

Diablo GazetteTM

August 2026

How Concord's Newest Resident, Amaya Masoli Became Disney's Young Moana

pg.7

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About This Edition...

I can't say I have ever spoken to a more cheerful, positive thinking 12-year-old than when I spoke with Amaya Masoli who plays Young Moana in the Disney Live Action movie. Her story of how she got the part is the kind of situation TV shows thrive on. She is incredibly spirited, polite, gracious, and communicative. She also was interviewed on KRON TV and ABC7. She moved to Concord this summer and is starting middle school here this month.

For those following the WWII diary of Nell Fliehmman series, we are almost done...one maybe two more editions to go. I have had several requests for a copy of this diary.

While I am republishing as it was written, there were no photos in her diary. I have added them for effect, but they are historic photos from the Netherlands during Germany's occupation. I want to thank all the readers who have sent in many kind compliments regarding this

series. Some of these I will share with Nell and her son who gave me the diary.

The movie reviewed in the Screen Time column, pg. 21, is "Why We Dream". It's a documentary of the seven surviving Veterans from the D-Day attack returning back to Normandy on the 80th anniversary in 2024. Papa Jake Larson, Martinez, was prominently featured in this film. Sadly, there are only four veterans left. Three have since passed, including Jake. I purchased two bricks for his statue fundraiser though. One I gave as a gift.

To the right, Julia O'reilly, the docent of Jor Art Gallery in Clayton recently visited Sicily, and she was kind enough to bring copies of the Diablo Gazette with her. She said she left extra copies the for the hotel for customers to pick up. It would be interesting if I was contacted by a traveler from there. Julia is now a forever member of the Diablo Gazette Elite Traveler's Club.

Enjoy this issue.



Julia O'Reilly of JOR Art Gallery in Clayton, became a member of the Diablo Gazette Elite Travelers Club. Here she is at Teatro Antico di Taormina in Sicily. She left a few copies in her hotel there. Below she's at Doric Temple of Segesta- Sicily



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Next Step for 900-Home Former Coast Guard Redevelopment

A long-awaited housing project on Concord's former Coast Guard property is taking another step forward. On July 28, the Concord City Council approved a \$356,164 agreement with Walnut Creek-based First Carbon Solutions to prepare the environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed Concord Townsquare Project, a development that would bring 800 to 900 homes to the 59-acre former Coast Guard property at 3295 Haleakala St, (off E. Olivera).

The environmental review is a major milestone in the approval process and is required before the city can consider the project's land-use entitlements. The proposed development would require a General Plan amendment, rezoning, a development agreement and several other approvals before construction could begin.

City officials said the project is not eligible for streamlined environmental review because it conflicts with the property's current General Plan and zoning designations.

Instead, a full project-level Environmental Impact Report will examine issues including air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, biological and cultural resources, noise, hazardous materials, water supply

and other potential environmental impacts. The review will also include public scoping meetings and opportunities for residents to comment before a final EIR is completed.

According to the staff report, the environmental review is expected to take about one year to complete. City taxpayers will not foot the bill as the developer will reimburse the city for the entire cost of the EIR, plus an additional 20% to cover the city's administrative expenses.

The project first came before the City Council during a study session in February, where councilmembers expressed support for continuing the proposal and discussed topics including housing density, unit types and potential community benefits.

The council's vote is not an approval of the housing development itself. Instead, it authorizes the environmental review process, one of the key steps before the proposed neighborhood can return to the Planning Commission and City Council for future public hearings and final consideration.

This article has been updated from its original on Claycord.com

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German Occupation of the Netherlands May 1940 - May 1945

Part 7: Teaming Up With the Underground

by Nell Fleihmann - Van Altena

Nell Fleihmann from Oakland is 103 years old and is the mother of Jack Fleihmann who lives in Concord. She is among the very few individuals still living who can recount the experience of enduring the German occupation during World War II.

In 1933, Nell resided in Holland. At just 10 years old, she could not have realized that Hitler's ascent to power in Germany would soon dramatically alter her life. The change was abrupt.

She has documented her experiences living under the German occupation of the Netherlands in a 50-page booklet, which she has kindly shared with the Diablo Gazette.

This is the seventh part of her narrative. The first six parts are available at diablogazette.com and in earlier issues starting with the February 2026 edition.

Teaming up with the Underground

On the next trip, we were bicycling home and in one town where we stopped at an intersection, a truck stopped next to us.

One of the men sitting in front looked at us and we looked at him and recognized him as a man who lived around the corner from us back home. We hardly knew him. He asked us if we wanted a ride back home.

"Yes, that would be nice."

The truck pulled over. The driver of the truck lifted our bicycles onto the truck bed and we hopped in. We drove for quite a while—now we're in the province of Noord Holland.

We found out that the two men were working for the underground, and to this day I am surprised they let us in on that knowledge. They obviously trusted us 100%.

We drove through another town where they stopped to give a ride to woman. I have always felt that they knew her and had a date to pick her up. Was she also linked to the underground?

In the next town we were stopped by two German soldiers. The woman, who lived in that town, was let go. My sister and I were of no interest to the Germans and were also allowed to leave, but because it was late in the afternoon, it would have been unsafe to bicycle

home in the dark. Besides, there was a curfew and being out late at night was forbidden. Truus and I stayed with the two men.

The truck was confiscated and we were all marched off on foot to a hotel full of German officers. The two men were given a bedroom. My sister and I were told to find a room somewhere else.

Peter accompanied us to another hotel, and a German soldier tagged along. The manager of the other hotel not only told us that he had no room for us but gave us girls a nasty look. I did not blame him. He thought that we were Dutch girls fraternizing with Germans.

We returned to the first hotel full of officers where they found for us an empty maid's room in the servants' quarters, a cubicle under the rafters of the roof; simple but with two beds and a water basin.

Peter and his friend were not allowed to continue their trip. Since it was late in the day, their case was being held over until the next morning.

When dinner time came all four of us were invited to dine at a table with German officers. The two underground men declined to eat. Peter told me the next day that they were worried sick, and had no appetite. No wonder since their lives now hung in the balance.

The Germans were merciless when they caught someone working in the underground. The fellow who we did not know before, had a wife and child at home, so he had more to worry about than Peter, a single man. Anyone caught working in the underground was usually taken away and disappeared permanently.

Overnight Stay with the Enemy

My sister and I did not want to decline dinner because it would be awkward if we all turned down the invitation.

Silently we had dinner in the officers' mess at a table with about ten of Hitler's henchmen. We sat at the end of the long table, kept to ourselves, and pretended not to understand German. We hated everything about them, their uniforms and their arrogance. These were the



Dutch resistance group

men who had taken away our freedom, who dictated what we could do, where we could go and what we could say. They were indirectly responsible for some of the friends we had lost, or who were sent into forced labor camps.

The next morning all four of us, detainees, had some breakfast in the mess hall downstairs. This was Dutch food, grown and processed in Holland. It is doubtful that the Germans paid for anything. We were not about to act unpleasant to these officers. That would not be a wise thing to do.

Truus and I hung around for a few hours while the matter with the two men and their truck was being investigated. We were very worried about our newfound companions and certainly did not enjoy our stay with the enemy. After a few hours we heard the good news that the fellows were getting their truck back and were free to go.

When we drove off with the two men, Truus and I were told that the husband of the lady we had with us the previous day had been instrumental in getting the men freed, confirming my belief that they had known that woman before they picked her up.

They were on an underground mission, but had been able to convince their interrogators that they had been transporting food for children, in conjunction with the International Red Cross and had the false papers to prove that.

We drove all afternoon and then parted company with Peter and his friend, because the men were not going to where we lived. It had been a trip full of suspense, danger, and even

a bit of romance.

It really clicked between Peter and myself. He was a bit older, I guess around 29 years old and not only daring, being in the underground, but also a very caring and thoughtful person.

During the long hours the four of us were sitting in the cab of the truck, I was wedged between Truus on my right, and Peter on my left. It was very cozy to be pressed against him. Already since the previous day, I felt we had a thing going on, both ways.

Before the men let us off, they invited us to have dinner with them and some friends they were to meet, but we wanted to press on home and declined politely.

Shortly before arriving home, we noticed a German army vehicle on the road and all of a sudden, a British fighter plane appeared. Bullets flew over our heads. We dropped our bikes and literally fell into a ditch to seek cover. When the shooting stopped, we crawled out of the ditch, and continued bicycling. I had no idea, nor did I care, what happened to the German vehicle.

One early evening, after his return home, Peter invited Truus and me to his home for a drink. We were served gin and tonic and some smoked almonds. This indicated an obvious connection with someone in England.

Next month: "Shortages of Most Essentials"

All historical images added to this series for are of or by the author but added simply for visual support of the story.



The Economics of Police Services

One of the most important services Clayton provides is also one of the hardest to scale down: local police service. The City's policy is to have no fewer than two officers on duty at all times. Some may ask why that is necessary in a small city with a low crime rate. We are fortunate to enjoy that low crime rate, but police staffing cannot be built around the average call. Police work is unpredictable. A noise complaint, traffic stop, welfare check, or family dispute can quickly become more serious. An officer may encounter a combative person, a mental health crisis, a domestic violence situation, an arrest, a medical emergency, or a scene requiring traffic control or immediate aid. Two officers on duty does not mean every call requires two officers. It means the City has enough coverage to respond safely when something changes. One officer may engage with the person involved while the other provides cover, manages the scene, or assists with an arrest. Backup may be available, but it is not always immediate.

Policing is 24/7. With two officers on duty at all times, the City needs 336 officer hours every week. Clayton budgets for 10 sworn officers. At 40 hours per officer, that equals 400 officer hours per week. At first glance, that looks like a 64-hour weekly buffer – but that buffer gets used quickly. Officers take vacation, get sick, go to court, get training. There are holidays, and injuries, and special events.

Depending on tenure, each officer

receives between two and a half and five and a half weeks of vacation per year. On average, that is approximately 30 officer hours per week. Holidays and an average of one week of sick time per officer are another 25 officer hours per week. That leaves about nine hours of weekly buffer before training, court appearances, special events, administrative work, injuries, or vacancies. Even a fast-hiring process can take months. A more realistic timeline can be four to six months. One vacancy could remove roughly 40 officer hours per week, turning a small buffer into a deficit.

This is the challenge. The minimum staffing is fixed but the available staffing can change quickly. With a small department, one vacancy, one injury, one extended leave, or one major incident can immediately affect the schedule. It is also why police services are difficult to reduce incrementally.

In some City services, a reduction may mean fewer hours, a longer project timeline, or a lower level of maintenance. Police staffing does not work the same way. We are at the minimum required, and that schedule has to be covered every hour of every day.

That small remaining margin matters when we talk about the City's broader finances. Police service is one of the City's largest and most important expenses, but it is also one of the least flexible. As such,

future funding shortfalls would not be able to be absorbed through police staffing reductions. As a result, future cuts would likely have to come from somewhere else, including maintenance, landscaping, parks, facilities, infrastructure, or administrative capacity.

There has also been discussion in the past about contracting out police services. Clayton has evaluated that option, and it would be substantially more expensive. It would also likely result in a lower level of service. The Sheriff's Office serves many communities and covers a large area. But they are farther away, not dedicated solely to Clayton, and not directly accountable to City staff in the same way our own department is. Cost is also a major factor. Clayton's police wages are currently among the lowest in the County. Sheriff's Office wages are substantially higher. Contracting out would not eliminate the cost of policing. It would change the model, likely increase the cost, and reduce local control.

The bottom line is that Clayton's officers provide excellent, responsive service at a cost that is difficult to beat. They know the community. They respond quickly. They help keep Clayton safe. And they do it within a very tight staffing model. The schedule works, but it works with very little room for error.

California Scratcher Pays \$500,000 to Clayton Winner



Over one million dollars in Lottery winnings has been sold at Village Market in Clayton over the past 20 years according to owner Johnny Sanhu.

In July, a Concord man struck gold in Clayton by winning \$500,000 in the California Lottery Scratcher game.

The winning ticket was purchased at Village Market, 6104 Main St. in Clayton.

According to store owner Johnny Sandhu, the winner is believed to be retired and is a regular player there. He won playing a \$5 Scratcher ticket.

Sandhu says that the store has sold more than half a million dollars in winning tickets over the past 20 years, but this latest winner bumps that total to over one million.

The store will receive a 0.5% selling bonus (\$2,500) from California State Lottery.

Good things happen in Clayton. Congratulations to Mr. Anonymous.

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CLAYTON MARKET UPDATE

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
55 Regency Dr	\$1,040,000	2368	4/2.5	6/18/2026
510 Mt Dell Dr	\$935,000	2619	5/2.5	6/22/2026
402 Chupcan Pl	\$839,000	1939	3/2.5	6/22/2026
244 Mountaire Cir	\$1,220,000	2489	5/2.5	6/26/2026
32 Atchinson Stage Ct	\$1,315,000	2076	3/2.5	7/6/2026
721 Black Point Pl	\$1,070,000	2164	5/3	7/9/2026
218 Mountaire Cir	\$1,150,000	2619	4/2.5	7/10/2026

CONCORD MARKET UPDATE

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
871 Litwin Dr	\$935,000	1601	3/2	6/18/2026
3641 Clayton Rd #37	\$360,000	800	2/2	6/23/2026
1679 Westwood Dr	\$870,000	1694	3/2	6/26/2026
1831 Venice Dr	\$540,000	901	2/1	7/2/2026
4459 Windflower Ct	\$1,200,000	2479	4/3	7/6/2026
1543 American Beauty Dr	\$895,000	1668	3/2	7/10/2026
1170 Mardon Ct	\$1,173,000	2249	4/2.5	7/16/2026

Based on information from CCRAR/Paragon MLS® as of 7/17/26. All data, including all measurements and calculations of area, is obtained from various sources and has not been, and will not be, verified by broker or MLS. All information should be independently reviewed and verified for accuracy. Properties may or may not be listed by the office/agent presenting the information.



Jennifer Stojanovich
Broker/Owner, Better Homes Realty

The Right Price Often Leads to the Highest Price

One of the biggest misconceptions in real estate is that there is only one way to price a home. The truth is different markets call for different pricing strategies.

A strong seller's market with limited inventory can be more forgiving if pricing a home is too low or too high. In a more balanced or slower market, the pricing strategy may depend more upon inventory, buyer demand and uniqueness of the property.

The key is to understand today's market—not last year's.

