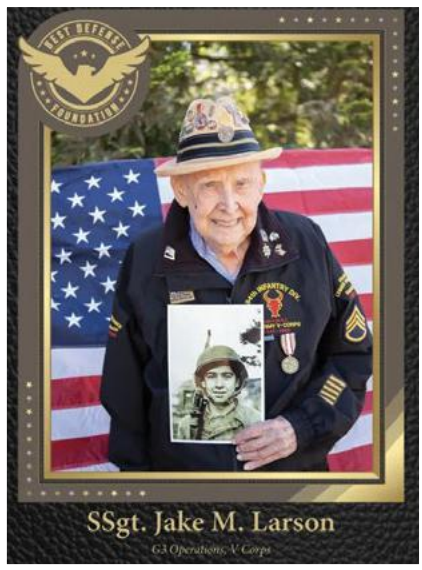
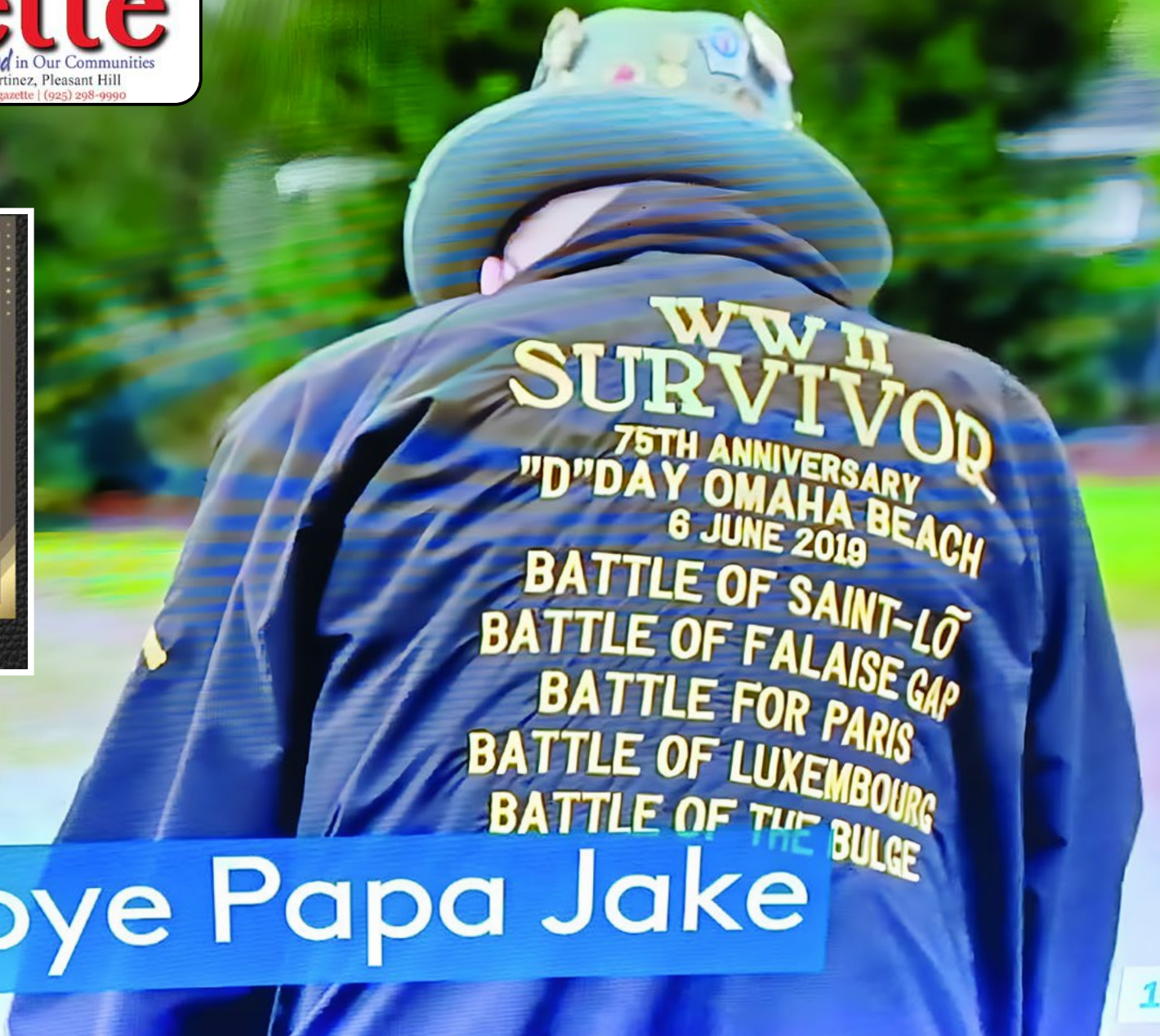


August 2025



SSgt. Jake M. Larson

GA Operations, V Corps



19

A Message From Normandy to the Diablo Gazette on the Passing of Papa Jake Larson

"We are saddened to have lost a friend of Normandy. We were happy and proud to welcome him every year. Your community has lost an important member who represented the best in this world. Our thoughts are with his family, loved ones, friends, and all those who loved him. Sincere condolences to his family. We will keep him in our hearts and thoughts. He will continue to inspire us." Fabienne Ory, Normandy, had received her July issue of the Diablo Gazette. She and Jake Larson were featured on the cover. Mailed July 2, it arrived July 17, the day Papa Jake had passed. pg. 2

5TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS

ORION OPTICAL
VISION AND STYLE

Designer Frames & Lens

Comprehensive Eye Exam
Includes Retina Photo
No Dilation (in most cases)

\$120

WALK-INS WELCOME

(925) 349-4777

www.orionoptical.com



2075 Diamond Blvd. Ste H-105, Concord (in the Veranda shopping Center)

Martinez EVENT CENTER

IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN



The Martinez Event Center, a beautiful 5,000 sq ft. full-service banquet room has opened its doors for your special events, rehearsal dinners, wedding ceremonies, receptions, bridal showers, private parties, celebration of life, corporate events, non-profit events and more! Rent the room and bring in your own caterer or choose our full-service catering option provided by La Tapatia Mexican Cuisine.

WE ARE HERE
TO HELP YOU
PLAN A
MEMORABLE
EVENT
YOU WILL
NEVER
FORGET!

524 MAIN STREET,
MARTINEZ
(925) 229-3030
www.martinezeventcenter.net

10% OFF Room Rental when booked with full service from La Tapatia.

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local Customer
Postal Customer

DiabloGazette.com
(925) 298-9990



Papa Jake Larson, Beloved War Hero, Tik Tok Sensation, Movie Star, and Emmy Winner passes at 102.

On the cover, is a screen shot from Normandy TV news announcing the passing of Papa Jake Larson. Jake is wearing his favorite jacket, one that lists the battles he fought in WWII.

On July 17, 2025, America and the people of Normandy lost a true hero. Jake "Papa Jake" Larson, a cherished World War II veteran and last surviving member of his regiment, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 102.

Featured on last month's Diablo Gazette cover, Papa Jake had just returned from attending the annual 10-day D-Day ceremony in Normandy. He was a familiar and beloved face at the event. Normandy local, Fabienne Ory, first met Jake at last year's event was inspired by his relentless positivity. "Forget negativity!" Papa Jake would say with a smile that resonated with Ory. She was one of many Jake inspired.

Papa Jake's impact on Normandy was profound. On July 27, a farewell ceremony was held in his honor at Omaha Beach — a fitting tribute to a man who once stormed its shores under fire. The ceremony was a powerful mix of solemnity and gratitude: hundreds of citizens in attendance, a flag-folding, a march to the sea, roses on the sand, a flyover, and soldiers and equipment all paying homage to the fallen hero.

Born in Hope, Minnesota, Jake's early life was marked by poverty during the Great Depression. With no electricity or running water, his family scraped by selling moonshine. At just 15, Jake and his cousin lied about their age to join the National Guard in 1939 for a mere \$12 every three months. In 1941, he was inducted into federal service.

Serving in the 34th Infantry Division before joining the V Corps G3 section as an operations sergeant, Jake was among the 34,000 Allied troops to storm Omaha Beach on D-Day. He was later awarded the Bronze Star by the U.S. Army and France's highest honor, the Legion of Honor.

Papa Jake's legacy of courage, resilience, and optimism will continue to inspire generations to come.

He was a very lucky and special man.

Scan the QR code to view a CBS report on the life and passing of Jake Larson.



HOT AUGUST SAVINGS

**Hardwood | Carpet | Laminates | Vinyl
Ceramic Tile | Flooring**

DISCOUNTED SPECIALS, OVERSTOCK AND CLOSE OUTS

UP TO 35% OFF

TOMMY BAHAMA AREA RUGS AS Low As \$75!

SAVE UP TO 50% ON CARPET INSTALLATION

MACFLOOR WHERE QUALITY COST LESS

\$100 CREDIT REWARD

BRING YOUR COSTCO, HOME DEPOT, LOWE'S OR OTHER CARPET OR FLOORING ESTIMATE IN AND RECEIVE A \$100 CREDIT TOWARDS YOUR FLOORING PURCHASE FROM US.

McCurley's
Carpets • Hardwood • Laminate • Stone

2395-J Monument Blvd., Concord
(Next door to Harvest House Shaw Carpet)
925-680-4433

Email: info@macfloor.com
www.MacFloor.com

3191-J Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon
(Next to Sprouts in the Crow Canyon Plaza)
925-866-2200

BHR Better Homes Realty

\$599,000

1861 Olmo Way, Walnut Creek

Desirable Sunset Park Townhome. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, approx. 1169sf with inside laundry closet & a covered carport. Amenities include community pool & tennis courts. Close to shopping, BART and freeway.

\$1,149,000

47 La Canada Ct, Clayton

Fantastic & Updated Two Story in Regency Meadows nestled at the end of a court situated on a generous approx. .25 acre lot. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx. 2390sf with inside laundry and an attached 3-car garage.

Consider it SOLD!

\$679,000
PRICE IMPROVEMENT

1923 Eagle Peak Ave, Clayton

Sensational Diablo Ridge Two-Story on a premium golf course lot with gorgeous views of rolling hills, the 8th hole, a lake, and a cascading waterfall at Oakhurst Country Club. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx. 1252sf with inside laundry plus one attached and one detached garage.

\$1,149,000
PENDING

4880 Myrtle Dr. Concord

Sprawling Single-Story Rancher on an approx. .94-acre level lot offering the perfect blend of privacy & luxury. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx. 1713sf. Outdoor amenities include pool & spa, outdoor kitchen, expansive sun deck, covered extended patio, storage shed, barn & dog run.

Clayton Market Update

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
5121 Keller Ridge Dr	\$983,000	1877	3/2.5	6/9/2025
407 Grenache Cir	\$1,350,000	2052	4/2.5	6/11/2025
900 Arrowhead Ter	\$735,000	1235	2/2	6/13/2025
190 Mt Wilson Way	\$1,135,000	2566	5/3	6/20/2025
3062 Windmill Canyon Dr	\$1,150,000	2854	4/3	6/20/2025
5555 Southbrook Dr	\$855,000	1540	3/2	7/2/2025
220 Roundhill Pl	\$2,075,000	5088	4/4.5	7/2/2025

Concord Market Update

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
5588 Gonzalez Ct	\$899,000	1420	3/2	6/12/2025
3936 Cottonwood Dr	\$799,000	1236	3/1.5	6/16/2025
4672 N Larwin Ave	\$1,142,000	1917	4/2	6/18/2025
1816 Chiquapin Ct #D	\$464,000	914	2/1	6/18/2025
4205 Windermere Ct	\$855,000	1314	4/2	6/23/2025
1039 Rolling Woods Way	\$1,400,000	3168	4/3.5	6/24/2025
1448 Hartnell Ct	\$825,000	1360	3/2	6/30/2025

Jennifer Stojanovich
Broker DRE #01446062
(925)672-4433
925-567-6170 - cell
6160 Center St., Suite E, Clayton
jennifer@bhrbroker.com
www.jenniferstojanovich.com

Based on information from CCRAR/Paragon MLS® as of 7/13/25. All data, including all measurements and calculations of area, is obtained from various sources and has not been, and will not be, verified by broker or MLS. All information should be independently reviewed and verified for accuracy. Properties may or may not be listed by the office/agent presenting the information.



