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12th Annual
CAR SHOW
DANVILLE
Hot Summer Nights
2006

Page 2 • July 21, 2006 • Danville Weekly
What’s your favorite part of Hot Summer Nights?

We get to bring all these cars to Danville. It brings a lot of families to Danville and revitalizes the town. I enjoy seeing the cars, and my favorite is the Studebaker.

Lee Halverson
event volunteer

My favorite part is getting to greet everyone that comes. There’s an amazing number who are from our area. My favorite part is also that families come down and enjoy the show. Everyone in the family has a favorite car, which makes the show kind of neat.

Karen Stepper
mayor of Danville

The cars. I was looking for the older cars like the 1930s. I see a lot of Chevys and Fords.

Joel Flores
retired mechanical engineer

I enjoy watching the cars. We set up a seat and look around at the cars. I like the ones from the ‘20s and ‘30s.

Emily Valentine
clerk typist

The cars. Just how pretty they are and how well cared for they are, the assortment; there are all kinds of different cars. The best car I ever owned was a 1970 Jaguar Roadster. I gave it to my daughter a couple of years ago.

Dr. Robert Leasure
retired physician

Q: What’s your favorite part of Hot Summer Nights?

Nellcor Puritan Bennett develops, manufactures and markets products that help diagnose, monitor and treat respiratory patients around the world.

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Offer applies only to the 1-Month Option ARM. The interest rate/ APR may increase after the first month. The interest rate may change more frequently than the minimum payment amount. The minimum payment is always the lowest payment that can be made each month. Making the minimum payment each month can result in negative amortization. All payment options are not available each month. In addition, on 15-year loans, only up to three payment options are available. Interest that accrues between the date of closing and the month in which your first payment is due will be added to the balance of your loan. APR is effective 4/05/06. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only to borrowers with FICO scores equal to or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only on purchase money and non-cash out refinance loans secured by 1-2 unit owner-occupied properties with terms of 15 and 30 years, Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios of up to 70% (purchase money and non cash out refinance) and loan to value or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only on purchase money and non-cash out refinance loans secured by 1-2 unit owner-occupied properties with terms of 15 and 30 years, Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios of up to 70% (purchase money and non cash out refinance) and loan to value or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only on purchase money and non-cash out refinance loans secured by 1-2 unit owner-occupied properties with terms of 15 and 30 years, Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios of up to 70% (purchase money and non cash out refinance) and loan to value or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only on purchase money and non-cash out refinance loans secured by 1-2 unit owner-occupied properties with terms of 15 and 30 years, Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios of up to 70% (purchase money and non cash out refinance) and loan to value or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only on purchase money and non-cash out refinance loans secured by 1-2 unit owner-occupied properties with terms of 15 and 30 years, Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios of up to 70% (purchase money and non cash out refinance) and loan to value or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles.

Home Depot Representatives will meet with the Alamo Improvement Association and the public to preview plans for the remodeling of Yardbirds on Tuesday, July 25. The company is seeking informal public comments on its proposed site changes before it submits a formal application to the county. All residents in the area are invited to engage in a question-and-answer session regarding the design. Those who wish to attend but cannot make it are encouraged to contact the AIA with comments and questions at president@alamoca.org. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd. in Alamo.

Relay for Life in Danville
Participants in the 24-hour Relay for Life tomorrow at San Ramon Valley High School will launch their walk at 9 a.m. with a Cancer Survivor Lap. The event pays tribute to the lives lost to cancer and raises money to fight the disease.

Preparing for the worst
The San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will be teaming up with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff, and Bay Area Red Cross to sponsor Disaster Preparedness Day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, July 29.

The general public is encouraged to attend in order to learn how to prepare for local disasters, including fires, floods and earthquakes. Professionals will be on hand to provide basic disaster information and sell earthquake kits, water purification filters, and emergency radios. All families attending will receive a free information packet.

Preparers for the worst Members from the police and fire departments will set up booths with disaster response equipment and will advise attendees on how they should respond to a disaster. The event will be held at the church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. For more information, visit www.srvumc.org or call 837-5243.

Clarification
In the July 14 issue, a final quote by Blackhawk Art Gallery coordinator Tracy Bauer was cut off in the article, “Artist co-op needs new home after 18 years.” In anticipation of a new art venue, she said, “We’ll find another way to get the art out there.” The Blackhawk Art Gallery is located near Gottschalks in the Blackhawk Plaza; Bauer can be reached at (415) 531-2556.
Ballet Company takes final bow in Alamo

by Natalie O’Neill

A

other empty venue will soon be added to the several existing vacancies in Alamo Plaza. Danville Ballet Company, which specializes in dance training classes, will move out of its location at the end of August and become part of the Diablo Ballet Program in Walnut Creek.

The relocation came after the property owner, who lives in Texas and manages the property through Colliers International, recently raised the rent at Alamo Plaza.

“We are the only professional ballet school in the Tri-Valley area. It’s a terrible loss to the community,” said Rebecca Crowell, director of Ballet and Theater Arts.

While the ballet school will now get subsidies through the city of Walnut Creek, dancers and parents from Alamo and Danville will have a further journey to class. And students said they will miss their home away from home.

“It was really sudden. We basically live here,” said Georgina Partridge, a teenager who dances with the Danville Ballet Company.

Since the ballet school took over the venue about three years ago. It’s really difficult to find an appropriate, inexpensive venue for the arts in the Tri-Valley area, she said.

Since the ballet company teaches children, it cannot legally occupy venues in industrial areas for safety reasons. It’s often hard to find an affordable location next to retail stores, Crowell said.

“They are not forcing us out; however, they are charging us rent so high we can’t afford to stay,” Crowell said.

Property manager Melody Teteria said she had no comment on the subject.

Alamo and Danville residents are encouraged to support the arts by buying subscriptions to their publications and making donations to the program, Crowell said. She has been

Trustees OK eight upgraded health standards

Updates include managing anger and peer interaction

by Jordan M. Doronila

T

rustees unanimously approved a list of upgraded health standards last month for students and educators to follow in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

“I’m pleased with the health standards,” Trustee Greg Marvel said. “The (district’s health) committee has worked hard on them.”

“Hopefully, they teach them good eating habits, to make good choices in their health,” he added. “It’s trying to get them to understand that there are consequences to making bad choices.”

The state standards have been changing for the past three years to help youths live healthier lives, he said. They encompass a comprehensive outlook on health and are focused on healthy lifestyles.

There are a total of eight health standards that all grades in the district must follow, and they are taught differently at each grade level. They deal with maintaining a healthy lifestyle, responding to dangerous situations, and promoting a solid family environment.

They also help youths develop positive relationships with their peers and be aware of physical, emotional and social changes as they get older.

Some of the main differences in the new updates include managing anger and peer interaction. In the past, the standards primarily focused on bodily functions, said Scott Gerbert, chairman of the district’s health task force and coordinator of programs and grants.

“This is much more comprehensive,” Gerbert said. “There’s a lot more focus on the whole gamut of healthy choices.”

Practicing good personal hygiene, eating a diverse group of healthy foods, sharing feelings in productive ways, avoiding destructive behavior and having self-control are examples of how children live healthier lives, noted the standards.

“Overall, it’s bringing the district in compliance with state health

Walking to shed light on suicide

Loved ones hope to prevent tragedy for others with overnight walk

by Natalie O’Neill

L

ike several other Danville residents, Sally Hirst recently lost a loved one to suicide. Hirst’s close friend Connie Buckman shocked her friends and family when she took her own life in May.

“She was vivacious, outgoing and bubbly, not at all someone you would envision to take their own life,” Hirst said.

Sadly, the people closest to the victims are often in the dark about their suicidal tendencies. Loved ones might know something is wrong but don’t expect suicide is an option, Hirst said.

With hopes of preventing tragedy like this from happening to others, she decided to take action.

Tomorrow she will walk 20 miles with Connie’s widower Mark Buckman as part of the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk in San Francisco. The walk raises money to fund suicide education, awareness and research and will begin at sunset and end at sunrise.

“Suicide cuts across all ages, socioeconomic status and ethnicity,” said Wylie Tene, public relations manager for the walk.

Kim Bass of Danville will also participate in the walk in memory of her father, who drowned himself in October; Karen Chestron of Danville will be there in remembrance of her brother who committed suicide two years ago.

“Suicide is completely preventable and there lies the tragedy,” Chestron said.

The $1.35 million raised in Chicago at last year’s walk funded suicide prevention videos, research on depression and other suicide-related illness, and training for recovery program facilitators, among other efforts.

Tene said recognizing the signs and having an open dialogue about depression and suicide makes a world of difference.

“If I had been more aware, maybe I could have done something,” Chestron said.

Depression and bipolar disorder, the most common conditions related to suicide, are both highly treatable, using therapy and medication.

In fact, 80 to 90 percent of people who seek help for bipolar disorder can be effectively treated, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Peak suicide rates for women fall between the ages of 40 and 54, the age group Connie was in.

“You don’t realize you will run out of opportunities to help someone,” Hirst said.

Hirst said Connie had a history of depression and she took anti-depressants and pain pills for her back pain. These factors, combined with hormone swings from menopause, may have contributed to her tragic death, she said.

