

## Conscious aging

Sage-ing Circle celebrates second half of life > **page 16**

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### Is run a go?

Devil Mountain Run organizers are optimistic on funding

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# Danville

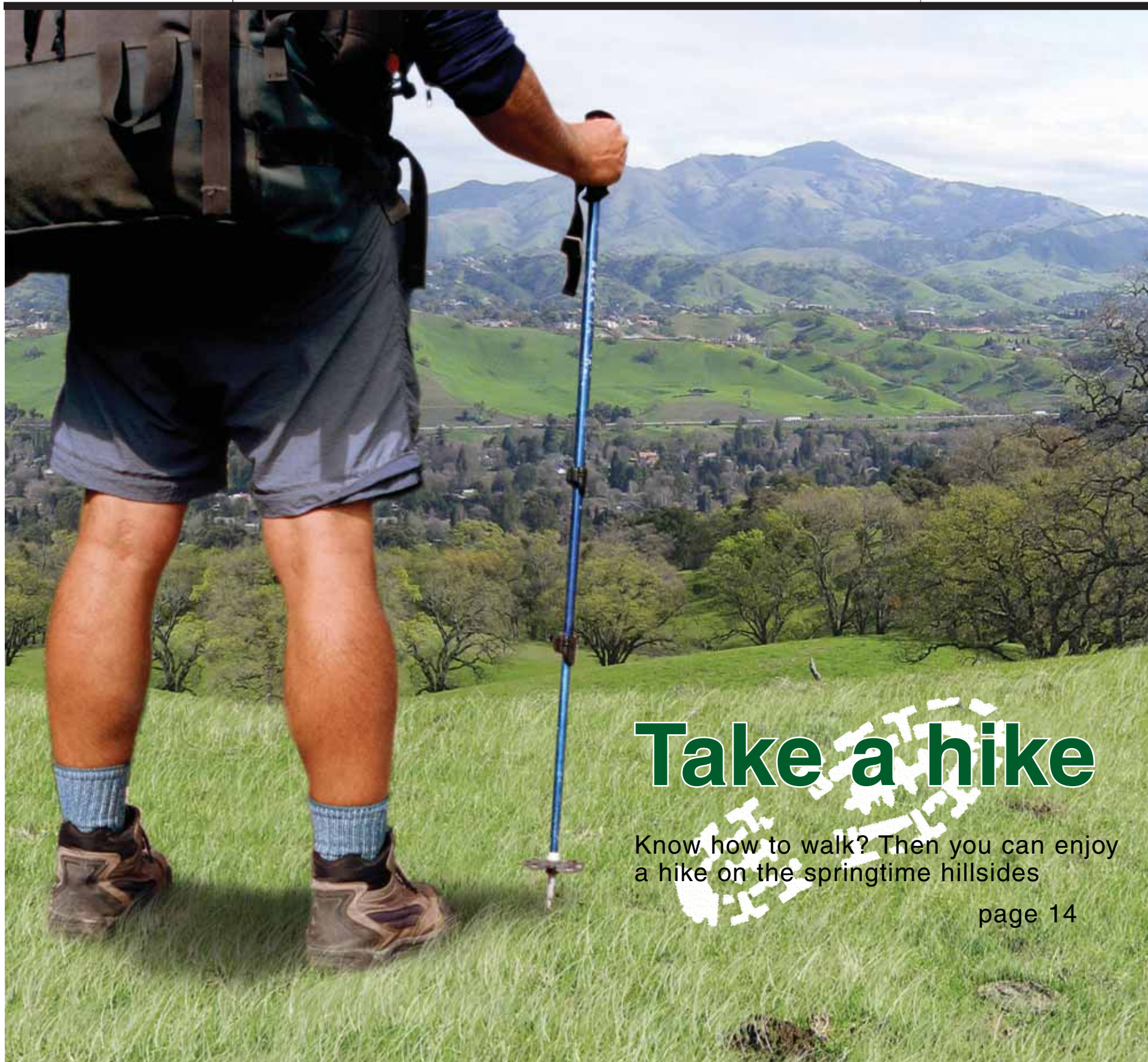
## W E E K L Y

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### MAC update

No solid plans yet for new county-backed Alamo council

> **page 5**



## Take a hike

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## Q: If you could time travel into the past or the future, which would you choose?



I would go into the future because I already know what happened in the past from studying history. I would want to go at least 100 years ahead.

**Joey Fitzgerald**  
*student*



I would like to go into the future so I could see how my children's lives turned out. I'm optimistic about the future; I think the changes will be good.

**Erin Scarlett**  
*business owner*



I'd like to see what the future holds for my children, how they contribute to their families, community and society. I would like to know how I did as a father and husband. I would also like to see if this country will ever have a woman or a minority president.

**Dino Guevarra**  
*public communication specialist*



I would want to go to the 1890s. Things were ordered and simple then. I'm sure they had their problems, but it seems like it was a charming time. Priorities made more sense. Marriage and church were respected. Society just seemed to work better. I think things will be worse in the future.

**Ken Whitham**  
*scientist*



I know exactly where I would go! I would go to London when Sherlock Holmes was around. I know he wasn't a real person but I think that was a fascinating period of time. I love to read Sherlock Holmes mysteries.

**Carol Fahrback**  
*business owner*

compiled by Judy Steiner

### ABOUT THE COVER

Springtime is the perfect season for hiking in the San Ramon Valley, and both Mount Diablo and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness have premier hiking trails. Photo by Julie Nostrand; photo illustration by Jason Lind


Vol. 1, Number 48

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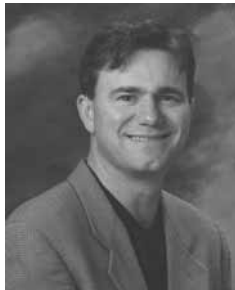
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## NEWS DIGEST

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ The more I focused on my butt, the bigger it got. ”

—Lorrie Sullenberger, who made fitness a lifestyle choice after turning 40. See story, page 14.

### Danville's own three tenors

The 85-member Danville Community Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Lawrence Anderson, is offering “A Musical Night at the Movies” with a sumptuous dinner at the Blackhawk Country Club Lakeside Ballroom on Sunday, April 9. The performance will include music from favorite movies with a special performance by Danville's own three tenors: Chuck Aldredge, Jess Pontious and Kim Quillin.

For reservations, call 736-6500, ext. 0; \$45 includes dinner and show, with a no-host bar at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., and the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Organizers noted that last year's performance sold out quickly.

