Protecting Intellectual Property," 11 AM. Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Guests welcome. Register at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/meetings-and-workshops>.

September 23, Volunteers for Community Projects. Drop off an unused bike at the Pleasant Hill Police Department before September 22 for use in the Bike Build-A-Thon.

September 23, 7:30 AM meet for free breakfast and T-shirts at Pleasant Hill Park, 147 Gregory Lane. Or, donate food for the Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano County at sites throughout the city. Visit www.pleasanthillca.org/csd for details.

Thru October 25, Pleasant Hill Off the Grid, Wednesdays 5-9 PM.

Pleasant Hill residents and families can enjoy a variety of foods and

musical entertainment. 138 Trelany Road, Pleasant Hill <https://offthegrid.com/event/pleasant-hill/2023-4-5-5PM>

October 7, Las Juntas~East Bay Artists Guild artists will display and sell their works at a reception open to the public 10 AM - 3 PM, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Road, Pleasant Hill. <https://www.eastbayartistsguild.org>

LIBRARY

September 9, Lego Builders Club, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Build your own unique Lego creations! With Duplo for small hands to Technic for advanced creators. No registration required. All ages and abilities welcome.

September 9, First Time Home Buyer: Unlock the Door to Your Dream Home 11 AM. Greg Hill from Coast Capital will answer your essential questions as you take your first steps into homeownership. Learn about loans, escrow, down payment assistant programs, local resources, and more.

September 18, What's Next? Retirement Options to Consider. 6:30-7:30PM. Retirees and those within a few years of retirement are invited to join Denise P. Kalm of DPK Coaching for a talk on planning for retirement.

Pleasant Hill Library, 12 Monticello Avenue. For more information please call 925-673-0659. <https://ccclib.org>

WALNUT CREEK

ARTS

Thru September 17, Sight Unseen: International Photography by Blind Artists. 12 – 2 pm. Bedford Gallery. The featured artists, whether completely or legally blind, all perceive an image of the physical world in varying degrees. Each artist brings their inner visions into the seeing world, revealing a visually rich and emotionally complex blend of physical and conceptual artworks.

Leshar Center for the Arts 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, <https://www.lesherartscenter.org>

EVENTS

September 8, Walnut Creek Movies Under the Stars, showing SHREK. 5:45 PM. Civic Park, 1375 Civic Park Drive, Walnut Creek.

FARMERS MARKETS

Contra Costa Certified Farmers Market
<http://www.cccfm.org>

Sundays 9AM-1PM, Year Round. Locust Street between Cole and Lacassie St <http://www.cccfm.org/walnut-creek-market/>

Kaiser Permanente 1425 South Main St.

Diablo Valley Farmers Market

North Wiget Ln. and Mitchell Dr. Shadelands, Walnut Creek, Saturdays 9AM-1PM Year Round 1799 Locust St. <http://www.cafarmersmkt.com/diablo-valley-farmers-market>

Rossmoor Farmers Market Rossmoor residents and their families-sonly. Fridays 9AM-1PM, Golden Rain Rd. <http://www.cafarmersmkt.com/rossmoor-farmers-market>

Clayton Oktoberfest 2023 Schedule of Activities

Northern California's Premiere Oktoberfest

Experience Oktoberfest "Munich Style" in downtown Clayton Saturday, September 30, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 1, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This festival is run entirely by volunteers as the community and visitors cut loose with family, neighbors and old friends and make a few new friends in the process.

You can also be a part of it by volunteering. Adult volunteers are always wanted. Please contact CBCA Oktoberfest Volunteer Coordinator, Tuija Catalano, either via email at volunteers@claytoncbca.org or via phone/text at 925-404-4255. Or Register online at claytoncbca.org/oktoberfest-volunteer-registration/.

Saturday, September 30

Opening Parade Ceremony - 12 p.m.
Tapping of the Keg - 12:30 p.m.
Bavarian Dancers - 1:30 p.m.

Carnival

Friday, 5:00pm – 10:00pm, no vendors or alcohol sales

Saturday 11:00am – 10:00pm

Sunday 11:00am – 6:00pm

Authentic Munich Biergarten

The heart of the Clayton Oktoberfest is our authentic Biergarten and is the lifeblood of the party with continuous dancing and live music by the Internationals. Roll out the barrels and celebrate Oktoberfest with friends, family and neighbors under the grand tent.

The Internationals – Dance Music from Everywhere

Aptly named, The Internationals perform music from around the world. Specializing in dance music from Europe – Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia to name a few. The Internationals also perform all the standard dance music from the United States, even including a little "rock and roll." Bob, Steve, Jan, and Tom yodel and sing in several different

LIBRARY

September 6, Read to a Dog, 4:30 – 5:30 PM. Kids aged 6-12 are invited to sign up for a one-on-one reading session with a therapy pup. Bring a book from home or grab one from our shelves.

September 11, Tai Chi 12:00–1:00 PM. T'ai-chi Ch'uan is an ancient Chinese art which combines meditation in movement and healthful exercise. The training includes the practice of a 37 posture form which teaches relaxation, balance and strength.

Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N Broadway. For more information please call 925-673-0659. <https://ccclib.org>

LESHER CENTER

September 8, 8PM, 10, 2PM The Three Feathers, a family friendly chamber opera. Based on a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm, the opera follows Princess Dora, not as a damsel in distress, but as a heroine. She summons her courage and compassion to face a series of mysterious and comic adventures that change her life to saves her father's kingdom from the plots of her selfish sisters and earns her right to the crown.

September 9 thru October 6, "Crowns." Center Repertory Compa-



ny's celebration of song, dance, cultural history, and fabulous headwear, languages. The Internationals combine authentic European costumes and music with American enthusiasm and energy to provide audiences with the best in Musical performance.

Clayton Oktoberfest Carnival

This full-size carnival runs from Friday night through Sunday and is for persons of all ages. Tickets required.

Friday, September 29, 2023 (Carnival only,) 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Free Parking at Clayton Community Library – 6125 Clayton Rd, and Diablo View Middle School – 300 Diablo View Ln (Shuttle), Disabled Parking Only: Endeavor Hall – 6008 Center St.

Free Shuttle Service

Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

We can all look forward to the annual Clayton Oktoberfest with a sigh of relief that the haggling over fees between the City and Clayton Business and Community Association has not impacted this year's event.



Leshar Center for the Arts 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, <https://www.lesherartscenter.org> Tickets: (925)943-7469 Wed-Sun Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Other Cities

EVENTS

Thru September 7, PITTSBURG SUMMER CAR SHOWS, 6:00 - 8:00pm. The OLD TOWN CAR SHOWS are back every-other Thursday from 6-8 PM through Sept 7th. Live music, restaurants nearby, and a fun family event. Railroad Ave., between 3rd St., and 6th. Old Town Pittsburg, Pittsburg

October 21, Tri-Valley Writers meeting. 1:30 PM. Speaker: Chris Hennessy is an Independent Motivational Speaker. His website is henchris.com Las Positas College, Room 2470 at 3000 Campus Hill Dr. Livermore. RSVP & Payment: treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by October 19.

SUBMIT YOUR CALENDAR ENTRIES by the 20th of the month before Issue month. diablogazette@gmail.com

JOURNEY-MAN'S JOURNAL

by Alexander Broom

New Trails Open to Public on Mount Diablo

Save Mount Diablo opened the Mangini Ranch Educational Preserve to the public in 2022. The preserve is the first of its kind in Contra Costa County.

Now groups of three to 100 people in size can have Mangini Preserve to themselves for the day. Volunteers and staff have constructed more than four miles of trails for people to enjoy. Enjoy expansive views, lush grasslands, and even the rare Mount Diablo Buckwheat once thought to be an extinct wildflower.

In March 2023, Save Mount Diablo opened a new trail to the public. The trail crosses Save Mount Diablo's 1,080-acre Curry Canyon Ranch property, which is surrounded on three sides by Mount Diablo State Park.

Now visitors can journey from Balancing Rock to Riggs Canyon and onward to Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, accessing the incredibly beautiful wild lands on the south side of Mount Diablo.

These new trails open to the public were also recently featured on NBC Bay Area's "Open Road with Doug McConnell."



Mount Diablo manzanitas have pink, urn-shaped flowers and hairy leaves. Photo by Scott Loarie



Hikers gather near Oyster Point. Photo by Scott Hein



Mangini Ranch Educational Preserve opened to the public with 4 miles of trails available.