A further journey to class. And students said they will miss their home away from home.

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Continued on page 8

Continued on page 6

Danville Weekly • July 21, 2006 • Page 5
Special ed parents outline complaints to assemblyman

Folks cite lack of progress dealing with children’s challenges

by Jordan M. Doronila

An angry storm of complaints rained heavily on state Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., District 15) last week about the lack of attention and proper instruction special education students receive in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

More than 40 parents packed a conference room at the Dougherty Station Community Center in San Ramon on July 12 and voiced their frustration to Houston that their children’s special needs are not being met.

Some cried over their challenges and vented their agony about raising children with intense learning disabilities.

“Various media reports have identified the problems surrounding special education as a national epidemic,” wrote a group of parents in a letter. “This national epidemic is echoed locally and highlighted by the challenges parents face in the affluent and well-educated San Ramon Valley Unified School District.”

“We are focused on the education and survival of our children,” it said. “And while public officials and parents to air their complaints rained heavily on state Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., District 15) last week about the lack of attention and proper instruction special education students receive in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.”

“While public officials may look at trying to solve problems in the context of a school year or budget cycle, we deal with our children’s challenges on a daily basis.”

They complained that while the school district has spent thousands of dollars for attorney fees to deal with their issues, services are not being provided or are outright denied to their children. They also said there is a high turnover rate among special education staff and school officials have failed to return phone calls or answer questions.

Additionally, they said many special education classes are merely a room for babysitting as opposed to a place for learning.

Tammy Brock said when her daughter was in a fourth-grade special needs class several years ago, she had to copy the words: “It can not fly. One wing is hurt...The bird will get well.”

And six years later after she entered the 10th grade, Brock was displeased that she was given the exact same assignment.

Houston said he has no power over decision-making in the school district but he will use the power he does have to help facilitate a meeting with the school board, district officials and parents to air their differences and find a solution.

“I think there is a lot of lack of communication,” said Houston, a San Ramon resident and a 1978 graduate of San Ramon Valley High School. “My role is to be a facilitator to get them trying to talk about their problems. You have a system in place, but the dialogue is not free.”

“This is a problem,” he added. “It’s just how you approach it. We need to find out how we can bridge these issues.”

School board members said the district is doing its best to meet the needs of every student.

“I think special education is always a difficult issue,” said board Trustee Nancy Petsuch. “We have 24,000 students we have to educate. We try to look at each child.”

She said the board has an obligation to support the district. But she added that she felt empathy for parents who had hired lawyers to get through their challenges.

“I’m sorry they feel they have to do it,” she said.

Petsuch also noted that finding qualified special education teachers and keeping them is difficult.

“People are not coming with special education credentials,” she said.

She said even though teachers only work six hours a day for seven or 10 months for a fairly good salary, they are still hard to find.

“Statewide, there is a need for special needs teachers,” she said.

Houston said he is learning, and he will do his homework in understanding special education issues.

He has met with school board members for the past week and a half, and he plans to schedule a meeting with them and the parents sometime in September. In addition, he plans to visit special education classes in the district.

Petsuch said the board wants to listen to parents, and it is willing to work with them.

“We do listen,” she said. “We do hear them. We have tried every thing we can within our realm. I’m not saying we always agree.”

“We work diligently,” she added.

“We are doing what we can for their child to have the best chance in life.”

Suicide

“The idea behind holding the event between sundown and sunup is a symbol of the effort to bring a difficult issue out of the dark,” Tene said.

“In life there will always be a time when someone who loves you commits suicide. We want to give a place for people suffering from depression a chance to talk about it without feeling like they are burdening the ones they love, she said.”

Prepare for the walk is therapeutic, it feels like we are doing something to deal with the pain,” said Tene.

There is a lot of guilt when someone you love chooses to commit suicide, Bass said. Talking and relating to other people who have been through the same hardships is an added bonus of the walk, she said.

“The idea behind holding the event between sundown and sunup is a symbol of the effort to bring a difficult issue out of the dark, Tene said.

“Preparing for the walk is therapeutic, it feels like we are doing something to deal with the pain,” she said.

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NEWSFRONT

Suicide

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“There is help. There is light at the end of this tunnel,” Tene said.

Both the opening and closing ceremonies will be held at Crissy Field at the Presidio. To find out more, go to www.overnight.org or call (888) 333-2377.
**NEWSFRONT**

**Bring the library to your home**

*Contra Costa Library starts up e-Card service*

by Kevin Zhou

A trip to the library just got a whole lot easier.

The Contra Costa County Library System is now offering the “Library e-Card Service,” a feature that allows anyone living in the county to access the library’s electronic resources. To register for an e-Card, go to the Danville Library or visit www.cclib.org.

“We have various e-books, some you can read on your computer. Instead of having to come in, you can get immediate access by having an e-Card,” said Susan Kantor-Horning, the library system’s electronic resources specialist. “We have different vendors.”

An e-Card can be used from a home or office to access more than 2,000 electronic books in the library’s database, which includes such popular titles as “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” and “Being Martha: The Inside Story of Martha Stewart.” The books available cover a wide range of genres, from animated talking children’s books to test preparation to auto repair. They can all be downloaded onto the user’s computer.

Other electronic resources include newspapers, magazines, legal e-Books, and archived articles.

“We are buying resources for our community, and we want to make sure that they are actually used,” said Lorrie Butler, information systems project manager. “These are things that, although they are available through the Internet, are not a free resource.”

The e-Card can also be used to place holds on books within the library’s catalog system. However, if the e-Card user wants to actually pick up the books, he or she needs to register for a library card and identification and proof of address are required for full access library card.

While people of all ages are encouraged to sign up for an e-Card, one of the service’s main focuses is to help out students.

“We believe the library’s new Library e-Card Service will be very popular with students and teachers,” said Cathy Sanford, deputy county librarian of support services.

In addition to all of the electronic resources, students can access “AskNow,” a live online reference service where they can submit any questions they have with homework to be answered in a timely and convenient fashion.

“We are buying resources for our community, and we want to make sure that they are actually used.”

—Lorrie Butler, information systems project manager

**Fourth bird tests positive for virus**

A dead western scrub jay found in Oakley has tested positive for West Nile virus, the fourth positive case in the county this year, it was announced Tuesday. This highlights the importance of reporting dead birds and of protecting against mosquito bites, said officials from the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District.

“Right now, unmaintained swimming pools are a huge problem,” said Carlos Sanabria, operations manager for the district. “They can breed thousands upon thousands of mosquitoes in a neighborhood.”

Last year there were 11 human cases of the virus in Contra Costa County plus 94 dead birds, 18 chickens, four mosquito samples, 10 horses and 25 squirrels tested positive for the virus. So far in 2006, there has been one human case, and 96 dead birds, seven chickens, 62 mosquito samples, and one horse that tested positive.

“We rely on the public to report dead birds to the state West Nile virus hotline because those reports help us respond to potential virus hot spots in the county and reduce possible human infection,” said Steve Schultz, scientific programs manager for the district. Report dead birds to (877) 968-2473.

Up to 20 percent of the population infected with the virus gets the West Nile fever, which causes flu-like symptoms. Fewer than 1 percent of these individuals require hospitalization. For more information, call the county Health Services Department at (888) 959-9911 or visit www.cchealth.org.

—Lorrie Butler, information systems project manager

**7 Deadly mistakes that will cost you thousands when selling your home this summer**

A new report has just been released which reveals seven costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a nine-step system that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today’s market.

The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don’t get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most home sellers make seven deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars.

The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled The 9 Step System To Get Your Home Sold Fast And For Top Dollar.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-888-258-3224 and enter ID # 6511. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or visit www.TriValley-SellerMistakes.com to order online.

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—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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Lunch Mon-Sat 11:30-3:00 p.m.
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**Visit www.TriValley-SellerMistakes.com**

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Host a Party—For birthdays, bridal showers or friends who want to have a unique and fun get together, arrange a private party at Bollinger Nail Salon.

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**Health standards**

➤ Continued from page 5

“Health standards,” Marvel said. “It contains different ways of articulating things.”

Students will learn to deal with dangerous situations by avoiding poisonous substances such as drugs and practicing safe behavior near water or cars.

“Hopefully, the standards can reduce the use of marijuana, drugs and alcohol,” Marvel said. “We’ve got to get on that.”

He added that students dealing with peer pressure is a critical issue.

“How we managed to get out of the cave is beyond me,” he said. “It’s human inclination to go with the herd.” Marvel said the standards are trying to make youths aware of how popular culture negatively affects their minds.

“When they see Paris Hilton, they can make a decision that, ‘That’s not for me,’” he said. “I do not want booze because I do not want a pickle brain later in life.”

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**Visiting Honduras Bob**

Bob Galletly travels to La Ceiba, Honduras, with his Weekly to visit his good friend and developer Bob Alexzander.

**Arabian days**

Marty and Sandy Echelmeier visit Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, posing at Jumeirah Beach in front of the Burj Al Arab hotel, the only 7-star hotel in the world. They also visited several countries in central Europe.

**Tough day at the office**

Remember rainy April? Sarah and Katie Wells and Heather and Taylor James escape school, sports and rain to hit the Office in Cabo San Lucas for some much-needed sunshine—with their Weekly.

