

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

**MOURNING**  
*Ruby*  
The Zipper Nose Doberman

Charles Lindsey and Ruby aka Ruby Dooby Do .

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Farewell: World Mourns Concord's Ruby Dooby Do. pg. 20**
- Claiming the Employee Retention Tax Credit, Here's How pg.2**
- Relaxation of Barriers for ADU Construction Bringing Success pg.6**
- Meet the Clayton City Council Candidates pg. 5**
- Calendar, movie, book reviews and much, more**

PSRST STD  
 ECRWSS  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 EDDM RETAIL

Local  
 Postal Customer

**Perry's Knife and Tactical**  
 The County's Largest Cutlery Store



**Knife Sharpening!**

**3 for \$15.00!**

With this ad, maximum value \$28  
 Single Knives \$7 - \$11 each.  
 One coupon per customer.

**925-270-3812**

1815 Broadway St.  
 Concord, CA

[www.knifeandtactical.com](http://www.knifeandtactical.com)



FOR CONCORD CITY COUNCIL

**LAURA NAKAMURA**



**It's Time for Change.**  
 Let's work together to  
 make smart, sustainable  
 decisions for our future  
 right now.

**Concord is home.**

[LauraForConcordCityCouncil.com](http://LauraForConcordCityCouncil.com)

# Businesses Underutilizing Employee Retention Credit (ERC)

## At \$26,000 per Employee, Thousands at Stake

There are several government programs to help business recover from the strain of Covid-19 pandemic economic shut down. One such program is the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program. This is a tax credit designed to bolster those businesses that were able to retain employees during this period.

Due to the extremely complex tax code and qualifications, it is severely underutilized. However, it would be well worth the effort to see if your business qualifies for this generous stimulus program. In some cases, it may result in a surprising windfall. The program is taken according to payroll taxes paid and not on income taxes. This means that ERC funds not applied towards owed payroll taxes are treated as an 'over deposit' of taxes that you will need to request as a refund check from the IRS.

While an accountant can do this work, CPAs generally do not do payroll.

Payroll companies could also be an option, but they tend to not be pro-active about it. We spoke to an ERC trained specialist at one of the largest payroll companies, Paychex. While they do have a department prepared to process such claims, clients need to come forward and request the service. According to them, it is not something they reach out to their clients to discuss.

There are companies that specialize in this service for a fee and have made it as painless an IRS filing can be. Fees may vary between such companies, but most earn after you have received your refund. Some will offer a discounted fee for

advance payment. Fees range from 10% of credit in advanced to 15% for full fee at time of credit.

We asked about the advance fee policy with, Silvio Dobrovat of Concord, an affiliate of ERC Specialists, "If for any reason IRS does not release the credit claimed, ERC Specialists guarantees a full refund of any advance payment." This is also explained on a local affiliate website. [www.ERCspecialists.us](http://www.ERCspecialists.us).

This is not a lending program. Tax refunds are issued by the US Treasury. Therefore, all eligible employers will receive the funds due and properly claimed. You will need to be patient to receive your money. IRS documentation says the refund can take as much as 20 weeks.

While the general qualifications for the ERC program seem simple, the interpretation of each qualification is complex. Specifically, the program addresses the period from 2020 through 3rd quarter of 2021. The program will credit up to \$26,000 per employee for businesses up to 500 employees that meet some important qualifications. Here are the basics.

Did your business experience a full or partial suspension of business operations? Had a government authority required partial or full shutdown of your business during 2020 or 2021. This includes your operations being limited by commerce, inability to travel, or restrictions of group meetings. Or did you experience gross receipts reduction

	2020	2021 Q1 & Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4
Time Period	March 13, 2020 - December 31, 2020	Q1 2021 & Q2 2021 Respectively	Q3 2021	N/A
Credit Rate	50%	70%		N/A
Max Credit per Employee	\$5,000 Per Year	\$7,000 Per Quarter		N/A
Small Employer	100 full time employees and less in 2019	500 full time employees and less in 2019		N/A
Revenue Qualifier	50% Gross Receipts Decline vs 2019 same quarter	20% Gross Receipts Decline vs 2019 or 2020 same or prior quarter. Employers that did not exist in 2019 can use 2020 revenue numbers.		N/A
Partial or Full Suspension Qualifier	The operation of a trade or business is partially suspended if a government authority imposes restrictions on the employer's operations by limiting commerce, travel, or group meetings due to COVID-19 such that the employer can still continue, but not all of its typical operations.			N/A
Governmental Orgs	None	Public colleges, universities, organizations whose principal purpose is providing medical or hospital care, certain federal instrumentalities like credit unions		N/A
Recovery Startup Business	None		Businesses beginning operations after Feb 15, 2020 qualify regardless of revenue or shutdown orders. Max \$50,000 per quarter	
Can claim PPP & ERC		Yes		

ERC Summary Table. Graph courtesy of ERCSpecialists.com

within the stated period? Gross receipt reduction criteria are different for 2020 and 2021 but are measured against the current quarter as compared to 2019 pre-COVID amounts.

The complexity of the program is explained on ERC specialists' website in simple terminology. However, they also offer a link to the IRS page if you prefer to read actual tax code language.

"Businesses need to go through the process. One local tree service here in Concord qualified for more than a \$250,000 credit! He absolutely was completely surprised," Dobrovat says.

Most employers, including colleges, universities, hospitals and 501(c) organizations could qualify for the credit. Previously, the Consolidated Appropriations Act expanded qualifications to include businesses who took a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), including borrowers from the initial round of PPP who originally were ineligible to claim the

tax credit. The credit can only be taken on wages that are not forgiven or expected to be forgiven under PPP.

This can be delineated once you fill out the qualification forms, which you can do online. You will need your payroll tax records to complete the form. You can determine a preliminary estimate by simply looking at your payroll taxes paid for all qualifying wages for the six quarters for each of your employees Q1 2020 to Q3 2021.

The Summary Table graphic can help be a road map to determining the credit you can claim as rules changed over this period. Businesses have until 2024 to do a look back on their payroll during the pandemic and retroactively claim the credit by filing an amended tax return, but with a looming recession most businesses need the credit much sooner.

**We Maximize ERC Funding for Small Businesses**  
Receive Up to \$26,000 per **EMPLOYEE**



**SILVIO DOBROVAT**  
ERC Specialist



Nationwide  
925-383-8163  
[silvio@ercspecialists.us](mailto:silvio@ercspecialists.us)  
[www.ercspecialists.us](http://www.ercspecialists.us)



**On November 8, Vote for Debora Allen**  
for Contra Costa Supervisor

**Bold | Experienced | Independent**

**Bold leader** for Contra Costa County, with proven results in fiscal oversight and accountability to taxpayers.

**Experienced** in finance, budgeting, regional housing, transportation, homelessness and public safety issues.

**Independent voice** for working families.

Paid for by Debora Allen for Supervisor  
2022, FPPC ID #1442964

**Learn more at [CommonSense4CoCo.com](http://CommonSense4CoCo.com)**



**KIM FOR CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL**  
*Leadership You Can Trust*

**My Priorities:**

- ✓ Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Improved Landscaping & Maintenance
- ✓ Economic Vitality
- ✓ Leadership You Can Trust

To learn more about Kim Trupiano and her campaign, visit her at [www.KimforClayton.com](http://www.KimforClayton.com) or follow her on [Facebook@KimforClayton](https://www.facebook.com/KimforClayton).

**KIM TRUPIANO**  
FOR CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL  
*Leadership You Can Trust*  
[www.KimForClayton.com](http://www.KimForClayton.com)

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Kim Trupiano for Clayton City Council 2022 • FPPC ID # Pending



## Community Partnerships Are Growing Concord's Popularity

Have you heard? Concord has been declared the happiest city in the United States! (If that is news to you, see the story on page 10).

I would like to think there is a strong reason for this. Hopefully, it will translate into some added visitors and revenue to our community.

Sometimes, it's good to just stop and take some needed time to reflect on the change of pace and priorities in the hospitality and media marketing world around me. What really gets me excited? What makes me come back to do more?

We start with building and growing a trusted network of supportive allies. Shared marketing programs allowed Visit Concord to get right back into the field and accelerate hospitality and tourism recovery based on collaboration, thoughtfulness, and building a better, or should I say "happy" community together.

Campaigns such as the Taco Trail, Comfort Food Week, Creative Concord Mural Project, and the Concord Jazz Festival all had a larger presence in the regional and state marketplace as our partners shared content and a mutual message to engage potential visitors and spark their interest in our community.

We cannot dismiss the importance of our young, up-and-coming generation, who keep us on our toes – in a good way. Did you know these GenZers take up

32% of the population and control \$360 billion in buying power? Even better, they love to travel with an eye for unique experiences. They harbor concern about the environmental impact of travel and are attentive to sustainability, and flexible travel options (Think Amtrak).

Visit Concord's partnerships with Sustainable Contra Costa, Save Mt. Diablo and Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (to name a few) help define Concord as we bring you sustainability campaigns and sensory training programs.

And there's you. I feel joy everyday as I walk into the Concord Visitor Center and can chat with residents and visitors who come to explore their very own visitor information center. It is located in the heart of downtown inside Salvio Pacheco Square, open Monday – Friday, 10 am – 4 pm.

So how well do you know Concord? I invite you to come in and find photos and view videos on Concord's rich history, gaze at Concord Art Association murals and paintings, pick up trail maps and pamphlets on Mt. Diablo and the surrounding hills and waterfronts, gather information on booking hotels rooms, learn of current campaigns, and walk away with some fun Concord merchandise. Concordopoly, anyone?

See you soon. [www.VisitConcordCA.com](http://www.VisitConcordCA.com) 925-685-1182

**It's HOT!  
BUT THIS SALE IS  
HOTTER!**

**LABOR DAY  
SALE**

**UP TO 35% OFF**

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

**DISCOUNTED SPECIALS,  
OVERSTOCK AND CLOSE OUTS**

**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.



**McCurlley's**  
Carpets • Hardwood • Laminate • Stone

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

Email: [info@macfloor.com](mailto:info@macfloor.com)  
**www.MacFloor.com**

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



**SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2022**

Concord's Ultimate Taco Adventure is FREE and Easy!

**SIGN UP NOW - VISITCONCORDCA.COM**



SCAN ME



## Is This Another Housing Market Bubble?

The U.S. housing market continues to make the news daily fomenting concerns about a potential housing market bubble – or even a crash. Nobody wants to revisit what happened during the 2007 housing market crash and recession. So, it is not surprising that experts are carefully looking at today's market for signs of a bubble. There is concern, but there are key differences between 2022 and 2007.

Home prices have skyrocketed over the last two years. This mirrors some of the housing market activity we witnessed 15 years ago before the housing market crash. While some experts have sounded the alarm about a potential bubble, not all experts agree we are in bubble territory because of major differences between then and now.

The first key difference is that, unlike 15 years ago, we have a low inventory of homes for sale. Between the years 2007 and 2010, there were too many homes on the market. This was primarily because of foreclosures and short sales that caused prices to fall dramatically. But for the last two years (and even before the pandemic began), we have not had enough homes for sale to meet demand. Prices are going up because of high demand. Even though higher interest rates have cooled the market, most experts do not anticipate a sudden drop in home values, especially in highly desirable markets.

The second key difference is that standards in mortgage lending have dramatically changed since the housing market crashed in 2007. Back then, lenders had very loose restrictions and almost anyone could qualify for a mortgage, whether they could afford it or not. But that is not the case today. Lenders have tightened their restrictions. Those risky loans no longer exist, and most homeowners have fixed-rate loans to prevent monthly payments from suddenly surging. It is very unlikely that the housing market will suddenly see a wave of short sales and foreclosures like it did 15 years ago.

While there is no consensus yet on whether we are in a housing market bubble, most experts seem to think that we will not see anything like what we saw in 2007. At that time, shady loans lead to ballooning payments. This resulted in defaults and foreclosures on a large scale, flooding the market with inventory. This happened at the same time as a downturn in the economy, so there were not enough people to purchase those homes. Currently, there are many more buyers out there than there are homes for sale and foreclosures are unlikely. We may see a drop in home prices as the market cools, but it is likely we will be spared a crash like we had in 2007.

Compliments of virtualresults.net

# 12 Month Certificate

# 2.00%\* APY

## Rates Are Climbing

Be sure to check our website often at [safeamerica.com](http://safeamerica.com) for current rates and offers.



**SafeAmerica**  
Credit Union  
[safeamerica.com](http://safeamerica.com)



AMERICAN SHARE INSURANCE  
Your savings insured to \$500,000 per account. By member this institution is not federally insured, or insured by any state government.

\*APY (Annual Percentage Yield) subject to change without notice. See website for details.

### YOU DESERVE *PERSONAL SERVICE!* LET US HELP YOU

WITH YOUR HOME BUYING OR SELLING NEEDS!



**Custom Built Ranch Home** nestled in the foothills of Mt. Diablo on 6+ acres with spectacular views! Main house is 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1955sf with updated kitchen and downstairs primary bedroom. Property offers two additional guest houses. City water!



**Desirable Crystl Ranch Home** on a court location with resort style backyard! 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, approx. 3583sf on an approx. .37 acre lot with an attached 3 car garage! Backyard oasis features inground freeform pool w/cascading waterfall & slide.



**Fantastic "Larson Model" in Windmill Canyon at Oakhurst Country Club!** 4 beds, 3 baths, approx. 2467sf on approx. .18 acre lot. Attached 2-car garage. Main level bedroom with updated bath! Spacious primary bedroom with double door entry and semi-vaulted ceiling and sitting area with views.



**Charming Dana Hills Single Story Rancher** at the end of the court near greenbelt! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, approx. 2255sf on approx. .25 acre lot with inside laundry room and an attached 2-car garage! Separate Junior Suite features bedroom & full bath!



6160 Center St., Suite E  
Clayton, California



[jenstojanovich@yahoo.com](mailto:jenstojanovich@yahoo.com)  
**Jennifer Stojanovich**  
Broker  
(925)672-4433  
925-567-6170 - cell  
Cal DRE #01446062  
[www.jenniferstojanovich.com](http://www.jenniferstojanovich.com)

**George Vujnovich**  
Broker  
(925) 672-4433  
925-348-5700 - cell  
Cal DRE #00711036



## Clayton Student's Safety a Top Priority

Summer is over and it is Back to School time. Clayton children of all ages have returned to their classrooms and Clayton and Ygnacio Valley Roads are once again packed with commuters and parents trying to get their children to class on time.

The Clayton City Council has a history of supporting our local schools and promoting safety. We are actively engaged with our local principals, staff and parents and listen to their requests for assistance. As Councilmembers we have funded Crossing Guards at Mt. Diablo Elementary School. We have also funded and installed an interactive electronic "signal ahead" sign and authorized the diagonal re-stripping at the intersection of Clayton Road and Marsh Creek at the Diablo View Middle School.

The City is currently working with Mt. Diablo Elementary School staff and the Clayton Police Department to assess

new traffic movement restrictions and signage during school pick-up and drop-off time periods to improve traffic flow and safety for our children. This will be brought to the City Council for review at a future meeting.

As a Council member, I represent Clayton on the Central Contra Costa County transportation planning committee (TRANSPAC), and we are very aware of the increased traffic that flows through Clayton during commute hours. Council representatives to TRANSPAC and other regional committees must continue to press for traffic safety and efficiency improvements to keep our citizens and students safe during school hours resulting from the east county commute.

As mayor this past year, I had the pleasure of reviewing annual safety plans prepared by the principal and staff for both our elementary and middle schools. I attended a meeting/

safety planning session with the Mt. Diablo Elementary School principal and staff who impressed me with their thought and efforts. Our Clayton Police Department works closely with school staff to review their site safety plans and protocols. Clayton's key priority is to ensure the overall safety of our children throughout the school year (and beyond) both on and off school campuses.

In the wake of the tragic national school shooting events, members of the Clayton Police Department completed additional training in intruder / active shooter response and are available to local school principals and staff to augment their safety preparation. Similarly, during times of heightened local and national stress related to other school incidents or potential threats, Clayton police make their calming, on-campus presence visible to parents and staff.

This year marks 12 years that the Clayton City Council partners with our local schools to promote our city motto "Do the Right Thing" (DTRT). During the school year, the Council DTRT committee works with the principals and teachers to recognize local students exhibiting one of the seven character traits: responsibility, respect, kindness, self-discipline, integrity, courage, and inclusion. Students are selected by their teachers who personally share about how their student embodies the selected character trait. It is always a joy to recognize our young residents and realize just how bright our future is. Look for a presentation for the character traits "inclusion and courage" at our next city council meeting on September 20th.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions about anything Clayton, at [peterc@claytonca.gov](mailto:peterc@claytonca.gov), or (925) 673-7320.

## Meet the Clayton City Council Candidates



Jeff Wan

I am incredibly grateful to the people of Clayton who have allowed me to serve as their Councilmember over the last four years. I am an active CPA working in private industry, the Treasurer of my small HOA, an East Bay native, and a Clayton resident for the past 13 years.