Bobcat along the trails. Photo by Scott Hein



Kestrel spotted along the trails. Photo by Scott Hein

Mount Diablo State Park: Curry to Knobcone to Oyster Point Loop

Distance: 10.5 miles

Elevation gain: 2,500 feet

Difficulty: Advanced

Hiking time: Five to 10 hours on foot, two to three hours by bike

Trail surface: Unpaved trails and bike-legal single-track trail

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Trailhead location: Curry Point parking lot

This route features Save Mount Diablo's newly opened Knobcone Point Trail through its Curry Canyon Ranch property and is accessible both on foot and by mountain bike. This section of trail winds through the upper 560 acres of Mount Diablo's Curry Canyon Ranch, through one of Mount Diablo's wildest areas.

This advanced route includes rugged terrain, with considerably steep sections on its eastern side.

It is recommended to traverse the route first through Knobcone Point because of some of the steep terrain found heading down and into Riggs Canyon.

This section contains about 1000 feet of downhill elevation change in a short distance. An abundance of caution and

respect for the mountain is key to a safe trip.

Some of the terrain is very exposed, so bring plenty of water and sunscreen.

Shade is abundant in the southern part of the loop in the narrow, technical section along the Oyster Point Trail and Blackhawk Ridge.

This shade should make for a more pleasant climb back to Curry Point than if the loop was taken in a counterclockwise fashion.

We have previously dubbed the Oyster Point Trail "the best legal single track in Contra Costa County" in a post about the best mountain biking you can do on Mount Diablo.

However, expect hazards like poison oak and ticks adjacent to this uncommon legal single-track trail, especially after our wet winter.

Many native and endemic species hide out or can even be found in the wide open along these paths.

Showy clarkias, monkeyflowers, mariposa lilies, and even the endangered Mount Diablo manzanita— you just have to keep an eye out.

These areas offer some of the more remote spaces in Mount Diablo State

Park, and for those looking to really get out there, they can be a great escape. It is an incredible wildlife corridor. Expect sightings of peregrine falcons, American Kestrels, Golden Eagle, deer, coyotes and even bobcats.

However, because this route is

advanced and more remote, always be prepared for what's around the bend. You may see few people or no one at all,

Keep an eye out for wildlife, fallen trees, landslides, unexpected people, and so on. This area is a very remote place that deserves respect.

Have You Read the Authors Who Also Write for *The Diablo Gazette*

Michael Barrington 'Your Neighbor's Shoes' Column

David George 'Naked Gardener' Column

William Gensburger Editorials

Jill Hedgecock 'BookEnds' & 'For Love of Pets' Columns

Available on Amazon Books & Kindle



Are You Ready To Take On The 2023 Taco Trail Challenge?

Prepare your taste buds for a culinary escape for the annual Concord Taco Trail Challenge returning this month. This is your chance to explore all the delectable goodness of 40-plus taquerias and restaurants along the celebrated Concord Taco Trail while supporting some very hard-working family and locally owned businesses.

Each Taco Trail stop offers authentic specialty and signature tacos from al pastor, birria and carne asada to grilled tilapia, shrimp, vegetariano ... so many delicious choices.

The Taco Trail Challenge is a part of Concord's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (September 15 - October 15). Those who visit the most individual restaurants along the trail have the chance to win the coveted Taco Trail Champion Trophy. To participate, start by following Visit Concord on Instagram or Facebook at VisitConcordCA. Then post a picture of your visit to a participating restaurant using the hashtag #ConcordTacoTrail and the name of the location. Pictures can capture the food or ambiance of the restaurant. Each post will count as another entry.

Concord's vibrant taquerias and restaurants participating in the Taco Trail will also be vying for

their own recognition: the esteemed "Fan Favorite" Trophy. You can cast your vote for your preferred eatery online.

For full details, a list of all participating restaurants, and for voting for your favorite eatery, go to <https://www.visitconcordca.com/eat-drink/taco-trail/>.

Since its inception in 2019, the Concord Taco Trail has not only won the prestigious Visit California Poppy Award but has also been featured in Travel & Leisure and Food & Wine magazines. Visit Concord started the Taco Trail to simply uplift and showcase our local remarkable taquerias and now it has grown into an iconic culinary adventure, putting Concord on the global map for its unrivaled, authentic taco offerings.

For those who want to immerse themselves in all things tacos, pick up your official Concord Taco Trail map and exclusive Taco Trail merchandise at Visit Concord located in Salvio Pacheco Square. Share the Taco Trail experience with friends and family year-round, with the Visit Concord "Stay and Play" package. Details are



at [VisitConcordCA.com](https://www.VisitConcordCA.com).

Your culinary taco trail journey begins now. Enjoy.

CVCHS NEWS
 Dave Fehte, Executive Director
 Clayton Valley Charter High School

The Heartbeat of CVCHS School Spirit

In the bustling hallways of Clayton Valley Charter High School (CVCHS), there exists a dynamic force driven by our student leaders. The Associated Student Body (ASB) is more than just a student government. It is the heartbeat of our school spirit, tirelessly working to create experiences for our entire student body throughout the academic year.

Led by a passionate group of student leaders, the ASB plays a pivotal role in creating a vibrant and engaging school culture. ASB is a fourth-period class consisting of a combination of elected, appointed, and selected students.

So, what does ASB do? Beyond the administrative tasks, ASB's primary mission is to foster a sense of unity, camaraderie, and excitement among the CVCHS student body. ASB creates engaging events for our students, manages clubs, organizes Blue Crew activities, plans dances and rallies, and oversees student-raised funds.

One of the first events of the ASB's calendar is the Senior Picnic, a day when the soon-to-be graduates come together to kick off the start of their Senior year. In August, students enjoyed a day of laughter, shared stories, and cherished moments on the stadium field at CVCHS.



The Associated Student Body (ASB) 2023



The ASB captures the essence of the Ugly Eagle school spirit.

But ASB's commitment to creating unforgettable experiences does not stop there. The Junior Prom and Senior Ball are glamorous affairs that bring out the elegance and style of our Junior and Senior students. It is an opportunity for students to put on their finest attire, hit the dance floor, and create lifelong memories. ASB works to ensure that every detail is perfect, from the decor and music to the theme and venue.

Then there's the Homecoming Rally and Dance – events that capture the very essence of our Ugly Eagle school spirit. To accommodate our 2,300+ students, ASB takes charge of orchestrating two rallies that ignite the competitive spirit among different classes, with cheers echoing throughout campus and vibrant displays of class pride. The rally leads to the Homecoming Dance, where the venue is transformed into a dazzling dance floor,

embodying the unity that makes our Ugly Eagle school community exceptional.

But what truly sets ASB apart is their dedication to inclusivity. ASB's commitment to organizing events that cater to diverse interests is a testament to their understanding of the student body's varied passions. From organized clubs to cultural celebrations, ASB ensures that every student feels valued and included here at CVCHS.

"ASB exemplifies the power of student leadership here at CVCHS. It teaches responsibility, collaboration, and the art of event management, all valuable skills that extend beyond the walls of the school," explains Jeana Ebert, ASB's Teacher Advisor. "It's more than just planning events; it's about cultivating a sense of belonging that shapes the students' overall high school experience."

So, the next time you see the banners hanging, the decorations gleaming, and the excitement building on campus, remember that it's ASB at work transforming ordinary school days into extraordinary memories and etching a legacy of our Ugly Eagle school spirit for years to come.

RESERVE YOUR HOLIDAY ADVERTISING



Reach your holiday audience in the October, November & December 2023 holiday issues of THE DIABLO GAZETTE

SPACES ARE LIMITED

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The Naked Gardener
 David George, UC-Certified
 Master Gardener

Rebuild Your Monarch Butterfly Population

September marks the beginning of fall migration season for many birds, whales, and even insects throughout California. You won't see many migrating whales in Contra Costa, but one of our most important migratory critters is our Western Monarch butterfly. They travel long distances in fall to overwinter in weather-protected groves along the California coastline, then migrate back in springtime to other western states (in addition to California) to breed. When I was growing up, these beautiful and beneficial insects filled our gardens in spring and autumn. But not so anymore.

Sadly, in recent years the number of monarchs making the annual journey to coastal California has declined by 90% or more. Scientists say a combination of habitat loss, destruction of host milkweeds by Round Up and other herbicides, and climate change threatens monarchs with extinction.

In response to this, the non-profit Xerces Society has worked in partnership with universities, government agencies, other organizations, and communities to stabilize and recover imperiled monarch populations. Through their efforts, this important butterfly is set to be protected nationwide by joining the Endangered Species List next year. Because of habitat restoration and milkweed plantings, recent population counts in other locales have been encouraging.