**Shakespeare in Paris?**

Katy and Jesse Repp of Alamo included Shakespeare & Co. bookstore in their tour of Paris but couldn’t resist a photo with the Weekly that featured a question mark.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Danville 94596.
In the driver’s seat

I am an excellent driver. Just ask my husband. No, don’t. But he obviously has a perception problem because I have never had a ticket. OK, I was cited 24 years ago for making an illegal left turn. But there was no one for miles around—except the policeman. And perhaps I sometimes pull in too closely to walls in parking garages since I once lost a front license plate that way.

But when the car is in motion, I drive confidently, without speeding, and carefully. Apparently not all people keep their driving skills as well after they pass the 50-year mark. AARP offers its Driver Safety Programs across the nation, an eight-hour classroom refresher to help people learn the effects of aging on driving and how to adjust. Most classes are taught in two, four-hour sessions, and the cost is $10. The Town of Danville is hosting a course from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fridays, Aug. 18 and 25. To sign up, call 314-3400 or register online at www.aaa.com.

The instructor, Achiel Wanket, says he does not ask ages but students have volunteered being as old as 85. He said the class is enjoyable as folks share their experiences and they discuss problems and issues.

The AARP Web site offers an online Driver Safety Course ($15.95 for members, $19.95 for non-members). After the course is completed, AARP will mail a certificate for a break on car insurance. The Web site has a “test drive” for the course that was interesting—great graphics, and informative. As people age, they are bothered by bright lights; also less light enters their eyes so they are bothered by bright lights; and dusk—the ability to fill in figures when shown partial outlines, head/neck flexibility, skill in seeing at night—the ability to remember instructions. At the end of the session you receive scores, which you can keep confidential or bring to your doctor for advice.

Apparently not all people keep their driving skills as well after they pass the 50-year mark. AARP offers its Driver Safety Programs across the nation, an eight-hour classroom refresher to help people learn the effects of aging on driving and how to adjust.

I expected to ace every section as well as a 20-year-old; that wasn’t the case although I am far from being “at risk.” I will admit I did not follow two of the instructions: You are supposed to sit in a stable, straight-back chair but I stayed in the swivel chair that was already in place; and I faked the 10-foot walking part because it was too hot to move. A good feature of the program is that it advises you on actions to take if you have impairments.

Both the AAA Roadwise Review and the AARP test drive were helpful. Although I did not agree with some of the test drive, such as the picture of the happy couple taking the course together at their computer. Yeah, right! As it is better never to discuss politics or religion with friends or neighbors, it is best in my house not to discuss driving habits. Or license plates that are not securely affixed to the front of cars.
Shedding light on suicide

This weekend several Danville residents are taking part in a 20-mile overnight walk in San Francisco to raise funds for suicide prevention programs. The Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk is also aimed at getting people to talk about suicide and to remove the stigma.

The money raised by the walk will help fund research to understand the biological, genetic and psychosocial factors that contribute to suicide. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention says eight out of 10 depressed people can be helped with medicine and therapy. People with bipolar disorder have an 80-90 percent chance of being effectively treated.

The Foundation wants everyone to realize suicidal behavior is the result of a medical condition, usually depression, and not the sign of a weak character. It also notes that those who talk about their problems are more likely to seek help, so friends who would start a dialogue should watch out for the following:

- Depressed mood
- Loss of appetite or pleasure in usual activities
- Change in appetite or weight
- Change in sleeping patterns
- Speaking and/or moving with unusual speed or slowness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities
- Increase in sexual drive
- Fatigue or loss of energy
- Feelings of worthlessness, self-reproach or guilt
- Diminished ability to think, or concentrate, slowed thinking or indecisiveness
- Thoughts of death, suicide or wishes to be dead

Other factors that may indicate an increased risk are anxiety; isolation; drug or alcohol abuse; a history of emotional illness; and feelings of hopelessness.

During these lovely summer months it is disturbing to realize that most suicides take place during the spring, June and July. The walkers this weekend, many of whom are medically fragile with significant disabilities, are likely to seek help, so friends who would start a dialogue should watch out for the following:

- Depressed mood
- Loss of appetite or pleasure in usual activities
- Change in appetite or weight
- Change in sleeping patterns
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**POLICE BULLETIN**

**Woman reports rape in Alamo**

A woman reported at the Sheriff’s Valley Station in Alamo last week that she had been raped.

She reported at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 12, that a male suspect—whom she had known—raped her in a car parked on a side street, said Jimmy Lee, spokesman for the Sheriff’s Office.

“They knew each other,” Lee said. “This is not a random-type act. We are still trying to get to the bottom of this.”

Apparently, the man drove the woman in a car on Interstate 680 and exited off the freeway, eventually parking on a side street. Lee said the man then committed the sexual act inside the car.

The woman, who lives in Contra Costa County, went to the police the next day in Alamo.

“She is doing fine in light of the circumstances,” Lee said.

Lee said the victim does not know exactly where she was raped, but it was somewhere in the county.

“We have not been able to determine where it happened,” Lee said. “It’s still in the early stages in trying to gather all the facts. We have not been able to establish an exact location. Detectives are following up on this.”

Lee said there are commonalities in many rape incidents.

“A lot of the victims know the suspects,” he said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

**POLICE LOG**

The Danville Police Department made the following information available.

**The law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.**

**Wednesday, July 12**

- Auto burglary on Del Amigo Rd. at 12:11 p.m.
- Grand theft, defined, on Gingerwood Ln. at 12:24 p.m.
- Grand theft, all other, on Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:52 p.m.
- Vandalism on Richard Ct. at 2:55 p.m.

**Thursday, July 13**

- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. and Zephyr Ct. at 7:42 a.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on Blemor Rd. at 8:08 a.m.
- Auto burglary on W. Meadows Ln. at 7:53 a.m.
- Suspicous circumstances on El Cerro Blvd. at 9:02 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Shana Ct. at 1:36 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Chadbourne Dr. at 6:47 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Front St. at 6:59 p.m.

**Friday, July 14**

- Vandalism on Camino Ramon Pl. at 6:52 a.m.
- Vandalism on Van Patten Dr. at 11:46 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Fostoria Way at 2:10 p.m.

**Saturday, July 15**

- DUI, arrest, on Hertz Way and Hartz Ct. at 1:14 a.m.
- Vandalism on Harlan Dr. at 12:41 p.m.
- Felony vandalism on Esther Ln. at 12:37 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Matadera Ct. at 7:56 p.m.

The Office of the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Department’s Valley Station in Alamo made the following information available.

**ALAMO**

- Petty theft on Diablo Rd. and Rose Ave. at 5:36 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Town and Country Dr. at 7:47 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 10:07 p.m.

**BLACKHAWK**

- Possession of dangerous drugs on Camille Ave. and Daniel Dr.

**ROUNDHILL**

- Residential burglary on Pepperwood Ct.

**Monday, July 10**

- Vandalism on Wilson Rd.
- Vandalism on Southview Dr.
- Petty theft on Diablo Rd. and Rose Ave.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Town and Country Dr. at 7:47 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 10:07 p.m.

**Wednesday, July 12**

- Disturbance on Sandstone Rd.
- Warrant arrest on Front St. at 6:59 p.m.

**Thursday, July 13**

- Residential burglary on Matadera Ct. at 7:56 p.m.

**Friday, July 14**

- Misdemeanor battery on Blemor Rd. at 8:08 a.m.
- Auto burglary on W. Meadows Ln. at 7:53 a.m.
- Suspicous circumstances on El Cerro Blvd. at 9:02 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Shana Ct. at 1:36 p.m.
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- Felony vandalism on Esther Ln. at 12:37 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Matadera Ct. at 7:56 p.m.
- Possession of dangerous drugs on Camille Ave. and Daniel Dr.

**Sunday, July 16**

- Residential burglary on Pepperwood Ct.

**Monday, July 10**

- Vandalism on Wilson Rd.
- Vandalism on Southview Dr.
Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

Danville Little League prevails over San Ramon

All Star 11-year-olds go on to compete in Fremont

by Jordan M. Doronila

Ready to roll. And ready to go. The Danville 11-year-old Little League All Stars beat San Ramon Valley in the District 57 International All Star Tournament last week, earning them the right to play yesterday in Fremont at the section championship.

Danville Little League All Stars and San Ramon Valley Little League All Stars played in two games last week, and split with a game apiece. Though Danville Little League got pummeled in the first game 12-2, it won the second with a score of 14-11 and had the right—due to the tournament’s two-game elimination rule—to move forward and face Palo Alto National in Fremont on July 20.

Danville went into last week’s games undefeated, having beaten four other teams, said Alison Fowler, public relations officer for the Danville Little League.

In last week’s first game, San Ramon Valley’s Scott Wilson had three hits and Alex Riley had two hits. Danville’s Marshall Rodrigues had two hits and Austin Lonestar had one hit.

In the second game, Danville’s Dylan Christensen, son of team manager Randy Christensen, hit four home runs.

“I’m very proud of him,” said Christensen.

There are four local leagues—the Danville Little League, San Ramon Valley Little League, Tassajara American and Tassajara National. The winner in Fremont plays in the Northern California Championship game, said Christensen, adding, “I’m very excited.”