It has been a great experience meeting and talking to folks around town and doing my best to represent my fellow Claytonians. While I am only one of five Councilmembers, I'm proud to have shepherded quality of life improvements at Regency and Rialto, improvements to traffic and pedestrian safety near our schools, and helped increase transparency in communications and community engagement.

I am running for re-election to ensure the Council listens to the residents they represent and to preserve the character and charm of our city. We need strong organizational leadership for Clayton to continue to be a wonderful place to live and raise a family.



Bridget Billeter

I am running for city council because I want to help foster cooperation, increase efficiency, and unify the past, present, and future visions of Clayton.

My goals are to utilize my unique perspective of the old and the new to meet our challenges as a team, to streamline city operations to keep the city fiscally responsible, and to come together to enact a vision embodying the best of Clayton.

I have been a government employee for almost 25 years.

I grew up on the border of Clayton near Pine Hollow and spent my entire youth with my friends in Clayton. I graduated from Clayton Valley High School. I am a member of the Clayton Valley Academic and Athletic Halls of Fame. I moved back to Clayton with my husband and children 18 years ago. Both our sons graduated from Clayton Valley Charter High School.

I am an attorney I attended UCSD undergrad and Berkeley School of Law for law school. Website: [billeter4claytoncitycouncil.com](http://billeter4claytoncitycouncil.com)

Email: [billeter4claytoncitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:billeter4claytoncitycouncil@gmail.com)



Kim Trupiano

My primary objective for running for Council is to move the City towards fiscal responsibility in order to maintain the quality of life that we all enjoy in Clayton.

I am currently involved with a number of business and civic organizations including the East Bay Leadership Council (Board of Directors), Diablo Valley College Business Advisory Board, CBCA, Save Mount Diablo and Soroptimist International of Diablo Vista.

I also earned a spot on the East Bay Leadership Council's "Build the Bench" candidate training program several years ago and have worked on a number of campaigns since then.

I am a small business owner, specializing in strategic marketing and development and I have over a decade of experience working for a REIT.

My expertise in all of these fields makes me uniquely qualified for Clayton City Council. I earned a Bachelor's Degree from Seton Hall University in 1982.



Ed Miller

Living in Clayton for nearly 20 years, my wife and I have grown to love this community and are thrilled to be raising our three kids here.

I see the opportunities we share as well as the challenges that we face together, as citizens of this unique community.

I have served Clayton through many local committees and organizations, including as vice-chairman of the Planning Commission, chair of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee, a den leader of Cub Scout Pack 262, an assistant Scoutmaster of Scout Troop 317, referee for AYSO soccer, and a volunteer at numerous activities as a CBCA member and for local schools.

Clayton deserves independent leadership that will reunite every group in our community to see past differences and work together to preserve and build upon the safety, natural beauty, harmony, and small-town charm we all love, expect, and deserve.

We can do it if we restore the public trust on all sides by working transparently, as non-partisans, and as teammates rather than competing factions, for the benefit of all residents.

### What do you feel are the most important issues facing Clayton? See full interview Online at [www.Diablogazette.com](http://www.Diablogazette.com)

Fiscal sustainability is the City's biggest issue and its most difficult challenge. Our costs are increasing faster than our revenues and it is not sustainable. Our city operations are not efficient and staff turnover makes the challenge more difficult. We need to prioritize what is most important and execute those things as effectively and efficiently as possible. We need strong leadership to guide those decisions in order to maintain and preserve our city as a great place to live and raise a family.

The most important issues are ensuring that new development is consistent with the city's character, preserving the city's fiscal sustainability, and fostering increased community engagement.

**[The complete interview is available on the digital copy of this edition on page 21. Learn their vision on housing, meeting budgets, city maintenance, and more. To read, go to [diablogazette.com](http://diablogazette.com). The interview will also be posted separately on the website.]**

A lack of strong leadership and the need to improve maintenance and landscaping, along with improved fiscal responsibility and accurate financial reporting to the residents of this community.

*[Miller did not submit responses to our questions, and instead referred us to his website, which we extracted this potential answer, which we also did for the statement above.]*

Clayton deserves independent leadership that will reunite every group in our community to see past differences and work together to preserve and build upon the safety, natural beauty, harmony, and small-town charm we all love, expect, and deserve.

# CLAYCORD NEWS & TALK

## In case you missed it...

### Westlake Ace Hardware Opening Soon In Pleasant Hill

Westlake Ace Hardware has signed a lease agreement to reopen the Ace Hardware in the same building as the former Bill's Ace Hardware, 1530 Contra Costa Blvd.

A soft opening is tentatively scheduled for late October of this year.

The new store will "serve local needs and have national brands," according to Tim Wilson, District Manager. 20 associates will work at the new store with an emphasis on hiring locally.

Westlake Ace has been in business for 117 years and currently owns and operates 151 stores in 12 states.

### Concord City Council Approves Purchase of 65 License Plate Reading Cameras for Police Department

In the council meeting on August 23, the Concord City Council unanimously approved spending up to \$789,187 for 65 license plate-reading cameras and accompanying software around the city, with the information gathered from the cameras controlled by the police department.

Most East Bay law enforcement departments already use similar systems, and the council made obtaining one a "tier 2 priority" back in April.

Flock Safety's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) System that analyzes vehicle license plates, state affiliation, and vehicle attributes such as color, type, make and objects (roof rack, bumper stickers, etc.) based on image analytics, not car registration data.

According to a staff report, the cameras run off solar and the technology allows for identification despite partial, missing, temporary or covered plates, and cameras can be installed almost anywhere.

The city wants the system to create a citywide ALPR system and add significant investigative options to help solve and deter crime.

The city's contract is for 24 months and can be renewed for another 24 months. The system will be ready for use in three to six months.

### ConFire Reopens Fire Station 4 In Walnut Creek



Good news, Walnut Creek! Fire station 4 on Hawthorne Drive reopened on Monday Aug. 29.

ConFire says Fire Station 4 will be staffed by a standard three-person fire engine crew consisting of a fire captain, engineer, and firefighter. Three such crews will serve at the station on rotating 48-hour shifts.

One member of each crew will be a paramedic allowing provision of ALS, or Advanced Life Support, emergency medical services from their engine, which is the ConFire standard across the district.

The engine will be well-equipped for EMS responses, in addition to firefighting. In many respects it is a rolling emergency room equipped with the latest mobile medical technology, medical supplies, and medications, to immediately treat a wide range of medical emergencies, according to Public Information Officer Steve Hill.

### Seattle Mariners Draft Acalanes Graduate

Congratulations to Acalanes graduate Stefan Raeth, the right-handed pitcher was selected in the 17th round by the Seattle Mariners. Said Raeth's father Thomas, "It was fantastic to see him drafted." As for Stefan, he said "I'm thankful for the opportunity and hopefully it will all work out. I just want to find ways to get better." - *Lamorinda Weekly*.

### Concord Library Closes Temporarily for Repairs

**CONCORD LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED**

**Monday, August 29 through Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

Concord Library at 2900 Salvio St. will be closed through Tuesday, September 27, due to a construction project. Primarily funded by Measure V, this project includes complete roof replacement, as well as replacement of shingles, substrate, downspouts, trim, gutter, and painting. Book drops will not be available during the closure.

You may return items to other nearby library branches or just wait until the Concord Library reopens on September 28th. The library is fine free, so books returned after the due date will not be charged daily fines. Visit [cclib.org/contact-us](http://cclib.org/contact-us) for account help or questions about holds.

### Contra Costa Supervisors Approve \$2.2M Settlement in Discrimination Suit Against District Attorney's Office

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors has approved a \$2.2 million settlement in the lawsuit brought by multiple prosecutors against the county and its District Attorney's Office.

Filed by Mary Blumberg, Alison Chandler, Jill Henderson, Mary Knox, and Rachel Piersig in District Attorney Diana Becton's office, the plaintiffs alleged that under Becton's leadership, not enough was done to promote women in the office, women were discriminated against because of their age, and more female representation was needed.

Blumberg, Henderson, Knox, and Piersig are still employed by the District Attorney's Office, according to DA's office spokesperson Ted Asregadoo. Chandler left county employment in February.

The settlement includes costs and attorneys' fees. Asregadoo said in a statement Thursday that the settlement resolves all claims and includes a dismissal of the lawsuit.

"The county felt this was the best approach to allow the district attorney's office to move forward," the statement said.

Knox ran against Becton for her district attorney post and lost in June's election.

*Articles have been abridged and updated from their original August posts which can be found at [claycord.com](http://claycord.com).*

## ADU Construction Starts Gaining Momentum Amid Policy Changes

There have been a lot of ADU\*-friendly laws passed over the past several years, and the growth of ADU applications, Issued Permits, and Finaled (Completed) construction has been exponential.

Permit activity overall in Concord the past two years has been about 20-30% higher than 2019-20 years and before, but ADU applications are climbing at significantly higher rates according to Concord Planning Division

Limit the ability of homeowner associations to restrict the rental or leasing of ADUs by allowing at least 25 percent or more in the development.

Any local ADU regulations that conflict with State law are since rendered null and void and the State ADU Laws mandate local jurisdictions apply State law unless and until the local jurisdiction adopts a compliant ordinance.

To streamline local construction of

No. of Building Permits (ALL ADU's)								
FY								
Status	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Applied	4	6	12	24	23	38	44	70
Issued	3	3	12	22	20	19	34	36
Finaled	1	2	5	10	19	13	22	22

No. of Building Permits (Detached ADU's)								
FY								
Status	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Applied	2	1	7	15	7	26	21	41
Issued	2	1	7	13	9	9	15	15
Finaled	1	1	1	6	11	6	10	9

No. of Building Permits (Attached ADU's)								
FY								



One of 60 pre-approved plans for ADU construction

This is due to State law changes and local efforts to streamline and lower the barrier to new construction.

ADUs may be constructed in the following methods:

- 1) attached to the primary residence;
- 2) conversion of interior space within the primary residence (including attached garages);
- 3) detached or separate from the primary residence;
- 4) conversion of an accessory structure or garage.

Recent State ADU Law changes over the past few years provide the following:

Impose restrictions on local jurisdictions' ability to regulate ADUs by mandating State-wide standards;

Streamline the approval process by requiring a ministerial (i.e., non-discretionary) approval for ADUs that comply with the standards;

Decrease the cost for property owners to establish ADUs by reducing utility and impact fees;

ADUs, the City of Concord Design Review Board has pre-approved 60 prototype plans, each of varying floorplans, elevations, etc, that will expedite the permitting process.

\*ADU is an accessory dwelling unit.

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY**

**\$500 OFF\*** OR **No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months\*\***

Military & Senior Discounts Available

OFFER EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

**CALL NOW! (833) 961-0844**

**BCI BATH & SHOWER**

Includes product and labor, bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 9/30/2022. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2022 BCI Acrylic Inc.



*pair up!*  
By Maria Terry,  
Sommelier

## Carnitas Mexicanas

Mexican food is perfect for the fall. It utilizes the last of the summer's fresh vegetables while offering some warming spice. To combat the spice in the food, you need to choose a beverage that is slightly sweet and has lots of fruit flavor.

Sangria is a dynamite solution. Below is a sangria recipe based on proportions. This way you can make up just enough for one or two or serve a crowd. It is also a great way to use up a bottle of wine that has been left open just a little too long. Change the color of the wine or the fruit you add, and the final taste is completely different.

For white wine sangria, add fresh pears or peaches and serve it with a Mexican Caesar Salad. My favorite is the recipe from El Torito. The verdant cilantro, mild cotija and crunchy pepitas give it a unique spin.

For red wine Sangria, use fruits like raspberries, blackberries, and plums it will work nicely with my mother-in-law's delicious Baja Bean Pasta Salad and the Carnitas Mexicanas recipe shown below.

After the bold flavors of the meal, bring out a Cardamom Mango Custard. It is light and slightly exotic. Serve with a large pitcher of ice cold still or sparkling water with fresh sliced strawberries and lightly crushed basil leaves floating on top.

So, go on. Pair Up!

*Maria Terry is a Certified Sommelier and Wine Educator in the Northern California. [www.LaSommelierre.com](http://www.LaSommelierre.com)*

### Sangria



**INGREDIENTS**  
3 parts red, pink or white wine  
1 part soda water  
1 part lemon, lime and/or orange juice  
1/2 part sugar  
1/2 part brandy (opt.)  
Fruit to float on top

#### DIRECTIONS

Mix all ingredients except soda water early in day or the night before. If you can throw in some fresh slices of oranges and lemons (peel on), the flavors will be even more intense. Add the soda water and fresh fruit just before serving.

### El Torito Mexican Caesar Salad

#### INGREDIENTS

**Salad:**  
1 large head romaine lettuce  
1/4 cup shelled pepita seeds (pumpkin seeds)  
1/4 cup cotija cheese, grated  
3-4 plum tomatoes

#### Dressing:

1 small bunch cilantro, stemmed  
2 tablespoons diced green chiles, roasted  
3 tbsp roasted pepitas or sunflower seeds  
1 garlic clove, peeled  
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
6 ounces salad oil  
1/8 cup red wine vinegar  
2 1/2 tablespoons grated cotija cheese  
3/4 cup mayonnaise  
1/8 cup water

#### DIRECTIONS

Place all dressing ingredients except cilantro, mayonnaise and water in a

blender or food processor. Blend approximately 10 seconds, and then add cilantro little by little until blended smooth. Depending on size of blender, it may be necessary to do in batches.

Place mayonnaise and water in a large stainless steel bowl, and mix with a wire whip until smooth. Add the blended ingredients to the mayonnaise mixture, and mix thoroughly. Place in an airtight container and refrigerate and it will keep for three to seven days.

Yield: 6 servings with extra dressing

### Betty's Baja Bean Pasta Salad

#### INGREDIENTS

**Salad:**  
12 oz. tri-colored rotelle pasta  
15 oz. can black beans  
6 oz. can or 3/4 cup cooked corn kernels  
2 1/2 oz. can sliced olives  
1 small jar of pimento  
1/2 red onion, chopped

**Dressing:**  
1/2 cup olive oil  
1/2 cup fresh lime juice  
1/2 bunch fresh cilantro, coarsely chopped  
2 tablespoons pickled jalapeño, diced  
2 cloves minced garlic  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
1 teaspoon salt  
Ground pepper to taste

#### DIRECTIONS

Cook pasta until just tender. Drain and combine with other salad ingredients in a LARGE bowl.

Combine dressing ingredients in a small bowl and then add to salad. Toss well.

Refrigeration blends and mellows flavors. Olive oil may solidify a bit in the refrigerator. Allow standing at room temperature for 15 minutes and toss to redistribute dressing before serving.

Yield: 10 servings

### Slow-Cooker Carnitas

#### INGREDIENTS

1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon crumbled dried oregano  
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 (4 pound) boneless pork shoulder roast  
2 bay leaves  
2 cups chicken broth

#### DIRECTIONS

Mix together salt, garlic powder, cumin, oregano, coriander, and cinnamon in a bowl. Coat pork with the spice mixture. Place the bay leaves in the bottom of a slow cooker and place the pork on top. Pour the chicken broth around the sides of the pork, being careful not to rinse off the spice mixture.

Cover and cook on Low until the pork shreds easily with a fork, about 10 hours. Turn the meat after it has cooked for 5 hours. When the pork is tender, remove from slow cooker, and shred with two forks. Use cooking liquid as needed to moisten the meat.

Yield: 10 servings



## Heirloom Apples - A Taste of History

By Deb Morris, PCFMA

The aroma of apple pie on a September day, the smooth flavor of homemade apple butter on toast, or a tempting square of apple cake can signal fall is on its way. There are 7,500 varieties of apples in existence throughout the world—2,500 of which are grown in the United States.

Of course, you are not going to find this many kinds in a grocery store, but you may be surprised at the seemingly endless selection of heirloom apples, most of which are relatively uncommon, at a farmers' market. Each apple brings its own history and interesting name.

After almost disappearing, older apple varieties, popular 50 to 100 years ago, have been making a comeback. Discerning farmers' market customers have learned to appreciate a delightfully sweet or tart heirloom apple over the waxed, shiny, often flavorless varieties that are available in the supermarkets. Each heirloom has a distinctive flavor profile, gorgeous skin color, and crisp bite that are sure to become favorites.

Many of the commercial apple varieties we see in grocery stores are hybrids, combining the favorite attributes of various heirlooms - namely, predictable traits of size, color, transportability, and storage life.

Heirlooms, on the other hand, are open pollinated and have been preserved and passed along for generations in their "pure" form. These heirlooms are particularly important for genetic diversity. Maintaining rich genetic diversity is essential for increased disease resistance, temperature hardiness, and for

preserving the species.

Today many apple growers have returned to growing heirlooms. Gravenstein apples, a variety named by the Danes, meaning "gray stone," was introduced to Northern California in the 19th century by Russian fur traders. It is one of most common heirloom apples and grows mostly in the Sebastopol area. The heritage Fuji and Pink Lady apples also have a long history. These apples, among others, were brought back from near extinction by local farmers who desired to save these older breeds.