I spoke with Concord resident and Monarch fan, Jack Fliemann, who



Caterpillars to chrysalis on potted milkweed, then hatching



It's a girl! Her name is Miracle

has successfully raised several of these endangered monarchs from caterpillars right in his backyard. Jack hosted the dramatically colored caterpillars on three native narrow-leaf milkweed plants. And now, breed-able adults have hatched.

"There have been no monarch butterfly sightings in Contra Costa this year," says Jack. "I built a butterfly tent over the three plants. A friend gave me caterpillars and milkweeds. The

caterpillars grew to over two inches long then pupated in chrysalises. Two females and a male have hatched so far. I'm hoping to mate these and produce a lot more."

How can you help these important creatures? Even if you cannot build your own breeding habitat like Jack, at least try planting native milkweed to attract them into the area. The monarch caterpillar feeds only on milkweed. California is home to 15 native varieties. Two of these varieties, showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) and narrow-leaf milkweed (*A. fascicularis*), are widely available from garden centers.

During spring and summer mating seasons, adult monarchs flit from blossom to blossom in search of nectar, which they drink through a long tube-shaped mouthpart. While they feed, they pollinate one flower after the next just like honeybees. They and other butterflies are key pollinators.

New Book from Local Author

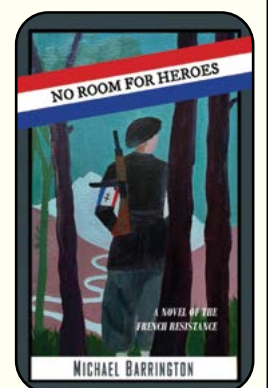
Michael Barrington, "Your Neighbor's Shoes" columnist for Diablo Gazette has just published his newest book, "No Room for Heroes". Barrington's historical novel uses the French Resistance and World War II as background to follow the lives of two 28-year-old identical twins from the Vercors Plateau, as they try to outwit first the Italians who occupied the region, then the Germans.

Complications arise as one becomes romantically involved with a radio and explosives expert flown in from England, and the other with the local catholic priest who doubles as a resistance fighter. After serious acts of sabotage, destruction of railways and weapons depots, there follows dramatic captures and escapes together

with harsh retaliation. The climax of the book describes the largest direct confrontation during the war between resistance groups and the German army, the tragic Battle of the Vercors.

"No Room for Heroes" is Barrington's sixth published novel.

Buy it <https://amzn.to/3R3xluW>





Madeira, Delicious Wine with Any Course

While most wines fit into either the beginning, middle, or end of the meal, Madeira is delicious all the way through, with appetizers, main course, and dessert.

Like most European wines, Madeira is a regional style that is made from local grapes, individually or blended.

Each choice the winemaker makes influences exactly how the final wine will look and taste. From lighter to darker, drier to sweeter, the four classic grapes of Madeira are sercial, verdelho, bual and malmsey.

All Madeiras have a bright acidity and flavors of fig, citrus, and nuts. These flavors, slight sweetness, and substantial acidity make it a very versatile wine.

Start this fall menu with one of my favorite late summer/fall fruits - figs. Serve a starter plate composed of sweet earthy figs and salty serrano ham. Sprinkle with fresh basil and drizzle Balsamic Reduction overall. The figs and balsamic reduction repeat the flavor of fig, and the salty ham contrasts with the sugar.

For your main course, take a break from the sweet quality of Madeira and pick up one of its mainland cousins, a dry red from either the Douro or the Dão. Both regions make wonderful, earthy red wines that pair well with Osso Bucco and Mascarpone Polenta. If you can't find anything from Portugal, a classic California syrah will give the depth and body needed for this big, bold dish.

Return to Madeira at the end of the meal and try pistachio ice cream with

Anna's Orange Flavored Thins (a sweet citrus biscuit that can often be found at your local supermarket). Pistachio nuts bring out the richness, and the subtle spark of citrus in the cookie is echoed. Don't worry if you choose not to finish the bottle tonight; Madeira will keep for months in your fridge.

So, go on. Pair Up!

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



Store in fridge indefinitely.

Yield: 1/4 cup

Mascarpone Polenta

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups milk
- 1/8 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup polenta (coarsely ground yellow cornmeal)
- 1/4 tsp. salt

1/2 cup Mascarpone cheese

DIRECTIONS

In a large saucepan, bring the milk to a boil. Add olive oil, salt, and pepper. Very gradually, add the polenta in a steady stream, whisking constantly. Add the salt and whisk to combine. Reduce the heat to low and cook, stirring frequently with a heavy wooden until thick and creamy, 20 to 30 minutes. Add the mascarpone to the polenta and adjust the seasoning to taste.

Yield: four servings

Osso Bucco

INGREDIENTS

- 3 oz. pancetta/ bacon, chopped
- 4 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
- 4 large veal shanks, cut in half crosswise, patted dry
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp. seasoned salt
- 2 cups dry red wine

- 1 1/2 cups chopped yellow onion
- 3/4 cup chopped carrots
- 3/4 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup peeled, seeded, and chopped tomatoes
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp. chopped garlic
- 2 tbsp. chopped parsley
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 tsp. finely grated lemon zest
- 3 to 4 cups beef stock

Gremolata

- 2 tbsp. chopped parsley
- 1 tsp. chopped garlic

- 3 tsp. finely grated lemon zest

DIRECTIONS

Brown pancetta in butter in a large Dutch oven. Remove pancetta. Dredge meat in combined flour and seasoned salt and brown in pancetta drippings, adding more butter if needed. Remove meat. Add wine and bring to a boil over high heat, stirring to deglaze the pan. Cook until reduced by half. Add onion, carrot, and celery, cook, 4 minutes. Add garlic, cook 30 seconds. Add the tomatoes and bay leaves, cook for one minute. Add meat, bacon, parsley, thyme, lemon zest and cover with beef stock. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low, cover tightly and simmer, turning the meat occasionally until the meat is tender and falling from the bone, about two hours. Transfer the shanks to a plate and keep warm. Bring the liquid to a boil and cook until slightly reduced. Serve meat on top of polenta, top with gremolata and drizzle with sauce.

Yield: four servings



BALSAMIC REDUCTION

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup red wine
- 1 shallot, cut in half
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 2 tbsp. honey

DIRECTIONS

Gently simmer vinegar, wine, shallot, and rosemary until reduced by half.

Remove shallot and sprig. Add honey and stir.



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Jennifer Stojanovich
Realtor, Better Homes Realty

There's Much to Consider When Buying a Home for a Growing Family

There are many factors to consider when purchasing a house that can accommodate a growing family. By considering these factors, you can make an informed decision that meets your family's needs and enhances your quality of life. Remember, a home is not just a physical space but a place where cherished memories are made, and love and laughter fill the air.

Determine how much space you will need in a few years from now as your family grows. Ensure the prospective home offers enough bedrooms, living areas, and storage options for everyone to feel comfortable.

Consider homes with expansion potential. Anticipate your family's changing needs. Look for a home with potential for expansion, such as unfinished basements or extra land for additions.

Consider the school district and neighborhood amenities. The neighborhood's proximity to quality schools, parks, and amenities is vital. Think about the convenience and safety of your daily routines as well as the ratings of the schools in the area.

Look for homes with outdoor spaces. Your children need room to play, so check for a spacious backyard or nearby parks. Consider outdoor activities, entertaining guests, and creating lasting memories.

Research neighborhood safety by researching the crime rates, street lighting, and overall security of the neighborhood. Peace of mind is priceless.

Factor in commute times. Studies show that the shorter your commute time, the happier you are. Long commutes can take a toll on family

time and add unnecessary stress. Look for a home that reduces travel time to work, schools, and other frequented destinations.

Look closely at the layout and functionality. Open floor plans, family rooms adjacent to the kitchen, and easy access to bedrooms are desirable features for a growing family. Being able to monitor your children from any room in the home can be a real bonus.

Check on a home's storage areas. To keep your home tidy and organized, ample storage is crucial. Look for closets, cabinets, and built-in shelving that can accommodate your family's belongings.

Stick to your budget. While it is tempting to chase your dream home, it is essential to stay within your means. Factor in mortgage payments, taxes, utilities, and potential maintenance costs. You do not want to stress over monthly expenses down the line after you have settled in.

Do the inspection. Before sealing the deal, invest in a thorough home inspection. It will reveal any underlying problems that may affect your family's safety or financial well-being.

Evaluate the neighborhood's community spirit. A vibrant community can enhance your family's lifestyle. Research local events, clubs, and activities that foster a sense of belonging and create lasting friendships. Look for organizations that both kids and adults can enjoy together.

Think about the resale value. Your home is an investment. Research the area's real estate market trends to ensure your property holds its value or has the potential for appreciation.

