

Home on the range museum

Readers help find Hap Magee's branding iron collection > **Page 6**

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Patchwork perfection

American art
form of quilting
on display this
weekend

> **page 18**

Danville

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Sycamore Valley
Open Space Preserve
to be dedicated
Sunday

> **page 5**

Finding the way to

Tao House



Celebrating Eugene O'Neill
can start with a tour of his
Danville home **page 16**

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Q: Autumn is here. What is your favorite season and why?



My favorite time of year is fall because that's when football season starts. Also, I like the shorter days and the chill in the morning air. With the sun lower in the sky, the shadows are longer. It's a nice change. Plus it's time for Halloween, which is my favorite holiday; it's a purely kid thing.

Martin Capron
financial advisor



I love spring! The days begin to get longer and the brilliant yellow daffodils come up to announce that spring has sprung. All the flowers in spring are beautiful from the wild purple lupine that covers the hillsides to the crocus and tulips and iris that grow in every garden. I also love to see all the new little fuzzy baby ducklings that arrive on the lake. It's a wonderful season for new growth and new beginnings.

Janet Fox
trainer



I love fall because I get to make my favorite chili recipe.

Larry Kavanagh
sales



My favorite season is summer because the days are longer. I love the warmth of the sun and it's time for water skiing at Lake Berryessa and Lake Orville. Also, I love to barbecue.

Toni Eustes
medical assistant



I like summer the best because I love to be outdoors bicycling, jogging and playing soccer with my kids.

Fernando Ramis
business owner

COMPILED BY JUDY STEINER

ABOUT THE COVER

Eugene O'Neill immersed himself in his playwriting in his Tao House study, shielded by thick walls and three doors leading to the room, with his wife, Carlotta Monterey making sure he was undisturbed. The five-day 2005 Eugene O'Neill Festival begins Wednesday, with many of the activities taking place at Tao House. Photo courtesy Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site.

Vol. 1, Number 21

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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—Ranger Wendy Cooper on students she leads on tours of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

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Thursday night is the last evening farmers market—for now

Thursday is the last chance to buy directly from the farmer on a Thursday evening in Danville. The evening farmers markets are being held during the month of September on a trial basis. They are running all five Thursdays this month on Hartz Avenue between Prospect Avenue and Church Street, from 4-8 p.m. During the market, traffic is diverted to Railroad Avenue, and there is no parking allowed on that section of Hartz from 2-9 p.m.

In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, the market offers fresh cut flowers, bedding plants, fresh bread and specialty food items. The Pacific Coast Farmers Market, which runs the Danville Farmers Market, will conduct a survey to determine how successful the evening events were and whether they should be continued.

The Saturday Farmers Market will continue to operate from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the parking lot by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

Two new businesses open on East Prospect Avenue

A meal preparation business and a maternity store are the newest additions to East Prospect Avenue, which is fast becoming the “mommy lane” of downtown Danville.

Now We're Cooking opened officially on Sept. 15 and will have its Danville Area Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting on Oct. 6. Now We're Cooking, which is run by Lisa Bretschneider, her mother Betty McCabe and her stepfather Gary Smith, does all the prep work for gourmet home-cooked meals such as Hawaiian Chicken, Spinach Manicotti, and Coconut Shrimp. For \$170, customers assemble eight meals that will serve four to six people. They can customize meals as they put them together at Now We're Cooking's location on 148 E. Prospect, adding more of one ingredient and less of another.

Babies and Bellies, a maternity and children's clothing store, opened Sept. 16. The store is owned and operated by four local women, Nicole Hawkins, Michelle Murphy, Dana Schramm and Nicole Herrero.

St. Isidore's still collecting for victims

St. Isidore Church and St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda are accepting donations for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Drop-off hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays through September at St. Isidore, 440 La Gonda Way. Organizers are asking for canned food items, including tuna, chicken, stews and pasta as well as toothpaste, dental floss, phone cards, soap and batteries. Monetary donations to cover the cost of transportation and shipping will also be accepted. Help is also greatly needed to sort contributions. For more information, call 324-0729.

Those who wish to donate to the Red Cross disaster relief fund can send a contribution to the Bay Area Red Cross chapter office, 85 Second St., Eighth floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, Attn: Hurricane Katrina Relief. Checks should be made payable to American Red Cross Bay Area with the memo line indicating hurricane relief. Visit its Web site at www.bayarea-redcross.org or contact 1-800-HELPNOW (435-7669).

Sycamore Valley preserve opening Sunday

700 acres for hiking, biking and enjoying the views

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

The latest jewel is being officially added to the crown of the East Bay Regional Park District on Sunday.

Sycamore Valley Open Space Regional Preserve will be dedicated and have an ice cream social for the whole family from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25. The event takes place at the park's main entrance at Sycamore Valley Park on Holbrook Drive, and the public is invited to celebrate this opening, which has been 20 years in reaching fruition.

"It's an open space area for enjoying nature and getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city," said Jim Wolf, park supervisor. "We've just finished building three trails and are hoping to build another additional trail."

The 700-acre park is divided into two segments, split by

Camino Tassajara: Sherburne Hills to the south with 328 acres and Short Ridge to the north with 368 acres both have undulating hills with views west across the San Ramon Valley to Las Trampas Regional Wilderness. The elevation is 1,000 feet at some points.

"It's an area that has farming and ranching history," said Wolf. "We are preserving the ranching heritage of the area."

The open space is planned for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and nature study. Horses are allowed but there is no equestrian staging area as of yet. Dogs are allowed off-leash once they pass the entrance.

The land is labeled an open space preserve because it will have trail access but no developed recreational facilities. Restrooms,

► Continued on page 10



Park ranger Vince Green paints the bolt on the new sign at the entrance to the north part of the Sycamore Valley Open Space Regional Preserve, which is being dedicated Sunday.

DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

History of the area

The San Ramon and Sycamore valleys were populated by a Bay Miwok-speaking tribe called Tatcan when the Spanish arrived in the mid-1700s. Longtime landowner Don Wood said he remembered hearing about stone mortars reportedly found by his family in the mid-1900s. The valleys became grazing land for Mission San Jose, after it was established in 1797 by the Spanish Franciscans; when the Mexican government freed itself from Spain in 1835, the former

mission lands were divided into two ranchos, both called Rancho San Ramon

The first American settlement in the vicinity of Sycamore Valley Open Space is attributed to Leonard Eddy in 1850. Later the property was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Mendenhall, who built a house in 1853 near Sycamore Creek, just south of present-day Camino Tassajara. In 1862, Charles and Cynthia Wood moved their family into the house and started a farm. Over the next century and a half, the Wood family farmed here and came to own most

of what is now the Sycamore Valley Open Space Regional Preserve. Its most famous family member is Charlotte Wood, who grew up on the farm and taught all eight grades at Sycamore School on the Wood property. In 1950, the new Charlotte Wood Middle School was named after her. Neighboring farms were owned by the Sherburne, Magee and Farralley families.

The Woods grew wheat, barley, fruits and grapes, and raised cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens and horses, with crops on the ridge tops and lower slopes. In the 1950s, the

family planted 90 acres of Sunol-grass on the steeper slopes, which was recommended by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for erosion control. It was later found that the grass retained water, leading to the potential to make the soil prone to landslides.

Most of the Wood family farmlands were subdivided in recent decades, with the hilly regions kept as open space. The developers of Meadow Creek and Wood Ranch (south) dedicated 328 acres to the East Bay Regional Park District in 1989, the Sherburne Hills Unit, and the district contin-

ued grazing to reduce wildfire danger and to control weeds. For the last 15 years, the property has been leased to a rancher who has grazed a small herd of cattle there. The town of Danville offered the Park District another 255 acres remaining north of Sycamore Valley Park and School, developed in the early 1990s. Also in 1998, the developers of Wood Ranch (north) gave another 106 acres to the district. The Park District reintroduced cattle grazing to this section, the Short Hills Unit.

—Sycamore Valley Land Use Plan

Danville wants more retail downtown

Town works toward concentrated shopping with a uniform look

by Casey Reivich

Does downtown Danville sometimes feel choppy? There is a shop or restaurant here and there, but there are also offices.

Does the look and character of Danville change dramatically north of Linda Mesa? Beyond Pete's Brass Rail and Car Wash, the quaint cottage-like Hartz Avenue suddenly looks more like a 1950s strip mall.

The town of Danville and merchant associations Discover Danville and the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce are work-

ing to change all of that. They want to make downtown Danville an aesthetically pleasing shopping destination.

"We had to stimulate business," said Danville Mayor Mike Doyle. "It has been a long time since we visited the issue."

It's been 17 years since the town has revised its downtown business district ordinance, and a lot has changed in that time. Since the last business district ordinance was approved, Railroad Avenue, with its shops, restaurants and Andronico's, has become a vital retail part of downtown. Areas of Hartz Avenue have also been redeveloped and taken on the historic, attractive look of downtown.

Discover Danville and the

► Continued on page 8

Town council gives \$10,000 to hurricane victims

Town will also offer facilities free for fundraisers

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

The Danville Town Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to spend \$10,000 on relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The funds will be raised by pledging the town portion of proceeds from the Role Players Ensemble's production of "Red Hot and Cole," a total of 14 shows that will run Oct. 14-Nov. 5, and by reducing some budgeted town expenditures.

"Also I'd like to see something visible at the Role Players," said Vice Mayor Karen Stepper, such as a can to collect more donations

from theatergoers.

The council also agreed the town should urge residents and businesses to support disaster relief funds, and to help by making town facilities available at no cost where 100 percent of proceeds raised are committed to Hurricane Katrina relief. And Danville will, where possible, deploy town personnel to assist agencies within the disaster area.

"I think the concept of providing facilities is great," said Councilman Newell Americh. He pointed out that during the Loma Prieta earthquake other communities gave help to the Bay Area and said he would like to do the same for others.

Councilwoman Candace Andersen suggested that part of the \$10,000 go toward Habitat for

Humanity, which will be working long-term to provide homes for the stricken families.

Council members OK'd dividing the \$10,000 contribution to go 25 percent to Habitat for Humanity, and 37.5 percent each to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Councilman Mike Shimansky had just returned Monday night from a week helping out with Red Cross efforts in Houston. The first night he worked at the Astrodome with a huge database to hook up family members. "They are still missing 2,000 kids," he said. "It's heartbreaking. I understand some may be with their families, and I hope and pray they are."

► Continued on page 11

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Magee brand collection located

Readers point out trail to cowboy museum

by Julie Nostrand

When posed a challenge, the residents of Danville know how to deliver and proved it to the Danville Weekly. In the Sept. 9 cover story on local rancher Hap Magee, we asked for help in solving the mystery of his branding irons. The famous collection of branding irons had seemingly disappeared after Magee's death in 1985.

Several readers responded, and one former neighbor contacted us to advise that Hap Magee's wife, Ruth, and his daughter, Julie, moved to Nevada not long after the Danville property was sold.

Late last week, Ruth Magee answered a call to their Nevada ranch and advised us that the collection was donated to a museum in the Central Valley. After a few additional calls, we struck gold. The Magee family, at Hap's request, contributed his entire collection of cowboy memorabilia to the Cowboy Memorial and Library in Caliente.

The museum's founder, Paul de Fonville, confirmed that the donation five years ago of five trailers of vintage cowboy memorabilia included the branding irons, courtesy of the Hap Magee estate. Today, Magee's entire collection of

more than 2,000 brands plus other cowboy memorabilia is intact and on display to school children, Scouts and anyone who stops by de Fonville's 200-acre spread.

"I knew Hap Magee," said de Fonville by phone. "He was a good man. I visited with him when I went to the rodeo in Hayward every year. I don't know how he found me, but I am glad he did. He had the world's greatest brand collection."

Located about 40 miles from Bakersfield, the museum and library are dedicated to preserving the history of the cowboy and educating the public about the cowboy's contribution to our nation's history. De Fonville said this history is no longer being taught in schools and is at risk of being lost forever. A visit to the museum takes about three hours and includes a brief lecture and tour of several indoor and outdoor exhibits.

Hap Magee, whose real name was Harry Hush Magee, lived on his Danville ranch from 1953 until the 1980s. It is now the popular 17-acre Hap Magee Ranch Park at 1025 La Gonda Way.

For more information, including operating hours and directions to the museum, visit www.cowboy-memorial.org. Call (616) 867-2410. ■



COURTESY OF SOHA ATHANASIOS

Sisters Neda Athanasios, 5, and Hana, 8, of Alamo in front of the Alamo Safeway selling lemonade and cookies to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. After two hours of effort, they had raised \$220.

Giving lemon-aid

Local efforts continue for hurricane victims

Sisters Hana Athanasios, 8, and Neda, 5, of Alamo felt they just had to do something to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"We felt so sorry for the people who lost their homes, their jobs and everything that they had," Hana wrote to the Danville Weekly. The two young fundraisers, students at Rancho Romero Elementary School, got permission to sell lemonade in front of Alamo Safeway on Saturday, Sept. 10. They sold lemonade and cookies

for two hours, eventually raising \$220. They donated the lemonade money they made, plus some money their parents gave them, to the American Red Cross.

"We hope it helps some people. It feels really good to be able to help like this," wrote Hana.

Donation and fundraising efforts continue all over the area. Jane Lewis, owner of the Quilter's Inn, hosted a day of quilting at her

► Continued on page 7

Stars shine on Mount Diablo

Awards honor three people who help protect natural resources

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Save Mount Diablo honored three local residents with its Mountain Star awards at its Moonlight on the Mountain event last Saturday, which also celebrated the organization's 34th anniversary.

Awards went to Beverly Lane, president of the East Bay Regional Park District; and Burt Bogardus and Rich McDrew, founders of the Mt. Diablo Trash Removal Project.

"The Mountain Star awards give us an opportunity to recognize and honor some of the key individuals who make a difference," said Ron Brown, executive director of Save Mount Diablo. "Preserving the integrity of Mount Diablo is dependent on the actions of a whole community of people."

Lane was given the Mountain Star Leadership Award, which is for "individuals who have made difficult and visionary contributions." Bogardus and McDrew received the Mountain Star Restoration Award for "significant and unusual improvements in resource protection and enhancement at Mount Diablo."

Moonlight on the Mountain is the group's largest fundraiser, an outdoor dinner and auction from 4:30-10 p.m. at the Mt. Diablo State Park's China Wall above Alamo, and all 450 seats were sold out. Its dramatic setting has views of the mountain summit to the east and the encroaching development below to the west, which remind those in attendance about the importance of the organization. The light of the rising full moon made the scene even more magical,



Save Mount Diablo honored (l-r) Rich McDrew, Burt Bogardus and Beverly Lane with its 2005 Mountain Star awards.

"The Mountain Star awards give us an opportunity to recognize and honor some of the key individuals who make a difference."

—Ron Brown,
executive director
of Save Mount Diablo

three years; IBEW continues as our named event sponsor, and Chevron this year became the event co-sponsor. Save Mount Diablo builds coalitions across all divides because, despite our occasional differences, we all love Mount Diablo."

Save Mount Diablo has more than 6,000 supporters. It has been acquiring and preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo since 1971 as well as educating the public to the mountain's natural values. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres to more than 88,000 since 1971, and Diablo has gone from one park in the beginning to 20 parks and preserves.

For more information, call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

said organizers.