Carlyn Obringer
Concord Mayor
cityofconcord.org

Grab Your Shovel

September of Service Project to Plant 200 Trees



Photo courtesy Carlyn Obringer (facebook). Obringer (left) leads volunteers in planting trees at Hillcrest Park. September of Service

I'd like to cordially invite the Concord Community to join me for my annual September of Service event. I first started the September of Service initiative in 2019 when I last served as mayor.

The purpose of the September of Service is to supplement the work of the Public Works Department by bringing together volunteers for park beautification projects and community connection.

When serving as mayor, I work with the Public Works Department to plan projects that benefit each of the five City Council Districts. When not serving as mayor, I organize two projects at parks in District 2, which I represent on the City Council. This year, thanks to a grant that the city received from the US Forest Service, we will be planting fifty trees each at four parks. The project at Newhall Park will cover both Districts 1 and 5.

My Council colleagues have committed

to attending the September of Service event in their City Council District, and I will be in attendance at all four events, giving the community a chance to connect with the City Council in person while beautifying Concord.

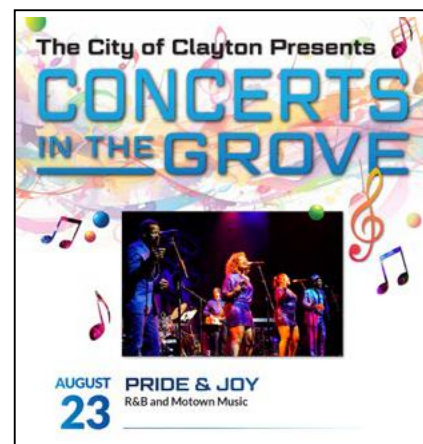
A project will take place on each of the four Saturdays in September, as follows: September 6 at Newhall Park, September 13 at Baldwin Park, September 20 at Ellis Lake Park and September 27 at Ygnacio Valley Park. All ages are welcome. Each event will take place from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., with instructions provided at 8:15 and shovels in the ground at 8:30.

If you are interested in participating, please RSVP to Carlyn.obringer@cityofconcord.org by September 1 so that we can plan accordingly for your participation. Please come dressed for yard work and bring work gloves, and eye protection and a shovel, if possible. See you in September!



Kim Trupiano
Mayor, Clayton
kimt@claytonca.gov

Clayton's Busy Summer Schedule



Concerts in the Grove: There are only a few more Concerts left in this summer series and we hope to have you come out and join us for some great music, dancing and fun for the entire family. The remaining schedule includes two long-time favorites: The Sun Kings (Beatles tribute band) on August 9th and Pride & Joy (Rhythm & Blues) closing out the season on August 23rd. Concerts are held from 6 to 8:30 pm at The Grove Park in downtown Clayton. For more information please visit: <https://claytonca.gov/our-city/annual-events/concerts-in-the-grove/>.

National Night Out: The Clayton Police Department will host a National Night Out event, on Tuesday, August 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall in the courtyard. The department will feature police equipment, including patrol vehicles and the new Polaris UTV. The event will include a BBQ and serving hot dogs, chips and drinks and handing out swag. All Clayton residents are invited to stop by, say hi, and grab a hot dog!

Fourth of July: A big thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in this year's 4th of July parade. It was another successful event and well attended by so many families and neighbors. We thank our new parade chair, Sarah Brinkman, again for taking on this event this year for the City. We will be recognizing Sarah as our Unsung Hero for the Month of July at our August Council meeting. We look forward to an even bigger event next year when the country celebrates its 250th birthday.

August Council Meeting: On August 19, the Council will be recognizing our 2025 Mayor for the Day, Charlie Meriam, from Mt. Diablo Elementary School. Charlie will kick off the meeting for us, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and share some of

his ideas for a better Clayton.

We will also be focusing on ideas for Revenue Enhancement and we invite the community to come out and share your ideas with us. Visit the City's website for more details about this and upcoming meetings at <https://claytonca.gov/>.

A Focus on Energy Savings The City's two-year Climatec project is coming to a close at the end of August. The entirety of the project includes new HVAC units and Building Automation Systems, irrigation control and sensor systems and a solar array panel that will provide Net Zero Energy (NZE) to all city-owned buildings. Plus, a new two-vehicle EV charging station was installed at the library.

We recently had a productive meeting with our representatives from PG&E, and we were excited to learn that the LED Conversion of the PG&E-owned streetlights is going to begin this September and will be a full conversion of their streetlights. This conversion represents tremendous savings to our utility bills and increased efficiency and safety for the community.

As always, I enjoy hearing from you, so please reach out to me with your questions, comments, suggestions at kimt@claytonca.gov or at 925.673.7324.

Have a wonderful rest of your summer and remember, we are stronger together.



Sergeant Rich Enea, Jr. along with Mayor Trupiano invite all to come out August 5, for National Nite Out. at City Hall.

Concord Roots Run Deep — And Still Growing

by Kevin Cabral, CEO, Concord Chamber of Commerce

Here we are, already halfway through summer and I can hardly believe how fast time is flying. As I look ahead to my 60th birthday this December, I find myself reflecting more often on the place I've always called home: Concord. Having spent my entire life here, I can genuinely say I have no regrets. It has been a wonderful city to live in, raise a family, and grow roots that run deep.

My mother and my mother-in-law still live here—two amazing women I deeply admire. And now, as my wife and I check off more and more boxes on our personal to-do list, our next big goal is helping our two adult kids find a way to live in Concord too. It's no small feat.

Today's housing market is daunting with rising mortgage rates, tight inventory and longtime homeowners like me who aren't budging from the places we've built our lives in.

Over the years, I have watched friends and neighbors leave, some for affordability, others to be closer to family or for a change in political climate.

For the longest time, I used to say I stayed in California for the weather. But about a decade ago, my reason shifted. Now, I stay for the people. Concord is full of kind, engaged, and community-minded people. That's what makes it feel like home, no matter how the world changes.

As we search for ways to help our kids put down roots here, I am grateful for the dedicated real estate agents, lenders, and insurance professionals who guide families through this ever-changing market. Their expertise makes a real impact, not just on individual transactions but on the financial resilience of our community as a whole.

Real estate has long been a part of my family's story. My mom was a realtor when I was a kid. I remember weekends spent helping with open houses, delivering flyers, and painting homes (a chore I still do not like). Those early experiences gave me an appreciation for how personal housing and homeownership really are.

My wife and I have been in our

current home for over 20 years. Thankfully, she still loves it, and I still enjoy our neighbors—yes, even you, Stan!

We're lucky to live near our neighborhood pool and community garden, and I'm not planning to move anytime soon. I feel fortunate to live and work in a city that continues to thrive.

Whether you've been in Concord for generations or just moved here recently, know that you are part of a community that values progress without losing its identity. So be patient. Stay involved. And pitch in

where you can—there are countless ways to make a difference, big or small. Together, we can help make Concord a place where the next generation can live, grow, and thrive too.

For more about the businesses and organizations that make Concord a vibrant place to live, and to learn about the benefits of membership, visit the Concord Chamber of Commerce at www.concordchamber.com.

calendar of events

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 5

CLAYTON: 6:00-8:00 p.m. City Hall Courtyard. Police equipment and fleet vehicles will be on full display.

- A tour of the Clayton Police Station will be available at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- A table with giveaways of Clayton PD "Swag" gear!
- A BBQ fully equipped with snacks and drinks

Contra Costa Fire Department will be at the event from 6:30 to 7:15p.m.

CONCORD - Police -Community-Partnerships 5:00 p.m. Live music, games, crafts, and activities for all ages. Kids Parade. Concord Library. 2900 Salvi St.

MARTINEZ: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Martinez Waterfront Park Martinez Waterfront Park, near the Martinez Marina, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Meet the Martinez Police Department, Contra Costa Fire Protection District, American Medical Response, California Highway Patrol, and the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff. Live Music from Midnight Flyer, food trucks, petting zoo, kid entertainment. The event is free. 245 N Court St.

PLEASANT HILL: 6:00 -6:00 p.m. PH Police Dep't. will host community and family event at City Hall. Others are encourage to organize your own neighborhood event. Annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safe and friendly. Contact Pam Mosher at nwatch@pleasanthillpd.org.

WALNUT CREEK: FREE 3:00-6:00 p.m. at Broadway Plaza Street. Join the Walnut Creek Police Department for K-9's, drones, motors, local organizations. Followed by Movie under the Stars and at Civic Park.

YOUR PARTNER IN BUSINESS

GREATER



CONCORD

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

concordchamber.com | (925) 685-1181
kcabral@concordchamber.com

Clayton

-August 2 Artist Reception for Fine



Arts 4:00-6:00 p.m. 1026 Oak St. #102. Next to Bocce Courts.

CONCERTS IN THE GROVE

August 9 - The Sun Kings Beatles Tribute Band

Aug 23 - Pride & Joy R&B and Motown Music



Concord

July 2-September 30- "Caught in the Moment" Concord Art Association (CAA) exhibit at Visit Concord, 2151 Salvio St. downtown Concord. Hours: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. www.concordartassociation.org.

MUSIC & MARKET SERIES

Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m.

>July 31, Twist on Taylor - Tribute to Taylor Swift

>August 7, The Bell Brothers Country, Rock, & Americana.

>August 14, Zeperella All female tribute to Led Zeppelin.

>August 21 Maya Latin Roots Latin grooves with a salute to Selena

>August 28 Roy Rogers and the Delta Rythm Kings Bay Area Blues Slide Guitar Master

>September 4 Native Elements Reggae with a salute to Bob Marley. Todos Santos Plaza, Concord. For schedule:www.visitconcordca.com/

Pleasant Hill

Off the Grid Nights August 7, 14, 21, 28, September 4 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Picnic on the lawn. Bring blankets to the gazebo for live music, food trucks, beer, cocktails, and wine.

Pleasant Hill Night Market. First and third Fridays of each month. Food, beer truck, vendors, corn hole and other activities plus live music. 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Chilpancingo Park.

DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

7-9 PM at the plaza in front of Jack's Restaurant and Bar, Crescent Drive, Pleasant Hill

> August 21: The Cheeseballs

> September 18: Foreverland

SUMMER CONCERTS

>August 3 Johnny And June Forever

Johnny Cash Tribute

>August 17 Dirty Cello, Blues, Rock, Americana

>August 31 The Big Jangle , Tom Petty Tribute

Martinez

-August 6, 13, 20, 27 (Every Wednesday) Picnic on the Plaza - 5:00-8:00 p.m. Each week is something special: movies, live music, special guests and activities. Pick up a Grab & Go dinner from downtown restaurat or pack your own picnic. Bring chairs or blanket. Main Street Plaza.

August 8 Movies in the Park Mutant Mayhem

August 14, September 11, Downtown Martinez Car Show Series 6-8PM. Come Downtown for classic cars and vintage vibes.

August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14. Open Air Market, 9 AM. Embrace the charm and allure of unique finds at the Downtown Open Air Market, a monthly treasure trove of Vintage, Collectibles, Antiques, Arts & Crafts, and more. 718 Alhambra Ave, Martinez.

September 13- Martini Shake-Off Gala. 5:30 - 10:00 p.m. Vote who make s the best martini. Live music, dinner, silent auction. This is a semi-formal event. Tickets available online at martinezmartini.com or call Martinez Chamber of Commerce, 925-228-2345. Gala held at 603 Marina Vista, Martinez.

At the Martinez Campbell Theater

August 3- Improv Parteners in Crime 2:30 p.m.

August 8-10- Radio Plays. Volcanophobia and the Many Moods of Doctor Random. Performed and recorded before a live audience. Written and direted by Bill Chessman. Price \$20.

Martinez Campbell Theater
636 Ward St, Martinez,
www.campbelltheater.com

Walnut Creek

Walnut Creek Merry Mixers Dances 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

>August 1, 100 PRUF preceded by 7:00 p.m. dance lesson

>August 15 Take 2 John & Lynn preceded by 6:30 p.m. potluck. Elks Lodge 1475 Creekside Dr. www.merrymixers.life

-August 6 Locust Street Festival, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. FREE. Beer, wine, food, art, kid activities 1421 Locust St, Walnut Creek

At the Leshher Center

1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek

>August 2,16,& 23- Best of San Francisco Stand-Up A new generation of comedic talent is set to take the stage!