Compliments of VirtualResults.net



BETTER HOMES REALTY
6160 Center St., Suite E, Clayton



\$899,000

220 Stranahan Cir, Clayton

Highly Sought After Stranahan Close to Downtown Clayton. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx. 1663sf with inside laundry, deep under stair storage closet & attached 2-car garage. Fantastic location backing to trail with gorgeous Mt Diablo views & low maintenance landscape.



\$1,399,000

1133 Peacock Creek Dr, Clayton

Desirable Peacock Creek! 4 bedrooms, plus bonus room or optional 5th bedroom, 3.5 baths, approx. 3185sf on an approx. .23 acre level lot with inside laundry & attached 3-car garage. Downstairs bedroom & full bath. Views.



PENDING \$1,649,000

1107 Whispering Pines Rd, Clayton

Sensational Single Story Ranchette on approx. .99 acres w/stunning Mt. Diablo views. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx. 3149 sf with a 3-car garage plus covered RV parking. Backyard oasis with beach entry freeform pool, waterfall grotto, slide & separate spa, outdoor fireplace, BBQ island & basketball/pickleball court.



PENDING \$1,099,000

19 Nottingham Cir, Clayton

Stunning & Meticulously Maintained two-story home nestled on a spacious lot. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx. 2210sf on an approx. .28 acre lot with an attached 3-car garage & in-ground pebble tech pool. Possible RV/Boat parking.

Clayton Market Update

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
4161 Leon Dr	\$1,325,000	2631	4/3	7/24/2023
1137 Peacock Creek Dr	\$1,630,000	3236	5/3	7/25/2023
5835 Diablo Meadows Ct	\$1,299,900	1952	3/2.5	7/28/2023
102 Forest Hill Dr	\$1,370,000	382	5/3	7/28/2023
5586 Yosemite Ct	\$799,000	1404	3/2	8/3/2023
223 Stranahan Cir	\$975,000	1650	3/2.5	8/3/2023
3083 Windmill Canyon Dr	\$1,400,000	2481	4/3	8/11/2023



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jennifer@bhrbroker.com
www.jenniferstojanovich.com

Concord Market Update

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
1401 Saint James Pkwy	\$630,000	1576	4/2.5	7/28/2023
5504 Nebraska Dr	\$885,000	1480	3/2	8/4/2023
1034 Laurel Tree Dr	\$1,650,000	3942	4/3.5	8/7/2023
4219 Cowell Rd	\$775,000	1758	3/2	8/7/2023
1008 Wild Oak Ct	\$910,000	1607	3/2.5	8/8/2023
5085 Valley Crest Dr #274	\$550,000	1284	3/2	8/9/2023
4701 Myrtle Dr	\$1,158,800	2732	4/2.5	8/15/2023



Laura Hoffmeister,
Concord Mayor
cityofconcord.org

Help Keep Concord's Rich History Alive

There are a total of 647 Historical societies in California, and Concord, its residents and businesses are fortunate to have the non-profit Concord Historical Society (CHS) organization. The CHS was established in 1971 to discover, establish, and preserve structures, objects, and materials of interest, importance, and value, in relation to Concord; and to disseminate knowledge and promote interest in its history, exploration, settlement, development, growth, progress and activities of Concord and its population.



Two buildings that the CHS acquired, renovated, and opened to the public are the Galindo Home and Gardens and the Masonic Temple, now named the Concord Museum and Events Center. Together these two

sites located next to each other are known as the Concord Heritage Center. Both projects were overseen by CHS members and former Concord Senior City Planner, lifelong Concord residents Chuck Gabrysiak, and project contractor Marc Willis.

The Galindo Home (1721 Amador Ave) was built in 1856 for Don Francisco Galindo and his wife, Maria Dolores Manuela (Pacheco) Galindo, Don Salvio's second daughter. At that time, it was one of the few Victorian ranch houses in the county and had six rooms. Their oldest son, Juan "John" Galindo, and his bride Marina "Sarah" (Amador) Galindo resided there from 1875 and 1880 and expanded it to ten rooms. Juan and Marina's eldest child Frederick, and Catherine (Hittman) Galindo were married in 1907, and the title was transferred to this next generation.

After Mrs. Catherine Galindo's death in 1966, the home was maintained by her children. Lastly Ms. Ruth Galindo, a teacher at Mt Diablo High, after her death in 1999, the home became the property of the City of Concord.

In 2010 ownership was transferred to the CHS, which began a two-plus year project restoring the home and returning all the Galindo family furnishings to the family home. The Galindo Home has been completely restored by the Concord Historical Society. Tours are available on most Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission charge is only \$5.00 (children under 12, free).

At 1928 Clayton Road is Concord's Masonic Temple, it originally stood at 1765 Galindo Street. It provided the ceremonial meeting room and social hall for Mt. Diablo Lodge #448, Free and Accepted Masons. Constructed in 1927 by L.V. Perry, the temple was dedicated on October 6, 1928. This imposing facility incorporates approximately 9,600 square feet on two floors.

The CHS purchased the building from the City Redevelopment Agency for \$1 and moved it to its current location on May 25, 2013, and over the past several years completed renovated and restored the

building. It is now the Concord Museum and Event Center, and available for public rental.

With the recent renovations, a catering kitchen, garden path, including a gazebo, parking, and fencing work in a historical setting, it provides a unique, affordable, and glamorous event venue for business meetings to reunions, parties, and weddings.

Our thanks to the CHS for their vision and challenging work in preserving our Concord History for current and future generations.

Are you fascinated by the history of Concord? You can learn more while helping keep Concord's history for current and future generations. Volunteer docents at the Galindo Home and Museum are needed, as well as help with cataloging historic artifacts, Museum Exhibit Planning and installation, and Garden planning to shape the grounds around the Heritage Center. Training is available. If you are interested, contact Vivian Boyd at vivian@concordhistorical.org or (925) 827-3380.

Learn about the rich history of the people and families that made Concord what it is today. www.concordhistorical.org



A Walk Through Time with Misty Bruns

Little Robert Anderson ~ 122 years ago

Two little boys aged about 12 and 6, respectfully. Sons of Richard Anderson of Somersville. The boys started up on the mountainside to catch a horse. The eldest climbed up the horse's back and the younger one started pulling on the horse's tail. The horse had been recently shod, and hauled off and kicked the little boy in the face making a frightful hole in his forehead, for which blood flowed in a stream.

The eldest boy slid off the horse and hoisted his little brother on his back and carried little Robert down the hill to the town of Somersville. Both were covered in blood and a pitiful plight arrived in town. Doctor George of Antioch was sent for. When the doctor arrived, he found the brains oozing out of the wound. He dressed the wound, but it was of such a serious nature, he deemed it best to send the little sufferer to the San Francisco Children's Hospital. Little Robert Anderson was so severely injured he died the next day.



Robert Anderson 1895-1901 grave at Somersville Cemetery. Photo courtesy FindaGrave.com

DIED.
ANDERSON—In San Francisco, October 16, 1901, Robert Anderson, a native of Somersville, aged 5 years.
McDERMOTT—In Martinez, October 17, 1901, Patrick McDermott, a native of Ireland, aged 60 years.
SNEDDEN—In Somersville, October 15, 1901, Thomas Snedden, a native of Scotland, aged 56 years.

His family brought him back to lay him to rest in the Somersville Cemetery. He died on October 17, 1901.

Let us remember his story and how difficult life was in all different ways in the Mt. Diablo Coal Fields.

cemetery you will notice his headstone is incorrect. The headstone said the death date is October 17, 1900, which made the obituary and article difficult to research.]

[Note: If you ever go visit Robert at the Somersville

A Little Boy
Kicked in the Face.
Tuesday two little boys, aged about 12 and 6 respectively, sons of Richard Anderson of Somersville, started up on to the mountain side to catch a horse. The eldest boy climbed up on the horse's back, and the little fellow, in a spirit of fun, caught hold of the horse's tail. The horse had been recently shod, and it hauled off and kicked the little fellow in the face, making a frightful hole in the forehead, from which the blood flowed in a stream. The eldest boy slid off the horse, placed his little brother on his back and carried him clear down the mountain side to Somersville. They were both covered with blood and in a pitiful plight when they arrived in town. Dr. George of Antioch was sent for and he found the brains oozing from the wound. He dressed the wound, which was of such a serious nature that he deemed it best to send the little sufferer to the Children's Hospital in San Francisco, or Wednesday.
The little fellow was so badly injured that he died the next day.

Antioch Ledger October 1901, Image Courtesy MuseumMagazine.com

Letters to the Editor

We anticipated a "robust discussion," on August 8 at the Concord City Council meeting regarding the CNWS Civil Grand Jury Report. We believe the Grand Jury's recommendations and findings were relevant.