Right now, we are seeing a more balanced market where buyers have more choices and are taking their time. They are educated, they're watching every new listing, and they know what comparable homes have recently sold for. Pricing your home correctly from the start has never been more important.

The first two weeks on the market are crucial. When your home first comes on the market, it receives the most attention it will likely ever receive. Buyers who are in the market are notified the moment your property becomes available. This is your opportunity to create excitement and competition.

When a home is priced at today's market value, buyers recognize it as a good opportunity. They are more likely to schedule a showing quickly or attend the open house because they know other buyers will be looking at it too. That sense of urgency often leads to strong offers, multiple offer situations, and better negotiating leverage for the seller.

One of the most common conversations I have with sellers is the concern that pricing at market value

will invite a lower than list price offer. Ironically, in today's market, the opposite is often true. Overpricing doesn't usually result in low offers; it often results in no offers at all.

Pricing at market value isn't about settling for less. It's about creating the conditions that allow sellers to maximize their results.

When buyers understand a home is priced fairly, more buyers schedule appointments, the open house is busy, competition increases and sellers often gain leverage through the negotiation process.

This often results in higher sales prices, multiple offers, fewer repair requests, stronger contract terms and greater flexibility on timing for close or rent back for the seller.

Steady buyer interest almost always puts the seller in a stronger negotiating position than a home that has been sitting on the market.

When a home remains on the market longer than normal, buyers asks questions—Why hasn't it sold? Is something wrong with it? Will the seller accept less?"

Ironically, the strategy intending to avoid a low offer often leads to weaker negotiating power later.

Every home is unique and every market requires its own pricing strategy.

The goal is to understand the market and position your home where buyers will respond. The market always determines the value. A realtor's job is to help position your home so you can make the most of it. Pricing correctly upfront gives the seller the best opportunity to achieve the best possible outcome.

Clayton Hosts Summer Season Cornhole Tournament with 300 players on July 31 Weekend



Clayton Cornhole closed out seven weeks of summer league with our playoffs in downtown Clayton this weekend. Forty teams and nearly 300 players competed in one of three playoff brackets (Gold, Silver, or Bronze) based on their record in the regular season. Action starts at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 1, at the Ipsen Family Bocce Courts and continued through 8:00 p.m. Semifinals and finals played Sunday, Aug. 2, at 10:00 a.m. and noon respectively. Each match was a best of five game series. According to the CBCA Facebookpage [Photo Facebook.com/CBCAClayton](https://www.facebook.com/CBCAClayton)

In Case You Missed It...

Local news items from Claycord.com and other sources

San Ramon Valley 12U Little League Wins NorCal, Advances One Step From World Series

Danville-based San Ramon Valley Little League won the Northern California regional tour-nament on July 30, by defeating a team from El Dorado Hills 12-2 in Chico.

Next up will be the West Region tournament in San Bernardino starting Aug. 9 as one of four teams vying to make it to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

The international tournament brings together some of the best youth baseball teams from countries around the world.

Walnut Creek Aquanuts Cap Championship Season With Gold Medals, National Success and Team USA Honors

June 17-19 the Aquanuts hosted the first "Aloha Cup Invitational" at the University of Hawaii for Youth, Jr, Sr and Masters athletes. Athletes traveled from as far away as Greece and Connecticut to attend. The Aquanuts dominated the Junior & Youth categories, taking home 12 gold medals, seven silver and three bronze medals at the Aloha Cup.

A week later, WCA sent two 12 & under teams to the Junior Olympics in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Katerina Qualk came out golden in the solo event and took the silver medal in the figure cate-gory. In the duet final, Qualk paired with Emilia Day where they ultimately ended up fourth overall.

In the 12u mixed duet, Rayden Vu and Kiley Quinn placed fifth in the nation. The Aquanuts took two more silver medals in the 12 and under category in the Team and Combo events, making them the second-best 12 and under team in the country.

Catch the Aquanuts at their annual Fall Swim Show Sept 3-6, 2026, at Clarke Memorial Swim Center. For more information on the Walnut Creek Aquanuts and their iconic fall show visit www.aquanuts.org.



Concord Plaza Hotel Near Buchanan Field Airport Is Now Courtyard by Marriott/Fairfield by Marriott

Courtyard by Marriott is designed as a more upscale hotel, offering modern rooms, stylish common areas, and amenities like an on-site restaurant, bar, and flexible workspaces. It caters primarily to business travelers and guests looking for a more full-service experience. Fairfield by Marriott is a more budget-friendly brand focused on comfort, convenience, and value.

Odessey of the Mind Team Honored

Walnut Creek City Council presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Buena Vista Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind Team congratulating them on placing second at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

Sycamore Valley Elementary School in Danville also took second in a separate challenge. The contest was held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa on May 27-30.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program where team members pre-sent their solution at a competition to a predefined long-term problem. It involves writing, design, construction, and theatrical performance. Also, a spontaneous portion of the competition has the team generate solutions to a problem they have not seen before.

Former KFC/A&W On Clayton Road In Concord Being Converted Into 7 Brew Coffee

Remodeling is underway at the former KFC/A&W restaurant on Clayton Road in Concord, where national coffee chain 7 Brew Coffee is preparing to open its first California location.

According to plans submitted to the City of Concord, the existing 3,664-square-foot restaurant is being converted into a drive-through-only coffee stand. The former dining room will be used for employee training and storage. T

he project includes a new dual-lane drive-through entrance along the west side of the property. Founded in Arkansas, 7 Brew Coffee has expanded rapidly across 35 states. The chain offers customizable hot and iced coffees, teas, energy drinks, lemonades, smoothies, shakes, and flavored sparkling waters, along with a limited selection of packaged food items.



Concord, There's a New Princess in Town

by Rachel King

A Disney Princess has moved to Concord! Amaya Masoli is a twelve-year-old who had her acting debut in Disney's 2026 Polynesian princess film "Moana."

The bubbly, well-spoken actress and her mother, Mariah, spoke with the Diablo Gazette about their adventure filming Disney's most recent theatrical release. Getting cast as the young Moana was a shock to all.

"We couldn't believe it. It's still surreal to us," said Mariah of the experience.

Amaya hadn't even intended to audition for the role of young Moana. Initially, family members had alerted her about a casting call in Southern California for background roles as villagers for the film.

Amaya has spent some of her early childhood living in American Samoa with her great-grandmother. In the Bay Area, Amaya has been involved with Polynesian youth programs, like the Pacific Islander Youth Alliance After School Program, which is offered by the Samoan Community Development Center in San Francisco, and the Manuia Polynesian Revue dance company based in Daly City. She also was a student of Ata Mai Cultural Arts in Millbrae.

Amaya was not getting any word regarding audition results, although she was hearing that others had been contacted. Then, she received a callback, and much to her and her family's surprise, Disney asked to chat with Amaya about playing the role of young Moana.



"It caught me and my whole family off guard," she remembered. "It's a very great moment in my life." That audition was via Zoom. From there, Disney flew her out to Trilith Studios in Fayetteville, Georgia to attend a round of in-person auditions for the role of young Moana.

"I really love to dance. I grew up as a little girl dancing, singing, and acting came along with that," Amaya shared. "In third grade, for my school, I got to be in their production of Moana, and I was young Moana. So, it was very cool how I got to be in a play with [the part of young Moana], and then I got to be in the actual movie."

"We got to sing with [the actors who play] Moana's parents, and I got to meet the director, Thomas Kail, and the dance choreographer, Tiana Liufau," Amaya described. After some waiting, she received the best news of all: "On my tenth birthday, they surprised me with the news that I got cast as young Moana. I was very happy; I felt very blessed." What an incredible birthday surprise.

"We were just so overwhelmed with excitement and joy," Mariah gushed.

"We were just very honored to even be asked to audition for young Moana. And for her to actually get it, it was just like a dream come true."

Next came the filming: Amaya's filming was completed back in 2024 over the course of only two weeks, but it wasn't all magic and fun. In an interview with

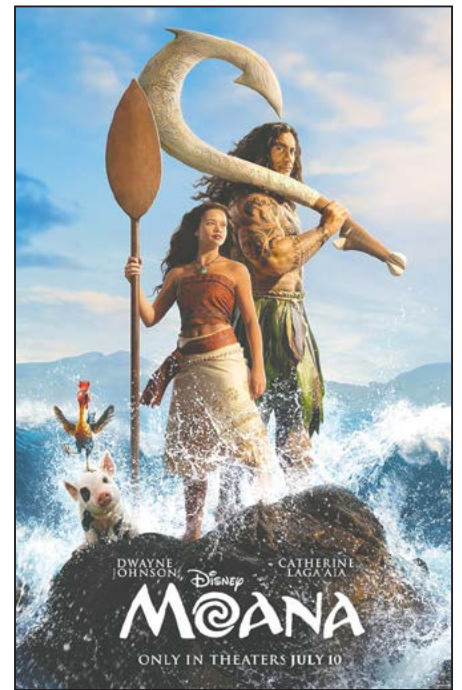
KRON4 News Bay Area, Amaya shared the dangers of filming a movie— while filming a scene for the final time, she was stung by a fire ant but still completed her scene!

In December 2025, Amaya traveled to Pixar Studios in Emeryville to record a voice over for her part. At Pixar, she was shown the clip of herself singing. It was her first glance at the film.

"It looked very beautiful, and we were so excited to see the rest of the movie." Amaya memorialized her time at Pixar Studios with a princess autograph:

"[Pixar Studios] has a wall where you have to sign your name. And I got to sign my name, and I put 'Young Moana.'"

"My favorite thing about this story is Moana is very determined and she goes out and get things done and she does it in such a kind way. She just wants to



help everybody and be true to herself."

As of June, young Moana is now part of our community. Her family has moved to Concord, where her grandparents have lived since 2021. Amaya is looking forward to entering seventh grade for the upcoming 26-27 school year.

"I'm very excited because I get new opportunities. I get to meet new people and have new challenges."

With that level of positivity, seventh grade should be a breeze for this local Disney Princess.

Thanks to Amaya and her family for bringing a little more magic to Concord. If you haven't yet done so, you can catch Amaya at the movies. "Moana" is now showing in our local theaters.

To keep up with Amaya's journey, you can follow her on Instagram @amayamasoli.

Bucket Brigades Head to Concord Roastery

by David King



Members of Confire pick up a bucket of coffee beans from Berk's Beans in Concord.

Greg Berkowitz, owner of Berk's Beans, a roastery in Concord, has introduced a five-gallon coffee bucket designed for fire departments, police stations, paramedics, hospitals, construction crews and just about any workplace where the coffee pot seems to run around the clock.

"This bucket idea is really designed with first responders in mind," Berkowitz said. "But it's ideal for anybody consuming a lot of coffee every month."

One local fire department already purchases about 15 pounds from Berk's Beans each month. The bucket program makes the process easier, more affordable and a little more fun. Fire departments can choose a red bucket, while police departments can select blue.

You could say they are the Berk's Beans Bucket Brigades.

The first bucket costs \$150 and includes more than 12 pounds of freshly roasted coffee, prepared in the customer's choice of roast or blend. The bucket also comes with an airspace lid that allows excess air to escape and helps keep the coffee fresh.

Once the supply runs low, simply contact Berk's Beans, choose their coffee and bring the bucket back for a refill. Refills cost \$120, bringing the price to less than \$10 per pound!. For freshly roasted coffee, Berkowitz says that is a bargain worth waking up for.

Berk's Beans starts by roasting 15 pounds of green coffee beans enough to keep a busy crew fueled for about a month. Berkowitz explained that freshness makes a major difference. Coffee is at its best during the first two or three weeks after roasting



and should generally be consumed within 30 days. After that, he said, the flavor begins to "flatline."

That may not sound too alarming for the average office worker, but Berkowitz jokes that when someone may be called upon to save him, he wants that person "alert and caffeinated properly."

The program has also inspired acts of appreciation. A Brentwood woman recently purchased an entire bucket and donated it to her local fire station after firefighters battled a blaze next to her home and saved her house.

Berkowitz loves the gesture and believes other residents or businesses may want to sponsor their neighborhood stations as well. Firefighters working long shifts often contribute toward their own food and coffee, he noted, making a bucket a practical thank-you gift.

Berkowitz hopes that idea catches fire, "I think it's easy and a really cool idea."

Berk's Beans is located at 1717 Solano Way in Concord. 925-588-9164. berksbeans.com

calendar of events



Fundraisers

“Papa Jake” Larson monument Brick Drive. Be forever a part of this bronze monument in Martinez Igancio Plaza honoring War Hero Jake Larson. Engrave your name on a brick. All brick purchases are donations and are tax deductible. papajakelarson.com.

Cars 2nd Chance, vehicle / car donation programs turns donations into cash for charities Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary Charitable Fund. www.cars2ndchance.org/

Clayton

Concerts in the Grove

> **August 08 Midnight Flyers** Eagles Tribute 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

> **August 22 Pride & Joy** R&B and Motown Music. 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Concord



August 16 Picnic at the Galindo Home Enjoy a fun day with your family and friends. Bring a picnic lunch, take a guided tour of the Galindo Home. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.. 1721 Amador Ave. concordhistorical.org

August 30 Concord Historical Society “Settling California: de Anza 250” - Discover how California came to be and get to know Juan Bautista de Anza, the man who made it happen Presented by Vivian Boyd and Gail Van Tassell. FREE, 2:00 p.m. at the Concord Museum and Event center, 1928 Clayton Rd. Parking behind the building on Marina Ct.

Concord Chamber First Fridays Coffee - 2nd Friday of the month, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM at Gratitude Coffee Bar, 1655 Willow Pass Rd. Suite B (Park n Shop). Business leaders and community members come together to network, share updates, and hear the latest from the Chamber and the community. Members Free, non-members \$10.

Sept. 03 Emergency Preparedness Fair 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Todos Santos Plaza. Learn how to prepare for earthquakes, wildfires, and disasters of all kinds. Learn how to use a fire extinguisher, or to become an amateur radio operator, or a 911 Dispatcher. For more info contact Trish Beirne, Concord PD, 925-671-3184.

Sept. 17 The 54th annual Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year Dinner & Celebration Honor 22 outstanding educators from across the county and conclude with two Teachers of the Year announcement. 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.. \$100, \$40 for youths. Hilton Concord. 1970 Diamond Blvd. <https://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/>

MUSIC AND MARKET

Todos Santos 6:00-8:00 p.m.