>August 3,10 &24- JAZZ WALNUT CREEK. Different band

each date. Respectively, KarrinAllyson Quartet, John Pizzarelli Trio, and Cyrus Chestnut Trio.

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

>August 8-17: Les Miserables School Edition, Poison Apple Productions.

>August 23-24 Chicken, Chitlins, and Caviar. Presented by Syphony Enterprises. A celebration of African culture.



>August through Sept. 14

Beyond Color. The language of black and white. xhibit. Explore the complex simplicity and expressive power of artwork rendered exclusively in black and white. Bedford Gallery.

Other Areas

Crockett:

>Aug 10 Art & Wine Festival 628 2nd Ave. 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Enjoy art, wine and good vibes. Live Jazz and DJ. www.eventbrite.com

Moraga

July-August 24th --Gallery, Judith Rohrer and a display of Wenda Pyman's "knock-the-socks-off" photography. moragaartgallery.com or call (925)376-5407. Moraga Art Gallery, 432 Center Street, Moraga.

Pittsburg:

August 7, SIR Branch 19 will hold its Monthly Luncheon. 11 AM. SIR is a social organization of men who get together and participate in fun activities. All are welcome. Pittsburg Elks' Lodge, 200 Marina Blvd., Pittsburg. www.sirinc2.org/branch19 or call: 925 338-1996

Library Events

6125 Clayton Rd, Clayton

Clayton

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

>August-13 Presents Visual Magic of Michael Ngyen. 2:00 -2:45p.m.

>August 20 Create a Comic Book Character 2:00-2:45 p.m. Jen de Oliveira, author of Reggie: Kid Penguin will guide through crafting your character

>August 14 Chair Yoga & Meditation Johanna Baig, teacher. For Adults and Seniors.

Concord

> August 13 Nature Talk with Author Joyce Shappee 3:30-4:30 p.m. For young planet protectors ages 9 and up!

SUBMIT YOUR CALENDAR ENTRIES

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

Pop Up Museum - Celebrates 50 Years of Music at the Pavilion



Step into a world of history and creativity at Visit Concord's exclusive pop-up museum, honoring five decades of unforgettable moments at the Concord Pavilion.

Discover a captivating collection of vintage concert posters, rare photographs, and historical artwork that showcase the rich legacy of this iconic venue.

Salvio Pacheco Square across from Todos Santos Plaza. 2151 Salvio St. Concord. Open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

50-Year Pavilion Timeline

1969-1974 Concord Summer Festival founded and run by local businessman Carl Jefferson at Concord Blvd. Neighborhood Park (now Dave Brubeck

Park) providing impetus for construction of the Concord Pavilion, which was owned and operated by the City of Concord

1975 \$4.5 million Concord Pavilion opens May 16 with a benefit concert featuring Hen-ry Mancini and Sarah Vaughan

1976 1st sellout concert of Pavilion's 8500 capacity May 21 for Boz Scaggs. Front row seat: \$6.50

1977 Bing Crosby gives his final US concert Aug. 16 at the Pavilion on the same day Elvis Presley dies. Crosby died two months later in Spain.

1979-1984 Nederlander Corp. is exclusive booking agent for the Pavilion

1985 Bill Graham Presents of San Francisco awarded Pavilion booking



Architect Frank Gehry was hired to designed the venue to feature permanent reserved seating for 3500 and lawn seating for 5000 with a stage in the thrust configuration allowing for seating three-quarters in the round. The design of exposed steel and concrete won awards from the American Institute of Architects and the steel industry. Gehry and his firm also oversaw the Pavilion expansion design 20 years later when the capacity was increased by 4000 to 12,500 when it reopened in August 1996.

contract

1985-1999 BGP is booking agent for the Pavilion. The city of Concord continues to also produce events and operate the facility

1986 BGP opens 22,500 capacity Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View

1991 Promoter Bill Graham dies Oct. 25 in helicopter crash after leaving Huey Lewis & The News concert at Pavilion

1995-1996 Pavilion re-opens in August 1996 after \$20.1 million expansion increases ca-pacity to 12,500

1997 Bill Graham Presents sold to SFX Entertainment

2000 SFX takes over full operation of the Pavilion from the City of Concord

2001 SFX purchased by Clear Channel Entertainment. Facility renamed

Chronicle Pavilion at Concord

2004 35th and final Fujitsu Concord Jazz Festival held as free concert.

2005 Clear Channel concert operations spun off to Live Nation Worldwide

2006 Venue renamed Sleep Train Pavilion at Concord

2014-2016 \$4 million improvements made to Pavilion

2019 50th Anniversary of Concord Jazz Festival celebrated with performances at Pavilion and around Concord

2023 Venue renamed Toyota Pavilion at Concord

2025 Pavilion celebrates the 50th Anniversary of May 1975 opening.

Portions of this article were previously published in Concord Pioneer

In Case You Missed It...

Local News Items from Claycord.com and Other Sources

Brentwood Sighting Reminds Us: Mountain Lions Are Always Nearby

A mountain lion was spotted early morning on July 22 in the backyard of a home in Brentwood, according to the Brentwood Police Department.

While sightings like this may seem rare, wildlife experts remind the public that mountain lions are native to the area and often live quietly in the hills and open spaces surrounding neighborhoods.

Residents are urged to stay alert, especially when walking with children or pets. If you do encounter a mountain lion, do not approach it, and report the sighting to local authorities.

Walnut Creek Road Surface Treatment Work Expected To Last Three Months

Contra Costa County Public Works will be overlaying various residential roads in the Walnut Creek area. Work began on Monday, July 28 and will continue through Friday, October 31, 2025, barring unforeseen circumstances. Work will occur between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mon-day through Friday.

Pioneer Publisher Tamara Steiner Steps Away After Decades of Dedication

Best wishes go out to Tamara Steiner, editor & publisher of the Pioneer

newspaper, as she prepares to conclude publication this August after 22 years of dedicated service to the community.

Indivisible Resisters Conduct Protest Near Immigration Court in Concord



A large turnout for the John Lewis Good Trouble protest in Concord, on July 17. Photo credit KC Barnett.

Thursday, July 17, The Central County Indivisible Resisters organized a John Lewis Good Trouble event in Concord at the intersection of Clayton Rd. and Detroit, near The Immigration Court in a Gateway building. It was peaceful, non-violent and well attended.

Sears In Concord Will Soon Be The State's Last-Standing Location

Sears to close two of its last three stores in the state, that will leave the Sunvalley Shopping Center location in Concord with one of just a half dozen stores nationwide—and the only one in California.. At its peak, the 139-year-old company had some 3,500 stores.

A Day in the Life of a Plumber

by Todd Wheat, Grizzley Bear Plumbing

Publisher: Recently I had to do some minor DIY plumbing chores. I decided then that plumbing must be one of the most miserable careers one could choose. That is until I spoke with Todd Wheat of Grizzley Bear Plumbing.

Todd is a consistent advertiser with the Diablo Gazette, so I wasn't hesitant to ask if he would be willing to describe what a plumber's day looks like. He proudly responded with this journal. (This is not an advertisement. However, there is an ad on pg. 13.)

Before most people have had their morning coffee, plumbers are already deep into a day filled with problem-solving, precision work, and customer service. Often underestimated, the job of a plumber combines technical expertise with physical endurance — and every day brings a new challenge.

Let's follow along on a typical day in the life of a professional plumber and see what really goes into keeping the water flowing behind the scenes.

6:30 AM – Gearing Up

The sun is barely up when the day begins. In the quiet of early morning, Todd Wheat with Grizzly Bear Plumbing reviews the job schedule, checks messages from clients, and begins packing the work van. Today's itinerary includes everything from an emergency call at a local café



to a fixture installation for a home renovation.

In the back of the van? A small hardware store's worth of tools — pipe cutters, inspection cameras, thread sealants, and fittings of every size imaginable.

Every day's different. You need to be ready for anything — and you never know what that first call will bring.

8:00 AM – First Job: The Mysterious Water Heater Leak

The first stop is a residential property with a leaking water heater — a common issue, but one that can quickly become a costly problem. After a quick diagnosis, it's clear the pressure relief valve has failed. Within the hour, it's replaced, tested, and the homeowner has been walked through a few signs to watch out for in the future.

It's part of the job not everyone realizes: educating customers and helping them feel confident in their homes.

10:30 AM – Emergency Drain Rescue at a Café

An urgent call from a local café changes the pace of the morning. The kitchen sink is backing up during food prep. With lunch service looming, time is of the essence.

The plumber rolls out a heavy-duty drain auger and runs a camera into the pipes. The culprit? A thick mix of

Plumber Cont'd on pg.6

Couple Celebrates 70 Years of Marriage

by Dori Sanchez

On July 30, 2025, Evan and Caroline Sanchez will celebrate an extraordinary milestone — 70 years of marriage built on love, family, and lifelong partnership.

Their story began when they met as teenagers during family visits between California and Colorado. A long-distance courtship followed, sending frequent love letters to each other—a time when stamps were only 3 cents.

They married in Colorado in 1955 and built their life together in California.

Evan became the youngest Federal Probation Officer in the country at age 25 and later served as Supervisor of Probation Officers before retiring at 50. He then launched a second 25-year career as a successful real estate broker.

Caroline raised their five daughters and taught art at Carondelet High School in Concord. A talented artist, she still paints and remains an active

property manager at age 89.

Together, Evan and Caroline lived in Berkeley, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek before settling in Danville. They traveled widely, taking their family to Europe and treating each daughter to an individual overseas trip. For their 60th anniversary, they celebrated with a family cruise.

Their legacy includes five daughters, seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren—and one more on the way in September. Both Evan and Caroline became authors later in life, publishing memoirs to share their stories with future generations.

Today, they enjoy quiet moments watching sports, visits from family, and reflecting on a life well lived—side by side.

Happy 70th Anniversary to Evan and Caroline Sanchez — a love story still going strong.



Caroline and Evan Sanchez, married July 30, 1955
Below: Celebrating 70th Anniversary all month.

Superintendent Dr. Adam Clark Receives “Excellence in Education” Award



MDUSD Superintendent Dr. Adam Clark has received the 2025 Mike Kneale Excellence in Education Award from the Education Research and Development Institute (ERDI).

The national award was presented during a special ceremony on July 16 at the ERDI Summer Institute in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Clark was among three educational leaders honored for exceptional leadership, investment in future leaders, and making a lasting difference in the communities they serve.

The award honors superintendents whose careers reflect integrity, visionary leadership, and a lasting commitment to student success.

ERDI selected Dr. Clark for the award based on his tireless advocacy on behalf of students and families, his steady leadership in complex systems, and his ability to build programs that prioritize student well-being and academic achievement.

In recognition of his honor, a \$5,000 donation will be made in Dr. Clark’s name to the Mt. Diablo Education Foundation, which was selected by Dr. Clark.

PLUMBER CONT'D FROM PG. 5



grease and food debris. After clearing the clog, Grizzly Bear Plumbing offers a quick consult with the café’s staff on regular maintenance practices to avoid future issues.

12:30 PM – Lunch & Logistics

Lunch is rarely leisurely. In the cab of the van or parked outside the next job site, this break often doubles as admin time. Phone calls, supply orders, quotes for new jobs — it’s all part of the business. Many plumbers, especially those who are self-employed, juggle the roles of technician, scheduler, and bookkeeper.

1:30 PM – Bathroom Renovation in Full Swing

In the afternoon, the focus shifts to a more planned project: a bathroom

renovation in a suburban home. Here, the plumber works alongside a contractor to reroute water lines and install new fixtures. It’s meticulous work. Walls may need to be opened. Measurements must be exact. Any mistake can affect the finish or violate local plumbing codes.

It’s more than just connecting pipes. You’re shaping how a space functions for years to come.

4:30 PM – One Last Quick Fix

Before heading home, there’s time for one last stop: a malfunctioning outdoor spigot at a townhome. It’s a quick repair, but Todd notices signs of corrosion on nearby piping. A heads-up to the homeowner could save them from a future leak — or worse.

More Than Just Pipes

Plumbing is more than about wrenches and water. It’s a trade that blends physical work with diagnostics, long-term planning with quick decision-making.

Whether it’s clearing a clogged line in a packed restaurant or laying the groundwork for a high-end bathroom, plumbers are behind some of the most essential comforts of daily life.