"We're very grateful to our sponsors, as well," said Brown. "Blackhawk-Nunn has sponsored our awards program for the past

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Lemon-aid

► Continued from page 6

downtown shop Sept. 11. By the end of the day, the quilters had made 58 baby quilts, which will be sent to a quilt shop in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to be distributed to local shelters.

Tomorrow, the Danville Ballet Company will give parents a head start on Halloween costumes plus help hurricane victims. Its "Clean Your Closet Costume Sale" takes place from noon to 4 p.m. at the Ballet and Theatre Arts studio in the Alamo Plaza Shopping Center. Proceeds benefit the company's production of "The Nutcracker," but a portion of the proceeds will also be donated to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Green Valley Elementary School's PTA will be hosting a crab feed Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Veterans Memorial Hall in downtown Danville. Tickets are \$100. All proceeds will go through the Green Valley PTA to Hurricane Katrina relief.

For tickets, call Amy Phillips at 837-5487.

—Casey Reivich

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Downtown

► Continued from page 5

Chamber also sensed the need for change. When Discover Danville first began two-and-a-half years ago, the biggest issue for downtown merchants was the lack of foot traffic, said Wayne Wickham, who is president of Discover Danville and owner of the Wine Sellars on Hartz Avenue.

"There is not enough retail variety or continuity," said Wickham. "People see a lot of pricey boutiques, a few shoe stores, which is great, and jewelry stores, a wine store, but there's no destination. We need a small national or regional retailer." Wickham gave Papyrus as an example of a small national retailer.

For the past year, the town has worked quickly to amend its downtown business district ordinance to reflect the needs of downtown Danville and to rezone potential redevelopment areas. These changes should encourage and reinforce the retail character of downtown, said Principal Planner David Crompton.

The Town Council recently approved rezoning properties on the east side of Railroad Avenue between Prospect Avenue and School Street from Downtown Business District (DBD)-Area 2 to DBD-Area 1: Old Town Retail District. This would give the businesses on Railroad the same zoning as those businesses on Hartz Avenue.



CASEY REIVICH

In addition to rezoning, Danville is trying to encourage business downtown by expanding the Clocktower parking lot by 50 spaces, which has narrowed Railroad Avenue.

These businesses will no longer have to provide 75 percent of their parking onsite. With the new zoning, 100 percent of their parking requirement can be met through off-site town parking lots. To strengthen the retail character of Railroad, 75 percent of ground-floor uses must be restaurants or shops, a dramatic change from Railroad's previous zoning, which only required a minimum of 25 percent.

If a non-retail business like a bank vacates, the property owner only has 90 days to replace the tenant with another non-retail business. Before, the property owner had a year. In dramatically reducing the time limit, the town hopes that property owners will replace non-retail uses with retail uses, said Crompton.

Danville has also targeted three areas for redevelopment. They include Faz Restaurant, the Danville

Hotel and the areas north of Linda Mesa Avenue fronting along Rose Avenue, Hartz Avenue and Railroad Avenue. The new zone is called Area 11: Special Opportunities District. This special designation will last for three years.

The town is hoping that the Danville Hotel and the north Hartz properties are redeveloped to fit in more with the look and character of downtown Hartz Avenue. Presently, the Danville Hotel Territory, with its false fronts and Western décor, has a different appearance than the rest of historic downtown. The town also feels that some of the more rundown looking properties on north Hartz could be renovated.

"We want to bring it all up. We have a beautiful downtown starting from Diablo (Road)," said Doyle. "I will be so proud when we can

get down where Railroad starts and way up town to look all the same."

These properties will now get a break on parking. Instead of providing 100 percent onsite parking, only 50 percent is required. Because they will not have to provide as much parking, they will also have a higher floor area ratio, meaning ratio of building to land. Instead of a 50 percent floor area ratio, these special properties will be allowed up to 80 percent. This will allow them to enlarge their spaces and build second stories. They are also now zoned for residential use. Having apartments on the second level of properties not only helps offset costs for property owners but also brings more people downtown, said Crompton.

The town has also waived parking fees for all three downtown districts for the next three years. Waiving this fee significantly lightens the burden for owners. Instead of paying in-lieu parking fees, the owner can spend the money on redeveloping property. Currently, retail uses pay the town \$3,500 per parking spot and restaurants and non-retail uses pay the town \$7,000 per parking spot. In three years, parking fees will be reinstated for ground-floor businesses.

Reactions from property owners are mixed. Al Kaplan, who owns the property that used to house Country Waffles but will soon be home to a Mountain Mike's Pizza, said the new zoning won't change the nature of his property. The future Mountain Mike's Pizza will have roughly 40 onsite parking spots. And that is the

perfect amount of parking for a restaurant, according to Kaplan.

"Offsite parking is ridiculous. If the customer can park their car in a lot they want to look around and see the door they want to go in," said Kaplan.

Kaplan is also weary of apartments on the second floor of downtown businesses. Parking is already tight downtown, said Kaplan. If people lived downtown, they too would need parking.

Other property owners are more enthusiastic about the opportunities the rezoning creates. Howard Adler, who owns the North Hartz properties that house B-Line Cleaners, The Dog, and the Flower Cart, expressed his support for the rezoning at a town planning commission meeting this past August. He felt the changes would encourage improvements to properties, but he expressed concern over the three-year sunset period. He felt it was too short a time.

William and Carrie Gonsalves own the North Hartz property that houses Danville Bikes. They, too, are enthusiastic about the parking breaks and possibility for more space.

"I think it's fantastic. We have been thinking about redeveloping. This is something I'm certainly going to pursue," said William Gonsalves. But the three-year sunset period is also a concern for the Gonsalveses.

"I wish the sunset period was longer. It does take some time to get the permits and approval from the town," said William Gonsalves. "All in all, it's an excellent thing." ■

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'Tis the season—to shop

Discover Danville hopes twinkling lights will draw people downtown this holiday season

by Casey Reivich

Getting people in a festive spirit also means getting them in the spending spirit. At least that is what the downtown merchants association Discover Danville is hoping.

Last winter, Discover Danville hosted Thursday night events, much like the summer Thursday night events, in an attempt to bring people downtown to shop for the holidays. Because the events were poorly attended, this year Discover Danville is hoping to lure people downtown by transforming Hartz Avenue and Railroad Avenue into a winter wonderland a la Charles Dickens.

Instead of only having a smattering of decorations downtown, Discover Danville is attempting to get all of its members to participate in decorating their storefronts. Last year, the decorations downtown were less than spectacular, said Wayne Wickham, president of Discover Danville and owner of the Wine Sellars on Hartz Avenue.

This year, Discover Danville hopes to get its merchants in the festive mood by holding a contest for best decorations among stores, said Darrel Trimble of Discover Danville and owner of Handworks on Railroad Avenue.

The contest will commence at the tree lighting ceremony, which will be held from 5:15-8:30 p.m., at the old Oak Tree on Diablo Road on Nov. 25. Trimble is hopeful that the decorations downtown become a holiday attraction.

"A lot of people take their families to look at houses. We're going to do the same thing in town," said Trimble.

So far 20 out of Discover Danville's 40 members have signed up for the decorations contest, said Trimble.

Discover Danville hopes by making downtown a holiday destination, people will think to shop downtown for their holiday gifts, said Wickham.

Wickham told members of the town council at a recent meeting between the town and Discover Danville that a majority of the people he has spoken to do not consider doing their holiday shopping downtown.

In addition to the festive decorations, downtown stores could also gain a competitive advantage by making gift shopping more convenient, said Councilwoman Karen Stepper. Stepper gave complimentary gift-wrapping at toy store G.R. Doodlebug in the Livery as an example. Gift-wrapping is a service local shops provide that big chains do not, she said. ■

Ask Dr. Le Cara

Q. I have heard that glucosamine sulfate is a good product for arthritis. Is there a recommended dosage and is there anything else that is beneficial for this condition?

A. Glucosamine sulfate, a natural sugar produced by the body and found in certain foods, stimulates the manufacture of cartilage substances necessary for proper joint function. In addition to promoting joint repair, it reduces inflammation and has been shown to slow the progression of arthritis. Numerous studies have demonstrated that glucosamine sulfate is a safe and effective natural alternative to aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g., ibuprofen). The standard recommended dose is one to two 650 mg. capsules three times per day. Please note that not all glucosamine supplements are equally efficacious and people who are allergic to shellfish should take one that is shellfish free. It is important to take a quality supplement to ensure results.

I also recommend that you take a fish oil supplement and a multivitamin. Fish oils are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, which protect against many physical and mental degenerative diseases, such as arthritis and cancer.

In my practice, we offer specially selected high quality supplements, including glucosamine and fish

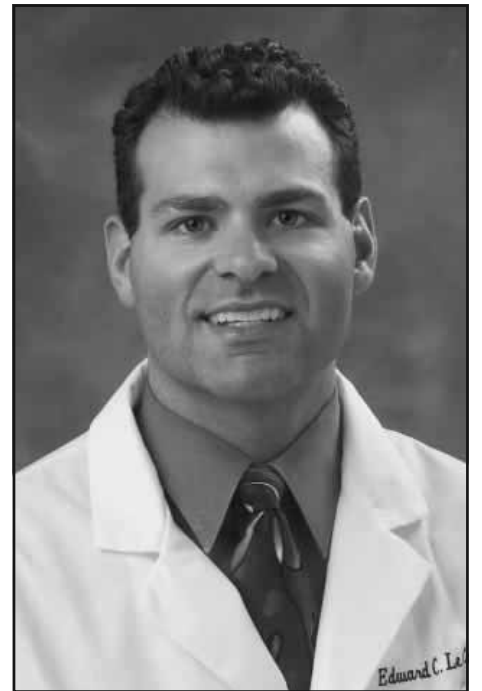
oil. Before taking supplements, keep in mind that they work most effectively when used to augment a well-balanced diet that includes a variety of fruits and vegetables.

If your condition is due to other causes, myofascial therapy and a home rehabilitation program can decrease inflammation and reduce irritating adhesions. They also can reduce muscle spasms and trigger points and help to restore a full range of motion.

Q. I have pain in my shoulder, especially when lifting my arm. What would you recommend?

A. The fact that you experience pain when lifting your arm indicates that you may be suffering from rotator cuff syndrome. The rotator cuff is a group of four muscles that helps to lift your shoulder up over your head and also rotate it toward and away from your body. Rotator cuff syndrome refers to injuries such as tears, tendonitis, impingement, bursitis and strains to one or more of these muscles. This is often caused by extensive participation in athletic activities like throwing a ball, serving a tennis ball or driving a golf ball. Besides chronic wear and tear, a fall or collision also can be a causal factor.

Symptoms may include pain in the front, side, back or deep inside the shoulder, especially with overhead movements. A person may

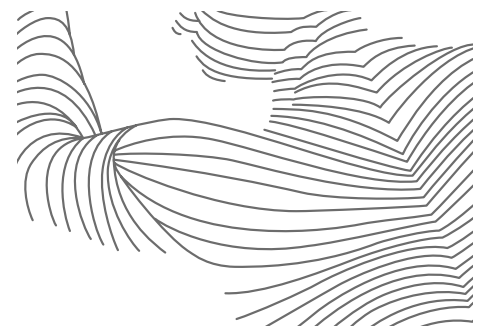


Edward C. Le Cara, D.C.
Certified Chiropractic Sports Practitioner
Certified Athletic Trainer

experience pain while doing everyday activities, such as getting dressed or completing household chores.

A thorough chiropractic examination of your shoulder and neck to locate the injured muscle and determine the nature of the injury will be necessary before prescribing treatment. One option is deep tissue massage, which can be very beneficial for breaking up scar tissue and promoting proper healing. If your pain is acute, Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) also can be useful for providing fast relief. In addition, physiotherapy and range-of-motion exercises can strengthen and gently stretch the rotator cuff muscles, decreasing chances of sustaining further injury to your shoulder in the future.

© 2005, Le Cara Chiropractic



Edward C. Le Cara, D.C. is a Certified Chiropractic Sports Practitioner, Certified Athletic Trainer and the former President of the Alameda County Chapter of the California Chiropractic Association. He is the head wrestling coach at San Ramon Valley High School and provides medical assistance for the Pleasanton Youth Football League. A large portion of his private practice, Le Cara Chiropractic, located at 90 Mission Drive, Suite B, in Pleasanton, is devoted to the treatment and rehabilitation of sports-related injuries. For more information or to ask Dr. Le Cara additional questions, call 925.462.5557 or send him an e-mail at dr@lecarachiropractic.com.

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Preserve

► Continued from page 5

garbage cans and water are available at Sycamore Valley Park for the north segment. On the left side of the trail entrance is an information panel that will have park maps and rules plus information about resource protection.

Planning for the park began in the early 1980s when some residents became concerned about losing the rural ambiance of Sycamore Valley because of all the developments being built. As a result, the Danville Town Council adopted the Sycamore Valley Specific Plan enabling open space to be saved on the ridgelines. Besides the 700 acres owned by the Park District, other areas are preserved by private homeowners' associations.

The land use plan developed by the town specified four goals:

- Maintain the open grasslands as working ranchland;
- Provide trails for public recreation;
- Minimize wildfire risks to neigh-



Park rangers Vince Green (left) and Kevin Fox put the finishing touches on the sign in time for Sunday's dedication of the Sycamore Valley Open Space Regional Preserve.

boring homes; and

- Conserve the native wildlife.

Sycamore Valley is one of 65 regional parklands operated by Park District, totaling more than 95,000 acres of public land distributed throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. They include 1,150 miles of trails and 29 inter-park regional trails. To find out more, visit www.ebparcs.org.

But first visit the newest open space preserve—Sycamore Valley. ■

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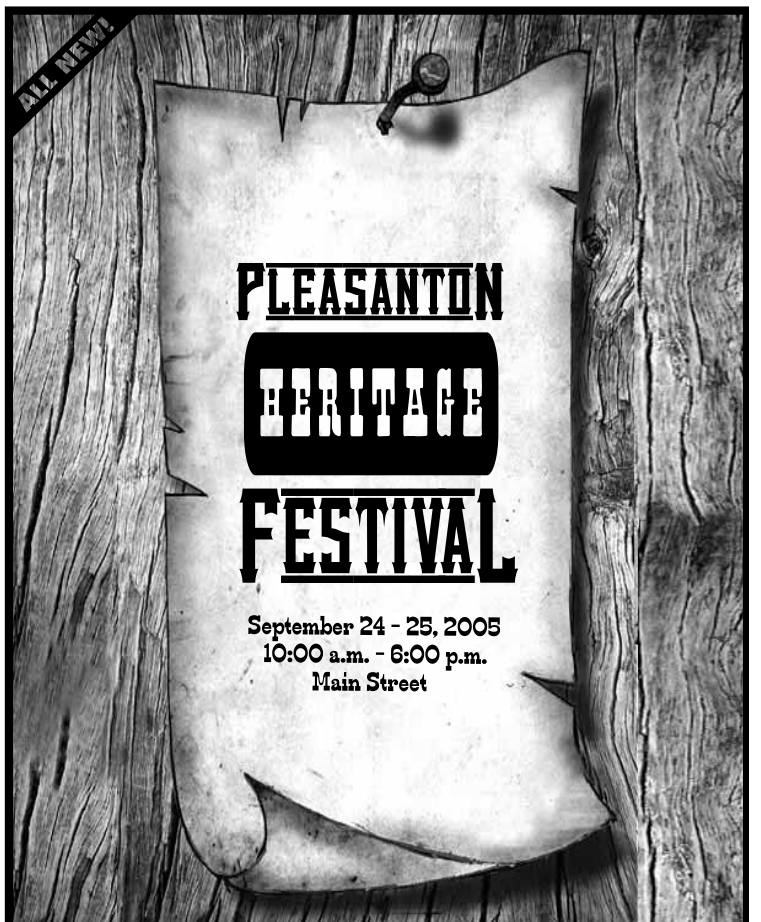
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TAKE US ALONG



The Weekly gets a history lesson

Civil War enthusiast Gary Hernbroth enjoys his Danville Weekly while visiting Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. Hernbroth, president of Training for Winners, was at Gettysburg to gather research for a training seminar that draws parallels between battle command decisions and business management. He was also speaking at a convention in Washington, D.C. Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Danville 94596.

