

The Diablo Gazette

Arts, Entertainment and All That's *Good* in Our Communities
 Concord, Clayton, Walnut Creek, Martinez, Pleasant Hill
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May 2022



Susan Wood, Pleasant Hill photographer, flying high with Blue Angels, just one of the many bucket-list experiences of a photojournalist pg. 18

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31st Bay Area
KidFest 2022
May 28, 29 & 30
Memorial Day Weekend
Downtown Concord
 Mt. Diablo High School, 2450 Grant St.

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 first 500
 families

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 and more!



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 All American Classic Thrill
 and Stunt Show

Stanford
 Children's Health

Children's Programs

AT THE RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN & NURSERY

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Clayton is Back!



Clayton Art & Wine Festival on April 23 and 24 was a resounding success.

After being stuck in, what felt like, a never-ending “Hollywood Squares” episode of Zoom meetings these past two years, Clayton “turned off the TV” and hosted the 25th Annual Clayton Art & Wine Festival over the weekend of April 23 and 24.

The pent-up pressure of being house-bound for two years led to overwhelming joy and celebration. Neighbors, friends, and visitors came out in droves to welcome an amazing weekend and fantastic weather.

Hundreds of Clayton Business and Community Association (CBCA) volunteers staffed the ticket, wine, and beer booths, performed set up/cleanup, coordinated vendors, and helped with administration.

In the end, the vendors stated it was the most successful Art & Wine Festival ever. The CBCA confirmed that the festival was a rousing success, with preliminary estimates indicating revenues 40% higher than the previous festival (held in 2019)!

Clayton hosts the Concerts in the Grove series beginning on Saturday, May 7. The first band is The Fundamentals who will play your favorite R&B, Rock, Pop, and Soul Tunes. On May 21, Night Moves, will perform the music of Bob Seger & Creedence Clearwater Revival.

Information on the concert line-up for the rest of the Summer is at, www.claytonconcerts.com [or on Page 5 of this edition of Diablo Gazette.] All donations go toward future concerts. Bring a picnic basket and your friends. Concerts are from 6:30PM to 8:30PM.

June 25 brings Clayton its first annual Pride Parade. Bring the family to this historic event at 10AM downtown.

In July, Clayton’s Independence Day Parade returns on the fourth at 10AM, downtown, leading off with the ever popular “kiddie parade,” followed by marching units and floats. On July 9 and 10, the CBCA will host the annual BBQ Cook-off featuring over forty competitors vying for an opportunity to qualify for Kansas City Barbecue Association sanctioned national competition points.

This Fall, Oktoberfest also returns. The CBCA is planning for a rousing resurrection of this amazing, community event on October 1 and 2 downtown. It is always an amazing party and a great fundraiser for the community.

Mark your calendars and come join us.

Please contact Mayor Peter Cloven at peterc@claytonca.gov or 925-673-7320.



Displaced students from Ukraine sharing their thank you cards to Clayton Valley Charter for the care packages.

CVCHS Helps Displaced Students From Ukraine

By Dave Fehte, Executive Director, CVCHS



CVCHS Coach Agnieszka Holda

Meet Agnieszka Holda, a Physical Education teacher at CVCHS. Coach Agnieszka Holda has started a fundraiser for displaced students from Ukraine who have been enrolled at Szkoła Podstawowa Wandy Rutkiewicz in Rzaska near Krakow, Poland.

Coach Holda grew up in Poland and moved to the United States in 2006. She still has family in Poland and Ukraine and what is happening is close to her heart.

For two months, Ukraine has been under siege – and the atrocities continue to grow each day. The Russian invasion has displaced millions of civilians from their homes and thousands have been killed in the conflict. Ukrainians are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, and while global aid organizations ramp up their important work, thanks to Coach Holda’s efforts, the CVCHS community is doing its part to support displaced students, raising funds and awareness.

These students escaped the war in Ukraine with their families but are in desperate need of school supplies and clothing. Coach Holda is a passionate educator who wants to raise money for refugees attending the elementary school which she attended as a child. In fact, she now has a nephew who is a current student at the school.

More than \$4,000 has been raised to date which was used to purchase care packages for the students. To which they expressed their gratitude with handwritten thank cards to CHVHS.

(Ukraine, Continued on page 12)



Each displaced student received a CVCHS care package.



Thank you cards from displaced students.



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California Tourism Month Alerts Concord for Promising Travel Season

May is California Tourism Month, a time when industry professionals collectively recognize and share the value travel brings to our local economy and personal well-being. And this year, it could not happen at a better time. Recent polls indicate people are anxious to make real summer travel plans again, and Concord is ready to welcome all. Here are a few highlights coming to Concord.

Excitement is building for Creative Concord, a true arts experience happening this June. Top artists will create beautiful, contemporary murals throughout the city, followed by a month-long celebration that runs June 11-26. A variety of unique events and performances will be happening every weekend, and the best part is that it is all free and open to the public.

Be sure to check out Visit Concord's event calendar page for a current list of what is happening in Concord. As part of our commitment to welcome and serve travelers of all ability levels, we have created a directory that includes ADA lodging amenities, accessible parks and trails, attractions, transportation, services and more. For information, visit our web page at www.visitconcordca.com/accessible-concord.

The Concord Visitor Center is open and ready to help you and visiting guests with free advice, maps, visitor guides, brochures, and fun Concord wearables. Check us out the next time you come to Todos Santos Plaza and pick up the latest event listings card for "Things to Do" in Concord. The Visitor Center is located at 2151 Salvio Street, Suite T.

In closing, I would like to give a shout-out to our local hospitality industry. Our Concord hotels have survived two rough years with challenges ranging supply chain difficulties to workforce shortages and are still doing their best to provide excellent service for their guests as they return to full operational

status. If you have not done so already, now is a perfect time to book your stay at any of our nine Concord Hotels.

We thank you and encourage your continued support of our great Concord restaurants, hotels and businesses and we look forward to seeing you out there all summer long!



BRUBECK BROTHERS QUARTET
PERFORMING LIVE

Buy Tickets Now!

Friday, May 27th, 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
CONCORD, CA

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIR

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MAY 12-15, 2022

Best Italian Restaurant

Luna Restaurant




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With Purchase of 2 Entrees	With Purchase of 2 Entrees	

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RESERVATIONS Recommended (925) 969-1887

Proven Leadership

When Contra Costa Needs It Most



The pandemic has exacerbated chronic problems and strained budgets for families and governments, alike.

As a former Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Planning Commission Chair, Councilmember Carlyn Obringer has the experience Contra Costa County needs to set a successful course for the future.

ON JUNE 7th
PLEASE VOTE FOR

**Carlyn
Obringer**

for Contra Costa
County Supervisor, District 4

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

May 8 - Mother's Day

May 20 - Bike to Work Day

May 21 - Armed Forces Day

May 30 - Memorial Day

FUNDRAISERS

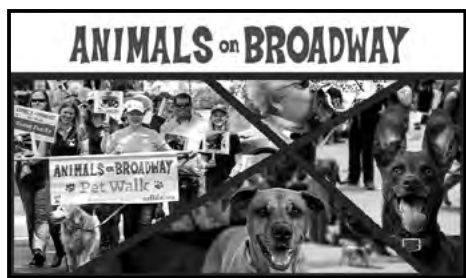
May 19

Nourish Gala Drive-In to Fight Hunger - West Wind Solano Drive-in, Concord.

May 21

Blue Devils Drive-Thru Tri-Tip Dinner- 4PM- 6 PM. \$35, dinner includes carved Tri-tip, pasta, vegetable salad, bread, bottle water, and dessert. All proceeds benefit the Blue Devils C Corps. Pre-order by May 15. Pick up at Blue Devils Bingo Hall, 4065 Nelson Ave. Concord. No refunds. Contact: dinners@bluedevils.org.

May 22



Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation is hosting their annual Animals on Broadway Pet Walk and Fundraiser from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. Register at: <https://www.arlife.org/arf-events/>.

May 27

Dave Brubeck Stage Dedication Concord Historical Society - Celebrate Dave Brubeck's 102nd birthday and his performance on our stage in 1931, and stage dedication. special guest, Harold Jones. Sons, Dan and Chris Brubeck Quartet perform. Food & drinks in Galindo Gardens. Video screening of Dave Brubeck's musical life. 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Betty Barnes Hall. Tickets \$100- \$150. 1928 Clayton Rd. concordhistorical.org.

June 18

Concord Crawl-AAUW Art and Wine Walk. Stroll Downtown Concord around Todos Santos plaza, enjoying fine wines, craft beers, and appetizers while viewing art for sale and meeting local artists. Proceeds benefit AAUW Concord Educational Foundation. Tickets \$30 at Concord Visitor Center, or on Eventbrite.

EVENTS

May 7

Clayton Valley Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. 9 AM - 1 PM. Color bowls and many great items for sale for Mother's Day. Endeavor Hall Parking Lot, 6008 Center St., Clayton. For more information go to www.claytonvalleygardenclub.org or call 925-276-2299.

May 8

OPEN AIR MARKET 9AM-1PM featuring Vintage, Collectibles, Antiques, Arts & Crafts, and more. You will find us on the 800 block of Main St. Martinez

May 12-15

Contra Costa County Fair Cows, Corndogs and Carnival Rides. Oh My!! A fun event for children of all ages. Money saving pre-sale tickets ends May 9. 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch. For more information, call (925) 757-4400 or visit: contracosta-fair.com.

May 28-30

KidFest - Meet Paw Patrol and explore dozens of kid activities, music, and events, bugs galore and more. Meet see story on page 11 for all the details. Mt. Diablo High School, 2450 Grant st. Concord.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Concord Tuesdays, 9:00am to 2:00pm. Todos Santos Plaza, Concord
Martinez Sundays, 9:00am to 2:00pm, 700 Main St.
Walnut Creek Kaiser 1425 South Main 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Rossmoor - Fridays 9:30am. to 1:00pm., Golden Rain Rd.
 Shadelands - Saturdays 9:00am.-1:00 pm. North Wiget Ln. and Mitchell Dr.
 Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. North Locust St.

May 7

50th Anniversary Plant Sale - Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club 9 am-2 pm. Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Rd. Pleasant Hill

May 14-15

The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society - 11AM-6PM New! **Southern Pacific**, an American class 1 railroad network from 1865 to 1996 was a significant contributor to the history and growth of California. The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. Enjoy several running model trains running through miniature cities and mountainous terrain. Other show dates. May 21 11AM, May 27 8PM. 2751 Buena Vista Ave. Walnut Creek. (Admission): \$5 Adults, \$3. Children (6-12) / Seniors. FREE for kids 5 years and younger.

CLUBS

May 14

Mt. Diablo Branch California Writers Club - Grant Faulkner, Executive Director of National Novel Writing Month, will present "The Power of Writing with Abandon" at the in-person and Zoom meeting of the Diablo branch of the California Writers Club at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. IN-person \$25, \$35 guest. ZOOM: Register online. Once registered, you will receive a link to the Zoom meeting. (\$10 members/ \$15 guests) <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.org/>

June 2

SIR Branch #19 Monthly Luncheon - Noon at the Greenery Restaurant in Walnut Creek with social hour beginning at 11 AM. The guest speaker will be an official from USGS (US Geological Survey) who will speak on the work that they do for earthquake preparedness. Guests are welcome. SIR is a group of mature men who enjoy various activities and each other's company. All are welcome. Activi-

ties include weekly golf, bocce, bowling, wine tasting, dining out, day trips and many others. If interested, visit us at www.sirinc2.org/branch19or call 925 338-1996.

ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC

CONCORD PAVILION

Tickets @ livenation.com
May 25 - Steely Dan and Steve Winwood
May 29 - Stone Soul Concert

Clayton Theatre Company's Summer Stage 2022 will be held July 11-15, 18-22, 10am-1pm for children ages 6-16 at Endeavor Hall 6008 Center St., Clayton. The show will be Scenes from "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown". Please visit www.ClaytonTheatreCompany.com for camp information. 925-334-0880

Music and Market Series

6:30PM - 8PM Todos Santos Park, Concord
June 2 - Gator Nation
June 9 - The Bell Brothers

May 22

"Songs From the Silver Screen" - Diablo Women's Chorale Spring Concert 3:00 PM. at Hillside Covenant Church, 2060 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek.

aRT COTTAGE

Through June 24

"Exploring My Mind and the World" - an aRT Cottage exhibit featuring the Concord Art Association. Artist reception May 21 2-4PM. 2238 Mt. Diablo St. Concord.