E-mail results and photos to sports@DanvilleWeekly.com.

Marshall Rodrigues pitches a fast one for the Danville Little League All Stars in its game last week against San Ramon Valley.

Danville Little League All Star Matt Fowler runs to first base.

Water polo world

Jessica Steffens, No. 13, a graduate of Monte Vista High School, blocks a pass in a water polo game against China, playing with the U.S.A. women’s Senior National Team in a FINA Women’s World League semifinal game at the USA Training Center in Los Alamitos (in SoCal). The USA team won, 15-1. Steffens is entering her sophomore year at Stanford University.

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OBITUARIES

Donald J. Siebold

Danville resident Donald J. Siebold, 69, died July 8 at UCSF Medical Center. He was born Nov. 21, 1936, in New Jersey and lived in Danville for the last 25 years.

He was a craftsman in woodwork, enjoyed his yard projects and all spectator sports. He was an 18-year employee of the General Electric Corp, and retired as marketing and sales engineer for Molex Inc. with 20 years of service.

He is survived by his wife Patricia; and sons David of Austin, Texas, Steve of Petaluma, and Dan of Orange County. He was preceded in death by his son Mark Siebold.

Memorial services were held July 13 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville. Donations may be made to the UCSF Cardiology Division, checks payable to “UCSF Foundation” indicating “Memorial gift: Mr. Donald Siebold”; send to Dr. William Grossman, UCSF Cardiology Division, 505 Parnassus Ave., 1182 Moffitt, San Francisco 94143-0124.

John D. ’Jack’ McCort

Alamo resident John D. “Jack” McCort of Alamo passed away at his home on his 62nd birthday June 29 after a long illness.

He was born July 29, 1944, in St. Joseph, Mich., to William R. and Sara E. (Ackerman) McCort. He was married 45 years. She is survived by son Robert of Oceanside; brother John (Jack) Edwin Thomas; sister Sarah (Ted) Hogue of Bridgman, Mich.; former spouse Arlene McCort; in-laws Lewis and Rosemary Brooks of Burlingame; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held in Michigan on July 8. A memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Isidore’s Church on Thursday, July 20. Contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, MS Foundation or charity of your choice.

Gertrude ’Trudy’ LePage Boss

Gertrude “Trudy” LePage Boss, a longtime Alamo resident who had moved recently to Danville, died peacefully with her children at her side July 7 at the age of 76. She was born on Nov. 15, 1929, in Pascagoula, Mississippi, the youngest of seven children.

She was a graduate of Hoover High School and Glendale Junior College, both in Glendale. In 1980, the same year she became a grandmother, she earned her bachelor’s degree at St. Mary’s College. After raising her children, she resumed her career and worked for about 20 years, mostly at John Muir Medical Center and the John Muir Foundation, where she did fundraising and coordinated special events.

Her first love was her family but she was also passionate about gardening, cooking and sports.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frederick, in 1995. They were married 45 years. She survived by son Robert of Oceanseaside; daughter Suzanne of Portland, Ore.; four grandchildren, Daniel Rubin, Jay Rubin, Lucille Boss and Rita Boss; sister June Norton; brother Raymond LePage; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held July 15 at Oak Park Hills Chapel in Walnut Creek. Memorial donations may be sent to John Muir Foundation, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road., Walnut Creek, or Hospice Care of Contra Costa, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523.

Deaths, Weddings and Births are a free editorial service.

Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to: Transitions, Danville Weekly, 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526. Or fax: (925) 837-8300

Send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly’s web site: www.DanvilleWeekly.com

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Tour de force

Blackhawk Museum showcases the automobile as a functional art form
by Kathy Cordova

My first car was a $200 pea-green little box with roof upholstery that sagged so much it grazed the heads of backseat passengers. My second car was a fire-hydrant yellow Pinto. Now I drive a blue SUV that’s so ordinary I often try to unlock the doors of similar vehicles in crowded parking lots. Which is all to say that I am not exactly a “car person.” Four wheels, an engine and window locks for kids in the backseat are the essential elements I need in a mode of transportation. Anything else is just frills.

So it’s little wonder I’ve never visited the Blackhawk Automotive Museum—until now.

In an instant, all my preconceived notions about cars vanished. Now, I am a believer.

Entering the inner sanctum of the museum, I was unprepared for the glorious, almost surreal, sight. Gazing upon stark background and the bright lights focused on the cars, illuminating the masterpieces in their kaleidoscope of colors, felt like walking into heaven— if St. Peter were driving a 1911 Silver Ghost Rolls Royce and beckoning me to hop in and enjoy the ride.

“Most people do exactly what you do,” says Dan Dunn, director of the museum. “They stop at the entrance and take in the whole room. We are different than a lot of automobile museums. The theatrical lighting, the black floors, the black walls—it’s all designed so that your eyes focus on what we want you to see, which is the automobile.”

And the automobiles—they are magnificent. As much of a piece of art as an Impressionist painting or a marble statue, these “rolling sculptures” are admired for the beauty of the colors—cherry reds, deep plums and lemonade yellows—the graceful, curved lines of the bodies and the textures of buttercream leather, glossy steel and antique tasseled interiors. The work of legendary manufacturers and designers, like Hispano-Suiza, Minerva and Isotta Fraschini, are revered by car enthusiasts in the same way as a Picasso or Renoir would be by a visitor to the Louvre.

This is all according to plan. Blackhawk developer and car collector Ken Behring founded the museum in 1988 to showcase the automobile as a functional art form. “A lot of people anticipate they’ll learn about the history of the automobile, but the museum is more about the shapes, colors, design and workmanship,” says Dunn.

The museum is composed of about 100,000 square feet with two 25,000-square-foot galleries displaying automobiles from the turn of the century to modern times. The second-floor gallery is devoted to pre-World War II cars, and the first floor shows later model cars. Rotating exhibits that may or may not relate to automobiles are featured in another two 2,100-square-foot galleries. An expansive lobby, an automobile research library, a shop and bookstore, and a gallery devoted to the Wheelchair Foundation complete the public areas.

The museum displays about 90 cars at a time—an ever-changing exhibit from collectors all around the world. Blackhawk often attracts cars after they have been shown in the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, the premiere auto show in the world, held in August every year. The museum will keep cars for different amounts of time—from a few weeks to a few years. In the beginning, the museum had to hunt around for cars to exhibit, but its reputation is such that now owners seek it out.

“Like any collector, they want people to see what they have and appreciate it,” says Dunn. Dunn estimates the collection is valued at about a quarter of a billion dollars. Several of the cars are worth multi-millions each—many of them one of a kind or one of an extremely few made. As one would guess, the fleet is heavily insured. Although they don’t do mechanical work or restoration on the cars in the museum, they employ a car conservator who is responsible for making sure the cars stay clean and maintained.

Each car is accompanied by a sign with information such as make, model, year, owners, its cost when new and other interesting details. Beyond the sheer beauty of the automobiles, the stories behind them are much of the fun.

For example, Clark Gable’s pale yellow 1935 Duesenberg is prominently displayed along with photos of Gable and Carole Lombard frolicking together in the car. When Lombard died in a plane crash, Gable couldn’t bear to look at the car again; it reminded him so painfully of his romance that he had it taken away and sold.

When many of these cars were made, it was the custom of the wealthy to order the chassis and engine they wanted and then hire a coachbuilder to design and construct the body of the car according to their individual specifications. Consequently, cars that are the same make and model may not look anything alike.

“Like any collector, they want people to see what they have and appreciate it,” says Dunn.

One of the most striking vehicles in the museum is the 1926 Daimler “Tiger Hunter,” once owned by Gulab Singh, Maharajah of Rewa of India. The car is made of German silver, weighs 3 tons and gets about 5 miles per gallon. It has two wicker and wooden seats on the outside of the car for servants to ride in. The car has two sets of windows, one clear glass and one smoked, for when the wives would ride in the car, and horns in the shape of cobras.

Dunn’s favorite interior feature is found on a 31 Isotta Fraschini, designed to be driven by a chauffeur. On the right side of the passenger’s section are buttons labeled “left, right, quick, slow, turn, stop and home,” offering the ultimate experience for backseat drivers.

Several cars look as if they could have belonged to gangsters. Dunn says that motorcycles like John Dillinger and Clyde Barrow (of Bonnie and Clyde fame) were fans of Ford V-8s. Barrow once praised the cars to Henry Ford in a letter, writing that he drove Ford’s “dandy cars” exclusively, “whenever he could get away with one.”

The docents who lead visitors through the museum every weekend love to tell stories like these, coaxing even automobile novices into the magic of their “rolling sculptures.”

“Usually two people come to the museum. One person comes and brings the other one because he’s the car nut,” says Dunn. “For that person, you don’t have to do anything but turn on the lights.

“It’s when the other person said they had a wonderful time that we know we’re doing our job.”

Kathy Cordova is the author of “Let Go, Let Miracles Happen: The Art of Spiritual Surrender.”

Hood mascot from a 1938 Pierce-Arrow V-12 Silver Arrow sedan.