Thick-skinned apples, because they hold their shape, tend to be good for baking whole. Try Fuji, Pink Lady, or Gala. You might find the early harvest Gravenstein apple, one of the true heirloom varieties still grown. They are good for apple sauce, cider, and just plain good eating. Tart apples are best for baking because their flavor holds up. Try Pippin, Granny Smith, Empire, or Rome.

Rainbow Orchards from Apple Hill in Camino offers quite a few varieties. J&J Ramos Farm and Lujan Farms from Hughson have nice varieties, and Cipponeri Farms from Turlock offer tasty apples as well. The different apples from these farmers range from the more common heirlooms like Pink Lady, Gala, and Fuji apples to the delicious Jonagold, Braeburn, Mohawk, Chieftain, and Heaven Sent.

This fall, branch out for a tastier fruit from the California farmers who bring them to you at a local farmers market.

### Cardamom Mango Custard



**INGREDIENTS**  
6 cardamom pods  
4 1/4 cups whole milk  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/3 cup cornstarch  
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom  
About 2 pounds ripe mango  
2 tablespoons ginger-flavored liqueur (optional)  
Fresh basil leaves

#### DIRECTIONS

Crack cardamom pods by gently pressing with a rolling pin. Combine with 4 cups milk in a 3- to 4-quart pan; stir occasionally over medium-high heat

until milk is boiling, 9 to 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix 1/4 cup sugar, the cornstarch, and the ground cardamom. Stir in remaining 1/4 cup milk. When milk in pan is boiling, remove from heat and gradually whisk in cornstarch mixture. Return to medium-low heat and stir just until mixture comes to a boil, 3 to 7 minutes. Pour through a fine strainer set over a bowl; discard residue. Ladle pudding into 6 to 8 small bowls or ramekins (3/4- to 1-cup capacity). Let cool about 10 minutes, then cover and chill until cold and set, at least 1 1/2 hours.

Pit and peel mango. Cut flesh into about 1-inch chunks (you need 2 cups). In a food processor or blender, combine 2 cups mango, remaining 1/4 cup sugar, and ginger liqueur if using; whirl just until mango is coarsely puréed (mixture should be slightly chunky). Cover and chill.

Just before serving, spoon all of the mango mixture evenly over puddings. Garnish with basil leaves.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

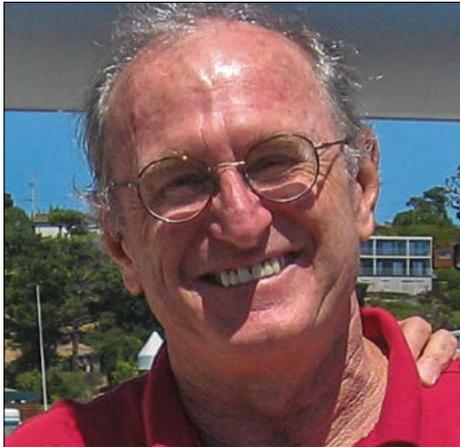
Note: This soft, cardamom-scented pudding refreshes and soothes chile-singed palates. Prepare through step 3 up to 1 day ahead; cover and chill.



## YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SHOES

by Michael Barrington, [www.mbwriter.net](http://www.mbwriter.net)

# The Worldly Adventures of Dr. Paul Freitas, MD



Dr. Paul Freitas, MD

On the 20th of August 1968 at five o'clock in the morning, Paul Freitas was awakened by the sounds of shouting in the streets and a black clad soldier with an automatic weapon burst through the door of his room. A second-year Russian language student in a program supported by the Defense Department, he was studying in Kiev, Ukraine, when Russia decided to invade Czechoslovakia. Over half a million Warsaw Pact troops invaded the country; Soviet tanks rolled through the narrow streets of Prague, crushing mostly student-led protests. The Soviets ordered all foreign students to leave the country. Forcibly taken and not knowing where he was going, he landed under escort in Eastern Ukraine, in Donetsk and from there he flew to Copenhagen.

As this gentle, bespectacled, soft-spoken man recounted his life story, I quickly learned that such an adventure was just part and parcel of this man's life. With hindsight, it was just another story to tell. Born in Michigan, he grew up loving the water, ships of all kinds, and travel. He learned to sail on the Great Lakes, captain a sailboat and later became a kayak expert. His father, a flight surgeon, moved with assignments and the family spent time in Cuba and Florida.

### Medicine was his passion

But medicine was his passion. After studying at Notre Dame University, the University of Michigan and at the Middlesex Hospital in London, where he described the operating room as set up like a theater with bleachers all around so that students could see the whole operation.

After exploring pediatrics, gynecology and radiology, he settled for the

adrenaline rush of the Emergency Room. He was one of the 40 doctors who were the first in the country to obtain a degree in Emergency Medicines. There were only two residency programs in the country. Finally arriving in the Bay Area, even you may have benefited from his services at SF General, Highland Hospital or John Muir. Early in his career he spent a great deal of his time on the road moving from hospital to hospital helping to set up new emergency departments.

### Always Seeking an Adventure

Dr. Freitas has always been a traveler, and with the spirit of an explorer, he was in the habit of just buying a cheap air ticket to some exotic place and then figuring out the rest of his unplanned itinerary once he arrived.

In Kathmandu he found the Sherpa Cooperative who helped him trek with his new wife 17,500 feet up the Annapurna range in Nepal with no real preparation.

In such a demanding profession as Emergency Medicine, stress frequently leads to early burn out. Dr. Freitas was lucky to be with a partnership that allowed him to take six months off after ten years of service, and six months again every five years afterwards.

He utilized his vacation time to do other things and frequently it was in joining a research team. On Easter Island he was a member of a group studying rock art.

In Sri Lanka, it was studying the behavior of monkeys.

In Costa Rica he followed Capucin monkeys through the jungle, recording all their daily movements.

In Uganda, it was the study of chimpanzees.

In New Mexico he participated in an archeological dig.

Deep in the Amazon jungle he helped measure caimans.

Cruising to 90 Countries in all seven Continents

But always a doctor, Dr. Freitas took a big break from the emergency room and became a doctor on a major cruise line. It suited his lifestyle perfectly since he could continue to travel, see new places, experience new cultures and even more importantly his wife could accompany him. He sailed all over Europe, the Nordic countries, the Mediterranean,

and all told, Dr. Freitas visited more than 90 countries and all seven continents.

He has sailed all over the arctic circle from the Norway fjords, to Iceland, from Greenland to the Svalbard Archipelago with its polar bears and amazing colonies of sea birds. But most incredibly, on much smaller ships he has been the ship's doctor on at least eight expeditions to Antarctica.

His eyes twinkle as he recounts the time he had to help rescue and take care of a passenger who had fallen into a crevasse. "It was amazing" he said. "Another passenger had heard strange sounds coming from a hole in the ground. It sounded like somebody was calling for help! But for hearing that small sound we might never have found that person."

"What would you say is the most dangerous part of the expedition," I asked.

"People not paying strict attention to the guidelines and directives of the leaders. People simply wanting to wander off and do their own thing."

### Among Extraordinary Company as Explorer Club Director

Throughout his own travels he has met many interesting people like the man Alan Nichols who bicycled the whole length of the Silk Road, storm chasers, deep-sea submersible pilots and even members of the crew from the Kon Tiki Expedition.

Closer to home Dr. Freitas is a director of the Northern California Chapter of the Explorer Club, founded in 1904 and boasts such esteemed members as Sir Edmund Hilary of Mt Everest fame, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong and Jane Goodall.

The Club's members include leaders in polar exploration, diving, aerospace exploration, archaeology, zoology, physics, oceanography, astronomy, ecology, geology, paleontology, conservation mountaineering, and speleology.

As a member and doctor, Dr. Freitas has taught survival techniques by taking potential expedition groups of up to twenty people to the top of Mount Diablo for simulated exercises. It could include how to manage and bring down a team member who has had a bad fall and broken a leg where there is no cell phone connectivity, and with no special or first aid materials on hand. He advises on what 'kit' to take on an expedition and how to be safe.

Some people lead amazing lives and reside among us. Now retired from medical work, but always ready to travel, Dr. Freitas lives with his wife Anna in Walnut Creek. A most adventurist physician.



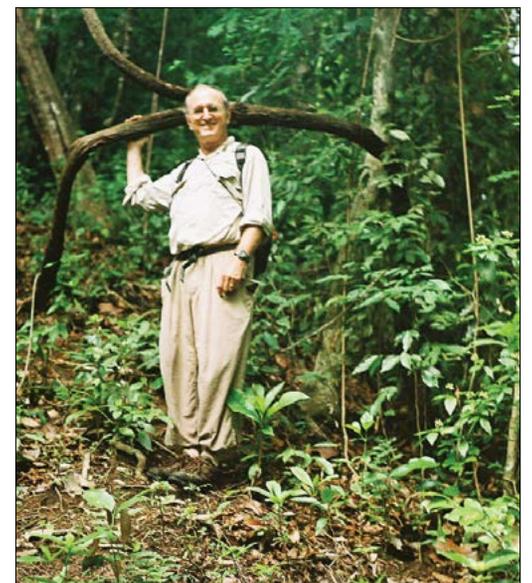
Greenland: Northern lights (aurora borealis)



Greenland: Navigating the ice.



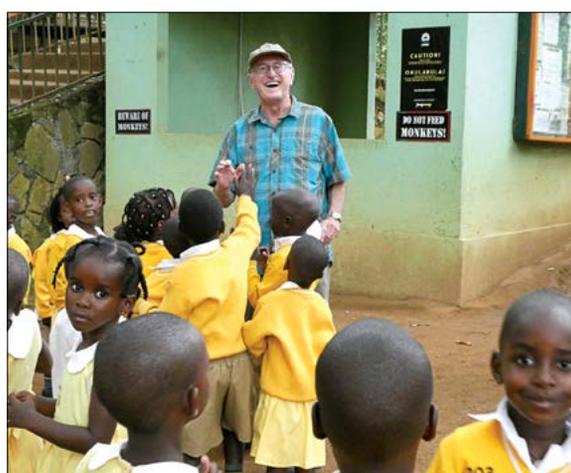
Greenland: Monitoring the Polar Plunge into icy waters.



Costa Rica: Following capuchins through the forest.



Amazon jungle: Measuring caiman for a research project.

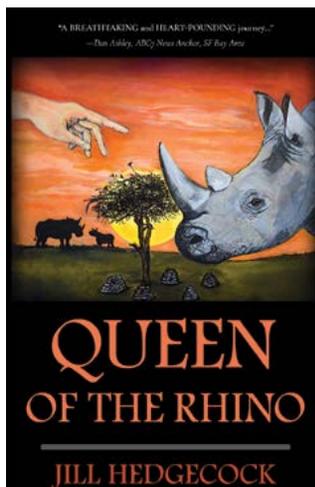


Uganda: A day off our research project in Uganda



Antartica: Communing with penguins on the beach.

## Jill Hedgecock Book Signing September 24



Reasonable Books presents "Writing from Life." Meet Jill Hedgecock an internationally-published author as she speaks about how her travels to South Africa, Kenya, and Rwanda inspired her to share her safari experiences and spread the word about the plight of rhinos.

Her debut novel, "Rhino in the Room", won a New Apple Literary Award.

The sequel, "Queen of the Rhino" draws from gorilla trekking and meeting the last two northern white rhinos on the planet.

San Francisco Chronicle columnist Kevin Fisher-Paulson will also present his latest book "How We Keep Spinning".

3:30pm to 5:00pm - book signing and refreshments. Reasonable Books is located at 3645 C Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

Read our "Bookends" book review of "Queen of the Rhino" on page 11.



Tech in English

The old saw, "if it's too good to be true – it isn't" may be accurate if you shop for a backup drive from Wal-Mart. According to Tom's Hardware\*, "That's the first thing that should go through your mind when you see a 30TB portable SSD selling for \$39 at Walmart. The drive is far from being one of the best SSDs - but it deserves a spot on everyone's blacklist [sic]."

In my opinion, this is not a situation of buyer beware, but rather, seller be stupid. What does Wal-Mart know, and when did they know it? For most of my shopping experiences, buying from Wal-Mart is usually a great deal, I absolutely love their return policy.

In this instance however, in my opinion, the corporate buyers that stock Wal-Mart shelves are out of their depths. Computer components are, to say the least, technical. Computers and their components are technically special and not every buyer knows this. Take this issue, for example, of the 30 Terabyte drive that isn't even close to the specifications. This is a perfect example of not knowing your stuff.

For 39 bucks, you get scammed – how fun. The drive isn't 30TB as advertised, nor 20TB nor even 1TB, it is a mere 1GB (1TB=1000GB). The fake 30TB drive is software hacked to report the wrong numbers. In addition, it will not retain any data sent to it. Send a file to the drive and it vanishes. Some backup, right? I do not think Wal-Mart did this intentionally, but I do believe they simply do not understand the computer market. Stay in your lane and stick to cloths, food and household gadgets.

# Wal-Mart Shoppers Scam

Here is my point, the computer business is no longer the purview of the hobby minded person, nor is it a DIY (do it

yourself) project, it is serious business and very technical. I believe it is always best to check with your local computer expert, or get a second opinion, before you begin buying computer components from anyone. We believe the lowest price should not be the first thing you consider when buying parts. Seriously, why try to save a few dollars on any component that is not right for you?

The first thing one should consider when shopping for components, printers, monitors, external backup devices, RAM or SSD's is how well will it function for you. The system you have now plus any replacement plans, should be pondered.

The second concern is how good the quality of support you receive for the product is. I am talking about calling the company for support, guidance and setup advice from someone who speaks English as a first language, located in the US and knows the product they sell.

After these considerations, question the value you receive. Value is the product, the support, the fitness to the task and the price. Now go do the right thing and ask for help from an expert.

\* Tom's Hardware lists ARS Technica as the source as their reference information. Tom's is the technical authority of all things computer. [www.tomshardware.com/](http://www.tomshardware.com/).



\$39 Walmart 30TB portable SSD -

## Get Back Up



### Computer Down?

Get Back-Up Fast with CUSA Care: Backups \$4.99/Mo.

Call Now, you know, before you need it. 925-672-9989 We do all the work. ComputersUSA is CUSA Care

Feel the Energy!  
**Metaphysical Supply Store**  
[aquarianeranewageshop.com](http://aquarianeranewageshop.com)



CRYSTALS, CANDLES, BOOKS, JEWELRY, MAGIC GIFTS AND MUCH MORE!

**AQUARIAN ERA**  
New Age Shop

925-270-3175

2803 Main Ave. Ste. A Concord  
12645 San Pablo Ave, Richmond

Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery

## FREE HOLIDAY REUSE GIVEAWAY

COME PICK UP GENTLY USED ITEMS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 • 9 AM TO 12 PM

555 CALIFORNIA ST, PITTSBURG

RE-SPOOK,  
RE-WEAR,  
RE-SCARE  
HALLOWEEN  
COSTUMES &  
DÉCOR



'TIS THE Season  
FOR DECORATIONS



## THE TOP 5 HAPPIEST CITIES in the US



Concord, California is America's happiest city with a happiness score of **79.14 out of 100**. Concord residents have plenty of reasons to be cheerful: an ideal climate, a vibrant community and two theme parks.

1	2	3	4	5
CONCORD, CA 79.14	PROVO, UT 74.95	KNOXVILLE, TN 74.72	CHARLESTON, SC 74.17	MESA, AZ 71.48

# Accept It, Concord is the Happiest City in the US

Original story By Janis Mara

Forget about leaving your heart in San Francisco. It turns out that Concord is America's happiest city - and the smiliest.

An analysis released by HouseFresh.com, a site focused on improving residential air quality, placed Concord in the Number One slot.

"The hometown of Tom Hanks is said to be a quiet and pleasant place to live: moderately wealthy, moderately liberal, and more affordable than similar cities nearby," according to the HouseFresh.com website, and who are we to quarrel with this flattering assessment?

The rating method was, er, interesting. It was based on how many people in each city or state in America were smiling in their Instagram selfies. Yes, really.

HouseFresh.com used Microsoft's

face recognition API known as Azure to analyze a database of Instagram selfies from each state, as well as the 100 biggest U.S. cities.

Somehow, this artificial intelligence could discern sincere smiles from the fake ones.

The locations were ranked by the percentage of people smiling. Apparently, 74.4 percent of the Concord residents had a grin above their chin.

Returning to the HouseFresh rankings, the top five below Concord were Provo, Utah; Knoxville, Tennessee; Charleston, South Carolina; and Mesa, Arizona. San Francisco came in 15th, quite a snub.

Regardless of the relative efficacy of this approach, we should just accept it. We are a happy group of people.

# Clayton Theatre Company Returns for 10th Anniversary

Clayton Theatre Company (CTC) will return this fall for its 10th anniversary season with the production of "Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits." And they are thrilled.

