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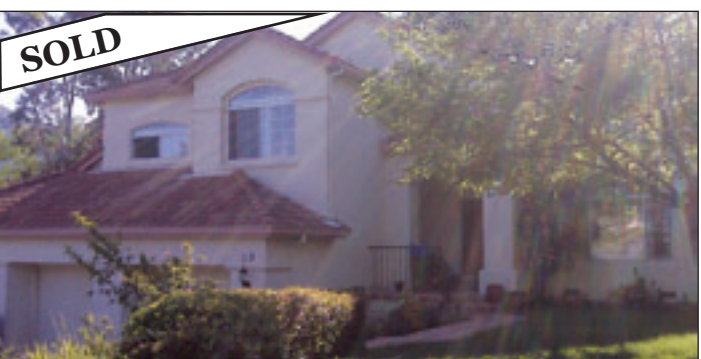
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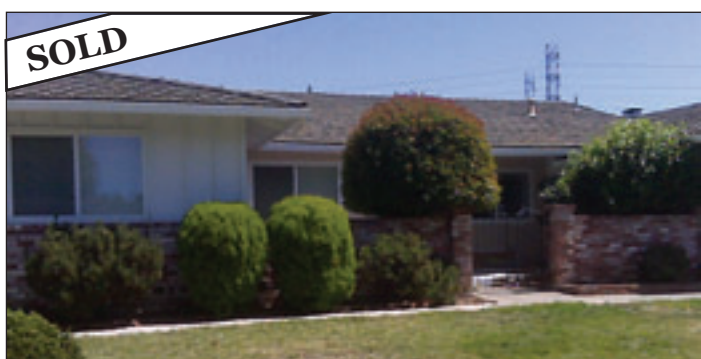
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Blue Devils again at the top of the drum and bugle corps world

JAY BEDECARRÉ
 Clayton Pioneer

No organization has brought more glory to Concord and nearby environs than the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps.

Once again last month, the Blue Devils reigned supreme by claiming their unprecedented 14th Drum Corps International World Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. And for the second year in a row, the Blue Devils swept both the World and Open class titles a feat never accomplished before the Blue Devils did it last year.

The Blue Devils A and B Corps are dotted with local participants. Fellow Clayton Valley High grads color guard member Allyson Kahl and trumpeter Kyle Peterson are part of the A Corps.



KYLE PETERSON

Peterson of Clayton, now a business student at Sonoma State, moved up to the A Corps this year after being on the B Corps for six years. He has been a member of the Blue Devils since 2003, when

he joined the C Corps.

"Performing in the Blue Devils has taught me how to stand up and speak in front of an audience," he says. "I've made lifetime friends in the Blue Devils."

Kahl, 20, earned her second DCI World title. A student at Diablo Valley College, she's followed in the footsteps of her mom Kelly, a Blue Devil alumna. The younger Kahl joined the corps when she was in kindergarten and has been performing with them for 13 years.

FRIENDS AND FUN

Emily Nunn, a senior at Clayton Valley High, is a member of the B Corps Color Guard. The Clayton resident joined the Blue Devils in 2001 after receiving a flier at school for dance and baton classes.

"I have gained lifelong friends in the Blue Devils," she says. "Dedication and motivation skills I have learned will continue into my adult life."

Olivia Hansen of Concord is also a CVHS senior on the B Corps who joined in 2001 after receiving a flier. In 2002, she was a member of the A Winter Guard and the C Corps. In 2009 and 2010, Hansen advanced to the color guard of the B Corps – winning back-to-back World Open Class titles.

"My most exciting moment was performing my championship individual sabre routine at semi-finals in front of lots of spectators," she recalls. Her brother Lucas is also on the B Corps championship team.

Tanner Frey, Mason Case and Tanya Trowbridge are all from Clayton Valley High and



Photos courtesy of Blue Devils

EMILY NUNN (LEFT) AND OLIVIA HANSEN are both seniors at Clayton Valley High School. They joined the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps in 2001 after getting fliers at school and won their second straight DCI Open Class World Championships last month in Indianapolis as part of the Blue Devils B Corps.

members of the B Corps again this year.