This 1956 Ferrari 625 Le Mans Spyder was one of three built by Carrozzeria Touring of Milan, with a simplified chassis that more closely resembled standard Ferrari production cars.

Steering wheel and dash of a 1938 Packard Model 1608.
**Museum Information**

- Museum is located at 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle in Danville
- Telephone: 736-2280
- www.blackhawkmuseum.org
- Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, and most major holidays
- Membership ranges from $60 for individual to $75 for families and up
- Admission is $8 for adults; $5 for students and senior (65 and older); free for children under 6 accompanied by a paid adult; and free for active military personnel
- For group tour information and rates, call 736-2277, ext. 236
- Docents provide complimentary tours (with paid admission) at 2 p.m. every weekend
- The museum is also available for rent for special occasions like private parties, wedding receptions and charity dinners

**Special events**

“CARS, CARS, CARS”
1-4 p.m., Sunday, July 23
Explore the concepts behind the Pixar movie. Design and paint cars similar to the ones in the movie and make Rocky Road candy.

“SPEEDWAY”
1-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 13
All about speed and making things that go fast; cars, airplanes, etc. Design a balloon rocket car, play a race car game, and eat checkered flag cookies.

18th Annual Open House
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Aug. 21
Blackhawk’s 18th annual post-Pebble Beach Open House features refreshments by Scott’s Seafood Grill & Bar of Walnut Creek and Earl Watkins playing jazz. Admission is free.

“INVENTIONS, INC.”
1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 17
Create pinwheels, Frisbees and all kinds of inventions. Explore how to make things out of household items that GO. MOVE, FLY, BOUNCE! Color your own play dough. Design and eat a treat that “moves.”

Rolls-Royce Ltd., founded in 1904 by Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce, introduced its Silver Ghost in 1906; this 1911 model is a Silver Ghost Tourer.
Have you ever heard of the words “binding,” “batting,” “piecing” or “appliqué”? How about “quilting”? Just visit the quarterly work session of the Blankies for Grownups at John Muir Medical Center Concord and you will get a brilliantly colored eyeful. At the event, quilters fashion cuddly blankets to be given away to comfort adults who are dealing with serious illnesses.

The core group is the Diablo Valley Quilt Guild based in Danville. It is augmented on Blankie Day by many individuals from other quilting groups with great names like: Needle Arts Guild (N.A.G. for short) Monday Night Pickles Starlight Stitchers Twisted Thimbles The Blockheads

Susan Gray, a Danville resident, is the current Blankie Day leader. “As many as 100 of these lady artists come together each quarter at the hospital,” she said. “The group then becomes Blankies for Grownups for a day. They bring their sewing machines, special tables, ironing boards, thousands of pins, and prefabricated parts.”

Now, about 2,200 quilts later, Blankies for Grownups reaches out to embrace wounded soldiers, cancer victims, newborns and those in Hospice.

Lyda McAuliff sews together colorful material for Blankies for Grownups to bring comfort to those going through difficult times, focusing mainly on breast cancer patients. The pile, at right, grows and grows as the volunteers take needle and thread to fabric.

Quilt Diva Houston hosts a quilt show that draws 52,000 attendees. “Some of them will pay $400-$40,000 for a quilt at this show’s auction,” she said.

Be warned! Quilting can be habit forming. But there is a good outlet for the addiction: Blankies for Grownups.

Some of the breast cancer victims facing surgery have told the volunteers they didn’t realize anyone cared until the special blanket arrived with a note from this group of caring people.

Another recipient went into Hospice with only one personal possession—her gift from Blankies for Grownups.

Supplies and materials are purchased at garage and estate sales as well as from friends. Monetary donations are always welcome as are more workers.

Volunteer Karen Boutte, known as the Quilt Diva, said Houston hosts a quilt show that draws 52,000 attendees. “Some of them will pay $400-$40,000 for a quilt at this show’s auction,” she said.

Be warned! Quilting can be habit forming. But there is a good outlet for the addiction: Blankies for Grownups.

Blankies for grownups

Quilters believe nothing nurtures like a blanket made with love

by Frank Thornburgh

Anyone wishing to help with Blankies for Grownups can contact Susan Gray at 943-7290 or Thequiltlady@prodigy.net; or Diane Barnett at 837-1863. For information about the history, techniques, values, shows and auctions, check out:

www.Needlepointers.com
www.Quiltguilds.com
Donahue Ranch had fields of grain

In the old ranching days, binders were used to cut, bundle and tie stalks of grain and dump them in the field. Wagons would then collect the bundles and carry them to a stationary threshing machine. About 1916, this binder, pulled by a five-horse team, was cutting grain on the Donahue Ranch, which is now the Whitegate development.

Source: Picture from museum files; information from “San Ramon Valley—Alamo, Danville, San Ramon” by Beverly Lane and Ralph Cozine

OF NOTE

Police academy grads

The Danville Police Department concluded its eighth annual Citizens Police Academy on May 31 after six weeks of instruction. The topics included an overall view of the department, criminal investigations, criminal law, SWAT, patrol procedures, traffic and DUI enforcement, juvenile diversion and a K-9 demonstration. After the academy, a few graduates became part of the Volunteers in Policing program, which plays an important role in community policing. The VIP program offers opportunities for volunteers to make a difference in the community.

“It’s important when the citizens of Danville decide they want to give something back to their community and take an active interest in getting involved with their Police Department,” Chief Chris Wenzel stated at the graduation, “It is partnerships like this that keep our community safe and improves on an already high quality of life. Our volunteer program allows citizens to assist the Police Department in areas such as public information at the front counter, provide information and traffic control at special events, and assist in providing crime prevention information to the public.”

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer may contact Claudia Ray at 314-3410.

Realtors launch Habitat campaign

Coldwell Banker Resident Brokerage Community Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the company, announced the launch of its eighth annual Habitat for Humanity fundraising campaign. It is dubbed “100 Years of Homes and Hope” in honor of Coldwell Banker’s 100th birthday in 2006. Habitat for Humanity partners with low income families to build homes for them to own with no-profit, zero-interest mortgages.

Tickets for $2 for a drawing with 40 prizes are available in each of the brokerage offices in Northern California and the public is invited to participate. Prizes include $5,000 cash; a private wine tasting at the brokerage offices in Northern California; a digital camera; among others. For a complete list, call 275-3085.

Rotary Clubs plan big year

The presidents of the five San Ramon Valley Rotary Clubs, in partnership with Rossmoor Rotary, are teaming their memberships of more than 300 to tackle larger projects this year. Their signature project in the Valley, now in its 11th year, is the purchase of about 1,800 children’s dictionaries to distribute to every third-grader in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District plus two private schools.

In September the clubs will host 50 Rotarians from Monterey, Mexico, where the Danville-Sycamore Rotary had led two delegations to deliver more than 750 wheelchairs. In November the clubs will co-host a delegation of 11 Russian building contractors for 23 days as part of an exchange program. Also five exchange students will come from around the world to spend a year living with Valley families, and five local students will depart for a year abroad.

Independently the clubs hold fundraisers to support a variety of community projects including leadership camps, business competitions, speech contests and scholarships for athletic, scholastic and community service excellence.

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LIVING

AT THE MOVIES

CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill: 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (987-1100)
Century 14 Walnut Creek: 1201 Locust St., Walnut Creek (937-7025)
Blackhawk Movie Theater: 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0268)
Hacienda Crossings 20/Regal Inmax Theater: 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (560-9600)
Vine Cinema: Corner of First and South D streets, Livermore (447-2045)

Internet address: For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at www.DanvilleWeekly.com/

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

A Prairie Home Companion (PG-13)
A Scanner Darkly (R)
An Inconvenient Truth (PG)
Cars (G)
Clerks II (R)
Click (PG-13)
Da Vinci Code (PG-13)
Every Two Years…

Smog King

AJ Design

Come join our Sales Team

The Danville Weekly has immediate job openings in our Advertising Sales Department. We’re seeking two account executives—one position will specialize in retail businesses, and the other will focus on Real Estate clients.

If you have experience in newspaper sales, or a strong background in the sales field, we’d like to speak with you. Effective communication skills, proficient computer skills, and attention to detail are musts.

We seek someone with a proven ability to multi-task between account and support responsibilities. As a deadline-oriented company, the ability to work accurately and efficiently is highly valued. If you possess these qualities, we’re open to explore this position with you.

For immediate consideration, please email your resume, with cover letter, to:

Laure Reynolds

East Bay Sales Manager

Pleasanton Weekly & Danville Weekly

lreyolds@pleasantonweekly.com

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- No phone calls, please.

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**Southern Black cooking: Food for the soul**

**by Jacqui Love Marshall**

We all know it as “comfort food.” You know, those soothing, hunger-satisfying foods that can salve a romance gone sour, nurse the recovery of a bad flu or pacify a cancelled vacation. The comfort of our earliest, fondest food memories is what calms and relieves us. For me, comfort foods are the foods of my Southern Black childhood … foods that transport me back to the carefree days of growing up in Miami, in a tiny, two-bedroom house with no air conditioning or central heating but with a mother who could (if she chose to) cook worn leather shoes so that they were tender and tasty.