Their last performance, the musical production of "Young Frankenstein" closed on November 2, 2019, due to COVID restrictions.

"Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits" is a hilarious musical revue show that pays tribute to some of the theatre's greatest stars and songs from various iconic Broadway musicals.

"I wanted to pick a fun musical with songs that the audience would recognize. Let me clarify that last part. The melodic lines from the various musicals are intact but the lyrics have been hysterically altered. I want our audiences to come to our show, be entertained and laugh for two hours. We all need that after the last couple of years," said co-founder, Managing Director, and Director Roxanne Pardi. "We have an exceptionally talented cast and crew with

over 90 costume changes! Our costumer, Marisa Castaldini, has been hard at work since we cast the show in May."

Although many theatre companies had to shut down during Covid, the CTC Board has continued to meet monthly, pay its bills and keep "the lights on" for the company during the pandemic shut down.

As a nonprofit theatre company, CTC's future existence relies heavily on the support of donors and ticket sales.

The City of Clayton can look forward to having CTC back to producing two shows per year and offer Summer Stage Camp for kids ages 6-16.

"Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits" comes to Endeavor Hall, 6008 Center St., Clayton performs October 14-October 29. Ticket information is available at [ClaytonTheatreCompany.com](http://ClaytonTheatreCompany.com) or call 925-334-0880.



## Blue Devils Win Drum Corps Interantional (Dci) World Class National Championship!

To follow up last month's report on the Blue Devils' victory at Stanford, Concord's National pride and joy, the Blue Devils, have done it again. On August 11-14 in Indianapolis, Indiana, they completed their season undefeated by winning the DCI World Class National Championships at the Lucas Oil Stadium before 20,000 plus spectators on the 50th anniversary of the competition. This is the Blue Devils 20th National Championship.

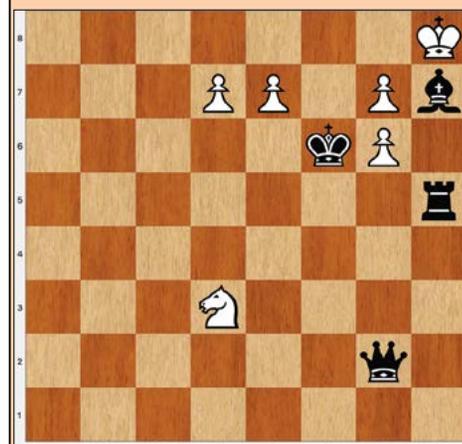
Congratulations!



## Chess with Yoo

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

White to play and draw.



Hint: You are not lost if your opponent cannot make progress. A position like that is called a "fortress" and can save what look to be lost positions.

SOLUTION:

1.e8=N+ Ke7 2.gxh7 Rxh7+ 3.Kxh7 Qh3+ 4.Kg6 Qxd3+ 5.Kg5=

Fortress, Positional draw

5.Kh6= also works

# MEXICAN FOOD

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

Solution on page 12

BURRITOS	GORDITAS
CARNITAS	GUACAMOLE
CEVICHE	MARGARITA
CHORIZO	MENUDO
CHURRO	MOLE
CONCHAS	SALSA
ENCHILADAS	SOPE
FAJITAS	TACOS
FLAUTAS	TAMALES
CHIMICHANGA	
CHILI CON CARNE	
CHILE RELLENO	
POLLO ASADO	
MEXICAN RICE	
QUESADILLAS	
CONCORD	



Clouded in secrecy, Jordan Peele's films have become cinematic events. The audience is never quite sure what it's going to get. With his recent offering, "Nope", Peele pulls out all the stops for a film that can be debated and analyzed long after viewing.

At its core, "Nope" is a reflection on society's relationship with spectacle. Akin to the car accident you can't look away from, Peele notches up the storyline to show how our current culture often turns tragedy into entertainment. It's not a coincidence that our main character (Daniel Kaluuya) is named O.J.

The opening scene is one that will stay with you for a very long time. It's arguably Peele's most disturbing scene to date, yet it takes us into a world that our current society has created and the plot continues to pile on from there.

O.J. unexpectedly takes over his father's stunt horse business, but he is a quiet man and has a difficult time getting Hollywood folks to hear the necessary rules for using his horses on a sound stage.

Enter his sister Emerald (Keke Palmer), great at the sell, but lacking in hands-on attention. Together, they try to save their family business, which becomes even more challenging when they realize there's a mysterious presence at their horse ranch.

Interesting characters get added along the way: Angel (Brandon Perea), the Fry's technician who installs security cameras at the ranch to help the siblings catch something on film, and former child actor Jupe (Steven Yeun), who knows more than anyone what's going on with the mysterious presence and is keeping it on the down-low so he can hopefully monetize it for his third-rate theme park, Jupiter's Claim.

A popular device of the TV classic "The Twilight Zone" was to use science fiction as a guise for deeper societal commentary. Clearly, Jordan Peele is a fan as he bows to some of those same elements.

## In Theaters

# NOPE



There are many layers to dissect here: generational wealth, the treatment of minorities in Hollywood, our ghoulish fascination with tragedy, the way we disrespect animals, and the many lengths people gravitate towards for a moment of fame.

For our main characters, though, it is more than fifteen minutes of fame. They are all looking for a seat at the table, one they have struggled to get to for so long and what has showed up at the ranch could be the game changer they need.

Similar to his previous films, "Get Out" and "Us", Peele knows how to deliver the horror. Some scenes in "Nope" are going to be burned in your brain forever, but the true gift of his films is to get viewers thinking and talking. Make sure you and your theater buddy leave ample time for discussion when the lights come on.

*Rated R for violence, language and intense scenes*

## Cha Cha Real Smooth

Available on Apple TV

Andrew (Cooper Raiff) has just graduated from college. When he tells his girlfriend that he will join her soon in Barcelona, she gives him a look that lets the audience know she is mature enough to realize that she will probably never see Andrew again.

Without a life plan, Andrew returns home to New Jersey and bunks in his younger brother David's (Evan Assante) room. Although adrift, Andrew has a magnanimous personality which gets him noticed when he takes his brother to a friend's bar mitzvah. A skill honed in college, Andrew knows how to get the party started and he soon finds himself sought after within the bar/bat mitzvah party planning community.

Since most of the children are also classmates, these parties tend to have the same recurring guests. One set of invitees, mother Domino (Dakota Johnson) and her autistic daughter Lola (Vanessa Burghardt), capture Andrew's interest. Domino is younger than most of the moms and seems to have a not too favorable reputation.

Andrew, though, sees her devotion to her daughter and finds himself attracted to her. He also seems to be one of the few people that can connect with Lola.

Before he knows it, he is asked to be a part-time caregiver for the teen. He seems to be lost as to what his future should look like. So, for now, he is going with the flow.

Cooper Raiff is a triple threat, writing,



directing and starring in this film. The movie is charming and shows his future potential, which is the wonderful thing about indie films. He has some nice insights into Gen Z, but the mom character did not feel believable to me.

The screen debut of Vanessa Burghardt offers the top reason to watch this movie. The real-life autistic actor brings depth and humor to Lola. I am excited to see what she will do next.

If you are a fan of small, character-driven films, this is a satisfying streamer.

*Rated R for language and adult situations*



## QUEEN OF THE RHINO

"Queen of the Rhino" by Jill Hedgecock (2022, Goshawk Press, paperback, 334 pages, \$12.50) is the second book in the series about Claire, tagged Queen of the Rhino after risking her life in Africa to save two endangered black rhinos in "Rhino in the Room".

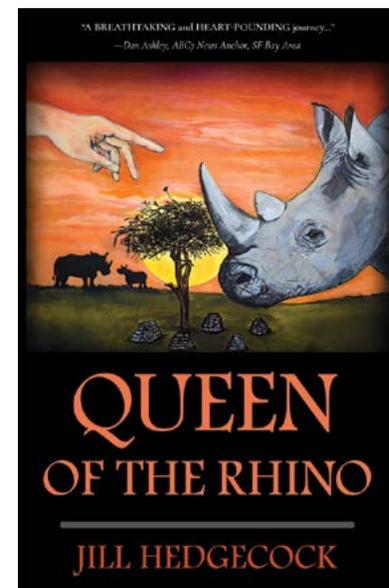
Hedgecock takes the reader on an African "Ferrari-safari", a bumpy, fast-paced ride that is a combination of teen drama, education about Africa, a mystery filled with twists, young romance, and most importantly, wildlife preservation.

Claire, 17, has been invited to travel to Kenya a year after her initial visit to Africa. Seemingly out of the blue, Mr. Sudan, a wealthy and mysterious donor has taken an interest in Claire and her Rhino in the Room Foundation, which she started after nearly being killed by rhino poachers in South Africa.

Claire passionately wishes to save rhinos from extinction and Mr. Sudan has generously offered to pay all her expenses. He also promised to arrange for Claire and her partners, Junior and Dugger, to see the last two northern white rhinos on earth in exchange for some marketing photos of Claire with the rhinos.

Claire is determined to take advantage of this opportunity. However, her struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) caused by the violent confrontation on her first trip to Africa threaten to derail not only the meeting with Mr. Sudan, but the reunion with her handsome hero, safari guide and foundation partner, Junior. For the past year, their budding romance has been reduced to frustrating Zoom meetings across continents.

Once they arrive in Kenya, scheduling snafus abound which prevent Mr. Sudan



from meeting Claire in person. These delays allow for consolation side trips operated by strange, unqualified men which distract Claire from her increasing unease about this invisible, maybe too-good-to-be-true benefactor.

Hedgecock seamlessly uses these treks to inform the reader about a myriad of birds, elephants, giraffes, lions, mountain gorillas, rhinos, etc., and the horrendous damage done by poachers. Perhaps the most impressive trip is a visit to Rwanda where we learn the wrenching history of the 1994 genocide of 800,000 people as well as the groundbreaking work of reconciliation. These interwoven portraits of Africa are the stunning backdrop for a plot that unfolds little by little.

Claire is again at the center of a conflict that will test her bravery, her family's bonds, her dedication to rhinos, and Junior's love for her. This is exciting storytelling, leaving the reader hopeful for the rhinos and hungry for the next adventure.

This is the fourth release from Jill Hedgecock, a retired environmental scientist and regular contributor to Diablo Gazette. Jill uses this novel, inspired by her own African safaris to Kenya and Rwanda to raise awareness about the very real threat to rhinos.

## Mountain Shadow's 8th Annual Short Film Competition

By Colleen Gonzales



As summer comes to an end, you may be searching for an indoor activity. How about Mountain Shadow Film Society's 8th Annual

Short Film Competition on Saturday, September 24th?

Mountain Shadow has been bringing international and independent full length features and shorts to the East Bay since 2014. Under the direction of John Bennisson and numerous volunteers, monthly screenings offer a vast selection of films. During the year, the film society meets monthly at the Walnut Creek Library's Oak View room, but every September, an annual short film competition is held at the Los Lomas High School auditorium.

The competition is truly unique in that Mountain Shadow, operating as a non-profit, does not charge entry fees for the contest and offers filmmakers an opportunity to get their films in front of a live, movie-loving audience. The main requirement? Filmmakers must present their films in person and be available to engage in an audience Q&A. This year there were 460 entrants, which have been whittled down to 11 finalists.

Each year, interested members volunteer

to be judges and spend dedicated hours poring over qualified submissions. This committee compiles a variety of animated, live-action and documentary shorts to present a 90-100 minute show.

The hospitality coordinator, Germaine Bennisson, then organizes her team to implement the one-day event. Expect to meet filmmakers from all over the country and choose between two showings: Saturday, September 24th at 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM. Attendees are invited to a "Meet the Filmmakers" reception between the two shows.

Even though all the finalists receive the same monetary prize, everyone in the audience gets to vote for their top three favorites, resulting in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place laurels. Not only do you get to view films you most likely would not see anywhere else, you also get to pick the ones you feel truly shine. This task is tougher than you think, because each year Mountain Shadow presents an amazing array of films from talented filmmakers. You may witness a future famous filmmaker and you can boast that you remember when they were "just starting out."

And who knows, you may find out you are a budding cinephile.

Get event details at [mountainshadow.org](http://mountainshadow.org)



# Ruby Dooby Do Final Rescue

# Mamba

Ruby Dooby Do was Concord's Online international celebrity with 1.8 M TikTok followers, 1.1 M FB, and 299K followers on IG. Each month a hard to place dog in foster care will be featured to give them extra exposure to find their forever home.



Mamba is a 2-year-old male Doberman Pinscher mix under foster care by CalPaws K9 Rescue. Before he was surrendered to the shelter, it is believed he lived much of his time chained outside in the summer heat of the Central Valley. He was found abandoned and starving in an orchard.

He is a good-natured boy, though he gets nervous around young, rowdy children and would likely prefer a calm home with or without older children. With proper training, he would probably be fine with younger kids too. He can easily jump a 7-foot fence and slip his collar, so his new owners will need to take precautions against his Houdini antics. He sleeps quietly through the night, even in a kennel.

Mamba is:

- Affectionate and loves people
- A high-energy boy who needs supervision/activities to stay out of mischief
- Intelligent and eager to please
- Dog-friendly, but not currently good with cats
- A quick study and housebroken

Mamba is fully vaccinated and neutered. He has been dewormed and microchipped. Mamba's adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in meeting him, please review CalPaws K9 Rescue's adoption process, and then fill out an online adoption form at <https://www.calpaws.org/adopting>.

CalPaws K9 Rescue is an all-volunteer 501 (c)(3) non-profit dog rescue. Donations are used solely to benefit the dogs in their care.

## You Will Be Missed

It is with a heavy heart that I must say goodbye to the ambassador to my column, Ruby, who passed away on 8/4/22 from dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM).

Ruby has been the avatar for this column since its inception in 2017. Her charming personality shone through as she inspired the Doberman character in my novel and her stunning appearance graced the book covers of my two Doberman-inspired novels.

I met her in person during the filming of a book trailer for my novel, "Between Shadow's Eyes," and we hung out at The Diablo Gazette booth at Octoberfest in Concord in 2019.

She was a special dog and a stellar example of the sweet nature of the Doberman breed. Rest in Peace, Ruby. You will be missed.

## Bone to Pick

Certain breeds are prone to different ailments.

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is an inherited, irreversible heart muscle disorder that affects Dobermans more than any other breed.

It has been reported that the overall prevalence of DCM in Dobermans in Europe is greater than 50%. Other breeds (all large dogs) prone to DCM include Boxers, Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds, and Saint Bernards. The disease is more prevalent in males than in females. DCM poses extreme challenges because it can be asymptomatic until a sudden onset of severe clinical signs such as congestive heart failure.

An otherwise healthy dog may collapse for no apparent reason. In only a few hours, a dog may experience rapid, heavy breathing, a blue tongue, and excessive drooling.

Genetic screening can be done, but the dog may only be mildly affected. There are a variety of drugs that can be used to treat the condition including diuretics, cardiac glycosides, and vasodilators to name a few.

Unfortunately, there is no cure. Doberman Pinschers have been shown to live as little as three months once diagnosed. Other dogs have been known to live between 6-24 months if they respond well to treatment.

Ruby experienced the best-case scenario and lived for two years after diagnosis. She died in the presence of her family while receiving veterinary treatment to keep her comfortable.

## Diggin' It

Rescue organizations commonly homeless purebreds, particularly chihuahuas, pit bulls, German shepherds, and huskies. If you have your heart set on rescuing a less common purebred dog, the AKC Rescue Network is a great place to start. This organization is the largest network of purebred dog rescue groups in the country. One hundred sixty unique breeds are currently represented within the network.

In honor of Ruby, I am highlighting CA organizations that focus on rescuing Doberman Pinchers.

On Facebook, Doberman Rescue Network, CA & Nevada is an excellent resource. Dog Mountain Rescue in Northern California has over a dozen Dobermans to choose from.

There are also several SoCal groups and transport to the Bay Area may be available. These include Doberman Pinscher SOS and Dobies and Little Paws Rescue.

To learn more about Dobermans and to see if this breed is a good fit for your lifestyle, I recommend visiting Doberman Planet's educational videos: [www.dobermanplanet.com](http://www.dobermanplanet.com).

Column by Jill Hedgecock, author of "Between Shadow's Eyes" and "From Shadow's Perspective" whose book covers feature Ruby. [www.jillhedgecock.com](http://www.jillhedgecock.com).

Sources: European DCM Prevalence: [www.ufaw.org.uk/dogs/doberman-pinscher-dilated-cardiomyopathy](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/dogs/doberman-pinscher-dilated-cardiomyopathy). Symptoms and treatment: <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/dilated-cardiomyopathy-dcm-in-dogs--indepth>. [www.akc.org/akc-rescue-network/](http://www.akc.org/akc-rescue-network/)

# ARF ADOPTION STARS Armadillo & Rays

Looking for a furry friend? Visit [arflife.org](http://arflife.org) to view all of ARF's adoptable animals or read more about ARF's adoption process.