So, the next time you enjoy a warm shower or wash your dishes without a second thought, give a quiet nod to the professionals making it all possible — one job at a time.

WORD SEARCH - Picnic

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

ANTS	CAKE	GRASS	PARK
BASKET	CHEESE	HOT DOG	PICNIC
BLANKET	CHIPS	LEMONADE	SANDWICH
BREAD	DRINKS	MUSIC	SHADE
BUGSPRAY	FRUIT	OUTDOORS	SUNNY

SUDOKU

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE 5 BEACH WORDS:

NDAS	_____
VEAWS	_____
LHEESASL	_____
WLETO	_____
DRGAFULIE	_____

ROKO PUZZLES

Marc Rokoff makes puzzles, books, T-shirts & more @ RokoPuzzles.com

CRYPTOGRAMS

In the quote below, the letters have been substituted for other letters. For example, if A = H, then it will always represent H.

"DOLU LCLYFAOPUN ZLLTZ
AV IL NVPUN HNHPUZA FVB,
YLTLTILY AOHA AOL HPYW-
SHUL AHRLZ VMM HNHPUZA
AOL DPUK, UVA DPAO PA."

—OLUYF MVYK



Turkey Burgers With Avocado Butter and White Wines from Down Under

My family is a big fan of beef burgers, but sometimes it's fun to switch things up and try something different in the bun. Turkey burgers are a great option, especially when paired with a refreshing white wine.

Ground turkey can sometimes be bland and dry, but turkey burgers with avocado butter are a game-changer. The creamy, lemony compound butter provides just the right amount of tartness and ensures a juicy burger every time.

A perfect side dish for these burgers is piquant Cilantro Slaw. Both recipes pair beautifully with Australian whites, which are often intense in flavor and high in acidity.

Marsanne, a white wine grape commonly found in the southern Rhone Valley in France, is a great choice. When grown in Australia, it has a bright citrus flavor and even has a subtle hint of petrol in the nose. If you can't find Marsanne, Sauvignon Blanc or Riesling are also excellent options.

For dessert, let's indulge in something sweet. Australians make delicious dessert wines called "stickies," which are aptly named for their sticky sweetness. Like their dry white counterparts, Australian dessert

wines retain their acidity and balance out the plentiful sugar.

You can find stickers made from different white grapes, such as Muscat, Riesling, and Sauvignon Blanc. For a delightful dessert experience, try an Apricot Crème Brûlée. It has a delicate, velvety texture and bursts of apricot flavor in every bite.

So, go on. Pair Up!

Maria Terry is a Certified Sommelier and Wine Educator in Northern California. LaSommelier@gmail.com

Cilantro Slaw

INGREDIENTS

1 (12 oz.) package coleslaw blend
1/4 cup diced cilantro
1/4 cup diced green onion

Dressing

1/2 cup oil
1/3 cup lime juice
1 tbsp. vinegar
2 tsp. sugar
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tsp. salt and lemon pepper
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper

DIRECTIONS

Mix dressing. Toss with vegetables. Top with slices of limes, cucumber, and radishes.

Yield: 6 cups

Turkey Burgers with Avocado Butter



INGREDIENTS

1 1/3 lbs. ground turkey breast
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 large shallot or 1/4 red onion, finely chopped
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro leaves
2 Serrano or jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped
2 tsp. ground cumin
1 to 2 tsp. cayenne hot sauce, several drops
2 tsp. grill seasoning blend or seasoned salt

DIRECTIONS

Mix all burger ingredients well and drizzle patties with oil. Grill or pan fry till fully cooked.

Serve turkey patties on soft buns slathered with avocado butter and topped with mixed green lettuces.

Yield: 4 servings

Apricot Crème Brûlée



INGREDIENTS

15 ounces apricots in syrup, drained and chopped
4 extra-large egg yolks
1 extra-large egg
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tbsp. granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
3 cups heavy cream
2 tbsp. peach liqueur

Optional Garnishes - confectioners' sugar, whipped cream, toasted sliced almonds

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 300°. Divide chopped apricots evenly among six 4-ounce ramekins.

Using electric mixer on low speed, beat egg yolks, egg, 1/2 cup sugar, vanilla extract and cinnamon for one minute.

In saucepan over medium-high heat, cook heavy cream five minutes, or until thermometer (not touching sides of pan) reads 160°. DO NOT BOIL.

With mixer on low speed, slowly add heavy cream to egg mixture. Stir in peach-flavored liqueur. Divide egg mixture evenly among prepared ramekins. Place ramekins in baking pan. Fill baking pan with one inch of boiling water. Bake at 300° for 30 minutes, or until custard is set. Remove ramekins from water bath; let cool to room temperature. Chill for four hours.

To serve, sprinkle two tablespoon sugar evenly over top of each ramekin (one teaspoon per ramekin). Place under broiler one minute or use a torch until sugar is golden brown and caramelizes evenly. Let sit one minute, or until sugar hardens. Garnish as desired.

Yield: 6 servings



Is your Neighborhood Firewise?

The Los Angeles firestorms in January reminded Contra Costa residents that we live in risky wildfire territory. Homeowners face multiple threats including complete loss of their homes and possessions, insurance premium increases or cancellations, and the costs of updating their homes and landscaping against fire.

How can we create a more fire-resistant community? One program that hundreds of Contra Costa neighborhoods have already adopted is Firewise USA certification.

The Firewise USA® program from the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a nationwide initiative designed to help communities reduce wildfire risks by implementing fire-resistant practices. Achieving Firewise USA certification requires a clear plan, community involvement, and a commitment to making long-lasting changes. Here's a step-by-step guide to help your neighborhood through the process.

Organize a Neighborhood Project Committee- Form a group of neighborhood members who are passionate about wildfire safety to lead the initiative. This dedicated team ensures the program stays organized, and that work is equally shared.

Host a Firewise USA® Education Event- Educate residents on firesafe practices, the importance of Firewise certification, and the process. What new



Vegetation management saves homes from wildfires. Photo courtesy Elaine Thompson

fire safety laws are in effect? What are firesafe landscaping best practices? What changes are now required by insurance companies? Michelle Rinehardt, Firewise county coordinator for Contra Costa Confire is a great person to invite to discuss these topics and more. Contact Michelle at (925) 440-5831, or mrine@cccfpd.org.

Submit a Firewise USA® Certification Application- The NFPA will track your progress through regular updates. Include your neighborhood size, action plan, event summaries, and investment records. The no-cost application formalizes your neighborhood's efforts and leads to certification. You can apply with as few as eight homes in your neighborhood.

Assess Wildfire Risks- Schedule wildfire risk assessment walkthrough for your neighborhood. Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Protection District (Confire) employs a dedicated Fire Inspector, Derrick Berumen, to conduct these walkthroughs. Call or email Derrick

to schedule at (925) 941-3300, dberu@cccfpd.org.

Develop a Neighborhood Action Plan- Based on the risk assessment report, outline specific measures to reduce wildfire risks, such as creating defensible spaces, clearing flammable vegetation from common spaces, and using fire-resistant fencing and building materials.

Invest in Risk Reduction (Do the work)- Implement the work or changes outlined in your action plan. This could include home-hardening, Zone-0 improvements, weed abatement, trimming trees up and bushes down, removing dead growth, and installing low-flammability landscaping or noncombustible fencing.

Remember that firewise work on private property is the sole responsibility of property owners. Firewise USA® certification is a voluntary program. However, local and state ordinances are being adopted to ensure compliance with wildfire safety measures. Property owners' best interests are served by completing as much work as their budget allows.

Track Volunteer Hours and Investments- Keep records of neighbors' time and money spent on Firewise USA® certification work. These figures are required for certification and demonstrate your community's commitment to wildfire preparedness. The NFPA allows three years to complete work.

Celebrate Certification and Maintain Preparedness- Once certified, celebrate your achievement with a neighborhood event. Stay



Trained wildfire safety ambassadors can help you plan work - Courtesy Marc Evans



Palisades wildfire burns home in January - Courtesy Shutterstock

vigilant, maintain your compliance and improvements, update your action plan, and participate in annual Firewise Day activities and reviews.

By acting now, your neighborhood can become a model for fire safety and inspire other neighbors to create a safer, more wildfire-resistant community.

Seasonal Notes: August is the height of summer produce harvest: tomatoes, peppers, squash, beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, and more.

Email your comments and questions to: NakedGardener@diablogazette.com.



theRIGHTmove
by Terrylynn Fisher, Broker Associate
www.BuyStageSell.com

What If My Kids Don't Want My Stuff?

You've cared for your things for decades—furniture, heirlooms, dishes, collections. So, when it's time to downsize and your kids say, "I don't have room for that," or "I don't want it," it can sting.

Try not to take it personally. Many adult children live in smaller homes with less storage, or they simply have different tastes and lifestyles or really don't have the room. It is not a rejection of your memories or their upbringing, it's just a reflection of their reality.

So, what can you do? Here are some thoughtful next steps:

Preserve the story. Photograph meaningful pieces and write down the memories behind them. This can be therapeutic for you and help you with the letting go process.

Sell what still has value. Consider consignment shops, online listings, or an estate sale. You can even ask family to help manage the process. They may not want the piece, but they can help find it a new home.

Donate with purpose. Local charities, shelters, schools, and churches often welcome gently used items. Donating work clothing for job interviews or casual clothing to a woman's shelter makes sense. Thrift shops welcome these items as well. Hospice in Walnut Creek, Danville, Concord will often take items. Just keep in mind, they may want something but

may not have the room to store it, or the manpower or vehicles to pick it up. They tend to want smaller items. Some churches will furnish apartments for refugees or homeless shelters, but again, they need the manpower and vehicles to collect the items and/or store it.

One man's trash is another man's treasure. That might seem like a good idea. However, you can spend a lot of energy looking for the person who wants the treasure. And unless it's a collectable, they may not be easy to find. Your best alternative is to donate it or place it for FREE on FREecycle or Facebook Marketplace FREE section.

Keep what still serves you. If it brings joy or purpose to your next chapter, it's worth keeping. But try to avoid keeping things "just in case you need them." Analyze how much room you have and prioritize what is essential versus nice to have.

You can do this. Just be ready for the emotions that go along with it. Moving is not easy at any stage in life. Give yourself time to mourn the past and then look forward to the new future you are creating.

Seniors Real Estate Specialist® (SRES) work with older clients every day who are navigating this emotional part of the downsizing journey. If you need referrals for organizers, estate sale companies, or donation services, let an SRES help.


MONTHLY MARKET REPORT



JUNE / 2025

CLAYTON	CONCORD
<div>Existing SFR Median Price \$1.13M % Change from Last Year -26.9%</div> <div>MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 26 Sales-to-List Price % 97.9% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 53.8%</div>	<div>Existing SFR Median Price \$849K % Change from Last Year +2.2%</div> <div>MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 13 Sales-to-List Price % 100.1% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 28.6%</div>
MARTINEZ	WALNUT CREEK
<div>Existing SFR Median Price \$850K % Change from Last Year +7.1%</div> <div>MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 12 Sales-to-List Price % 100.0% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 23.5%</div>	<div>Existing SFR Median Price \$1.56M % Change from Last Year -12.3%</div> <div>MARKET COMPETITION Median Days on Market 17 Sales-to-List Price % 100.0% % of Active Listings Who Reduced Prices 28.9%</div>

SOURCE: Car.org



**Terrylynn Fisher**
REALTOR®
CRS, Seniors Real Estate Specialist®, CSP Elite Agent
925.876.0966 | DRE# 00615420
info@BuyStageSell.com | BuyStageSell.com



Blue Devils B Celebrates Undefeated Season

Blue Devils B, the Open Class ensemble of Concord-based BD Performing Arts, has concluded a remarkable 2025 season with an undefeated record and their third consecutive Open Class Pacific Championship title.

Their 2025 production, Lethologica, captivated audiences across California with bold visual design and compelling musical storytelling. The corps earned top honors at multiple competitions, delivering consistently high scores throughout the season:

"This season was nothing short of extraordinary," said B Corps Director Dr. Marvin Reed Jr. "Our members showed unmatched dedication and heart. With the support of families, instructors, and volunteers, we created something bigger than ourselves. And this is only the beginning. The best is yet to come."

Blue Devils B, known as BDB, is composed of talented young performers from across the country. For many, the experience is not only competitive but deeply personal.