MAIN STREET ARTS

Through June 19



Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) exhibit. Reception May 14 4PM - 6 PM. From figurative to landscapes, realism to expressionism, BASA has produced several collaborative works highlighting the contributions of notable individuals. This John Muir portrait, "Starry Range of Light", is the BASA collaboration featured for this show. 613 Main St. Martinez.

Leshner Center for the Arts 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Diablo Ballet Presents "Copella" Live, a full-length ballet. charming, lighthearted, romantic comedy. Music performed live by diablo symphony orchestra. Streaming, May 27-June 5. tickets \$25-\$52. Virtual tickets \$37 per household.

Through June 19

Forced to Flee - By Studio Art Quilt Association. Thursday-Sundays, Bedford Gallery - A powerful and timely quilt exhibition illustrating the global challenges arising from the current refugee crisis affecting communities across the world.

The City of Clayton Proudly Presents

Concerts in The Grove 2022

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

May 7 Fundamentals	Fundamentals - A high-energy stage show with three dynamic lead vocalists, the hottest horn players around and a tight four-piece rhythm section, they have been performing their "Red Hot Rockin' Soul" for over 15 years. With songs by Michael Jackson, Earth Wind & Fire, Beyoncé to Journey and Bon Jovi, and your favorite R&B, rock, pop, and soul tunes. www.thefundamentals.com
May 21 Night Moves / Creedence Classic Revival	Night Moves/Creedence Classic Revival is a six-piece band with a high-energy performance of two amazing tribute bands in one. They will take you on a ride through the rock and roll classics of Seger and CCR that drives crowds of all ages to the dance floor. www.ccseger.com
June 4 Brickhouse	Brickhouse brings all the energetic, popular hits from the 80s, 90s and beyond. From Madonna and Lady Gaga, to Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean, to Journey and Bon Jovi, Brickhouse has your good-time, feel-good, dance-rock needs fully covered. www.brickhouserocks.com
June 18 Pride and Joy SF	Pride and Joy SF is a favorite pop/soul band in the Bay Area singing the sounds of Motown's greatest hits, including the best of the Temptations and the Supremes. Rhythm, perfect pitch and harmony from its four lead singers, backed by a five-piece band. This is a show not to miss! www.prideandjoysf.com
July 2 The Boys of Summer	The Boys of Summer are deemed the best Eagles Tribute band this side of the Rockies, with spot on vocals, playing the true musical heart and sound of the Eagles. With a hit list too long to name, this is a true sing-a-long tribute band that will keep you singing and dancing in the park. www.boysofsummertribute.com
July 16 Cut Loose	Cut Loose has dynamite vocals and searing leads backed by a solid rhythm section. Based in California's East Bay, Cut Loose will make you want to dance, swing and sway along to their Rockin' Blues, Rock 'n Roll, R&B, Rockin' Country and more. https://cutlooseband.com
July 30 Mixed Nuts	Mixed Nuts plays a wide variety of dance music from the 50s to today. Bill, the Pied Piper of music, will have you and your kids up doing the Hokie-Pokie, or joining the Conga Line around the park. This is going to be a get-up-and-dance concert. So be sure to bring your dancing shoes. www.mixednutsband.com
August 13 Houserockers	The Houserockers - This 10-piece powerhouse Rock and Soul band plays the greatest songs recorded. Their high energy gets everyone dancing to the music of the Rolling Stones, Earth Wind and Fire, Tower of Power, Springsteen and more. They bring together elements of Rock, Swing, Blues, 60s Soul and R & B. www.svhouserockers.com
August 27 The Sun Kings	The Sun Kings - Northern California's premier Beatles tribute band. For years, the Bay Area's Sun Kings have been thrilling packed houses and outdoor festivals with their musical tribute to The Beatles. Their energy is reminiscent of the joy and excitement of a Beatles concert with the tunes that changed rock & roll. www.thesunkings.com
September 10 East Bay Mudd	East Bay Mudd - This dynamic nine-piece band is a great finale for our concert season with their upbeat take on Classic Soul, Funk and R&B classics. This horn-heavy, funk-inflected, rhythm & blues ensemble with a soulful, dynamic lead vocalist, a tight four-piece horn section and a solid rhythm section will rock you with the best of Tower of Power, Chicago, Earth Wind and Fire, and more. www.eastbaymudd.com

CLAYCORD[®]

NEWS & TALK

In case you missed it...



Walnut Creek City Council Legalizes Recreational Marijuana Deliveries to Residences

The Walnut Creek City Council gave the city's recreational cannabis users something to celebrate by unanimously voting to legalize delivery of adult-use, non-medical marijuana within city limits.

At the April 19 meeting — at which a cannabis proponent offered sample joints to the council, to laughter all around — the council capped the number of delivery services that can operate in the city to three. They expect one service to be HerbNJoy, the city's lone provider of medical marijuana.

On future applications from other prospective cannabis retailers, the city will use a points system to help decide whether to grant use permits. Since HerbNJoy has been a positive contributor to the city's business community, the council approved an amendment directing staff to process HerbNJoy's new amended application for non-medical delivery service, giving them already-earned points.

Deliveries will have to be made to a fixed residential address, drivers won't be able to exceed the state limit of how much product they can carry (\$5,000 worth) and must deliver straight to customers without stopping anywhere else.

45 Fantasy 5 Lottery Jackpot Tickets Sold – One Winner Purchased Ticket at Village Market in Clayton

A whopping 45 winning Fantasy 5 Lottery Jackpot tickets were sold in California for Saturday's April 30 drawing. One of the winning tickets was sold at the Village Market on Main St. in downtown Clayton. The winning numbers were 3, 6, 9, 36 and 39. If you have a winner, it's worth \$7,660.

City of Concord Named 'Tree City USA' for 40th Consecutive Year

For the 40th consecutive year, Concord has been named a 2021 "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Concord achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements:

- Forming a tree board or department
- Creating a tree-care ordinance
- Having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and
- Issuing an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Urban tree plantings help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the city as well.

In addition, members of the community benefit from properly placed trees as they increase property values from 7-20%. Trees also positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.

Trails in Lime Ridge to Close for Two Months While PG&E Puts Wires Underground

Starting Sunday May 1, several trails in Lime Ridge will be closed due to PG&E undergrounding the existing power lines in the area. Moving the power lines through Lime Ridge underground is part of PG&E's fire prevention efforts and is expected to reduce the risk of power lines causing a wildfire.

The construction project is scheduled to take two months and be completed on or around July 1, 2022. The trail closures include portions of the Paraiso Trail, Ohlone Trail and the Timberleaf Trail (see map).

For your safety and the safety of the employees please avoid this area. If you have any questions, please contact City of Walnut Creek Project Manager Don Murphy at 925-256-3591.

Masks Once Again Required on BART

The BART Board of Directors at its meeting today voted to require riders to wear masks in paid areas of the system with limited exceptions.

This requirement applies to trains and all portions of stations beyond the fare gates. Children ages two and under as well as people with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing masks are exempt from the mandate.

The rule is effective until July 18, 2022, unless it is extended by the BART Board.

"I strongly support requiring a mask to ride BART to keep all our riders safe," said BART Board President Rebecca Saltzman. "I'm especially concerned for our riders who are immunocompromised, people with underlying health conditions, and children under the age of five who are not yet eligible for vaccination."

The update to the Code of Conduct comes after a federal judge in Florida earlier this month tossed out a federal mask mandate for public transit systems and airlines.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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A WALK THROUGH TIME

with Misty Bruns

The Nortonville Disaster-146 years ago



The most distressing and fatal event occurred in the mines at Nortonville July 24, 1876.

The day started as any other day. Men left their homes with a lunch bucket, saying goodbye to wives and children and off to work in the Nortonville mines. Sometimes leaving home in the morning before sunrise only to return home after sunset, spending their days and nights in the dark.

At the mines, they meet up with fellow miners as they journey underground with a pickaxe in one hand, and a wrought iron spike candle holder in the other. Together they descend underground to chip away the earth for 10 to 12 hours a day to bring the black diamonds, coal, up to the surface.

They would bring home about \$3.00 a month for this work. The underground miners at Nortonville and those within the Mt. Diablo Coal Fields were of the most useful and respected men within the work field at the mines as well as in their communities

Around 3 pm, the rumblings of the coal field communities started happening between families. Townspeople started to gather around the mines. Wives and mothers panicked about what has happened to their sons and husbands. Children are fearful of where their father may be.

They were learning bit by bit there had been a horrible accident in the Nortonville mines — a powder explosion underground in the mines.

On July 29, 1876, the A

ntioch Ledger ran this explanation.

Within the first two hours, six men who had died, their bodies were brought up out of the mines Eight more men brought up with severe injuries like being scorched by the fire.

Many lingered in pain for days and weeks, some recovering and others succumbing to their injuries.

The Nortonville Calamity.

A follow up article ran August 21, 1876 to identify those that succumbed to their injuries.

"The miners that died that day:

Meredith Lewis (1838-1883 Aged 38

William Gething (1841)-1876 Aged 35

David W. Griffiths (1834-1876) Aged 42

George M. Reynolds (1847-1876) Aged 29

Theophilus Watts (1849-1876) Aged 29

William Williams (1858-1876) Aged 18

Two of the miners that survived but died in the days or weeks from the explosions'

Thomas James (1849-1876)

David Watts (?-1876)"

One known survivor of the incident, Watkins Williams, died five years later in 1881. It is believed he was above ground at the time of the blast.

The following week the Good Templar's of Antioch conveyed at the meeting hall in Antioch to try and raise money to help the wives without husbands and children without fathers.

These good people started out with \$196.00, and within days had received more monies, totaling \$713.00. By the end of collecting money, they raised \$1200.00 for the wives and children. (which amounts to about \$33,000 in 2022 dollars). They hoped this would give them some relief while they grieved and made plans for the future.

The mine disaster killed eleven men in total, leaving four widows and twelve children fatherless.

The Nortonville Disaster.

ntioch Ledger ran this explanation.

"The cause of this accident was a powder explosion, let off in the ordinary operation of mining, and that igniting Sulphur gas and raising large volumes of what the miners call black damp or fine coal dust."

The miners that were closest to the explosion underground in the mines were smothered by the black damp, there death would have happened in an instance.

Other miners were severely burnt.



Why Is Demand Still So High?

If you are trying to buy a home, then you have probably noticed that there are many other buyers out there competing for properties. Perhaps you have made offers only to be outbid by another buyer. Maybe you have even decided to take a break until supply and demand are on more equal footing asking yourself "Why is demand still so high?" Let's take a closer look.

Buyers want to get in on lower interest rates while they last. When the pandemic began, the federal government responded to the economic crisis by lowering interest rates. In fact, throughout the pandemic, interest rates for mortgages reached record lows. This makes for a favorable lending environment for well-qualified homebuyers. By purchasing a home when rates are low, you can potentially save thousands of dollars over the life of the loan. As Covid restrictions are eased, interest rates are also going up enticing many homebuyers to rush to beat these increases, keeping demand high for the time being.

Rents continue to rise. Another reason that buyer demand continues to remain high is that rent prices are soaring. According to a recent report, rent prices rose 14 percent in 2021. That is significantly more than the three percent they rose in 2020. With rental prices becoming less and less affordable, more people are considering buying instead. Owning a home is an investment with substantial financial benefits. When you rent, you never see those monthly payments again.

But when you are making mortgage payments, you can see a sizable return on investment when you sell.

Millennials are ready to buy. Millennials, those ages 26 to 41, are beginning to reach peak home-buying ages. All the recent changes in how we live in our homes have made Millennials even more eager to buy. Some Millennials will now be working from home, at least part-time, and may need a home that can cater to this change. Others want to buy homes to accommodate growing families. Some Millennials who put off home buying early because of student loans and other debt are now ready to enter the market. In short, those in their late 20s to early 40s are eager to finally settle down.

Some homeowners eager to upsize. Finally, it is not just first-time homebuyers who are flooding the market. Those who already own homes want to take advantage of their newfound ability to upsize. Home values have increased dramatically in the past year, giving homeowners a boost to their equity. This increase in equity, coupled with low interest rates, means that many current homeowners can upsize. Basically, for the same monthly mortgage payments they are making now, they can buy a bigger home and make the same payments. For those who are now working from home, having bigger families, or simply want to stay home more often, upsizing is incredibly attractive.