## Armadillo



Two-year-old Armadillo is a fun, goofy Xoloitzcuintle mix who knows how to make the best of the heat, and have a good time. He loves playing in water. Toys are also some of his favorite things, so this kid is the perfect companion for a fun summer day by the pool or a lake.

Better still, he's a cuddly boy who will appreciate winding down after all the fun for some affection. Armadillo's bubbly vibe will elevate the spirits of anyone in his company, and he cannot wait to find his forever family to share that with for years to come. Armadillo has a positive history with other dogs and currently weighs 44 pounds.

ARF adoption fees: \$250 for an adult dog, \$375 for a puppy (<6 months), \$150 for a special-needs dog, \$200 for a special-needs puppy (<6 months), and \$150 for a senior dog (7+ years). Adoption fees are waived for US military Veterans.

## Rays



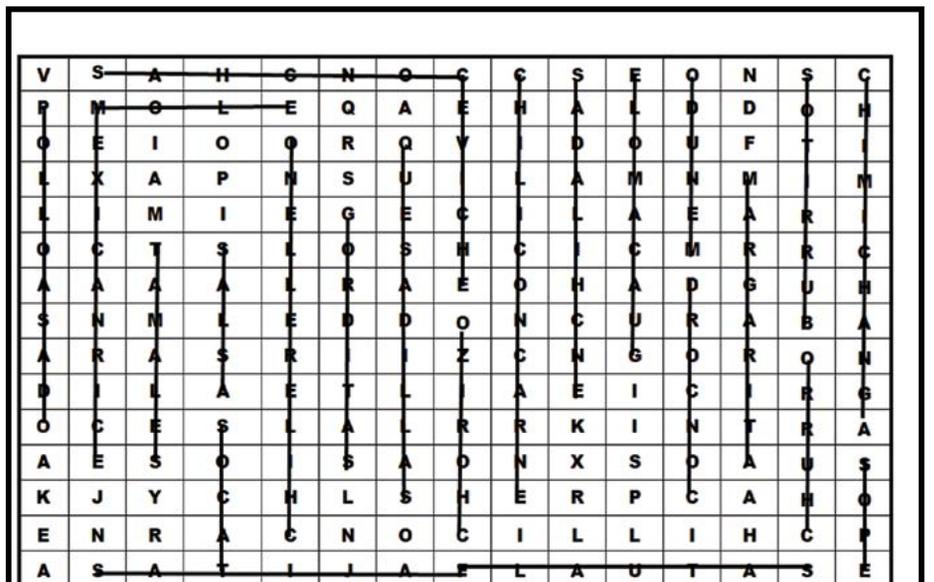
Three-year-old Rays has a personality that will make you feel like you're being hugged by a gentle blanket of sunshine, like rays of light that will warm your heart. Her capacity for love and affection are unrivaled, and she will cheerfully accept all the pets you would be willing to dole out, purring all the way.

This heart-meltingly sweet girl is dreaming of finding her furr-ever person and home where there will no cap to the love she can share. Rays will brighten any home and bring warmth with her wherever she goes.

ARF adoption fees: \$125 for an adult cat, \$175 for a kitten (<6 months), \$200 for two adult cats, \$300 for two kittens, \$75 for a special-needs cat, \$100 for a special-needs kitten (<6 months), and \$75 for a senior cat (7+ years). Adoption fees are waived for US military Veterans.

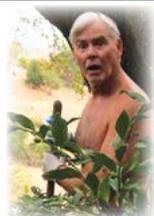
## WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

From page 9



# MEXICAN FOOD

The Diablo Gazette  
is the BEST WAY for LOCAL  
BUSINESSES TO ADVERTISE  
LEARN HOW WE CAN HELP YOUR  
BUSINESS (925) 298-9990



# The Naked Gardener

David George, UC-certified Master Gardener

## A Fungus Among Us

Fall is the best time of the year for naked gardening. Even though the air is still warm and dry, there are subtle signs that the season is changing. My bush bean leaves are brown, shriveled, and covered with “age spots.” They are not diseased, and in fact we enjoyed a bounty of green beans in August.

Veggies respond to shorter days, cooler nights, and dry air. It is time to toss them out and plant your winter veggies. For a list of great winter vegetables for Contra Costa, check out: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/ccmg/files/131284.pdf>.

This time of year, another natural food source becomes more abundant - mushrooms. But buy your healthy-to-eat mushrooms in your favorite market. Unless you are a mycologist or extremely experienced, sorting edible from poisonous mushrooms is nearly impossible. Hundreds of mushroom hunters sicken or die each year.

Mushrooms and other fungi are now



Bay Area Turkey Tail. It can be made into teas, tinctures, and extracts. Careful, it has several dangerous look-alikes. Be safe and buy from a market.

classified as a third biological kingdom, along with plants and animals. Unlike plants they cannot make their own food through photosynthesis. Science has found that fungi are genetically closer to animals. They are diverse organisms that include mushrooms, puffballs, yeasts, and molds. They are found in all habitats on land and in water. In just one tablespoon of healthy soil, over four million fungi cells live and grow.

Most fungi are good natural citizens, contributing to the health of plants and feeding us humans. But as usual, the bad citizens get the press.

Of the three main groups of fungi,



Peach Leaf Curl halts in hot dry weather. Courtesy UC IPM

the Parasites are the worst as they feed on live plant tissue. Fortunately, they are relatively small in numbers. Common examples include fire blight, powdery mildew, and peach leaf curl.

The other two groups, the Saprobics and the Mycorrhizals are much larger, and are both essential to plant life.

Saprobic fungi are decomposers and are by far the largest group. They feed on dead plant matter, digesting and breaking it down into simple organic molecules. They are natural fertilizers in all ecosystems, recycling and releasing usable nutrients into the soil or water to feed new plant life. Examples you eat every day are mushrooms and yeast (for bread).

Mycorrhizal fungi are also everywhere in healthy soil and water. They have a give-and-take (“symbiotic”) relationship with the roots of most plants. These mycorrhizal fungi are hard to spot since most have no above-ground fruiting bodies. But two well-known symbiotic partnerships are delicious truffles with oaks and boletes with redwood trees.



Mycorrhizal Truffles are delicious but uncommon in the Bay Area. Courtesy Shutterstock

Each fungus is nourished by sugars produced from the partner plant’s leaves (transported through their roots). The fungus’ spreading white threads or “hyphae” helps the plant’s roots reach water and nutrients 2-3 times further away than without the fungus’ help.

Why talk about this fungus among us? For bar trivia or cocktail party infotainment? Maybe. But remember that in the Naked Garden, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides have no place.

Mother nature knows how to deal with bad actors such as fire blight, black spot, and mildew. When you spray a broad-spectrum fungicide on your roses or fruit trees, you kill more essential fungi than the harmful varieties. Why mess with nature’s essential recycling and nutrient-producing systems? Instead, relax on your deck, enjoy the amazing fall weather, and summer harvest.

For more information about dealing with harmful fungi varieties, check out the “Plant Diseases” section in: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/NATURAL/index.html#DISEASES>.

Email your comments and questions to: [NakedGardener@diablogazette.com](mailto:NakedGardener@diablogazette.com). These may appear in future columns.

## 12th Annual Martini Shake Off

Because the martini was invented in Martinez

Who makes the best martini? Find out on September 17th in Martinez for the 12th Annual Martini Shake Off. This classy, semi-formal, event honors the birthplace of the martini, Martinez. While there is some dispute over the martini’s history, most references agree, the birthright belongs to Martinez. The lore goes like this.

During the days of the “Gold Rush”, in 1849, a miner struck it rich and was returning to San Francisco. The miner, arriving in Martinez, the first large town he hit, wanted to celebrate. He walked into our leading bar and asked for a Champagne, a beverage which was not available. However, the bartender told the miner that he had something much better than Champagne and made a beverage from ingredients he had on hand: gin, vermouth, bitters, maraschino liqueur, and a slice of lemon and served that. The bartender called it a “Martinez Special”.

The miner liked the drink and proceeded on to San Francisco where he immediately went to a prominent bar and ordered a “Martinez Special”. The bartender of course had never heard of the drink. The miner instructed him how to make it. The bartender tried the drink himself and liked it and of course had his friends drink it. Over a period of years, the name Martinez (try to say it repeatedly) became Martini.

The world-famous concoction, the Martini, has prolonged more luncheons, launched more jokes and ruined more dinners than anything since the days of Cleopatra, but the community of

Martinez is proud to be the birthplace and home of the world renowned “Martini”.

However, this theory isn’t unanimously accepted: Barnaby Conrad III, author of a book on the Martini’s origin, claims that the drink was, in fact, invented in San

Francisco, after a miner requested a pick-me-up in the city on his way to Martinez.

There are also assertions that it originated in New York’s Knickerbocker Hotel. Still others assert that the drink was named after “Martini & Rossi” vermouth, which was first created in

the mid-1800s. Apparently in the interest of brevity, the drink became known as the “Martini.”

According to Food52.com, the popularity of the Martini never seems to wane, and it was particularly de rigueur during the 1950s and 1960s, when the “three martini lunch” was a widespread practice for cosmopolitan executives and businesspeople.

Our societal stance on daytime drinking have changed since the Mad Men era, and these days the Martini is more commonly consumed in the evening hours...at least on weekdays.

Indeed, Jerry Thomas describes a “Martinez Cocktail” in his 1887 edition of his “Bartender’s Guide, How to Mix All Kinds of Plain and Fancy Drinks.”

Enjoy live music, food, and the craft of martini making from eight local mixologists. Tickets available now through September 10 at [www.martiniemartini.com](http://www.martiniemartini.com). Tickets will not be sold at the door.



MARTINEZ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS:

12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

MARTINI SHAKE OFF

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 6:30PM-10PM

COMPETING BARTENDERS REPRESENTING:

BAR CAVA // WISE GIRL // MARTINEZ YACHT CLUB  
// NU-RAYS // WHISKEY LANE // BARREL AGED //  
FIREHOUSE GRILL // TROY

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553 // GET TICKETS HERE: [martiniemartini.com](http://martiniemartini.com)



Margie DiGiorgio, Director of Independent Study & Interventions, leads the EAGLEi program.



## CVCHS Adapts to Post-Pandemic Student Needs

By Dave Fehte, Executive Director, Clayton Valley Charter High School

For CVCHS students, parents and staff, learning during the pandemic has been unprecedented territory. We now find ourselves in a greatly improved position. Our administrative team and school nurse have worked tirelessly with local county officials to develop health and safety protocols, ensuring every student has a safe and healthy learning environment. And, as much as we accomplished getting our students back in the classroom, we remain steadfast in improving learning options and mental health resources for our students.

Last year took some determination as CVCHS returned to campus before most neighborhood public schools in our area. Priorities were taken to safeguard the well-being of students and staff. I am confident to say that our team performed well and became more knowledgeable on adapting to post-pandemic student needs. Our teachers and counselors became quick studies, incorporating best practices and new technologies. We focused on academic outcomes as well as addressing the social and emotional needs of our students.

For those who felt more comfortable learning from home, CVCHS launched a new program this Fall. EAGLEi provides students with a robust independent learning curriculum, along with the opportunity to engage in our award-winning extracurricular activities including Sports Teams, Bands, Clubs, and so much more.

Margie DiGiorgio, one of our experienced administrators, leads the program. DiGiorgio brings a wealth of knowledge to our independent study approach.

Students receive personalized, one-on-one attention from certificated teachers who work with our students to create individualized plans tailored to their learning. Each academic program can be accelerated or slowed to best support the needs of our students. Courses are offered in all core disciplines such as Math, English, Science, and Social Science. AP and Honors courses are available as well.

EAGLEi gives students an alternative setting with flexible learning time and/or attendance. This program is ideal for home school students, those working in non-traditional industries (theatre, film, music, etc.), families who travel extensively, athletes on a professional track, students who struggle with the traditional classroom setting, and those with chronic health conditions.

And best of all, graduating students receive a full CVCHS diploma including the opportunity to attend senior events and graduation ceremonies. EAGLEi

addresses post-pandemic needs and allows our students to thrive in a small school environment and exercise more control over their academic pursuits and pacing.

Another staggering post-pandemic concern among educators is addressing students' social and emotional needs. Nationwide data shows that students are underperforming academically compared to their same-age peers of previous non-pandemic years. This is due to education access gaps during quarantine. Adolescent mental health challenges, which were already on the rise, are even more of an issue now as teens experienced difficult circumstances. That is why CVCHS is pivoting to accommodate these needs, looking toward integrating social-emotional learning (SEL) wherever possible.

The purpose of SEL is to educate students on more than just an academic approach. It includes self and social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. While this was an important pre-pandemic initiative, SEL has become a priority with our educators and counselors, recognizing that a student cannot learn without these skills first.

This Fall, CVCHS kicked off new student orientations with our Link Crew transition program, enriched our in-school credit recovery program, and established UGLY hours (Universal Growth Learning for You) to provide academic support and intervention during school hours. CVCHS has also increased staff support with a full-time Marriage & Family Therapist, two Deans, seven Counselors, and a full-time Psychologist.



CVCHS is addressing the social and emotional needs for all students.

So, as we prepare to embark on another academic year, I am confident with the supports and resources to make every student's learning experience the absolute best here at CVCHS. Thank you to our entire team for making vast improvements and getting our students back in the classroom. Go Uglies!



## Neuroplasticity:

By Jessica Raam Foster, NeurologyofPresence.com

### To Improve Your Health and Wellness - Watch Kids

First off, I do not define health and wellness by your body mass index (BMI), or even your ability to excel at one particular physical activity. I care about your ability to participate fully in the physical world:

How well can you learn new skills? (Practicing learning new skills is a skill itself; it's called METAPLASTICITY in neuroscience.)

How responsive are you to stimuli in the world around you?

Do you know how to fall? To get back up again? How well do you interact with gravity?

How quickly can you move?

How slow can you go?

How strong are your hands?

How nimble are your feet?

How much tension can you generate?

How quickly can you relax?

Are you having fun?

While I intentionally train all my clients in each of the skills I just listed above to help people get out of PAIN, I suspect a lot of people could avoid pain altogether if we allowed ourselves to act like the kids we once were and PLAY.

Start with the exercise you are already doing and just change it up. It does not have to be a big difference; the brain is very specific. It detects even simple changes. These changes make the brain pay more attention, and that is what



stock photo adobe.com

we want. The more you engage with the exercise, the greater the neurological and even the musculoskeletal changes that can occur.

This concept works great with repetitive exercises like walking, running, biking, etc., but creativity can also boost strength training or even basic mobility work. Just change something: your foot position, body position, or even try tossing a ball while you move.

So go ahead - get creative with your trusty old workout routine.

Jessica Raam Foster is a Neuro Performance Coach. For more information: [www.NeurologyofPresence.com](http://www.NeurologyofPresence.com), IG: @JessicaRaamFoster, FB: @NeurologyofPresence [NeurologyofPresence@gmail.com](mailto:NeurologyofPresence@gmail.com)

## Find Peace and Strength with Tai Chi in Clayton's Grove

If you happen by the Grove in Clayton on a Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM, you may very well see a regular group of 20 or more engaging in Tai Chi, usually in the shaded area of the park. Led by Ben Cabal, Tai Chi is one of the martial arts that focuses on movement and space.

Tai Chi can boost upper- and lower-body flexibility as well as strength. It is also good for improving balance. Some engage in this for pain management and aid in prevention of arthritis.

Tai Chi is a moving meditation in the form of a series of gentle exercises that create harmony between the mind and body. The ultimate purpose is to cultivate the inner life energy (qi) to flow smoothly and powerfully through the body. This is a spiritual experience, as much as a physical one.

One participant, Diane Malucelli, retired, stated she has been attending for the past seven years and loves it. It's free, but Cabal receives donations for his approximate 90-minute sessions. Anyone is welcome to attend.



## Massachusetts Congressman James McGovern Visits White Pony Express Food Rescue Operation



U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA) speaks with White Pony Express leadership (Eve Birge, Executive Director, right) on August 25, 2022.

On Thursday, August 25, Congressman James P. McGovern (D-MA), Chairman of the House Rules Committee and Co-chair of the House Hunger Caucus, paid a visit to White Pony Express (WPE) to learn about the innovative work being done in the Bay Area to address the crisis of food waste. McGovern, who is the House lead on the Food Donation Improvement Act (H.R. 6251), made a tour of WPE's food distribution center and learned about WPE's impact across the county.

Headquartered in Pleasant Hill, CA, WPE picks up and delivers 12,000 pounds of fresh, nutritious food at no cost to its network of 80+ nonprofit partners, from large shelters to under-resourced schools to church pantries—every day, seven days a week, 364 days a year.

McGovern led the push to secure a White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, which will be

held in September 2022. He will bring the innovative things he learns during visits like this one to the conference.

