



Alamo Today & Danville Today News

FEBRUARY 2018

BOBBY'S BRIGADE *By Fran Miller*

Bobby Redman was barely beyond kindergarten when the California Highway Patrol dubbed him a "Super Hero." The young Alamo resident, now age 10, recalls learning about the trauma caused by car accidents, and he sought a way to help other children involved in highway incidences. At Bobby's urging, his dad Mark helped



Bobby Redman

him to create Bobby's Brigade, an organization that collects and donates new teddy bears to highway patrol officers who keep them in their patrol cars to comfort children in emergency situations. To date, Bobby has delivered more than 5,000 bears to the CHP headquarters in Martinez - enough to outfit California's statewide 1,200 highway patrol first-responder vehicles.

When a highway patrol first-responding officer arrives on the scene of an accident, his/her first task is to safely secure the

scene. If a child is involved and the adults are incapacitated and unable to care for the child, procedure involves placing the child in the back seat of a first-responder vehicle for the child's protection - a separation that can prove distressing under any circumstances, let alone following an accident. A teddy bear, offered by an officer, can often provide much needed comfort.

Bobby purchases the bears annually in bulk with donations collected from

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DOLL DAY *By Fran Miller*

The caring women of the Alamo/Danville Newcomers Club know that a new doll can lift the spirits of a sick child. They know that a cuddly quilt can warm not

only the body but also the soul. And they know that a crocheted cap can help comfort not only a newborn but his/her parents as well.



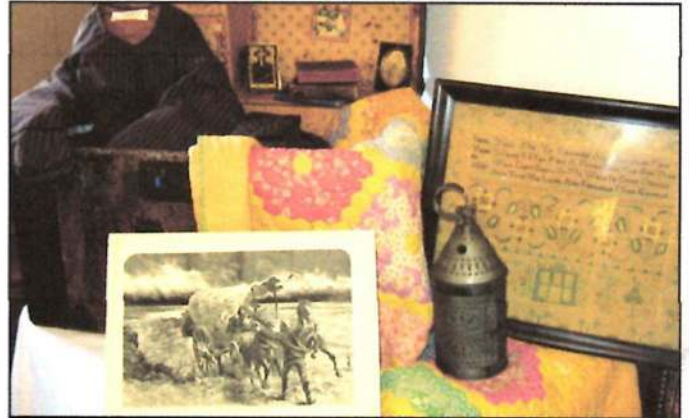
Led by Laurie Guidry for the past 16 years, the crafters who gather monthly to create and donate handmade goods for the babies and children at Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO) are an altruistic and

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GAMBLERS AND DREAMERS: MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY TWO-PART EXHIBIT

By Jody Morgan

"A Great Frontier Odyssey: Sketching the American West" runs through March 18th at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley (MuseSRV) with a traveling component from Exhibit Envoy taking center stage. The opening act of a two-part production, the exhibit combines the dramatic artwork of Paul Frenzeny and Jules Tavernier created on site during their 1873-1874 cross-country expedition for *Harper's Weekly* with actual artifacts carried by settlers and adventure-seekers as they gambled on realizing their dreams of a wonderful life in the West. Opening March 20th and remaining in place through June 10th, the second phase is constructed around a portable exhibit from the Chinese



Martha Jane Boone Kendric's wool 1860s dress is shown with Frenzeny and Tavernier's "A Prairie Wind-Storm." Courtesy of MuseSRV

Historical Society of America: "The Chinese and the Iron Railroad: Building the Transcontinental." How their descendants settled into local life is related by components gathered together by museum staff and volunteers.

On view for the first time at MuseSRV, the traveling "Sketching the West" display features 39 framed engravings and six reproduction paintings by Paul Frenzeny and Jules Tavernier from the collection of Dr. Claudine Chalmers. The native Frenchmen were commissioned by the Harper brothers to produce authentic on-site sketches to inform their readers about the advantages and perils of frontier life. In the November 8, 1873, issue of *Harper's Weekly*, several months after the artists embarked on their yearlong cross-country journey, the newspaper announced that the duo would make: "long excursions on horseback into regions where railroads have not yet penetrated, where the hardy squatter, the pioneer of civilization, has not yet erected his log-cabin."

In *Chronicles of the West for Harper's: Coast to Coast with Frenzeny and Tavernier 1873-1874*, Chalmers describes the laborious process of transmitting their work to the newspaper. Upon completion of the original collaborative

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HAPPY 63RD BIRTHDAY, AIA!

By Roger Smith, President

Now in its 63rd year, AIA, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, has the longest history of serving our community and helping shape it into "the place where we love to live"! Since 1955, Alamo (and Danville) residents have been joining the Alamo Improvement Association and working in support of AIA's mission statement: to "preserve the semi-rural character of Alamo."

I want to thank all of our many volunteers, both past and present, for their efforts over the last 62 years in making Alamo into the wonderful community that it is today.

Please visit our website www.AlamoCA.org for information on AIA, articles of interest to residents, membership forms, and more.

ALAMO FARMERS' MARKET

Your Alamo Farmers' Market has a great selection of winter options out now and coming out over the course of the next few months: oranges, clementines, mandarins, grapefruit, pomelos, grapes, persimmons, apples, and pomegranates.

When visiting the market, please give a shout out to our great vendors: Achadinha cheese, J & J Ramos, Vasquez Lopez, MarElla Honey Bees, Cipponeri Farms Oaxacan Tamales, Esquivel organic farm, Il Biscotto, Aspire Life Skincare, Heidi's e-z wear jewelry, and Hummus Heaven. Back by popular demand will be Dore French Bakery! Please keep your eyes open on NextDoor and Facebook for the actual Sunday they will be returning to the market in February 2018!