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Rarely available Toll Brothers Home in Diablo Estates, built in 2011! Former Model Home with stunning upgrades & breathtaking views! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths plus den, approx. 3910sf on an approx. .57 acre lot with huge upstairs laundry room & an attached 3-car tandem garage!



Spectacular "Nantucket" model Peacock Creek home! 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus den, approx. 3820sf on an approx. .25 acre lot with an attached 3-car garage! Gorgeous custom built-in cabinetry! Fantastic backyard with extensive patio & huge side yard!



Beautiful one-story home with views of Mt. Diablo in a sought-after Concord community. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 2022sf on an approx. .28 acre lot with an attached 2-car garage & sparkling in-ground pool. Buyer representation.



Pristine Single Story in Windmill Canyon with refreshing in-ground "spool"! 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 2053sf on an approx. .31 acre lot with an attached 2-car garage plus RV/boat parking! Updated and upgraded.



6160 Center St., Suite E
Clayton, California



jenniferstojanovich@yahoo.com
Jennifer Stojanovich
Broker
(925)672-4433
925-567-6170 - cell
Cal BRE #01446062
www.jenniferstojanovich.com

georgevujnovich@sbcglobal.net
George Vujnovich
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First-Ever Student Art Showcase Comes to Sunvalley Shopping Center



Images from College Park High School. Below: Graphic design by Northgate High design student Injay Hwang.

Bravo Sunvalley Shopping Center. For two weeks in May, Sunvalley Shopping Center will become the area's largest art gallery by exhibiting the creative work of students from four area high schools' Digital Arts programs.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District has a robust Career Pathways Program at five of their comprehensive high schools and a few of their middle schools. In May, the Art & Digital Media Pathways will be participating in a Digital Art Showcase in partnership with the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce and Sunvalley Shopping Center.

From May 11 to May 25, Sunvalley Shopping Center will exhibit artwork submitted on four television screens placed in the center. The artwork was created by Mt. Diablo High School, Concord High School, College Park High School, and Northgate High School students. The students whose art will be displayed throughout the mall have worked extremely hard to create beautifully unique and expressive art in a variety of photography, animation, and digital media pieces.

Kickstart Reception

As with any art show opening, the public, including other local artists, are invited to attend a special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Grand Court located inside of Sunvalley Shopping Center to kickstart the first-ever Mt. Diablo Unified School District Digital Art Showcase on May 9th, from 5 pm - 7 pm.

The art showcase idea began in early 2020 between the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, who is the advisory industry partner for this pathway, and the various teachers at the high schools, right before the Pandemic hit. Two years later, the teachers and business community are excited to see the showcase come to fruition and show what hard work and patience can create.

"We are pleased to be able to partner with the Concord Chamber of Commerce along with the Mount Diablo Unified School District, and we look forward to building our relationships with other community partners." stated Luther Daniel, General Manager of Sunvalley Shopping Center.

There is one more step to complete. Visit the exhibit and support this collaboration. Well done to all.



MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ART SHOWCASE

AT SUNVALLEY SHOPPING CENTER

MAY 9, 2022
AT 5:00 PM

Please join us at the Sunvalley Shopping Center's Grand Court for a Ribbon cutting ceremony to begin the MDUSD Art Showcase. The students work will be hosted throughout the Sunvalley Mall Center from May 11- 25, 2022.

This event is in partnership with the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce and the Sunvalley Shopping Center. Special thanks to Northgate Design student Injay Hwang for creating this Graphic.

pair up!

Mom's Favorites Meal

By Maria Terry



My mom loves fresh shellfish. The key to bringing shellfish to life is acid. One way is to add it to the dish; another is to pair with a beverage that has a fair amount of acid on its own. Here are two recipes that use lime and pomegranate seeds to give these crustaceans a kick, and the beverages that go with them.

Start mom's special meal with Shrimp Cakes and Creamy Chili-Lime Sauce. Shrimp makes a great fried cake because it has a firm texture and blends well with many flavors. Minted Limeade is a fun beverage pairing with this dish. Essentially it is a non-alcoholic Mojito. The sweetness will balance the spice and the acid will cut through the richness.

Next, enjoy a shellfish pasta dish with pomegranate seeds which provide a bright pop of color and flavor. Crab-Pomegranate Ravioli may seem complicated, but it comes together quickly when you use store-bought wonton wrappers.

Be adventurous and seek out a Pigato wine made from a little white grape found in Northern Italy. It has flavors similar to chardonnay (apple and pear) but coming from Italy you can expect a lower alcohol and a slightly higher acidity than you would typically find in California Chardonnay. If you cannot find a Pigato, source a Chardonnay from a cool region that has not undergone malo-lactic fermentation.

Finish the meal with my mom's favorite dessert, strawberry shortcake. Serve sparkling water with fresh strawberries and mint. This refreshing beverage will cut the cream in the dessert and keep your palate refreshed.

So, go on. Pair Up!

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



Minted Limeade

INGREDIENTS

8 limes, juiced
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup loosely packed mint leaves, torn up a bit
4 quarts sparkling or still water

DIRECTIONS

Mix juice, sugar and leaves together until sugar is dissolved. Slowly add sparkling water and stir.

Yield: 16 servings

Shrimp Cakes w/Creamy Chili-Lime Sauce

INGREDIENTS

Shrimp Cakes:

16 uncooked large shrimp (about 1 pound), peeled, deveined
1 large egg
1 green onion, sliced
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon minced fresh cilantro
1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

1/2 teaspoon salt
Pinch of ground black pepper
2 cups panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
2 tablespoons vegetable or peanut oil

Sauce:

1/4 cup dry white wine
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
1 tablespoon chopped peeled fresh ginger
1 tablespoon minced shallot
1/3 cup whipping cream
2 tablespoons store bought chili-garlic sauce
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

DIRECTIONS

Coarsely chop shrimp in processor. Add egg, green onion, lemon juice, mustard, cilantro, hot pepper sauce, salt, and pepper. Pulse to combine. Add 1 cup panko and pulse. Form mixture into twelve 3-inch-diameter cakes. Roll cakes in remaining 1 cup panko. Refrigerate 10 minutes on waxed paper.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil over medium-high heat. Fry cakes until cooked through and golden brown on both sides about 6 minutes, adding more oil to skillet as needed.

Combine first 4 ingredients of sauce in heavy small saucepan. Boil over high heat until reduced by half, about 3 minutes. Add cream and boil until reduced by half, about 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Mix in chili-garlic sauce. Add butter, 1 piece at a time, whisking just until melted before adding next piece.

Yield: 12 cakes

Crab-Pomegranate Ravioli

INGREDIENTS

Filling:

1/3 cup cilantro
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic
1/3 cup minced green apples
1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
1/2 cup white wine
2 cups crab meat
Store-bought wonton wrappers

Sauce:

1 teaspoon butter
1/3 cup minced green apple
1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1/2 cup hot water
1 tablespoon pomegranate molasses
1/2 cup white wine

DIRECTIONS

Blend 2 tablespoon olive oil with cilantro leaves.

Sauté garlic, apple and pomegranate for 2 minutes. Pour in white wine and reduce.

While fruit filling simmers, start sauce. Melt butter in 12" frying pan on med-high heat. Add apples, pomegranate seeds and brown sugar. Caramelize fruit for 1 minute. Add hot water and molasses. Turn up the heat and add white wine. Stir continuously and cook for 5 minutes.

While sauce is thickening, mix sautéed fruit, crab, and cilantro mixture.

Remove sauce from heat. Wet one entire side of each wonton wrapper. Place one tablespoon of filling in center, fold and pinch tightly to close. Cook ravioli for 5 minutes in boiling water without crowding the pot. Remove and place directly into sauce or ravioli will stick together.

Garnish with mint and fresh pomegranate seeds.

Yield: About 48 ravioli

Happy Mother's Day

Gotelli & Son – Third Generation Cherry Growers

By Deb Morris, Pacific Coast Farmers Market

The excitement is building for California's cherry season. The season is short for sweet cherries, usually May to June. They are well worth the wait! With so many varieties available, it is wise to stock up for spring salads, desserts, jams and preserves, sauces, and freezing for later use.

Gotelli & Sons Farm grows over a dozen varieties of California sweet cherries. This family-run farm began when patriarch Joe Gotelli emigrated from Italy and planted his cherries along the Calaveras River near Stockton in the 1920s. The business now represents three generations who run the operation. Joe's sons Al Gotelli and his brother Del Gotelli expanded beyond the initial acreage. In 1954, in partnership with John and Mel Oneto, the brothers formed Oneto-Gotelli Packing. They now have over 300 acres in Stockton and Acampo.

Drew Rotner, who married into the Gotelli family and now attends farmers' markets while continuing to work the orchards, says, "This year's early rain brought some relief to drought-stricken areas of California, but we wish there had been more."

Growing cherries requires a lot of patience, constant vigilance, and hard work to bring in a successful and abundant crop to market. The work of pruning, watering, fertilizing, and pruning goes on through the entire year for a harvest that takes daily picking for only two or three short months.

"We pick our cherries by hand on a daily basis because the individual cherries in a cluster ripen at different rates and then immediately put them into cold storage until they are loaded on the truck for the day at the market. This

ensures high quality for our customers," noted Shelby, one of the Gotelli's daughters now working at the orchard.

Missy Gotelli, who runs the day-to-day operations at the farm, is always looking for ways to improve the quality of their cherries and is pleased that customers continually come back each year to enjoy their cherries. They continue to improve quality and service to their customers with the best fruit.

Try this recipe from Gotelli & Sons Farms' grandmother.

GRANDMA HARVEY'S CHERRY COBBLER

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups or more pitted cherries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 cup boiling water

Mix 3/4 cup sugar, butter or margarine, flour, salt, baking powder, and milk together into a loose dough. Place cherries in the bottom of a 9-inch square pan. Spread dough over cherries.

Combine 1 cup sugar and cornstarch. Stir in boiling water. Pour mixture over the dough. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes. Serve warm.

Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club To Hold 50th Anniversary Plant Sale May 7

By Eileen Housfeld

A popular pre-Mother's Day plant sale is returning to the Diablo Valley after a 2-year absence due to Covid.

The Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club's plant sale is also special because this will be the 50th time club members have propagated and sold their garden plants to the general public.

The sale will be held Saturday, May 7, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Road at Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill.

The first sale took place in 1970, when members sold plants in tin cans from card tables set up outside the old food co-op grocery store on Geary Road near North Main Street.

Times have changed. The sale now is almost like a mini festival with pop-up tent canopies shading tables full of inviting specimens that lure both avid and beginner gardeners, as well as families with children shopping for Mother's Day gifts.

This year's event will feature colorful flower bowls, succulents galore, water-wise perennials, plus herbs, heirloom tomatoes, assorted other vegetables, and more.

A popular attraction is the "Garden Shed" section, offering gently used outdoor décor and garden-related accessories.

Plants at this sale are propagated locally, will thrive in our climate, and are competitively priced. The sale is known for its "super finds" of plants not often offered at local nurseries.

Contra Costa Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions. Some sale proceeds are donated to garden-related projects sponsored by local non-profits.

The PHGSC is co-sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District. For more information, contact call 925-323-9314, e-mail to phgardenstudyclub@yahoo.com or go to www.phgsc.com.



The Naked Gardener

David George, UC-certified Master Gardener

Roses for Mother's Day

Mother's Day is early this year, May 8. Fortunately, Mother Nature is also early with our most abundant rose display of the year. We try to winter trim our roses by Presidents' Day so that new, fresh rosebuds will have opened by mid-May just in time for Mother's Day - most years. But this spring is featuring April and early May rose blooms throughout our region.

Spring and summertime blooming roses can orchestrate showcase displays in an all-natural garden. Aside from the all-time favorite grandiflora, floribunda, and hybrid tea roses; tree roses and climbers can add interest along pathways and on gate arches or pergolas. Varieties are available now in all bloom colors, even "blue" and astonishing color mixes and fragrances.

To save money, buy a bareroot plant in early spring while roses are still dormant. Dig a 1-2-foot hole and backfill it with your homegrown compost and native soil in equal parts. Most roses prefer full sun and regular dripped water around their bases. Read the label and choose the best variety for your conditions. By summer, your bareroot plants will reward you with abundant blooms.