Blue Devils B will next compete at the DCI Open Class Championships. While their undefeated record and high scores speak volumes, it is the strength of their community, personal growth, and artistic excellence that defines the 2025 season.

Blue Devils B performers are ages 15-19.



Subscribe for Home Delivery of The Diablo Gazette (925) 298-9990



Recycling Center & Transfer Station

Committed to Sustainability



DROP OFF YOUR WASTE – QUICK & EASY!

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
COMMERCIAL: 5 AM - 6 PM | GENERAL PUBLIC: 7 AM - 6 PM

Appliances • Construction Debris • Electronics • Furniture • Mattresses
Landscape Waste • Organics • Solid Waste • Tires
Treated Wood + More!

1300 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg | 925-473-0180 | mdrr.com/rcts

JOURNEY-MAN'S JOURNAL

by Jill Hedgecock jillhedgecock.com

Experiencing the Magic of Crater Lake

Crater Lake National Park, Oregon's only national park, is located on the crest of the Cascade Mountains and holds the remnants of what was once a tall stratovolcano known as Mount Mazama.

It is more than a scenic stop. To truly appreciate this national treasure, it is worth stepping back in time to learn about its origin.

Crater Lake was formed 7,700 years ago when a violent volcanic eruption on Mount Mazama caused the top to implode. Mount Mazama's peak prior to the eruptions loomed at approximately 12,000 feet tall. Today, the highest point in the park is Mount Scott at 8,929 feet. Rain and melting snow filled the caldera over time.

Native American folklore claims that to look upon "Giiwas" (Crater Lake) means instant death. For centuries, the pristine lake remained untouched. Today, Crater Lake now attracts around 500,000 visitors each year while Native Americans often come to Skell Head on the eastern rim for vision quests.

At its deepest level, this vibrant blue waterbody descends 1,943 feet making it the deepest lake in the United States, nearly 300 feet deeper than number two, Lake Tahoe.

It is known for its clear visibility that can reach one hundred feet. The tones of blue can range from indigo in the deepest portions of the lake to turquoise near the shoreline and island edges.

The lake was first discovered by a European American prospector, John Hillman, in 1853 when he stumbled upon it while searching for a lost gold mine.

Later, William Gladstone Steel championed the beauty of the lake and lobbied for seventeen years to protect it. President Theodore Roosevelt agreed and established Crater Lake as the fifth national park in 1902.

Discovery Point on Rim Drive marks the historic overlook location where Hillman first came upon the lake, and appropriately, this was where my husband and I began our drive around the rim. It was not possible to circumnavigate the entire thirty-three-mile Rim Drive because of road closures, but there was still plenty to see.

Thirty overlooks that were designed in the 1930s each highlight a specific view of the lake, a significant geologic formation like Llao Rock, or an environmental habitat. Our viewing highlights included Watchman Overlook, Skell Head, and Vidae Falls.



Watchman Peak

Watchman Overlook. The views of Wizard Island are fantastic at this stop. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) National Trail skirts the eastern part of Crater Lake.

Here I encountered Napa resident Troy Croxdale, a hiker who is in the process of tackling the "Border to Border Calendar Year Triple Crown" which refers to hiking the entire Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and Continental Divide Trail within one calendar year (approximately 8,400 miles). Only about 700 people have achieved it. Croxdale was well into the Pacific Crest Trail when our paths crossed.

Skell Head. It is easy to see why this viewpoint is considered sacred by the Klamath Native Americans. The cloud reflections on the lake were spectacular as were the gorgeous purple and yellow wildflowers growing near the rim. The signage describing native folklore associated with the lake is an interesting read.

Vidae Falls originates at Vidae Creek and cascades over a three-stepped bluff as it drops over 115 feet. Most falls anywhere are a favorite natural attraction—these



I met Napa resident Troy Croxdale at Watchman Peak who was on the Pacific Crest Trail in his quest to complete the Border to Border Calendar Year Triple Crown, a Trek of nearly 8,400 miles. Photo by Jill Hedgecock.

unique falls are located on the southern end of the lake and visible from the car.

Boat tours run from July 15 through September 15, 2025. Fifty percent of the tickets are available online for pre-booking, the remainder are available for online and in-park purchase up to 24 hours before the tour departure.

Two-hour Crater Lake Trolley Tours are offered for \$39 with discounts for seniors and children.

Places to Stay

In-park accommodations at Crater Lake Lodge, The Cabins at Mazama Village, and Mazama Campground are often fully booked months in advance. But there are plenty of options outside the park. Travelers can expect to drive at least 15 miles to find accommodations. There are also bed-and-breakfasts, guest houses, and vacation rentals in the area. The next closest options are in Chemult (42 miles away), Shady Cove (55 miles), and Klamath Falls (57 miles). We stayed at the Shiloh Inn at Klamath Falls which is dog friendly, and close to many dining establishments.

The jaw-dropping views of the crater alone make this trip worthwhile, but there are plenty of other activities available. Ranger programs, backcountry camping, hiking trails, fishing, swimming, birding and stargazing make this place an ideal summer vacation destination. Even though, the park is open year-round.

Jill Hedgecock has a master's degree in environmental management and a bachelor's degree in biology. Her love of nature led her to write "Pizco" inspired by her trip up the Amazon River and the award-winning "Rhino in the Room" (available on Amazon).



Photo courtesy of National Park Service. Crater Lake has an abundance of wildflowers above its shores.



Crater Lake Lodge, Photo by Crater Lake National Park Service



Crater Lake Visitor Center. Photo by Jill Hedgecock.



Vidae Falls. Photo by Jill Hedgecock.

AT HOME SUPPORT
— SENIOR CARE —

"We bring comfort to your home."

HCO License 414700045

(510) 557-4322
www.hsseniorcare.com

We provide hourly and 24-hour care services, including but not limited to the following:

- Personal Care
- Dementia and Memory Care
- Hospice Care
- Incontinence Management
- Ambulation and Transfer
- Companionship and Safety Supervision
- Meal Preparation
- Laundry and Linen Change
- Activities and Exercises
- Light Housekeeping
- Medication Reminders

MT. DIABLO SELF STORAGE
4901 Ygnacio Valley Rd Concord, CA 94521
Self-Storage Made Easy & Affordable

FREE Truck Use for Local Move-Ins

Discover Affordable Storage Solutions

How much storage do you need?
CHECK WEBSITE for Availabilities of All Sizes
Call for Rates
mtdiablostorage.com

Video Surveillance Computerized Gate Access Boxes & Packing Supplies
Secure Units Complimentary Carts Space Calculator

WE SELL BOXES

*Valid drivers license & insurance required.
(925) 685-2222
Fax: (925) 288-0669

The Arts Page

aRt Cottage: Grateful for the Village

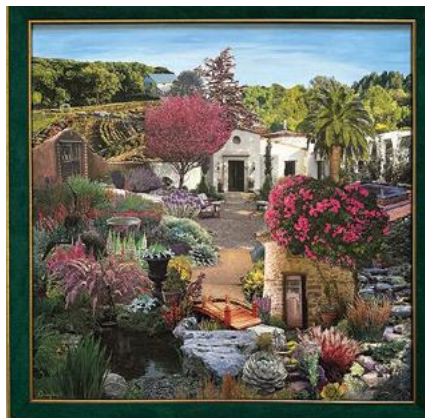
by FRO, aRt Cottage

The Village

As I wander through each gallery room at aRt Cottage in the quiet of the mornings, I think about how much help I have had over the years from people in this wonderful community. aRt Cottage would not be what it is today if it did not have help from volunteer docents, curators, musicians at openings, friends and colleagues who come in to help me organize, clean and even photograph opening receptions. I don't have a volunteer sign-up sheet, nor have I found it easy to openly ask for help. People just show up and take ownership.

I thank the many people in this "village" that have contributed to the success of the aRt Cottage over these 14 years. There are too many to list here. aRt Cottage is what it is today because of all who have helped and cared for it.

I think back to when the name and spelling of aRt Cottage came to my mind. Crazy how things work out sometimes, it really has become "R" Cottage where everyone has a place they can be comfortable and feel welcomed.



Enchanted Villa by Amy Bauer

Exhibit: "The Neighborhood"

Check out the current "The Neighborhood" exhibit running through August 28, featuring the works of a village of Lamorinda Art Alliance artists.



aRt Cottage is located at 2238 Mt. Diablo St., Concord.



Hot August News

The Main Street Arts Gallery kicks off its annual Big August Sale running all month long. Main Street Arts is home to 12 talented gallery members working in a range of media, including painting, metal, glass, mixed media, and ceramics. All 12 member artists will be combing through their studios for unique works both big and small to add to the sale.

Several of these artists will also be showing their work at Art in the Park on Sunday, August 17, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Susana Park in Martinez.

"Handle with Care"

The special guest group exhibition, "Handle With Care", continues through the end of August. This show features striking work by Bay Area ceramic artists Olga Jusidman, Mary Leigh Miller, June Bowen, and Kate Chenok. Highlights include ikebana vases (the Japanese art of giving life to flowers), Raku and Saggar-fired pieces, and both wheel-thrown and hand-built clay sculptures.

First Friday

Main Street will be closed to traffic on the 600 block during First Friday, August 1. Enjoy the festivities with live artist demos and refreshments from 6:00-9:00 p.m. inside the gallery.

Win Art

Each month, the gallery hosts a free prize drawing for an original artwork by one of its members. August's giveaway features a piece by mixed media artist, Gwenn Spratt, called "Sanctuary #3." Stop by, fill out an entry form, and you might take home a unique new work for your collection. www.mainstreetarts.net

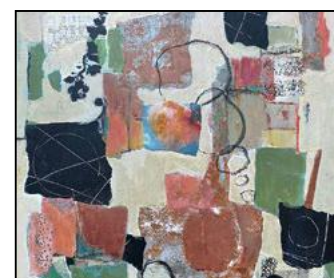
Now celebrating its ninth year in business, Main Street Arts is located at 613 Main Street, Martinez. Open Wednesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Martinez First Fridays 6-9



Mary Leigh Miller



Kate Chenokkk



Free drawing prize - "Sanctuary #3" by Gwenn Spratt

"Artistic Treasures" Exhibit Reimagines Discarded Materials at Blackhawk Gallery

At Blackhawk Gallery, "Artistic Treasures" exhibit runs through October 20, 2025.

Guest artist and native San Franciscan, Greg Adams, was influenced by his father, an avid recycler, Hal Foster's Prince Valiant comic strip and Gordon Grant's maritime book, "Sail Ho".

In 1988, he was hired as a wire rope cable splicer at the San Francisco Cable Car Barn where he made several rope work display boards, receiving mention in Herb Caen's newspaper column.

While attending classes at the Fort Mason Art Center, he took up Assemblage, making up pieces from found materials. He is currently working as a volunteer aboard the historic vessel Jeremiah O'Brien at Pier 35 in San Francisco.

Most materials used in his pieces come from the San Francisco dump. Some come off the city's streets. "Repurposing discarded material for new uses has long been a family tradition, with my father being my first instructor," says Adams.

Location: 3416 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville



JOR FINE ART GALLERY

AUGUST 2ND - NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Seasons of Splendor

RECEPTION
AUGUST 2, 2025
4 - 6 PM
1026 Oak Street, Suite 102 Clayton, CA

A beautiful gallery in historic downtown Clayton
Open to the public Wednesday through Sunday 12-5 p.m.
Appointments are available.
Contact 925-768-5662

1026 Oak Street, Suite 102, Clayton
website: jorfineartgallery.com
email: joreillyfineartgallery@gmail.com

Native West

Solo Exhibition

August 2 through November 2

Reception: Saturday, August 2 4-6 p.m.

Featuring TERRY HUGHES

Dual Exhibits at Jor Fine Arts Gallery

Two new exhibits begin in August at Jor Fine Arts Gallery in Clayton and will continue through November 2. Native West is a Solo Exhibit featuring artist Terry Hughes. Hughes was raised in Pleasant Hill, with a lifetime passion for art. He obtained a degree in fine arts at Chico State and taught art at College Park. He is an imaginative artist whose has evolved through a variety of disciplines from ceramics to paintings exploring his talents in plein air, and large-scale works.

Seasons of splendor is a co-op exhibit featuring 38 artists with works in a variety of mediums. Both exhibits will open with an



Boris Buffalo, Terry Hughes



Happy Day, Nancy Hartley

artists' reception on Saturday, August 2, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Located at 1025 Oak St. Suite 102.