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Reprieve for VA nursing home?

Future may see new facility and clinic in Livermore

by Carol Bogart

Danville and Alamo representatives weighed in via a live television feed at a meeting last week to discuss the future of the VA nursing home in Livermore. It was the second in a series of "stakeholder" meetings sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs that will result in a recommendation to VA Secretary R. James Nicholson as to where to put aging and infirm veterans once the Livermore nursing home has been demolished.

The 112-acre Livermore site currently has a 120-bed nursing home and a medical center that was built as a tuberculosis hospital in 1949 but retrofitted in 1992. VA plans call for the hospital to be closed with services offered at two new clinics, one in the East Bay and another in the Central Valley. Specialty services for local veterans as well as short-term hospital stays would be at the Palo Alto facility. Livermore is part of the VA Palo Alto Health Care system.

In March, U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo (R., 11th) spoke at a Veterans Forum at the Danville Veterans Memorial Hall and said he would do everything he could to keep the VA hospital in Livermore up and running. "Right now there is demand and need here," he said. "Moving that hospital would cause hardships on the veterans who live in this area."

Danville and Alamo residents largely go to Martinez or San Francisco for their care although they may choose to go to Livermore, said Karen Pridmore of the VA Public Affairs Department. "There are nursing homes in

Martinez and in Livermore," she said. "Veterans in the whole Bay Area can be treated in any facility."

The panel convened in Livermore by the VA last week considered five "options." One was renovation of the existing 23-year-old nursing home. At the first meeting in May, many who testified literally begged the panel to "just leave (the existing home) alone."

Partway into last week's meeting, Pombo appeared via a live television feed, spoke briefly, and, although he said he'd been given a copy of the options, expressed no opinion as to which he favored.

Shortly after, U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D., 10th) also appeared via TV. Veterans present erupted in hoots, whistles and cheers when Tauscher called the meetings "a precipitous waste of our time." She said no one could give her cost estimates for construction of a new nursing home, but said her own projection was \$8 million to \$9 million. There's no guarantee, she said, that Congress would approve the funding. Tauscher firmly supports upgrading the present nursing home, but that option—even though panel chairman Alan Perry identified it as the least expensive and the "sentimental favorite"—is no longer on the table.

Panel member state Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., 15th) was not present. He also missed the first meeting, citing scheduling conflicts.

It was clear from the outset of Wednesday's meeting that panel members were convinced Nicholson would reject a recommendation to further the option of keeping the nursing home open. It didn't "conform" to and wouldn't "be compliant" with then-VA Secretary Anthony Principi's decision last year that requires

construction of a new nursing home. Its location is to be determined by such factors as ease of access.

In a surprise development at the conclusion of Wednesday's meeting, panel member Dr. Ellen Shibata proposed an option not previously considered. She recommended for further study an option that would build—somewhere on the current campus—both a new 120-bed nursing home and a "co-located" clinic. She said that, as a clinician, she considers such "co-location" essential for optimum care. By a vote of 3-2, the panel approved forwarding that option to the secretary for his consideration. The option is one of several being sent to Nicholson that the panel is recommending for further study. The others call for building a new nursing home elsewhere, possibly the Central Valley.

Panel chairman Perry pointed out that Nicholson is under no obligation to accept the panel's recommendations. He also pointed out that no construction will begin until 2012.

Perry and others said it was their understanding any proceeds from redevelopment would be funneled back into health services for veterans, such as, suggested one panel member, the money necessary to build both a nursing home and clinic in the current rural setting in Livermore.

Veteran Rose Wilson has called that setting "home" for the past four years. She recounts a fall a year ago that fractured her hip. Now, she said, she's walking. "The atmosphere here had a lot to do with it," she noted. "You're feeling down and you go outside and see the deer a-runnin' and a-jumpin'—it lifts you up. I think it would be very hard to equal the life here." ■

food. "Seventy-five hundred people waited in line for the checks, and it was 101 degrees," he reported.

He said an eight months pregnant woman in the line went into labor and was rushed off by medical personnel. He also saw a wedding take place in the Astrodome, with the bridal gown and groom's tux provided by the Red Cross.

"Even though calamity is around you, life goes on," he noted.

Mayor Mike Doyle reminded everyone about the collections for the victims being done at St. Isidore's on weekends through the end of September. He stressed that what was really needed is help sorting through all the generous contributions. ■

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Welcome to the State of Independence

Hurricane

► Continued from page 5

He said he talked to people who had been stuck on a bridge for three days with nothing to eat. He also worked for the Red Cross giving out checks, from \$300-\$1,500, to be used on shelter, clothing and



Raccoon diaries

Only a month ago we had a green and lush lawn in our back yard, surrounded by flower gardens, with inlaid flagstones leading to our fountain. We spent many summer evenings enjoying that rare moment in suburban life when the grass is perfect—with no lawn moth, gophers or brown patches.

Then one morning we went out and couldn't believe our eyes: The lawn looked as though it'd been the site of an NFL scrimmage, clumps of grass mercilessly torn from their roots. We knew immediately that raccoons had caused the damage because we'd heard of them rolling up sod to find grubs to eat. A 10-foot-by-10-foot area was uprooted, turned over tuft by tuft by their agile little fingers. We researched grubs to find them defined as "fat, juicy beetle larvae," so I will no longer refer to my dinner plans as "getting some grub" (not that I ever did actually).

That night we left all the lights on in the yard, figuring nothing would invade if it were bright as daylight. Wrong! The carefully replaced patches from the previous night's destruction were again turned on their sides. The next night we left our dog in the family room with the sliding door open but the screen closed so she could bark at the raccoons when they came and scare them away. She had several frantic barking sessions during the night but I was too tired to get up and look. I'm sure the raccoons must have heard, but they blithely ignored her and proceeded to tear up yet another large section of lawn.

We then decided on a two-pronged, demand-supply approach to defeat the enemy: We needed the scent of a larger predator to scare away the raccoons, plus we needed to get rid of the grubs. So off to the nursery we went, to purchase a spray bottle of coyote urine and little pellets designed to eliminate grubs. Right before we went to bed, we went out in the darkness to spray the urine (OK, probably urine substitute) around the perimeter. We hurried downstairs the next morning with high hopes but, alas, either our raccoons weren't intimidated by coyotes or the urine was past its expiration date.

Next we called the Lindsay Wildlife Museum to get some expert advice and were told this problem is common in the area. The woman told us about a man in Blackhawk who laid \$20,000 of sod in his expansive yard, went away for a week and returned to find it a large clumpy mess. She suggested that we sprinkle the

lawn with either black pepper or cayenne.

That night we used both on the lawn, totaling emptying the little can and jar. The next day I loaded up on cayenne (not cheap) and we gave the lawn a good dousing. Success! With still half a lawn that could have been mined for grubs, we had stopped the raccoons in their tracks. Of course our dog couldn't act "naturally" in the yard either, with all that cayenne around. When I brought her out to do her business, she just stood there, nose in the air, looking confused. I went to Costco to buy a big economical jar of cayenne but although it carries black pepper, table grind, whole and with lemon, it does not carry cayenne. I guess most customers don't use it in large quantities.

"We hurried downstairs the next morning with high hopes but, alas, either our raccoons weren't intimidated by coyotes or the urine was past its expiration date."

With the raccoons, either the cayenne was effective or the grub killer worked. In telling my sad tale I've learned of other battles against wildlife in this area. One Alamo neighborhood is thinking of buying stock in a product called Liquid Fence that everyone uses to keep the deer out. Another person who lives on El Pintado told me about having the same raccoon problem and peering out the window in the middle of the night to see eight—yes, eight!—raccoons reaching into the soil to uproot the lawn and look for grubs. Her family was about to take action when a skunk sauntered onto the scene.

The more we researched, the more we learned about raccoons, who are smart, strong and dexterous but so disease-ridden that we wouldn't want them in our yard even if they weren't tearing up our lawn. How ironic that they look so darned cute with their little masks and striped tails. All in all, I think Davy Crockett had the right idea. ■

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Whose money is it?

On Tuesday night, the town of Danville adopted a resolution supporting disaster relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina and urged residents and businesses to support such efforts. We applaud the council members for their collective influence in encouraging all of us to help. The resolution went a step further, however, and authorized the expenditure of \$10,000 to be divided between Habitat for Humanity (\$2,500), the Red Cross (\$3,750) and the Salvation Army (\$3,750). Like many of us, the town officials are looking for what they can do to help our fellow Americans in time of immense devastation. We believe the town officials' collective heart is in the right place, but with the direct expenditure of town money approved by this resolution, they went beyond the role expected or desired of our local elected officials.

When a natural disaster or tragedy happens in our country, like Hurricane Katrina, we all want to reach out to help. As individuals, organizations, businesses and governments we all want to make it right somehow. We search for the right approach whether it is an investment of time or money.

But what is the right role for local government in a natural disaster in another part of the country? Mutual aid efforts, that is, sharing the expertise of public safety workers, such as police and fire personnel immediately following the emergency or sending building and planning experts to the areas when the rebuilding occurs is the appropriate action for local government. Communities need to share this type of knowledge and give time generously to help those in need because no one community can have all the needed personnel when a true disaster occurs.

When it comes to financial contributions, however, that generous gesture should be left to the private sector through corporate donations or to individuals to decide how much and to whom they would like to donate. It's a bad precedent, no matter how compelling, for town government to use public funds for anything other than town services. Town officials have a fiduciary responsibility to protect our money, and not view the bank balances as their personal checkbook to use for things that are unrelated to governing the town, no matter how worthy the cause. How will the elected officials distinguish between good causes wherever they happen or financially strapped nonprofits that do good work locally who would love to have the town's money? As good-hearted as their actions may be, the council members have overstepped their role.

It's a bad precedent, no matter how compelling, for town government to use public funds for anything other than town services.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AIA, not MAC, for Alamo

Dear Editor:

As an Alamo resident, I disagree with Supervisor Mary Piepho's proposal of a Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) for Alamo. We already have the Alamo Improvement Association (AIA), a grassroots organization that has effectively represented the needs and interests of unincorporated Alamo to county officials since 1955.

The AIA is an elected and self-supporting organization of volunteers. Membership costs \$50 a year. All meetings, including board meetings, are open to the public. The AIA mission, as stated on its Web site (www.alamo-ca.org) is "to preserve and foster the established character and quality of Alamo as a semi-rural, low density, residential area."

Instead, Piepho has proposed a five-member MAC where the first round of members would be "appointed" because elections are "too expensive." Who will do the appointing? I assume it's either the Board of Supervisors or Piepho. Besides having appointed members, an Alamo MAC would also have no budget or any means of self-support. (A local newspaper stated that a member of another MAC in the area has to pay for note-taking services out of his own pocket.) An Alamo MAC would have no more power or authority than the AIA, as both organizations have limited advisory roles to the county.

Why this sudden and urgent need for an Alamo MAC? It seems to have more to do with Piepho's desires or those of her developer supporters than the desires of Alamo residents. Piepho's proposal would strip Alamo from any independent representation by making the Alamo MAC an extension of the Board of Supervisors. It's a little like Congress telling us

who our local representative to Congress is going to be.

Charla Gabert, Alamo

Unimpressed by Piepho

Dear Editor:

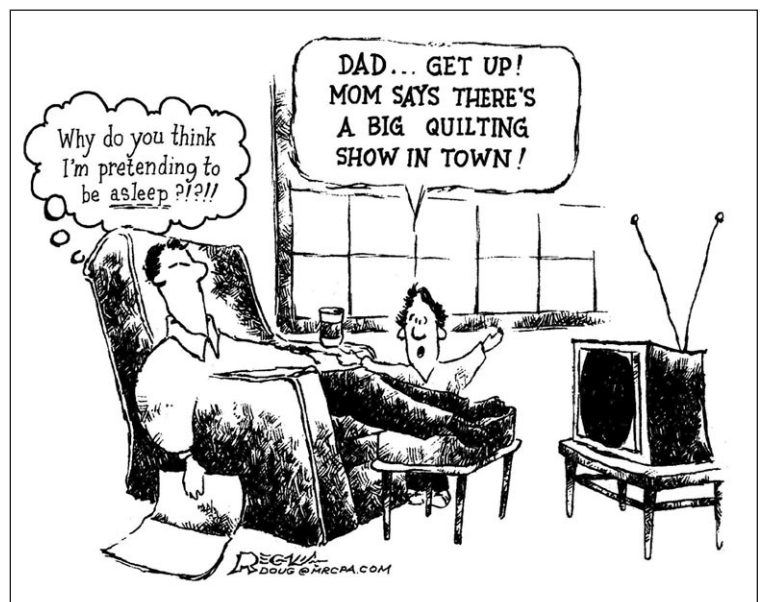
As a resident of Alamo, I have to say that I am completely unimpressed by Supervisor Mary Piepho. I e-mailed and called her office months ago with concerns regarding traffic issues in town in Alamo. It is a sore subject for many of us who take our lives in our hands crossing the Danville Boulevard at Orchard Court and at Jackson. Our builder paid approximately \$1 million for a light at the Orchard Court Intersection; that was over five years ago, and nothing has been done. Where is the money?

Piepho's assistant returned my call. I wanted to understand comments made in the Alamo Improvement Association (AIA) newsletter stating that the traffic solution proposed last spring was stopped, and no one knew the status. Piepho's assistant said the AIA was lying. I chalked it up to inexperience on the assistant's part. I was very frustrated as I had almost been hit by a car with my toddler daughter that day as we crossed the street in the crosswalk. I have e-mailed Piepho, but I got no response. I thought if I wrote to you, I could possibly get a response from Piepho. Something has to be done about the traffic in downtown Alamo, NOW. I am sure that someone in the community who uses that crosswalk is going to be injured or killed. It is just a matter of time.

As for Supervisor Piepho, I am very unimpressed by how she runs her office and how she has treated the people of Alamo. How come we don't have meetings on Alamo in Alamo? Maybe someone in Alamo should run against Ms. Piepho in the next election.

Tonya T. York, Alamo

THE POINT OF THE PEN



Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS



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POLICE BULLETIN

Unwanted deliveries

Police were called to investigate an arson at 9:15 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 18. Unknown suspects had put a newspaper and toilet paper in a mailbox on Entrada Mesa, and ignited the paper with an unknown ignition source. The paint on the outside of the mailbox was scorched and discolored. No other mailboxes were vandalized in the area, police said, and there were no witnesses or leads.

The day before, at 2:09 p.m., Saturday Sept. 17, a resident on Alisal Court and El Cerro Boulevard had discovered a patio lounge chair, mattress and garbage by their fence. No one was seen dumping these items off. The resident notified the police to have it on the record.



POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

Sept. 12

- Burglary-residential: on Adagio Dr., at 8:16 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls: on La Pera Cr., at 8:49 a.m.
- Weapon on school grounds: Arrest on Del Amigo Rd., at 10:51 a.m.

Sept. 13

- Recovered stolen vehicle: on Camino Tassajara, at 7 a.m.
- Accident-injury: on Danville Blvd. and El Cerro Blvd., at 9:38 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: on I-680 northbound and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 12:53 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on La Questa Dr., at 12:27 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle: on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Cr., at 3:25 p.m.
- Accident-property damage: on Love Ln., at 3:40 p.m.
- Grand theft-from building: on Franciscan Dr., at 4:11 p.m.
- Burglary-residential: on Willowview Ct., at 4:08 p.m.
- Hit & Run-misdemeanor: on Hartz Ave. and Prospect Ave., at 5:48 p.m.
- Burglary-auto: on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave., at 6:43 p.m.
- Child molest: on Jasmine Wy., at 7:13 p.m.

Sept. 14

- Petty theft-coin op machine: on Diablo Rd., at 12:48 p.m.

Sept. 15

- Petty theft: on Love Ln., at 9:29 a.m.

- Accident-property damage: on Stone Valley Rd., at 10:43 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls: on Northoak Ct., at 12:12 p.m.

Sept. 16

- Driving under influence (DUI)-misdemeanor: Arrest on I-680 southbound and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 1:10 a.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Ridgeland Dr. and San Ramon Valley Blvd., at 12:36 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: on Railroad Ave., at 12:04 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on La Gonda Wy., at 1:03 p.m.
- Misdemeanor-other: on Love Ln., at 1:54 p.m.
- Forgery-fraudulent documents: on Silver Lake Dr., at 2:13 p.m.
- Malicious mischief: on El Capitan Dr., at 4:37 p.m.
- School-alcohol on grounds: on Stone Valley Rd., at 2:52 p.m.
- School-alcohol on grounds: on Stone Valley Rd., at 10:37 p.m.
- Misdemeanor-other: Citation given on El Cerro Blvd. and I-680 southbound, at 10:48 p.m.

Sept. 17

- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on I-680 southbound and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 12:50 a.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Camino Tassajara and Old Orchard Dr., at 2:27 a.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on I-680 off southbound and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 3:28 a.m.

- Suspicious circumstances: on St. Maurice Ct., at 8:34 a.m.
- Littering: on Alisal Ct., at 2:09 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls: on McCauley Rd., at 2:48 p.m.
- Vandalism-felony: on Fostoria Wy., at 5:51 p.m.
- Warrant arrest: Arrest on Lawrence Rd., and Oakgate Dr., at 6:24 p.m.
- Hit & Run-misdemeanor: Arrest on Waterman Cr., at 6:35 p.m.

Sept. 18

- DUI-misdemeanor: on El Cerro Blvd. and Garden Creek Pl., at 2:05 a.m.
- Burglary-commercial: on San Ramon Valley Blvd., at 7:37 a.m.
- Malicious mischief: on Quinterra Ln., at 8:14 a.m.
- Arson: on Entrada Mesa at 9:15 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls: on La Gonda Wy., at 3:56 p.m.

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

ALAMO

Sept. 13

- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Miranda Creek Ct.

BLACKHAWK

Sept. 13

- Burglary-auto: on White Oak Pl.

Sept. 18

- Burglary-residential: on Pheasant Run Dr.

DIABLO

Sept. 13

- Battery: on Club House Rd.

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Mustang water polo off to good start

Team led by champions Purcell and O'Toole

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

Jim Purcell and Maureen O'Toole-Purcell have done about everything in the world of water polo. Purcell was a high school, junior college and college all-American, winning two National Championships and two World Cup Championships. O'Toole-Purcell is recognized worldwide as the greatest female water polo player of all time. Some of her kudos include MVP of the U.S. Women's National team 15 times, U.S. Water Polo Female Athlete of the Year five times, World Water Polo Female Athlete of the Year six times, 2000 Olympic Game silver medalist. As they are head coaches of the Monte Vista boys water polo team, it is no wonder Monte Vista is a major force to be reckoned in the East Bay Athletic League.

Water polo is played in four five-minute quarters, and one point is scored for each goal. There are seven players on a team, six field and one goalie. Purcell said the top players for 2005 include: Charlie Steffens, junior field player, 1st team All-North Coast Section as a sophomore, plays for USA 15/under National Team; Mike McGlennon, senior goalie, has been the starting

goalie at Monte Vista since his freshman year; Mike Cassady, lefty, senior field player, first team all-league, second team all-NCS last year; Greg Kohl, senior field player, top defensive player, second team all-league last year; Stewart Peugh, senior field player, best all round field player, first team all-league last year; Scott Kwon, senior field player, fastest swimmer on the team, scores many fast break goals; and Robbie Vose, lefty, senior field player, "one of the best shooters in NCS."

"In no special order, the top teams in the NCS are Monte Vista, Miramonte, Acalanes, De La Salle, Sir Francis Drake and crosstown rival San Ramon," said Purcell. "Scholarships can be awarded for water polo however most college teams are 'club' programs and don't have more than four full scholarships per year."

He said good water polo players "must be fast swimmers, strong vertically in the water, tough physically and mentally, know the game strategies and be able to anticipate and react to game situations as they develop, as well as be an excellent ball-handler and shooter."

Monte Vista opened up its season with a victory against

California 12-6. Charlie Steffans scored six goals to lead the Mustangs.

Football

Monte Vista rolled to a 40-13 victory over Merrill West-Tracy in its first home game. The Mustangs were led by Peter Geurts, who rushed for 120 yards and one touchdown, and the team finished with 544 yards of total offense. Monte Vista will play at home tonight against Berkeley.

San Ramon won its second straight game of the season beating non-league opponent Irvington 42-31 in its home opener. Running back Roy Helu Jr. finished the game with three touchdowns and 168 yards. The Wolves play at home tonight against Will C. Wood. ■



Storm goals help hurricane victims

The Mustang Storm Girls U-14 Division 3 team placed second in the Devil Mountain Tournament in Danville on Sept. 3-4. Prior to the start of the tournament Devon Bridges, a key defensive player for the Storm, coordinated a fundraising effort for the victims of hurricane Katrina. She and her teammates asked parents, friends and relatives to make a donation based on the number of goals scored, shutouts and games won. The team raised more than \$2,000 for the American Red Cross. The team includes: first row, Rosie Garcia, Bridget Larin, Alex Sherwood, Alex King, Janelle Cates, Aimee Crocker, Makayla Cates; second row, Assistant Coach John Garcia, Madeline Call, Devon Bridges, Amanda Crook, Morgan Chace, Jolene Liljeberg, Erin Coldren, Morgan McGrath, Aimee Dewan, Rachel Robinson and Coach Jim Crocker.

PREP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 24

Cross Country:

San Ramon and Monte Vista at the Stanford Invite

Monday, Sept. 26

Girls Golf:

San Ramon at the Fall Classic, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 27

Girls Volleyball:

San Ramon vs. Foothill, 6 p.m.

Girls Tennis:

San Ramon vs. Amador Valley
Monte Vista at Granada

Girls Golf:

San Ramon vs. Monte Vista, 3:30 p.m.

Boys Water Polo:

Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 5:45 p.m.

Girls Water Polo:

Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

Girls Tennis:

Monte Vista vs. Miramonte

Thursday, Sept. 29

Girls Volleyball:

San Ramon at Granada, 6 p.m.

Boys Water Polo:

San Ramon at Cal High, 5:45 p.m.
Monte Vista at Amador Valley, 5:45 p.m.

Girls Water Polo:

San Ramon at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista at Amador Valley, 3:45 p.m.

Girls Tennis:

Monte Vista vs. Foothill

Friday, Sept. 30

Football:

San Ramon vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.

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Finding the way to Tao House

by B. Lynn Goodwin

Celebrating Eugene O'Neill can start with a tour of his Danville home

Tours to Tao House in the west hills of Danville are special in many ways. The house itself, where playwright Eugene O'Neill lived from 1937 to 1944, is unique, with stunning views. Also, because private cars are not allowed on the road to the National Historic Site, a park ranger drives visitors in a van, leaving from the Sycamore Valley Park and Ride. Although this means that a visit calls for a little advanced planning, it also means it includes a pleasant sightseeing trip. On my recent tour, because it included visitors from Napa, Davis and Palm Springs, our bus driver took the scenic route.

We drove down San Ramon Valley Boulevard and turned onto Railroad Avenue, where the sidewalk was filled with bikers on a coffee break and moms wheeling strollers toward the farmers market. Our guide pointed out the depot, where O'Neill could have met the trains from Martinez, and Elliott's bar, where O'Neill's son, according to local lore, spent time at the bar.

We passed San Ramon Valley High School and wound our way up to Kuss Road, which has been gated since the mid-'80s. The narrow, winding road ends at Tao House. As we stood gazing at an old, whitewashed barn in front of oak-studded hills, it was easy to follow tour guide Wendy Cooper's instructions to imagine we were back in Eugene O'Neill's time.

Seeking a place where he could write without interruption, O'Neill, who was born in 1888, used part of the stipend from his 1936 Nobel Prize to purchase 158 acres of secluded beauty. His wife Carlotta and her daughter, Cynthia, who lived in Oakland, helped him find his "final harbor."

As she planned the exterior, Carlotta combined adobe-like bricks reminiscent of early California architecture with Oriental accents that reflected the O'Neill's interest in Eastern thought. Tao (dow) means "The Way" and the Chinese characters on their garden gate roughly translate to "House of the Righteous Way."

The brick path to the house has as many right angles as a maze. It is intended to stop evil spirits. So are the fake steps into the house and the red front door, which is hidden from view as one enters the yard.

Inside, the house mirrors nature. The ceilings are dark as the nighttime sky, and the floor's tiles are earthen colored. The entry hall is filled with masks, and statues of Foo Dogs frame the staircase.

Numerous downstairs walls are accented with large, square indentations that were planned for bookshelves. Colored mirrors were placed in two of them: emerald green in the hallway, sapphire blue in the living room. O'Neill shelved his 8,000-volume library there. Most of those books are now at Long Island University, and the bulk of his mysteries went to World War II servicemen.

The furnishings, originally purchased from Gumps and Sloanes, have been recreated with as much historical accuracy as possible, using photos from the O'Neills' time in the house.

Rosie, a player piano, supposedly from a New Orleans bordello, sits in the breakfast room. O'Neill loved that piano, and local residents reported the sounds of its music wafting into the valley. In that room he tracked World War II using a map on the wall. Photos have been added to the walls today, including a dramatic portrait of Carlotta.

Carlotta Monterey, who was born Hazel Tharsing, changed her name when she became an actress. She met O'Neill while acting in one of his plays and became his protector and guardian as well as his third wife. For her bedroom she purchased a carved teak bed and plenty of blue silk.

If the door to O'Neill's bedroom and study across the hall was shut, no one was allowed to knock. His fog gray bedroom has a built-in black mirror framed by two windows looking out on Mount Diablo. Speaking of the mirror, O'Neill said, "It lets me know that I'm alive."

A large, teak opium bed sits against the wall next to the study. Gumps, which sold the O'Neills their furniture, bought some of it back in 1944, then donated much of it to Tao House in the '70s. The store did not acknowledge requests to return O'Neill's opium bed, however, until Katharine Hepburn, an Honorary Member of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, sent a firm letter. Gumps complied within the week.

Next to his bedroom is O'Neill's study. Two spacious, finely crafted desks sit on opposite walls. The playwright used two desks because he worked on multiple projects at once, including a historical cycle of one acts, some of which he burned rather than share.

The study's red ceiling was probably intended to ward off evil spirits, just like the front door, although it could have been in keeping with the phrase, "red sky at night, sailor's delight," reflecting O'Neill's love of the sea and his early days as a seaman. Heavy wooden beams across it are reminiscent of a captain's cabin on a ship. Though his Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes are not in the room, O'Neill's Certificate of Discharge as an able seaman is framed and two model ships sit above the fireplace in the study.



Eugene O'Neill and his wife Carlotta Monterey read in the living room of their Tao House in the west Danville hills. They were furnished as closely to the original as possible, using old photographs.

This is the room where he wrote "Long Day's Journey Into Night," which he dedicated to Carlotta, calling it a "tribute to love and tenderness." Other plays written there include "A Touch of the Poet," "More Stately Mansions," "The Iceman Cometh," "Hughie," and "A Moon for the Misbegotten."

An optional part of the tour leads on a little path beside the barn to the hillside where a fence surrounds a grave for the O'Neills' beloved dog, Blemie, marked by a tombstone.

Neither Eugene O'Neill nor Carlotta ever learned how to drive and when their friend and helper Herbert Freeman left for the Marines in 1942, they hired three local people to help them: C. F. Haskell, owner of the hardware store downtown; Edwin Olsson of Olsson's Gas Station; and Charlie Roberts, who was also a chauffeur at Blackhawk Ranch. Once World War II began, their servants left for better paying jobs and life became difficult due to the isolation. Though O'Neill loved Tao House, he sold the property to Arthur and Charlotte Carlson in 1944 because of his failing health.

In 1966 a local newspaper headline, "Development for O'Neill

Property," caught the eye of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Charlotte Monterey, and the Concord Library League. They learned about the significance of the property and purchased the property as a National Historic Site.

Today Tao House attracts thousands of visitors. Eugene O'Neill Jr. and seniors in the Eugene O'Neill Foundation's Student Drama Society visit when he was alive, and the ghost of Carlotta is said to be seen.

Wendy Cooper said that much of the material for the tour comes from the archives. "They go home feeling wonderful from the 'less is more' philosophy. There is a spirit about the house."

O'Neill left a strong mark on the area. Tao House is a local treasure well worth a visit.

Of all the places Eugene O'Neill called home during his restless life, Tao House held him the longest and was the refuge where he wrote his last plays. He and his wife Carlotta purchased the 158-acre ranch and designed the home combining his interest in Eastern thought and her passion for Oriental art.



ne



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

a private couple who led a quiet life in the cool, dark rooms,

ye of a member of the Las Trampas Wilderness Morrison. She teamed up with Ann Cavanaugh of ague, and together they educated the community of Tao House. The East Bay Regional Parks District and in time O'Neill's home was recognized as a

verages between 2,000 and 4,000 visitors per year.

Local high schools explore the house on the ys. They find the black mirror that let O'Neill know mostly images reflected in it, particularly intriguing. e students who visit find inspiration in the fact that O'Neill's greatest plays came from his life experieling that they, too, may be able to create something s than happy' events of their own lives," she said. he house that inspires."

ark on the American theater, and his Danville home worth seeing. Call 838-0249 and book a tour. ■



Eugene O'Neill in Danville: A celebration

The sixth annual Eugene O'Neill Festival, sponsored by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House and the National Park Service, is being held Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. The foundation has put together six events for this celebration. Four are at Tao House, and transportation will be provided from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. There is a \$5 charge at boarding for the seminar and discussion.

Wednesday, Sept. 28 (11:30 a.m.): dedication of O'Neill Commemorative at Front Street Park, across from the Danville library, 400 Front St.

Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (8 p.m.) and **Oct. 2** (4 p.m.): performances of Eugene O'Neill's "Hughie" by the Namaste Theatre Company of Los Angeles in the Old Barn at Tao House. Tickets (\$26) are available at Dean Leshar Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Locust St., Walnut Creek; telephone 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

"Hughie," which focuses on a small-time gambler who has just come off a four-day drinking binge, has particular significance for the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. It was performance of this play by Jason Robards Jr. and Jack Dodson in 1975 that raised funds which allowed the foundation to make a down payment and secure title to Tao House, saving it from destruction by developers.