Groundcover roses are useful for larger areas. Courtesy John Karlik UCANR

Most modern roses will continue to bloom throughout the summer months after they have recovered from their springtime push of blossoms. But heirloom or "old garden" roses whose varieties date back to the 1800's will only bloom in the spring. Their genetic makeup is closer to original wild rose natives that are found throughout temperate climates. California has a single-petal red native that you will find occasionally in coastal or Sierra Nevada woodlands. California wild roses are climbers and can grow up to 15 feet in a single year.



Climber Cecil Brunner on garden gate arch.

Roses are hardy, can survive harsh winter conditions, and can live hundreds of years. In mild coastal weather communities, roses grow and bloom throughout the winter months. But coastal roses are more vulnerable to mildew, rust, black spot, aphids, green worms, and white flies. They must be planted in full sun to bloom on a regular basis.

Inland communities from Contra

Costa to the Sierra foothills present ideal blooming conditions, with warm to hot, dry afternoons and cool nights.

Pests are more easily controlled inland with natural predators such as lady bird beetles (and their larvae "aphid lions"), soldier beetles, spiders, birds and an occasional spray of water or "insecticidal soap" (which is just "soapy water").



Ladybugs eat aphids voraciously. Photo courtesy UCANR

There are too many great grandiflora/floribunda/hybrid tea rose selections to list. Choose a variety that best matches your garden spot and needs. I love the climbers: Cecil Brunner (pink), Don Juan (red), Iceberg (white), and Joseph's Coat (multicolor). And rose trees are wonderful special interest additions, with Candelabra (salmon red) and New Zealand (yellow) being my favorites. Heirloom varieties tend to be fussier with limited blooming periods but are generally more fragrant. Consider groundcover roses for larger areas and lower water and maintenance requirements.



David George tending to his floribunda roses.

Email your comments and questions to: NakedGardener@diablogazette.com. In some cases, these may appear in future columns.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye: The Clayton Valley Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale May 7!



The Oppenheimer Alternate

May 2022 marks the 77th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, but in May 1945, the war in the Pacific was still raging when President Truman took office and the decision fell on him whether to drop an atomic bomb on Japan. In "The Oppenheimer Alternative" (CAEZIK SF & Fantasy, 2020, paperback, 374 pages, \$11.85), Robert J. Sawyer creates an historical fiction masterpiece by focusing on the lives of the Manhattan Project scientists who participated in developing a weapon powerful enough to end wars for all time. This unique book combines an epic time in world history with science fiction.

Sawyer brilliantly includes Oppenheimer's personal life and his professional relationships to lighten the dense subjects of physics and mathematics. But it is the fascinating historical details about the scientific challenges, personal ambitions, and ethical dilemmas Robert Oppenheimer, Edward Teller, Leo Szilard, Hans Bethe, and other scientists grappled with at the Los Alamos Research Center that carry the narrative.

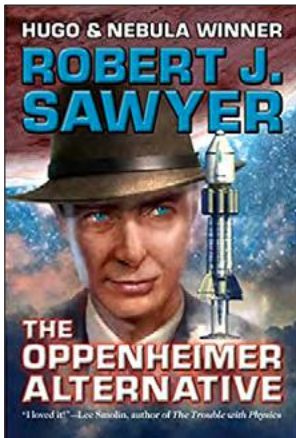
Einstein was not directly involved in the Manhattan Project, but he endorsed a letter to Franklin D. Roosevelt, alerting the President to a potential German nuclear weapons program and recommending that the United States begin similar research. Einstein and other renowned scientists figure prominently in the second storyline of a fictionalized doomsday scenario for our planet. Besides exploring possible scientific solutions to the end of the world, the second part of the book chronicles the real-life 1954 security hearing held by the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) regarding Oppenheimer's Q clearance given Oppenheimer's associations with Communist Party USA members,

including his wife and brother, and other concerns voiced by AEC commissioner, Lewis Strauss, who disliked Oppenheimer.

Part philosophical, part human interest, and part thriller, the novel is a fascinating and hearty read. Fans of H.G. Wells' "Time Machine," Andy Weir's "The Martian," and Ray Bradbury's novels are likely to enjoy "The Oppenheimer Alternative."

The novel had me constantly fact checking, then shaking my head when a detail proved historically accurate. Yes, Oppenheimer handed a poisoned apple to his tutor. Yes, there was such a thing as the Orion Project. Yes, Oppenheimer's involvement with the American Civil Liberties Union was considered by the FBI to be a Communist activity. The Oppenheimer Alternative is a book I will not soon forget.

Robert J. Sawyer is one of only eight writers to win all three top awards for best science-fiction novel of the year: the Hugo, the Nebula, and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award. Some of his other accolades include the Robert A. Heinlein Award, the Edward E. Smith Memorial Award, and the Hal Clement Memorial Award; the top sci-fi awards in China, Japan, France, and Spain; and a record-setting 16 Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards ("Auroras"). His novel, "Flash Forward," was the basis for the ABC TV series of the same name. The two-part finale for the web series "Star Trek Continues" was based on his scriptwriting. He is a member of the Order of Canada and Order of Ontario, the highest honors bestowed by the Canadian government and home province, respectively. Sawyer was also one of the initial inductees into the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame.



Drive-In "Nourish Gala" to Fight Hunger

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano announces its largest fundraiser of the year, the annual Nourish Gala Drive-in to Fight Hunger, on Thursday, May 19 at Concord's West Wind Solano Drive-in.

A traditional gala in a drive-in setting, the Gala combines "the glamorous with the cozy" – and is dedicated to fighting hunger in our community. The event features live entertainment and music by Golden State Warriors band the Bay Blue Notes, a hot three-course gourmet meal provided by Sunrise Bistro and Catering, an auction and a drive-in showing of Back to the Future Part II.

All funds raised will go directly to feeding the community and food programs.

Kim Castaneda, Vice President of Development and Communications for the Food Bank, comments: "The funds we raise will allow the Food Bank to purchase even more fresh, whole foods, including fruits, veggies, meat and dairy products. Our goal is not to simply distribute more food, but to provide healthy meals that sustain our community."

Nor Jemjemian, Senior Vice President and Area Manager, Kaiser Permanente Napa Solano said: "Kaiser Permanente is proud to support the Food Bank



because everyone needs – and deserves – access to healthy food. The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano has been a critical partner during the pandemic, finding innovative ways to ensure members of our community do not experience hunger." Kaiser Permanente is the events Platinum sponsor.

Last year's festivities raised enough for 250,000 meals.

Tickets are \$120 per person for general admission or \$175 per person for the upgraded VIP experience, which includes priority entry, reserved parking and professional photography services. Tickets and information are available online at foodbankccs.org/nourishgala.

For more information, contact events@foodbankccs.org or call (925) 348-3282.

aRt Cottage Journeys Exploring My Mind and the World

by John Nakanishi



Concord Art Association (CAA) works to cultivate and enrich the creative lives of local artists and Concord area residents through exhibits, education, public art, and community giving.

Several CAA members will showcase over 40 pieces at the aRt Cottage May 4 through Jun 24 with a fascinating exhibit, "Journeys: Exploring My Mind and the World."

One artist featured at this show is Sharon Petersen. A longtime CAA member, Petersen's works have often been seen in several local galleries and businesses. After retiring from a career in landscape design, she started painting watercolors in 2013. After painting realistic florals for seven years, Petersen switched to acrylics and began painting abstract art.

Petersen prefers to work intuitively. She rarely starts with a theme and always uses a limited palette. "Calmer colors applied with energy and intensity," she says.

Her piece, "Journey Home" is visually exciting which she defines it as "a very hopeful, joyful piece."



"Journey Home" by Sharon Petersen, acrylic.

This will be the first showing for Annette Batchelor at the aRt Cottage. Batchelor worked for 37 years teaching math in high school and college. After retiring, she was invited by a friend to a wine



"August Spring" Annette Batchelor, acrylic.

and paint class and became hooked on painting. Batchelor enjoys painting oils on panels and canvas. Nature and the love of the outdoors inspires her art. She walks and hikes, taking pictures, which she uses as references for her compositions. Her piece entitled "August Spring" was based on a hike she did at Kit Carson Pass in the Sierras.

CAA members artistry can also be enjoyed at several other venues throughout the East Bay. On May 13-15, CAA will be running a gallery show, an art and crafts sale, and a plein air paint-out contest at the Galindo Home during the Concord Historical Society's annual Spring Tea.

Who hasn't seen CAA members work decorating Concord's downtown utility boxes.

Concord Art Association is a 501(c) nonprofit organization. Founded in 1963, it is the oldest art association in Contra Costa County. CAA provides scholarships to students and teachers, invites guest artists to demonstrate art techniques, and provides art lessons to students of all ages.

Meet the "Journeys: Exploring My Mind and the World" artists at the reception on May 21, from 2-4 PM at the aRt Cottage, 2238 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm. For more about CAA, visit concordartassociation.org.



DIABLO GAZETTE FUN ZONE

3rd Bay Area KidFest Returns May 28-30 to Downtown Concord



Bay Area KidFest returns this month on the Memorial Day Weekend of May 28-30 for the first time in three years with a full lineup of attractions, activities, jam-packed entertainment, KidFest Marketplace, rides, food and fun at Mt. Diablo High School in Concord.

In a spacious outdoor setting, KidFest features free non-stop entertainment on the Main Stage, sensational Nerveless Nocks Legendary All American Classic Thrill and Stunt Show, meet and greets with children's favorites Chase and Skye of PAW Patrol plus Curious George, Bugs Galore and More, and Kids' Town America. There are dozens of other free kid's activities including balloon hats, spin art, keepsake handprints, inflatable slides and crawls, kiddie golf, soccer and much more included in the low admission price.

Sunday afternoon Bike East Bay will once again present Bike Rodeo and for the 10th year, KidFest presents a special Memorial Day ceremony at 11:30 a.m., Monday, May 30, with the 19-time World Champion Concord Blue Devils Drum and Bugle C Corps and Mt. Diablo High School Jr. ROTC color guard honoring America's service people past and present.

KidFest offers an all-day, all-ride wristband to be used on all the thrilling rides such as Dragon Wagon roller coaster, Bungee Spider Jump, Water Ballerz, giant slide, Spider Mountain, Ferris wheel, petting zoo, pony rides, Stars 'n Stripes train and more.

There is an eclectic Food Court, arts and crafts and exhibitor booths in the KidFest Marketplace surrounding the all-new Marketplace Pavilion with PAW Patrol characters and Curious George meeting their fans every hour.

Admission is just \$7 with a donation of canned food to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano or \$8 without donation to the Food Bank. Babies under 24 months and seniors 65+ are free.

Proceeds from Bay Area KidFest benefit local educational, health and sports non-profit groups. KidFest continues to be one of the major annual donor events for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. KidFest has donated over \$85,000 in cash since 2010 to local educational, health, arts and sports programs and has collected over 125,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank.



KidFest is open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Memorial Day Monday. KidFest is at Mt. Diablo High School, 2450 Grant St. in downtown Concord, just off Highway 242. On-site vehicle parking is \$5 with plenty of free street parking around the festival site.

All state and county health and safety guidelines will be followed at KidFest. Currently there is no mandate for wearing a face covering at this outdoor festival. Attendees wishing to wear a mask are encouraged to do so.

For more KidFest information visit www.KidFestConcord.com. Advance discounted tickets and all-day ride wristbands are on sale now.

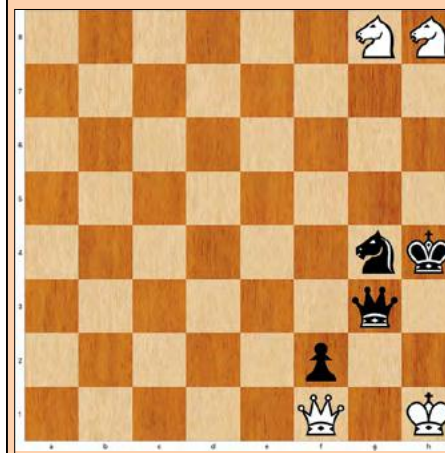


Chess with Yoo

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

This is a particularly nice puzzle, but difficult as usual.

White to move and draw.