### Science fair exhibits on display

Students from Danville and Alamo are among the participants in the 10th annual Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Categories include behavioral and bioscience, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space science, engineering, environmental science, mathematics, medicine and health, microbiology, physics and zoology.

Judging was scheduled for March 29, with projects on display 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, March 31; and 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 1, at 4444 East Ave. in Livermore. Winners from the senior division, grades 9-12, will go on to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Indianapolis in May.

### Iron Horse committee needs members

County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho is seeking applicants for the District 3 at-large seat and the Alamo area seat for the Iron Horse Corridor Management Program Advisory Committee. The nine-member committee meets five or six times a year to discuss Iron Horse issues and provide input or recommendations to the county.

Applicants should be familiar with public meetings or community service, and/or have an interest in landscaping, resource management, conservation or related areas. Call 820-8683 for an application, which is due by April 7.

### Inspirational setting for artists

The Eugene O'Neill foundation is inviting Bay Area artists to create new works at the Tao House in the west hills of Danville where the playwright wrote his final plays. The program is scheduled for 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on April 15, 22 and 27; and May 3, 10 and 13. The fee is \$15 for one to three days and \$5 for each additional day.

Artists can call the foundation at 820-1818 or Carolyn Thiessen, who is overseeing the program, at 820-1309, to request reservations and receive further details. Participants will select works for display at the Danville Fine Arts Gallery in late September and early October as part of the annual Eugene O'Neill Festival.

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## Remembering Auschwitz

Holocaust survivor talks to St. Isidore's eighth-graders

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Auschwitz escapee Max Drimmer pointed up at the sky as he spoke.

"This guy works with me all the time," he said.

His thick German accent boomed across Mrs. Schroeder's eighth-grade history class at St. Isidore's School last Friday, as he told students that preventing future genocide is their responsibility. Despite snapping cameras and the bustle of two eighth-grade classes congregating, all the young eyes remained fixed on him as he shared his story.

"I have escaped death many times ... it is unbelievable what a human being can do to another human being," he said.

He told of torture, tragedy and hope, recounting his experiences at Sachsenhausen and Auschwitz concentration camps. As a teenager, Drimmer was taken to Sachsenhausen in September of 1939, then transferred by cargo train to Auschwitz.

Drimmer survived starvation, the gassing of his parents, humiliation, filthy living conditions and ultimately an escape from Auschwitz.

Upon arriving at Auschwitz, he and his best friend Herman Shine were put into two separate lines. Drimmer told students he snuck into Shine's line to be with him. At the time, he didn't know this move would drastically change his destiny. He had jumped from a line

that awaited the gas chambers into a line would put him into work detail.

One student asked him to describe how he escaped from the camp.

"Do you have all night?" he joked.

In recounting the experience he guessed that 99 percent of prisoners who attempted to flee were caught and killed.

Drimmer hid in a six-foot hole outside the gates of Auschwitz for 36 hours with Shine until they could make their way to a barn 18 miles outside the camp. The barn belonged to Polish civilian Yosef Wrona, who brought them food and water.

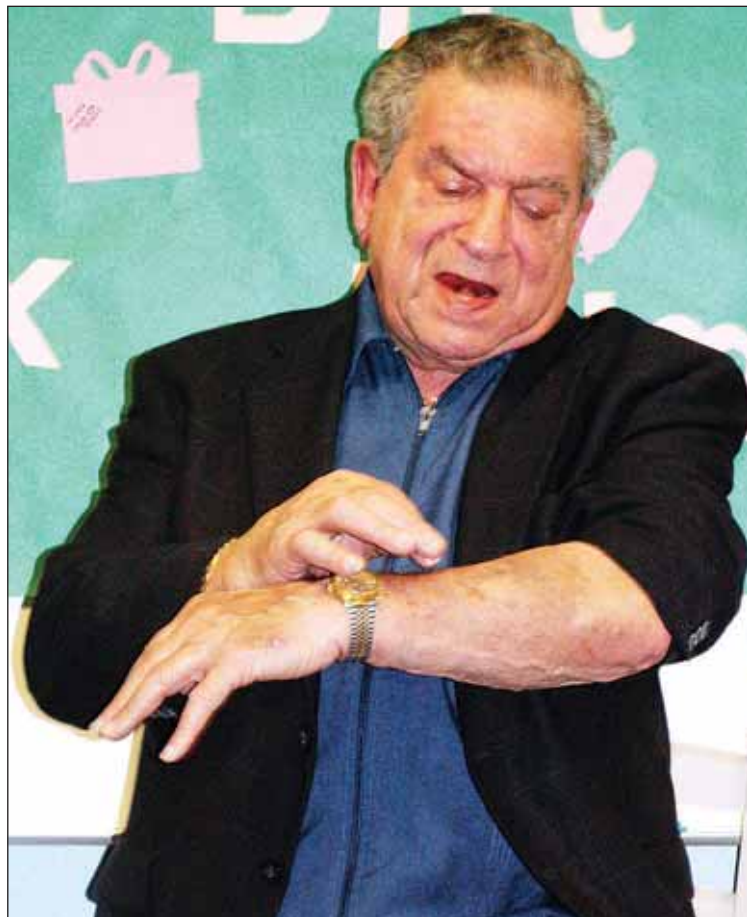
He said the hope of marrying Herta Zowe, a German girl he met at a dance before the war, helped him stay mentally strong during the roughest times. Zowe was also a prisoner at Auschwitz.

Once in the barn he wrote a letter to Zowe, which was confiscated by the guards at Auschwitz and used to track the two men down. The guards arrived at the barn with several dogs but astonishingly didn't find Shine or Drimmer.

"The first thing she wrote back to me was, 'Do you still have that lovely curly hair?'" he said.

Zowe and Drimmer were married two years later, in 1946.

Despite the heaviness of the subject matter, Drimmer used candid humor to get his point across. When one student asked what he ate at Auschwitz, he responded that



Auschwitz survivor Max Drimmer shows his tattoo to the eighth-graders at St. Isidore's School.

each day he had one piece of bread with jam or liverwurst. After he escaped, he said, "Everything was like filet mignon."

Students in the audience watched a video about Drimmer and prepared questions ahead of time for the speech. They wanted to know what his scariest moment was, how he felt after Hitler was announced dead, and if he ever felt like giving up.

Drimmer said every time he opened his eyes in the morning, it was an equally frightening moment. He said he was nothing but happy to find out Hitler had died, and that faith and love kept him going.