"We hope Representative McGovern will share WPE's spirit and profound community impact with conference attendees and perhaps even include us at the table," says Eve Birge, Executive Director at WPE. "WPE's volunteer-powered model is scalable and sustainable. It bridges abundance and need and can be replicated virtually anywhere."

WPE was launched in 2013 when Dr. Carol Weyland Conner conceived this replicable model to address hunger and poverty by acting as the "connector" between abundance and need. Dr. Conner was awarded the 2019 Andrus Award by AARP California, their most prestigious volunteer tribute recognizing outstanding individuals who share their experience to enrich the lives of others.

## the concordian



by Edi Birsan,  
[EdiBirsan@gmail.com](mailto:EdiBirsan@gmail.com)

## Driving Community Service

Sometimes, I feel like sleep is overrated. When you sleep, you are not really making things better for anyone but yourself.

Community service, however, is underrated in that people often forget the actual positive impacts it bestows upon you. It is also a darn good way to break from the chaos around you and focus on unwinding it around others. I had discovered this a long time ago and wish I had more time for it today. I strongly recommend it. One such service that I enjoy from time to time is driving for Mobility Matters.

Mobility Matters match seniors and veterans who have mobility issues (typically, they cannot drive) with volunteers who will take them to their doctor, grocery store or about anywhere they need to go.

They do not ask about one's economic means, just do you have a need for help? I have picked up people at 60-year-old apartments as well as what can only be described as major Estates. Regardless, it always becomes more than just a ride for both the volunteer and the client.

### Oh, the stories you will hear.

Loneliness often comes with lack of mobility in many seniors. The most fun part of each assignment is when you get to know a little of the person. Most folks want to talk, so just give them a little direction, "So how long have you been here?" "Any advice?" And off they go.

Once I drove a former bus driver for the school district who knew every short cut you could imagine getting from one side of Concord to an obscure doctor's address in Walnut Creek.

Taking someone to the doctor's office seems like a simple issue. However, you should be sure to ask if they are going to be giving you anything that might affect you.

Often the answer is "I sure hope so."

The driver will need to do door to door service which likely means wait for them in the Waiting Room. Have you noticed that dentists have the best pictures, and doctors have the worst assortment of outdated reading materials?

On occasion I have brought in and left some more current People, Time, and Newsweek magazines. I have been tempted to leave the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit edition, but I did not want to trigger any heart attacks.

Sometimes grocery shopping can offer a little excitement. Once, I took someone shopping who cruised around the store in one of those motorized carts. I reached up and pulled items off the shelf and offered price comparisons when asked. At one point, my "client" cut a corner too close and took out a 5-foot-tall pyramid of cans. He then scolded the manager for putting it there in the first place.

I have taken people with their pet to the vet. What a collection of stories there are listening to people talk to their animal. I never saw an animal that was not more relaxed and happier on the return trip than on the delivery side.

I talked to many folks about whether they would like autonomous vehicles to come at their call and the answer has been overwhelmingly "NO." To them, it is more than just a ride, it is the connection with people that many crave.

So why not try it, you will like it. To become a volunteer call, 925.284.2215. If you are a senior or veteran and need a ride, call 925-284-6161.

*Views expressed are the unsolicited experiences of Edi Birsan and not a paid endorsement by a candidate or a campaign controlled by a candidate...oh, wait, that was last month.*



## A Walk Through Time

with Misty Bruns

### Concord mushroom growers - 106 years ago

The growing of mushrooms is quite a science and is little understood by those who roam through the fields after a hard rain seeking the delectable morsels. To get the compost in proper condition on which the beds are made requires careful study and attention.

These attributes belong to Birch MacQuiddy at his unique "farm" in a large shed about 20 x 65 feet in dimension located on Pacheco Road about one-half mile from Concord, the only mushroom farm in the county.

His understanding of compost and the chemical process after which the spawn is placed in composition, produces hundreds of mushrooms to soon develop.

During the coming year (1916-1917), Mr. MacQuiddy intends to greatly enlarge his "farm". He will add several stories to it by placing one bed on top of another. In warm weather, a bed will produce crop after crop for four months without attention and five months in cold weather.

Mr. MacQuiddy finds a ready market in San Francisco for his product, which sells from 60 to 85 cents a pound, while the wild mushrooms sell for only 10 cents.

Mr. MacQuiddy tapped into a ready market that was not heavily dwelled upon. He showed his willingness to learn, and his enterprising spirit

to succeed and created a superior product that served as a staple in meals.

## MUSHROOM RAISING IN THIS COUNTY

(Standard Special Service)  
CONCORD, Jan. 21.—Mushroom raising is the very latest undertaking for this county. To Birch MacQuiddy belongs the credit for the introduction of the new industry. He has erected a shed on his farm on the Pacheco road twenty feet wide by sixty-five feet long and is using a chemical process.

He has met with such great success that he is now planning to enlarge his plant. His mushrooms have been sold in San Francisco for 60c to 85c per pound, and have found a ready market. In warm weather a bed will produce crop after crop for four months without attention, and in cold weather for five months.

## Mushroom Farm One of Our Local Enterprises

### Birch MacQuiddy Grows Delicacies According to Science for the San Francisco Market

Concord excels in many ways, placed in the composition and we all know, but all are not hundreds of mushrooms soon develop.

the only mushroom farm in the county. This farm is the property of Birch MacQuiddy and is located on the Pacheco road about one-half mile from town.

Mr. MacQuiddy conducts his unique "farm" in a large shed about 20 x 65 feet in dimensions. The growing of mushrooms is quite a science, and is little understood by those who roam through the fields after a hard rain seeking the delectable morsels.

To get the compost of which the beds are made in proper condition requires much careful study and attention. This is done according to a chemical process after which the spawn is

placed in the composition and we all know, but all are not hundreds of mushrooms soon develop. Mr. MacQuiddy finds a ready market in San Francisco for all of his product. Something of the excellent quality of the mushrooms produced by this method can be realized from the fact that they sell readily from 60 cents to 85 cents a pound, while the wild mushrooms bring only 10 cents.

During the coming year Mr. MacQuiddy intends to greatly enlarge his "farm." He will add several stories to it by placing one bed above the other. In warm weather a bed will produce crop after crop for four months without attention and in cold weather for five months.

Sources: Daily Gazette, Concord Transcript

# calendar of events

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### September of Service

Join Concord Councilmember Carlyn Obringer for a morning park clean up and beautification. Volunteers should come dressed for "yard and repair work". To participate contact [carlyn4citycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:carlyn4citycouncil@gmail.com).

**September 17:** At Hillcrest Park we will be doing painting of the baseball back stops, repair of the dugout and bleacher areas, and cleaning of the creek, and general trash pick up

**September 24:** At Willow Pass Park we will be doing painting of the baseball back stops, cleaning the creek, and general trash pick up

Projects will run from 8 am to 11 am.

### October 21-22

**Craft Fair.** Concord Elks is looking for vendors to participate in their upcoming crafts fair at Concord Elks Lodge, If interested, email [elkscraftfair20-lodge@yahoo.com](mailto:elkscraftfair20-lodge@yahoo.com), or call 925-685-1994. Fair Hours 10am-4pm. 3565 Clayton Road, Concord.

## EVENTS

### FARMERS' MARKETS

**Concord Todos Santos Plaza**

Tuesdays, 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Thursdays 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Martinez** Sundays, 9:00am to 2:00pm, 700 Main St.

**Walnut Creek** Kaiser 1425 South Main 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Rossmoor Golden Rain Rd.

Saturdays 9:00am.-1:00 pm. Shadeands North Wiget Ln. and Mitchell Dr.

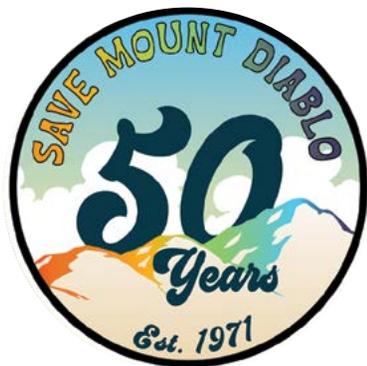
Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 1799 Locust St.

### Ruth Bancroft Gardens

#### September 9

**Live Strong Health Expo** Concord Senior Center. Free. All ages welcome. Health Screenings, Demonstrations, and presentations. 2727 Parkside Circle, Concord.

#### September 10



**Moonlight on the Mountain 4 PM - 10 PM.** Celebrate Save Mount Diablo's 50th anniversary under the moon along the China Wall. Auctions, live music and an elegant three-course dinner. Info and tickets visit [SaveMountDiablo.org](http://SaveMountDiablo.org)

#### September 17

**Martini Shake Off!** Celebrate Martinez, the birthplace of the Martini at Ignacio Plaza. Eight competing bars/restaurants' master mixologists will create their signature Martini.

You vote your favorite to decide the winner of the People's Choice Award. Purchase tickets online only. Go to [martinezmartini.com](http://martinezmartini.com).

#### September 24

**Pleasant Hill Community Service Day.** Now accepting applications for projects. Do you have a project you would like to see undertaken? Fill out the form Online at <https://fs12.form-site.com/xDcOz6>

### WALNUT CREEK MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY

Welcome aboard the Diablo Valley Lines. One of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States.

September 17, 18 11am - 6pm

Friday, September 30 8pm - 10pm

## CLUBS

#### September 10

**Duffy Jennings will present** "Rewrite! A Journalist Turns Author" at the in-person meeting of the Mt. Diablo branch of the California Writers Club on Saturday, September 10, 2022, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA.

Attendees will learn:

Why being a reporter doesn't make you a writer

Get into their head: How to write someone else's memoir.

Agents, publishers, and self-publishing

Duffy Jennings is an author and former prize-winning reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle. His coverage included the City Hall murders of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, the Patty Hearst kidnapping, and the Zodiac and Zebra serial killings. formed his own media company, and launched and published Los Gatos Magazine.

**Reservations:** \$25 for members, \$35 for guests. Register online at <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.org/>

#### October 6 - SIR Branch 19 - Social

**Activities for Men** will be holding its monthly luncheon from 11AM to 1:30 PM at the Greenery Restaurant in Walnut Creek. We will have a featured guest speaker. All men are welcome. Please call 925 338-1996 to reserve a spot. For other activities and information visit us at [www.sir19.org](http://www.sir19.org).

#### SIR Branch 146 - Bocce Ball.

The SIR 146 meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Contact John Kendrick at [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com) or 925-827-0585

## GARAGE SALES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 ★ 8AM - 1PM

**NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE**

ACCESS NEIGHBORHOOD FROM DAVID AVE. OR WHITMAN ROAD, CONCORD

Sale Organizer:  
Karen Ivankovich  
REALTOR®  
925.788.7291  
[karen@homesbykaren.net](mailto:karen@homesbykaren.net)  
DRE 01756135

**Karen**  
REALTOR®  
DRE 0182902

**DUDUM**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP  
DRE 0182902

MAPS AVAILABLE AT 901 DARTMOUTH WAY OR 1860 WHITMAN ROAD

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24 ★ 8AM - 2PM

Ygnacio Wood & The Palms  
ANNUAL  
**GARAGE SALE**

50+ HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING

Enter Neighborhood from Treat Blvd., Oak Grove Road or Citrus Avenue in Concord

ORGANIZED BY VERONICA HIDALGO, REALTOR®  
DRE 0182902

**DUDUM**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP  
DRE 0182902

TREASURES AWAIT IN CONCORD

## ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC

### CONCERTS IN THE GROVE

#### September 10 - East Bay Mudd

**6:00pm - 8:30pm.** - Nine-piece band will play funk-inflected rhythm and blues with music from Tower of Power, Chicago, Earth Wind and Fire, and more. Concert series finale. Clayton Grove

### MUSIC AND MARKET

Thursdays 6:30PM - 8:00 PM at Todos Santos Park

#### September 8 - Fast Times

70's/80's party band

#### September 15 - Steve Snyder's Big Band, jazz orchestra

September 22 - Midnight Sun Reggae

September 29 House of Floyd the music of Pink Floyd

### CONCORD PAVILION

Tickets @ [livenation.com](http://livenation.com)

September 17 - John Mulaney Comedy

September 22 - Bone Bash XVIII: Lynard Skynard with Tesla and Petty Theft

September 27 - Iron Maiden

### PLEASANT HILL SUMMER CONCERTS

#### September 15 Fleetwood Mask

Downtown Pleasant Hill, on the Plaza in front of Jack's Restaurant & Bar 60 Crescent Dr. 7:00 pm - 9:00pm.

### aRT COTTAGE

**September 1 - November 5** "mARTinez Creates!" Exhibit from the Martinez Arts Association. Artist reception September 10 2-4pm. 2238 Mt. Diablo St. Concord



### Leshner Center for the Arts

1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek  
Tickets Call 925-943-7469 Wednesday - Sunday Noon to 6:00 p.m.

### October 20 - October 30 Synergy Theater presents Spontaneous Hitchcock



Murder, madness, and mystery combine to weave a chilling tapestry of terror in this hysterical homage to Sir Alfred Hitchcock - completely improvised and all based on your suggestions - Thursdays - Saturdays at 8:15 pm and Sundays @ 3:15 pm. Tickets \$25 at [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org) or (925) 943-7469

## Why Age 7 is the Right Time to See an Orthodontist...

By the age of 7, the first adult molars erupt, establishing the back bite. During this time, an orthodontist can evaluate front-to-back and side-to-side tooth relationships. For example, the presence of erupting incisors can indicate possible overbite, open bite, crowding or gummy smiles. Timely screening increases the chances for an incredible smile.

H. DIXON TAYLOR, D.D.S., M.S.D.  
(925) 689-9350



4501 Cowell Road Concord

[www.dixontaylorortho.com](http://www.dixontaylorortho.com)





**theRIGHTmove**  
By Terrylynn Fisher, Broker Associate  
[www.BuyStageSell.com](http://www.BuyStageSell.com)

# Are We in a Recession? Three Factors to Consider

## What is happening with interest rates?

Mortgage rates lead the market conversation this year, with interest rates peaking mid to end of June at about 5.81 and back down as of this writing to about 4.99. As the Federal Reserve continues to raise rates to ease inflation, mortgage rates typically fall when we are in a recession. While there is a lot of debate by the politicians as to whether we are in a recession, if we are not, are we going toward one?

A recession is an economic slowdown historically defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. In the last

six recessions since 1980, interest rates declined. This is good for buyers.

In July of 2021, the Wall Street Journal asked economists who thought there would be a recession in the next 12 months, 12% answered yes; in July 2022, a whopping 49% answered yes. In four of the last six recessions (excluding 2008), home prices rose, not declined.

## Why the housing market will not crash.

In addition to the runaway mortgage debacle, in 2008 the market crashed from an abundance of homes on the

market, causing short sales and foreclosures. Today there is a shortage of homes on the market. Primarily the current lack of inventory will keep prices more stable. The typical neutral market (neutral meaning interest rates are affordable and the number of buyers and sellers in the market are equalized) is six- or seven- month's supply of homes. We are currently at or under three month's supply, so by definition, it is still a seller's market.

New construction housing starts have slowed since May. The cost of materials and builder's exercising caution by not building more homes than they feel they can complete is keeping inventory light. These are factors that stabilize the prices of homes.

In addition, those securing a home loan today versus the early 2000's, are vetted, stringently qualified and less likely to go into foreclosure. Foreclosure filings peaked in 2010 at 2.9 million. Tightening lending standards has reduced the number of

foreclosures.

## What is ahead in 2022 –2023

Experts say mortgage rate projections are still slated to be in the 5 to 5.33% range. The silver lining for buyers is that by stabilizing interest rates, buyers will have more confidence in the market.

Benefitting both buyers and sellers, prices forecast for 2022 show an average of 10.3% appreciation over last year according to seven key industry leaders on home prices. Core logic reports 2021 home appreciation was 15%. A decline, but not dropping the bottom out of the market.

Will this slow home sales? Looking at the National Association of Realtors study, at the current pace of sales today, sales are projected to reach 5.1 million homes during this year. This is down from 2021 of 6.1 million homes sold. However, in pre-pandemic years the home sales were much closer to the numbers projected today. The market is more stable than some would say.

Data from New York Times, National Association of Realtors, Freddie Mac, Keeping Current Matters, and other real estate sources.

### 3 Reasons To Buy a Home Today

Fewer Multiple-Offer Scenarios	Fewer Homes Selling Above Asking Price	Supply of Homes for Sale Is Growing
<p><b>April 2022</b> average of 5.5 offers</p>  <p><b>May 2022</b> average of 4.2 offers</p>  <p><b>June 2022</b> average of 3.4 offers</p> 	<p><b>April 2022</b> <b>61%</b> sold over asking</p> <p><b>May 2022</b> <b>55%</b> sold over asking</p> <p><b>June 2022</b> <b>51%</b> sold over asking</p>	<p><b>Months' Supply</b></p> <p>April 2022: 2.2 May 2022: 2.6 June 2022: 3.0</p>

Source: NAR, GlobeNewsWire



**Terrylynn Fisher**  
REALTOR® | CRS, SRES, CSP Elite Agent  
925.876.0966 | DRE# 00615420  
Info@BuyStageSell.com | BuyStageSell.com

**DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP**  
DRE# 01882902

Consult with me Early, so we can Plan, Budget, and Strategize!  
I have not and will not verify or investigate information provided or supplied by third parties.