True or False?

The Biggest Home Selling Myths

When it comes to selling a home, myths abound. To help clear the air, we are breaking down common beliefs sellers hold and revealing whether they're true or false.

1. "I should price my home high to leave room for negotiation." False

This is one of the most persistent seller myths. While it sounds strategic, overpricing can actually hurt your sale. Buyers and their agents are savvy and will often skip over overpriced listings entirely.

Pricing right based on market comparables attracts more attention and often leads to stronger offers.

2. "Spring is the best time to sell a home." — True (mostly)

Spring is traditionally a hot time for real estate, thanks to nicer weather, curb appeal, and families wanting to move before the new school year. However, in today's market, serious buyers are active year-round, and low inventory can make off-season listings shine.

3. "I don't need to make repairs, buyers can take it as-is." — False

While "as-is" sales do happen, most buyers expect basic systems (HVAC, plumbing, roof) to be in working order. Skipping repairs could shrink your buyer pool or lower your offers.

Truth: Taking care of key repairs before listing can help you sell faster and for more money.

4. "Open houses sell homes." — True, partially

Open houses can increase exposure, foot traffic and generate a buzz, but rarely sell

homes directly. Online listing, photos, and pricing are more critical.

5. "I'll make back every dollar I spend on renovations." — False

Don't expect a dollar-for-dollar return from renovating your home. Expensive upgrades such as full kitchen overhauls don't recoup their costs at resale. Focus on high-impact, cost-effective updates like painting, lighting, landscaping, and minor fixes.

6. "All real estate agents are the same." — False

Experience, negotiation skill, marketing savvy, and local expertise vary widely from one agent to another. The right agent knows how to price strategically, market aggressively, and handle the emotional rollercoaster of selling your home.

Interview multiple agents, ask for a marketing plan, and check recent results in your neighborhood.

7. "It's better to wait until interest rates drop before selling." — Mostly False


While lower interest rates can bring more buyers into the market, waiting is a gamble. If rates drop, inventory may spike, meaning more competition for you. If rates go higher, buyers' purchasing power shrinks. Timing the market is tricky.

Focus on your personal timeline and goals. Work with a knowledgeable real estate professional who can help separate fact from fiction and position your home for success.

Compliments of VirtualResults.net



CA Lic #FD1006

OUIMET BROS.  CONCORD FUNERAL CHAPEL
Burial | Cremation | Catering

*Providing funeral home, burial, and
cremation services for
Concord for over 60 years.
Our friendly and professional staff is
at your service - 24/7.*

Call Us: 925-682-4242

Keith Collins - Managing Partner
Founders
John & Sharon Ouimet
Don & Bea Ouimet

4125 Clayton Road
Concord
925-682-4242
fax 925-6682-4281

ouimetbrothers.com

Celebrating 30 Years as Alpine Pastry and Cakes



by David King

Time has flown by for Gabriela and Ernst Freitag, who are marking 30 years since taking ownership of Alpine Pastry & Cakes, one of Concord's most beloved bakeries. To celebrate the milestone, the couple is inviting the community to join in a sweet celebration on August 1, with complimentary coffee, cake samples, cookie giveaways, and a cake raffle.

Gabriela and Ernst first began working at Alpine in the early 1980s and took over the business in 1995. After rebranding it as Alpine Pastry & Cakes, they continued the bakery's tradition of crafting high-quality, European-style pastries while also adding new and creative confections to their offerings.

Originally founded in the late 1960s, Alpine has long been part of Concord's culinary fabric. Its first shop opened in the Terminal Shopping Center on Clayton Road near the Concord BART station. At one point, there were three Alpine locations, including stores one in Pittsburg, and the other at Four Corners (now the site of Walgreens).

In 2016, the Freitags relocated the bakery to its current location at 1848

Willow Pass Road in downtown Concord. The business has faced its share of challenges—smoke damage from the 2018 Renaissance Apartments fire next door, economic ups and downs, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic—but Alpine has remained a successful fixture of the community.

Gabriela credits their loyal customers and dedicated team for the shop's continued success.

"We could have never reached this milestone without the support of our incredible customers throughout the years and all of our fantastic team members," she said. "Thank you for being part of the journey."

In addition to the August 1 celebration, Alpine will offer nostalgic pastries for the next two weeks, including the Matterhorn, Figure 8 Danish, and Butterhorn.

As Concord continues to grow and evolve, Alpine Pastry & Cakes stands as a delicious reminder of the city's sweet traditions—and the people who keep them alive. alpinepastry.com



From the top: Alpine's 1848 Willow Pass location, 2018 Renaissance Apartments fire, Clayton Rd. location, Matterhorn pastry.

Vallejo Candy Shop Named Finalist for National Grand Confection Award



Liled's owner James Holland showing off his Finalist Award at the National Confectioners Convention in June, 2025.

Liled's Candy Kitchen of Vallejo has been named a finalist for the prestigious Grand Confection Award by Retail

Confectioners International (RCI). The honor was announced at RCI's Annual Convention in Covington, Kentucky, June 16–19, 2025.

Owned by James Holland and Jose Chavez since 2021, Liled's wowed judges with their Strawberry Cheesecake Meltaway. Entries were judged anonymously on taste, creativity, presentation, and quality.

Liled's Candy Kitchen, founded in 1936 by Lil and Ed Jensen, remains a cherished name in sweets. Holland, who also works as Supervisor at the Martinez Amtrak station, continues the tradition with a modern twist.

Locals can find Liled's confections at pop-up events or visit the shop at 1318 Tennessee St., Vallejo. From chocolates to freeze-dried treats, it's a nostalgic stop for candy lovers of all ages. liledscandykitchen.com



Former employees and now owners, Gabriela and husband Ernst purchased Alpine in 1995. Center and Right: Alpine Pastry and Coffee Shop store in the circa 1980's.



Rotary's Four Way Test Guides the Course

by Edi Birsan, Concordian

Echoing at the start of every meeting of Rotary Clubs in the County is the Four Way Test of the things we say and do:

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

This was developed as an ethical guide for a Rotarian's business some 80+ years ago and then adopted by Rotary, the largest worldwide secular service group with 1.2 million members among more than 33,000 clubs.

As Mayor in 2018 I used this as an outline to describe the things going on in the State of the City (*) speech.

It is also the verbal background that propels Rotarians to stand shoulder to shoulder worldwide to end Polio through over 30 years of effort with only Pakistan and Afghanistan as the remaining places of wild Polio. International efforts are a hallmark of the Rotary Clubs in Concord with projects from building a medical clinic in Uganda, a village concrete project in Mexico and an orphanage and chicken farm in Ethiopia.

Rotary has a dedication to support literacy and the providing books to help people find the truth of things. Locally the clubs support the library here with children's book donations.

"Is it fair to all concerned?" can be seen in action locally in the mobile medical clinic in the Monument Corridor Thursdays at Cambridge Elementary. They treat anyone without insurance as part of 11 free clinics under the service name of RotaCare with Rotarians providing the doctors and nurses. Just in Concord the RotaCare services have kept several hundred residents out of the emergency rooms.

Locally, the spirit of goodwill and better friendships can be found at places like Markham Park where the Gazebo was a product of the Concord Diablo Rotary Club of which I am a member, nearby is a trail and archway built by the

Concord Clayton Valley Sunrise Rotary Club. The second-floor computer room at Monument Crisis

Center was spearheaded by the oldest club: The Rotary Club of Concord.

"Beneficial to all concerned" is seen in such international projects as a combination of a three-village water well project in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) that relieved the children from carrying water, time-consuming work of hours each day, which then led to the building of school.

Amongst the great things about Rotary is that it is a group of folks who are working their hearts out to make the world a better place and to put before themselves not only service to the community but a genuine effort to meet the challenges of the Four Way Test.

Find your friendly neighborhood club at: <https://my.rotary.org/en/club-search>. Or write to me for information on the three Concord clubs.

Opinions expressed here are of Rotarian Edi Birsan, EdiBirsan@gmail.com. *by the way, the State of the City of Concord is California, and that is the truth.



The Bud Hansen Wisteria Arbor is located near the main entrance to the International Garden at Markham Park, a project sponsored by Rotary Club of Concord/Diablo in 2002.



For the Love of Pets

by Jill Hedgecock, Jillhedgecock.com



CLEAR THE SHELTERS

Clear the Shelters Event Helps One Million Pets and Counting

In August, the nationwide "Clear the Shelters" campaign will be in its eleventh year. Since 2015, "Clear the Shelters" has helped over 1.1 million pets find forever homes. While mostly dogs and cats are adopted out during the event, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs and birds have also found forever homes. During the campaign, pets' adoption fees may be waived or reduced at participating organizations.

Be aware of the adoption requirements for a given shelter or rescue organization before visiting. In many cases a valid Driver's License, California ID card, or other photo identification is required. Often, adopters must be at least 18 years old. Payment for any adoption fees (if applicable) can vary. A completed Adoption Questionnaire is usually required. Many shelters require all household members to be present. Others may require an adult and any children in the household who are twelve years and under to be present to meet the pet.

Locally, Joybound People & Pets, located at 2890 Mitchell Drive in Walnut Creek, the East Bay SPCA (8323 Baldwin Street, Oakland), and the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society (2700 Ninth Street, Berkeley) are participating this year. Visit their websites to find your new best friend.

If you adopt a shelter animal, do not forget to follow the 3-3-3 rule. The first three days should be as quiet as possible to allow the pet to adjust to their new surroundings. The focus of the next three weeks should be on training and bonding. The first three months should include continued socialization and training.

If taking on the responsibility of a new pet is not right for you, consider making a donation. Clear the Shelters acts as a central donation and adoption hub for hundreds of shelters and Humane Societies around the country, funneling 100% of donations to adoption organizations.

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.cleartheshelters.com. Another way to participate is to share the event on your social media accounts. Be sure to include #cleartheshelters in your posts. Your outreach may help a follower find their forever furry or feathered friend.

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



Neuroplasticity

by Jessica Raaum Foster, NeurologyofPresence.com

There's a quiet myth that slips into our bones- that as we age, we are meant to soften, slow down, step aside. That power, in all its forms, belongs to the young.

But here's the truth: power isn't a privilege of youth. It's a practice —and one we can continue, refine, and even reclaim as we grow older through our bodies.

Most people think of strength training as a way to sculpt muscle. And sure, that has its place. But what really matters isn't just how much muscle you have—it's how smart that muscle is. What's often overlooked is the neural component of

strength: the brain's ability to send clear, fast, efficient signals to your body to move, stabilize, and react. This is called neural drive, and it determines everything from how quickly you catch your balance to how fast you process information under pressure.

Big muscles don't guarantee that. But targeted, intelligent training does.

If you've ever stood up quickly and felt wobbly, tried to lift a suitcase and felt your spine protest, or hesitated during a quick turn, that's not just aging. That's your nervous system asking for support.

Training power the ability to produce force quickly can change that. Lifting heavy weights (yes, even just one rep), practicing movements that require speed and precision, and training balance and reaction time not only build bone density and joint resilience, but it also improves your brain. Your focus. Your clarity. Your presence.

There's a common belief that aging means losing relevance or influence. But often, that decline follows the body, not the other way around.

This isn't about becoming a

bodybuilder. It is about becoming someone who can carry groceries in one trip, play hard with your grandkids, stay sharp in meetings, and respond to life's demands without hesitation or injury.

We don't stop being powerful because we age. We stop being powerful when we stop training for it.

If you've been told to take it easy, maybe it's time to take it seriously instead. Your power is not gone. It's just waiting to be reignited.