Elected officials authorized or spent \$37.4 million! The report cited the following sources: Federal monies, (grants), State Redevelopment monies and our city's General Fund (GF) loans. Our General Fund borrowed monies included \$9.91 million from GF Reserves, \$3.15 million from Workers' Compensation Fund and \$1 million dollars from our Pavilion Fund.

The Council has a fiduciary obligation not to burden the GF to pay for CNWS expenses. This tenet was repeatedly violated over and over as the public initially was told that the GF monies would not be used to pay for CNWS expenses. The tenet was violated by our electeds by loaning the \$14.5 million GF monies to pay for CNWS expenses without a means of repayment to date.

Was Measure V money used? That is supposed to pay for "essential services." Plus, why should the new developer, #3, be obligated to pay for gross mismanagement caused by previous "fiascos" caused by the LRA?

To rectify the gross mismanagement of multiple sources of funds the Grand Jury should ask the Department of Justice to conduct an independent audit of all monies that have been spent to date. We need an in-depth independent investigation, NOW!

Signed, Colleen Coll, Suzan Requa, Graciela Guerrero Reynoso

Submit YOUR letters to Editor@DiabloGazette.com

Concord City Council Selects Brookfield Properties as Master Developer for Base Reuse Project

Exclusive Negotiating Agreement and Term Sheet to be Approved Next

In a City of Concord press release announcement, the Concord City Council, sitting as the Local Reuse Authority (LRA), interviewed and designated Brookfield Properties as the preferred master developer for Concord's Base Reuse Project.

At a special meeting on Aug. 26, the LRA received a presentation from Brookfield about their plan to develop 2,300 acres of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station.

Following Council questions and public comment, the LRA voted unanimously to select the global real estate developer for this project.

The next steps include outlining the terms of an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) and a "term sheet," a document that establishes procedures and standards for the negotiation of a comprehensive proposed Disposition and Development Agreement and drafting a Specific Plan for the property.

In the second round of selecting a Master Developer, Brookfield Properties had lost in the council's 3-2 vote to Concord First Partners, whose term sheet was later rejected by the Council.

However, in this third round, Brookfield

Properties returned to the table and was the sole applicant being considered. Another applicant, Housing America Partners had failed to complete their application and withdrew their Statement of Qualifications to be Master Developer of the Concord Naval Weapons Station project, according to the City of Concord.

Brookfield Properties' unanimous acceptance may have been a forgone conclusion and a necessary next step from the LRA. After the loss of the second Master Developer, in a letter from the Department of the Navy, the LRA was warned, "It is noted that the City's schedule will support the initiation of negotiations for an Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) Term Sheet with the Navy no later than February 2024.... If the City's established developer selection schedule cannot be upheld, it is our responsibility to assess other viable means to accelerate transfer and redevelopment."

The LRA is expected to consider the ENA at a meeting tentatively scheduled for Sept. 19.

A recording of the Aug. 26 meeting is available for viewing on the City's YouTube channel.



Jeff Wan
Mayor, Clayton
Jeff.wan@claytonca.gov

CLAYTON NEWS

City Master Fee Schedule Approved by City Council

At our last Council meeting, the Council approved an update to the City's Master Fee Schedule. This concludes the process that began several months ago and updates our fees to ensure the City is recovering its costs when it provides certain services. In addition, when a portion of the City is being rented as a venue for an event, the City has the right to collect a fee in exchange for that use. That would be the prudent position for the City to take to be fair to the residents of this community.

As large events in our downtown create a disproportionate use of staff time and resources that is not well captured in a line-item fee schedule, a Special Events Fee was added to our Master Fee Schedule that is tiered based on the size of the event. This is analogous to a park or other facility rental on a larger scale. For years, the City's downtown has been the venue for many commercially successful events. And during that time, the City chose to waive substantially all fees associated with the rental of its facilities.

There were several speakers extolling the virtues of the CBCA at this meeting. On that front, I agree. The organization adds a tremendous amount of value to the community, and I commend the generosity of both the organization and its volunteers. These activities, however, do not exempt anyone from having to pay for the use of City facilities. Fee waivers or discounts represent taxpayer-funded subsidies and should be made judiciously. To the extent that the City does not collect fees that it is able, taxes from residents must make up the difference.

Earlier I made a proposal, "Common

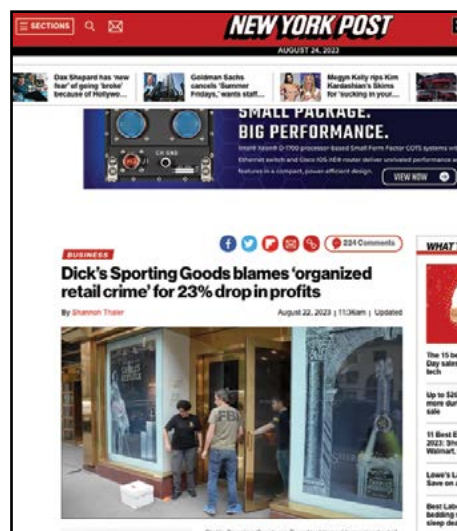
Ground and a Win/Win for Special Events", (jeffwanforclaytoncitycouncil.net/) that could lower or waive fees even further in exchange for an arrangement where the CBCA and the City enter into a revenue-sharing agreement could be mutually beneficial to both. This should be familiar to the CBCA since they also engage in a revenue-sharing arrangement with the vendors that come to their events. For example, a portion of gross revenue from food sales that take place at events like Art & Wine is paid to the CBCA from the food vendors themselves. In addition, each vendor pays the CBCA for the privilege of renting space on City streets, those same streets that the CBCA has had their fees waived for the past 15 years. Unfortunately, this proposal was rejected by the Board of CBCA without discussion or any exploration into what was possible. There was no counter-proposal made.

In other exciting news, the City of Clayton was recently approved for a \$1.9M loan at 1% interest from the California Energy Commission to support our efforts for energy modernization and resiliency. This will fund the transformational work that Climatic had proposed earlier in the year. Planning is beginning and actual work will start to take place in mid-2024. We will be adding solar arrays, car charging, new HVAC systems, new lighting throughout the city, monitoring and auto-shutoff of water mains, and a host of other energy efficiency activities over the next 12-18 months. Because of the CEC low-interest rate loan, the City should see positive cash flows from savings within one year of project completion.

Local News Items from Claycord.com and Other Sources

In Case You Missed It...

Dick's Sporting Goods Blames 'Organized Retail Crime' For 23% Drop In Profits (NY Post Credits Claycord For Info)



Dick's Sporting Goods blamed "organized retail crime" for sinking its quarterly profits by nearly 25% — the latest retailer to reel from the growing "epidemic" of thefts around the country, according to the New York Post.

The popular retail chain reported a 23% drop in profits in the second quarter across its more than 700 stores nationwide — despite sales rising 3.6%.

Thanks to the New York Post for crediting Claycord.com for information in the story!

Nothing Says "Welcome" Better Than a Snorkling Beaver Eating Ice Cream



If this isn't the best mural in Claycord, then it's up to you to prove otherwise.

Martinez will forever embrace the beavers.

MDUSD Votes To Change Concord High School Mascot From "Minutemen" To "Bears"

The Mount Diablo Unified School District Board of Education voted on August 13 to change the Concord High School mascot from "Minutemen" to "Bears."

The board voted 4-1, with Debra Mason voting "No."

This move comes less than two months after the same board voted to keep the "Minutemen" mascot. On June 29, the board vote was 2-2, with Cherise Khaund absent.

The district says "the Concord High School mascot, as with all school mascots, should instill a positive school spirit among students, parents, staff, and residents, providing a symbol of pride for all members of our community in a way that is culturally and racially sensitive and appropriate."

Contra Costa Community Response Results In 113 Shelter Pets Finding Homes After Recent Call To Action



legalbriefs
by Douglas A. Prutton, Attorney
Doug@PruttonLaw.com

Do I Need A Lawyer For My Personal Injury Claim?

Irene the Inquisitive plopped down in a chair in my conference room with her pen and notepad ready, poised for action. I could see that she had a list of questions on her pad that she was going to bounce off me. "I was in a car accident," she blurted out, "and the insurance company is jerking me around, I just know it!"

Drawing in a deep breath, I politely suggested to Irene that she slow down, that we were in no hurry. I told her that I really needed to first ask her a few questions and then I would let her tell me everything. Having handled personal injury cases for over 40 years, I can pretty quickly understand the basics of a case, the issues involved and get to the heart of why someone is in my office. So, I asked about the car accident, her injuries and her interactions with the insurance company. Then I let Irene vent.