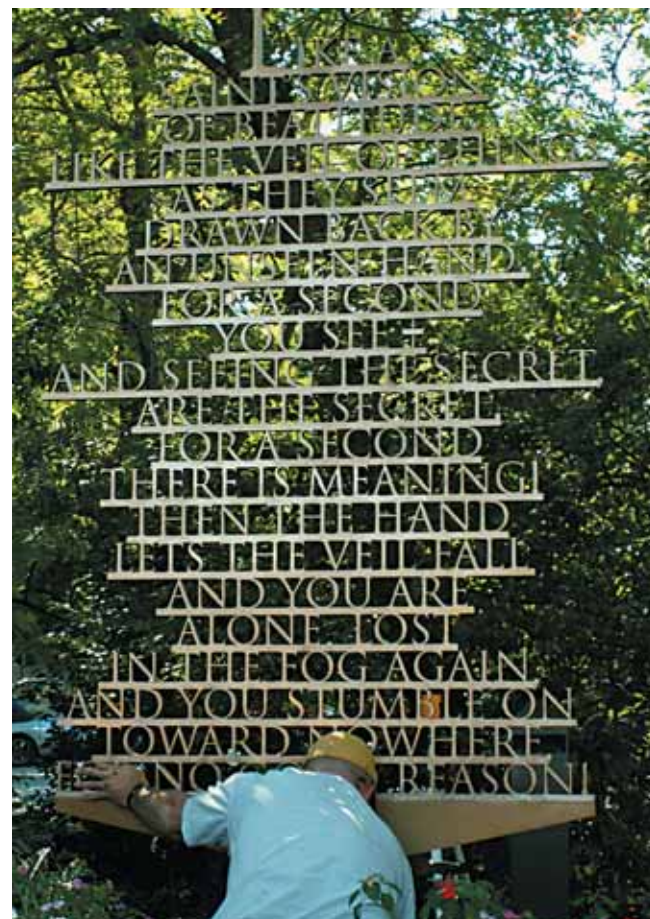
The ticket price includes dessert reception prior to performance and transportation to and from Tao House. Private vehicles are not allowed. The 8 p.m. performances include the Living History and pre-show reception.

Saturday, Oct. 1 (1 p.m.): "Seminars at Tao House," featuring authorities on O'Neill. Reservations are required. Make them through the National Park Service: 838-0249.

Sunday, Oct. 2 (1 p.m.): A discussion, "O'Neill's 'Hughie' and His Other Danville Plays," with Eileen Hermann Miller, an O'Neill scholar and educator; Steven Black, author of "Eugene O'Neill: Beyond Mourning and Tragedy" and "File on O'Neill." Reservations required: 838-0249.

Exhibits of memorabilia and other items relating to O'Neill's life in Danville will be on display in Danville and San Ramon at the following dates and times.

- Art in the Park: An Artist's View of Eugene O'Neill
Town Green, 400 Front St., Danville
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, October 1-2
- Eugene O'Neill: A Memorial
Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville
Sept. 21-Oct. 2
Regular Hours: 1-4 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday.
Special festival hours: 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sunday.
- Hepburn, Robards and Helen Hayes Visit Eugene O'Neill's Tao House in Danville
Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville; Aug. 30-Oct. 3
Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Worker installs the "veil" part of the commemorative to playwright Eugene O'Neill in Front Street Park, which contains a quote from his autobiographical masterpiece, "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

Friday, Sept. 30 (2 p.m. and 4 p.m.) and **Saturday, Oct. 1** (4 p.m.): Join actor Kurt Gravenhorst playing Eugene O'Neill, actress ej Ndeto, playing Carlotta, and others in a "Living History at Tao House." For those planning to attend the 8 p.m. performances of "Hughie," the Living History and pre-show reception will be included, with van departure at 6 p.m.

Oct. 1-2 (1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.): 45-minute walking tour: "Secrets of the O'Neills in Danville," departing from Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Tour is free but donations to the museum are welcomed.

- Commemorating Eugene O'Neill: America's Only Nobel Prizewinning Playwright
San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St., San Ramon;
Aug. 30-Oct. 3
Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday.
- Art From the Solitude of O'Neill's Tao House
Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville;
Sept. 9-Oct. 2
Hours: noon-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.
- Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville; Sept. 19-Oct. 1

To learn more about these events, go to <http://www.eugeneoneill.org/index.htm>. Join your neighbors and guests from around the country as they celebrate Eugene O'Neill's life and work.

—B. Lynn Goodwin

A community of quilters

After 23 years, Diablo Valley Quilters continue to share love for an American art form



CASEY REIVICH

Jane Lewis at her store, Quilter's Inn, a resource for local quilters. Lewis is also a member of the Diablo Valley Quilters.

by Casey Reivich

Whether their mothers were quilters or they took up the craft on their own, the members of the Diablo Valley Quilters all share one thing in common: a true love of quilting.

This weekend the group will be hosting its annual Quilt Show. Admission is \$6, but for \$1 people will have the opportunity to win the magnificent "Wreath of Rose" quilt that members have been working on all year. There will also be a members' quilt market where the Diablo Valley Quilters members get to exhibit and sell their work plus a silent auction of quilts. Sally Collins, a noted quilter and author, will be the featured quilt artist at the show.

This is the 22nd annual Quilt Show for the Diablo Valley Quilters and is its main fundraiser. The guild was started in 1983 by local quilting legend Diana McClun, who owned and operated the quilting store Empty Spools in Alamo for eight years. She discovered that many local quilters wanted to exhibit their quilts and share their work with others.

"When you have a body of women with the same interest there are a lot of opportunities," said McClun. The guild has been going strong ever since. It has grown from its original 35 members to 200 members, said member Dianne Barnett.

Members gather once a month at the Danville Congregational Church on San Ramon Valley Boulevard. There is a scheduled speaker at every meeting.

"We hire speakers from all over the country to come and share quilting techniques and to show us their quilts," said Barnett.

Quilters come to quilting in many different ways. Whereas McClun grew up with a grandmother and mother who quilted, Barnett's mother did not own or know how to operate a sewing machine. Her mother grew up in a large Italian immigrant family, where all the clothes were handmade.

"I think that generation may have had a reaction against handmade things. They wanted everything new. My mother doesn't sew. She has no interest in any of that," said Barnett. "Where my love of quilting came from, I don't know."

Barnett became more serious about quilting after she discovered McClun's



CASEY REIVICH

The beautiful 2005 "Wreath of Roses" quilt on display at Quilter's Inn in downtown Danville. The quilt, which took a year to make, will be given away at a drawing at the Diablo Valley Quilters annual quilt show this weekend. The money raised will go toward the guild's speaker series.

shop, Empty Spools. She joined the Diablo Valley Quilters in 1986.

Sharon Robertson, another member of the Diablo Valley Quilters, had never had a quilt or seen a quilt as a child. She noticed, however, a resurgence of handcrafts like quilting in the late '70s and early '80s.

"There was a nostalgia. There was just an interest in those things that seem to disappear from our setting, particularly in California," said Robertson.

It wasn't until after she retired that Robertson joined the group.

"I anticipated that I would miss the socialization of the workplace," said Robertson. She noticed a small blurb in a

newspaper about a local guild and went to her first Diablo Valley Quilters meeting.

"That first meeting I met so many wonderful women. They saw me when I walked through the door like a deer in headlights," said Robertson. She was hooked from that moment on.

"I took beginning classes at one of the local quilt stores and now I can compete with the best of them," said Robertson. Perhaps even more than the art form, Robertson seems to appreciate the friends she has made through quilting.

"I have met some of the nicest women friends that I could ever hope to meet. They are a very diverse group," said Robertson. "There is no average quilter."

Quilt bonanza

What: Diablo Valley Quilter's 22nd annual Quilt Show

When: Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 24-25

Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

Where: Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan Drive, Danville

Cost: \$6 admission; \$1 to enter drawing for Opportunity Quilt

Member Susan Taylor grew up with a house full of women who sewed, and one aunt in particular was an avid quilter.

"They would always gather together around the quilting frame and quilt, and us kids would play around there and climb under the quilt," said Taylor.

Despite her exposure, Taylor's future as a quilter initially didn't look bright.

"I took sewing and home economics in high school and I got a 'D,'" she remembered with good humor. It wasn't until she started taking quilting classes that she got serious about quilting—and good. Now Susan, who has been a member of the guild for five years, both hand quilts and machine quilts.

Jane Lewis, who is also a member and is the owner of the Quilter's Inn on Railroad Avenue in downtown Danville, remembered that her love affair with quilting was stop-and-go at first.

"I tried to quilt when we lived in Atlanta and they picked 'Mariner's Compass,'" said Lewis, but the pattern did not appeal to her. It wasn't until Lewis moved back to California that she took a serious interest in quilting. Her cousin recommended she take a quilting class, and she has been devoted ever since. After a long day working hard at her quilt shop, Lewis relishes going home and sewing.

"I sew everyday. It's relaxing. I go home and sew an hour, sometimes only half an hour. I turn on books on tape. I'm addicted to both," said Lewis.

While quilts require hours of labor, precision and devotion, dedicated quilters feel

► Continued on page 20

AT THE MOVIES

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

An Unfinished Life (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 9:40, Sat & Tues no show 9:40; Sat 10:05 p.m., Tues 10:20 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:10 p.m., 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15 p.m.
Broken Flowers (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40 p.m.
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (PG)	Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 3:30 p.m.
Cry Wolf (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:50, 5:05, 7:35, 9:50 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:45, 4, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Flightplan (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:35 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 12:30, 2:15, 3, 4:45, 5:35, 7:15, 8, 9:45, 10:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 12:40, 2:10, 3:10, 4:40, 5:40, 7:15, 8:15, 9:50, 10:45 p.m.
In Her Shoes (PG-13)	Century 14: Sneak Preview Sat. 7:30 p.m.
Junebug (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tue 2:30, 7:10 p.m.
Just Like Heaven (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:40, 5, 7:20 p.m. p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:20 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 12, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5, 6:15, 7:40, 8:50, 10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:20 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:05, 12:45, 2:30, 3:10, 4:55, 5:35, 7:25, 8:05, 9:55, 10:35 Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 12, 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:10 p.m., Fri no show 12 p.m.; Mon-Tues 2:20, 4:45, 7, 9 p.m.
Lord of War (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:05, 4, 7, 10:05 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:50, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 1:05, 1:40, 4:35, 7:05, 7:35, 10:25 p.m.
Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon 3-D (NR)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 11:45, 1, 2:15, 6, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11 p.m.
March of the Penguins (G)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 4:55, 9:45, Sun-Tues no show 9:45 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tue 11:55 a.m., 2, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:25, 2:30, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05 p.m.
Proof (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20 p.m.
Red Eye (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 3, 5:10, 7:25, 9:55 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:55 p.m.
Roll Bounce (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 2, 4:40, 7:20, 10 p.m.
Sky High (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:30 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri, Sun-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40 p.m.
The 40 Year Old Virgin (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 1:10, 4, 6:50, 9:45p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2:05, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35 p.m.
The Aristocrats (NR)	CinéArts: Fri-Tue 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 7, 9:10 p.m.
The Brothers Grimm (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:10, 7 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 4:05, 10:05 p.m.
The Constant Gardener (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:10, 3:20, 7:05, 9:55 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Sat 12:40, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:30 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 1, 4, 7, 10:05 p.m.
The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50 p.m. Hacienda: Fri-Tues 1:35, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 p.m.
The Memory of a Killer (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tue 12, 4:45, 9:25 p.m.
Thumbsucker (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:50 p.m.
Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:35 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 12:25, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 12, 12:30, 1:10, 2:20, 2:50, 3:30, 4:30, 5:10, 5:50, 7, 7:30, 8:10, 9:20, 9:50, 10:30 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 11:20 a.m., 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 p.m., Fri no show 11:20 a.m.; Mon-Tues 1:30 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 8:55 p.m.
Transporter 2 (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:05, 2:35, 5, 7:25, 9:45 p.m.
Valiant (G)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 12:35, 2:40 p.m.
Wedding Crashers (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:35, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 4:45, 7:35, 10:25 p.m.

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What's it worth?

Bring treasures to Blackhawk for appraisal next weekend

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Next Sunday is a chance to find out the value of small antiques, art and collectibles, at the third annual Appraisal Event sponsored by the Blackhawk Museum Guild. Bring the items to Blackhawk Museum where a panel of experts will verbally make appraisals for a donation of \$10 per item to benefit the Museum's Children's Education and Transportation Programs.

"People bring in antiques from all over the Valley," said Anita Venezia, co-chairwoman and one of the appraisers. "We have an appraiser flying in from Denver, a Native American specialist coming from San Jose, and a coin and historic document person from Lafayette."

"We give both the value and other historic information we know," she added.

There will be specialists in rare

coins, historical documents and autographs, jewelry, paintings and sculpture, and American Indian basketry and artifacts from Alaska to Arizona.

Venezia is a general-line appraiser of furniture, silver, art glass and pottery. "It is all right to bring in photographs of furniture," she said. "I can extrapolate a lot of information from a photograph."

She said that people have had pleasant surprises at appraisal events.

"I've been doing this for a long time and once we got a Tiffany lamp," she recalled. "The person presumed it to be an ordinary lamp and found out it was worth five figures."

One time a \$17 flea market purchase turned out to be a \$3,000 work of art. In another instance, a piece of jewelry that had languished in the bottom of a drawer for years turned out to be a 19th



Treasures can be appraised next Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Blackhawk Museum Guild's Appraisal Event.

century Russian Carl Faberge worth \$5,000.

"In many cases families are surprised, because when something sits in the living room for two gen-

erations, you get blasé about it," Venezia said.

The appraisal event is being held from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2. ■

Quilters

► Continued from page 18

they get much in return.

"I like making something out of nothing—to take scraps and make something useful that will comfort someone. That's the part I enjoy," said Barnett. She has been involved for the past two years in fellow member Susan Gray's Blankie Project, which donates handmade quilts to women with breast cancer. In addition to the Blankie Project, Barnett makes a quilt every year to raise money for her grandson's school.

Barnett also feels a sentimental attachment to quilts. She believes a fondness for quilts begins as a child.

"Every children's storybook you read has a quilt on the bed. I like the hominess, the sense of stability that quilts have," said Barnett.

One would think Diana McClun would want to hold on to one of her beautiful quilts. But she can't wait to give them away.

"I like to make them and give them. I don't even care if they have their dog sleep on it. I love the inner satisfaction, the charity of it," said McClun. "I guess maybe my soul needs that."

Robertson, too, loves nothing more than to give her quilts away. She has given away all of them except the first one she ever made.

Despite all their combined experience, these women believe there is always more to learn.

"It's become an art form. It's like art or music. There are infinite possibilities," said McClun.

While steeped in tradition, quilting continues to change. There are several men who are part of the Diablo Valley Quilters, and there are many men who do long arm machine quilting, said McClun. To begin quilting, one only needs needles, pins, sharp scissors, a thimble, chalk marker and a quilting frame or hoop. And, of course, a sewing machine for machine quilting.