Training Power Keeps You Sharp, Capable, and Fully Alive

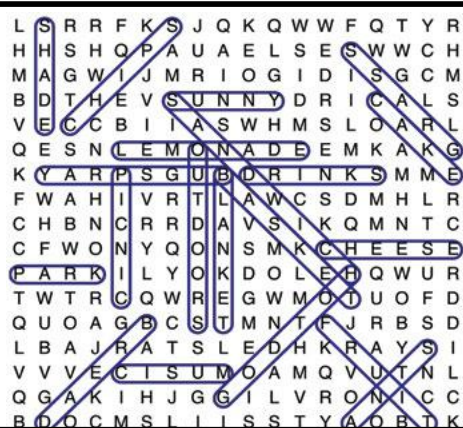
Puzzle Solutions

FROM PAGE 6

Word Scrambles Solutions:

- SAND
- WAVES
- SEASHELL
- TOWEL
- LIFEGUARD

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



CRYPTOGRAM

"WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE GOING AGAINST YOU, REMEMBER THAT THE AIRPLANE TAKES OFF AGAINST THE WIND, NOT WITH IT."
—HENRY FORD

Subscribe

Diablo Gazette

Delivered to Your Mailbox

(925) 298-9990



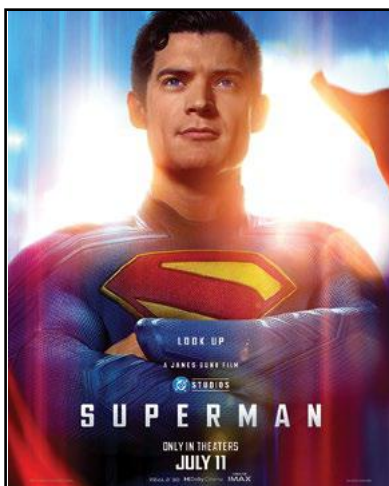
Superman

Sequels and remakes typically fill the summer movie scene, and 2025 is no exception. From zombies to dinosaurs, this summer is filled with previously successful franchises, and the DC Universe has jumped in with an updated "Superman."

Donning the cape this time is David Corenswet, who not only looks the part, but gives the audience a more approachable hero. Superman does not have all the answers, and although he is confident in his abilities, he begins to question his mission on Earth.

The film takes an unusual angle by approaching Superman's origins as an immigrant story. It is a way to connect with a well-known character in a different way, making it a good choice. If you are not willing to do something different, why bother remaking the movie in the first place? The impact of social media also plays an important role in this thoroughly modern rendition of Superman.

There is a fresh take on all the characters. Rachel Brosnahan as Lois Lane brings a toughness to the role. No damsel in distress here. She will go into the trenches with her superhero



boyfriend. The sweet-faced Nicholas Hoult is an interesting choice for Lex Luthor. While he does not have a menacing physical presence, Hoult imbues him with an underlying creepiness. Even Jimmy Olsen (Skyler Gisondo) gets more of a fleshed-out story arc.

Fans of the HBO show "Barry" will enjoy seeing fan favorite Anthony Carrigan in the physically unrecognizable role of Metamorpho. He brings a complexity to

the role which is not easy to do under all that makeup.

While the characters and storyline are compelling, this is still a blockbuster superhero film and it does not disappoint. There are plenty of explosions, robots, weird creatures and extended fight scenes to satisfy action-seeking viewers. There is also the addition of Krypto the Superdog, who provides comic relief and adorableness.

This is a worthy remake that will inevitably spark future follow-ups. Stay through all the credits to get an entertaining snippet. Although the scene is not an Easter egg for future plot points, it is worth staying a few extra minutes.

Todd Wheat

Plumber/Owner

(925) 765-5266

grizzlybearplumbing@gmail.com

grizzlybearplumbing.com



General Plumbing, Drain Cleaning, Water Heater, Gas Lines, Water Lines, Sewer Inspections, Earthquake Shut Off Valves, Leaks

CA C-35 Lic 1100358 Licensed, Bonded, and Insured

LeafFilter

GUTTER PROTECTION

2025 Summer Home Protection Event!

End Cleaning Out Gutters!

Zero Clogged Gutters Guaranteed

LIFETIME TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY



Promo Code: 285

CALL 877-702-0348 FOR A FREE INSPECTION!

Limited time only!*

Bonus offer!*

75% OFF + \$250

Installation

Discount

*\$250 discount (no cash value) is for same-day signing only. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotion or offer. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. *See representative for full warranty details. See website for all license and registration numbers. AR 366920925, AZ ROC 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC.0671520, DC 4.20223E+11, FL CBC056678, IA C127230, ID RCE-51604, LA 559544, MA 213292, MD MHIC111225, MI262300331, 262300330, 262300329, 262300328, 262300318, 262300173, MN IR810524, MT 2661922, ND 47304, NE 50145-24, 50145-23, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, NV 86990, OR 218294, PA PA179643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, VT 174.0000871, WA LEAFFLH-763PG, WI No. 537-DCFRR WV WV056



Bay Area Wildlife: An Irreverent Guide

"Bay Area Wildlife: An Irreverent Guide" (HeyDay, 2024, paperback, 384 pages, \$27.53) by Jeff Miller is one-part field guide, one-part fun facts, one-part colorful illustrations, and one-part humorous anecdotes.

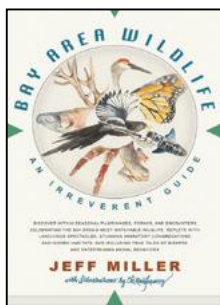
It is above all a comprehensive almanac of Bay Area's local terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. The tips on the appropriate seasons, where, and how to best find and observe more than sixty species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects in this area make this book an invaluable tool for birders and other wildlife enthusiasts.

In addition, the guide concludes with a list of Bay Area Wildlife festivals, volunteer opportunities for Bay Area conservation projects, and ways to share wildlife sightings.

The book opens with an introduction on how to use the guide. The opening line sets the tone for the quirkiness of this book. "Psssst, join us here at the campfire, we're telling wild stories about wild animals, seeking deeper ecological truths."

This is not a dry, fact-spewing, field guide. Each animal is given an amusing nickname. The peregrine falcon is called "a screaming death parrot", a great white shark is "devil's teeth", and a condor is a "thunderbird back from the brink."

Each category animal also has a silly moniker. Mammals are "Stuff with Fur", birds are "Feathered Dinosaurs", marine mammals are "Blubber Fest", and invertebrates are "Spineless Creepy Crawlies."



Some of the tidbits I learned include that killer whales are not whales, but oversized dolphins, and monarch butterflies can fly 100 miles a day. Baby porcupines are called porcupettes, and the mother and young are collectively called a prickly. Most people

believe that the cheetah is the fastest mammal, able to achieve 75 miles per hour, but the Mexican free-tailed bat can fly up to a whopping 99 miles per hour.

Illustrations were created by Obi Kaufmann, the renowned conservationist artist who provided the visuals for "The California Field Atlas."

In addition, photos and maps of where to find the animals round out the value of "The Bay Area Wildlife Guide." Places to observe "watchable wildlife" in Contra Costa County can be found on page 347.

Jeff Miller is the founder of the Alameda Creek Alliance. He also works with the Center for Biological Diversity on media, outreach, writing endangered species listing petitions. He works on biodiversity issues and endangered species protection throughout California. www.irreverentnaturalist.com.

Can you Spare 3 Hours to Give Rides to Seniors and Veterans?



Mobility Matters is a nonprofit agency that serves homebound seniors and veterans.



Volunteer drivers are needed to escort members to medical appointments and grocery shopping.
925-284-2215 www.mobilitymatterscc.com

Mixologists to Compete in Annual Martinez Martini Shake-Off

Who makes the best martini? Find out on September 13, 2025, in Martinez for the 15th Annual Martini Shake Off Gala. Mixologists, space is limited and time is running out. If you think you have discovered the secret formula for the best Martini, then enter your team Online at Martinezmartini.com. Then let the people decide.



Attendees become the judges. This elegant semi-formal event honors the birthplace of the martini, Martinez. In addition to tasting some creative mixology, there will be live music, a catered dinner, and a silent auction. This is best Gala in East Bay and sells out every year. Tickets to attend are available Online at martinezmartini.com or call the Martinez Chamber of Commerce at 925-228-2345.

The Martini Story

There is some dispute over the martini's discovery.

In a nutshell, in 1849, a goldminer struck it rich and was headed to San Francisco before arriving in Martinez along the way. He walked into a bar to order champagne, which the bar did not have. The bartender instead mixed a special drink that he called the "Martinez Special." The miner loved it, then went to San Francisco.

He shared the recipe with a bartender there and told him it was called the "Martinez Special." The bartender liked the drink and passed

it on. The name eventually evolved to Martini.

There are several versions of this story as well as others claiming to have invented the cocktail, including the city of San Francisco.

This has created a stir. But Martinez is not shaken by their dirty tale. Most references agree, the birthright belongs to Martinez.

Here's how this competition works:

Purchase your ticket. You must be 21 or over. You will receive a token when you check-in at the event.

Saunter about from station to station to sample each glorious martini. Use your token to vote for your favorite Martini. Each participant has a token collection bin at their station for you to cast your vote.

When judging think about the taste, creativity/mixology, and presentation.

Please be safe and drink responsibly.

The Martini Shake-Off Gala is on September 13, at 603 Marina Vista, Martinez.

Council Moves Forward on Waterfront Revitalization Plan

by Tony Hicks, Local News Matters



Martinez Marina and waterfront revitalization area in its current state. (City of Martinez via Bay City News)

The Martinez city council voted unanimously to enter negotiations to strike an exclusive development agreement with San Diego-based development firm Tucker Sadler Architects to revitalize the city's waterfront. The plan presented July 16 included at least three hotels, a large amphitheater with a bandshell, a waterside restaurant, retail stores, a boat storage facility, a boat launch, a small sand beach, a new seawall and boat docks, pickleball courts, pedestrian walkways, a parking structure, and room for ferry service. There could also be an indoor/outdoor swim facility.

The idea is to make the waterfront a regional draw with music festivals, fishing tournaments, boating, and sporting tournaments at nearby fields. The marina would connect nearby downtown with the waterfront into a destination rivaling others in the Bay Area like Sausalito.

"If we can draw people into Martinez by having a ferry system, it will be more successful to Martinez, to our waterfront, to our downtown, everything that is in the future of Martinez," said Greg Mueller, CEO and design principal of Tucker Sadler.

Tucker Sadler would be the developer,

operator and long-term lease holder to the city, which holds the land in trust. Of the site's 70 acres, Mueller said his company would only be developing about 22 acres.

the process will be long and residents will have plenty of input along the way. The necessary approvals, plan-shaping, environmental reports, and construction itself would likely take at least five to seven years.

The city has for years discussed redeveloping the shoreline area. Since fiscal year 2021-22, the city has spent \$1.7 million in general fund reserves to cover marina needs. The 2025-26 budget includes a \$560,000 loan to help cover the marina's operating shortfall, bringing the amount of loans the city has made covering marina expenses to \$1.05 million by the end of this fiscal year.

The city said in a report it expects to loan the marina about \$650,000 annually moving forward, contributing to expected budget deficits that could mean layoffs.

"To do nothing is going to be devastating to the city," said Councilmember Greg Young. "The trajectory that we're going now is putting money into a marina that is not sustainable."

Pine Meadow Park Opens to Rave Reviews

by Craig Lazzeretti, Martinez News and Views

A more-than-decade-long saga that featured political and legal battles ended amid the laughter of children as city officials cut the ribbon on Martinez's newest park, Pine Meadow, on July 3.

Mayor Brianne Zorn said during the park opening, standing in front of a new playground filled with children. "I hope the sound of laughing children is the only thing we'll remember."

The odyssey of Pine Meadow began more than a decade ago when the former golf course that occupied the site closed, setting off a years-long battle over whether the land should be opened to residential development or preserved as open space. The issue was finally reached in 2019 that provided for a 65-home development and roughly 8-acre park.

Still, years passed before ground was finally broken on the first phase of the park last July. That phase includes access points and pathways through the open space areas of the park, a nature trail, landscaping, accessible parking, recreational turf areas, and site amenities such as an all-abilities playground, restroom, picnic area and tables.

Councilwoman Debbie McKillop acknowledged the Dean family, who had owned the Pine Meadow land for over 100 years, praising their history of "giving to the community."

Tim Platt, who led the group of residents who fought the open space battle at Pine Meadow, told the crowd this latest addition to Martinez's open space and park system illustrates why Martinez is the "envy of communities around us." He praised the 300 volunteers who worked "shoulder to shoulder" starting in 2014 to make the park a reality, calling the effort an "example of how everyday citizens can make a big impact on our environment."

While the Pine Meadow master plan ultimately envisions future improvements to the site, that will depend on additional funding becoming available. Much of the funding for Phase 1, which had a total approved budget of roughly \$2.7 million, came by way of American Rescue Act Plan Act (ARPA) funds that have now been depleted.