Hint: Stalemate

SOLUTION:

1. Ng6+!
- White has to check as Black is threatening mate.
- 1...Kg5 2. Qb5+ Ne5 3. Qf1 Preventing Qg1++
- if 3. Qxe5+?? Qxe5 4. Nxe5 f1=Q+ +- 3... Nxb6
- It looks as all is lost, as Black's pawn on f2 looks deadly and White's king is in a mating net, but White can play for stalemate!
4. Nf6!!
- The mating net is also a stalemate net!
- 4...Kh4!
- A cool move, dodging the Knight and threatening Qh3+. White has another brilliant move up his sleeve though.
- if 4...Kxf6 5. Qxf2+! Qxf2=
5. Ng4!!
- Black cannot avoid the stalemate trap!
- if 5. Ne4? Qf3+ 6. Kh2 Qf4+ 7. Kg2 Qxe4+ 8. Kxf2 Ne5! +- Usually Q+N vs Q is a draw, but because White's pieces are so badly coordinated and Black's pieces are in ideal positions, this is actually losing.
- 5... Qf3+
- Black can still try to dodge stalemate by forcing White's king to h2.
6. Kh2 Kxg4 7. Qg2+!
- There is another stalemate net though!
- 7...Qxg2+
- 7... Kf4 8. Qg5+!
8. Qxg6
- This move also results in stalemate.
- 8...f1=N+ 9. Kg1=
- 8... Kxg5= Stalemate
8. Kxg2=
- Black cannot defend the f2-pawn, so White draws.

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

★★★★★

MEMORIAL DAY

AMERICAN	SOLDIER
BLUE	FEARLESS
BRAVE	REMEMBERED
COURAGEOUS	GRATEFUL
DECORATED	GRAVESIDE
NATIONAL	HEROIC
NOBLE	HONOR
PATRIOTIC	LOYAL
PROUD	STAR
RED	UNITED
RESPECTFUL	FREE
SALUTE	VALIANT
SERVED	WHITE

Solution on page 16



CVCHS Arts is Fortunate for Community Support

By Dave Fehle, Executive Director, CVCHS



CVCHS students preparing work for the annual Arts Expo

It is that time again. The annual Clayton Valley Charter High School Arts Expo is now online: <https://cvchsartexpo2022.weebly.com/>.

The Arts Expo provides a great opportunity for our students to virtually showcase their unique talents outside of the classroom. This year, CVCHS students exhibited hundreds of works encompassing sculpture, graphic arts, photography, jewelry, painting, drawing, video and mixed media.

The Art Expo is judged by local professional artists who carefully consider each entry and award cash prizes as well as certificates and medals. CVCHS is fortunate of the generosity from our

sponsors including The Michelangelo D'Onofrio Arts Foundation, Rotary Club of Concord/Clayton Valley and local businesses who support the Arts here at CVCHS. Winners will be announced in early May.

I am grateful to our teachers, staff and parent volunteers who embrace our amazing artists and instill the passion to make Art reflective of life's emotions, challenges and opportunities.

The Art Expo includes various artistic media from a variety of courses at CVCHS such as Art I & II, Art Design, AP Art & Design, Ceramics, Photography I & II, Video Production I & II, AP Art History, Art & Animation

I & II, Computer Graphic Arts, Game Design, Arts Academy, and Engineering Academy.

Through the Arts, CVCHS students develop skills like project development, concentration and focus, creativity and thinking outside of the box, as well as a sense of pride and achievement. Each help our students master their artistic ability, do well academically, and succeed in life after high school.



The Arts provide CVCHS students with friendships and life skills.

I cannot overestimate the value our community's generosity and support has been for DVCHS.

Throughout the year, we have numerous opportunities to support quality CVCHS student programs: such as earning college credit to become an academic mentor to one of our students, donating a dress to our Senior Women's Club Cinderella Project for a CVCHS students to wear to an upcoming formal event or sharing your professional experience at our annual Career Fair.

It is an amazing experience to witness the support of our community for our many students in need. To all of you, I say thank you. Regardless of what you can offer, we welcome you to be a part of our Ugly Eagle community today.

Publisher's Notes

By David Ki

Books and Columns, Thank You Writer's Club

Michael Barrington's column, "Your Neighbor's Shoes," shares those unheralded tales from within our communities with sincere admiration. From exploring one's life's work, achievements, humanitarian dedication, or personal endeavors and adventures, Barrington gives us a moment in their life, or rather "shoes." It's not quite 15 minutes of fame, but still a memory authenticated in a half-page of published writings.

Barrington is an author whose own life you could write a book about. In fact, he did. "Bishop Wears No Drawers" is an autobiography of his experience, 10 years in Africa as a former Catholic Missionary Priest during the bloody Nigeria Civil War, being shot, malaria, and his religious struggles with the church.

Barrington's recent release, "Becoming Anya," is a novel about a young Irish nun and surgical nurse sent to Africa to overcome her personal tragedies of WWII and an abusive father to achieving the highest nursing position in England. His third book, "Let the Peacock Sing," is a love story set against the action-packed background of the French Resistance in 1942.

Jill Hedgecock contributes "Book Ends" book review and "Ruby Dooby Do to the Rescue." She also has three published books and is working on two sequels. Her award-winning, "Rhino in the Room," unmasks the deadly consequences of the poaching industry. It is a thriller that draws on Jill's knowledge as an environmental scientist and safari experiences. "Between Shadow's Eyes" and its sequel, "From Shadow's Perspective," are two paranormal thrillers about an orphaned teenage girl and her ghost-seeing dog.

David George is a Master Gardener who also is a guest speaker to local garden clubs. His column, "The Naked Gardener," offers organic gardening tips, all-natural pest control and product recommendations. His book "Grandad's Garden" is a perfect nature book to read to your grandchildren.

Colleen Gonzalez - "Screen Time" is a movie buff and reviews movies both in the theater and on streaming services.

Fran Cain - You can read about her getaway adventures in Journey-man's Journal.

Thank you to all you passionate writers. I hope our readers become your fans by checking out these books available at most online bookstores.

Concord's Rocketship Futuro Academy Receives 'Pivotal Practice' Award by State of California



Rocketship futuro Academy, Concord. courtesy of rocketshipschools.org/schools/futuro-academy/

Ten Rocketship schools won the first ever 'Pivotal Practice' award from the California State Department of Education including two in Contra Costa County, Rocketship Futuro Academy located in Glenwood Middle School in Concord, and Rocketship Delta Prep in Antioch. Created in 2022 to honor innovative practices implemented during distance learning in the 2020-21 school year, this award is in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program.

"Our students' success is due to the strong partnerships our teachers and school leaders build with our students and parents," said Maricela Guerrero, Rocketship California Executive Director. "Students are given ownership of their academic progress and goals, and parents are actively engaged in their child's education and our school communities. This approach creates a positive environment where everyone—students and staff—feel confident and supported. Our students come to school every day knowing great achievements

are within their reach."

727 schools and 121 school districts are being honored for their demonstrated efforts to support students in four target areas: student engagement, distribution of technology, nutrition services, and social emotional well-being of students.

Most students at all ten Rocketship schools that received the Pivotal Practice Award are classified as socioeconomically disadvantaged. One pivotal practice highlighted across schools is Rocketship California's Care Corps program - an outreach and family support initiative. Started at the onset of the pandemic in 2020, this program provides support for families to fulfill their basic needs such as housing assistance, food security, healthcare, legal services, unemployment services, mental health care, and more.

Every Rocketship campus has a full-time staff member dedicated to partnering with parents to not just get referred to services, but navigate local systems, translate as needed, and overcome challenges to get families the support they need.

Rocketship Public Schools California is a nonprofit network of 13 high-performing public elementary charter schools serving disadvantaged communities across the Bay Area.

The organization launched in 2007 with a vision to eliminate the achievement gap in every community it serves. Rocketship schools consistently rank among the top 10% of all public schools serving similar student populations.

Ukraine cont'd from page 2

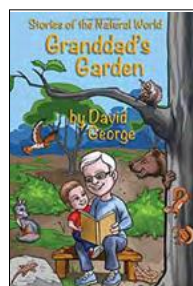
There are currently forty refugee students enrolled in the school who would directly benefit from the generosity of individual contributions.

One of the best things about Clayton Valley Charter High School is the community which it serves. The people of our community seldom shut their doors to people in need. You can help Coach Holda reach her goal of \$10,000 to cover the necessary expenses for Ukrainian students attending her former school in Poland.

Any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated and will be put to beneficial use. For more information, please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/school-helping-school>.



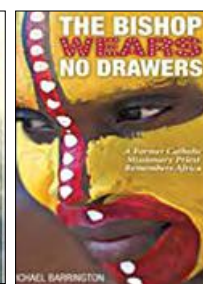
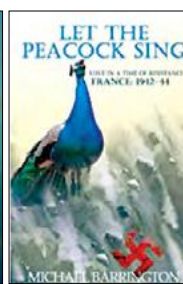
David George



Jill Hedgecock



Michael Barrington





theRIGHT move
by Terrylynn Fisher, Broker Associate
www.BuyStageSell.com

Buying a House for the Pets? You Are Not Alone

The pandemic has changed how we live in many ways. The boredom and isolation during the pandemic helped us rethink a lot of things about what we needed in a home, for at-home work, home school and pets. The bonus with pets is they helped us get more exercise, more outdoor time and more social interaction at a time when we realized how valuable those things were to our well-being and stress levels.

As such, recent surveys have shown that owning pets has considerable influence over home-buying and moving decisions.

In an April 2022 study with Zillow and Rover, an online marketplace for pet care, it found that 57% of renters and 62% of homeowners are pet owners. As for dog owners, 72% would consider moving to a home that is better suited for the needs of their pets. And nearly 90% of dog owners are willing to pay for pet friendly features when it comes to renting or buying homes.

While cities such as San Francisco and Houston are well known for their dog-friendliness, the survey went on to find the top cities in the US that were the fastest-growing dog-friendly locations where new pet owners are moving. Antioch, Tennessee, about 12 miles from Nashville fetched the top spot due to its plentiful share of pet owners and walkability.

An often searched topic is "tips for moving with pets." Those Tips include:

1) Pack an overnight or day bag for the pet, with enough food, litter, toys and grooming tools and familiar toys to keep them comfortable while traveling and unpacking.

2) Get a checkup with the veterinarian and while you are at it, get your pet's records to take with you and maybe some medication if it might be helpful.

3) Keep your pet with you if possible, so there is one constant that they can count on. If in a car, confined spaces can make them feel secure so use seatbelts, kennels and/or beds with perhaps a blanket over the top to keep them calm.

4) Keep your pet in their crate or a room away from the noise and confusion when the old or new house is being packed or unpacked. A scared pet might bolt unexpectedly.

5) If you are driving and your pet has not been in the car often, days or weeks before the move, try small trips, put them in a crate for short periods of time, keep treats and schedules as regular as you can.

6) When you get to the new home introduce them one room at a time, as one room being a home base with treats, food and water will make your pet more comfortable.

See, you are not alone. Rover's Kate Jaffe says, "It's clear our pets are at the center of our families, and they're influencing how and where we live."




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In Theaters

THE LOST CITY



new book. The billionaire believes Sage can lead him to the ancient city she writes about and help him find a real treasure. Radcliffe has proven to have great comedic ability and is not as out of place in this film as you might think. Also, a seemingly odd addition is Brad Pitt with a small but important role as Jack Trainer.

It seems effortless for everyone to orbit around Bullock, who is still a reliable comedic lead after an endless stream of light comedies under her belt. She can handle the snark and the physicality we have come to expect in her movies.

If you're wondering if this movie is a remake of the 1980's hit, "Romancing the Stone," it's not. The biggest difference is Channing Tatum's character, who is no swashbuckling hero. He plays Alan as a complete pretty boy who has muscles not from heroic adventures, but exclusively from gym workouts. It's a fun change-up and entertaining to see Alan's attempts to live up to the character in Loretta Sage's novels. Although he may not be rugged, he cares about Loretta's safety and is willing to risk his own in order to save her.

Keep an eye out for Da'vine Joy Randolph as Loretta's agent. Randolph has been popping up in everything lately and seems ready for the spotlight. Hilarious in Netflix's "High Fidelity," touching and tough in Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building," this woman can handle it all.

Romance novels promise to deliver on a set of expectations. If you carry that principle into this film, you will walk away having had a nice time at the movies. Make sure you stay through the credits so you don't miss a thing.

Rated PG-13 Nudity, violence

It's funny how much Hollywood loves to make movies about writers. Watching someone peck away at a keyboard is not very compelling, so maybe that's why movies love to throw writers into perilous situations. The new Sandra Bullock movie, "The Lost City," does just that.