At this point, let me step away from Irene and offer some insight on initial "free" consultations with a lawyer. We offer free consultations because we want to determine if the potential case is a good one, a case through which we can earn decent money. In personal injury cases, lawyers receive a percentage of whatever money is obtained in the case (a contingency fee). Therefore, before taking on a case, a lawyer will need to determine how much time and money will be needed to be put into the case and how much money will eventually be received out of it. Spending "free" time initially in order to fully understand a case to predetermine the likely outcome is prudent.

Getting back to Irene, I sensed early on that she was in my office not to potentially hire me, but rather to extract as much free advice she could out of me. This is not a good approach for obtaining advice. And this goes for meeting lawyers at parties or in public - peppering them for free advice is rude. Now, telling lawyers about a case you have for which you might need their help — that is the way to go, even if really you are only seeking free advice. Trust me, the lawyer (if they have been around the block) will know the difference.

It turns out, Irene had a decent case, but her injuries were not severe, so the potential recovery was limited. It was the type of case that I had handled many times when I was younger. The insurance company was jerking her around to some extent (as insurance companies tend to do when injured people have no legal representation), but to me the insurance company was just acting like insurance companies do (trying to settle cases for as little as possible) and the insurance adjuster was

just doing her job.

The insurance company had made Irene a low offer, but not ridiculously low. I knew that I could get the insurance company to pay more, but the case was just not big enough to interest me. Getting a 1/3 contingency fee was not going to be worth my time and money. I told Irene that she had a case, that it was worth more than the insurance company was offering, and that she should look for another lawyer (perhaps one like me when I was younger) or respond to the insurance company with a little higher demand and negotiate with the adjuster.

Lawyers want cases, so be wary of lawyers who are anxious to represent you and who provide you early on with big expectations. In cases like Irene's, let's say that the insurance company has made an offer of \$10,000.00. If she hires a lawyer and the case then settles for \$15,000.00, the lawyer will receive 1/3 of \$15,000.00 (\$5,000.00) and Irene will be no better off. In such cases, lawyers should advise the client that the client might not be better off if the lawyer is hired. I have handled quite a few cases where I advised the client that I might not be able to get the insurance company up more than 1/3 from what the insurance company had already offered, but the client will tell me they don't care, take the case, do my best. They were just tired of dealing with it. At least I was honest with the client upfront.

So, do you need a lawyer for your personal injury claim? If your case involves a serious injury, the answer is almost always "yes." For less serious injuries, it might depend on how comfortable you are dealing with an insurance adjuster. Some people just do not want to deal with insurance companies and would rather have a lawyer handle the case even if it might mean less money in the client's pocket. Other people are determined to handle the case themselves and are just looking for free advice.

One final note about free consultations. Free consultations not only determine if there is decent money to be made on a case, but also to assist as much as possible so that if the client has a good case in the future, the client will remember the generous time spent with them on the case not taken, or the client might know someone else who has a good case and will refer that person.

Of course, it goes well beyond lawyering, but karma is a real thing — do nice things for people and it will come back to you eventually.

Contra Costa Animal Services (CCAS) published a statement this morning expressing gratitude to the Contra Costa County community for stepping up to save lives after crisis-level shelter overpopulation led the department to issue an urgent plea for help last Wednesday.

CCAS is thrilled to announce that, because of the community's response, 79 dogs and 34 cats have been adopted, welcomed into a foster home, been reunited with their family, or have embarked on a new journey with a local rescue organization.

As a result of this phenomenal response, no healthy or treatable dogs were at risk of being euthanized and CCAS's dog population at the shelter was reduced from 180 to 124 dogs as of Saturday night.

Concord Pavilion Now Officially Named "Toyota Pavilion At Concord"

The Concord Pavilion has been renamed the "Toyota Pavilion at Concord."

The name was officially changed August 3.



In other news, everyone will still call it the Concord Pavilion.

Air Quality Agency Awards \$5M Loan Guarantee To Electric Vehicle Financing Startup

August 14, 2023 - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has awarded a \$5 million loan guarantee to EV Life, a startup company based in Folsom, Calif. seeking to help car buyers lower their monthly payments on electric vehicles.

"...we must eliminate the EV price barrier so all residents can access and benefit from clean air vehicles," Air District Executive Officer Dr. Philip Fine said in a statement.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

For more stories visit Claycord.com



Neuroplasticity
by Jessica Raam Foster,
NeurologyofPresence.com

Train at Super Slow Speed to Increase Range of Motion

We have all been told to slow down, but you may not realize that advice can actually be a powerful training tool to get you better connected to your body.

Training movement at a super slow speed (30 seconds to two minutes) can be extremely beneficial for improving motor control, strength endurance, and even emotional health.

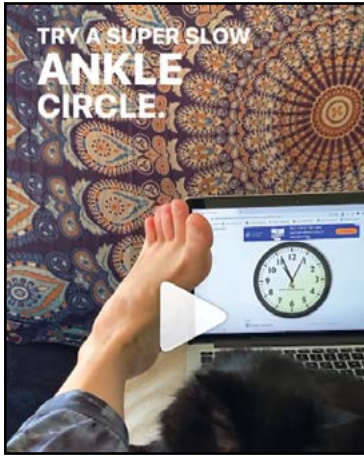
Training at a super slow speed will reveal "ratchets" in your movement patterns. If your movement becomes jerky while you are doing this, you have uncovered a blurry movement map in your brain; your brain does not own this range of motion. The neural connections are too weak to control it properly. These disconnected areas are more prone to injury, limit your strength, and can even exacerbate anxiety or other mental health stressors.

Practicing at this super slow speed will clean up these murky areas and allow you to really master your own movement. This mastery will make you resilient, increase your strength tremendously, and allow you to feel more at home in your own skin.

Want to give it a try? Let's do a super

slow ankle circle together. (You can also follow along with me here. Scan the QR code.

Start by giving your ankle a little rub. Sensory stimulation can go a long way in improving motor control.



Next, let's map out your full range of motion. See how far up you can pull your foot, how far out, down, and in. Now that you have your targets in mind, start your ankle circle - moving as slowly as possible. If you want to use an external timer, that can be helpful.

Just a reminder, never move into pain. We are trying to increase the pain-free range of motion, so if you are getting a pain signal, decrease the range of motion or stop.

Once this concept is clear, try different movements at a super slow speed. Try finger circles, hip circles, try a squat or a push-up at a super slow speed that is challenging.

Brains are really specific, so training at other speeds is essential as well, but most of us neglect our inner snail. Give Super Slow Speed a try and see how awesome you feel.



the concordian
by Edi Birsan
EdiBirsan@gmail.com

Question Of Local Equity Vs Equality

There has been a less than subtle shift in the winds of politics over the last decades and the word of Equity now outshouts the cries for equality. In looking at the definition of equity on the internet [and it is never wrong, we are told repeatedly] this is an interesting one:

1. The quality of being fair or impartial;
2. Something that is fair and just;
3. The policy or practice of accounting for the differences in each individual's starting point when pursuing a goal or achievement, and working to remove barriers to equal opportunity, as by providing support based on the unique needs of individual students or employees.

So, when it comes to the local political side, what impacts are 'fair' and how do we balance with equal? Recently there was a series of exchanges regarding the function of a sales tax and that it is unfair or regressive on the poor because the percentage of income paid is greater on them than it is to people who are not poor.

The California approach is to make tax-exempt a series of products that are most common as a higher percentage of purchases for the poor. Does this fully compensate on an equity scale?

When we pay speeding tickets here, we are all charged the same amount. This is equality. Should the rich pay substantially more than a non-rich person so it relates to their income? This is done in Finland; is it fair or is it a violation of equality under the law? It all depends on if you draw the lines at dollars or the impact of dollars.

In a recent debate over increasing the pay of councilmembers one of the consensus points was that the current pay scale does not reflect the work done but at the same time acts as a disincentive for poor people to try for the office. We do not have a system of payments based on equity but rather equality. You do this job, and you get this pay, regardless of family needs or individual circumstances.

Removing barriers or compensating to get equal opportunity is a little easier to handle when dealing with education, or even small business entry on government contracts and the like. But what about elected politics? What is the balance between equal opportunity vs. trying to compensate for past or current inequities based on things such as age, income, ethnic aspects of your grandparents, gender, or lack thereof? Is it fair or just, that inequality in the name of equity should be extended beyond the equal opportunity aspect?