Unlike some Holocaust survivors, Drimmer is very open about talking about—and showing—the dark

## Devil Mountain Run may be a go

Sponsors are stepping forward

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Organizers of the Devil Mountain Run were still considering new sponsors as of press time to finance the May event, which raises \$30,000 annually for Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland.

"We are a bit overwhelmed," said Dave Rhody, president of RhodyCo Productions, the event organizer. "Events like this are complex. We don't have a definitive answer."

"It does look positive," he said Tuesday about the run's prospects for sponsorship. Rhody said his company will have a final decision this week.

The Devil Mountain Run in Danville was on the verge of being cancelled this year because the event was unable to receive commitments from sponsors. For the past three years, Andronico's Market donated \$35,000 each year to finance the popular run. Other sponsors dropped out as well.

The run has been going on for 28 years and takes place every first Sunday in May. The event attracts around 4,000 runners, said Rhody, and over the past several years, has raised \$1.7 mil-

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## Danville progress and plans

Mayor cites 125 projects planned for next five years

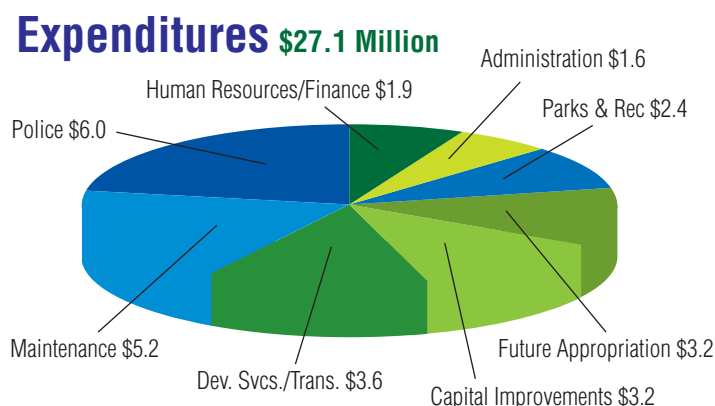
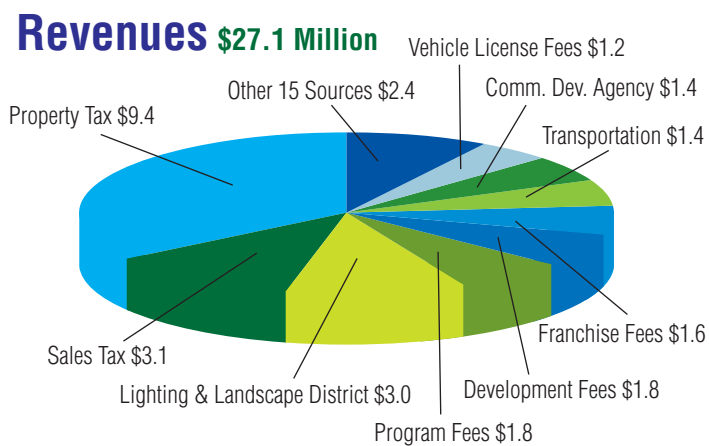
by **Dolores Fox Ciardelli**

Danville is financially solvent and planning for the future, Mayor Karen Stepper told members of the Chamber of Commerce at the annual State of the Town address last week during breakfast at Crow Canyon Country Club.

"We live here because Danville is a caring, connected community," Stepper told the assembled group, noting that people from different walks of life were in attendance as well as Mayor H. Abram Wilson of San Ramon. "My theme is being inclusive."

She hailed the town's accom-

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## What happened to the Alamo MAC?

District 3 still gathering information, says official

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Members of the Alamo Area Council, a group started by volunteers to establish communication among Alamo organizations, are planning the best way to form a Municipal Advisory Council to help govern the unincorporated area.

District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho has said she plans to form the MAC in Alamo to provide leadership and accountability. But local community group leaders fear that establishing a MAC will take away Alamo's voice.

Karen McPherson, creator of the AAC, met with Piepho in January to request specifics about how and when the council will be operated. She has not yet heard anything back from District 3.

"I said if we have to have a MAC, this is how we'd like to do it," McPherson said.

District 3 Chief of Staff Ryan

P. Klobas said the MAC is still in an information-gathering stage and that no applications have been reviewed yet.

The MAC will be an extension of the Public Works Department, much like R-7A and Zone 36 committees, and will be subject to the Brown Act. It must obey open meeting laws, have an appointed chair and council, and will be held at county facilities. Other unincorporated areas in the county have MACs, including Diablo and Discovery Bay.

Klobas said the MAC is not meant to be a replacement of the AAC.

The AAC will, however, serve the same function as the AAC and will likely have active members of the AAC on it.

County control versus local control is an issue that is causing tension in Alamo, said Preston Taylor, president of the Alamo

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## Danville OKs speed lumps for Ramona, Gil Blas roads

Dozen residents give opinions after item is approved

by Geoff Gillette

More than a dozen residents turned out at the March 21 meeting of the Danville Town Council to talk about a plan to install speed lumps on Ramona Road and Gil Blas Road. The item was approved before they realized it was up for discussion.

As many town councils do, Danville utilizes a format called a consent calendar. These are generally issues that have been previously discussed and agreed upon that simply require formal action by the council. In most cases, unless a request is made to pull the item for discussion, the calendar items are voted on unilaterally and are never discussed.

Such was the case March 21.

It was not until the meeting was nearly ended that Mayor Karen Stepper asked those in attendance what issue they wanted to address. Although the item already had been approved, the council allowed those in attendance to present their remarks. While the majority favored the plan to slow traffic down on those streets, others in the neighborhood voiced concerns.

The prevailing feeling was that putting the control devices on Ramona and Gil Blas will force traffic onto Molitas as a cut-through. One suggestion was to put a stop sign at Molitas and Ramona.

Stepper said any such suggestions could be taken to the town's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. She explained that the speed lumps went through the pro-

gram and had received 70 percent approval from neighboring residents.

The mayor also said she was sorry the residents had to speak after the fact, but felt it was vital that the town received the input.

"I learned of other traffic concerns in that area," she said. "These are things which I'm hoping will be addressed through the traffic management program."

She added she does not feel the oversight indicates a need for change in the way the council does business.

"The process is fine," she said. "We've had the process going on for years. We just need to make sure that if we get there early we need to touch base with the people in the audience to see what they are there for." ■

## Holocaust

► Continued from page 6

blue serial number on his forearm. He presented his tattoo to the curious students and told them what it meant to him.