Bullock plays historical romance writer Loretta Sage. Sage is the stereotypical introvert who is seriously considering hanging up her novel writing. Ever since her publisher decided to start featuring Alan "Dash" Caprison (Channing Tatum) on her book covers, her fans became more focused on him than her carefully researched stories. One person, however, is paying attention and that is billionaire Abigail Fairfax (Daniel Radcliffe), who kidnaps Sage while she's on tour promoting her

Diablo Women's Chorale Spring 2022 Concert

The Diablo Women's Chorale (DWC) is singing "Songs from the Silver Screen" at their Spring 2022 concert on Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 PM at Hillside Covenant Church, 2060 Magnolia Way in Walnut Creek.

Do you know what movie "When You Wish upon a Star" was in? How about the movie where we all heard "Too Darn Hot" for the first time? Many songs had their debut in movies, and this season DWC decided to honor the significant role that songs have played on the silver screen. The program includes selections from the 1950s all the way through to the 2010s.

After the concert enjoy some refreshments and mingle with the DWC members. Perhaps you like to sing and think it would be fun to be a part of our chorale. Ask DWC members how to audition. The Fall season starts in August and new members are always welcome.

For tickets information call 1-800-838-3006



Long Awaited Country Concerts Return to the East Bay

by Natalie Archangel & Mark Montijo

On April 12, Texas based Singer/Songwriter/National Treasure Rodney Crowell delivered a superbly melodic and moving set at the fully re-opened Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse in Berkeley.

This was a long-awaited event as it had been originally scheduled for early 2021 and postponed several times.

Grammy winner Crowell played his gorgeous well-worn acoustic guitar and sang with passion and precision. He was ably supported by Catherine Marks on keyboards and Eamon McLaughlin on fiddle, mandolin and bouzouki. Crowell admitted that this was a stripped-down presentation as his bass player was recovering from illness and drummer had another engagement in Japan. The lack of backbeat was hardly noticeable as the trio produced a lush, full sound which perfectly complemented Crowell's evocative vocals and expert storytelling.

Catherine Marks is a classically trained veteran keyboardist who toured with such legends as Conway Twitty and Merle Haggard. She played left-handed bass, piano and string patches superbly.

Eamon McLaughlin is the House Fiddler at The Grand Ol' Opry and a true virtuoso on several instruments. Both Marks and McLaughlin provided lovely background harmonies as well.

McLaughlin's reading of his third of the remarkable trio in "It Ain't Over Yet" earned a spontaneous mid-song ovation.

Other standout performances included

"Weight of the World," a protest song co-written with Emmylou Harris years ago and the recent "I'm Still Learning How to Fly." The band rocked hard through rousing renditions of "Frankie Please" and "I Don't care Anymore." The dark and moody "Reckless" sent shivers through every spine in the packed house.

A relatable recurring theme to Crowell's current work is the perseverance of the mature artist and the importance of retaining and maintaining a fighting spirit. Crowell and company rounded out the set with such classics as "Ain't Livin' Long Like This" and "East Houston Blues."

Unpretentious though he is, Rodney Crowell has earned his spot as a Country songwriting legend. His songs have been covered by such luminaries as Waylon Jennings, Andy Williams, Willie Nelson, Jerry Reed, George Jones, Emmylou Harris, Johnny Cash and his daughter Rosanne, to whom Crowell was once married.

The evening began with a tight set from Tucson born singer/songwriter Lisa Morales. A cousin of Linda Ronstadt, Lisa writes and sings in two languages seamlessly. Joined on stage by fine guitarist Henry Garza, one of the founding members of Los Lonely Boys, Lisa held the audience with her hauntingly lovely voice and poignant lyrics.

Natalie Archangel and Mark Montijo's outlaw country band, Nineteen Hand Horse, will be performing every third Saturday at the Clayton Club Saloon Saturday from 9 PM - 1 AM.

Turning Red

Streaming on DISNEY +



Frightened at first, Mei, with the help of her friends, starts to embrace her panda side. Conversely, her mother wants Mei to participate in an ancient ritual to expel her inner panda forever.

Pixar consistently rises above other animated movies because the storylines also resonate with adults. "Toy Story" has adults feeling childhood nostalgia for their beloved toys and "Monsters Inc." has relatable workplace scenarios.

Whether it was last year or twenty years ago, "Turning Red" reminds us of our adolescent years. Parents can also relate to the emotions of Mei's mom, Ming, as they accept their children will grow up and be independent. It always seems to happen overnight, though, leaving moms and dads to long for the time when they were their child's whole world.

This is the first Pixar film to have all female production leads and it shows. From how the girls look and talk, to the authenticity of the emotions, it's clear this film was made with a love for a challenging time in a young girl's life. It's also worth checking out "Embrace the Panda," a short but interesting behind the scenes look at how this film came together. Both are worth your time, even if you are not a thirteen-year old girl.

Rated PG – adolescent topics, intense scenes

Pixar has always had the uncanny ability to evoke strong emotions from its audiences through animation. It's latest offering, "Turning Red," tackles the onset of puberty in young Mei Lee, a thirteen-year old Toronto girl who loves school, her friends and helping her mom maintain the family temple.

Mei loves her life until one day when she can't seem to control her emotions. Anger, excitement and boy crushes all converge to make Mei a hormonal mess. Suddenly, she resents having to be "perfect Mei" for her parents and she finds support and understanding through her friends, not her mom. The rift in her home life is further compounded when Mei cannot control her feelings and she turns into an eight-foot red panda. For adults, this may seem far-fetched, but when you step back and look at the metaphor, it's quite clever. Mei in panda form is smelly, hairy, awkward in her new body and a little scary. Still, she is adorable and lots of fun.

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County Supervisors Says Martinez Bayview Estates Project Can Move Forward

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors unanimously denied an appeal of the county planning commission's approval of a 144-unit residential subdivision, on 78.2 acres just outside Martinez, east of Interstate Highway 680 in the Vine Hill area.

Seeno/Discovery Homes' Bayview Estates Residential Project will have detached single-family homes and associated roads on 31.8 acres of the site. It will also include approximately 42 acres of open space, marshes, and undeveloped land, including 20.1 acres of the upper hill area. There will also be a 4.5-acre private neighborhood park.

Central Avenue will be the subdivision's main access road, though the neighborhood will also be accessible via Palms Drive.

Residents of private Palms Drive spoke against the project, saying the lack of roads in and out of the project will make it problematic in the case of a fire, and the builder should not be allowed to cut down 30 protected trees. Discovery obtained tree removal permits and will replant 30 trees.

It has been turbulent waters for certain Seeno's planned developments in Contra Costa County.

On February 10, 2022, the Contra Costa Superior Court sided with Save Mount Diablo and ruled that Seeno/Discovery Builders' proposal to build 1,650 houses in the hills between Concord and Pittsburg had an inadequate environmental impact report (EIR).

As a result, the project's approvals are null and void. Attorneys for Seeno asked for a new trial, asking the court to reconsider its earlier finding.

The Pittsburg City Council had unanimously voted to approve the



Map from a draft environmental impact report of the Bayview Estates Residential Project near Martinez. (Contra Costa County)

proposal in February 2021. They ignored hundreds of letters and public comments that opposed the project. Save Mount Diablo filed a lawsuit challenging the project's approval in March 2021.

On April 4, the court reaffirmed its earlier stance that the EIR violated the law, because it failed to analyze the project's impacts on air quality, water supply, traffic, and sensitive plant species. The ruling upholds Save Mount Diablo's victory in its decades-long battle against this sprawl development.

Louis Parsons, president of Discovery Builders, Inc. responded with this statement:

"We are very pleased and encouraged that this ruling supported the vast majority of the work and analysis included in the City's Environmental Impact Report. City staff and the environmental consultants did an incredible job analyzing this project. The Pittsburg City Council, local residents, businesses, and labor organizations have repeatedly expressed their support for these homes and this project in the past—and we will do everything in our power to deliver on our promise to develop this project."



BUSINESS UNUSUAL

By Sheri Nelson, The Local Shop

Social Media is a Great Equalizer for Small Business

In my previous article, I introduced Mandy Smith, owner of The Resistance Gym in Concord. One of the ways she uses digital tools to support her business is by using messaging in lieu of contact forms. While her website has the traditional contact form, she encourages her customers to message her through social media with questions.

This is a good example of how social media is different from other marketing tools. It is a relationship tool and a great equalizer for small business owners.

Instead of repurposing ad content on your social media, here is where you can connect with customers to let them know more about you and you about them.

When it comes to social media posts, 80% of them should be interactions with your audience and 20% can be more ad centric. That means most of the time you are asking questions, sharing your business story and describing more about your product or service. Then 20% of the time, you can ask your followers to buy your product or service.

Use your smartphone to take your customer with you on your business journey during the week. Think of it as having them with you in person. Let them see you as you open the door to your store in the morning. Take photos of the staff and describe what they do at the store. Explain the difference in what everyone's role is in the business. This not only shows your customer more about your business it makes them feel comfortable walking into your store because they know what to expect.

Show photos of your service vehicles and have your staff take shots of them around town. This allows your customer to see that you are a local business in their community. And when they recognize one of your vehicles on the road themselves, they will be connecting with your brand.

If there is a special customer that frequents the business, see if they will take a photo with your staff for social media and tell their story of why they like coming to your shop. Your social media followers will relate to their story and know going to your business will provide a solution.

If you are preparing for a big event like a sale, post two pieces of different art for that event and ask your followers which they like. If you are preparing a menu, ask for their input on two of the different food items you are considering. They will want to follow you or come in to see which item you chose!

These kinds of posts take a short amount of time and get your customers thinking about your business. More importantly they will feel that they know your business better, their opinion matters, and they will be ready to visit!

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

Assessors Seeking to Reduce Property Taxes

The only law protecting seniors and other property owner dollars against inflation and real estate is Proposition 13. The most your real estate taxes can be raised is 2% a year under Prop 13.

According to a press release from Gus Kramer's office, several assessors across California including Contra Costa County are working on getting the homeowners exemption increased from \$7000 a year to \$100,000 a year

minimum. This would give every homeowner an almost \$1000 a year reduction in their property taxes.

Prior to Prop 13 being passed in 1978 the homeowners' exemption was 25% of your assessed value. That also is an alternative to the \$100,000 home exemption being proposed.

Stay tuned for a proposition that addresses this on the November 2022 ballot.





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Ruby Dooby Do to the Rescue

Eddie

Ruby Dooby Do is Concord's Online celebrity with 1.8M TikTok followers, 1M FB, and 293K followers on IG. Column by Jill Hedgecock.



Each month Ruby 's column features a hard to place dog in foster care to give them extra exposure to find their forever home.

Eddie is a 12-pound chihuahua mix, this 4- to 5-year-old boy was rescued from a hoarding situation where he and his siblings, as well as other dogs, were left to fend for themselves. Poor nutrition and his early life trauma have left him looking older than his true age, shy, and fearful of loud noises and sudden movements. This sweetie pie is loaded with character. His jaw is not even, so he has one tooth that sticks out but that is not a problem for him. Eddie absolutely loves to sleep under the covers at the foot of the bed with his foster mom. In the middle of the night, he will wiggle his way up and put his head on the pillow while he is still under the blankets.

Eddie is:

- Cuddly
- Sweet and loving
- Good with cats
- Tentative with other dogs
- 99% housebroken

Eddie's ideal home is in a quiet home with an older couple, who will make him the center of attention. If you are not ready to commit to a dog and are interested in fostering Eddie, that option is available. Eddie is neutered, fully vaccinated, dewormed, and microchipped. He has recently had a tooth-cleaning and several front teeth pulled. His adoption fee is \$300.

If you are interested in meeting this sweet boy, please fill out an application online at ozziepoundpuppies.org. Ozzies Pound Puppies, Concord, is an all breed dog rescue that rescues unwanted

and abandoned dogs from the public and from shelters. Ozzies is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded by donations. You can help by fostering, adopting, volunteering or donating. If Eddie is not a good fit, perhaps look at Hondo or another of Ozzie's Pound Puppies.

Diggin' It

Dog Fur Reuse and Recycling. Anyone that owns a breed of dog that is prone to shed knows how much dog fur can be produced by our beloved pets. But most people probably do not realize there are other options besides throwing the fur in the trash. Pet fur has many beneficial uses. It can be added to a compost pile, used as a natural deterrent to garden pests and used in craft projects. Researchers at the University of Sydney in Australia have even found that dog fur is remarkably effective in cleaning up crude oil spills. Matter of Trust collects human and dog fur for that very purpose (<https://matteroftrust.org/>).