Through their work and fellowship, all of these local quilters are keeping the tradition and love of quilting alive. ■

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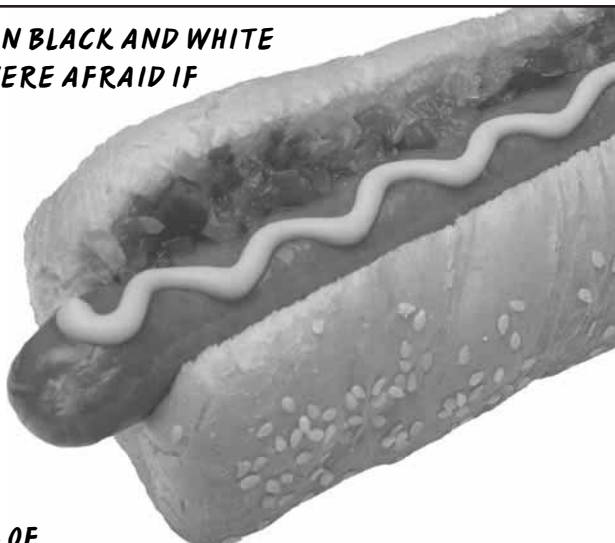
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BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Afternoon delights: kids' snacks

It's back-to-school time and parents are focused on helping their kids shift into high gear with good study and homework habits. Similarly, after a summer of fast foods, vacations and other kinds of casual dining, moms and dads are hoping to steer their kids' summer eating regimens back into reasonable ranges. Indeed, energetic study and healthy diet go hand in hand.

Believe me, I know the drill. Decades ago, as a divorced mother of three kids eating as vegetarians, my kids thought the terms "snack" and "organic" were oxymoronic. They (and their lunch box contents) went through many days as the objects of school cafeteria humiliation. Their classmates didn't have much respect for chickpea meatloaf, seaweed chips and tofu sandwiches. They even scoffed at trail mix with homemade yogurt and "ants on a log"—celery sticks stuffed with peanut butter. Much to their chagrin, my children could rarely negotiate a trade for the food they really salivated for. It was only after college that my oldest son confessed that he and his siblings regularly got themselves invited to their friends' homes for sleepovers just so they could dine on hotdogs, processed cheese slices and drinks with Red Dye No. 2. I thought they were just very popular.

But forget vegetarians for now. Even for families that choose traditional but health-conscious diets, preparing lunches and snacks that are nutritional and fun is an ongoing challenge. In a world where the most precious commodity is time, it's hard to pack an appetizing lunch or stock a variety of after-school snacks without relying on pre-packaged snack foods. And if you're lucky enough to have a picky eater in your household, snack-making is even more daunting. So, what's a parent to do?

In addition to the tips I've compiled in the box, here are some healthy lunch/afternoon snacks you can re-package yourself ... or let the kids make the combos they want:

- Microwave small bags of popcorn. Mix with dried cranberries or raisins.
- Kids love to dip! Enhance those carrot and celery sticks by including small containers of a "special sauce" for dipping. Special sauce is 1/4 cup low-fat mayo or plain yogurt mixed with a little salsa. Works great with fresh cherry tomatoes, too.
- Include a "dipping" sauce of caramel or chocolate ice cream topping with slices of peaches, apples, strawberries, etc.
- Enhance containers of fruit

Kids' snacks: tips and teasers

- When kids burst into the house after school or from play, they grab the first thing they can. Create a snack "zone." Dedicate a cabinet or refrigerator shelf to a variety of homemade munchies that you feel good about. Establish permission to snack from that zone any time.

- Let them make it their way for a week. Go shopping with your kids to purchase healthy ingredients, then let them combine them for sandwiches, snacks, drinks, etc. After a week, they'll be glad to return the duties to you.

- Ask your kids what snacks they envy that other kids bring. If it's a decent alternative, buy it. If it's not, try creating your own healthy version of the same snack.

- When you serve a dish your child really likes, save or freeze a bit for serving as a lunch "side" or afternoon snack that week.

yogurt by adding your own fresh fruit chunks; enhance pudding cups by adding fresh pineapple chunks, licorice pieces, blueberries, etc.

- Send a plastic bowl of his/her favorite cereal, along with a small carton of milk and a banana. Two healthy breakfasts are better than one lousy lunch.

- Mix fresh nuts with pretzel nuggets or M&M's, with emphasis on the nuts. Keep the mix in a large jar on your kitchen counter for the after-school "munchies."

- Blend his/her favorite fruit smoothie, transfer to emptied mini-water bottles and freeze. The melting time usually works great for lunch or after-homework snacks.

- Kids love bite-sized treats. Make mini-portions of hamburgers and hot dogs using dinner buns, meatballs, party franks, etc. Add condiments. Use for lunches or freeze for afternoon snacks that the kids can warm in the toaster oven or microwave.

- Kids love frozen treats! Freeze grapes, berries, peaches, pears, etc., for cold snacks. Freeze bananas rolled in yogurt and nuts.

Whatever you do to create wholesome snacks, try to remember you were a kid once. Make them special, make them fun!

Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Art in the Park

The Alamo Danville Artists' Society & the town of Danville will present its seventh annual Art in the Park from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, and Sunday, Oct. 2, on Front Street (next to the Library and Community Center). Benefits Art in the Schools Program. Admission is free.

Fine Art & Fine Craft Show

The 20th annual Alamo Fall Art & Craft Show will take place from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Alamo Plaza Shopping Center.

Impressionist and Expressionist Art

Artist Sandra L. Mortimore will display her oil paintings from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, mid-September to mid-November, at the Danville Town offices, 510 La Gonda Way.

Impressionistic and Realistic Art Display

Artist Gayle Muehring will display her paintings from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays, mid-September to mid-November, at the Muir Primary Family Care Center, 1455 Montego, Walnut Creek.

Auditions

S.T.A.G.E. Troup Auditions

North Pole Revue—2005. Be part of this hilarious musical holiday song and dance production. Shows are Dec. 9-18. Auditions are open to grades 5 through college. Prepare a two-minute upbeat song and be ready to move. Saturday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., at the Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Road. Call for appointment, 682-0896.

Book Clubs/Readings

Library Book Discussions

The Book Discussion Group will resume meeting Thursday, Sept. 8, to discuss what members have read over the summer and to choose books for December and 2006. In October the selection is "Housekeeping" by Marilynne Robinson; in November it is "Will in the World," by Stephen Greenbelt, a non-fiction book that explores 16th Century England and what enabled Shakespeare to become Shakespeare. The discussion group meets at 11 a.m. the second Thursday of every month from September through May at the Mt. Diablo room of the library. Everyone is welcome.

Civic Meetings

Danville Parks and Leisure Services Commission

The Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

Danville Planning Commission

The Commission meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

Town Council Meeting

The Danville Town Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Legendary 'Year of the Cat' Composer—Al Stewart

The Wesley Center and Community Concerts team up to develop the professional Music in Alamo at the Wesley Center Series. Al Stewart, composer of "Year of the Cat" and "Time Passages" will be performing at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call Community Concerts, 229-2710, for more information.

Class Reunions

Greenbrook Mother's Group

The Greenbrook Mother's Group invites all alumni of the Greenbrook Babysitting co-op to join them at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Greenbrook Clubhouse to celebrate past, present and future members. The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 per couple, which includes appetizers, desserts, wines and fun drinks. For information, call Kelly Hales at 552-8149 or e-mail rchales@juno.com.

Classes

Divorce Recovery

A safe environment for those going through divorce to explore ways of moving toward wholeness. The class is from 6-7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 27-Nov. 15, at Community Presbyterian Counseling Center, 375 Diablo Road, Suite 109, and facilitated by Pat Powell, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. Cost is \$240. To register, call 820-1467 or visit www.cpccounseling.com.

Effective Preschool Parenting

Understand your children and make the most out of those critical years. The class is from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursdays, Sept. 22-Oct. 27, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Room 200. The class will be taught by Bonnie Summers, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. Cost is \$160/individual, \$210/couple. To register, call 820-1467 or visit www.cpccounseling.com.

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 information, call 838-1959.

People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits Classes

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits class on Thursdays for all levels. Beth Batchelor is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$30 per class or \$100 for four weeks. For information, call Beth at 837-5654.

The Art of Drawing

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers the Art of Drawing class from 6-8 p.m., Fridays, for all levels. Ron Norman is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$140 for eight weeks. For start dates, call 838-1959.

Clubs

Alamo Women's Club Luncheon

The Alamo Women's Club is hosting their September luncheon, at 12 noon, Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Guest speaker is KTVU news anchor, Mark Curtis. For reservations, call Barbara Stevens, 837-2171.

Brass Era Cars

Blackhawk Museum presents Brass Era Cars in collaboration with the Horseless Carriage Club of America-NorCal Chapter, from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 24, at 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. Several HCCA member cars will be on exhibition in front of the museum and the museum's docents will tour the Brass Era cars.

California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch

The California Writers Club will host a workshop and luncheon featuring mystery writer Margaret Lucke, at 9 a.m. for workshop, and 11:30 p.m. for lunch, Saturday, Oct. 8, at Hungry Hunter, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Lunch is \$17 CWC members, \$20 non-members, and workshop is \$25 CWC member, \$30 non-members. At the workshop, Margaret will teach short story writing and share mystery writing secrets. For luncheon reservations, call 881-8929 or e-mail

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camille@minichino.com. For workshop, mail check to CWC, P.O. Box 606, Alamo 94507. Questions call, 283-3024 or email textract@comcast.net.

Country Western Dance Club
When do the Country Hustlers dance in Danville? From 8-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Danville Veteran's Hall at 400 Hartz Ave.; Friday, Nov. 11, and Saturday, Nov. 26, at the Danville Grange Hall at 743 Diablo Blvd.; and Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Danville Veteran's Hall. Admission is \$9 for guests, \$7 for members, and \$5 for senior members. For information, visit the Web site at www.countryhustlers.com/whenwedance.htm

eWomen Network Accelerated Networking Luncheon
The eWomen Network holds its monthly accelerated networking luncheon from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the second Thursday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Contact Claire at 648-3105 or claireshepherdson@ewomennetwork.com.

Honda Riders' Club of America
Members' motorcycles will be displayed on Blackhawk Plaza from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25. For information, contact your local HRCA Chapter Dealer or call the HRCA at (310) 785-3955.

Kiwanis San Ramon Valley
The San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m. every Thursday, at Mudds Restaurant in San Ramon. Meeting includes a guest speaker and lunch. For information, visit its Web site at www.kiwanis-srv.org.

Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society
The society meets from 1:15-3 p.m., the third Thursday of every month except August, at the California Savings Building, Rossmoor Shopping Center, Tice Valley Blvd. and Rossmoor Parkway, Walnut Creek. Guest speakers are at each meeting.

Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group
Get questions answered, solutions for problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of every month, at the Alamo Safeway Community Room. For information, call 837-1111 or 829-5501.

Newcomers 'Get Acquainted Coffee'
The San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites prospective members to join them for their Get Acquainted Coffee from 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Sept. 28. Come meet the members and learn about their various activities. For information, call Audrey at 244-1492.

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region
This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Denny's, 803 Camino Ramon, Danville. For information, visit www.pca.org/dia.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
The society meets at 10 a.m., every third Tuesday of the month, except August and December, at the LDS Church, 2449 Stone Valley Road. Guest speaker at every meeting. All welcome. For information, call Ed at 299-0881.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club
San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites members and guests to its monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, at Cafe Esin in San Ramon. Enjoy lunch while Chef Esin de Carion demonstrates how to prepare his famous Chocolate Hazelnut Torte. For information, call Mickey at 803-2918.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club
San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites members and guests to join its Gad Abouts, leaving San Ramon at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 27, and traveling to Santa Rosa to the Charles Schultz Museum with lunch at the Warm Puppy. For information, contact Marian at 828-8195.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club
The San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club Hiking Group invites prospective members to join as they explore East Bay Regional Parks. The group meets at 8:30 a.m., every Friday. Hikes are usually two hours and within 30 minutes of San Ramon. For information, call Sharon at 735-8960.

San Ramon Valley Rotary Club
This club meets for dinner at 7 p.m., each Wednesday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Guests are welcome. The club offers a great way to make new friends while making a difference in your community. Call Bill at 838-9110.

Events

Annual Animal Lover's Boutique
The sixth annual Animal Lover's Boutique in support of the Valley Humane Society's "Just Like New Fund" will be 4-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 4; and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, at 4510 Entrada Ct. (off Neal St.), Pleasanton. Purrfect gifts for animal loving friends, kids, grandkids, co-workers and pets. For information, call 426-8656.

Antique Roadshow—Appraisal Event
The Blackhawk Museum Guild is sponsoring an Antique Roadshow type Appraisal Event from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. Bring small antiques, art and collectibles to be verbally appraised by expert appraisers for a donation of \$10 per item. For information, call Anita Venezia, Appraiser (964-9999) or Joyce Tucker, Guild Program Chairperson (736-9393). Donations contribute to the Museum's Children's Education and Transportation Fund.

Blessing of the Animals
San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Drive, will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1. Bring four-legged and feathered friends to receive a blessing in the Franciscan spirit. For information, call 837-9141.

Brass Era Cars
Blackhawk Museum presents Brass Era Cars in collaboration with the Horseless Carriage Club of America—NorCal Chapter from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 24. Members of the HCCA will discuss some of the great horseless carriages from the Brass Era. Museum's docents will tour the Brass Era cars inside the Museum after the presentation. For information, contact Jon Hart at 736-2277, ext. 248.

Bridges, Hawaiian style
Bridges Restaurant is bridging together with Los Cerros for its annual Los Cerros Evening Out. This casual, social gathering is from 6-10 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, at Bridges Restaurant, 44 Church St., with heavy appetizers, wine tasting, martini bar, and a beer bar. One guest will win a parking spot for the school year. The cost is \$100 per person to benefit Los Cerros technology and library. Space is limited. RSVP to Caroline at 989-1813 or e-mail LCBridgesEvent@hotmail.com.

Danville d'Elegance Auto Show
Discover Danville Association and the Parkinson's Institute, are sponsoring a fine and speciality auto show benefiting the Parkinson's Institute, from noon-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16, on Hartz Avenue, from Prospect Avenue to Church Street.

Discovery Counseling Golf Classic
The Discovery Counseling Center of the San Ramon Valley announces its sixth annual Golf Classic charity golf tournament on Monday, Sept. 26, at Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. For registration information, call 837-0505.

Docent-led Tour of the Blackhawk Museum
Blackhawk Museum sponsors a docent-led tour of the museum's Renowned Exhibitions at 2 p.m., every Saturday and Sunday. The tour is free

with admission. For information, call 736-2280.

Green Valley Fall Festival
Green Valley Elementary School Fall Festival is from 4-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 14, at 1001 Diablo Road, Danville. Family fun includes carnival games, yummy food, giant slide, rock climbing wall, DJ and Karaoke contest, pumpkin and scarecrow decorating contest and great prizes. Call Amy Phillips 413-7901, for details. Volunteers needed.

Green Valley School Crab Feed
The Green Valley Elementary School Crab Feed begins at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Suggested donation, \$100 per person, will go through the Green Valley PTA, to Katrina Relief. For information call Amy Phillips at 837-5487.