> **Aug 06 Twist on Taylor** Taylor Swift tribute

> **Aug 13 Carlos Reyes**, Latin Jazz

> **Aug 20 The 3 Queens of Motown**, Tina Turner, Diana Ross, and Aretha Franklin tribute

> **Aug 27 Aja Vu** Steely Dan and Chicago tribute

> **Sept 03 Strange Days** The Doors tribute

Pleasant Hill

August 07 & 21, Sept. 04 -Night Market 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Chilpancingo Park. Bring the family for an evening of food, live music, and fun. Includes artisan vendors, food trucks, desserts, beer and wine garden and activities for all ages. Face painting, petting zoo, bounce house and more.

First and third Friday of the month until Nov. 20.

August 14 Community Service Day Proposals Due PH Civic Action Commission is seeking project ideas for community Service Day on Saturday, September 19 from 5:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Submit project proposals to phillca.gov/514/Community-service-day

August 18 East Bay Leadership Council Installation Awards Honorees include Heather Schiffman, Contra Costa Association of Realtors for Advocate of the Year Award; Kristing Connelly, Contra Costa Clerk Recorder for Ellen O. Tauscher Distinguished Service Award; Hanson Bridgett for East Bay Leadership Medal. 5:30 8:00 p.m. \$100 members, \$150 non-members. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive.

August 20 - Business Person of the Year Award. Join Pleasant Hill Chamber for the Board Installation Dinner & Business Person of the Year Award at Back Forty Texas BBQ.

The program will include a hosted cocktail hour and networking reception, a seated dinner with remarks, a year-in-review presentation highlighting the Chamber's achievements, formal board recognition and leadership transitions, and the presentation of the Business Person of the Year. Tickets through pleasanthillchamber.com

Sunset by the Lake

City Hall 100 Gregory Rd.

> **August 16 King Tritone**

> **August 30 The Big Jangle**

Martinez

August 13 Downtown Car Show 6:00-8:00 p.m.

August 16 Art in the Park More than 65 artist vendors present their original artwork for this 55th annual event by the Martinez Arts Association. Live music, food trucks, and wine vendors. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Susana Park, Martinez.

Aug. 16 55th annual Art in the Park Susana Park. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Music food trucks, wine and beer. silent auction, unique artwork. See story on page 16. Presented by Martienz Arts Association.

August 29-30 Mediterranean Festival. Live entertainment, Mediterranean food and drinks, kids activities, arts and crafts, desserts, hookah and more. Noon to 9:00 p.m. Sts, Peter and Paul Orthodox Church. 2370 Harbor View Dr.

For more Martinez Community events, go to Martinez Section, page 20.

At the Martinez Campbell Theater

636 Ward St.

> **Aug 9 Open Mic 6:00 p.m.** Onstage Repertory Theatre presents Open Mic It is an inclusive and supportive group. For first-timers or seasoned performers. No ticket required, but there is a \$3 cover. For more information, visit www.campbelltheater.com

> **Aug. 14-16 Radio Plays “No Cheeseburger for You” and “It Just Keeps Getting Worse!”** The show will feature two plays, “No Cheeseburger for You” and “It Just Keeps Getting Worse,” both written and directed by Bill Chessman. presented by Onstage Repertory Theatre. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the door and online. For more information, visit www.campbelltheater.com

Aug. 27 & 29 Auditions “The

Cottage” Thursday 27th, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Saturday 29th Noon to 3:00 p.m. Production date is Feb 19-Mar 7.

Walnut Creek

September 3-6 Aquanats Fall Swim Show, at Clarke Memorial Swim Center. For more info go to: aquanats.org

Merry Mixers Dances

7:30 to 10:00 p.m. Free coffee and water, no-host bar, \$20 corkage. Outside liquor prohibited. \$20, Walnut Creek Elks Lodge 1475 Creekside Drive. 925-969-9693 Membership dues \$25

> **Aug. 07 Bob**

Gutierrez preceded by a Rumba lesson

> **Aug. 21 Oaktown Strutters**, preceded by a potluck

> **Sept. 04 Take Two**, preceded by a Waltz lesson



Summer Concerts

7:00-8:30 p.m. Broadway Plaza

> **August 06 Foreverland**

> **August 13 The Bell**

> **August 20 Summer Night**

Leshner Center

1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469.

> **Aug. 07-16 The Hunchback of Notre Dame** Friday Saturday 7:30 p.m. Sunday 2:30 p.m.

> **Aug. 15 CALeidoscope** Family Tour, Bedford Galleries. Bring family to an interactive art adventure. Tour the gallery then get creative with hands-on art project. \$15

> **Sept. 05 Best of San Francisco Stand-Up Comedy** 8:15 - 9:30 p.m. Recommended for ages 18 and over. \$18.75

Other Areas

Crockett:

August 15 - 5th Annual Dreamin' of the Islands by SugarCity Marketplace. Enjoy an afternoon of Island vibes. 20 vendors, island eats, tropical treats and shopping. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Free admission 991 Loring Ave.

Lafayette

> **August 21 Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club.** General meeting. 7:00 p.m. Club updates and guest speaker. License testing, all levels, at 5:30 p.m. (before meeting) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. mdarc.org

Pittsburg:

≥**Sept. 03 SIR Branch 19 Monthly Luncheon.** 11 AM Social hour. Lunch at noon Pittsburg Elks' Lodge, 200 Marina Blvd., Guest speaker Judy Woo, Communications Director of CCC Fire Protection District.

SIR is a social organization of men who get together and participate in fun activities, such as golf, bowling, hiking, bocce, fishing, dining out, wine tasting, day trips, etc. All are welcome. Our motto is: "To make friends for life." www.sirinc2.org/branch19 or call: 925 338-1996 for more information.

Library Events

CLAYTON AUG. 18

Clayton Library Book Club.

Read, share ideas, and connect with others at the Clayton Library Book Club. This monthly club welcomes everyone and features books from a variety of genres. Registration is not required. This month's book selection is "The Shipping News" by Annie Proulx. You can view the book in the library catalog: View The Shipping News by Annie Proulx on BiblioCommons.

CONCORD - Mondays The Library Wellness Team 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Contra Costa County Health Services in partnership with Contra Costa County Library System are here to support library staff and patrons alike. The Library Wellness Team consists of a Community Support Worker and Mental Health Clinician

Clubs

Clayton Clubs

Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary meets Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. at the Clayton Valley Charter School Administration Building, 1300 Alberta Way, Concord www.claytonvalleyrotary.org/

Clayton Valley Garden Club (CVGC) Serves the communities

of Clayton and Concord. Meets the second Wednesday of the month February through November at Diamond Terrace. 6401 Center St. Clayton at 6:30 p.m. claytonvalleyGarden.Club.org 925-276-2299

Concord Clubs

Concord NorCal Helping Hands Lion's Club. lionsclub.org

Rotary Club of Concord. www.concordcarotary.org

Toastmasters leadership skills. Check out Word Weavers Toastmasters Club on the 1st, 3rd or 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at John Muir Hospital in Concord, 2450 East Street, in the Kunkel conference room. <https://400.toastmastersclubs.org/>

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings - If someone's addiction is affecting you, first you must help yourself. Nar-Anon is a twelve-step support group for families and friends of addicts.

>**Concord** -Tuesdays, 7 p.m., John Muir Hospital Concord, Kunkel room, 1st floor near cafeteria.

>**Martinez**-Thursdays, 7 p.m., 1st Baptist Church, 1802 Alhambra Ave., Library behind sanctuary

Information Line: 510-500-5251 email: info@naranonnorcal.org

Martinez Clubs

Kiwanis Club meetings. Thursdays 12-2, lunch is free to visitors. 750 Allen St. Martinez. www.martinezkiwanis.org

Walut Creek Clubs

Diablo View Rotary meets Tuesday nights from 5:45 to 6:45pm at Bourbon Highway 1677 N Main St. Walnut Creek. diabloviewrotary.org/

Rotary Club of Walnut Creek meets weekly 12:15 to 1:30 on Tuesdays at Assistance League Diablo Valley, 2711 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek. www.rotarywc.org



Cool Comfort:

Chilled Corn and Crab Soup with Chardonnay

August still has plenty of heat left, making it the perfect time for a chilled starter that celebrates fresh sweet corn, rich crab, and a glass of Chardonnay. This pairing was inspired by my youngest daughter as she headed off to grad school; since she loves crab and white wine, it felt like a fun twist on two of her favorites.

Chilled Fresh Corn Soup with Crab showcases the local crop of fresh sweet corn and offers a refreshing alternative to salad. For the crab, Dungeness delivers the best flavor and texture; previously frozen, pre-cooked king crab legs are a good substitute, and high-quality packed blue crab is often the most convenient year-round option.

This recipe uses 2% milk in place of heavy cream, keeping it silky without making it too rich. Pair this cool soup with a buttery Chardonnay as it mirrors the sweetness of the corn and the richness of the crab while keeping the chilled soup bright and balanced.

With its silky texture, sweet corn flavor, and delicate crab garnish, this chilled soup is an easy late-summer dish that feels both refreshing and elegant, a simple but memorable way to celebrate the season.

So, go on. Pair Up!

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

Chilled Fresh Corn Soup with Crab

INGREDIENTS

1 pound cooked king, blue, or Dungeness crab
6 cups fresh corn kernels (about 11 ears)
4 1/2 cups water
1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper
1 cup 2% milk
1/4 cup chopped fresh chives



1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

Cut the shells from the crab with kitchen shears and reserve the shells for the broth. Coarsely chop the crabmeat, set aside enough for garnish, and chill until serving. Combine the reserved shells, corn, 4 1/2 cups water, and red pepper in a saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 20 minutes, or until the corn is very tender. Discard the shells.

Using a standard or hand blender, process the corn mixture until smooth. Press the puree through a fine sieve set over a bowl, reserving the liquid and discarding the solids. Stir in the milk, chives, and black pepper, then chill for at least 2 hours. Serve cold, topped with the reserved crabmeat.

Yield: 8 servings

SUBMIT YOUR CALENDAR ENTRIES

by the 20th of the month before Issue month. diablogazette@gmail.com

MEN'S RETIREE SOCIAL GROUP - SIR146: Stay Active, Have Fun & Live Longer!

SIR Branch 146 is a vibrant social group for retired and semi-retired men in Central Contra Costa County, offering a friendly community to help you make the most of retirement. With over 250 members, SIR146 features more than 25 activity groups, including golf, hiking, travel, dining, cards, photography, and cooking. Most activities are co-ed, welcoming spouses and partners. Members enjoy a monthly luncheon with guest speakers and plenty of camaraderie. It's a great opportunity to connect with other men who share similar interests and enjoy an active lifestyle.

Founded in 1988, SIR146 helps men build friendships, stay mentally and physically active, and even live longer, members average six years longer than other men in the county. Guests are always welcome. Learn more at sir146.com or email sir146inquiries@gmail.com.



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For the Love of Pets

by Jill Hedgecock, Jillhedgecock.com

Do Savannah Cats Make Good Pets?

Savannah cats are a cross between a wild African serval and a domestic cat. They are coveted for their striking tall ears, spotted coats, and cheetah-like walk. The first generation, which shares 50% of its genes with the serval, is called an F1 Savannah. The males can weigh up to 25 pounds. F1 Savannahs can cost up to nine thousand dollars. With each additional breeding with domestic cats, the amount of serval DNA is reduced, the offspring look more like a domestic housecat, and they become less expensive. Anyone considering buying F1 to F3 generation Savannahs should be aware of the specific challenges these animals pose. The Savannah Cat Association does not recommend F1 or F2 Savannahs being brought into homes with infants or small children.

When raised properly, F4 generation and later can make fun pets, provided they are properly socialized. Savannah cats are highly intelligent. Unlike many felines, the breed loves water. They can be leashed and litter-boxed trained. Many will come when called and engage in a vigorous game of fetch. Their intelligence can be a double-edged sword, however, since they require a lot of exercise and mental stimulation. They can turn on faucets, which can be a problem when they are left alone.

Currently, no restrictions exist on owning any generation of Savannahs in California. This is surprising, since keeping first-generation wolf-dog hybrids is illegal here. In Contra Costa County, wolf-hybrid offspring are also subject to local regulations. Despite California’s policy, if a Savannah owner needs to move to another state, they may have to leave their pet behind. Hawaii, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Georgia completely ban any generation of Savannahs. Other states only permit ownership of F4 generation and greater.



Savannah cats should never be allowed outdoors except on leash. Once outside, these big, powerful animals are predisposed to hunt and may roam for miles. While many responsible and well-intentioned owners will strive to keep these animals as strictly indoor pets, these felines are escape artists. They are highly intelligent and adept at opening doors and cabinets. There are no studies on the toll of these cats to wild birds. But in May, an escaped Savannah killed multiple chickens from two different neighbor’s Pleasant Hill backyards, and it attacked a neighbor’s cat, which disappeared, and has never been seen again. The escaped Savannah was miles from home and it took weeks before it was eventually captured, requiring special accommodation from animal control to use a live trap at night.

While Savannahs can be very loving and entertaining, anyone looking to acquire one should consider what F generation best suits their home and long-term living and family situation, the liabilities of owning one if it escapes and kills domestic animals, as well as the cost and time commitment required for this high energy pet.

Jill Hedgecock is an award-winning author of several books, including the Doberman trilogy series: “Between Shadow’s Eyes,” “From Shadow’s Perspective,” and “In Shadow’s Reflection.” Her books are available on amazon.com.

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My Bridal Shower Lesson on Local Shopping

by Kevin Cabral, CEO, Concord Chamber of Commerce, ConcordChamber.com

Sometimes the best reminders about the value of shopping locally come from life’s biggest moments.

This past month our family hosted my daughter Caroline’s bridal shower. If you had asked me a year ago how involved I would be in planning a bridal shower, I would have laughed. But when you’re the President and CEO of the Concord Chamber, your family quickly figures out that I probably know who to call.

As anyone who has hosted an event knows, there are a lot of moving parts. Chairs, catering, cake, flowers, the venue—it all has to come together. My wife, Shannon, had one simple goal from the beginning: whenever possible, let’s use local Chamber businesses.

What struck me wasn’t just the quality of the products or services. It was the people behind them.

Chairs for Affairs made the rental process easy from start to finish, taking the time to walk us through their showroom and making sure we had exactly what we needed.

Dave at All Occasions Catering prepared an incredible meal for our small gathering, working with us to create a menu that fit both the occasion and our budget.

Alpine Pastry created a beautiful princess cake that was perfect for our princess, Caroline.