The Alamo Certified Farmers' Market is open year-round each Sunday, 9^{AM} to 2^{PM}, at the Wells Fargo parking lot (120 Alamo Plaza, Alamo) with plenty of easy and free parking and live music, rain or sunshine!

JUST WHAT IS A "TAG"?

AIA with assistance from Michael Kent, Contra Costa's Hazardous Materials Ombudsman, has been awarded a \$100,000 Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) from the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Congress authorized the TAG program within the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) can award grants of up to \$100,000 to local governments and not-for-profit community groups for technical assistance relating to the safety of pipeline facilities in local communities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

White Pony Express (WPE) is a nonprofit group dedicated to helping to end hunger and poverty in Contra Costa County. The program has been so well received that additional volunteers are urgently needed to help keep up with its rapid growth. The need in our communities remains great.

Seven days a week, WPE Food Rescue volunteers take trucks to supermarkets, restaurants, and farmers markets where they pick up thousands of pounds of surplus food—high quality, nourishing food (fresh meats, dairy, eggs, deli, baked goods). Most all of this food is distributed to those in need within two hours of the donation. In its first two and half years, WPE delivered more than 3,000,000 pounds of food (equivalent to 2,500,000 meals) that the hungry would have gone without. Also, in addition to rescuing food, WPE collects donations of new or like-new clothing, shoes, toys, games, and books. More than 250,000 of these items have been distributed to those in need in the past two years—all free of charge, through WPE's unique "Mobile Boutiques" and its Direct Distribution program.

Interested volunteers should please contact Mandy Nakaya at 925-818-6361 or mandy@whiteponyexpress.org. For more information, visit www.whiteponyexpress.org.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Come dance every Thursday evening, year-round. No partner is required and no Scottish ancestry is needed. This dancing is aerobic and very sociable. Adult beginners are welcome anytime. Classes take place each week at 8^{PM}. More experienced dancers also begin at 8^{PM} in a separate class. All classes are held at the Danville Grange, located at 743 Diablo Road in Danville. All dance nights are drop-in. The first beginner lesson is free; afterwards the cost is \$10/night or \$8/night if attending a 10-week session paid in advance.

Call Witsie at (925) 676-3637 for more information.

Grant recipients are required to make the technical findings of their project available to the relevant pipeline operators. In addition, they are encouraged to have open communication with local pipeline operators, local communities and other interested parties.

The Alamo Improvement Association's grant request focused on three main areas including:

1) Community education for stakeholders about Safety, Regulations and Oversight Responsibilities involving both liquid and natural gas pipelines, such as the Kinder Morgan pipeline located within the Iron Horse Trail bisecting Contra Costa County and the PG&E pipeline located within our area.

2) First Responder Pipeline Emergency Training specializing in Hazardous Liquid Pipelines for the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District and the Contra Costa Fire District, both which have responsibility for the Alamo community and include other jurisdictions.

3) "Call 811 Before You Dig" education for Alamo residents and the surrounding communities through AIA's website, articles, and announcements.

The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Application process was both thorough and difficult and involved the use of three governmental websites and a proposal format of 21 pages in length with at least 10 questions requiring a minimum of 500 words each. We are very appreciative to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for the opportunities this grant represents in terms of education for our local community and specialized Petroleum Pipeline Emergency training available to our First Responders. AIA was one of only 13 recipients nationwide to qualify for a TAG this year.

Several Pipeline Safety Community Education meetings are being planned. A steering committee comprised of Michael Kent, Contra Costa County's Hazardous Materials Ombudsman, Jennifer Quallick, Supervisor Candace Andersen's liaison to the Alamo area, Aron DeFerrari, Contra Costa County District Attorney, Alamo MAC member, along with Roger Smith, AIA President, are in discussions with the Pipeline Safety Trust, a Washington based not-for-profit organization specializing in national meetings of this type, to determine the scope of the educational meeting project. The location for meetings and the specific dates are expected to be announced soon.

Philip Oakes, designated by the National Association of State Fire Marshals to provide specialized training for Liquid Pipeline Emergencies, has been selected to provide this specialized training for our local First Responders.

"Call 811-Before-You-Dig" is a national service provided free-of-charge to property owners. It focuses on providing information on the location of pipelines on properties, both residential and commercial. AIA will continue this process of educating our local communities through newspaper articles, announcements, and other means.

Brigade continued from front page

family, friends, neighbors, and schoolmates from Rancho Romero Elementary in Alamo. Each bear is safety tested and sized to fit into a resealable bag. Bobby's success in outfitting every California patrol car has sparked his mission of taking his efforts nationwide. He is working with other states to determine how many Highway Patrol first-responder vehicles each has and whether he can outfit each car. He currently has enough donations to supply all of Alabama, Arkansas, and Wyoming. This year, Bobby started an Ambassador program where other kids adopt a state and secure the funds needed to supply that state's teddy bears. Ambassadors are listed on the Bobby's Brigade website (BBBCHP.com), and each is offered a spot in the Junior Philanthropist program via parent charity Pledge to Humanity, of which Bobby was the first Junior Philanthropist at age four.

Bobby's fundraising efforts included the securing of a corporate sponsor – Crunch Fitness – which allowed him to meet his annual goal of outfitting every California car, and for years, he has annually hosted a May fundraising event at his home in Alamo. This year, due to the event's popularity, it will be held at a larger venue, Creekside Community Church. Up to 300 children are expected to attend. Each is asked to save \$10 from their allowance to purchase five teddy bears. "It is our hope that Bobby's Brigade members will form a friendly bond with law enforcement at an early age," says Mark.

"It feels good to be able to make a difference for children who are scared or need comfort," says Bobby. "And I enjoy having my friends help me."

For more information on Bobby's Brigade, visit BBBCHP.com.

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