A COMMITTED CREW

The Blue Devils A Corps was undefeated again this year as they traveled 15,000 miles and entered 30 competitions without defeat performing their program "Through A Glass, Darkly," which brought audiences to standing ovations at every show.

The DCI World Finals began a 10-year run at Lucas

Oil Stadium in Indianapolis in 2009 and the Blue Devils have claimed all the honors both years there.

"I'm not sure how we got there, but I know what made up the organization," said Blue Devils executive director David Gibbs. "It's the staff, designers, instructors and an amazing group of kids who were committed from day one to the end. The talent and commitment of these kids made it happen."

Concord issues cease and desist order to medical marijuana dispensary

DENISE HARTLOVE
 Clayton Pioneer

Much to the dismay of Concord city officials, a medical marijuana dispensary opened recently on Clayton Road in Concord, just blocks away from an after-school center and Newhall Park.

Since the business permit was approved for an herbal store, Concord city attorney Craig Labadie sent a cease and desist letter to Herbal Essence's San Bruno-based owner, Najib Dabit.

"It has come to the city's attention that the Herbal Essence business ... is being operated in a manner which is inconsistent with the factual representations made at the time the city issued a business license and administrative occupancy approval for this operation," he said in the

Aug. 24 letter.

Managers at the business refused to comment, stating that their lawyer was addressing the situation. Customers, however, were not as reticent.

Devlyn Sewell is a 51-year-old Blue Star mom who suffered a massive stroke nine years ago. She uses medical marijuana to help her rest so her body can continue healing.

Sewell, whose son recently returned from service in Iraq, acknowledged mixed feelings about using the drug despite two doctors' suggesting she use it.

"I'm a mom who's trained her kids to stay away from drugs," she said, standing in the parking lot at the dispensary. "I've had to have a whole conversation with them. I hope they're not going to judge me on this."

She hopes the city can find

a way to allow the clinic to continue serving locals like her. "So many people aren't as blessed as I am, they don't have the transportation," she said of the trek many sufferers have to make to as far away as Berkeley and Richmond.

Concord and Clayton officials don't necessarily oppose the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Yet worries persist about the ease of obtaining a prescription and possible attraction of teens and illicit dealers.

"I think the general population of Clayton would have a problem with a medical marijuana dispensary in town," said Clayton City Councilwoman Julie Pierce. "I'm not saying it's a bad thing for people to use it for medical needs. I just think it's problematic sometimes when you have an establishment

like that in a downtown as small as ours."

Concord City Council candidate Ron Leone has concerns as well. "Being in education for 35 years ... I've seen some of the effects when it is made available close by parks or schools, and I would not be in favor of that."

Concord City Councilwoman Laura Hoffmeister offered an historical perspective. "The last time we looked at these issues, the community was not supportive of establishing medical marijuana dispensaries in Concord," she said. The city has in the past forced a dispensary, opened near Mt. Diablo High School, to close.

Dabit was given until Friday, Sept. 3, to respond to the city. As of 5:15 p.m. Sept. 3, no response had been received.

Vandals damage youth sports facilities

Clayton Valley High School and the soccer fields at Boatwright Park were both hit hard by vandalism last month in separate incidents.

About 8:45 p.m. Aug. 19, vandals broke into the CVHS Gonsalves Stadium. According to CVHS parent and lacrosse

team volunteer Michelle Hill, the vandals were caught on the video surveillance equipment as they pushed the player benches out onto the field. They were photographed again trashing the press box, "flipping the bird and dancing around" before tearing the cameras from their bases.

Initial estimates place the damage at \$2,500.

The photos were circulated by email to parents and coaches. Police would not comment on the case beyond saying it was a "continuing investigation." Anyone with information is asked to contact

Detective Elsberry at (925) 603-5828. Anonymous tips can be made at (925) 603-5836 or (800)-222-TIPS.

In a separate incident, about 2 a.m. on Aug. 27, police received reports of a truck

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