"It's up to you to make sure these things don't ever happen again," Drimmer told the students.

Teacher Jean Schroeder said the school was able to contact and invite Drimmer because his grandson is a seventh-grader at St. Isidore's. Both eighth-grade classes will take a trip to Washington, D.C., this summer to see the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The students said their trip would be more meaningful because of their meeting with Drimmer. ■



Auschwitz survivor Max Drimmer tells eighth-grader Colleen Connolly, "Remember, it's up to you" to make sure a holocaust does not take place again.

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# Students ace high school exit exam

San Ramon Valley school district has highest pass rate in the state

by Kevin Zhou

High school sophomores from across the district sat down to take the California High School Exit Exam last week. San Ramon Valley Unified School District students have had extraordinary success on the test in years past, and administrators believe this trend will continue.

"I think our students are performing extremely well, particularly compared to students statewide," said Terry Koehne, the district's community relations coordinator. "It's a major focus for us to ensure that students continue to perform well on the test."

Last year, the district enjoyed some of the highest passing rates in the entire state. At San Ramon Valley High School, there was a 97 percent passing rate on both the math and English portions. Monte Vista High School had similar success, with a 98 percent passing rate on the math section and a 97 percent on the English section.

The passing rates at both of these schools were more than 30 percent higher than the statewide average.

The results reflect an increase in focus among students and teachers, noted Koehne.

"When this process began, one of the main challenges we saw with students was a lack of focus, a lack of interest in the exam because they didn't feel like it applied," he said. "We're seeing that starting to shift; that students are taking the exam more seriously, that teachers are more serious about preparing students."

"I see a real increased seriousness about the test," agreed Leslie Anderson, the district's director of assessment. "They are really working hard. I don't see a lot of motivational problems or attitude problems."

While it may seem high school

students are already burdened with too many standardized tests, such as the STAR and the SATs, they did not have any major problems with the CAHSEE.

"They pretty much accept it," said John McMorris, a vice principal at San Ramon Valley High School. "I think that we have very conforming students. They take it and tend to do well on it. We usually have no problems."

Some students even felt the test was too easy, and that administering it was completely unnecessary.

"For the math part, it mainly covered middle school subjects," said Arvin Pal, 15, a sophomore at Monte Vista.

"I felt pretty good after taking it," added Kyle Dever, 16, also a sophomore at Monte Vista. "I thought it was going to be easy, and it turned out that it was pretty easy." While Dever spent about an hour preparing for the test, he said he didn't spend any time stressing out over it.

However, some students in the district still struggled with the CAHSEE. At Del Amigo Continuation High School, which has 100 students, the passing rates were considerably lower than at San Ramon Valley or Monte Vista. Out of 52 students taking the math section, 21 passed; out of 48 students on the English section, 19 passed. Students who do not pass in their sophomore year must continue to take the test throughout high school until they pass.

Special education and English Second Language students, who are also required to take the test, had lower passing percentages than the general student body. At San Ramon Valley, special education students had a 76 percent and 75 percent passing rate on the math and English section, respectively; at Monte Vista, their passing rates were 74 percent

and 77 percent.

A total of seven ESL students from Del Amigo, San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista took the CAHSEE last year. Because there were fewer than 10 students in this particular category, the California Department of Education did not release their passing rates to protect their privacy. However, administrators agree that the test's English section places many of these non-English speaking students at an unfair disadvantage.

For special education and ESL students, slight modifications can be made to the testing environment to even the playing field. The most common accommodation is known as flexible setting, which occurs when a student uses a calculator on the math portion, for example.

To help the students who did not pass, the school district implemented several new programs after the test was first administered in 2001. High schools now offer afterschool remediation classes in math and English for students interested in taking them, and provide intervention classes for students who do not pass the test the first time.

They have also introduced special math labs where high schoolers can receive extra help.

"We have more of them now because of the test, and because there are some specific needs we can fill," said Anderson. "Each school has a different model. They all have a model that works for them, and that depends on the kids' schedules and their needs."

"There's more individualized instruction," added Koehne. "It's apparent that teachers are spending a lot of individual time with students struggling with the test. We're doing everything we can to make sure every child passes." ■



## More winners at the Odyssey competition

This team of Sycamore Valley Elementary fourth-grade students—Sean Jaffe, Kevin Guo, Krishna Peri, Seddon Macholz and Tori Coleman—took second place in the recent Bay Area Odyssey of the Mind contest, as did another team reported on last week. These kids built a balsa wood structure that weighed less than 10 grams and could withstand a load of 55 pounds. In addition, they competed in spontaneous problem-solving and tied for first place. They will now participate in the state level championship in Sacramento tomorrow.

## Alamo

► Continued from page 5

Improvement Association, a paid membership group of 600 families founded in the 1950s to maintain Alamo's "character."

"The issue is boiling," he said. Taylor believes Alamo is suffering from the effects of redistricting. He believes the decisions the county makes often don't line up with what polls reflect, or what people at meetings express they want.

"The supervisor wants one clear voice, but we are a bunch of individuals," Taylor said. He fears that one clear voice means only a few people are making the decisions.

Klobas said the MAC is meant to unify Alamo, and that Piepho wants to be more involved in the council.

It's difficult to move forward with action when there is misinformation about when and where meetings of groups like AAC are

held, Klobas said.

"There is an extremely fragmented voice in Alamo right now," he added.

Five to seven MAC members will be appointed in the beginning but may eventually be elected, Piepho explained at a town hall meeting in August.

"It's a powerful option for your community," she said at the meeting.

McPherson said the AAC was formed to coordinate communications among individual groups in Alamo. It developed with former District 3 Supervisor Donna Gerber and was managed under District 3 until communication between Alamo and the county began to dwindle, said McPherson. Efforts were then made to localize the group.

"It wasn't going smoothly, so we decided to take it to the community," McPherson said.