And my future son-in-law surprised

her with flowers from Bloom & Bliss after the shower. A thoughtful gesture made even more special because he found the florist through the Chamber website.

One unexpected highlight came when my son, future son-in-law, his best man, and I shared lunch at Luna. Habib and his team created one of those memorable experiences that reminds you great restaurants are about much more than the food...they create memories you will talk about long after the meal is over.

By the end of the weekend, I realized this wasn’t really about chairs, flowers, or cake. It was about relationships. Every business we worked with genuinely cared about helping make an important family celebration special. That kind of service is difficult to find with a click of a button.

It’s experiences like this that remind me why local businesses matter. They don’t just provide products and services, they become part of the milestones in our lives. They employ our neighbors, support our schools and nonprofits, sponsor community events, and help make Concord feel like home.

As we continue planning for the wedding, I’m sure we’ll have the opportunity to work with even more local businesses. I’m confident we’ll be in good hands. Sometimes, “shopping local” is more than a statement. It’s also about supporting people who care about our community as much as we do.

Solutions page 23

WORD SEARCH: GREEN THINGS

I	J	W	S	K	F	I	W	L	L	Y	Q	L	R	R	A	M	J
V	Y	F	B	I	L	S	P	I	N	A	C	H	A	N	M	O	E
K	Y	V	W	W	A	F	R	O	G	Y	C	E	R	V	J	S	L
D	L	A	R	E	M	E	F	R	B	R	P	S	L	N	A	S	K
I	J	W	O	U	Q	R	K	K	W	E	M	J	I	I	S	V	C
G	I	T	N	S	N	N	R	O	S	L	N	J	L	O	Q	C	I
D	D	E	E	W	A	E	S	J	H	E	W	L	O	D	O	E	P
R	A	L	L	I	P	R	E	T	A	C	I	N	C	A	K	W	I
V	W	C	R	T	J	Q	D	F	U	A	I	B	C	C	R	D	T
V	M	R	L	G	V	W	E	Y	I	C	C	T	O	O	R	R	M
E	L	A	K	A	D	D	K	W	T	T	M	E	R	V	U	T	Q
F	L	H	L	G	A	W	G	U	Y	U	O	T	B	A	S	I	L
E	U	I	I	J	Y	E	H	R	M	S	R	L	L	N	D	C	M
E	M	W	E	J	I	Q	S	K	A	V	Y	T	N	K	A	S	F
E	W	U	C	C	Y	D	J	N	M	S	F	E	L	G	A	Q	W
Y	T	H	D	E	N	B	G	N	C	B	S	L	N	E	E	O	C
A	V	A	F	F	R	D	N	C	F	F	S	K	Q	Y	T	C	Q

ARTICHOKE	CATERPILLAR	GRASS	PEAR
AVOCADO	CELERY	JADE	PICKLE
BASIL	EMERALD	KALE	SEAWEED
BROCCOLI	FERN	LIME	SPINACH
CACTUS	FROG	MOSS	TURTLE

SUDOKU

9	7			5				1
	1					5		4
				2	3			7
2		4	5			7	8	
				7	8	4		
	9		6			3		
		9	3		5			
			8			6	5	
3	6				4		7	

WORD SCRAMBLE

These 5 scrambled words may be green:

PLEAP	_____
HENCOMELA	_____
FAEL	_____
LOONBAL	_____
NOCARY	_____

WORD LADDER

RULES: Convert top word into bottom word by changing 1 letter per line. (Clue letter might be the changed letter.)

- Use 5-letter, English words only.
- No rearranging letters.

LADDER #1	LADDER #2
GREEN	GRASS
G _ _ E _	_ L _ S _
_ _ _ E _	_ _ A _ _
_ _ I _ D	_ _ A S _
DRIED	FLASH

Puzzles column by Marc Rokoff
RokoPuzzles.com



Equity and Equality—the Two Biggest Buzz Words in Politics

by Edi Birsan, Concordian edibirsan@gmail.com

The Concord City Council approved a revised business license tax schedule to be on the ballot in November. Throughout the talks, both in chambers and out, the words equity and equality were tossed about and one can be confused as to what the details result in.

The current tax schedule starts out with your gross revenues and applies a percent to come up with the taxes to be paid. The highest percent 0.1% is on the businesses with the lowest gross income, up to \$25,000. The rate decreases as the company has more income. The bigger companies still pay more dollars than the small companies even though the percent is lower. For example, 1% of \$50,000 is \$500, but .1% of \$50 million is \$50,000.

Most people associate arguments on equity to deal with helping the poor or disadvantaged, but clearly the taxpayers had a different scale concept when they approved the current system which may have originally been described as being business friendly, that is big business friendly. Arguments that they employ more and do more for the city and whatever else the businesses see as disproportionate gain.

The current proposal takes the lower small business rates and applies it to all above at 0.1%. This is an example of equality not equity. For example, Walnut Creek extorts parking tickets from people regardless of their personal income or whether they are

rich shopping tourists or a Rossmore resident held up a few minutes later than scheduled at the dentist.

If we go with the in-vogue view of equity as helping the poor and disadvantaged, then an equity lens would look like: no business tax on yearly revenue of \$50,000 and no business tax on new business for the first two years of operation. The emphasis is to reward people for starting a business here and to help small business get going.

However, in my discussion with staff of this suggestion, it was pointed out that about 30% of the tax would be negated and that the dollar hit would be significant. That is how dependent the city is on taxing small businesses under \$50k.

I was disappointed that the public discussions did not explore the options to take a more friendly supportive position towards the small business.

NOTE: There is a provision to give a free ride for businesses making less than \$5,000, but a business making less than \$500 a month does not seem to really broadcast that Concord wants to help small businesses and start-ups.

The citizens will decide in November and politicians will focus on the rise of the tax amongst larger companies as an equity adjustment from the past schedule or as an equal treatment under

the law. It will be entertaining to watch and listen to the twisting language. Remember at the end of the day it is not about equality or equity it is about the MONEY.

*Views are of Edi Birsan, EdiBirsan@gmail.com whose small business *E.D.I., Inc* at \$60,000 gross is not affected by the idea of a \$50,000 shield from business tax.*

Gross Receipts Category	Effective Tax Rate	% of Businesses
\$0 – \$25,000	0.100%	29%
\$25,000 – \$75,000	0.093%	21%
\$75,000 – \$150,000	0.089%	12%
\$150,000 – \$250,000	0.086%	8%
\$250,000 – \$500,000	0.080%	8%
\$500,000 – \$1,000,000	0.075%	7%
\$1,000,000 – \$2,500,000	0.069%	8%
\$2,500,000 – \$5,000,000	0.065%	3%
\$5,000,000 – \$7,500,000	0.060%	1%
Over \$7,500,000	0.045%	2%

Graphic Concord's current business tax structure pl. The city council voted to place on the November ballot a flat 0.1% tax on all businesses. Businesses grossing less than \$5000 per year would be exempt. If passed, Assistant City Manager, Justin Ezell estimates the city would collect an additional \$3 million.

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Neuroplasticity

by Jessica Raaum Foster
NeurologyofPresence.com

Chronic Pain

When the Alarm System Itself Needs Attention

Pain is one of the body's most important survival tools. It's a neural alarm system, hardwired to detect and help us avoid threats. But when pain stops being occasional and becomes constant, the alarm system itself deserves a closer look.

Chronic pain is defined as pain lasting three months or more, roughly the time it takes tissue to heal from an injury. Think of pain like a smoke alarm: when smoke (a threat) is detected, the alarm sounds. That's useful when smoke is actually present. But chronic pain is more like living with a faulty alarm that's become hypersensitive, going off at the slightest breeze.

Why does this happen? Pain is, in a sense, a skill, the more the nervous system practices it, the better it gets at producing it. Because pain is tied to survival, it can begin to dominate other senses. Even at the receptor level, mechanoreceptors (which normally signal joint movement) can start behaving like nociceptors (which signal tissue-level threat). It's as if the alarm has reached full volume and started recruiting other alarms to make sure it's heard.

By the time most people are diagnosed with chronic pain, they've seen an average of seven doctors or specialists. Each unsuccessful attempt to find an answer adds to a growing stack of frustrating experiences. Not finding a solution can actually intensify the pain experience itself.



This is the key insight: chronic pain usually has more to do with a sensitized nervous system than with the original site of injury. That's true whether or not there was an acute injury to begin with. Recognizing this shifts the entire approach to recovery away from continually retesting the painful area, and toward calming and retraining the nervous system as a whole.

One thing to try: For a few minutes each day, gently move a joint or body part that is not your painful area: slow circles with an ankle, wrist, or neck, paying close attention to the sensation of smooth, easy movement. This kind of low-threat, exploratory movement can help remind the nervous system what "safe" feels like, without reinforcing the pain signal.

Chronic pain can feel like a downward spiral, but it is not permanent. The nervous system that learned to sound the alarm can also learn to quiet it down.



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the**RIGHT**move

by Terrylynn Fisher Broker Associate

buystagesell.com

Sieze an Opportunity

Over the last 40 plus years, I’ve been a buyer, a seller, and a Realtor. There are times that I’ve noticed when there is a stall in the market, a little like right now.

When Interest rates do not drop as we hoped, what happens? The lenders come up with creative home loan programs to lower the interest rate by 1 or 2% for one or two years and allow you to qualify at that lower rate.

There are some zip codes with government grants for down payment from 5% to 20% for qualified first-time buyers.

Sellers entertain offers with credits for closing costs if you are short on a down payment. These opportunities do not occur in a hot seller’s market.

Consider the Gem

There are untapped gems that are being missed that would be great homes. What are the gems? These are homes that in previous markets would have been gone in a week. Some of them are still unseen and available. Review the comparable sales for last year, many of the gems are now priced under the last year’s pricing.

As in the stock market, the same is true with real estate. You hope to buy low. This is low period.

The perfect home with tons of updates is still going to sell fast, probably with multiple offers and maybe over asking. If you are stretching your budget and want a credit for closing costs, you are likely

not going to get that with those. So, consider the gem, a home that’s sitting on the market for weeks to 30 or 60 days. These sellers are typically more flexible, some with prices below last year’s pricing.

Many of these sellers would consider crediting closing costs and/or a buy-down loan for a buyer. Remember, location is key in real estate. Another gem to look for is the worst house in the best location.

Avoid the Trap Paralysis by Analysis

Buyers that focus on “perfect” will miss the “almost perfect.” Waiting for the lowest price is a flawed strategy because you won’t know when that is until prices are on the way back up.

When a buyer says they’ve been looking for nine months, they are looking for something that is not there. Often, they saw the place they would have been happy with but had analysis paralysis. Had they bought it back then, they would have been in their home and probably at a different price.

There is no perfect home, no perfect school, no perfect neighborhood. But there are good things in all of those. The fear of missing “perfect” could cause one to miss out of future equity and the comfort of owning your own home.

Purchasing a home is about seizing an opportunity.

MONTHLY MARKET REPORT

JUNE / 2026

CLAYTON Existing SFR Median Price \$1.12M % Change from Last Year -0.7% MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 13 Sales-to-List Price % 100.0% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 27.3%	CONCORD Existing SFR Median Price \$890k % Change from Last Year +4.8% MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 16 Sales-to-List Price % 100.0% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 35.2%
MARTINEZ Existing SFR Median Price \$841K % Change from Last Year -1.0% MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 14 Sales-to-List Price % 100.0% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 34.7%	WALNUT CREEK Existing SFR Median Price \$1.60M % Change from Last Year +2.5% MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 14 Sales-to-List Price % 100.0% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 33.3%



Terrylynn Fisher

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The Naked Gardener
David George, UC Certified Master Gardener
nakedgardener@diablogazette.com

Oh When The Ants Go Marching In

Ants are on the march this time of year, looking for sugary and sticky honeydew substance on garden plants or sweets in your house. They also search for water sources during hot, dry August weather. Where do they all come from?

Our region's most common ant is the diminutive Argentine ant, commonly called a "sugar" ant because of its taste for indoor sweets. Argentine ants were introduced to California in the 1890's and, like many other pests, they love our mild coastal weather.

These ants create super colonies under the right conditions and disrupt native ecosystems.

Ants in the garden are considered a "neutral" insect, since they are both beneficial in some ways and do harm in others. For example, they eat other pests such as fleas, caterpillars, and termites. Ants also clean up dead insects (including other ants) then feed them to ant larvae.

Their harm comes from cultivating pests such as aphids, scales, mealy bugs, and white flies. Ants move these pests or their eggs onto roses and other decorative bushes where the pests feed on plant juice and produce sweet, sticky honeydew which ants love.

Managing Argentine ants requires work because they are so energetic and widespread. Toxic pesticides are ineffective in the long term. Sprays may kill visible ants, but there are many more from super-



Ants love honeydew from scales.. Shutterstock

colonies ready to take their places. Plus, pesticides kill beneficial insects and can harm pets and children.

It is unlikely that you will eliminate ants, but you can safely control "sugar" ants.

Ants are best ignored in the garden unless landscape bushes develop persistent problems with aphids, scales, or mealy bugs. Commercially sold ant stakes containing bait and sweet gel can control a whole colony. Explorer ants will carry the gel bait back to their nests for food and the colony will decline.

Watch for scout ants around the exterior of your home. Often, ants will temporarily swarm because irrigation or rainfall enters their nest. This is natural and should die down after an hour or so. If scout ants or trails persist, track them back to their source and place an ant stake near it. If activity persists, replace the old ant

stake with new, fresh bait.

Reduce sources of home invasion. Check for entry points around your house. Repair foundation cracks with caulk or "liquid concrete". You can also use petroleum jelly. Pull vegetation away from foundations, air vents and siding. Seal doors and windows with weather strips. Indoors, seal voids around pipes and inside kitchen or bathroom cabinets with caulk.

Halt ant invasions. Store attracting food in a sealed container or throw the food out. Vacuum ant trails, clean the area with soapy water, or spray with window cleaner. Place ant bait at entry points, preferably inside closed cabinets if young children are present. Baits can take several days to work. Regularly check for new invasions, especially in your kitchens and bathrooms.

Naked Gardener Ant Bait

Mix 1/2 teaspoon of powdered borate with 9 teaspoons of table sugar in 1 cup of hot water. Allow to cool and form a gel before deploying. Sodium borate (Borax) can be purchased in cleaning aisles of big box stores.

Seasonal Notes: Clean up leaf mulch (harbors pests) around fruit tree bases and vegetable beds. Replace with clean organic compost.