August Community Events

<p>Follow Us on Social Media for more!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>More event details at www.cityofmartinez.org/events</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Full City Council Calendar www.cityofmartinez.org/meetings</p> </div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/01 Music on Main / First Friday Downtown 8/05 National Night Out 8/06 Bike & Play Family Bike Series 8/08 Movies in the Park: TMNT Mutant Mayhem 8/10 Open Air Market 8/14 Main Street Thursday Car Show 8/15-17 Alhambra Decades Reunion 8/16 Golden State Outrigger's Sugar Run 8/17 Art in the Park 8/23 FREE Compost Giveaway 8/30 Volunteer Community Cleanup: Amtrak Stn
--	--

Every Wed Picnic in the Plaza

Every Wknd Aire Libre Weekends (Del Cielo B.)

Every Sun Downtown Farmers' Market

Around Martinez



A Public-Private Partnership at the Marina is a Good Opportunity

by Brianne Zorn, Mayor, City of Martinez

For the next several months, and likely years, a public-private partnership at the Martinez Marina is going to be the topic of conversation all over town. I hope that you too will start to see how this opportunity has the potential to be an excellent move for the City of Martinez and why the Martinez City Council is proceeding with evaluating whether this is the right partnership for our city.

To cut straight to the chase: The City is now in preliminary negotiations with an experienced architectural design and development firm that could privately fund the construction of modern facilities that will connect Martinez to its waterfront, restore the deteriorating marina, and maximize the public benefits and economic potential of these unique community assets.

A Little History

Martinez city council, residents, staff—literally everyone—have been talking about our “hidden gem” of a marina for decades.

The land at the Martinez waterfront is a complicated mix of ownership and leasing. Our marina and associated upland development (such as the yacht club, dog park, former amphitheater, and parking lots) sit on land owned by the state agency California State Lands (CSL) and are entrusted to the City of Martinez through a lease. Any development that occurs on these leased lands needs to be approved by CSL, and they expect land development to have both a local and regional benefit.

In 2024, the Trust Lands Use Plan (TLUP) was finalized and approved. While the TLUP outlined a plan for improvements and elements at the marina, there was no plan of how to pay for it.

Much of the marina’s critical infrastructure has outlived its useful life and requires extensive repair or complete replacement. Sections of docks, the bait shop, amphitheater, and restaurant have already been closed due to facility degradation and safety concerns. Accelerating sediment accretion in the marina, substantially reducing the impact of the \$1 million dredge program.

The Status Quo at Our Marina is Unsustainable

During the budget process this past spring, City staff conveyed the dire financial circumstances at the marina to Council. Over the past five years, the City has spent \$1.7 million out of its General Fund to pay for urgent marina needs. Subsidies for the marina will increase to \$650,000 annually and create long-range budget deficits for City services. This amount is just to keep operations going and doesn’t go beyond basic upkeep. The do nothing alternative is not an option.

A pivotal moment occurred in June 2024 when the City’s marina management partner, Almar Management, submitted a 60-day notice to terminate its contract after almost 20 years. The City assumed direct control of the marina on an interim basis in August 2024. This abrupt transition enabled the City to gain an understanding of the marina’s true condition. In November 2024, the City Council approved a two-year contract with F3 Marina to manage operations. The City, in partnership with F3 Marina, continues to address key safety issues and improve boat, pedestrian and vehicular access in and around the marina.

During this outreach process, most of the

operators and developers declined interest, noting its deteriorating condition and that the TLUP did not include enough revenue-generating activities to make it attractive to developers.

However, Safe Harbor Marinas, the largest owner and operator of marinas in the United States, expressed initial interest and undertook a preliminary pro forma analysis to assess feasibility. Their findings concluded that in essence, the TLUP, as adopted, would not be sufficient to support a public-private partnership with Safe Harbor Marinas or their development partners, unless the City would be open to re-envisioning the plan for the marina.

What is the Proposal?



Tucker Sadler presents to a packed house” Photo credit: Eve Kearney

Safe Harbor Marinas’ architecture and land development partner Tucker Sadler has over 60 years of experience in the implementation of complex public and private waterfront development projects. Tucker Sadler developed an initial vision for the Martinez Marina to transform 22 acres of parking lots and aging facilities into a vibrant, connected waterfront destination featuring boating, recreation, entertainment, shopping, dining, and hotel lodging.

Their proven track record in securing approvals, attracting investment, and expertise in working with regulatory agencies positions them well to help Martinez create a balanced, feasible plan.

Tucker Sadler presented their preliminary concept to City Council in a closed session. To align with our commitment to transparency, we recommended proceeding directly to a Council meeting so we could begin engaging the community in discussions about this opportunity. Tucker Sadler presented their vision at a public meeting on July 16, 2025.

Why a Public-Private Partnership?

Public-Private Partnerships are a proven tool used by cities to transform spaces that attract tourists and support revenue generation. The advantages of a public private partnership include:

- Private funding with no up-front costs or financial risk to the City;
- City retains control of land and constructed facilities;
- City retains authority to review and approve proposed plans and projects; and
- City benefits from investments made in the form of new facilities, increased spending, and tax revenue.

But what about the TLUP?

Our community made clear which amenities they wanted to see as part of the adopted plan. The TLUP served as the foundation for initial outreach to marina managers and developers with the aim of



A map graphic showing the Martinez Marina and waterfront revitalization area with proposed improvements. The Martinez Waterfront encompasses 135 acres along the Carquinez Strait, portions of which have been held in trust by the city on behalf of the State of California since 1851. It includes the 70-acre Marina, which currently includes a public launch ramp, a fishing pier, 332 boat slips, a park, open spaces, and marine-related businesses. An additional 65 acres of trust lands, managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and leased to the city, currently offer baseball fields, bocce courts, trails, and a horse arena. Adjacent to this, there are more EBRPD open spaces and parks, all of which are frequently used for public recreation. (City of Martinez via Bay City News)

identifying a partner who could help the City build what it had envisioned in its plan.

Based on initial review of the vision, some members of our community voiced concern that the aesthetics may not align with what we want to see for Martinez. I had similar thoughts.

However, it must be noted that if negotiations are successful, I have confidence that the key elements and amenities that were highlighted in the TLUP can be incorporated into the final project plan as part of a robust public process.

Further, if the development agreement is approved, the project design will also go through design review with the Planning Commission.

Where are We in the Process?

We are very early in the process. City Council has directed staff to negotiate with Tucker Sadler over terms for an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA), anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. An ENA outlines preliminary terms, roles, responsibilities, and milestones for negotiations. While it commits both parties to good faith negotiations, it does not obligate either side to enter into a final agreement.

There is currently no approved project or plan; there is only a broad vision and commitment to determine whether a public-private partnership with Tucker Sadler is viable to revitalize the waterfront and marina.

It is premature to discuss any specific project elements or financial terms at this stage. We are cautiously optimistic: refining the vision, conducting environmental studies, and negotiating a Development Agreement will take time and careful consideration.

Our priority is Martinez and the Martinez community. If this ultimately isn’t going to be a good fit for Martinez, we have numerous offramps to stop the process and walk away.

This Opportunity is a Good Thing

Economic studies have shown that Martinez needs more people for economic success: our businesses need more foot traffic, larger businesses require a denser population, and developers build housing where there is a demand. Successful implementation of this project has potential to fulfill this need.

Our community has for decades asked for improvements and investments at the marina, and in our downtown, but we have struggled with attracting investors. Here, we are presented with someone who is reaching out to INVEST in Martinez.

The proposal includes key components: no City subsidy needed, improvements will be funded through private investment, and a transparent public process will occur during the development planning phase (if negotiations are successful).

Members of our community, previous Councilmembers included, have voiced their preferred alternative of simply closing the marina in its entirety. However, that is not our path.

Your City Council is committed to investing in the marina and making it the “gem” of the East Bay that all previous councils have lauded.

If this project is completed, it could generate significant job opportunities, increase the flow of visitors to Martinez and the downtown core, and generate significant new General Fund revenue. This project is a generational opportunity to revitalize the waterfront and activate the marina. We owe it to ourselves and our community to explore this proposal.

Stay Informed

For more information and to sign up for updates, please see the dedicated webpage on Martinez Marina and Waterfront Revitalization: <https://www.cityofmartinez.org/marinaproject>

If you have questions, please submit them to: ekearney@cityofmartinez.org. As questions come in, they will be compiled and posted on this dedicated page.

“If this ultimately isn’t going to be a good fit for Martinez, we have numerous offramps to stop the process and walk away.”

Welch Family Reunion

by David King, Publisher



Welch family members, from left to right, Karen Welch Richardson, Ross Welch, William "Bill" Welch VI, Suzie Sparks, and Eric Welch march in the Fourth of July parade in Martinez.

As mentioned in the July issue of Diablo Gazette, Steve and Genene Welch of the William Welch Winery in Martinez continue to unearth and celebrate a legacy deeply rooted in Central Contra Costa County's earliest history. Their family heritage is not only rich in winemaking but is intricately tied to some of the most prominent families that shaped the region.

The Welch lineage traces directly back to William Welch I and Maria Antonia Galindo y Briones, and William Welch II and Maria Felipa Soto y Bernal—names that echo through generations

of California's early settlers. These ancestors are directly connected to historic families such as Salvia Pacheco, Ignacio Martinez, Galindo, Vallejo, Moraga, Patrick and Mary Rodgers, and many more. The Galindo, Briones, Soto, and Bernal families were among those who arrived with the De Anza Expedition in 1776 and later helped settle Pueblo San Jose.

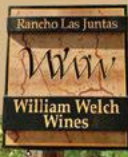
The Rancho Las Juntas vineyard, home to the William Welch Winery, sits on lands granted during California's rancho era—land that

holds the stories of those very pioneers. While these connections were once common knowledge in the region, much of that storytelling has faded over time.


Now, Steve and Genene are working passionately to revive that forgotten history, hosting family gatherings and sharing the




Welch family enjoys the afternoon on the patio at the Las Ranchos Vineyard and Tasting Room.



EXPLORE OUR HISTORIC WINES
Two Fabulous Tasting Rooms in Martinez



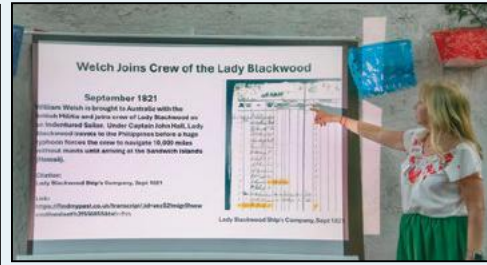
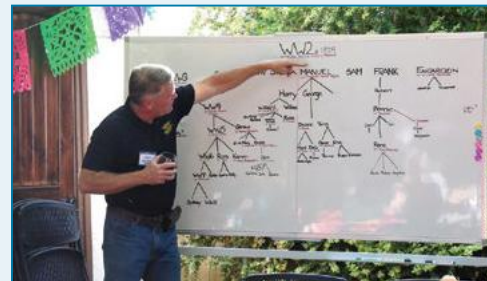
Mention this Ad to get 20% off 2 bottles of wine



RANCHO LAS JUNTAS VINEYARD & TASTING ROOM
OPEN SUN. 2-5 P.M. 1830 FRANKLIN CANYON ROAD,
837 MAIN STREET, MARTINEZ • (925) 228-2659
Open Fri 4-7 pm, Sat. 1-7 pm • www.WILLIAMWELCHWINES.com

lineage that ties them to nearly every prominent early Californian family. During a recent family reunion, 28 guests gathered at the winery to trace their roots, sip estate wines on the patio, and participate in Martinez's Fourth of July parade.

For the Welch family and the region alike, it was more than a celebration—it was a homecoming.



From Back Row: Mark Welch, Steve Welch, Eric Welch. 3rd Row: Denise Andrewson, Genene Welch, Bob Venegas, William Welch VI, Deborah Morley, Jeff Morley, Nicole Baptista, Tammi Welch. 2nd Row: Judie Filomeo, Suzie Sparks, Karen Richardson, Victoria Welch, Susan Welch, Eileen Welch, Karen Bennett 1st Row: Ross Welch, Kevin Richardson, Alanis Lara

ART & WINE



Art & Wine Festival

AUG. 10 4-8 p.m.
628 2nd Ave.
CROCKETT, CA



www.eventbrite.com