Kitchens • Baths • Additions • Remodeling

ENTERTAIN FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN A KITCHEN YOU LOVE

**Transform Your Home:**

- Complete design service - concept through construction drawings
- Top quality craftsmanship
- Personalized material and product selection
- Firm start and finish dates
- 5-Year Written Guarantee

CREATE YOUR DREAM BATHROOM



Call 877.734.6404 or visit [CareyBros.com](http://CareyBros.com) to schedule your virtual or in-home design consultation

CA State License #442880



**aRt Cottage**  
by FROgard [www.artcottage.info](http://www.artcottage.info)

## mARTinez creates

The Martinez Art Association (MAA) will be having their exhibit at Art Cottage for the month of September and October.

MAA's goal is to encourage art culture and education for youth and the community and leads many community events throughout the year. They have coordinated and sponsored art related events such as SWAN DAY and SUPPORT WOMEN NOW in March. And they just completed Art in the Park at Susanna Park in Martinez on August 21, after a two-year COVID hiatus.

Proceeds from these events along with membership dues help MAA provide scholarships for local graduating seniors in the visual arts.

In response to the budgetary cutbacks to public schools, the MAA offers grants

to teachers for purchasing art supplies for their students.

Founded in 1968, this organization is a 501c3 non-profit may be contacted for more information by going to their site at [martinezarts.org](http://martinezarts.org).

We would love you to join us at aRt Cottage on September 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for the opening of this lovely exhibit by the Martinez Art Association. Live music and refreshments will be provided by the aRt Cottage, and as always, the general public is welcome.

aRt Cottage is located at 2238 Mount Diablo Street in Concord. You may go to our site at [artcottage.info](http://artcottage.info) to get more details.



"Shenandoah" (acrylic) by Dorrie Langley is one of many works presented at the Martinez Art Association exhibit at aRt Cottage in Concord.



Over 60 artists participated at this year's Art in the Park festival organized by The Martinez Art Association in August 21, 2022.



Examples of art on display at the new DVC Library Art Exhibit "Abstract Reasoning".

## Diablo Valley College Launches Joint Art Exhibit Open to Public

For the first time, DVC is holding a joint art exhibit in the DVC library with three prominent art organizations: The Concord Art Association (CAA), Global Art Project (GAP) and Studio 55.

Open to the public Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the entire Fall semester through December 10, this show is worth a view. A reception will be held on September 17 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Studio 55, a local art studio located on 55 Howe Street in Martinez, holds workshops and classes for individuals and groups. There are artist studio spaces and studio time available, as well as arrangements for artists to run their own workshops and classes. Jill Landau, founder of Studio 55 is an award-winning artist and owner of Build-tek Inc. Visit [www.studio55martinez.com](http://www.studio55martinez.com).

Concord Art Association is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit group that supports and engages local artists in order to collectively enrich the lives of everyone in the community through art education, exhibits, special events and outreach programs. Visit [www.concordartassociation.org](http://www.concordartassociation.org).

Global Art Project is a membership based international collaborative of Mixed-media Artists whose active participants vary between six to 20 depending on the project. To learn more about GAP, visit [globartproject.wixsite.com/globalartproject-art](http://globartproject.wixsite.com/globalartproject-art).

## Diablo Valley College Kyle Whitmore Awarded Men's Track and Field Coach of the Year

Kyle Whitmore was named California Community College Cross Country and Track Coaches Association (5 CTCA) Men's Track and Field Coach of the Year on August 2 at the annual California Community College Convention.

Whitmore was nominated and voted for the award by the Community College coaches across the state due to the tremendous success this year's team enjoyed throughout all their meets culminating with a 4th place team finish at the state meet.

This accomplishment was even more astonishing considering DVC had one of the smallest contingents of only seven athletes at the event.

The DVC freshmen squad were paced by multiple state champions:

Marcus Gelpi, state champion in the high jump. His mark of 7'1" places him as one of the top high jumpers in the country.

Iyan Godwin, state champion in the 800 meter run (1:52.46). He was also one of the state's top 400 meter runners (48.04).

The 4 x 400 relay team of Godwin, Alex Young, Kai Copes, and Adrian Aguirre were state champions with a state leading time of (3:13.98).

Adrian Aguirre finished 2nd in the 110 meter hurdles (14.00) and 3rd in the 400 meter hurdles (53.12).

Kai Copes finished 5th in the state meet in the 400 hurdles (53.51).

Demetre Aaron finished 4th in the Javelin throw (173 feet).

Giovanni Larrea was 8th in the state meet in the long jump (22'8").

"This team was special because they competed with a unique combination of relentless tenacity and an unbelievable amount of joy. This award is not about me, it is about the excellence of the coaching staff and the tireless work of those athletes," Coach Whitmore modestly stated.



DVC's Women's Track and Field team also had a strong season.

Christina Trucks finished 3rd at state in the 1400 meter dash with a school record (56.07) and 4th in the 200 meter dash (25.07).

Ariane Nelson was the Northern California leader in the 100 meter dash (11.95) and the Northern California champion in the 200 meter dash (25.11).

The 4x100 and 4x400 meter relay team of Trucks, Nelson, Meredith Binczewski, and Adjua Gibb-Gabriel were Northern California champions and 4th at the state meet with times of (47.75) and (3:57.56) respectively.

## OPINION

# The Future of Healthcare is Booming

By Maria Zamora, CEO Center for Elders' Independence

In eight short years, all Baby Boomers will be age 65 or older with 8.6 million of them living right here in California.

Every day, around 10,000 Americans reach the milestone age of 65. These changing demographics create an enormous need for healthcare services ranging from preventative care to managing chronic conditions; from age-friendly programs to senior supportive housing.

In recognizing the opportunities and challenges this shift brings, California Governor Gavin Newsom released his Master Plan for Aging in 2021. Counties and cities throughout the state are signing onto the World Health Age Friendly cities plan. Both plans help governments, private organizations and charities create and promote healthcare, open spaces, housing and more to build age-friendly places for all generations to live and prosper.

One senior program addresses the shifting need from skilled nursing facilities to home and community-based services that also dovetail into the Governor's long-term goals. The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) has provided wrap-around care to California seniors for over 50 years. Currently, there are 24 PACE programs in 22 California counties taking care of over 16,000 older adults. In the San Francisco Bay Area, PACE serves San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa and San Clara counties.

Nationally, the COVID-19 pandemic strained the healthcare industry as it suffered large workforce losses due to overwork, exhaustion and early retirement with over 3% of healthcare providers leaving the field.

To meet the growing demand for senior healthcare services, California will need thousands of direct care workers. We need nurses, therapists and home care workers. Opportunities are growing in areas of nursing, social workers, drivers, activity aides and home care support. Medical doctors and psychologists will also find working with seniors to be greatly rewarding.

PACE organizations see firsthand the challenges of senior healthcare and feels



Maria Zamora, CEO Center for Elders' Independence

the pinch of needing more trained staff to meet the oncoming demand.

It is essential that California provides the financial support necessary to educate and train key members of the healthcare team. We need education scholarships to support nurses who desire to move into senior healthcare as well as student loan forgiveness in return for years of service in local healthcare organizations. California has made some good policy changes to support healthcare workers through stipends and other funding sources to attract and train a solid workforce.

It is very clear that as 8.6 million Californians reach retirement age, the importance of senior services and healthcare will also dramatically grow. Whether it is in supportive housing or in-home medical care, there is an opportunity for each of us to play a significant role in building age-friendly communities.

**YOUR PARTNER IN BUSINESS**

**GREATER**

**CONCORD**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

concordchamber.com | (925) 685-1181

**MT. DIABLO SELF STORAGE**

4901 Ygnacio Valley Rd Concord, CA 94521  
Self-Storage Made Easy & Affordable

**WE SELL**  
Pianos & More  
**BOXES**

**(925) 685-2222**  
Fax: **(925) 288-0669**

**\*Special discounts on select units only, while they last.**

**\*50% off 2 Months** Select size

**CHECK WEBSITE**  
for Rates and  
Availabilities on  
All Sizes

**COVID-19 UPDATE:**  
Contact-Free Rentals Available!

[mtdiablostorage.com](http://mtdiablostorage.com)

**How Much Storage Do You Need ?**

<p>Small Units 5x5</p> <p>Starting at <b>\$90</b></p>	<p>Medium Units 10x10</p> <p>Starting at <b>\$225</b></p>	<p>Large Units 10x15</p> <p>Starting at <del>\$300</del> <b>\$150*</b></p>
---	---	--



## JOURNEY-MAN'S JOURNAL

By Jill Hedgecock

# McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park is a Five Star Destination

When my kids were growing up, Burney Falls was our favorite camping destination. With spacious campsites and a chill vibe, this was our “go-to” outdoor adventure spot for good reason. Not only does this state park offer a variety of activities, but the well-stocked store at the entrance and readily available ice and firewood makes camp life easy.

TripAdvisor reviewers agree, giving the park an average of 5 out of 5 stars. Not only is Burney Falls one of the best waterfalls in the State, but there are many activities to choose from, including hiking, a visitor center, wildlife viewing, and year-round recreational swimming, fishing, and boating at Lake Britton.

Of course, the main attraction is Burney Falls itself. Named after the pioneer settler, Samuel Burney, who lived in the area in the 1850s, while not the tallest waterfall in California, it can be argued that this 129-foot tall by 250-foot-wide thundering water feature is the most beautiful.

When we visited, the morning sunlight hit the cascading water and created a stunning rainbow that was accented by the turquoise water pooling at its base.

Swimming is allowed, but the steep descent to reach the base (about 0.3 miles), coupled with the 42-to-48-degree water temperature, will test the resolve of those seeking to take a dip. It's no polar plunge, but still an activity to put on the list just for the experience.

Hiking should always be on campers' and visitors' agenda and Burney has trails for all skill levels. The Falls Loop Trail is an easy to moderate family friendly trek (1.2 miles) with an elevation change of 160 feet. Dogs are not permitted on this half-hour hike. Many waterfall photo opportunities occur along the trail and a footbridge will certainly delight the kids.

Along the way, you can learn facts about the park's geology, vegetation, and animal life at the various information markers.

I was particularly fascinated with the cross section of a 400-year-old tree that chronicles key historical events during the tree's life such as 1850 when California becomes a state and 1653 when the tree sprouted, a time when the Native Americans considered the falls a sacred site.

At a fork in the trail, we chose to hike a portion of the Pacific Coast Trail (PCT) proceeding another 0.8 miles to another footbridge.

As Robert Frost once wrote, “Two roads diverged in a wood, And I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. Our extension included Headwaters Camp which provided views of some of the clearest river water I have ever seen.

There is another popular trail is the Pioneer Cemetery Trail (2.5 miles with an elevation change of 170 feet) which is dog friendly and begins at the eastern edge of Pioneer Camp. A brochure about 16 of the cemetery occupants can be found at the Visitor Center and are a window into the past when infant mortality, death by disease, and child brides were common.

The Pioneer Cemetery Trail is ranked as easy. Hikers looking for longer and more challenging treks should drive to Mount Lassen National Park.



Hikers descending to base of Burney Falls

The Visitor Center is a great resource for children and adults. Besides interactive activities for kids, you can learn about the impact wildfire has wrought on the ecosystem. As you exit, notice the restored cabin built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corp.

Viewing the wildlife is almost always a special treat. While picnicking at Lake Britton in July, my husband encountered a particularly inquisitive black-headed grosbeak that landed on his chair and preceded to peck the inside of his ear! Bald eagles are often seen at Lake Britton.

Typically, you may see chicken-sized pileated woodpeckers or black swifts that nest behind the falls (in season) at Burney Falls.

Crafty Steller's jays and ground squirrels are common at campsites, where they often sneak up and steal food. This can be a bit of a nuisance, so my advice is to use the wooden pantry boxes, or keep food in your vehicle and throw away trash.

Lake Britton is a roughly 7-mile man-made lake. Here you can rent boats, swim, and picnic while anglers can fish for trout, black bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegills, and channel catfish.

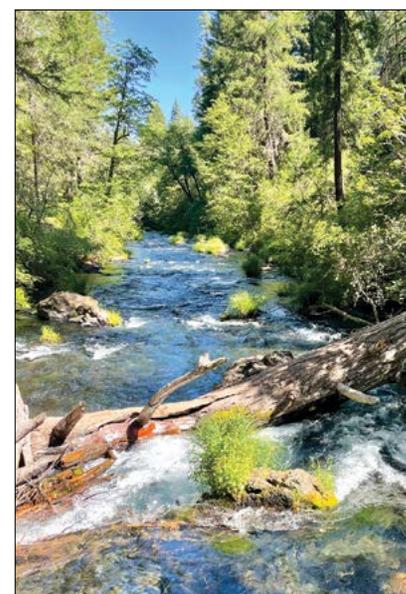
We were tent campers. There are two campgrounds to choose from: Rim or Pioneer Camp. These campsites book fast. Visit <https://www.reserveamerica.com/> for more information. For others, spots are available for trailer or RV camping, and there are 24 rustic cabins (no bedding, electricity or running water) available.

One of our family traditions is to dine at Alpine Drive Inn in the town of Burney. This restaurant has been a fixture in this small town for at least 20 years. It offers classic burger and milkshakes, and the food quality has been consistent all these years. There are a variety of other dining options, including pizza, Chinese, Mexican, and standard American fare. Not bad for a small town.

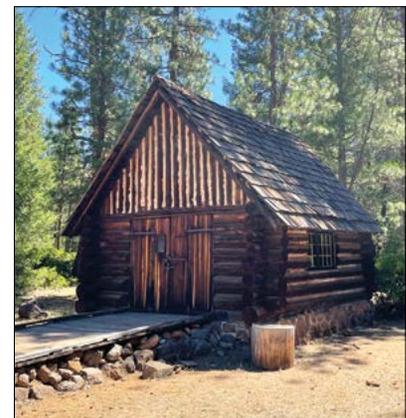
McArthur-Burney Falls wouldn't exist today if descendants of the McArthur's hadn't bought the property and gifted it to the State in the 1920s, saving the waterfall and nearby land from development. It became the second California State Park in 1926, following Yosemite in 1984.

Located northeast of Redding, six miles north of Highway 299 on Highway 89 near Burney, CA, about a 4-hour drive from Concord. This five-star destination is one of California's natural gems and well worth visiting.

*Jill Hedgecock has degrees in the Biological Sciences and Environmental Management.*



Above: Burney Falls. Burney Creek. Below: Falls Loop Trail. Talus slope along Burney Falls Trail



Above: Stellar's jay atop of our camping chair at Rim Camp. Rainbow footbridge over Burney Creek. Black headed grosbeak. Our traditional family eatery, Alpine Drive Inn. 1935 Civilian's Conservation Corps Cabin located near the Visitor's Center.



# The World Bids Farewell to Ruby

By David King, Publisher

It is only fitting that I dedicate this final page to our beloved Ruby (Ruby Dooby Do), the Doberman known the world over.

She passed away in August from a genetic heart disease, dilated cardiomyopathy, (DCM). Because it was detected early in Ruby's life, Concord and the world was treated with seven fabulous years of photos and videos of Ruby and Charles Lindsey, on social media: Facebook (1.2 million followers), TikTok (1.8 million followers) and Instagram (300K followers).

Diablo Gazette noticed Ruby in the beginning of her social stardom, shortly after Snoop Dogg had shared one of Ruby's iconic photos elevating Ruby to 30,000 followers at that time.

We gave Ruby her own column, Ruby Dooby Do to the Rescue, to help support the budding Ruby trend, and to help draw attention to local rescue centers and dogs in need of a home. Actual column writer, (sorry, the gig is up, Ruby was smart, but she couldn't work a keyboard), Jill Hedgecock fell in love with Ruby and placed her on the cover of her two novels "Between Shadow's Eyes," and sequel "From Shadow's Perspective".

At her peak, Ruby brought commercial success offering sincere endorsements of pet products and services, and of course plenty of entertainment on TikTok and Reels. Her videos often went viral. She even did a photo shoot at Concord's Oktoberfest from the Diablo Gazette booth one year.

Lindsey was in discussion with Creative Concord of Ruby becoming one of the new murals around Concord, (an idea inspired by Ruby's mural in Paris, France) but her health was beginning to fail, and public appearances were a risk to her.

When Charles announced her sudden passing, followers grieved. Saddened, sympathy poured in over the internet by the hundreds of thousands from all countries.



Ruby's iconic pose that started it all, that caught the eye of Snoop Dogg

Many were claiming to be in tears. Cards came to a special PO Box. Artists created tribute works including illustrations, paintings, and sculptures. Podcasters mourned. Their "last selfie" video racked up 1.8 million views.