Southern Black cuisine has its roots in slavery, when slaves of African origin and poor African-Americans, apportioned every day’s creativity to transform the lowest cuts and normally unusable portions of meats and vegetables into edible dishes for their families. The food was a double coping mechanism: it provided sustenance after a long day’s labor and for the next work day to come; it also celebrated one more day’s survival with your family, who could be taken away from you at any time. To hold onto a sense of their family “roots,” the African traditions of communal family meals and the passing of oral history and storytelling sustained the slaves’ emotional and spiritual needs. Meals were a time for taboo religious ceremonies, welcoming new slaves, and visits from friends so the food was always “stretching” to feed everyone at the table. It wasn’t simply food—it was also nourishment for the soul … to keep on keeping on, despite the hardships.

Most “soul food” dishes have, as their base, the indigenous foods of Africa. As early as 4,000 B.C., certain grains, legumes, yams, watermelon, pumpkin, okra and leafy greens were grown on the African continent. Eggplant, watermelon, pumpkin, okra and leafy greens were given out weekly and the women used these ingredients, with onions, garlic and herbs, to create different dishes. The cornmeal was turned into cornbread, the meat (pig’s feet and ears, ham hocks, chitterlings, hog jowl, tripe and cracklings) became the main dish with side portions of greens. Molasses and cornmeal (with an occasional bucket of freshly-picked fruit) was mixed to create desserts.

Slave diets changed as slaves became cooks who could (if she chose to) cook worn leather shoes so that they were tender and tasty. As freed blacks and emancipated slaves scattered far and wide, Sunday dinners became a traditional time for families to come back together. It was common for a daughter or son to travel some distance for a reunion with loved ones and a home-cooked meal. Aunts, uncles, cousins (both real and not) met at the homes of the best cooks for Sunday meals. Sometimes the meal was a potluck where everyone brought their best dish or where all women converged in the kitchen to cook, share stories and enjoy each other’s company.

Today, as most people think of soul food, they imagine a table laden with watermelon, fried chicken, candied yams and greens. However, every black family has its own style of “soul food”—gumbo, black-eyed peas, smothered chicken, hush puppies, salt pork, crab cakes, stewed okra and tomatoes, grits with fried green tomatoes, pickled pig’s feet, rice and neckbones, cornbread with buttermilk, cow’s tongue, chittlin’s, breaded pork chops, tripe. Many Americans have had a taste of popular “soul foods” somewhere along the culinary trail. Still, one measure of good soul food is always worth putting to the test: If you walk into someone’s kitchen or into a restaurant and the aroma does not hit you at the door, keep walking! Hopefully, these recipes will fill your own kitchen with the most savory smells and welcome your family and friends to a wonderful “soul”-filled meal.

**Recipes**

**Anna Lou’s Hoppin’ John:**
Black-eyed peas and rice (serves 6–8)

- 6 cups of water
- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas
- 1 cup salt pork, rinsed*
- 1 large green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. dried thyme leaves
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato paste
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 2 cups uncooked rice

**Salt and pepper**

1. Combine water and black-eyed peas in a large saucepan. Cook until almost tender, about one hour. Add more water if needed. (Parboiling the night before can reduce cooking time by half.)
2. Brown salt pork in skillet over medium heat. Add green pepper, onion, garlic, cumin and thyme. Stir and cook until vegetables are tender but not browned. Add the fillets. Cook until the underside is golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Turn the fillets, cook until the other side is golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to paper towels to drain briefly.
3. Serve hot with the lemon wedges, and hush puppies.

**Uncle Wyatt’s Fried Catfish with Buttermilk Hush Puppies**

- 3 pounds fish fillets, cut into 8 to 12 pieces
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 1-1/2 tsp. yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup vegetable oil

**Lemon wedges**

1. Rinse fillets under cold water and shake off excess water. Season with the salt and pepper. Place the cornmeal in a shallow bowl and coat the fillets on both sides with cornmeal. Set aside on a baking sheet.
2. In a large skillet, preferably cast-iron, heat the oil over medium-high heat until hot, but not smoking. Add the fillets. Cook until the underside is golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Turn the fillets, cook until the other side is golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to paper towels to drain briefly.
3. Serve hot with the lemon wedges, and hush puppies.

**Buttermilk Hush Puppies**

- Crisco Shortening or Crisco Oil for deep frying
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal*
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 tsp. paprika

1. Heat 2 to 3 inches Crisco Shortening or Crisco Oil to 350 degrees in deep fryer or deep skillet.
2. Combine cornmeal, flour, baking soda and salt in large bowl. Stir in buttermilk, egg and onion. Mix well.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls, a few at a time, into shortening or oil. Fry 2 minutes or until dark golden brown. Turn as needed for even browning. Remove with slotted metal spoon. Drain on paper towels. Serve immediately.

**Recipes for Aunt Barbara Jean’s “Mean” Collard Greens and Big Mama’s Irresistible Pound Cake**

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A Night of Mystery
San Ramon writer Margaret Dumas, Ann Parker and Simon Wood as they
visit www.craftcouncil.org.
For information, call (212) 274-0630 or
visit sanramonvalleyflyfish.org.

San Francisco Fine Craft Show
Dannele artist Rob Tribble will show his
glass art along with more than 260 art-
ists at this craft show Aug. 11-13, at
Jimenez Center, Tice Valley Blvd. and
Hopyard Road. For information, contact
president Rich Mahan at 925.997.1819.

The Century House Poetry
Readings
City of Pleasanton will host Matt Miller,
guest poet at the Century House Poetry
Readings event, from 3-1 p.m.,
Sunday, Aug. 6, at 2401 Santa Rita
Road, Pleasanton. Admission is $5.
Call 931-5950 or email Poets@the-
comcast.net.

Friends of the Danville Library
Friends of the Danville Library are
renewing annual memberships and
recruiting new members to help sup-
port, raise funds and sponsor pro-
grams for the Danville Library. There
are many benefits of being a Friend
including merchant discounts, volun-
teer opportunities and preview of book
sales. Dues and donations are tax
deductible. Application forms are at
the library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4455.

Tri-Valley Writers Association
This club exists to inform, educate,
and have fun and is open to anyone
interested in the craft of writing.
The club meets at 11:30 a.m., the
first Saturday of every month at Grascole
Restaurant, 1316a Santa Rita Road,
Pleasanton. Membership dues are $5
per year or $24 for a half year (starting
Feb. 1). Contact Steve Workman at
485-1011 or skworkman@aisi.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75
The organization's next meeting will
beginning at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug.
17, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400
Hartz Ave. The regularly scheduled
meetings for July and August will
be held on the third Thursday of the
month. The Sept. meeting will return
to the normally scheduled time.
For information, call Post Commander
Mac McGuire at 837-2870 or
visit www.vfw.org.

San Francisco Fine Craft Show
Clay Character Modeling for Kids
Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front
St., offers a Clay Character Modeling
for Kids class from 10 a.m.-noon, Tues-
days, for beginners-intermediates.
Michael Yen is the instructor. Classes
are ongoing. Fee is $84 for six weeks
plus $8 for materials. For informa-
tion, call 383-1959.

Clay Character Modeling for Kids
Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front
St., offers a Clay Character Modeling
for Kids class from 3-4:30 p.m., Wed-
nesdays, for ages 6-13. Marilyn MacDougall is the instructor.
Classes are ongoing. Fee is $86 for six weeks plus $15 for materi-
als. For information, call 383-1959.

Clay Character Modeling for Kids
Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front
St., offers a Clay Character Modeling
for Kids class from 10 a.m.-noon, Mon-
days, and from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays.
Charles White is the instructor.
The cost of lunch is $12. Reservations
are required by calling 837-7337.

Pencil Sketching
Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front
St., offers a Pencil Sketching class from
10 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays, for
beginners-intermediates. Michael Yen
is the instructor. Classes are ongoing.
Fee is $84 for four weeks. For infor-
mation, call 383-1959.

Mixed Media Fun for Kids
Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front
St., offers Mixed Media Fun for Kids
class from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays,
for ages 6-13. Michelle Yen is the
instructor. Mixed Media Fun for Kids
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Fee is $86 for six weeks plus $15 for materi-
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Oil and Acrylic Painting Class
Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front
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Alamo-Danville Artisans' Club
This club is open to new and long-
time residents of Alamo and Danville
interested in making new friends
while learning more about the area.
Many activities are available. Their
Prospective Member Coffee is held
the fourth Thursday of the month, and
a monthly luncheon on the second
Tuesday. Call 775-3233 or visit www.
alomodianewcomers.com.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club
This club is for both “new” and “not so
new” Tri-Valley residents. They invite
prospective members to attend a lun-
corn at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug.
18, at Canyon Lakes Restaurant, San
Ramon. To reserve your spot, call Jan
at 736-3588.

Tri-Valley Writers Association
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C A L E N D A R

Disaster Preparedness Day
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Disaster Preparedness Day from 10-3 p.m., Saturday, July 22, at the church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. This event will have lots of free information from professionals with free music and lunch provided. For information, visit www.srvumc.org.

Eighth Annual Lake Del Valle Aqua Challenge
On Your Mark Events presents the eighth annual Lake Del Valle Aqua Challenge at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, July 22, at Lake Del Valle, 1001 Lakeside Drive, Dublin. Doublewide spaces can be purchased for $25; a Goodwill truck will arrive at the end of the sale. Call 829-1980 or e-mail resluth@pacbell.net.