Animals on Broadway Walk

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation is hosting their annual Animals on Broadway Pet Walk and Fundraiser on Sunday, May 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. Register at: <https://www.arlife.org/arf-events/>.

Pet-Friendly Concord Guide. Visit Concord has released a Concord Perro Trail brochure to help you find parks, breweries, restaurants, and accommodations that are pet friendly in and around Concord (<https://www.visitconcordca.com/travel-tools/traveling-with-pets/>).

Bone to Pick

Debarking. The dog will not stop barking. The neighbors are complaining. The special ultrasound and Citronella collars that were supposed to fix the problem did not work. Should you consider debarking? This is a surgical procedure to remove tissue on either side of a dog's larynx so that their bark is softer to a raspy noise.

The Humane Society opposes this approach because debarking can compromise the dog's health and can frustrate dogs to the point that they engage in destructive behaviors and aggression. Bottom Line: It's much better to work with a dog trainer to address what is triggering the problem than to jeopardize your pet's health.

ARF ADOPTION STARS Buddy & Froglet

Looking for a furry friend? Visit arlife.org to view all of ARF's adoptable animals or read more about ARF's adoption process. arlife.org.

Buddy



Four-year-old Buddy is a scruffy, lovable goofball who craves excitement and adventure. This sweet, silly boy (and natural-born runner) is looking for an active guardian who loves exploring the world. He certainly would not mind a few pets and belly rubs at the end of a long and fun-filled day. Come meet Buddy: Certified Adventure Dog. He currently weighs 91 pounds.

ARF adoption fees: \$250 for an adult dog, \$350 for a puppy (<6 months), \$125 for a special-needs dog, \$175 for a special-needs puppy (<6 months), and \$125 for a senior dog (7+ years).

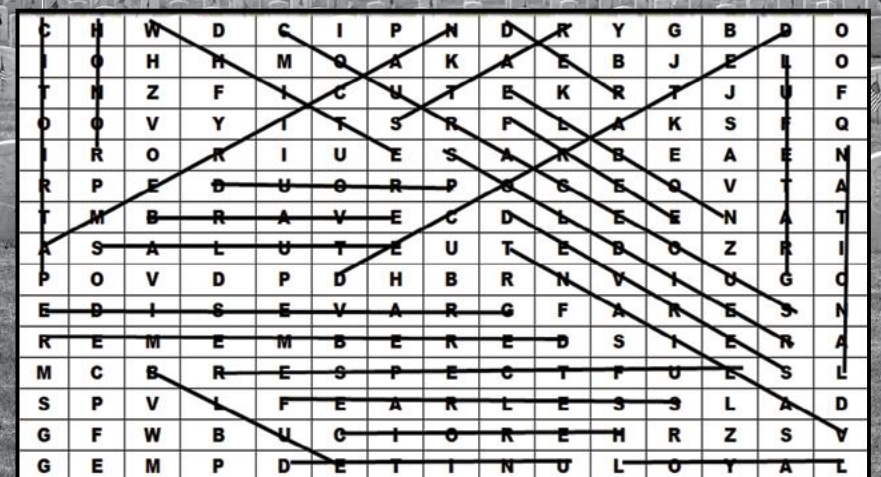
Froglet



Seven-month-old Froglet is an incredibly loving boy who has had a rough start to life, but he does not let that affect his sweet disposition. He can teach his guardian a thing or two about loving and appreciating all that life has to offer. This adorable tripod is as affectionate as he is resilient, offering up purrs and biscuits freely. He gently and so sweetly chirps to ask for pets, and how could anyone refuse? Froglet will elevate the mood for anyone so lucky to be around him, and he can't wait to find the loving, safe, and restful home that he deserves.

ARF Adoption fees: \$100 for an adult cat, \$150 for a kitten (<6 months), \$150 for two adult cats, \$250 for two kittens, \$50 for a special-needs cat, \$75 for a special-needs kitten (<6 months), and \$50 for a senior cat (7+ years).

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



From page 11

MEMORIAL DAY

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Each week, we service more than 200 parks, facilities, and street containers used by the public. Elias is one of our two city-can collection routes within Concord. Since Todos Santos Park, the bus, and street cans around the area require multiple pickups throughout the week, Elias empties these general-use containers more than 300 times weekly.



Schools

Our Commitments to the Future

For the last 10 years in office, I have had a standard offer to any teacher in the area to go to their class and talk about local government, history of Concord, being a mayor, small business, and stress the importance of what they are learning and how youngster have affected changes in the local area.

In line with that this week, I attended Ms. Harris 6th grade class in Oak Grove Middle School and spoke to two of her classes. One of the main themes was "Government is either listening to you or to someone else."

Listening does not always mean agreeing but the engagement is what ultimately is important and then skills they need are right before them. I used the Skatepark in Concord as an example of what kids could accomplish. The kids were great, attentive, asked questions, one of which was do we in the Council have security guards. I replied, "No, but I

do have a cat."

I also had the opportunity to visit a local high school to talk to a constituent on some issues and was greatly disappointed with what I heard and saw. I brought the matters to the attention of the principal who brought up that there was a major staffing problem as well as almost no parent involvement on campus. We need to provide more support for the schools in whatever ways we can. I urge parents to get involved with their schools directly and discuss with teachers if you have a story or presentation that would fit in with their class.

Views expressed are those personally of Edi Birsan and not associated with any school district, nor was it regarding detention make-up for my kids and grandkid who went to Oak Grove and had various occasions to visit the vice-principal office. EdiBirsan@gmail.com

Advertisement

A Home for Mom

Imagine, sunny California, your backyard. She gets a place to call home with the security of aging in place, you get easier access to her homemade cookies and the forever title of 'the favorite child.' Win-win! Now, how and why?

Many years of studies, focus groups, and surveys of aging citizens have yielded this continued sentiment- they desire to age in place. Economic and demographic shifts are creating a rising need for affordable options for seniors wishing to remain in a home and familiar community as they age. Research suggests that aging in place may yield cost savings to families, government and already strained health care systems as well as the overall health, emotional, and social benefits to aging seniors. Theory and specific based evidence show a significant role for safe and accessible housing and support as a definitive way to maintain maximum health, functioning and independence in the older population. Community matters. Housing matters.

A more cost-effective and innovative solution for promoting aging-friendly housing is to ensure that new construction includes accessible features and designs with mobility and ease of life in mind. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's), also aptly coined "Granny

Flats" or "In-Law Units," are becoming an incredibly beneficial option to this movement. ADU's allow extended families to be near one another while maintaining privacy for all, and autonomy for an aging family member. This allows the homeowners the flexibility to share independent living spaces while allowing for the ability to help support an aging parent or relative, as they require more care.

In October 2019, California Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 68 (AB68) making it easier and more affordable to build accessory dwelling units. By adding an ADU to your property, not only are you SAVING MOM, but as a homeowner you are increasing the value of your overall investment as an ADU is legally part of the same property as the home it resides near. This could also create more future income potential as a rental option. Why wouldn't you consider the option of an ADU for Mom's best interest? It's the best Mother's Day gift ever! To discuss your options, and the ease of the entire process being managed at a fixed, affordable cost, contact ADU4You at 925-979-5516, or email sales@ADU4You.com. Your mom will love you even more for it.

A Home for Mom

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) allow elders to choose where they age.

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Is Your Head in the Sand?

by Julie Ross

Now that we are slowly emerging from pandemic restrictions, I was looking around on the internet the other day for travel-related gift ideas, something practical, but unique and interesting.

Well, I certainly found something "different" -- The Original Ostrich Pillow.

As you might remember from childhood lore, an ostrich buries its head in the sand to hide from danger. Of course that is a myth, because if an ostrich did indeed bury its head in the sand, it would, well, smother. Not an effective evolutionary adaptation.

In any case, despite this untruth, we are fortunate that it has at least given rise to a whimsical saying, "bury one's head in the sand" to describe the act of ignoring or hiding from unpleasant realities.

The Original Ostrich Pillow plays to this concept. The pillow fits completely over the user's head, with three strategically placed openings. According to the product description, "The pillow provides a soothing, cave-like interior. Place the central opening over your mouth to facilitate breathing."

The other two holes are for your hands, in case you either have to scratch, or to prop the pillow up to rest

your head for a nap at your desk. The pillow flares out on both sides of the wearer's neck, which one reviewer likens to the appearance of a hammerhead shark. Another reviewer comments, in reference to a Star Wars character, "Looking like Admiral Akbar has never been so comfortable."

In summary, "Ostrich Pillow's quirky design offers a private micro-environment for you to take a warm and cozy power-nap at ease." It's great for airplane travel -- you won't mind the strange looks you're getting from

other travelers because you can't see them through the pillow. Sticking the Ostrich Pillow over one's head could also afford a subtle way for college students to retreat from annoying roommates. Pure genius!

In any case, the Original Ostrich Pillow could well fit the criteria for a practical, unique, and interesting gift, perhaps as a surprise for a frequent-flyer, or a graduation gift for a high school senior heading to dorm life this fall. In any case, please ensure the recipient heeds the warning on the product listing, "Do not smoke while wearing this product." Ha.I might just get one for myself to wear when I turn on the news. Or would that just be burying my head in the sand?



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YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SHOES

by Michael Barrington

The Adventures of a Photojournalist

If you have ever visited the USS Hornet in Alameda for an event, you may have noticed a vivacious, funny, smiling blond, rushing around, interacting with people, talking at a mile a minute. You will also have noticed she had a large camera with a flash in her hand and a second one around her neck. You may have seen her chatting with Buzz Aldrin and the crew of Apollo 11 at the 45th reunion, and taking their photos, or at Veterans Day or a Pearl Harbor Day celebration. It's Susan Wood, photographer extraordinaire.



Susan Wood and astronaut Buzz Aldrin

Susan specializes in photojournalism. In addition to her work on the Hornet, she recorded for posterity the building of the new Bay Bridge and the tearing down of the old one, with some never seen before images. Thanks to her and the special access she was given, we have incredible pictures from the top of Yerba Buena Island, and inside the bridge structure itself. When both bridges were closed for four days while the final sections were joined, she was in the lead CHP vehicle making the final inspection and took the unique and probably once in a lifetime moment, of all toll booths closed.

Many of us living in Contra Costa have crossed the Benicia Bridge and noticed the huge collection of ships in Suisun Bay, affectionately called "The Mothball Fleet." Now only nine remain, but there were up 350 at its peak.

Susan photos of the ships themselves are impressive, but her inside pictures tell a never to be forgotten story. It took her three years to obtain permission to go below decks. Of particular interest to naval enthusiasts are her photos of the now scrapped Sea Shadow (IX-529) an experimental stealth ship built by Lockheed for the United States Navy that was kept in a massive, eye-catching covered barge.

How many people can say they have flown with the Blue Angels? Nobody is ever allowed to ride in those special planes, but Susan flew in their support plane nicknamed Fat Albert, the C130 that carries all their spares, equipment and supplies. While her photos of their breathtaking displays at Fleet Week have appeared in many publications, what is perhaps more impressive is her record of what takes place behind the scenes. Given special and rare access, she has captured for all of us, the military precision and synchronization of every single action and moment of their preparation.

If you ask Susan what was her most satisfying experience, her face lights up and



without hesitation says, "it's working for my kids in Honduras."

For the past four years, she has donated her time as a photojournalist and traveled to a very remote part of the country to work on a humanitarian project. Spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Concord and supported by other local clubs, including her own in Pleasant Hill, 30 schools are being provided running water for the first time. New bathrooms are being built and 800 teachers trained in a new hygiene/sanitation curriculum. She has already produced a short five-minute video on Youtube and is developing two short instructional videos for teachers.

When not traveling Susan's services are in demand by local corporations and businesses and she frequently works in her studio in Pleasant Hill doing family portraits. Check out the website of this extraordinary lady, she's your neighbor: www.susanwoodphotography.com.

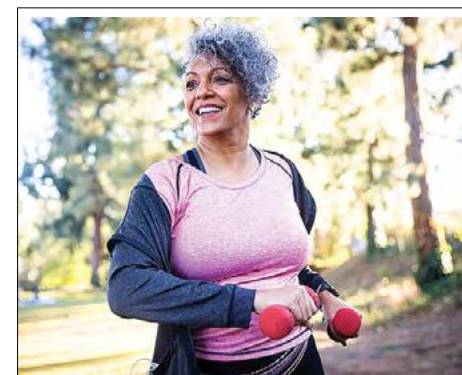


Neuroplasticity:

Movement Improves Brain Function

By Jessica Raam Foster, NeurologyofPresence.com

Neuroplasticity has become a fairly common term in the last decade or so. Basically, it means that our brains are always changing to adapt to our present circumstances. This is an extremely important development in human understanding and one that should offer us all both an immense amount of hope and a strong sense of responsibility.