In the end, what Charles and Ruby did for the Doberman breed was challenge the stigma of its Hollywood-generated vicious reputation. They are not nefarious. They are gentle loving creatures that only want to serve their master.

If you live in the Concord area and somehow unfamiliar with Ruby Dooby Do, you can still enjoy her Online. Caution, you will fall in love with her, and you will be amazed at how incredibly smart, and gentle she was. You will witness one of the strongest man-dog bond ever imagined, a truly loving relationship like no other.

Ruby's infamy was made possible entirely due to the brilliant work of Charles Lindsey Photography. You can read more of the story of Ruby at:

[diablogazette.com](http://diablogazette.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/rubydoobydodoberman>  
[https://linktr.ee/Rubydooby\\_do](https://linktr.ee/Rubydooby_do)  
[https://www.tiktok.com/@rubydooby\\_do](https://www.tiktok.com/@rubydooby_do)  
[https://www.instagram.com/rubydooby\\_do/](https://www.instagram.com/rubydooby_do/)

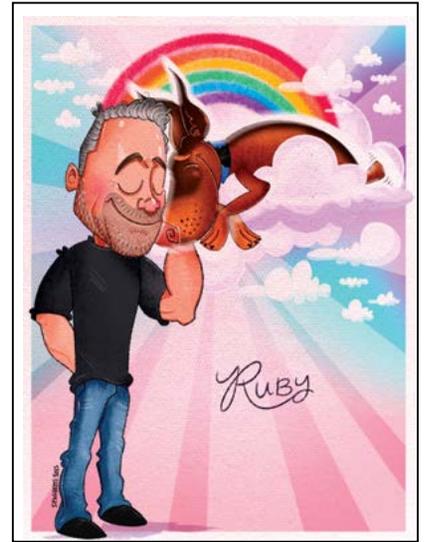
## How impactful was Ruby's passing?

Hundreds of thousands of followers from many countries posted sentiments such as these.

*"We at Doberman Planet wanted to take a moment to bid "farewell" to perhaps one of the most well-known Dobermans of all time, Ruby (Rubydoobydo) who recently succumbed to DCM (Dilated Cardiomyopathy). Your iconic photographs and expressive personality have helped to introduce your breed to people all over the world in the most positive light. Your impact on the reputation of your breed was so needed and done so elegantly. Thank you Ruby, may you rest in peace."*

*"Shout out to Rubydoobydo, the first dog since Old Yeller that I cried my eyes out about that wasn't my own"*

*"Ruby will truly be missed. She was a part of my daily life. Not a day went by that I didn't say "Let's see what's Ruby's up to " to my own dog. I am literally in tears as I write this."*



I was recently contacted by a few people who asked me if I was familiar with Ruby the Doberman (Rubydooby Do) and her owner Charles. They told me that Charles had just lost his beloved Ruby to DCM and asked me if I could do a tribute piece to honor her. -Spaghetti Toes, Illustrator



Ruby gets her wings and says goodbye to her master, Charles, in this heart-breaking image posted on all Ruby's Social media platforms.



**NO FEES UNLESS WE WIN!**

**LAW OFFICE OF DOUGLAS A. PRUTTON**  
 Personal Injury  
 Labor & Employment Law

Former insurance company and corporate lawyer, representing only employees and injured persons since 1982.

**CALL US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION**

**925-677-5080**



[pruttonlaw.com](http://pruttonlaw.com)

1985 Bonifacio Street Suite 101 Concord email: [doug@pruttonlaw.com](mailto:doug@pruttonlaw.com)

CA License #1007759



**WE GO OUT ON A LIMB FOR YOU DAY AND NIGHT**

**925.497.5787**

Tree Trimming & Pruning	Tree Removal	Yard Overhaul
Stump Grinding	Firewood Delivery	Emergency Services

FREE ESTIMATES



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 925-682-4281
--	--

[ouimetbrothers.com](http://ouimetbrothers.com)

# Interview with Clayton City Council Candidates

Diablo Gazette reached out to the four candidates running for Clayton City Council this November. We posed six questions and asked that they keep their total responses to a maximum of 250 words. As it goes in candidate debates, some went long, except candidate Ed Miller. By email he responded, "I appreciate that you reached out to me regarding this opportunity. Unfortunately, I can't submit written responses that could be edited without my final review. These questions address important and complex issues in our community which deserve equally thoughtful, complete, and uncensored answers. Hopefully we can do something different at a later date, but for now, I will refer you to my candidate statement at <https://TrustED4Clayton.com/about/>." His answers below are statements gleaned from his website that our publisher thought best addressed each question. Thank you to all the participants. May the best candidates succeed this November.

1. What is your primary interest in being a Clayton City Councilmember?
2. Do you feel there is a lack of trust among residents with Clayton's elected officials? If so, what would you do to restore community trust?
3. This year, the City of Clayton faced a structural budget deficit of approximately \$120,000. What would you support in order to balance the budget going forward.
4. There have been complaints about City maintenance issues. How would you address these issues?
5. The State has mandated that Clayton must plan for 570 new affordable homes. How would you address this State mandate?



Jeff Wan

**1** I love our city and I first ran for office and am running for re-election because I feel like I can make a difference. In getting to know so many folks around town, a common refrain is that people didn't feel like they are being represented by the Council. I want to continue to serve in order to give those people a voice, to ensure that the Council listens to the residents they represent.

**2** People should always be skeptical of their elected representatives as part of a healthy society. Building trust requires transparency – communicating why certain choices are made, and what tradeoffs there are with every decision.

I publish information before and after every meeting regarding what is going to be discussed and the rationale for every decision I make. I want it to be as easy as possible for residents to know what is happening and why.

**3** The first thing we need to do is understand what we are spending money on. Earlier this year staff told the Council it costs \$1,600/day to run our fountain. But when I pressed on how that could be, it turned out staff didn't know the basis for that figure. We can't be effective if we don't have accurate information.

Once we've done the analysis, we need to prioritize the services the city provides and perform them as efficiently as possible. Low priority services should be cut. Increasing taxes on our residents should only be an absolute last resort.

**4** The first step is understanding what is being done because I've heard too many times that it doesn't seem like we're doing enough on the maintenance front. I've been requesting for years that the city publish a list or schedule of activities so that residents can know what they should expect and when, and we as city leaders could hold people accountable if work is not performed sufficiently. This hasn't happened, and it's unclear both what is being done, and what the expectation of what should be done actually is.

**5** It is critical that the city remains in compliance with all state laws. Recently the city submitted its first draft of an updated Housing Element which includes provisions for the required number of units. While 570 is the total, only a portion of those are required to be low income or very low income (267, or 47% of our RHNA requirement). If the State accepts our submission, then we would have already met the state mandate and no further increase to zoning would be required for the 6th cycle 2023-2031.



Bridget Billeter

**1** I want to help foster cooperation, increase efficiency, and unify the past, present, and future visions of Clayton. My goals are to utilize my unique perspective of the old and the new to meet our challenges as a team, to streamline city operations to keep the city fiscally responsible, and to come together to enact a vision embodying the best of Clayton.

**2** I personally do not feel there is a lack of trust among residents with Clayton's elected officials. Maintaining transparency and communication is the most important way to instill trust in elected officials.

If elected, I will encourage the formation of community-led committees that can discuss various issues, identify possible solutions, and report back to the Council for public resolution. This process will hopefully foster transparency and create unity in Clayton by allowing residents to collaborate on issues that affect our city.

**3** As our town has rapidly grown in the last few decades, our expenses have risen and outpaced our revenues. As a member of the city council, I will look for long-term solutions to ensure that our city has the fiscal stability not only for its immediate needs as well as establish a workable plan for the future of Clayton's fiscal well-being.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution and the answer could include a combination of increasing revenues and limiting expenses.

I will not rule out any potential solution, and any future decision will be made with the transparency and communication necessary to instill confidence in the Clayton residents that I am doing what is best for Clayton.

**4** Part of planning for the city's future fiscal sustainability includes modernizing our city operations as well as recruiting and retaining city staff.

If the city operations are streamlined, the staff will have the time and infrastructure in place to create a plan for prioritizing and scheduling maintenance issues.

**5** I remember when Main Street was the only way to get through town. There was no Clayton Library, Oakhurst Country Club and Golf Course; no homes in Keller Ridge and Stranahan; and no Grove Park.

Had there been the resistance to all development back then that we see today, many of these welcome additions might have remained unrealized. Development is not a binary act; it is neither all "good" nor all "bad."

The planning commission and city council have submitted a draft housing element that incorporates the city's goal of providing 570 new homes, less than half of which are required to be for low or very low-income groups. If elected, I will only approve a final housing element that complies with our legal, state-mandated requirements.



Kim Trupiano

**1** To move the City forward financially and improve City maintenance and landscaping.

**2** There is a real lack of trust of Clayton's elected officials, evident in the \$30,000 survey (the City contracted with an outside consultant to conduct the survey) which clearly stated that the residents of Clayton do not trust their local officials.

My goal if elected is to bring the residents back to the table, into the discussion about the current and future state of our City that will include truthful and accurate reporting and information from City officials.

**3** In my career, I have managed budgets larger than the City's and when facing a budget deficit one must always go through the budget, line item by line item, or "scrub" the budget, in order to make possible cuts, determine if services can be outsourced, mutualize expenses, do more with the current staff before adding additional staff, identify additional revenue generating resources - anything to avoid increasing taxes.

**4** We need to address the lack of strong leadership and understand why the City is struggling to keep up with these issues.

Is it a lack of resources or staffing? Is it the need for a preventative maintenance software program that would allow us to prioritize tasks, ensure accountability and response times for completing those tasks? Do we need to outsource some of these responsibilities?

The City clearly needs a comprehensive mapping of the entire City in order to identify all of these issues, schedule the repairs/replacements, and then create a strategy that stays on top of these problems before they become an issue. We need to be proactive not reactive.

**5** The City's responsibility is to provide the State with the zoning for 570 new affordable homes and I believe that has been completed and already sent to the State for their review. Until the State replies to the housing element, we all have to understand that mandated housing does not mean that all zoning sites will be developed, and this process could take years to complete.

Developers are cash-strapped right now, building supplies are very expensive and there is clearly a shortage of workers to build this housing. We also need to identify locations for high density housing in areas that are closer to main arteries near transportation and jobs.



Ed Miller

**1** I see the opportunities we share as well as the challenges that we face together, as citizens of this unique community.

Clayton deserves independent leadership that will reunite every group in our community to see past differences and work together to preserve and build upon the safety, natural beauty, harmony, and small-town charm we all love, expect, and deserve.

**2** [Implied Yes] We restore the public trust on all sides by working transparently, as non-partisans, and as teammates rather than competing factions, for the benefit of all residents.

Friends and co-workers alike describe me as someone who listens to all opinions with interest, kindness, and respect. When it comes time to make a decision, I try to make it objectively, based upon the data available.

**3** I will work hard to keep local government accountable in its spending and all issues of importance to this community.

**4** N/A This question is not specifically addressed on candidate website at time of print deadline..

**5** It takes time to learn the structure and rules of public service in California. I have served on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee since 2019, and was elected as its chairperson for two of those three years. As I realized how closely transportation and housing issues are related, I applied to serve on the Clayton Planning Commission in early 2021, to use my expertise for our citizens, right at the start of the latest eight-year cycle of the complex and crucial Regional Housing Needs Allocation.



SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

FROM 12PM - 6PM

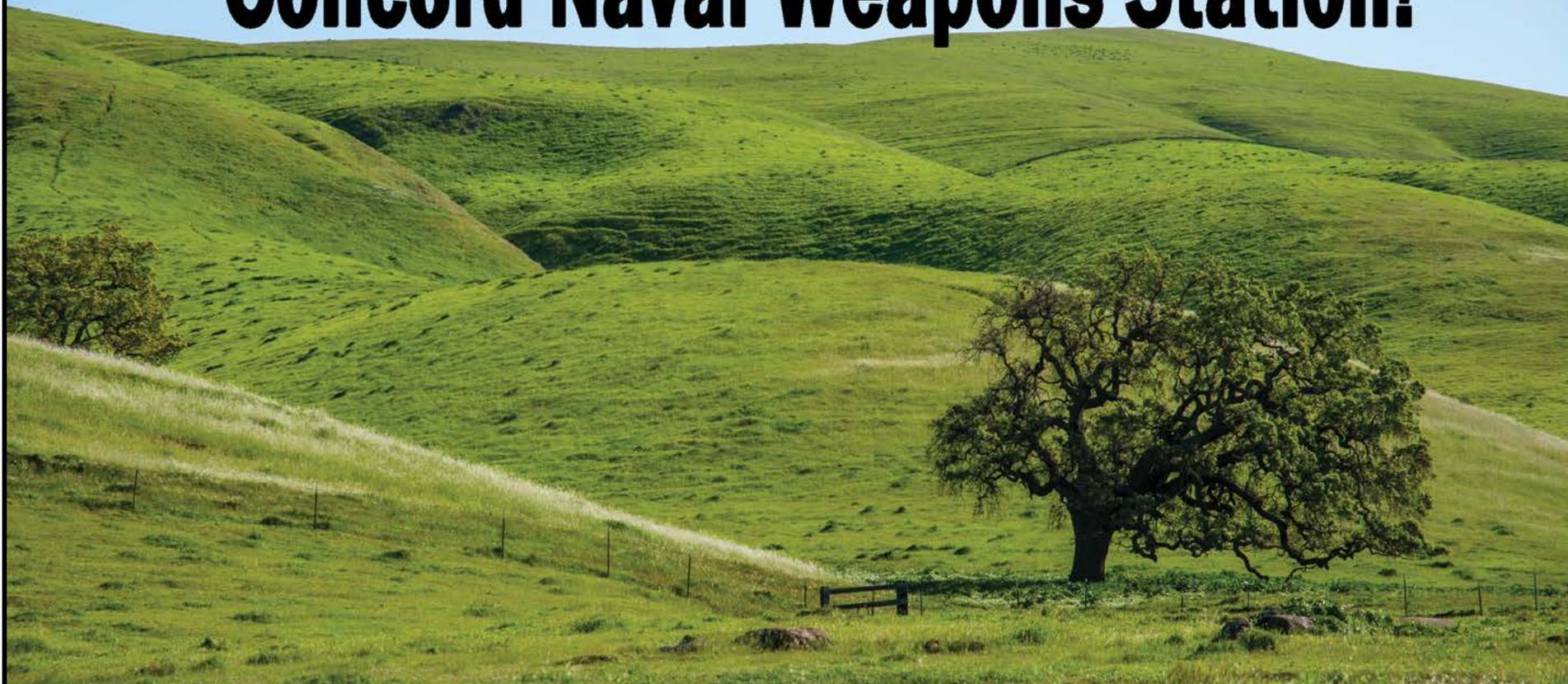
1955 KIRKER PASS RD. CONCORD, CA 94521

Tickets available at [www.stdemetrios.info](http://www.stdemetrios.info) or by calling the church office at 925-676-6967.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased on a first come first serve basis until sold out.

ADVANCE TICKET  
PURCHASE  
RECOMMENDED

# Concord residents, join local environmental groups to say **STOP SEENO** from becoming Master Developer of the **Concord Naval Weapons Station!**



On August 21, 2021 Concord City Councilmembers chose Seeno/Discovery companies and their partners as the sole candidate to become Master Developer for the massive 13,000 house, 2,300+ acre Concord Reuse Project.  
**The project has the potential to be the city's greatest asset or biggest mistake!**

The Seeno Team refuses to share their financials with the public.  
Can this development team financially afford to build a "World Class" community?  
Can they afford to build the infrastructure needed?

**Will they mitigate traffic and give Concord residents the parks, affordable housing and community benefits residents deserve?**

Based on delays, requested changes, lack of financials and a long and troubled history of lawsuits, Seeno/Discovery's extensive record of breaking laws shows this will be a bad decision, and it will be bad for the environment. Seeno and partners should be avoided by the City of Concord whose **taxpayers will be responsible for legal expenses!**

Concord residents want a trustworthy partner to develop a "World Class" project. Concord City Council members can still choose a new Master Developer and consider the will and best interest of Concord residents.  
**It's time for City Council to move on to a new choice!**

If you agree this is the wrong development team, please contact your City Council member NOW.  
Express the above concerns and ask City Council to choose new developer partners  
**before the City Council finalizes this choice in January 2023!**

[dominic.aliانو@cityofconcord.org](mailto:dominic.aliانو@cityofconcord.org); [laura.hoffmeister@cityofconcord.org](mailto:laura.hoffmeister@cityofconcord.org); [tim.mcgallian@cityofconcord.org](mailto:tim.mcgallian@cityofconcord.org);  
[edi.birsan@cityofconcord.org](mailto:edi.birsan@cityofconcord.org); [carlyn.obringer@cityofconcord.org](mailto:carlyn.obringer@cityofconcord.org)

**Paid for by Concord residents who care about the future of our city.**