While the AAC was not subject to open meeting laws, the group welcomed the public, she noted. ■



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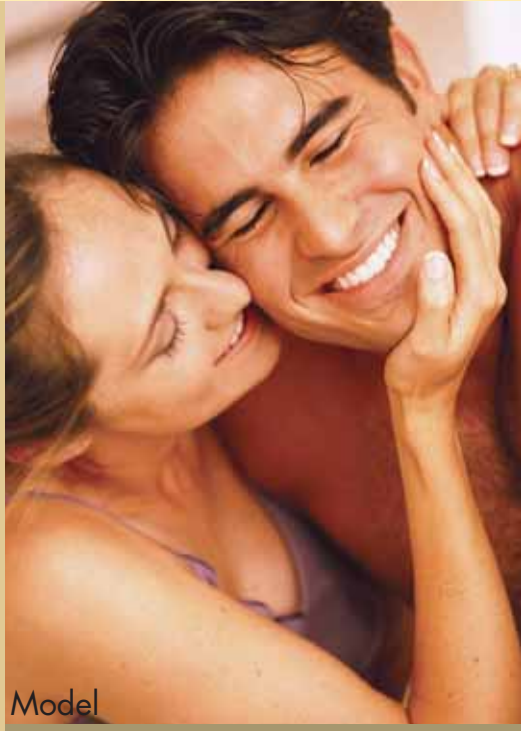
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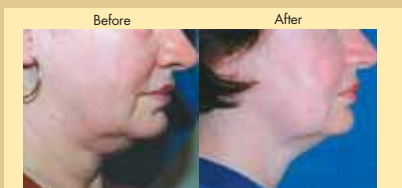
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## Danville

► Continued from page 5

plishments, including the Street Smarts Program, Operation Welcome Home, new teen centers at the middle schools, the All Wars Memorial, the Eugene O'Neill Commemorative, Discover Danville, its Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, and the Children's Film Festival.

"We see ourselves as a place for families," Stepper said.

She also noted that although Danville's population was 10,000 less 15 years ago, the town now has fewer staff people, only 112. "It feel like 300 for what gets accomplished," she said.

Stepper is also proud of the town's proactive long-term planning.

The next five years will see 125 projects, spending \$25.5 million, she said, and 38 of these projects are currently in some stage of construction; \$3.2 million is budgeted for the capital improvement program from the total budget of \$27.1 million.

Of that total budget, Stepper said most goes to the Four P's: police, pavement, planning and parks. Six million dollars go to police services, and \$5.2 million to maintenance.

"Some wait until something happens and fight fires—that's not Danville," she said. "We do a huge amount of maintenance."

Priorities for 2006 include the community center at Oak Hill Park, disaster preparedness, parking and improvements downtown, and upgrading transportation, both within town and regionally.

Stepper said town employees recently underwent four days of emergency preparedness training along with officials from the fire and school districts. "What if Oakland suffers an earthquake and people come streaming in and need homes and schools?" she said. "How would you respond? No matter how skilled you are, it would be very stressful."

The community is looking for grants to fund communications to make sure everyone has the capabilities of talking to one another when disaster strikes.

Stepper said construction will begin on the long-awaited freeway auxiliary lanes in May, hopefully, to facilitate exiting and entering I-680 in Danville and San Ramon. The lanes will be added both northbound and southbound between Bollinger Canyon and Crow Canyon roads, and between Sycamore Valley and Diablo roads.

"The bids were under \$19 million for those two sections," Stepper said, adding the lanes would take about a year to construct.

The State of the Town address will be broadcast on Comcast at 5:30 p.m., Friday, April 7. ■

## Run

► Continued from page 5

lion for the hospital.

"It's a fun thing to do," said Danville Mayor Karen Stepper, a past Devil runner. "We want to encourage our kids to be physically fit."

She said without the run, the hospital will be hard-pressed to budget for its services.

Stepper added that the event has dealt with cancellation issues in the past.

Due to news coverage about the run being cancelled, Rhody said he received calls from several potential sponsors.

"The response has been overwhelming," he said.

He said he hopes the event will find financial help. "We hope so and are working on it." ■

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Finding a bookie

Looking for a bookie? Last Thursday evening I found a whole room full. It was the sixth annual Book Club Awards Dinner presented by Project Second Chance at the Lafayette Park Hotel. One highlight of the evening was the awards known as the Bookies, which were voted on by members of the book groups.

I attended with two other members from my Livorna Book Group and we sat at a table with members of Read and Feed. Other groups included Ladies of the Night, Novel Lovers, California Literary Ladies, Page by Page, Radical Bibliophiles! and Belles Lettres. We decided our Livorna group needs to spice up its name. We've tried putting the word "literary" in there but it never seems to stick. The book groups shared their reading lists from the last year, which gave us all ideas and topics of conversation.

It's always fun to talk to people from other book groups. How do they choose their books? Who hosts? How are their evenings structured? Book groups vary quite a bit in reading material and in organization. I recently talked to a woman who said she is in the Smallest Book Group in the World. It has three members and is not looking for more. They were members of a larger group and eventually ascertained that only the three of them were truly interested in sticking to the subject—the book.

The Bookies event was a class act, from the no-host reception with

displays of book lists, to the delicious dinner with donated wine, to the drawing for prizes that included several large tote bags of books from Random House and Orinda Books. The winners were like kids at Christmas as they dove into the bags, pulling out each book and exclaiming over it. Author Andrew Behrs gave a reading from his recently published historical novel, "Strange Saint," and he also consented to be auctioned off for an evening at a book group. When the bidding was narrowed down to two groups, he agreed to go to both, which each paid \$320, a tidy sum for Project Second Chance.

Because no one ever forgot the point of the evening—to raise money for Project Second Chance, the adult literacy program run through the Contra Costa County Library. A short video highlighted three people who had been helped by the organization. "You who love to read make it possible for those who can't," said director Susan Lynn as she introduced the three "stars" of the video, noting that last year, 168 tutors helped 205 people to read, write and spell better. One woman told of the wonder of reading to her grandchild and of having a book on hold at the library, knowing she would stay up until 2 a.m. enjoying it. A younger woman told how reading is helping her learn so she can accomplish new career goals. "The tutors give us hopes and dreams," she said. A man told about finally being able to pass his driver's test.

The winner of the Bookie for the best book was chosen from five nominees: "Molokai" by Alan Brennert; "A Million Little Pieces" by James Frey; "The Devil in the White City" by Eric Larson; "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult; and "The Shadow of the Wind" by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. The winner was—envelope, please—"Molokai." Other awards went to:

- Favorite Character: Christopher John Francis Boone from "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon
- Favorite setting: Chicago in "The Devil in the White City"
- Most Surprising Book: "The Master Butcher's Singing Club" by Louis Erdrich

On its Web site, Rakestraw Books in Danville this month quotes E.L. Doctorow accepting the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction for "The March": A book "written in silence and read in silence goes from heart to heart and soul to soul as nothing else can." Yet, noted Rakestraw owner Michael Barnard, "Doctorow overlooked that between those two silences, there are conversations: between publishers and booksellers, between booksellers and readers, and ultimately between friends. Good books start conversations."