Adjust watering schedules for the hottest months. Thin out thick or dead vegetation from under trees and remove or replace dry, resinous plants. Fertilize citrus and caneberries.

Deadhead roses to promote fall blooms. Set out yellowjacket traps. Email your comments and questions to: NakedGardener@diablogazette.com.



Naked Gardener recommended ant bait. Sodium borate powder in shopping aisles Courtesy Prescribed For Life



Design a Garden That Never Goes Out of Style

by Angela Dawne, Landscape Designer

Trends come and go, but a well-designed garden should feel at home in every season and in every decade.

The most timeless landscapes aren't necessarily the most elaborate. They rely on elements that have been beautiful for generations such as natural stone, graceful trees, textured foliage, and a thoughtful balance between structure and softness.

When designing a garden, begin with the character of the home and the natural qualities of the property. From there, materials and plants are chosen to complement rather than compete. Stone can provide a sense of permanence, while shrubs and ornamental grasses soften hard edges and bring movement to the landscape. Repetition of shapes, textures, and colors creates a quiet sense of harmony.

A timeless garden also leaves room to evolve. Plants mature, seasons change, and homeowners' needs shift. A good design anticipates that change



rather than trying to make every corner perfect on day one.

After 30 years of designing landscapes in the Bay Area, I have found that the best gardens are not the ones chasing the latest look, they're the ones that continue to feel beautiful, welcoming, and completely at home years later.

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Jill Hedgecock's bookends

Author "Between Shadow's Eyes" and "Rhino in the Room"

Imagine you are living the perfect life as a traditional ("trad") wife, a devout woman who believes in staying home to raise babies. That is how "Yesteryear" (Knopf, hardcover, 400 pages, \$19.50) by Caro Claire Burke opens.

Meet Natalie, a mother of four, living on an organic ranch, with a loving husband. The family has returned to the basics of eating homegrown vegetables and drinking milk from a dairy cow.

Natalie hosts a widely popular social media channel demonstrating how to cook nutritious meals and raise children the old-fashioned way, the way a god-fearing Christian woman should. Except, this is all a facade for the cameras. Behind the scenes, Natalie has laundry machines, stainless-steel kitchen appliances, and two nannies to care for the kids and do all the homeschooling. She even has a live-in producer who edits her videos. Her eldest daughter resents being on camera. Her husband is so bad at being a farmer that the cow keeps dying.

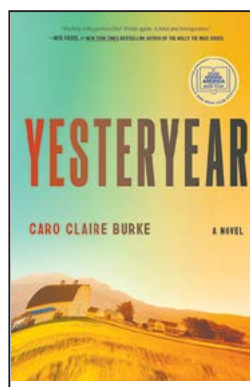
Then imagine this same woman wakes up one morning and she is truly living in the 1850s. She must scrub floors on her hands and knees and clean laundry in a washtub with lye soap that chafes her skin. But it isn't even her family. Her husband is an old version of the one she remembers, and while her kids are familiar, they aren't her real children. Their names are all wrong. She had been pregnant when she fell asleep, and now

she's not. Her "new" eldest daughter, Mary, is a workhorse and forces Natalie to do her share. And all Natalie wants to do is return to her old "pretend traditional" life.

As I read this novel, I kept comparing Natalie to Serena Joy as portrayed in the television adaptation of "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. Serena Joy, like Natalie, is a pious woman using faith to get what she wants. Burke drops enough clues to have readers scratching their heads and thinking maybe they know what is going on, or, well, maybe they don't. "Yesteryear" is a fabulous, unique read, one that will stick with me for a long while.

"Yesteryear" is a #1 New York Times Bestseller, a GMA Book Club Pick, and a New York Times Best Book of the Year (So Far). Fans of "My Husband" by Maud Ventura and "The Stepford Wives" by Ira Levin will likely enjoy this novel.

Caro Claire Burke received her master's degree in fine arts from the Bennington Writing Seminars. She is a novelist and co-host of Diabolical Lies, a culture and politics podcast. "Yesteryear" is her first book.



Loaves and Fishes, You're Gonna Need a Bigger Kitchen

by Brandy L, Correspondent



Volunteers for Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa work in the kitchen preparing more than 3,000 free meals each day. (loavesfishessc.org)

When many people hear the name Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa, they picture a single dining room serving meals to people experiencing homelessness. The reality is far greater. Every day, this nonprofit remarkably serves more than 3,000 nutritious meals to anyone throughout Contra Costa County facing food insecurity.

"That includes families, seniors, veterans, individuals in transitional housing, and people simply trying to make ends meet in Contra Costa County," said Joleen Lafayette, Executive Director of Operations.

For more than four decades, Loaves and Fishes has worked to ensure that no one in the community goes hungry. Their operations began in a small church in Pittsburg, where their first meal program started.

The organization now operates five dining rooms located in Oakley, Antioch, Pittsburg, Martinez, and Walnut Creek offering welcoming spaces where anyone can enjoy a hot meal; no questions asked. Every dining room includes a food pantry stocked through generous partnerships with organizations such as the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, White Pony Express, and grocery partners including Safeway, Raley's, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods.

Recognizing that not everyone can travel to a dining room, Loaves and Fishes has expanded its reach through mobile meal programs. Their mobile units deliver meals to transitional housing communities, senior housing, the Antioch Senior Center, and community resource events where individuals can also access other nonprofits that provide medical care, showers, housing assistance, mental health services, and other supportive programs.

This summer, the organization is expanding even further with a second mobile unit that will increase services in Concord. Loaves and Fishes is currently serving every Thursday at a Mobile Dignity Center, supported by the City of Concord.

Though dining rooms have reopened, Loaves and Fishes still offers convenient to-go meals, a lesson learned during the pandemic which continues to benefit the community today.

"When we offered meals to go, we found we were serving more families and seniors," Lafayette explained.

"Some people felt more comfortable taking meals home, and we realized that flexibility allowed us to reach even more people." The impact extends beyond their own locations.

Loaves and Fishes partners with transitional housing, nonprofit organizations, and community agencies that pick up meals daily to serve people where they live. These partnerships have helped the organization grow from serving approximately 680 meals a day before the pandemic to more than 3,000 meals every day. But this growth has also created new challenges.

"Our current central kitchen where all the daily meals are prepared has reached capacity," Lafayette said. "We're turning away potential partners because we simply don't have the space."

To meet the increasing need, Loaves and Fishes has launched its Nourishing Lives Campaign to refurbish a new 7,100-square-foot facility in Antioch. The expanded project will feature a significantly larger commercial kitchen, and a teaching kitchen to expand the organization's workforce development in culinary training. The campaign has already raised \$2.9 million toward its \$4.5 million goal, with hopes of opening before Thanksgiving 2027.

As food prices continue to rise, Lafayette believes the mission has never been more important.

"Many of the people we serve are working families, seniors, and neighbors who simply need a little extra help," she said. "Food insecurity doesn't always look the way people expect." Every meal served represents more than nourishment; it provides dignity, hope, and a reminder that our community cares.

Community support remains at the heart of Loaves and Fishes' success. Residents make a huge difference when they volunteer, donate food or financial gifts, or by sponsoring the Nourishing Lives Campaign.

Anyone wanting to be involved To learn more, volunteer, donate, or support the Nourishing Lives Campaign, should visit www.loavesfishessc.org

Every contribution helps. Lafayette put it best, "We couldn't do what we do without our community."

Concord Council Votes to Update Business License Tax Structure on November Ballot

The Concord City Council voted unanimously to place a local measure on the November ballot to simplify the City's business license tax structure and address local service priorities with locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the state.

If enacted, the measure will simplify Concord's nearly 40-year-old business license structure, last updated in 1978, so that smaller businesses do not pay a higher rate than larger businesses. The measure would not increase taxes on homeowners or residents who are not business owners. It is estimated to generate approximately \$3 Million dollars annually in locally controlled funding. City says funds will be used to maintain core services the community has identified as priorities, including

road maintenance and pothole repair, emergency response, safe and clean playgrounds for kids, and addressing traffic congestion along major corridors.

"We really appreciate the feedback from Concord's business community and from the hundreds of community and business members the City has engaged," said Assistant City Manager Justin Ezell. "Concord provides vital services for thousands of residents every day. Simplifying the business license tax structure helps ensure community priorities are addressed while also ensuring an equitable structure for local businesses," continued Ezell.

The measure requires strict accountability and transparency provisions, including public disclosure of spending, financial audits, and yearly reports to the community to ensure that revenue is spent locally to maintain community priorities.

The City will continue to keep the community informed. For additional updates and information, please visit www.cityofconcord.org/priorities.

Can you spare 3 hours to give rides to seniors and veterans?



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Laura Nakamura
Concord Mayor
cityofconcord.org

How Concord Helped Change the U.S. Navy

On July 18, I had the privilege of attending the annual Port Chicago Memorial to honor the 320 individuals who lost their lives in the devastating explosion of July 17, 1944. Few realize that this was one of the most significant events in the history of the U.S. Navy, and a pivotal chapter in the American Civil Rights Movement, and it happened right here in Concord.

During World War II, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine, located in what is now the former Concord Naval Weapons Station, served as one of the nation's busiest ammunition loading facilities. Thousands of tons of explosives passed through the base on their way to support Allied forces fighting in the Pacific.

On July 17, 1944, a massive ammunition detonation destroyed the Tidal Area's pier and two munitions ships docked there, the S.S. E.A. Bryan and S.S. Quinault Victory. The blast killed 320 people, including more than 200 African American sailors assigned to the dangerous task of loading munitions, and injured hundreds more. It remains the largest home-front disaster of World War II.

At the time, African American sailors served in segregated units and were largely limited to support roles, including loading ammunition, cooking, coal handling, and mess duties. They were often assigned some of the Navy's most dangerous jobs.



Concord Mayor Laura Nakamura places a flower at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial.

Shortly after the explosion, surviving sailors were ordered to resume loading munitions at Mare Island without additional safety training. On August 9, 1944, 258 sailors refused to return to work under those conditions. Faced with threats of disciplinary action and court-martial, most eventually returned to duty. However, 50 sailors stood their ground.

Although the Navy charged them with mutiny, many historians view their actions as a protest against unsafe working conditions following one of the deadliest disasters on the American home front during World War II. The group became known as the Port Chicago Mutiny, today known as the Port Chicago 50, and their trial remains the largest mass mutiny trial in U.S. naval history.

The court-martial drew national attention to racial segregation and unequal treatment within the military. Future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, then serving as Special Counsel for the NAACP, closely followed the case, provided legal support, and helped draw national attention to the case. His advocacy highlighted both the unsafe working conditions and the systemic racism that existed within the wartime Navy.

Although the trial resulted in convictions, dishonorable discharges and hard labor, the case became a turning point. The national attention surrounding the trial helped expose the injustice of segregation within the Navy. These events contributed to the Navy's historic 1946 decision to become the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to formally prohibit racial segregation.

That's still not the end of the story of the Port Chicago 50. For decades, the Port Chicago 50, their descendants, and civil rights activists have advocated for their exoneration. On the 80th anniversary of the Port Chicago Disaster, July 17, 2024, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro set aside the court-

martial verdicts for all of the sailors convicted for their participation in the "mutiny" and, at long last, exonerated them.

Today, this history is preserved in several meaningful ways. Established in 1994, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial honors the 320 men who lost their lives and recognizes the courage of the Port Chicago 50. Located within the Military Ocean Terminal Concord, the memorial is part of the National Park Service and is accessible only through ranger-led tours with advance reservations.

Each year, around the July 17 anniversary of the explosion, a commemorative ceremony honors those who lost their lives while reflecting on the lasting impact the disaster had on civil rights and the desegregation of the U.S. Navy.

The East Bay Regional Park District is also preserving this important history through the future Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50. The approximately 3,000-acre regional park will connect Concord communities through trails, public access points, staging areas, and future transit connections. A planned visitor center will tell the story of the 1944 Port Chicago disaster and the struggle for social justice that helped reshape the U.S. military.

Together, these sites ensure that the sacrifice of those who lost their lives and the courage of the Port Chicago 50 continue to educate and inspire future generations.

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Chasing the Perfect Light

The Artistic Journey of Donald Howard

by Julia O'Reilly



"Firefall, Yosemite" by Donald Howard

Long before most people are awake, Donald Howard is often already standing behind his camera, quietly waiting for the first rays of sunlight to spill across the landscape. Sometimes nature rewards him within minutes. Other times, it asks him to wait for hours, or even return another day.

For Donald, that is all part of the journey.

"Photography has taught me patience," he says. "You can't force nature. The best images come when everything finally comes together."

An award-winning fine art photographer based in California, Donald has built his artistic career around one simple belief: the most beautiful moments cannot be rushed. His photographs celebrate the ever-changing relationship between light, landscape, and atmosphere, transforming familiar places into breathtaking works of art.

Whether he is photographing the rugged Sierra Nevada, California's dramatic coastline, historic landmarks, or peaceful countryside, Donald approaches every location with curiosity and respect. He often revisits the same destination several times, waiting for the perfect combination of weather, light, and season to reveal the scene's true personality.

"It's not about taking a picture," Donald explains. "It's about creating an image that allows someone else to feel what I experienced in that moment."

That philosophy is evident throughout his work. His photographs invite viewers to pause and appreciate details they might otherwise overlook: a soft morning mist drifting through a valley, golden sunlight illuminating ancient stone, or storm clouds adding drama to an otherwise familiar landscape.

Each image tells a story without saying a word.

Donald believes that every landscape has its own character and mood. Rather

than documenting what a place looks like, he strives to capture what it feels like. His photographs encourage viewers to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with the beauty that surrounds us every day.

His dedication to both artistry and craftsmanship has earned him recognition in photography competitions and exhibitions, where his work continues to receive praise for its technical excellence and emotional depth. Yet despite the awards, Donald remains remarkably humble.

"I never stop learning," he says. "Every sunrise is different. Every season teaches me something new."



That sense of wonder continues to inspire him each time he heads out with his camera. Some of his most memorable photographs required multiple trips before the conditions were just right. Rather than becoming discouraged, he embraces the challenge, believing that patience often leads to the most rewarding results.

Today, Donald's fine art prints hang in homes and collections, offering more than beautiful scenery. They provide a quiet reminder to slow down and appreciate the remarkable world we live in.

In an age when so many photographs are captured with a quick tap of a phone, Donald Howard reminds us that truly memorable images are created with time, dedication, and heart.

For him, every photograph is more than a landscape. It is a fleeting moment, thoughtfully preserved, inviting others to experience the wonder, peace, and beauty that inspired him to press the shutter.