This is what is at the core of many conflicts politically such as the creating of city council districts was an attempt to provide for an equal (or approaching an equal) opportunity by reducing the barrier of money on a campaign since the number of voters is generally one-fifth of what would otherwise be an at-large campaign.

Where do you see the conflict between equality and equity locally? Write to me:

The views rambled on above, where there are perceived views, are equally blamed on me and myself. I and can still be reached at EdiBirsan@gmail.com

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

Test Your Knowledge On Dogs In The White House

In honor of National Dogs in Politics Day, September 23, I offer you this quiz.

Why September 23? On this day in 1952, Richard Nixon's speech included a mention of his black-and-white cocker spaniel, Checkers. Nixon reportedly became more personable after this mention of his dog during a TV appearance, shifting the public's opinion of him. Some have said the mention of Checkers changed the course of his presidential election.

The "Checkers" speech, as it became known, has become a topic of study by historians, journalism students, and orators. The presence of dogs in the White House was established long before 1952 though. To learn more about dogs in the White House, take the quiz:



Our tenth president, John Tyler, owned a greyhound named le beau. Courtesy of the library of congress / george fielding / getty



George Washington, did not actually live in the White House, he was quite the animal enthusiast, owning several dogs. photo courtesy Library of Congress

1) The first rescue dog to live in the White House was named Major and a purebred of this breed.

- a. Cocker Spaniel
- b. Belgian Malinois
- c. Rottweiler
- d. German Shepherd
- e. American Staffordshire Terrier

2) The American Fox Hound became recognized as a breed by the American Kennel Club in part due to the efforts of this president.

- a. George Washington
- b. Ulysses S. Grant
- c. John F. Kennedy
- d. Abraham Lincoln
- e. Thomas Jefferson

3) This president owned a mastiff named Duke.

- a. James A. Garfield
- b. Rutherford Bichard

4) This president's golden retriever gave birth to a litter of puppies while he was in office.

- a. Gerald R. Ford
- b. Barack Obama
- c. George Bush
- d. George W. Bush
- e. Dwight D. Eisenhower

5) This president received hate mail from dog lovers when he gave away a puppy that was gifted to him while he was in office.

- a. Herbert Hoover
- b. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- c. Andrew Jackson
- d. Grover Cleaveland
- e. Harry S. Truman

6) The 13th president, Franklin Pierce, brought back seven puppies of this breed from an international trip.

- a. Shiba Inu (Japan)
- b. Bichon Frise (Canary Islands, Spain)
- c. Japanese Chin (Japan)
- d. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (United Kingdom)
- e. Pembroke Welsh Corgi (Wales)

7) Children's letters sent to White House pets, a cat named Socks and a chocolate

lab named Buddy, were compiled into a book by this First Lady.

- a. Betty Ford
 - b. Hillary Clinton
 - c. Nancy Reagan
 - d. Michelle Obama
 - e. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
- 8) These two presidents not only never owned a dog, but also had no pets of any kind in the White House.
- a. Donald J. Trump and John Quincy Adams
 - b. Andrew Jackson and James Buchanan
 - c. James K. Polk and Gerald R. Ford
 - d. Donald J. Trump and James K. Polk
 - e. James Buchanan and Donald J. Trump

Answer Key:

- 1 (d). 2 (a). 3 (b). 4 (a). 5(e). 6 (c). 7 (b). 8 (d).

Jill Hedgecock is a local author of several novels featuring animals. "Between Shadow's Eyes" and "From Shadow's Perspective" feature a ghost-seeing Doberman. "Rhino in the Room" and the sequel "Queen of the Rhino" include information about safari animals. All available on amazon.com.



Lamorinda Arts

Alliance Announces "A Feast of Color"



"Brick Beach" by Nancy Roberts



"Pastry Window" by Carla W. Gelbaum

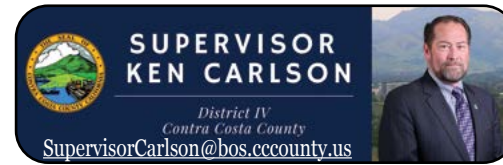
It has been said that art is food for the soul. As the fall colors emerge around us, we invite you to come see artists' colorful food inspired and works of art. Lamorinda Arts Alliance newest exhibit at aRt Cottage, "A Feast of Color", will be a deliciously vivid and unforgettable display nourishing everyone's soul.

The exhibit will be available for viewing Wednesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., September 6 through October 27.

All are invited to attend our reception with the artists featuring live music and refreshments on Saturday, September 9, from 2 – 4 p.m.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance is an organization of local artists and friends who reside or work in the area dedicated to enhance the cultural development of Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and the surrounding communities through the practice of the arts with exhibits and other activities within the community. Lamorinda Arts Alliance website: www.laa4art.org

aRt Cottage is located at 2238 Mt. Diablo Street in Concord.



Back to School is Time to Update Vaccinations

Earlier this year, I encouraged all of us to prepare our homes and property for fire season to help protect ourselves and our community. Another way we can protect ourselves and our community is to stay up to date on vaccines.

Vaccines can be administered at different points in life. As children and parents are preparing for the school year, now is the time to make sure everyone is up to date and fully protected. Contra Costa Health recommends vaccines including measles, tetanus, hepatitis, and polio.

Older community members who had chickenpox when they were younger can be at greater risk of getting shingles, which can be incredibly painful. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 50 and older get the shingles vaccine to help prevent shingles or reduce its severity.

There are seasonal viruses that you can get vaccinated for annually, like the flu vaccine. The flu virus can change over time so last season's vaccine may not protect from this year's flu season. November through March is when the flu virus is most likely to spread in this area. It is important to get vaccinated before then. An updated version of the

flu vaccine is made each year and usually becomes available around September and October.

Along with the updated flu vaccine, an updated booster shot for the latest COVID-19 variant is expected to become available soon. Even though the pandemic has ended, the virus continues to circulate and change.

As with any vaccine they cannot prevent every single person from getting infected, but vaccination helps prevent potentially harmful diseases from causing hospitalizations or even death. They can also prevent children from missing important days at school and adults from missing work.

For more information about what vaccines are recommended for you or your loved ones, Contra Costa Health provides a vaccine information page at <http://cchealth.org/immunization>. This page includes places to get vaccines, school and childcare vaccine guidance, and even vaccine travel information.

So, whether you are preparing to return to school or embark on a vacation, it is always a good idea to be up to date with vaccines. Let's work together to make everyone safer and healthier.

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Did you get a photograph with a politician or celebrity? Send it to us. If it qualifies we'll run it.

DiabloGazette@gmail.com



Around Martinez



Renewing Sister City Relationships in Dunbar, Scotland

by Brianne Zorn, Mayor, City of Martinez

This summer my family traveled to the United Kingdom to celebrate my parent's 50th wedding anniversary.

We visited sites in England, Wales, and Scotland. On August 2, we added a very special stop to our itinerary: Dunbar, Scotland, one of the five sister cities of Martinez.

The express train from Edinburgh was smooth and comfortable as the view from the train transitioned quickly from the urban city to the rural countryside.

We disembarked a short 30 minutes later at Dunbar Station, a small building the size of the old Martinez Train Depot. We were met by a member of the John Muir Historical Society who escorted us to their downtown for a tour of the city; the John Muir Birthplace Museum, and to meet with other dignitaries.

Our sister city program, or city twinning program as they say in Scotland, is an appropriate one as John Muir began his life in Dunbar and spent his final days in Martinez. The John Muir Birthplace highlights his early years, his family's emigration to Wisconsin as a boy, his experiences in California, his involvement in the formation of the U.S. National Parks system, and his world travels.

Our hosts included members of the East Lothian Council (comparable to our Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors), board members and volunteers of the John Muir Birthplace, East Lothian Museum services staff, and a former sister city exchange student who visited Martinez in 1995. They hosted us for a picnic of sandwiches (on white bread and cut into perfect crustless squares!) in the council chambers of the Dunbar Town House, which has consistently been the center of town life since the 16th century.

I enjoyed our conversations and will fondly remember the realization that we all had been mispronouncing each other's cities: I smiled smugly as they referred to my town as Martinez and then was simultaneously embarrassed to learn their town is pronounced Dunbar.

Despite the unseasonably cold, wet, rainy conditions, we enjoyed our tour of our sister city. Dunbar has a beautiful and dramatic waterfront. Their modern town elegantly incorporates historical buildings, including castle ruins, a centuries-old harbor, and a chapel.

They have a vibrant downtown centered on High Street with diverse retail businesses surrounded by residential areas, including affordable housing complexes. They have a state-

of-the-art indoor public swimming pool built along the waterfront with a two-story waterslide that stole the heart of my 8-year-old. There is so much to learn from our sister cities in other countries. What did I learn from this visit? It is important for us to rebuild relationships that may have slowly faded over time with the leaders of our sister cities.