Walking Tours of Historic Danville
The San Ramon Valley Historical Society docents will lead tours of historic buildings and sites in Danville. Danville Mayor Karen Stepper will lead walking tours starting at 6:15 p.m., every fourth Friday, from now until August. Meet in front of the Village Theater. Call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Family Campout
The Town of Danville presents Family Campout including swimming, youth crafts, family games and a movie under the stars starting at 3 p.m., Saturday, July 29, and ending at noon, Sunday, July 30, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road. Danville residents’ cost is $30 per family of four, $5 each additional family member; non-resident cost is $36 per family for four, $6 each additional family member. To register and find out what families should bring, go to the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Family Fun Nights
Alamo Parks and Recreation will host a Family Fun Night from 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 3, at the Hap Magee Ranch Park. There will be games, karaoke and roast marshmallows around the campfire. Call 451-9176.

Farmers Market
The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday, and from 4-8 p.m., every Thursday, from now until Sept. 14, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Lots, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. “Kids Fest” activities will be held in part with Farmers Market, on Thursday, July 27. There will be an inflatable jump house for kids, crafts and the Market Game Quiz Show. In addition a cooking show demo by Pacific Coast Farmers’ Market Association and live music will be provided by “Chaz.” Call 829-9050 or visit www.pcfma.ca.

Happy 10th Birthday, Danville Library
Celebrate Danville Library’s 10th birthday with lively performances by Molina Polynesian Dance and Drumming group, entertaining music provided by the California Symphony, and, of course, birthday cake at 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. A henna artist and face painter will be present to add a splash of color. This event is free and open to everyone. Call 837-4455.

Hot Summer Nights Car Show
Danville Merchants’ Association will host Hot Summer Nights Car Show from 4-9 p.m., July 27 and Aug. 10 and 24, on Hartz Avenue, Danville. The staging will be at San Ramon Valley High School, 140 Love Lane, Danville. For information, call Tony at 820-5750 or David at 820-9116.

Speedway
Blackhawk Museum will host “Speedway” by exploring speed and making things that go fast from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 13, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Participants design a balloon rocket car, play a race car game, and make checkered flag cookies. Free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

Summer Series Under the Stars
Alameda County Fairgrounds and Livermore Valley Concert Center present the first Summer Series Under the Stars. The performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sundays, July-Aug. Cost is $12 for adults; $8 for senior/youth/children. All events at 7 are free. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will perform on July 30. For information, visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org or www.alamedacountyfair.com.

3rd Annual Community Garage Sale
Resurrection Lutheran Church will hold its third annual Community Wide Garage Sale from 9 a.m-3 p.m., Saturday, July 22, in the church parking lot, 7577 Arwood Valley Blvd., Dublin. Doublewide spaces can be purchased for $25; a Goodwill truck will arrive at the end of the sale. Call 829-1980 or e-mail resluth@pacbell.net.

Take a Hike With ‘Trail Mixers’
The Town of Danville will offer a free walking program to promote friendly and enjoyable, low-impact exercise for all ages on the local trails at 8 a.m. the second Saturday of every month from July-October. The next walk meets at the Sycamore Creek Trail and Open Space Staging Area at the intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Tassajara (Castenada Trail). Call 314-4746 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Kids & Teens
Summer Storytimes
The Danville Library will host Summer Storytime for children ages 0-5 years from now until Aug. 9. Mother Goose Time for children ages 0-2 will meet at 10:15 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. Preschool Storytime for children ages 3-5 will meet at 11:15 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. No registration is required, drop-in only. Caretakers must attend with the child. Call 837-4455.

YMCA Summer Specialty Camps

Fundraisers
Christmas in July
Assistance League of Diablo Valley will host its principal fundraiser from July 18-29, at Way Side Inn Thrift Shop and Costume Rental, 3521 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. Celebrate “Christmas in July” by shopping for holiday merchandise. The shop is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Call 934-0901 or visit www.diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

Troy and Alana Pack Memorial Golf Classic
This fundraiser sponsored by the Golden State Warriors will help raise money to build awareness for the Troy and Alana Pack Memorial Foundation. The annual golf tournament is set Aug. 27-29 at Blackhawk Country Club, 5597 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Cost is $295 for golf and dinner; $75 dinner only. Call 649-9400 or visit www.aanmf.org/golftournament.html.

Lectures/ Workshops
Class for Parents of New Kindergarteners
The Town of Danville will host a series of classes for parents of new kindergarteners from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesdays, July 26-Aug. 9, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. The cost is $45 for residents ($15 non-residents). The class will teach parents how to choose the right kindergarten for their child, find the best classroom, and prepare the child for school. To register, call 838-5200.

Health
Community Walk
Fit Studio is hosting free community walks starting at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the studio, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 362-8001.

Discovering the Healing Power of Your Voice
The Wellness Community presents a workshop on discovering how the tones in your voice can bring harmony and balance to your body, mind and spirit. This event is from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, July 22, at The Wellness Community, 2576 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and friends. Reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

Step It Up Alamo
Step Up Alamo is hosting a free six-week walking program open to men, women and children of all ages at 9 a.m. Saturdays, from now until July 29, meeting at the gym, 230-A Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Challenge a friend or neighbor to compete! Call 839-5200.

Now OPEN!
Campo di Bocce of Livermore, CA
Gateway to Livermore Wine Country
Find the ultimate experience in dining and recreating at Campo di Bocce of Livermore. We have put together 8 world class, state-of-the-art bocce courts and complemented them with traditional Italian cuisine. We also feature local & imported wines along with a full bar amid the casual atmosphere of an old Italian Villa. Come and enjoy our extraordinary contemporary setting.

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Open Daily For Lunch & Dinner In Our Dining Room, Court Side, & on Our Patio
Book Your Family & Corporate Outings NOW
Free Bocce Lessons for each reservation
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SAVE 10% WITH THIS AD
for additional parent); $54 for non-resi-
dents ($18 for additional parent). To regis-
ter, call 314-3400 or visit www.
danville.ca.us.

How to Turn That Light-Bulb Idea Into Reality
Conti Community Library Small Business Workshop will present a How to Turn That Light-Bulb Idea into Money-Making Reality” workshop by 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25, at Pleasant Hill Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. This event is free, but registration is required by calling 646-0537 or e-mail cjensen@contra-
bastic.com.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop
The Wellness Community presents a 12-week workshop for women who have just been diagnosed or are in treatment for or starting treatment for breast cancer, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays, through Oct. 25, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and friends; reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

Live Music
Rock & Wine at Bridges
Bridges presents Rock & Wine with a choice of a three course dinner at Bridges, 44 Church St. Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6-9 p.m. With the Eddie Hooks Rhythm Band, which includes Eddie Hooks and the Hottest Pickers. Explore American cuisine with perís in the Safeway Shopping Center in Pleasant Hill, 1750 Oak Park Blvd. Please see independent verification of rates and fees. The Danville Tennis Club meets 6:30-8:30 p.m., the first Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 999 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.
San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support Group San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support meets from 7-9 p.m., every other Monday in Danville. Call for location and information at 837-0510.

Cancer Support Groups
Free support, education and stress management for cancer patients and their families. For more information, contact Group Leader at 933-0107.

Volunteering
Friends of Discovery Discovery Counseling Center has received a $5,000 grant, thanks to Friends of Discovery. The organization is in need of over 800 volunteers to help make this event possible. For more information, contact Group Leader at 933-0107.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
Docents are needed to lead classes for teaching children and oth-
ers about our important connection with the wildlife and world we share. Call 837-0976 or visit www.lindsaywildlife.

Cultural Challenges Tournament
The LPGA “Long’s Challenge” Tournament will be hosted by the Blackhawk Country Club Monday, Sept. 14-16, and they are looking for more than 800 volunteers to help make this event successful. For more information, contact Bonnie Guttman at 314-3395 or bguttman@lpga.com. For information, visit www.longschallengest

Visiting Mission to Mississippi
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church is sending more than 100 volunteers to work on storm dam-
aged homes in Mississippi and they need your help! If you can get away from your job (ok) for a week, please contact Cindy at 937-3167 or cj_lotz@hotmail.com.
Marketplace
Danville Weekly

TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO FOGSTER.COM

115 Announcements

* DEADLINE *
The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:
Tuesday 12 Noon
through the business office
925-600-0840 x12

Tuesday 11:59 PM
through Fogster.com

Place your ad early!

155 Pets
Low Prices, healthykpets.com

For Sale

201 Autos/Trucks/Parts
Saw 1998 Grand Carenan Sport
- $6,000
FORD 2002 E350 - 6.9L
1999 White B-13100
Jep 1999 Grand Cherokee Limited 404
25000
Lance Camper 1978 11.3 ft Cab-Over
- $5,800

203 Bicycles
TRAIL-A-BIKE
203 Bicycles

Volkswagen 1999 Passat
Dark Blue, 130,000 miles, transmission
- $16,000
Leather interior, new alternator and water pump.
Great value, title is clear, call 925-580-5394

150 Lost & Found
Lost Chocolate Lab Mix
- $1,000.00
reward. Chocolate Labrador, Male, 3 years old,
Last seen on 6/23 near Valley and Pleasanton. If you have any information or have found rusty, please call me at 925-580-5394.