KKIQ Halloween Party
That Old Blackhawk Magic:KKIQ Halloween Party for ages 21 and over takes place from 8 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Oct. 28, at the Blackhawk Museum. There'll be a DJ, dancing, cocktails, finger foods, costume contests and prizes. When the sun goes down and the moon is overhead, the creatures will come out to play at the Blackhawk Museum! Event is free with paid admission. (Museum members free.) Call 736-2280 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

Let's Make Magic for Hospice
Purchase tickets for a wonderful evening of magic and illusion at Hospice of Contra Costa Foundation's "Let's make Magic" gala, from 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Blackhawk Country Club. Doug McConnell, of KRON4 Bay Area Backroads, will be the Master of Ceremonies, hosting a silent and live auction, dinner, cocktails and dancing. Tickets are \$150 per person. For information or to make a reservation, call Cyndie Harrison at 887-5676 or visit www.hospicecc.org.

Primo's Run for Education
Primo's Pizza & Pasta sponsors Primo's Run for Education, benefiting the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation, on Sunday, Oct. 9. Register for this 5K and 1/2 Marathon run by visiting www.primosrun.com. Save money with an early registration, deadline Sept. 15. Online registration closes Oct. 5.

Splendor in the Park
Friends of the Danville Library are presenting the First Wednesday at the Library program, "Splendor in the Park," a free slide tour presentation of the new de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park (opens in October), at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, in the Mt. Diablo Room in the Danville Library, 400 Front St. For information call Carole Stevenson-Byers at 837-1293.

Fundraisers

Quilt Drawing for Hospice
"Hearts of Hospice" is the name given to a spectacular double-bed size quilt that features 70 large "ragged" hearts set on a mixed off-white background and has been professionally machine quilted. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Hospice of Contra Costa Foundation's annual auction and gala at Blackhawk Country Club on Oct. 29. Make checks payable to Hospice of Contra Costa Foundation, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523. You need not be present to win. Proceeds go directly to the Hospice of Contra Costa Foundation, benefiting Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Fundraiser
The Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club, is hosting its semi-annual sale of children's clothes, furniture, toys, books, etc., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. This fundraising activity helps support the club's philanthropic efforts. Fee is \$1. For information, call 736-4641 or email crzyladycarole@aol.com.



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Health

'Ask the Doctor' discusses women's health

Women's health will be discussed on Ask the Doctor, a call-in TV show, airing live from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5. The phone-in educational program is co-sponsored by San Ramon Regional Medical Center and Contra Costa Health Services. The live call-in number is 313-1190. E-mail questions to askthedoctor@contracostatv.org or fax 313-1185.

Brain Tumor Caregivers' Workshop

The Michael Dunbar Family Charitable Foundation, a nonprofit foundation for awareness and research in the fight against brain cancer, is hosting a comprehensive one-day workshop retreat for brain tumor caregivers from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, in Walnut Creek. Continental breakfast and lunch included. This event is free to those caring for a loved one with a brain tumor. Advanced registration is required by calling 819-2249 or e-mail, DunbarFoundation@yahoo.com. For more information, visit www.dunbarcharitablefund.com.

National Depression Screening Day

Depression is much more than a set of feelings. It's a whole body illness. Learn more about depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, and signs of suicide at the free screening, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., (or by appointment), Thursday, Oct. 6 at the Community Presbyterian Counseling Center, 375 Diablo Road, Suite 109, Danville. For information call 820-1467.

Holiday

Holiday Cooking and Baking Class

Great tasting, gluten free, holiday cooking and baking class featuring cookbook author of "The Wheat Free Kitchen" Jacqueline Mallorca will take place from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,

Saturday, Nov. 12, at Camp Arroyo, 5555 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Enjoy a delicious gluten free continental breakfast and lunch. There is a non-refundable fee of \$50 per person and space is limited. Contact Elaine Taylor, 575-1640, or e-mail etaylor331@aol.com.

Kids & Teens

Battle of the Bands competition

St. Raymond Catholic Church, Dublin, announces the second annual youth "Battle of the Bands" competition from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 9, at St. Raymond Oktoberfest Fall Festival (Bandstand), 11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin. No admission fee for spectators. For information, call 828-2460 or visit ccbmartin@sbcglobal.net.

New SAT Strategy Session

A free strategy session on taking the new SAT college entrance exam and getting into the college of your choice will be presented by the professionals from the Princeton Review from 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room. Seats are limited and registration is required. Reserve your spot at the Danville Library Information Desk or call 837-4889.

Pure Girls opens in Pleasanton

Pure Girls, which offers products and services for girls from 7-14 years of age, will open at 660 Main St., Pleasanton, Saturday, Sept. 24. In October, Pure Girls will sell selected merchandise to raise money to fight breast cancer. In November and December, girls can donate new and gently-used dolls for victims of Hurricane Katrina. For information, contact Tracy Hazzard at 485-4380 or tracy@puregirlsclub.com.

Street Smarts Skate Nights is back

San Ramon and the Golden Skate are co-sponsoring Street Smarts Skate Nights, from 6:30-9 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month starting

Sept. 21 and ending May 17 at the Golden Skate, 2701 Hooper Drive, San Ramon. Come and start a season of fun, prizes and learn about traffic safety. For information, call Darlene Amaral at 973-2655.

Miscellaneous

Giant Book Sale

Friends of the Danville Library are sponsoring a Giant Book Sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 14; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15; and noon-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16, in the Mt. Diablo Room, Danville Library, 400 Front St. Friends of the Danville Library, members only, 9-10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 14.

Help Katrina's animal victims

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is accepting animals left homeless in Katrina's aftermath. Help is needed in housing these animals until their owners are located or it is determined that a new home is needed. Minimum 45-day fostering commitment. Medical exams, care, food and supplies will be provided. For information on fostering dogs, e-mail Linea at atrescuelm@comcast.net. For cats, call TVAR's information line, 803-7043, and leave a message. Donations are also accepted at Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 11193, Pleasanton 94588, attention Katrina Victims.

Leku Eder's Asian Antique Faire

Leku Eder is hosting an Asian Antique Faire from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, in the Danville Livery, 300 Sycamore Valley Road, West.

On Stage

Al Stewart, 'Year of the Cat' Composer

The legendary "Year of the Cat" composer, Al Stewart, will be performing at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at The Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. General admission is \$25

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advance purchase, \$30 at the door, and Gold circle is \$35 (Sr./Child 10% discount). For information call 229-2710 or visit www.communityconcerts.com. Free on-site childcare is available for children 4 and up. Make child-care reservations at 837-5243.

'Miss Saigon'

The Diablo Light Opera Company presents "Miss Saigon," Sept. 2-Oct. 1, at the Hofmann Theatre, Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. For tickets, call 943-7469

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

Join in on the hootin' and hollerin' when local youths present the musical comedy, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 2-5, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 655 Old Orchard Drive. Admission is free, space is limited. For tickets, call 838-1768.

Seniors

Danville Senior Citizens Club

The club meets from 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. Membership is just \$9 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

Danville Senior Sneakers Fall Festival

Danville's Senior Sneakers program is a great way for seniors to make new friends and get out and around the greater Bay Area. Interested seniors may pick up a copy of the Silver Streak newsletter for trip details and a registration form at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., or call 314-3476. A few of the trips being planned are Stanislaus River Rafting, Sept. 28; A Day in Tiburon, Oct. 6; Shall We Dance..on Ice!, Oct. 9; Talk to the Animals, Oct. 20; Ghost Walk at Old Monterey, Oct. 27; Jewels of Stockton, Nov. 8; Dessert and Disney, Nov. 18; Senior Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 2; Alameda Holiday Home Tour, Dec. 10; and The Colors of Christmas, Dec. 13.

Spiritual

'Spiritual Connection Between Love and Healing'

Margaret Rogers, member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, will speak about how understanding your relationship to God, divine Love, can bring physical healing and remove fear, guilt and resentment. This free talk is at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 3, at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St. All are welcome. For information, call 330-8955 or visit www.danvillespirituality.com.

Sports

Adult open gym basketball

Danville Parks and Recreation Department holds drop-in basketball year-round at the Los Cerros Middle School, 968 Blemer Road, for ages 18 and over. Drop-in times are 7:30-9 a.m., Saturdays. Bring your own ball. Cost is \$3 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3400.

Danville Tennis Club

The Danville Tennis Club meets 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9-11 a.m., Saturdays for drop-in tennis at San Ramon Valley High School. This free co-ed club provides play for 4.0 to 5.0 and very strong 3.5 level players. See information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/danville-tennisclub>.

Support Groups

American Chronic Pain Association

The ACPA group meets from 11a.m.-1p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222

W. El Pintado Road. For information call Kathie at 930-0524 or Emily at 831-3279.

Bipolar Support Group

The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842.

Breast Cancer Support Group

This is a staff-facilitated support group for women with breast cancer. It meets at 6:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of each month at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, in the West Day Room of the South Building. Call Lisa Peguese at 275-8414.

Cancer Support Groups

Free support, education and stress management for cancer patients and their loved ones, including general support groups for all types of cancer patients as well as cancer specific groups for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, brain tumor, support groups for caregivers and life after cancer. Groups meet at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. For times and days, call 933-0107.

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group

Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. Meetings are from 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays (except holidays), at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. For information, call 426-5311.

Danville TOPS

The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m., every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870

Fibromyalgia/Pain

The San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Support Group meets from 7-9 p.m., every other Monday in Danville. Call Denise for location and information at 837-0510.

Overeaters Anonymous

The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. It meets from 7-8 p.m., every Tuesday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. No fees. Call Susie at 275-1391.

PFLAG

The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7:30 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 831-8172.

Volunteering

Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association of Northern California, East Bay branch, seeks volunteers to facilitate support groups, staff the help line, and perform a variety of office support at its office in Lafayette. Call (800) 660-1993.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley

This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistance-league.org>.

Child Abuse Prevention Council

The Contra Costa County Child Abuse Prevention Council needs volunteer speakers for the community education program. Volunteers must complete a mandatory 24-hour speaker's training

course. For information, call 946-9961.

Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art

The academy seeks new volunteers and members to help with tasks ranging from bookkeeping to recruiting instructors. The group meets noon-1 p.m., the second Friday of the month at Richard's Art & Craft Store, 225 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call Beth Batchelor at 837-5654.

'Help Wildlife and People Too'

The Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek is seeking volunteers to help children and adults learn about wildlife and the wonderful animals at the museum - hawks, owls, mountain lions, gray foxes, ravens, snakes and many more. Training is provided and hours are flexible. Orientation is free, however pre-registration is strongly suggested. Orientation classes are from 3-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24. Call 254-4773.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum

Docents are needed to lead class tours, teaching children and others about our important connection with wildlife and the world we share. Call 935-1978 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Lindsay Wildlife Volunteer Training

Share the wonders of wildlife and nature with museum visitors or school groups. Six special training classes over three weeks begin Oct. 27. Fee is \$100; \$65 for Lindsay Wildlife Museum members. For information, call 627-2944.

Mt. Diablo Bike Challenge

Save Mount Diablo needs volunteers for its Mt. Diablo Bike Challenge being held Sunday, Oct. 2. There will be 1,000 riders going from Athenian School to Mount Diablo's summit. Volunteers needed to help with registration and logistics. For information, contact Brenda de la Ossa at 947-3535 or visit smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org

Project Second Chance

Help an adult to read, write and spell better. Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program, will train volunteers to become literacy tutors. Training will be held 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24. Volunteers are needed in East and Central Contra Costa County. For registration information, call 927-3250 or e-mail pcs@ccclib.org.

Trails Maintenance

East Bay Trail Dogs is an all-volunteer group that has built, repaired and helped maintain single-track trails in the East Bay Regional Park District, the Mt. Diablo State Park, and Walnut Creek open space. Volunteers meet the fourth Saturday and one weekday each month. To participate, call Harry at 443-3925.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers volunteer orientations from 1-2:30 p.m., the second Saturday of each month at East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) in Dublin. Contact Noella Hartshorn at 846-0745 or e-mail noellehartshorn@comcast.net for information.

Volunteer Interpreters

The California Medical Association seeks community volunteer interpreters for Contra Costa County to assist physicians when other interpretation resources are not an option. If you possess a proficiency in any foreign language and experience interpreting in a health care setting, you are encouraged to apply. Contact CMA, 866-241-4262, or e-mail communityvip@cmanet.org.

Volunteer San Ramon Valley

Join the San Ramon Valley Unified School District in collaboration with the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation and the Coalition for Youth Safety and Development for "Volunteer San Ramon Valley," from 7:30 a.m.-noon, on Sunday, Oct. 9, at Iron Horse Middle School, 12601 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. This is a volunteer fair for all ages to find local volunteer information and opportunities in our community. For information, contact Scott Gerbert at sgerber@srvusd.net or call 552-5030.



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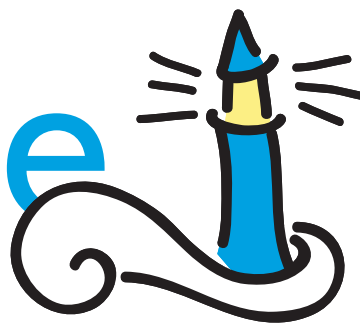
Hear long-time Christian Science practitioner and teacher Margaret Rogers explain how understanding your relationship to God, divine Love, can bring healing through prayer. Margaret has taught others to use this spiritual power to heal all sorts of problems in their lives. Come and learn how it can help you! Margaret is a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

Monday, October 3 at 7:30 pm

The Danville Town Meeting Hall
201 Front Street, Danville, CA 94526
The talk is free and everyone is welcome

*Margaret's talk is sponsored by:
First Church of Christ, Scientist, 650 Danville Blvd., Danville, CA
www.danvillespirituality.com*

Listen to a radio interview with Margaret Rogers on the "Spiritual Perspectives" show, Friday, September 30, at 8:00 a.m. on station KEST (1450 AM)



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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

* DEADLINE *

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

Tuesday 12 noon
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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Danville, 327/328 Montoya Way, Sat 9/24, 8-4

Pleasanton, 100 Neal Street, Sept. 24, 8 am to 1 pm

A group of friends have pulled together their excess collectibles. All kinds of good stuff. Block away from the Farmer's Market.

Pleasanton, 1715 Greenwood Rd, Sat 9/24, 8-1

Pleasanton, 260 Spring St., Sept. 25, 8-6

Pleasanton, 3193 Chardonnay Drive, 9/24-25, 8-noon

Pleasanton, 3242 Monmouth Ct, Sat 9/24, 8:30-12

Pleasanton, 4074 Walnut Dr, Sun only Sept 25, 9-12
MOVING SALE
Furniture, gas W/D & more.
No Early Birds!!

Pleasanton, Amador Valley, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Sat. 9/24, 8-1

215 Collectibles & Antiques

picture of screaming - \$10

Porcelain Paintings

Wedgwood Figurine - \$15

230 Freebies

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235 Wanted to Buy

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240 Furnishings/ Household items

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**825 Homes/Condos
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Pleasanton Downtown, 3 BR/1.5 BA - \$799,000!