The next time you admire one of Donald Howard's photographs, take a moment to look a little longer. Behind every image is not only an extraordinary landscape, but also an artist who patiently waited for nature to reveal its finest masterpiece.

Trio of CAA Exhibits Currently Showcasing Member Work

by David Scholz

The Concord Art Association (CAA) currently has installations up at three locations around Concord.

Through August 28, Visit Concord is hosting "1 Squared." See what CAA artists can visualize, one by one, 12 inches by 12 inches. 1 Squared is a grid, a pop and a bang--swoon-worthy art magic.

A new exhibit entitled "Reflections" will open at Visit Concord, starting August 31, and continue through Feb. 12, 2027.

Visit Concord is located at 2151 Salvio St. in Salvio Pacheco Square, near Todos Santa Plaza, is open Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the Concord Library, paintings by Ona Canilao and Mary Yonekawa are

on display in the entryway display case (on the left as you enter the building) through September 30. The library is located 2900 Salvio St. and its open hours are Monday and Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The newest exhibit that opened in late July is "Carpe Diem" at Centre Concord that is up through October 16. Carpe Diem (Latin for "seize the day") celebrates the beauty, urgency, and wonder of the present moment: personal transformation, joy, nature, the passage of time. Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord, is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"Whisper of Color" at The Gallery at City Hall, San Ramon

by Samantha McNally

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) announces their newest member show, "Whisper of Color," an exhibition celebrating the quiet power of color and the emotions, memories, and moods it can evoke.

An opening reception on Friday, August 7, 5:00-7:00 PM invites all to experience the exhibition, connect with the artists and celebrate the creativity of our exhibiting members.

Participating artists:

Donna Arganbright, Annette Laurel Batchelor, Jennifer Granat, Elizabeth Kennen, Lori Larks, Carlos Martinez, Marianne McCraney, Ruth McMillin, Ebba Navas, Tom Quinlavin, Jan St Onge, Adrienne Rogers, Allison Skidgel, Ruth Stanton, Charlene Steen, Sharon Tama, Elizabeth Verigin, and Beth Zelinski.

The Gallery at City Hall, San Ramon, located at 7000 Bollinger Canyon Rd. is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance website: www.laa4art.org



"Pescadero March National Preserve" by Annette Laurel Batchelor



Art in the Park Returns for Its 55th Year



For 55 years, Art in the Park has brought artists and art lovers together in downtown Martinez. The tradition continues on Sunday, August 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., when the Martinez Arts Association welcomes visitors to Susana Park for a free day of art, music, food, and family fun.

More than 60 local artists will exhibit fine art and handcrafted works in a wide variety of media and styles. Visitors can browse original artwork, meet the artists, and discover one-of-a-kind pieces while enjoying the relaxed park setting.

Live entertainment will be featured throughout the day with performances by Tom & Erik, Delta Deuce, The



Trio of Dearly Departed East Bay Artist Guild Members Featured

George Rammell, Walter Crew, and Jim Jordan were three male artists who were members of the Las Juntas/ East Bay Artist Guild and are currently showing along with many other guild artists at the aRt Cottage in Concord through August 25.

All three are deceased and aRt Cottage is privileged to honor them in this this current show by displaying their work in three of our small gallery rooms.

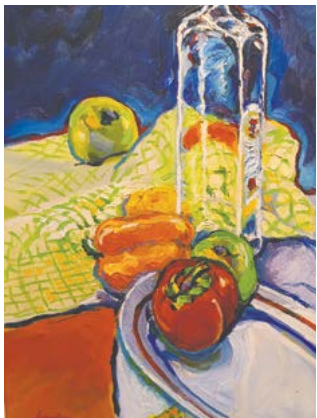
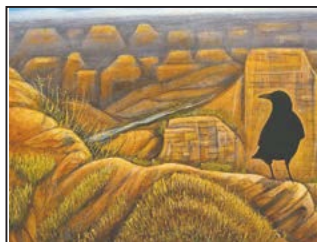
I first became acquainted with these artists in 2002 while taking classes at Diablo Valley College. They became my friends and art colleagues. We had many classes together and shared many critiques. We were all part of a group called CC14 (Contra Costa 14). The small group of artists met once month, rotating meetings in our private homes to critique each other's work. We were also East Bay Art Guild members.

George was the founder of the East Bay Artist Guild, Walter was an active member and participated at most venues, and Jim joined later in life participating at many venues at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center.

George is known for his large abstracts, while Walter is known for his mixed media, experimentation, and animals. Jim has always loved working in ceramics for his 3D art and with bold acrylic colors for his 2D pieces.

aRt Cottage is open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Come by and take the opportunity to see their amazing work. Contra Costa County has truly lost three talented artists.

Images: top Abstract by George Rammell, Middle, "Canyon Raven" by Walter Crew, and bottom, "Still Life" by Jim Jordan



by Samantha McNally

Main Street Arts Gallery in downtown Martinez continues its special exhibition, "Metallic Materializations," celebrating the artistry and innovation of local metal artists. On view throughout August, the exhibition explores the many creative possibilities of metal, featuring works that range from sculpture and functional design to whimsical and kinetic creations.

Artists Nate Holbein, Brady Pisha, Luke Heimburger, and Steen Kjolrie each bring a distinctive perspective to the medium. Their work combines craftsmanship, engineering, and artistic vision, transforming steel and other metals into pieces that surprise, delight, and inspire.

August also spotlights longtime gallery member Gwenn Spratt, whose abstract paintings are deeply rooted in emotion and the healing power of art. Drawing inspiration from her own life experiences, Spratt creates expressive, non-objective works rich with texture and color. She enjoys experimenting with layered paint, gesso, collage, and other materials to create paintings that invite personal interpretation.

The public is invited to meet the artists during the First Friday Reception on Friday, August 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Guests can enjoy refreshments, explore the exhibition, and enter the monthly prize drawing. August's featured giveaway is an original artwork by Gwenn Spratt called "Find Your Path #2".

Now in its tenth year, Main Street Arts

Metal Meets Imagination



Gallery continues to welcome art lovers and collectors alike. The cooperative gallery features the work of local and regional artists in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, jewelry, and mixed media. www.mainstreetarts.net

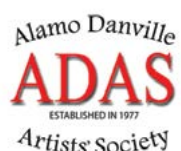
Main Street Arts is located at 613 Main Street, Martinez,

Open Wednesday-Saturday 11:00-

a.m.4:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Martinez First Fridays 6:00-9:00 p.m.



"Find Your Path #2" by Gwenn spratt. Free Drawing prize for Augustguests.



Retrospective

Open to the public though Sunday, October 18, 2026
Explore a stunning collection of original artwork by talented local artists. Blackhawk Gallery, 3416 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville.



Photography by Greg Starnes



Gondolas Resting by Linda Geneisse

Art in the Park cont'd

UnConcord, Whiskey Dreams, and Robinson Street. Returning emcee Roy Jeans will keep the festivities moving, while food trucks and a selection of wine, beer, and other beverages will be available. Guests can also participate in the popular Silent Auction, featuring unique items donated by artists and local businesses.

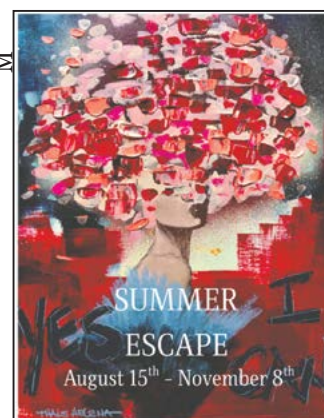
Free parking is available nearby as parking meters are not enforced on Sundays. A complimentary golf cart

shuttle will run continuously between the Main Street Plaza near Starbucks and the park.

The Martinez Arts Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting local artists and expanding arts education. Proceeds from the event fund scholarships for graduating high school seniors and provide classroom art grants for teachers throughout the Martinez Unified School District. For more information, visit martinezarts.org.



Summer Escape Exhibit August 15 - November 8



JOR Fine Art Gallery invites you to experience "Summer Escape", featuring fresh new works by new and returning artists, along with "Quiet Faces, Loud Spaces," a special solo exhibition by Peggy Magovern.

Opening Reception:

Saturday, August 15, 2026, 4:00-6:00 p.m. for an afternoon of art, meet the artists, and discover inspiring new collections.

1026 Oak Street, Suite 102, Clayton 925-768-5662

Jor Fine Gallery named **Best of the East Bay** art gallery by Diablo Magazine.



by Peggy Magovern

Filings Trickle in Ahead of Aug. 7 Deadline for November General Election Races

by David Scholz

As the buzz begins in anticipation of the November General Election, a handful individuals have already officially submitted their papers to the Contra Costa County Elections office ahead of the deadline at 5 p.m. on Friday, August 7.

Word is circulating that multiple residents in area central county communities have expressed interest in running for seats on their city councils and school boards, and some of those may even gone as far to pull papers through their municipal clerk's offices. But only the following names thus far are slated to appear on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot:

City of Clayton Council

Two Councilmember seats are up for election. Four candidates have so far officially filed papers: Amy Callaghan, Kim Trupiano, Charles J. Schmidt, and Maria Shulman.

City of Concord Council

In District 1, Maria Bagley filed her papers,

District 3, Douglas Lezameta filed his papers

District 5, Candidates have not yet filed with the County

Pleasant Hill City Council

District 3 Candidates have not yet filed with the County

District 4 -Sue Noack has filed papers

Martinez City Council

Mayor - Brianne E. Zorn is seeking reelection f

District 1 Nakenya Allen and Jay Howard have filed papers.

District 4 Candidates have not yet filed with the County

Walnut Creek

Treasurer - Ronald Cassano

Councilmembers - Candidates havenot yet filed with the county. There are two seats up for re-election.

Pleasant Hill Rec and Park Board

This board is slated to have among the largest fields of candidates on November ballot for voters to consider.

So far Alexander Paul Nichol, Derek Marten Wurst, Robert "Bobby" Glover, Sandra Marie Bonato, and Raul Alberto Ortega, Jr. have filed papers. Voters will choose three Directors from the field.

Martinez Unified School District

In Area 3, Brenda Ann Leal has filed her papers,

In Area 5 Tania E. Brugger has filed papers for the seat.

Mount Diablo Unified School Board

Area 1 Debra Mason has filed papers for the Area 1 seat,

Area 2 - Jane Baulch-Enloe and Dorothy Jean Berlemeier

Area 4 Brian Thomas Lawrence and Al Anderson are thus far vying for the seat.

Walnut Creek School Board

Heidi Hernandez Gatty, Weinei Johnson have filed papers and qualified to be on the ballot for Governing board members. Three seats are available.

Contra Costa Water District

Division 1 Director Patt Young

Division 2 Director No qualified candidates have filed with the County

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Ward Director - Harpreet S. Sandhu

Papers for offices that are up for election will be available at the Contra Costa Elections Office, 555 Escobar St. Papers for Municipal Offices are available from the City Clerk's office in the city the position represents.

"Our Candidate Services team is ready to work with Candidates who will be running in the November General Election," said Kristin B. Connelly, Contra Costa Registrar of Voters.

If an incumbent does not file to run for office by the August 7 deadline, the filing period for that office will be extended until 5:00 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 12. This rule does not apply to incumbents that have reached their term limit and are unable to run again.

Interested candidates can schedule an appointment by emailing candidate.services@vote.cccounty.us or by calling 1-925-335-7800.

Walk-ins are accepted, but service is subject to the availability of staff. Appointments are available on weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Filing documents and information will be provided to interested constituents at their appointment. The process takes approximately 20 minutes.

For further information on the General Election and key dates, go to www.contracostavote.gov

LUNA RESTAURANT PRESENTS CHEF SHOWDOWN II

CHEF HABIB EXECUTIVE CHEF LUNA RESTAURANT

CHEF ISSAC GUEST CHEF EXECUTIVE CHEF HOTEL SHATTUCK PLAZA

TWO CHEFS. ONE MENU. YOU DECIDE.

WEDNESDAY 8.12.26

FIRST SEATING STARTS AT **5:30 PM**

MULTIPLE SEATINGS AVAILABLE

APPETIZER SOUP / SALAD ENTRÉE DESSERT

PEOPLE'S CHOICE CHAMPION

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW! (925) 691-4080

fiore ITALIAN KITCHEN (925) 969-1887 5100 CLAYTON RD, CONCORD

Luna ITALIAN KITCHEN (925) 691-4080 2118 WILLOW PASS RD, CONCORD

DINNER & CONCERTS THURSDAYS

GREAT FOOD WARM HOSPITALITY UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

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Finding the right home takes more than timing, it takes access.

With Compass Private Exclusives, I give my clients an inside track to **20,000+ off-market listings nationwide**, available only through the Compass network.

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COMPASS



A Walk Through Time
with Misty Bruns

Tobacco in Contra Costa County 164 years ago

A successful experiment had been made this season in our county in the cultivation of tobacco, by Messrs. Stout and Peden, of San Ramon Valley. They have planted about twelve acres, and the tobacco has come up beautifully and matured thoroughly. It is now fully ripe and will be cut next week.

Good judges estimate the average product as certainly not less than five hundred pounds per acre, and probably more. The sorts that have turned out best, we are told, are the Long Green and the Maryland Straight tobacco.

The experiment demonstrates the capacity and the adaptability of our soil and climate to the rearing of this plant. There can be no longer any doubt on the subject. The matter is tested and fairly proven. Quite an excitement had been created in the neighborhood of Alamo and Danville, among the farmers, we understand, owing to the success of this new experiment. From what we hear, we should be surprised if very large crops should be raised next year, in that locality.

Perhaps some of them will run their chances for the state premiums. The quantity produced this year by Messrs. Stout and Peden in this their first trial, being in all about six thousand pounds, will not suffice to entitle them to any one of the State premiums, unless they manufacture what they have raised. They may in that case, obtain a premium. For the law allows \$250 for first one hundred cases of fifty pounds each of manufactured tobacco. They ought to be able to obtain this if they try. But merely for growing tobacco, there is no premium unless the amount grown reaches 200 bales of 100 pounds each; and then \$300 is given.



Tobacco field. Courtesy of Adventures in California / Placer County Museum.

Isaac Stout

The 1870 U.S. Census for Township No. 2 (San Ramon Valley), Contra Costa County, lists Isaac Stout as a 40-year-old white farmer born in New Jersey. He was married to Mary Slankard Stout, and they had one son, Henry C. Stout, born December 1, 1863. Also living in the household was Henry W. Bott.