133 Music Lessons

For Rent

100 - 155

200 - 270

330 - 355

510 - 585

600 - 690

700 - 799

800 - 860

FLUTE & PIANO LESSONS
In Pleasanton.
Credentialed Music Teacher Tara Torres 925-640-4051

HARP LESSONS
For all ages.
Try something new for Summer!
Call Bennita Hutton (925) 840-1169
- located in Danville.

MUSIC, VOICE, PIANO LESSONS

Danville Weekly • July 21, 2006 • Page 23

Place your ad early!

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MOMMY AND ME CIRCLE TIME

Singing, guitar, puppets, finger stories, & musical instruments.

In the Ballad School at West
Call Louise (925) 518-5824

Nanny/Babysitter/Homekeeper

340 Child Care
Wanted

Mornings Part Time
Excellent family company needed weekdays in Woodside from 7:30 am to 10 am to help mom with school routine. Help is needed to assist in the personal care of young male toddler with mild mild cerebral palsy. Excellent salary.
Contact 650 234-6701 Negotiable.

345 Tutoring/Lessons

Adult A-level Tutoring
Free Tutoring Trial
Free Tutoring Trial Session
Foreign Tutor
French, Spanish, Russian TUTORING

Math Tutor
Quality Tutoring

350 Preschools/Schools/Camps

ABC Preschool/Chidcare - 484-2554
Little Schoolhouse Preschool
* Get smart and learn with a happy heart in a loving home/classroom environment!
  * Preschool, Pre-K and Toddler Programs offered.
  * Owned and operated by an experienced preschool teacher.
  * Call Miss Gina at 944-0339

355 Items for Sale

Graco double stroller plus cover - $36

HARLESTOWN - MANICURIST
stationary or portable position available. Upscale, friendly Danville salon. 925.389.1805

500 Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant to Property Manager with Computer, Office, RE sales or rental skills. Long term, full time, hours, benefits in Los Altos Possible Housing. Resume to
WHousing@ad.com 650.962.8525

BOOKWORM'S DREAM! Free Help!
Artist seeks roomie to share Westlake apt in San Ramon. Ideal roommate shares similar interests. A pet in budding community close to shopping, new library & nature trails.
This is an employment position. Send resume/cover letter to Brian (510) 618-1570 (fax) or email ebeismo@yahoo.com

DRIVERS - Attention Independent Contractors - 510.205.7409
Regional Runs - Excellent Home Time!
Paid Training Program! Fuel Stabilized! CDL A, E/End. 888.799.4374

13th Floor

You deserve to be pampered
Jessica Lopez
Hair/Color Specialist
1250 Locust Street, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596
Business Line (510) 467-4448
30% off any one haircut, color, highlight, lowlight, deep conditioning treatment, or rip-off service.
FREE consultation

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FREE consultation

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Bridle Creek
Built in 2001, this gorgeous home has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, Office and Bonus room. Large Private lot. Premium location! Loaded with top of the line upgrades. Offered at $1,748,888

2539 Willowren Way, Pleasanton
OPEN SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00

Pending—Danville
Opportunity Galore! Highly Desirable Neighborhood of Older Custom Homes. 4 Beds, 2 Baths with 1700 +/- sqft. Home sits on a flat, almost half-acre lot with lots of room for expansion just waiting for a creative owner. Terrific Location! Close to Elementary, Middle and High Schools. Offered at $509,888

Birland
Beautiful 4 bedroom 2 bath “Country” floorplan. This home has hardwood floors, updated kitchen & baths, new roof, new windows w/ wood trim casings, new air/heat system, new basboards & trim, new paint inside/out, no popcorn ceilings, excellent location, with pool and spa. Offered at $858,950

2915 Liberty Drive, Pleasanton
OPEN SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00

Great floor plan Built in 1988, this 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths, 1412 sqft, new carpet, new interior & exterior paint, new shower doors, vaulted ceilings, new kitchen and bathroom flooring. Great Pleasanton schools. Offered at $699,950

Visit my web site www.deloresgragg.com to see more photos and a virtual tour of these homes, or Call today to see these lovely homes for yourself.

John Derham
Senior Loan Consultant
johnd@northpointgroup.com
6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Ste. 210
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As a distinguished mortgage professional and experienced real estate investor, John can help you with your home financing, access a wide range of mortgage programs that can be tailored to fit your needs, and help you build wealth through real estate investing.

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- Out-of-State Lending
- Real Estate Investments
- Refinances

For more information, please call John at (925) 218-1025.
## REAL ESTATE

### OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

#### Alamo
- **4 Bedrooms**
  - 199 Canyon Vista Pl. 1 Sun 1-3:30
  - 2051 Pebble Dr. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 4 Bedrooms
  - 388 Live Oak Dr. $1,429,000

#### Danville
- **2 Bedrooms**
  - 403 Old Orchard 1 Sat/Sun 1-4
  - 615 Morninghome Rd. 1 Sat/Sun 1-4
  - 3 Bedrooms
  - 180 San Thomas Wy. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 140 Maiden Ln. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 124 San Thomas Wy. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 311 Prospect Ave. W. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 243 Ashley Cir. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 4 Danville Oak Pl. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 305 W. Meadows Ln. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 167 Heritage Park 1 Sun 1-4
  - 2180 Oneida Cir. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 109 River Rock Ln. 1 Sun 1-4
  - 186 Tivoli Ln. 1 Sun 1-3:30
  - 65 Versailles 1 Sun 1-4

#### Blackhawk
- **3 Bedrooms**
  - 11 Deer Meadow Ct. 1 Sun 1-3:40
  - 887 Redwood Dr. 1 Sun 1-3:40
  - 4 Bedrooms
  - 311 Live Oak Dr. 1 Sun 1-3:40
  - 388 Live Oak Dr. 1 Sun 1-3:40

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**Tech CU—a great place for home loans.**

Great news for first-time homebuyers!

- Loans up to $700,000
- Down payment as little as 3%
- No mortgage insurance required
- Exclusive, discounted rates through the HLPR program
- Affordably low closing costs

Now you can afford a new home! Technology Credit Union’s Home Loan Payment Relief (or HLPR, pronounced “helper”) loan was designed make home ownership in California more affordable for first-time buyers. Now you can maximize your buying power and minimize your monthly payments.

- **Loans up to $700,000**
- **Down payment as little as 3%**
- **No mortgage insurance required**
- **Exclusive, discounted rates through the HLPR program**
- **Affordably low closing costs**

Let Tech CU open the door to home ownership for you!

To find out if you qualify for the HLPR program, read more about it at [www.techcu.com](http://www.techcu.com); stop by The Mortgage Store in Dublin, located at 7444 San Ramon Road; or contact a Tech CU mortgage consultant at (877) 988-0471.

**Tech CU**

**Mortgage**

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ALAMO
Spectacular Private Villa $5,950,000
5bd estate in premier Vintage Acres. The breathtaking entry is just the beginning of the surprises that await you.
Sharon Dare/925.855.4041Pamela Schmidt/925.855.4018

BLACKHAWK
Fabulous Mediterranean Estate $3,595,000
Huge lot, backing to open space. 6 bedroom suites, 6 full baths, 2 half baths, main floor master. Pool w/spa, outdoor kitchen.
The McDougall TEAM 925.672.2499

ALAMO
Pride Of Ownership $1,685,000
4bd, 3.5ba on very private cul-de-sac with newly remodeled kitchen. Backyard with pool, decks and spa. Attached au pair bedroom w/separate entrance.
The Campbell Team-Chris Campbell 925.838.5700

ALAMO
Beautiful Stonecastle Estates $1,625,000
Private, gated community. Fantastic 5bd, 3.5ba, den/library on one-half+/-acre level lot. Gourmet granite kitchen with cherry cabinets.
Esther Langhofer 925.855.4078

BLACKHAWK
Entertainer’s Dream Home $1,499,500
Fabulous Mt. Diablo views. 4bd, 3ba high above the 6th fairway of the Falls Course. Remodeled with gourmet slab granite kitchen. Golf membership available.
Michael Kwiatkowski 510.612.8008

DANVILLE
Surrounded by Open Space! $1,499,000
5bd, 3.5ba, 3300+/-sf, Dividend model, Italian design, gourmet kitchen, 20’ ceilings, light and bright throughout. Community pool, tennis courts and more.
Peggy Kissinger 925.984.1945

DANVILLE
House and Location a 10+!! $1,275,000
Updated and decorated to a “T”!! 4bd, 3ba, huge master with double-sided fireplace. Landscaped with lighting and waterfall.
Nelly Fitzsimmons 925.997.1001

DANVILLE
Gorgeous Updated Danville Beauty! $1,175,000
Spacious 6bd, 3ba updated home on .28+/-acre lot. New hardwood floors, granite counter tops, cherry wood cabinets, stainless appliances and more.
Vince Perpetuo 925.855.4096

Danville Blackhawk
15 Railroad Avenue 925.855.4000
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle 925.648.5300