Pleasanton, 2 BR/2 BA
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Truckee, 2 BR/1.5 BA
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Ocean Views on pristine Sonoma Coastline. Magnificently landscaped. Two cedar garden sheds, septic plans and water hookup included. \$454,000. (415) 797-2636.(Cal-SCAN)

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LAND Sale - 54 Acres - \$44,900. Uinta Mountain area. Outdoor lover's dream! Dramatic mountain views, close to conveniences. Surrounded by wilderness. Nearby lake and state parks. Excellent financing. Call UTLR 1-877-350-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

New Mexico -
First Time Offer. Private Ranch 140 Acres - \$89,900. Mature tree cover, excellent horse property all at an amazing 6,000' elevation. Incredible views, power & year round roads. Excellent financing. Adjacent to historic settlement of Pintada. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-877-670-7942. (Cal-SCAN)

North Carolina
Gated Lakefront Community 1.5 acres plus, 90 miles of shoreline. Never before offered with 20% pre-development discounts, 90% financing. Call 1-800-709-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Rare Find- 20AC -
\$159,900. Southern Sierra near Tehachapi. Clean, crisp mountain air with calendar cover views. Majestic oaks, streams, ideal for horses, country getaway, or to buy and hold. Financing available. Call owner, 1-888-821-5253. (Cal-SCAN)

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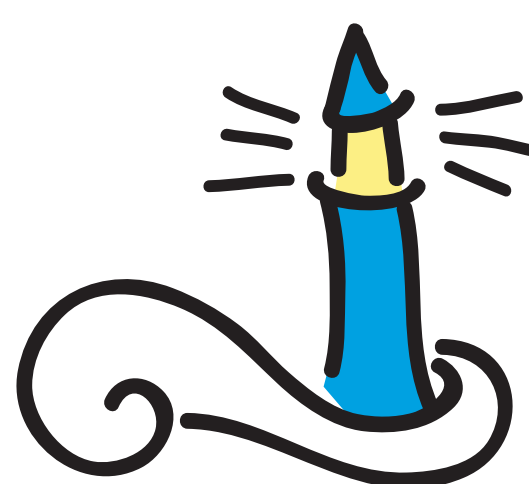
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Pet of the Week



Catherine Hansen Rush

Fancy kitty
Yes, Dahling, I'm as surprised as you to find me, a gorgeous, spayed, female, tortoise-shell Persian, at the East County Animal Shelter being housed next to common cats! And even more humiliating, I've been given a lion cut to rid my fur of all those nasty mats I had. I know it feels much better, and the staff says my fur will grow back beautifully, but really—what more must I endure? I've been told I'm independent and opinionated, which is true, so I shall only accept an indoor, mature household that is willing to pamper me. You must know I'm quite fond of being scratched under the chin. If you would like me to consider you for adoption, visit me, "Shelby" (pet #F55352) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2005

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 25	Total sales reported: 3	Total sales reported: 28
Lowest sale reported: \$440,000	Lowest sale reported: \$790,000	Lowest sale reported: \$195,000
Highest sale reported: \$6,890,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,275,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,700,000
Average sales reported: \$1,213,640	Average sales reported: \$1,088,333	Average sales reported: \$2,700,000

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
3211 Blackhawk Meadow Drive McNabb Trust to D. & M. Montecillo for \$1,330,000	60 Sunset Court J. & E. Dodero to T. & A. Razzouk for \$1,375,000	418 Mayhew Way E. & M. Curtis to M. Davies for \$661,000
112 Blackpool Court S. Najafi to A. & T. Madeira for \$1,160,000	3001 Swallow Street S. Gill to C. & J. Ogu for \$635,500	1920 Meadow Lane D. & J. Flaherty to M. Pruitt for \$1,200,000
515 Cambrian Way Weber Trust to P. & E. Fong for \$980,000	401 Sycamore Hill Drive J. & J. Tsukahara to K. Bloch for \$600,000	341 Meghan Lane S. & D. Ingram to J. Helm for \$615,000
1171 Camino Tassajara G. & M. Albright to T. & C. Richardson for \$737,000	284 Valle Vista Drive J. Chestnut to G. & S. Moriyama for \$825,000	133 Ponderosa Lane B. Brown to J. & T. Tyler for \$700,000
4499 Deer Ridge Road S. & S. Douglas to W. & S. Ayers for \$6,890,000	294 Windstream Place D. Budiselich to C. Armitage for \$710,000	1855 Poplar Drive L. & J. Gossett to J. Haile for \$905,000
324 Del Amigo Road Raphael Trust to Melara Trust for \$1,267,500	735 Ynez Circle Darby Trust to D. & D. Osborne for \$740,000	2912 Putnam Boulevard M. Schirato to R. Dias for \$710,000
898 El Pintado Road J. Ott to W. McDonald for \$1,370,000	5 Cypress Point Court S. & C. Chang to S. & J. Wong for \$1,275,000	2309 Roan Lane B. Shakibnia to M. Sharma for \$1,040,000
25 Foxhall Court S. & S. MacLean to P. & L. Benson for \$1,025,000	985 Danville Boulevard Valentine Trust to Lawrence Trust for \$790,000	3149 Rogers Avenue F. Leary to D. Christie for \$575,000
404 Greenbriar Court J. & J. Newcomer to H. & C. Rolfes for \$867,000	261 Livorna Heights Road Blair Trust to M. & J. Caulfield for \$1,200,000	150 Sharene Lane #311 E. Brandon to J. Assadi for \$409,000
1291 Greenbrook Drive R. & L. McClain to J. & A. Wente for \$950,000	Walnut Creek	150 Sharene Lane #314 B. & K. Pieper to A. Ataeefar for \$342,500
394 Ilo Lane #406 S. & N. Pounds to C. & M. Lucia for \$440,000	1129 Alfred Avenue S. & T. Darcy to J. Hodgson for \$810,000	2001 Skycrest Drive #5 Wade Trust to Vandenberg Trust for \$515,000
464 Ilo Lane L. & L. Perez to People Meeting Christ Foundation for \$838,000	347 Beacon Ridge Lane Chen & Associates to J. & E. Whiteford for \$750,000	425 Summit Road M. Stewart to L. & J. Gossett for \$940,000
101 Kingswood Circle Kirkland Trust to Scalzo Trust for \$895,000	1032 Burlington Court Sirva Relocation to S. & A. Gray for \$1,006,000	1860 Tice Creek Drive #1112 J. & C. McCormick to G. Mullin for \$195,000
118 Lasata Court M. & E. Handa to J. Mitzel for \$1,185,000	3058 Cafeto Drive D. & C. Adams to E. & A. Hong for \$972,000	352 Via La Casa E. & J. Essy to J. Dulick for \$2,700,000
30 Live Oak Way Diedrich Trust to R. & K. Sanders for \$1,075,000	348 Clarkin Court M. & V. Raaberg to T. & S. Darcy for \$1,425,000	1236 Walker Avenue #314 D. Simon to P. Seward for \$410,000
250 Manchester Street J. & A. Colton to M. & T. Benson for \$1,200,000	513 Gabriel Court K. Davis to B. Jensen for \$905,000	2564 Walnut Boulevard #112 A. Folas to M. & T. Amador for \$350,000
620 Morninghome Road Sallee Trust to G. Labonte for \$1,160,000	142 Greenwood Circle H. & C. Rolfes to L. Scott for \$825,000	3512 Whitehaven Drive Huse Trust to C. Chang for \$1,061,000
44 Redbud Court M. & T. Benson to R. & S. Martens for \$1,096,000	2600 Jones Road #18 E. Carroll to D. Santos for \$370,000	
114 Siena Place B. & T. Pollack to A. & L. Pruitt for \$990,000	441 La Vista Road R. Libby to M. Ball for \$1,450,000	
	969 Leroy Lane L. Moises to E. Huang for \$666,500	
	3045 Mayhew Court R. & J. Trickovic to N. Ham for \$500,000	

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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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Danville

2 Bedrooms

204 Jewel Terrace **\$550,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Kropa Realty 286-1707

3 Bedrooms

155 El Dorado Ave. **\$1,149,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5017

220 Borel Ln. **\$524,700**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams Realty 200-0004

1318 Strawberry Ct. **\$789,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Barry Realty 945-0100

1431 Harlan Dr. **\$959,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5050

4 Bedrooms

14 Stirling Dr. **\$1,259,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 736-3736

32 Wakefield Ct. **\$1,299,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential California Realty 216-0832

110 Sunhaven Rd. **\$1,765,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5048

1 Sunrise Terrace **\$1,998,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 683-4900

152 Diablo Ranch Ct. **\$2,075,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord 362-1600

5 Bedrooms

51 Shelterwood Dr. **\$1,545,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel Realtors 791-2567

Danville

5 Bedrooms

2 Maplewood Ct. **\$1,578,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Tucker Centoni Real Estate 998-1818

9 Creeklodge Ct. **\$2,295,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Tucker Centoni Real Estate 998-1818

5401 Johnston Rd. **\$3,500,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 847-2218

72 Edgegate Ct. **\$989,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Realty Executives Excel 389-8884

Blackhawk

3 Bedrooms

293 Live Oak Dr. **\$1,298,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel Realtors 791-2553

4 Bedrooms

3127 Deer Meadow Dr. **\$1,290,000**
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate Company 200-0426

5275 Blackhawk Dr. **\$2,299,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero Real Estate 648-5359

5 Bedrooms

816 Redwood Dr. **\$1,565,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5120

5379 Blackhawk Dr. **\$3,498,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 209-3451

Diablo

5 Bedrooms

1515 Avenida Nueva **\$1-4 p.m.**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel Realtors 383-1001

Brentwood

4 Bedrooms

612 Norris St. **\$639,900**
Sat 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 371-2100

Dublin

3 Bedrooms

11501 Treeline Pl. **\$639,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 734-5000

4 Bedrooms

3431 Castleton Ct. **\$1,010,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

6185 Shadow Hill Dr. **\$875,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

Hayward

3 Bedrooms

27678 Cliffwood Ave. **\$599,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

28357 Karn Dr. **\$628,888**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

Livermore

2 Bedrooms

853 Hagemann Dr. **\$475,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 371-2100

3 Bedrooms

709 Oriole **\$597,000**
Sat 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 371-2100

1348 Arlington Rd. **\$664,950**
Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

1554 La Prada Ct. **\$675,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 371-2100

4 Bedrooms

1671 Placer Cir. **\$775,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 371-2100

3834 Hillside Ave. **\$839,990**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21 Amador Valley 997-1435

665 Summer Tree Dr. **\$888,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Cartier Properties 989-4663

Newark

4 Bedrooms

5253 Salsbury Dr. **\$845,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

Pleasanton

2 Bedrooms

2219 Segundo Ct. #3 **\$424,950**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 734-5057

5375 #2 Black Ave. **\$549,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 847-2218

1403 Groth Cir. **\$645,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Tri Valley Realty 426-1111

3 Bedrooms

4103 Moller Dr. **\$664,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 998-0605

Pleasanton

3 Bedrooms

3024 Badger Dr. **\$719,950**
Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m. ReMax Accord 200-3908

3868 Mesa Verde Ct. **\$749,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 734-5000

5455 San Antonio St. **\$789,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC 426-3852

3296 Runnymede Ct. **\$849,950**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 989-4123

4 Bedrooms

4252 Nova Ct. **\$699,950**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

4498 Denker Dr. **\$719,888**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord 580-8011

4217 Dorman Rd. **\$720,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

349 Trenton Cir. **\$729,950**
Sat 1-4 p.m. UCB 417-7138

4241 Garibaldi Pl. **\$739,800**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC 922-9822

4410 Clovewood Ln. **\$819,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. By Owner 260-0394

5016 Black Ave. **\$829,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC 426-3852

1327 Bordeaux St. **\$985,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Realty World Choice Homes 200-4447

5 Bedrooms

641 Abbie St. **\$1,699,000**
Sun 2-5 p.m. Hometown GMAC 426-3852

4148 Grant Ct. **\$1,799,999**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes 989-1115

4353 W. Ruby Hill Dr. **\$1,950,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 989-4123

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms

3747 Crow Canyon Rd. **\$509,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. United Calif. Brokers 855-2000

3 Bedrooms

1188 S. Chanteralla Dr. **\$1,014,900**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Olde Towne Realty 426-9122

1740 Cutter Ct. **\$650,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Remax Accord 577-2600

4 Bedrooms

2234 Dewberry Dr. **\$1,299,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4:30 p.m. Intero Real Estate 648-5331

9911 Brunswick Wy. **\$799,900**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential California Realty 463-6113

432 Peanut Ct. **\$842,500**
Sun 1-4 p.m. C21 Heritage Real Estate 314-1520

500 Bagado Ct. **\$885,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 648-5354

4121 Reedland Cir. **\$949,500**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel Realtors 968-1452

400 Arlewood Ct. **\$979,000**
Sat/Sun 12-4 p.m. Intero 683-7709

Walnut Creek

3 Bedrooms

1901 Stratton Cir. **\$709,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 463-9500

6 Bedrooms

3685 Vista Charonoaks **\$1,589,950**
Sat 12-5 p.m. Empire Realty 785-3891

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New Italian Villa

Spectacular Views, 6700 sq. ft. of living space. Clawson built. 5 bedrooms 4 baths. Quality at its best.

\$3,450,000



1681 Via Di Salerno

New Italian Villa

Majestic two-story home with 6 bedrooms, 6 full baths, 2 half baths. Many custom finishings, and golf course views.

\$2,899,000



637 Norante Court

Dramatic Mediterranean Villa
 Exceptionally well maintained.

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1976 Via Di Salerno

Two-Story Mediterranean Villa

Fabulous 5 bedrooms plus office, 4 full baths, 4-car garage plus shop. 4,552 sq. ft. of living space. Front courtyard with fountain. \$1,995,000



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Elegant Pepperwood Estate \$2,899,000
Exceptional quality. Large gourmet kitchen with granite island, adjacent breakfast room, downstairs master office with FP. Pool, spa and built-in outdoor kitchen.
Bonnie King 925.855.4072



DANVILLE

Sought After Magee Ranch \$1,995,000
Custom 4bd, 4 full/2 half baths plus office and bonus room, 5200+/-sf on over one-third acre. Perfect for entertaining, spacious gourmet kitchen.
Dave Bauer 925.855.4040



LAFAYETTE

Classic and Elegant English Tudor \$1,649,000
Nearly 4000sf, 4bd, 3bd, den, large bonus/FR on large, lush .50+/-acre. Remodeled gourmet granite kitchen. Master retreat.
Todd Weinberg 925.855.4125



SAN RAMON

Better Than New \$1,439,888
Less than 1 year old, 4bd, 3.5ba, separate library, bonus room, 3 fireplaces, hardwood and slate floors. Upgrades galore! Custom landscaping, end of court location.
The Taylor Team 925.855.4110



DANVILLE

Fabulous Single Story \$1,575,000
4bd, 3ba, slab granite kitchen on one-half+/-acre lot. Oversized family room, 3-car garage, pool and spa, end of court location.
Sharen Metz 925.855.4087



SAN RAMON

San Ramon Heights Cutie \$1,649,000
4bd, 3.5ba, 3503+/-sf, 6-years new, gourmet granite kitchen, Toll-Brothers semi-custom, backs to 100+acres of Circle E Ranch open space.
L'oreal Northcraft 925.899.SOLD(7653)



SAN RAMON

Brand New Windemere Beauty \$1,318,000
5bd, 4ba, gourmet kitchen with island, granite, stainless, maple. Two fireplaces. Master bath with marble, shower spa. Great corner location.
Bill and Mimi 866.238.7004



DANVILLE

Outstanding Dream Home \$1,199,900
4bd, 2ba, 2157+/-sf, accented with elegant décor and custom upgrades. Very private park-like backyard offers the best in entertaining with pool, spa, built-in BBQ.
Lisa and Greg Doyle 925.855.4046



ALAMO

Plenty of Potential \$1,150,000
4bd, 2ba on over one-half acre lot with plenty of potential! New dual pane windows, newer roof, new kitchen tile flooring, 2-car attached garage. Large backyard with grass area.
Brad Gothberg 925.977.8965

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