Isaac Stout died on June 30, 1873. And is buried in the Alhambra cemetery in Martinez California. Probate records show that his wife, Mary, served as administrator of his estate. At the time of his death, he owned 120 acres in the San Ramon Valley. His property included stacks of barley, wheat, and hay; a barn; two cows with calves; nine head of cattle; three mules; one mare; poultry; two pigs; a farm wagon; a spring wagon; farming tools and harnesses; household furniture; a silver watch; and a shotgun. The estate was valued at \$3,685.

Which Peden Was It?

The identity of "Peden" mentioned in the 1862 newspaper remains uncertain.

The 1870 U.S. Census lists Charles Padden (also spelled Paden or Padden), age 40, born in Ireland, as a white farm laborer living in Township No. 2 (San Ramon Valley). The Contra Costa County Directory also lists him as:

Padden, Charles — Farm hand, Danville.

Tax assessment records for Alamo Township No. 2 also include an A. Paden (or Peden), who owned one horse valued at \$25 and one stove valued at \$15. The records note that all assessed taxes were paid in full. However, I was unable to locate A. Paden/Peden in the 1870 Contra Costa County census.

Based on the available records, I could not determine whether Charles Padden or A. Paden/Peden was the individual referenced in the Contra Costa Gazette article.

TOBACCO IN CONTRA COSTA.—A successful experiment has been made this season in our county in the cultivation of tobacco, by Messrs. Stout and Peden, of San Ramon Valley. They have planted about twelve acres, and the tobacco has come up beautifully and matured thoroughly. It is now fully ripe and will be cut next week. Good judges estimate the average product as certainly not less than five hundred pounds per acre, and probably more. The sorts that have turned out best, we are told, are the Long Green and the Maryland Straight tobacco. This experiment demonstrates the capacity and the adaptability of our soil and climate to the rearing of this plant. There can be no longer any doubt on the subject.—The matter is tested and fairly proven.—Quite an excitement has been created in the neighborhood of Alamo and Danville, among the farmers, we understand, owing to the success of this new experiment. From what we hear, we should not be surprised if very large crops should be raised next year, in that locality. Perhaps some of them will run their chances for the State premiums. The quantity produced this year by Messrs. Stout and Peden in this their first trial, being in all about six thousand pounds, will not suffice to entitle them to any one of the State premiums, unless they manufacture what they have raised. They may in that case, obtain a premium. For the law allows \$250 for the first one hundred cases of fifty pounds each, of manufactured tobacco. They ought to be able to obtain this if they try. But merely for growing tobacco, there is no premium unless the amount grown reaches 200 bales of 100 pounds each; and then \$300 is given.

— Contra Costa Gazette, August 16, 1862

Sources - 1870 U.S. Census, Township No. 2 (San Ramon Valley), Contra Costa County; Probate records of Isaac Stout; Contra Costa County tax assessment records; Contra Costa County Directory; Tax assessment records courtesy of the Contra Costa Historical Society.



MARTINEZ MARTINI SHAKE OFF

TICKETS

GET YOURS TODAY!

EVENT TICKETS & PACKAGES

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
Dinner Ticket | \$125 pp
(Includes 2 drink tickets)
Party Only Ticket | \$75 pp
(Includes 1 drink ticket)

RESERVED TABLES
Table for 8 | \$1,100
(Includes 2 drink tickets pp)
Table for 4 | \$575
(Includes 2 drink tickets pp)

PREPAID ADD-ONS
Drink Ticket | \$8 each
Bottle of Champagne | \$15
Sunflower Charcuterie Box | \$12

* Pay at Chamber office with exact cash or check to avoid fees.

September 12, 2026 - 6:00 - 10:00 pm
Plaza Ygnacio 525 Henrietta St.
martinezmartini.com
**check in starts at 5:30 pm*



Martini Shake-Off Gala, Sept. 12

The Martinez Martini Shake-Off Gala is back. This is one of East Bay's most revered annual social events. The Martini Shake-Off Gala celebrates Martinez, the birthplace of the martini.

As the sun sets, the Plaza transforms into an unforgettable outdoor celebration filled with timeless style, live entertainment, and handcrafted martinis. Inspired by the glamour and sophistication of a bygone era, guests will enjoy an elegant dinner beneath beautifully lit white tents, dance to live music, and soak in the atmosphere of a warm summer evening under the stars.

The highlight of the night? Watching some of the region's most talented mixologists compete for Best Martini and the coveted People's Choice Award, serving up creative cocktails for guests to taste and enjoy

throughout the evening.

Whether you're a martini enthusiast, a lover of live music, or simply looking for a memorable night out, the Martini Shake-Off Gala is an experience unlike any other.

Raise a glass, celebrate Martinez's unique history, and be part of an unforgettable evening where great cocktails, great company, and timeless elegance come together.

This event sells out. Reserve yours early and get ready for a night

to remember!

5th Annual

Dreaming OF THE Islands

Saturday
August 15, 2026
11am-4pm

ONE DAY ONLY • FREE ENTRY

20+ Local Vendors
Island Eats • Sweet Treats • Unique Finds

Scout Hall
991 Loring Ave
Crockett, Ca

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
SUGARCITYMP@GMAIL.COM

Easy to find • Follow the signs • Worth the detour

Around Martinez



Drone Photo to Celebrate Martinez Sesquicentennial

by Brianne Zorn, Mayor, City of Martinez

On Saturday, August 29, Martinez will come together to celebrate a once-in-a-lifetime milestone: our Sesquicentennial Festival, marking 150 years since our city's incorporation. I invite everyone in our community to join us for this special day of celebration, history, music, and hometown pride.

Spend the day exploring everything the festival has to offer. In partnership with the Bay Area Craft Beer Festival, the waterfront will be alive with live music, local vendors, community organizations, family-friendly activities (including a Kid Zone, Splash Bash, bike zone, and waterfront kites!), delicious food, and, for those 21 and older, a fantastic selection of regional craft beers. There truly will be something for everyone. Best of all, admission and all activities are completely FREE to the public. Tickets for unlimited craft beer tastings are on

sale now at downtownmartinez.org.

One of the highlights of the day will be a community drone photo to kick off the festival at 11:00 a.m. at the Waterfront Stage. Whether you've lived in Martinez your entire life or just recently discovered what makes our city so special, we hope you will be part of this historic photograph. It's a unique opportunity to capture the people who make Martinez such a vibrant and welcoming community and to create a lasting memory of our 150th anniversary festival.

Mark your calendars for August 29, gather your family and friends, and help us make history at the City of Martinez Sesquicentennial Festival and Bay Area Craft Beer Festival. I look forward to seeing you at 11:00 a.m. for our community photo and celebrating this unforgettable day together on the Martinez waterfront.

AUGUST 2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 8/07 First Fridays
- 8/09 Open Air Market
- 8/13 Downtown Martinez Car Show
- 8/15 Sesquicentenn. Hike - Martinez Waterfront
- 8/15 Martinez Yacht Club Car Show
- 8/16 Art in the Park
- 8/29 Sesquicentennial Festival
- Sundays Downtown Farmers' Market

Celebrating 150 years of Martinez!

ses·qui·cen·ten·ni·al FESTIVAL

AUGUST 29, 2026
11am - 7pm
Beer Festival 1pm - 6pm

at the Martinez Waterfront

FUN FOR ALL AGES!
KITES, LIVE MUSIC, CLIMBING WALL,
FOOD TRUCKS, KID ZONE, BOCCE, &
MORE! INFO AT:

www.cityofmartinez.org/150festival

The City of Martinez turns 150! Celebration info at www.cityofmartinez.org/150

More event details on our City Calendar at www.cityofmartinez.org/events



Short Stories of Local Interest

Large Vehicle Damages "Welcome To Martinez" Archway



A truck struck and damaged the "Historic Downtown Martinez" arched entryway to the Contra Costa County city on July 30.

The metal sign, which towers over Marina Vista Avenue at Court Street by Waterfront Park, was struck in the early afternoon by an oversized-load vehicle, Martinez officials said, causing a portion of the arch to detach and fall.

No injuries were reported. Repairs to the sign will be scheduled to minimize traffic impacts, the City said.

Overcrowding at Contra Costa Animal Service, Looking for Community Help

Contra Costa Animal Services (CCAS) is asking the community to help relieve overcrowding at the shelter by adopting a pet, with a particular need for cat and kitten adoptions.

Summer is historically one of the busiest times of the year for CCAS. The shelter experiences its highest levels of stray animal intake during the summer months, and the annual influx of litters of kittens, commonly known as "kitten season", adds even more pressure on shelter capacity. As a result, the shelter is currently full and is looking to the community for help.

"Right now, our shelter is caring for more animals than we have room for, especially cats and kittens," said Contra Costa Animal Services Director Ben Winkleblack.

All adoption fees are currently waived, although a \$25 dog licensing fee may apply for Contra Costa County residents where required. CCAS also has temporary foster pet opportunities available.

All adopted animals are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped before going home.

CCAS currently has over 150 pets seeking permanent or temporary homes. Interested adopters and fosters can view CCAS's available pets at www.ccasd.org, or come to meet them at the CCAS adoption center in Martinez. 4800 Imhoff Pl. Open Seven Days A Week: 10AM - 5PM (10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays)

The Martinez Sturgeon Sweep the Pacific Division Championship Series



The Martinez Sturgeon are the Pacific Division Champions after scoring six runs in the ninth inning for an exciting come from behind rally over the San Rafael Pacifics, 8-3, at Albert Park. On Saturday August 1. The victory completed a two-game sweep of the championship series and sent Martinez forward and compete in the Pecos League Series.



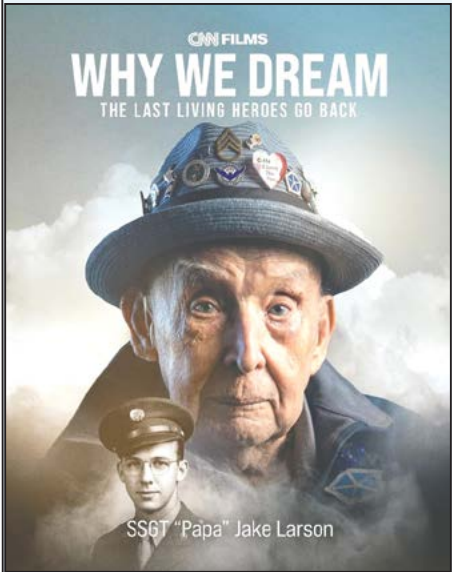
Martinez entered the ninth inning trailing 3-2. The rally included a lead-off walk and four singles. But it was a double steal, second and home, that gave the Sturgeons the lead for good.

The Sturgeon advanced to the final series by also sweeping a pair on the road from the Division leader, Dublin Leprechauns, on Monday and Tuesday, July 27 and 28.

Next up, Martinez Sturgeon will hit the road in the Pecos League Championship series. On August 7. As of this writing, that opponent has yet to be determined.



Why We Dream



Premiering at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival and now available to stream on HBO Max, “Why We Dream” is a documentary that chronicles seven surviving soldiers and one nurse of World War II as they return to Normandy, France, to be honored at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in 2024..

Everyone portrayed in the film is a centenarian. During World War II, however, many were not truthful about their age in order to enlist; such was the desire to defeat Hitler. At 101, Betty Huffman-Rosevear (a veteran nurse) chose not to make the trip, but had been

to Normandy in recent years.

Instead of focusing solely on the harrowing journeys of bravery and the horrors of war, the film also follows the lives of the heroes when they returned home. We get a glimpse into the careers they pursued, the families they created, and how their outlook on life was shaped by their experiences.

One soldier highlighted is Martinez’s own Jake “Papa Jake” Larson! If you heard about his journey to Normandy, or you are one of his many Tik-Tok followers, you will relish your front-row seat to his adventurous return to the site eighty years later. It is wonderful to see him and all the honorees interact with everyone, including young people, who desire to hear their stories.

The archival footage is amazing. Not only is there phenomenal wartime footage and photos, but the clips and personal home movies give a visual history of life in America and abroad during a time of epic change. Look for the photos of the Statue of Liberty traveling through Times Square before arriving at her home on Liberty Island in the New York Bay. Truly stunning.

Although it may be difficult to hear these stories recounted, it is important to listen to the individuals who were there, heroically fighting for the freedom we have today. We are often told those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. Let us listen to those who experienced it and truly appreciate

what they have sacrificed and carried for their lifetimes, for our country and the world.

You can also view a separate one-on-one interview with Papa Jake directly from CNN’s website if you are a subscriber. These are the heroes featured in this film: Arlester Brown, Sam Carlile, Gideon Kantor, Wally King, Jake Larson, George Mullins, Andy Negra, and Betty Huffman-Rosevear. Unfortunately, three have passed since this release of this documentary, and the world is down to four remaining survivors.

It’s no wonder, communities are organizing tributes and memorials to keep these heroes legacy alive for future generations. In Martinez, Contra Costa Cinema previewed this documentary for free and the city is currently looking ti install a bronze stature at city Hall on D-Day of 2027, assuming funding is in order by then. Anyone can participate in this monumental task by purchasing a personalized brick or tile to be permanently displayed around it’s foundation. (see ad this page for more information on that.)

Not rated

Streaming on HBO Max



“Why We Dream” was premiered at a special screening at Contra Costa Cinema in Martinez in 2025. Papa Jake and family are sitting in front.



CNN’s Christiane Amanpour speaks to WWII veteran Jake Larson on the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Known as ‘Papa Jake’ to his over 1.2 million TikTok followers, he remembers landing on Omaha Beach, Normandy on June 6,1944. This interview won an Emmy Award. scan to viewview.



cnn.com/2024/06/06/tv/video/amanpour-jake-larson-papa-jake

Quilters Patch Things Up for Hospice East Bay



This photo captures a recent visit to the Martinez Senior Center Quilting Group—a gathering of talented, generous neighbors whose quiet acts of kindness touch the lives of so many. Photo: Facebook/HospiceEastBay

When Hospice East Bay shared that the need for handmade quilts for their patients and their families was growing, the Martinez Senior Center Quilting Group answered the call with open hearts.

What began as a small group blossomed into three dozen dedicated quilters, each giving their time and talent to create something truly meaningful.

A quilt is so much more than fabric and thread. It begins as an idea, is carefully stitched together over many hours, and is made with the hope that it will bring warmth, comfort, and peace to someone facing one of life’s most difficult journeys. When a patient or family receives one of these quilts, they aren’t just receiving a blanket, they’re being wrapped in the love, care, and compassion of an entire community.