I hope to jumpstart our sister city exchange program again, inviting Dunbar students into our homes and

sending our high school students to Scotland. As a high school exchange student myself, the experiences I gained living with a family in another country shaped my world outlook. Dunbar also reminded me of the value of walkability in our town by supporting housing near retail areas. I was reminded that the historical attributes of our town are what makes Martinez so special and how lucky we are to have the beautiful waterfront that we need to continue working diligently to improve.

Lastly, they too have trails named in honor of John Muir. I hope that one day we will be able to connect existing Martinez hiking trails into a complete John Muir Heritage Trail with a final connection to Scotland's John Muir Way: a 134-mile East-West walking and cycling path that starts at the harbor in Dunbar, the birthplace of John Muir.

Are you planning a trip to Scotland? Include Dunbar in your visit and tour the John Muir birthplace: jmbt.org.uk.



Top: Statue of John Muir at the John Muir Birthplace Museum. Below: a view downtown Dunbar.



Mayor Brianne Zorn (center) and her family, husband Scott, Wyatt 8), Elliot (18), Ari (21), inside the centuries-old Council Chambers of the Dunbar Town Hall building.



View of Dunbar waterfront and the ruins of Dunbar Castle.



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Competition Set for Martini Shake-Off

Who makes the best martini? Nine local mixologists and bartenders representing their establishments will compete for the “People’s Choice Award,” while official judges will determine first, second, and third place winners for mixing the best martinis.

Competitors are reigning champion Bar Cava, Bentley’s, Firehouse Bar and Grill, Martinez Yacht Club, Nu-Rays, Roxx on Main, Taco Daddy’s, Troy, and Whiskey Lane.

The popular Martinez Martini Shake-off is Martinez Chamber’s annual signature event, held at Plaza Ignacio Fountain at the steps of Martinez City Hall.

Honoring Martinez’s historical claim to the birthplace and home of the martini, this is one of East Bay’s more stunning and creative social events. It is always a sell-out with a capacity of 450. Attendees will enjoy live music by Mixed Nuts, a fully catered dinner from Zandonella, specialty libations, beer, wine, a silent auction, and the creative making of martinis. Suggested attire is a black tie optional or cocktail.

Admission price includes dinner and two drink tickets per person. Additional drink tickets may be pre-purchased at a discount, or at regular price at the event. Table Purchases of 10 will be reserved seating. All other tickets are open seating.

The last day to buy tickets (unless sold out) is September 8. Tickets are not available at the Door. Attendees must be 21 years of age minimum and IDs are required at Check-In. A VIP Check-In will be available for Table Purchases. Forward your table guest names to: irene@martinezchamber.com or contact directly at (925) 228-2345 by September 8. Questions may be directed to the Martinez Chamber of Commerce at (925) 228-2345. No refunds will be issued. For more details go to www.martinezmartini.com.

Proceeds from this classy affair support the Martinez Chamber of Commerce which appreciates this year’s generous sponsors: Humbolt Distillery, Cooperative Federal Credit Union, Republic Services, Bill’s Ace Hardware, WCS Inc. General Contractor, Market & Main, Claycord.com, Eco Services, East Bay Realtor Roland Osage, David De Leeuw of Keller Williams, 1st Norcal Credit Union and this publication, Diablo Gazette.

The Martini Story

Now about that historical claim of the naming of the martini. In the short story version of the lore, in 1849, a miner struck it rich and was headed to San Francisco before arriving in Martinez along the way. He walked into a bar to order champagne, which the bar did not have. The bartender instead mixed a special drink that he called the “Martinez Special.” The miner loved it, then went to San Francisco and shared the recipe with a bartender there and told him it was the Martinez Special. The bartender liked and it passed it on. The name eventually became Martini.

Now, there are several versions of this story online of others claiming to have invented the drink including San Francisco that has created a stir. But we are not shaken by them; we will stick with the Martinez version, otherwise wouldn’t the drink have been called a “Frisca?”



Martinez Chamber of Commerce Names Beaver Mascot

Martinez Chamber of Mascot has a name. After her well-received first appearance at the King of the County BBQ and Music Festival, the Chamber decided that their mascot needed a name. So, they held a contest to let the people offer suggestions.

Three judges combed through the approximately 65 names before narrowing down and agreeing on the winning name, Marina. Obviously, Marina will be very interested in the new Marina Development and Land Use Project at Waterfront Park and happens to reside at the Martinez Chamber office on Marina Vista Ave.

Tim Harrington submitted the winning name and will be awarded a Beaver Gift Basket and a Hotel Savings Card Valued at \$400 as his grand prize. Congratulations to Tim. Well done.

Marina can be seen appearing regularly at members' and non-members' businesses alike where she makes surprise visits.

No one knows when she may pop in, but you will be seeing more of her and reading of Marina's Martinez adventures about town.

Here she is seen visiting Crystal Cleaners at Virginia Hills Shopping Center getting her Tuxedo altered and cleaned to wear at the upcoming Martini Shake-Off on September 16.



Buy Swag: Support Martinez

There is some cool looking swag for sale online for residents and visitors of Martinez to show their hometown spirit. Shop for items for men and women including t-shirts, sweatshirts, aprons, tote bags and hats.

Or how about gifts for the home such as ice buckets, tote bags, coasters, pillows and playing cards. Or perhaps you can place a bumper sticker on your car. There are many items from which to choose, but all making it clear, "Martinez, Home of the Martini."

Buy your Martinez Martini swag at: <https://martinez-martini-swag.printify.me/>



New Alerting System, Martinez Alerts



The City is implementing a new alerting system – Martinez Alerts – to supplement the Community Warning System (cwsalerts.com) and provide timely alerts to the community and interested parties.

This new alert and warning system, powered by Rave, enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as health alerts, severe weather, unexpected road closures, police activity, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. You can specify how you will receive these time-sensitive messages, by text, email, or voice. Please Register at: MartinezAlerts.com.

A New Food Waste Program Begins in Concord and East County



Over the past two months, many residents in Concord, Pittsburg and Oakley have received a small green pail on their doorstep courtesy of Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR). This is part of their new program to recycle all organics, (i.e. food scraps), beginning September 4, as mandated by state law SB 1383.

In addition, households are given instructions and videos on the mdrr.com website on how to use the pails.

Your green cart will now become your organics cart and will be picked up weekly.

Residents will use the new kitchen pail to store food scraps and empty the contents into your green organics cart.



Keep your kitchen pail near your food prep area. Images courtesy of MDRR

SB 1383 is a state law enacted in 2022 that made it mandatory for residents to recycle their organics weekly. Concord and certain east county residents were exempt until MDRR could provide a facility large enough to store the organic material while it decomposes into compost.

The point of this is to reduce greenhouse gases released from landfills. According to the marketing collateral and website, over 50% of our landfill is comprised of organic waste: food, green waste, and food-soiled paper. Organic waste emits 20% of the state's methane, a climate super pollutant.

One of the simplest ways we can fight climate change is by recycling organic waste.

What Goes in the Organics Cart?

Scraps of raw, cooked, or spoiled food of any variety including bones, shells, coffee grounds, etc. Also, you may recycle your food-soiled

items such as napkins, pizza boxes, coffee filters, and paper-based food containers into your green cart.

The green cart will still collect your brush, small branches, lawn and plant trimmings, and even wood chips. You can now use this opportunity to clean out spoiling foods in the refrigerator as well.

Each week set your place your green cart at your curb for your regular pick-up by Mt.

Diablo Resource Recovery. MDRR recycling trucks take this material to their Pittsburg facility for preprocessing, and then it goes to a compost facility where it is converted into soil-enriching compost.

What to do with your new Kitchen Pail

Place the kitchen pail in a convenient location such as under the sink. Line the pail with newspaper or paper bag (no plastic bags), place all your food preparation scraps into the pail.

To reduce odors, sprinkle baking soda into your pail, rinse it out or place in a dishwasher, (do not use the dry-heat settings). Then every couple of days you should empty it into the green cart.

Many communities in the East Bay have already been complying since the law was enacted. The program will eventually expand to multifamily properties like condos, townhomes, and apartments. In Concord, commercial customers have had organics service for some years now.

The bottom line, less food waste in landfills limits greenhouse gases. Put green waste and food scraps in the right place for reuse.



FOOD SCRAPS, FOOD-SOILED PAPER + YARD TRIMMINGS, GO IN THE GREEN!



LESS FOOD WASTE IN LANDFILLS
LIMITS GREENHOUSE GASES

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