Our brains and, as a direct result, our physical bodies are constantly adapting to the experiences we are living; this means that we need to consider whether the experiences we are choosing (at least the ones we have control over) are driving our brains to change in the direction we want to go.

One of the easiest ways to improve brain function is to improve the quality of your movement. The healthier your brain is the better you move, and movement, in turn, increases brain function and health. Your world expands as your movement expands... or vice versa.

Working on increasing end ranges of motion is a simple way to start expanding your movement. Try moving your arm in a circle. How big can you make that circle? Take note of your current range of motion (ROM).

Now try rubbing the shoulder/arm before you move it. Does that increase the range of motion? Congratulations!

You just expanded your movement, and thus expanded your world.

And while expanding your shoulder ROM may not seem that important to some of you right now, the alternative is limiting your ROM. At some point, that can make your world feel very small.

Once you understand that there is always SOMETHING we can change in the brain, you'll see that neuroplasticity is truly the science of hope.

Jessica Raam Foster is a Neuro Performance Coach. For more information: www.NeurologyofPresence.com, IG: @JessicaRaamFoster, FB: @NeurologyofPresence euologyofPresence@gmail.com



Left, Navy's secret stealth Sea Shadow (IX-529) housed inside the rusty tanker shown above on the left.





JOURNEY-MAN'S JOURNAL

By Jill Hedgecock

Angel Island: Take A Trek Through History



Angel Island's Perimeter Road offers views of downtown San Francisco and Alcatraz

Angel Island is not only one of the most historically significant features of San Francisco Bay, but on clear days, its scenic views are unparalleled. My husband and good friends to have planned our outing on a sunny day where the slight haze did little to obstruct our views of the San Francisco Bay. We departed from Tiburon on the first ferry of the morning at 10 a.m. with the goal of walking the 5.5-mile Perimeter Road and departing on the 1:20 p.m. ferry. It was an ambitious schedule, and we knew we would have to make choices on which historical sites to visit.

The day started with an unexpected sighting of harbor porpoises during our short boat ride across Raccoon Strait to reach Angel Island. At five to six feet in length, these shy creatures are the smallest of all porpoise species. These marine mammals had disappeared from San Francisco Bay around World War II. After an absence of 65 years, the species unexpectedly returned to the Bay around 2008.

To Native American tribes who lived by the ocean, porpoises are symbolic of the human inclination to pursue things that make us happy. In East Asia, encountering porpoises is considered a harbinger of luck in the seas. This sighting seemed like a good omen for our excursion.

As we pulled up to the dock, our historical lesson began. It was in this cove in 1775 that Spanish Naval officer, Lt. Juan Manuel de Ayala, sailed his ship, the San Carlos, into San Francisco Bay and set anchor. However, as I learned later at the Visitor Center, long before the Europeans set foot on the island, the Native American Coast Miwoks harvested the edible plants and fished and hunted on the grounds of this 740-acre island.

I was excited to explore the historical legacy of the island as we exited the boat. During the Civil War, the island operated

as a military reserve to defend the San Francisco Bay from potential attack by the Confederates.

In later years, the island housed a cattle ranch, a quarantine station, an immigration station, and was used for a variety of military defense purposes in times of war. Quarry Point was the location of the famous duel between two political rivals, U.S. Commissioner George Pen (Pendleton) Johnston and State Senator William I. Ferguson in 1858.

The island supported the war efforts during both world wars. During World War I, Angel Island was used by the U.S. military as a recruiting and processing post. During World War II, the U.S. military processed prisoners of war and detained hundreds of Japanese immigrants from Hawaii and the mainland United States.

The Nike Missile base was in operation during the mid-1950s and early into 1960s. The obsolete Ajax missiles were removed in 1962, ending 99 years of military presence on Angel Island. On July 29, 1963, the State of California acquired all of Angel Island and established it as a State Park.

After collecting a map, we headed north toward Perimeter Road. Our first historical stop was the plaque designating the U.S. Immigration Station as a National Historic Landmark in 1997.

San Francisco was a major entry point into the U.S. for Asian immigrants and Angel Island was an ideal location for an immigration station due to its isolation from the mainland. Its doors opened on January 21, 1910.

Approximately one million immigrants were processed throughout its 30 years of operation until a fire destroyed the administration building on August 12, 1940, instigating its closure later that year.

In 1970, Alexander Weiss, a park ranger, discovered hundreds of poems detailing the hardships of the immigrants carved on the walls of the detention barracks. While most of the military buildings were demolished on Angel Island in 1973, the detention barracks remain as a memorial to the tough conditions endured by the immigrants.

The U.S. Immigration Station was renovated in 2009 and is one of 146 designated National Historic Landmarks in California. There are several things to see, including the mess hall, the detention barracks (extra fee required), the Angel Island Immigration Museum, which is free, but only operates on the weekend, and the fog bell. Angel Island has been called the Ellis Island of the West Coast. A comparison of the similarities and differences of these two immigration stations can be found online at www.aiisf.org/ellis-angel.

After another mile of hiking, we reached Fort McDowell North (East Garrison). Most of the buildings present today were built in 1942, following the Pearl Harbor Attack, though the foundation of a World War I bowling alley still exists. The massive WW II barracks designed to house 600 service personnel remains standing, as does the concrete skeleton of the mess hall and post exchange. Convicts from Alcatraz Island Military Prison built the post exchange using stone that was quarried and crushed on site. A chapel and guard house also remain.

As we continued our hike through Fort McDowell, we caught a stunning view of the Bay Bridge, then walked by officer housing, before stopping at a bench with a view of the San Francisco Bay to eat our bagged lunches.

Continuing, we breezed by the Nike Missile Site, and the sites of the 1898 Drew and Wallace Batteries that were constructed around the time of the Spanish American War. We briefly admired the stunning views of the Golden Gate Bridge and watched the drama of a sailing competition at Battery Ledyard before continuing to our next stop.



Being short on time, we had to forgo an in-depth exploration of Camp Reynolds, named for an officer killed at Gettysburg in 1863. This area houses the oldest standing group of Civil War Buildings in the world, including the bakehouse,



The Union Army began construction of Camp Reynolds during the Civil War. This 150-year-old building supported the Indian Wars and World War II efforts.

which was built in 1863.

Mark Twain, who visited the camp in 1864, no doubt ate there. It was also at this camp where Colonel Allensworth became the first African American to reach the rank of lieutenant colonel. He served as the camp chaplain of Chapel of Saint Marie, which still stands today. In its heyday, the camp also operated a teaching hospital.

Back at Ayala Cove, we explored the visitor center and museum, which provides informative displays on the 1891 Quarantine Station (then known as Hospital Cove) that operated here until 1946. The Quarantine Station was designed to isolate immigrants and prevent the spread of cholera, smallpox, the plague, and typhus and yellow fevers in the port of San Francisco.



In 1891, Ayala Cove operated as a Quarantine Station, fumigating foreign ships and isolating immigrants suspected of carrying disease.

The 40 buildings that supported the Quarantine Station included a 400-bed detention barracks, a disinfecting plant, laboratories, and employee quarters. The museum also has a display explaining the history of lighthouses on the island and



The lighthouse at Point Blunt on Angel Island was the last lighthouse in California with a keeper. It was automated in 1976.

holds a fascinating new exhibit on climate change.

As our historical trek ended, I marveled over the island's dramatic changes over the years, but the one thing that has stuck for centuries is its name. In 1775, Juan Manuel de Ayala designated the land "Isla de Los Angeles" (Island of the Angels) because he arrived on the Catholic feast day of Our Lady of the Angels.

In addition to the hiking, Angel Island offers other recreational opportunities such as a tram tour, picnicking, cycling, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, and exploring the beaches. Overnight environmental camping is also an option for the adventurous. But the opportunity to learn about the island's unique, and often dark history, should not be missed.



Old buildings at Fort McDowell North provide fun photo opportunities



Tech In English

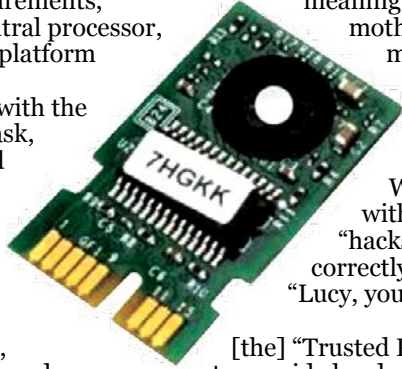
Are You Windows 11 Ready?

Since the launch of Windows 11, last year, we have been advising our customers against upgrading to the new Microsoft operating system as the replacement for Windows 10. The new operating system (O/S) is not terribly buggy but the demands it had placed on computer hardware fundamentals, and software incompatibilities, made upgrading problematic. We wanted to see what difficulties we would experience before giving our blessing to upgrade.

The latest build of Windows 11 has addressed many of the software compatibility issues we were experiencing and learning about from other techs in the field prior to this article. (By the way “build” means release version in geek-speak). However, hardware requirements, meaning the components in the computer like the central processor, motherboard and the new requirement of a trusted platform module (TPM) are still issues.

You are likely familiar with the terminology. You might ask, TPM? And what is it used for?

Since you asked, Windows 11 only with TPM built in. Native support means no “hacks” or “tweaks” are needed to perform correctly. As Ricky Ricardo said to Lucille Ball, “Lucy, you’ve got some ‘splaining to do!”



CPU or processor “What the heck is for?”

Windows 11 only with TPM built in. Native “hacks” or “tweaks” are correctly. As Ricky Ricardo “Lucy, you’ve got some ‘splaining

According to Microsoft, (TPM) technology is designed to provide hardware-based, security-related functions. A TPM chip is a secure crypto processor that is designed to carry out cryptographic operations. The chip includes multiple physical security mechanisms to make it tamper-resistant, and malicious software is unable to tamper with the security functions of the TPM. “The TPM is built into the Intel and AMD CPUs in only the last three years. That means if your CPU fails the compatibility test you cannot upgrade to Windows 11 natively.

What Works

Did you purchase your computer with Windows 11 already installed? Great. Most likely, everything is going to work well. We have found that new computers that originally came with Windows 11 work as expected.

What Does not Work

You upgraded to Windows 10 from any older version of Windows. The CPU* is version less than version 8. The hard drive is more than 80% full. Fail the software compatibility check. You use propriety business software. Check with the software vendor to see if they have tested their software on Windows 11.

A professional computer tech will be able to check your computer for compatibility in a few minutes. Have a pro look at your system if you are considering the upgrade. Now go do the right thing.

Get Back Up

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Call Now, you know, before you need it. **925-672-9989** We do all the work.
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**Processor check as follows: Right Click the start Window. Select Settings and open the Settings Window. Click on About. There you will find your CPU information. i3, i5 etc. is the processor designation and the dash (-) behind it shows the version. For example, Intel(R) Core (TM) i3-2130 CPU @ 3.40GHz 3.40 GHz means this is a 2nd Generation CPU. (-2130). Yours must say something like i7-8700 which is 8th Generation.*

Views of the Valley

Photos by Micah



GOLD BLOODED. Looks like we’re not the only ones who appreciate the ice artistry of Chisel-It Ice of Concord. Owner/sculptor Robert Chislett was called upon by Golden State Warriors to provide six ice sculptures with 24 carat gold inlay for each of the club rooms at Chase Arena for all the home NBA playoff games. Upper left is Robert Chislett next to one of the four feet sculpture. If you think these are nice, wait till you see what he can do for the NBA Championship games. Go Warriors!



Congratulations to Walnut Creek Aquanauts for winning the overall Championships at Junior/Senior Nationals. April 6-10th.



Spring Fairies, a unicorn and farm animal petting zoo were among the attractions at the sold-out Kids Club Easter/Spring festivities at the Veranda in Concord on April 24.



De La Salle had a visit from Donald James, who had a 35-year career with NASA. James spent most of the day in the classroom with De La Salle students and joined the Recognition Assembly to honor nine high-achieving Spartan science award winners.



Kites, Kites, and Kites! Tony Jetland, aka the Kiteman of Martinez, has begun spending his weekends flying his many kites at the Martinez Marina, day and night.



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