As we at the dinner sat chatting, Susan Lynn told us reading is often called the "beginning of conversation." Of course, she noted, a little wine can help the conversation along. ■

TAKE US ALONG



## Reading with a friend

Carolyn Espinosa shares her Weekly at the Endangered Species store in Maui, where she and her husband Bob celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. They have lived in Danville since March 1964.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Danville 94596.

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# Community Pulse

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## POLICE BULLETIN

### Car burglars strike at church

Three parked cars in a Mormon church parking lot in Alamo were broken into and burglarized March 20, according to reports from the Sheriff's Department.

River rocks were thrown through windows of a blue Jetta, a black Mercedes Benz and a blue Volkswagen between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday, March 20, at the Church of Latter-day Saints parking lot on Stone Valley Road, said Crime Prevention Specialist Angela Urrutia of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Valley Station.

A purse containing \$40 and gift cards from Borders; Barnes and Noble Bookstore; and Nordstrom was

taken from the Jetta. An iPod was removed from the Volkswagen. A wallet containing an ATM card was seized from the Mercedes.

Also a Toyota Camry on Alamo Hills Court in Alamo was broken into Wednesday morning, March 22. Urrutia said a sharp metal object was lunged through the car's rear passenger window and a cell phone was taken.

Urrutia said car burglaries can be prevented.

"Auto burglaries are 99 percent preventable," she said. "Take all your valuables out of your car."

She added that people should take most items out of the car and make sure it is locked.

## POLICE LOG

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

### Monday, March 20

- Forgery, fraudulent documents, on Town and Country Dr. at 11:08 a.m.
- Grand theft from building on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:34 p.m.

- Vandalism on Del Amigo Rd. at 3:21 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 21

- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Hartz Way and Laurel Dr. at 1:04 a.m.
- Grand theft, vehicle parts, on Zita Ct. at 6:59 a.m.
- Possession of counterfeit bill on St. George Rd. at 2:25 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on

- Driving with suspended, revoked license, arrest, on Adobe Ct. and El Cerro Blvd. at 11:30 p.m.

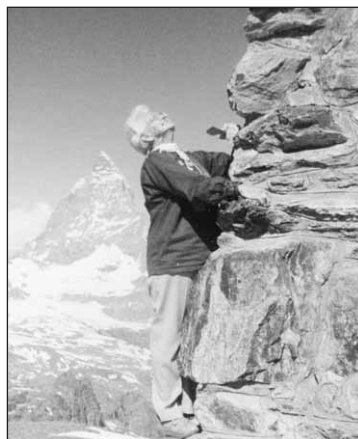
### Wednesday, March 22

- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 12:38 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Danville Blvd. and

► Continued on page 11

## OBITUARIES

### Marion Merl Bayless Frank



COURTESY CYNTHIA FRANK

Marion Frank tackles the Swiss Alps during a trip with her sister Bobbie around 1990.

Marion Merl Bayless (Monie) Frank, an active member of the music community in the San Ramon Valley for many years, died Oct. 29 at the Lodge at the Woods in Mendocino County after a brief illness.

She was born Aug. 1, 1910, in San Diego, and debuted in 1924 as a soloist on viola with the San Diego Symphony. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from San Diego State and a master's at University of Southern California, then taught music in Culver City and Imperial Valley.

She moved to Danville in 1951 and joined the faculty of San Ramon Valley High School. She taught English, was a guidance counselor and coordinated all the string programs in the San Ramon Valley school district. She also played viola in the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, the Diablo symphony

and other ensembles.

When she retired after 27 years, she became busier than ever. Her bell choir toured Hawaii, and she traveled the world with her sister Bobbie, her Aunt Suzanne, and daughter Cynthia. She was active in the Democratic Party, a board member for local nonprofit music foundations, and an elder in the Danville Community Presbyterian Church. She was a founding member of the Contra Costa String Association, and played string bass with a pickup big band in the early 1980s.

Her many friends recall her good sense of humor; enjoying her husband's job as a brewmaster; the freshly baked goodies she served when hosting board meetings for CCCO; and all the traveling she had done.

She is survived by daughter Cynthia Frank of Fort Bragg and son George C. Frank of Scottsdale, Ariz. Family and friends are planning a celebration of her life, at the Woods Clubhouse on the Mendocino Coast on May 27. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to local school music programs, the American Cancer Society or the Redwood Funeral Society.

### Antoinette June Russo

Danville resident Antoinette June Russo passed away at home March 20. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Joseph Russo of Danville; her children, Carla Baletto and Monica Russo of Martinez, Natalie Sweeney of Alamo and Regina Sievers of Antioch; brother Robert Zollner of Castro Valley; and four grandchildren, Anthony, Adriana, Jennifer and John.

A funeral Mass was celebrated last Friday at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville and interment is at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette.

### Carl H. Carlson

Longtime Danville resident Carl H. Carlson passed away in San Ramon on March 23 at the age of 77. He battled cancer and recovered enough to play golf and make his second hole-in-one, an achievement beyond his dreams.

He was born in St. Paul, Minn., on May 24, 1928, and was a caddy in his childhood.

He was a veteran, a mechanical engineer and had a master's in business administration. In the 1950s, he began a career in technology and distinguished himself as a corporate officer and executive vice president of operations for Apple Computer during its infancy. He built the worldwide manufacturing and distribution for the company during and after its IPO.

He was an avid golfer and member of Blackhawk Country Club and organized 50 pro-am tournaments in his 22 years of retirement, during which he played golf four days a week.

He is survived by his wife Rita and son David Carlson, both of Danville, and a brother, George Carlson. He was preceded in death by his daughter Dolora Carlson.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in San Ramon and interment is at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette. Memorial contributions may be made to Bay Area Crisis Nursery, 1506 Mendocino Drive, Concord, Calif., 94521.

► Continued from page 10

El Cerro Blvd. at 3:34 p.m.

**Thursday, March 23**

- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 10:43 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:19 p.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 12:49 p.m.
- Vandalism on El Dorado Ave. at 2:19 p.m.
- Commercial burglary on Fostoria Way at 7:08 p.m.

**Friday, March 24**

- Grand theft defined on San Gregorio Ct. at 8:44 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Blackhawk Rd. and Camino Tassajara at 9:50 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Diablo Rd. at 3:03 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Fairway Dr. at 4:51 p.m.

