

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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West County Notes:

By Chris Treadway
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National Talk Like a Pirate Day came and went Saturday, but the sixth National Punctuation Day is just around the corner, as in Thursday.

The day is the brainchild of Jeff Rubin, familiar to readers of this column as a board member of the Pinole Historical Society and a co-author of a newly released book of historic images of the city.

Many teachers around the United States have embraced Rubin's statement that "Casual shortcuts bred by e-mailing and text messaging have no place in school papers or professional business writing."

New to this year's observance is the first National Punctuation Day Baking Contest. The recipe for "punctuation meatloaf" can be found at www.nationalpunctuationday.com.

"The first one of my readers to send me a photo of this recipe baked in the shape of a punctuation mark — other than a comma, colon, ellipsis, dash, or hyphen (too easy) wins a free National Punctuation Day T-shirt," Rubin writes.