These quilts remind us that even small acts, repeated with care, can have a profound impact. They are a beautiful reflection of what is possible when neighbors come together to support one another with generosity and purpose.

“Thank you for every hour, every stitch, and every quilt. Your kindness brings comfort beyond words, and we are honored to share your gifts with the patients and families we serve,” Hospice East Bay posted on their Facebook page, directed at the Quilting Group and Martinez Senior Center staff.

FREE EVENT
HOSTED BY DOWNTOWN MARTINEZ

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026 | 5:30PM – 9:00PM

MARTINEZ MARINA WATERFRONT PARK
245 N COURT ST. MARTINEZ, CA 94553

COME FIND US AT THE
ARMY BOOTH
TO ASK QUESTIONS AND
BUY YOUR BRICK!

PAPA JAKE LARSON
Anyone who buys a brick
will receive a Papa Jake pin!

LEAVE A LEGACY. HONOR. REMEMBER. INSPIRE.
Your personalized brick will become a permanent part of
the Papa Jake Larson Statue Memorial for generations to come.

4" X 8" BRICK EXAMPLES		
ALHAMBRA HIGH CLASS OF 2027 TAYLOR SMITH	MONTE VISTA BOCCIE CLUB GOOD FRIENDS	JESSICA GARCIA REALTOR® HELPING FAMILIES
IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOROTHY OLMSTEAD FOREVER LOVED	U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. PROUDLY SERVED	LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE
SMITH FAMILY ESTABLISHED 1946 MARTINEZ, CA	BULLDOG PRIDE TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER	HONORING ALL WHO SERVED THANK YOU

12" X 12" BRICK EXAMPLES		
KINDER'S EST. 1946 PROUD SPONSOR OF THE PAPA JAKE LARSON STATUE	CD POWER Rental • Service • Sales PROUD SPONSOR AND SUPPORTER OF VETERANS	100 SHEEDY SAN FRANCISCO EST. 1923 PROUD SPONSOR OF THE PAPA JAKE LARSON STATUE
NORTH COAST STATES CARPENTERS UNION PROUD SPONSOR OF THE PAPA JAKE LARSON STATUE	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED DOROTHY OLMSTEAD FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS	HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED THANK YOU VETERANS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

- ★ Meet our First Responders
- ★ Police & Fire vehicles & equipment
- ★ Over 45 community booths & family activities
- ★ Drone Demos • Live Music
- ★ Children's Petting Zoo
- ★ Food Trucks, treats, giveaways & more!

VISIT:
PAPAJAKELARSON.COM

★ *Thank You* ★★
FOR SUPPORTING THE
PAPA JAKE LARSON
STATUE MEMORIAL



Martinez Sesquicentennial Festival and Bay Area Craft Beer Festival Unite

This year is a special one for Martinez. As the Martinez community celebrates 150 years since incorporation, Downtown Martinez & Co. is partnering with the City of Martinez to create one incredible waterfront celebration on Saturday, August 29. It's a unique opportunity to bring together the Bay Area Craft Beer Festival and the City's Sesquicentennial Festival into one exciting day at the Marina and Waterfront Park.

The City of Martinez Sesquicentennial Festival is free and family-friendly from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, with local vendors, official Martinez 150 merchandise, delicious food trucks, an amazing Kids Zone, kayaks, rowboat races, a bike zone, yoga, an interactive art station, kite flying, baseball, a community stage, and so much more happening throughout the waterfront.

Inside that larger celebration is the Bay Area Craft Beer Festival, offering unlimited craft beer tasting from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This requires a ticket purchase to enter into the Beer Festival Village where you will can enjoy unlimited tastings from over 20 Northern California craft breweries, beautiful waterfront

views, games, lounges, and more.

Both celebrations share one Main Stage featuring Loren O, Pop Ignition, Bell & Co., and Wonder Bread 5 throughout the afternoon and early evening. Live bands conclude at 6:00 p.m., but the energy continues with a playlist of everyone's favorite dance hits until 7:00 p.m., giving guests an extra hour to grab one last bite from the food trucks, enjoy another stroll through the festival, let the kids squeeze in one more adventure, and soak in the waterfront atmosphere before heading home.

The festival is still free to attend, and guests 21 and over can purchase full-pour beer and wine while enjoying everything the waterfront celebration has to offer.

The Bay Area Craft Beer Festival is also Downtown Martinez & Co.'s largest fundraiser of the year.

Check the Downtown Martinez & Co. on Facebook and Instagram, for festival updates, including parking information, additional activities.

Pleasant Hill Chamber Board Dinner to Award Business Person of the Year



To mark the close of the 2025–2026 Chamber year, the Chamber will host a formal celebration dinner honoring the dedicated service of its Board of Directors and the outstanding contributions of the local business community.

The Chamber Honors will restore valued traditions paused during the pandemic, including the prestigious Business Person of the Year award, while reaffirming the Chamber's role as a leader in recognition, excellence, and community impact.

The evening will celebrate the accomplishments and growth of the past year, formally recognize outgoing board members, welcome incoming leadership, and honor businesses and individuals whose contributions have strengthened the community. Designed to provide an elegant and meaningful experience, the event will bring together Chamber members, partners, and distinguished guests for an evening of connection and recognition.

The event will take place on the evening of August 20, 2026, at Back Forty Texas BBQ. The program will include a hosted cocktail hour and networking reception, a seated dinner with remarks, a year-in-review presentation highlighting the Chamber's achievements, formal board recognition and leadership transitions, and the presentation of the Business Person of the Year.

Is there someone who should be recognized in our community? Centenarians? Award recipients?

Send us YOUR news and announcements.

Email us: Editor@DiabloGazette.com and let us know.

PLEASANT HILL NIGHT MARKET

LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

presented by

MCV Music Group

PERFORMANCES BY

Lydia Eden	Scoody Trill
Meelah Mahasin	M80
Mike Scholar	Mia Jomor
Hous3	Matthew Vintrell

5 PM TO 9 PM

August 7th 2026

CHILPANCINGO PARK

PLEASANT HILL, CALIFORNIA

1ST & 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
UNTIL NOV 20TH

VENDORS, KIDS ACTIVITIES

LIVE MUSIC, FOOD & BEVERAGES

IG: @PLEASANTHILLNIGHTMARKET

ADDITIONAL EVENT PARKING AT DVC

STS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
PRESENTS

4th Annual

MEDITERRANEAN Festival

AUGUST 29 & 30, 2026

12PM - 9PM

Martinez, California

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | FOOD & DRINKS | KIDS ACTIVITIES | VENDORS | DESSERT | HOOKAH

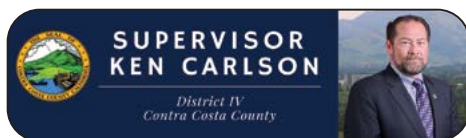
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Sept. 29

2026 County Block Party



Contra Costa is home to nearly 1.2 million residents spread across more than 800 square miles. That size makes consistent, personal access to county services a real challenge for many residents. In response, the County hosts its annual Block Party to help close that gap, by rotating through each Supervisor's district.

This year, the Contra Costa County Block Party is coming to District IV at the Pleasant Hill Library on Tuesday, September 29. This free, family-friendly event connects residents directly with the county services, programs, and resources available to them, all in one convenient location. There will also be food trucks, fun activities for the kids, and music.

In addition to county departments, local nonprofits and community organizations will also be on hand. These groups are key partners in doing the day-to-day work of supporting our neighbors, whether through food assistance or senior services. This event is about meeting our residents where they are and making sure they know

what resources the county has to offer.

Beyond expanding access, this event builds something harder to measure but just as important: community. It's a chance for neighbors to run into each other, for families to spend an afternoon together, and for residents to put a face to the staff and organizations working on their behalf. Events like this are part of what makes District IV and Contra Costa County feel like a place where people know and look out for one another.

Bring the kids, bring the neighbors, bring a friend who's never met their County Supervisor. This is community at its best, coming together to share good food, good company, and a sense of belonging. I hope to see you there!



The event is free and open to the public, and no registration is required. Scan for more information or visit: contracosta.ca.gov/7625/Contra-Costa-County-Summer-Block-Party



Fill August With Concerts, Movies, Rec Classes and City Plans for 2050

by Kevin Wilk, Mayor, Walnut Creek

As summer begins to wind down, Walnut Creek continues to be full of opportunities to connect with neighbors, discover something new, and take part in shaping our community's future.

Downtown Murals

If you've spent time downtown recently, you may have noticed four vibrant new murals bringing color and creativity to our community.

Made possible through the City's Mural Grant Program, these large-scale works are the result of a collaboration between talented artists, local businesses and building owners and the City.

Public art adds to the unique character that makes downtown Walnut Creek such a special destination. I encourage you to take a walk and experience these new additions for yourself.

Free, Outdoor Concerts in Broadway Plaza

The final Broadway Plaza Summer Concerts perform on August 6, 13, and 20. These free performances are a wonderful way to enjoy an evening with family and friends while supporting our local restaurants and businesses. You can find the complete summer concert schedule at: walnutcreekca.gov/summer-concerts.

Movies Under the Stars

August brings several opportunities to connect with your community.

Gather your blankets, picnic, and

low-back chairs for our Movies Under the Stars series at Civic Park. This year's lineup features "Lilo & Stitch" (2025 live action) on August 7 and "How to Train Your Dragon" (live action) on September 12, with movies beginning just after sundown.

Register for Fall Classes through Walnut Creek Arts + Recreation

Registration for Walnut Creek Arts + Recreation's Fall 2026 classes also opens on August 5, at 12:00 p.m. Whether you're interested in fitness, arts, technology, golf, dance, or lifelong learning, there's something for every age and interest.

Civic Academy and General Plan Update

Applications for the newly renamed Walnut Creek Civic Academy will open soon, offering residents and those who work in Walnut Creek a behind-the-scenes look at how local government serves our community.

At the same time, we're launching outreach for Walnut Creek 2050, our update to the City's General Plan. I encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming workshops, community events, and online engagement opportunities as we help shape Walnut Creek's future together.

Whether you're attending a concert, enjoying a movie under the stars, exploring public art, supporting a local business, or helping plan the future of our city, thank you for being part of what makes Walnut Creek such a vibrant and connected community.

Local Police Offer Back-to-School Safety Tips



Slow down, obey stop signs, and be alert as the new school years begins, say local police

August's arrival signals another school year will soon be starting, and the Pleasant Hill Police Department posted these common sense safety tips on their Facebook page raising reminders for motorists to be alert for

children out in abundance walking and biking to school as well as the significant increase in vehicle traffic doing drop offs and pick ups around campuses.

Local police offer the following tips:

SLOW DOWN. Mornings are a busy time for everyone with places to be. But safety comes first. Be mindful and careful navigating the streets where children and families are walking and biking.

STOP AT STOP SIGNS. This is the law and while it is believed that everyone driving knows what a stop sign means, all too often people in a hurry opt to cruise through stop signs or fail to yield to pedestrians. Stop means a complete stop – not a pause.

YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS. Both bicycles and vehicles should give way to pedestrians. Attempting to speed around a corner quickly as people are attempting to cross an intersection is going to cause injury - or worse.

CYCLISTS MUST FOLLOW THE RULES. Parents need to remind children who bike to school that they must use bike lanes where available, obey all street signage (including red lights and stop signs!), yield to pedestrians. Also, all cyclists should be going with the direction of traffic – NOT against it.

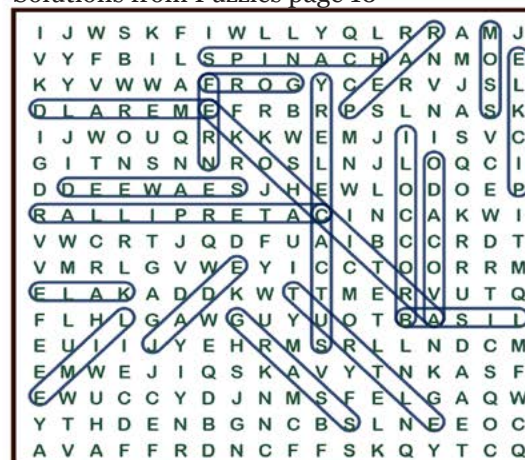
DON'T PARK IN PROHIBITED AREAS. Parents dropping-off and

picking-up children should refrain from blocking residential driveways. In addition, no parking remains in effect for red curbs / red zones and all other "No Parking" or prohibited parking areas. On a related note: Parking violation fees and citations start at \$50 in Pleasant Hill.

Law enforcement will be out doing patrols around area campuses in the coming weeks to help keep an eye on things as everyone falls back into the school year routine. Parents, children, and motorists are reminded to their parts too to help ensure memories for the start of the new 2026-27 school year are pleasant and joyful ones.

Solutions from Puzzles page 10

Puzzles by Marc Rokoff RokoPuzzles.com



9	7	8	4	5	6	2	3	1
3	1	2	7	8	9	5	6	4
6	4	5	1	2	3	8	9	7
2	6	4	5	3	1	7	8	9
1	5	3	9	7	8	4	2	6
8	9	7	6	4	2	3	1	5
7	8	9	3	6	5	1	4	2
4	2	1	8	9	7	6	5	3
5	3	6	2	1	4	9	7	8

WORD SCRAMBLE

APPLE
CHAMELEON
LEAF
BALLOON
CRAYON

WORD LADDER #1 WORD LADDER #2

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Views of the Valley

Photos by Micah



L-R: Chalk artist at Worth a Dam Beaver Festival in Martinez; Venardos Circus came to Sunvalley Shopping Center's parking lot in May; Backyard BBQers at the King of the County BBQ and Music Festival in Martinez over Father's Day weekend..



Vendor at the new Pleasant Hill Farmers Market



Shoppers at the new Pleasant Hill Farmer's Market



East Bay Pro Wrestling at the Martinez Farmers Market



Cornholios - Clayton's Cornhole Tournament Champions,



Classic cars at the Walnut Creek Art and Wine Festival



Tomizaki's Champion King Fu Lion Dancers perform at Night Market at Todos Santos Park in Concord



Concord Downtown Throwdown boxing event at Todos Santos Park



Chamber of Commerce Mega Mixer event. Six Chambers converge at Mi Casita Mexican Restaurant on Pacheco Blvd. in Martinez.



Four Mrs. Roper walk into the William Welch Wine Tasting room Downtown Martinez.

Photos by Micah