**Saturday, March 25**

- Warrant arrest on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:43 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Diablo Rd. at 12:18 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Railroad Ave. at 3:18 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 4:29 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Crow Canyon Rd. at 3:44 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. and Linda Mesa Ave. at 11:14 p.m.

**Sunday, March 26**

- Suspicious circumstances on Maiden Ln. at 1:59 a.m.
- Injury accident on Everett Dr. at 11:12 a.m.

The Office of the Contra Costa County

Sheriff's Department's Valley Station in Alamo made the following information available.

**ALAMO**

**Monday, March 20**

- Auto burglary on Stone Valley Rd.
- Auto burglary on Stone Valley Rd.
- Auto burglary on Stone Valley Rd.

**Wednesday, March 22**

- Domestic disturbance on Orchard Ct.
- Auto burglary on Alamo Hills Ct.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Golden Meadow Pl.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Roundhill Rd.
- Vandalism on Alamo Hills Ct.

**Thursday, March 23**

- Petty theft, all other, on Monte Sereno Dr.

**BLACKHAWK**

**Monday, March 20**

- Vandalism on Blackhawk Club Ct.

**DANVILLE**

**Monday, March 20**

- Miscellaneous burglary on Camino Tassajara and Monterosso St.

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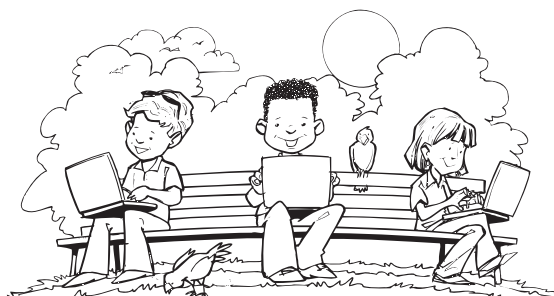
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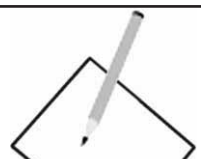
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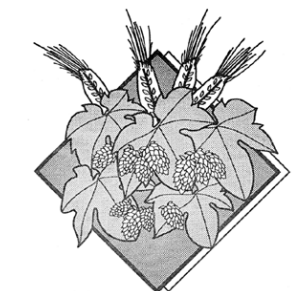
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# Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

## EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Sewer overhaul must go smoothly

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District recently announced its plans to upgrade sewer pipes on Prospect Avenue from Front Street to Railroad Avenue in downtown Danville this summer. This type of project is needed to keep our infrastructure running smoothly but when it occurs in a business district it needs to be managed very carefully. Big promises were made to downtown businesses last week assuring them they would not be impacted. Central San needs to keep those promises because if they don't, the impact on small businesses is too great.

Our sanitary district plans to replace the 50-year-old sewer pipes downtown to make sure the pipes are upgraded before they begin to fail. The goal is laudable. To do so, however, they will need to dig up the streets. Central San has promised to work only at nighttime, with all equipment gone by morning and any street openings covered with steel plates. It is crucial the district adhere to this commitment. If business owners arrive in the morning with parking places blocked or shoppers finding it difficult to reach them, it has a direct impact on their pocketbooks during their busy season. Central San should also give serious consideration to starting later during the Hot Summer Nights car shows as sewer construction and community events do not mix well.

The Chamber of Commerce and Discover Danville are putting lots of effort into encouraging shoppers throughout the region to frequent downtown Danville at the same time that the streets will be torn up for a sewer project. We do not want this to interfere with the pleasant experience we hope everyone will have downtown.

We commend the folks at Central San for having the foresight to replace the sewer system before problems occur. We caution them, however, to carefully manage this project. They have promised the business owners it will have no impact on them but good intentions are not enough. It is important the project be carried out in a way that is sensitive to merchants and to the community.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Let's welcome Duffields

My husband Dennis and I have been happy residents of Bryan Ranch for seven years. We have observed the efforts of the Save Bryan Ranch committee and it is apparent that these concerned individuals are well on their way to achieving their objectives, now having a revised proposal for the Duffield residence.

My husband and I have not met the David Duffield family but we are aware that they are well known in many communities in California and Nevada. Their altruism, community mindedness and caring have been reflected in those areas where they have made their home.

We would like to see the inhabitants of Bryan Ranch, the board and the committee resolve their differences and welcome the Duffield family to our neighborhood.

*Peggy Stokes, Alamo*

### Annual cookie craze

Dear Editor:

As I was eating into my fifth box of Girl Scout cookies in two weeks, I decided to find out more regarding this annual tradition of cookie mania. I searched the Web for Girl Scout Cookies.

In the history link I found the first recorded cookie event was in

1917 when the Mistletoe Troup in Muskogee, Okla., baked cookies to sell in the school cafeteria. Then in 1922, the Girl Scout magazine, The American Girl, published a recommended cookie recipe along with a cookie business analysis for the troops to try.

More searches on the Web links led me down through the years to the two present suppliers, ABC Interbake Foods and Little Brown Bakers. The sites of the two bakeries have dozens of links.

The cookie varieties evolved over the last 90 years to the present five main types, which account for sales this way: Thin Mints—25 percent; Samoas—19 percent; Tagalongs—13 percent; Do-si-dos—11 percent; Shortbread—9 percent; all others—23 percent.

Little Brown Bakers listed this staggering amount of ingredients required during a peak production week. Keep in mind this is per week from just one of the licensed bakeries. Flour—21 truckloads; shortening—seven truckloads; cocoa—50,000 pounds; sugar—14.5 truckloads; peanut butter—230,000 pounds; coconut—75,000 pounds.

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## Those amazing Wolves

San Ramon boys volleyball ends 63-game winning streak with tight loss to Foothill

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

The San Ramon Valley boys volleyball team ended its 63-game winning streak at the Davis Tournament two weeks ago when it lost a tight match to Foothill in the semi-finals. Then the Wolves hosted Foothill on Thursday, March 23, and lost again, ending its 45-match winning streak in East Bay Athletic League play.

The Wolves were 36-0 in 2005, winning the EBAL and the North Coast Championship over Foothill. Their last loss was in the 2004 Davis Tournament finals against Foothill. Opening the 2006 season, the Wolves had an overall winning streak of 59 matches. Starting where they left off last year, they increased their winning streak to 63.

"The team is shaping up nicely," said coach Sean Stratton. "They are all working hard, and are focused on each match. We continue to work on tough serving, a good offense, and team unity. Our focus has been on including the new players to varsity, and giving them the opportunity to prove themselves. We have 13 experienced players, and many of them play year round for a club team."

The March 23 loss to Foothill was the first league loss since falling to Foothill on May 2, 2003. Foothill is now 3-0 in the EBAL and 11-1 overall. The Wolves are 2-1 in the league and 8-2 overall.

"The streak had to end sometime," said Coach Stratton, who added that he was very proud of the team in both of its efforts against Foothill. "This gives them great insight and the desire to work even harder."

Under the leadership of Mark Bauhs and Mason Cole, we look forward to rebounding from these losses and having another successful season."

Monte Vista went 3-0 in the EBAL with a win over Amador Valley. Greg Kohl led the Mustangs with 11 kills and three blocks.

### Boys lacrosse

Monte Vista edged San Ramon Valley 10-9 in overtime March 23. The Mustangs were led by Ryan Westfall with three scores. Monte Vista's record is now 6-1 overall and 4-0 in the EBAL. The Wolves are now 7-3 overall and 3-1 in the EBAL.

### Boys tennis

San Ramon Valley Boys tennis beat California 8-1 on March 21. They are now 7-3 overall and 4-2 in the EBAL. The Grizzlies are now 3-2 in the EBAL. On March 23, the Wolves beat foothill 5-4 to extend their record to 5-2 in the EBAL.

Monte Vista remained undefeated in the EBAL with a record of 5-0 defeating Amador Valley 9-0 on March 23. Mike Starr, Ramsey Lemaich, Tim Lantin, Nick Greenwald, Chris Meyer and Andrew Jones led the Mustangs with single match victories. ■

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## St. Joan of Arc eighth-graders are CYO champs

The St. Joan of Arc eighth-grade girls basketball team won the Tri-Valley CYO Championship game against St. Raymond 29-16 on March 5. Scoring hoops for St. Joan were Nadia Rissa with 11 points; Camille Gurley, 6 points; Coki Wuest and Rosie Garcia, 4 points; Alyssa Wisk and Madeline Mooring, 2 points. Tough defensive help was provided by Amy Niedzwecki and Abigail Giansante. Also contributing to a great season were Lindsay Wentker and Shao-Yuin Soh. St. Joan's record was 14-1 going into the championship game. They tied for first place overall in league standings, and placed first in a Christmas week tournament.



### PREP SCHEDULE

#### Friday

**Baseball:** Monte Vista at Granada, 3:30 p.m., San Ramon vs. Amador Valley, 3:45 p.m.

**Track and Field:** Stanford Invitational, March 31-April 1

**Swimming:** De La Salle Invitational, March 31- April 1

**Girls Lacrosse:** Monte Vista at Cal High, 5:30 p.m., San Ramon vs. Amador Valley, 5:30 p.m.

#### Monday

**Boys Golf:** Freedom Tournament, 8 a.m.

#### Tuesday

**Boys Golf:** Monte Vista vs. Granada,

3 p.m., San Ramon vs. Amador Valley, 3:30 p.m.

**Boys Volleyball:** Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 6 p.m., San Ramon at Livermore, 6 p.m.

**Boys Tennis:** Monte Vista at Foothill San Ramon vs. Livermore

**Softball:** San Ramon at Granada, 4 p.m.

#### Wednesday

**Baseball:** Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 3:45 p.m., San Ramon at Granada, 3:45 p.m.

**Swimming:** Monte Vista vs. Foothill

**Boys Tennis:** Monte Vista vs. Sacred Heart

**Girls Lacrosse:** Monte Vista vs. St. Ignatius, 5:30 p.m., San Ramon vs. Berkeley, 7 p.m.

#### Thursday

**Boys Golf:** Monte Vista at Livermore, 3 p.m., San Ramon vs. Granada, 3:30 p.m.

**Boys Volleyball:** Monte Vista at San Ramon Valley, 6 p.m.

**Track and Field:** Monte Vista at Granada, 4 p.m.

San Ramon vs. Foothill, 4 p.m.

**Boys Tennis:** Monte Vista vs. San Ramon

**Softball:** San Ramon at Livermore, 4 p.m.

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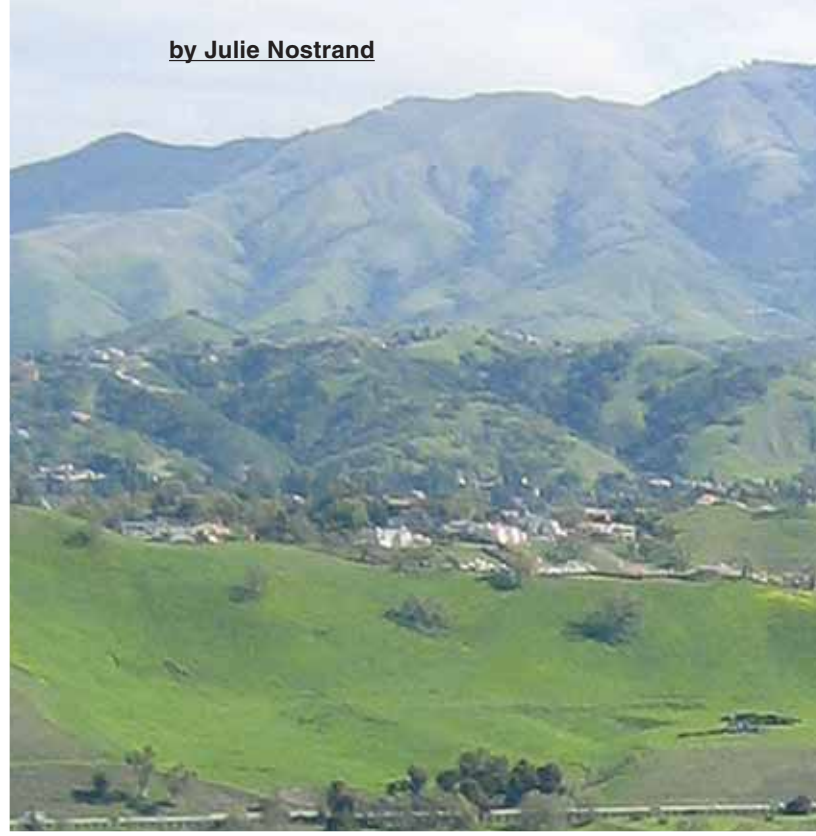
# Take A Hike

Know how to walk?  
Then you can enjoy a hike on the springtime hillsides

by Julie Nostrand



Lorrie Sullenberger and Jenny Caufield of Alamo rest at a cave along the Upper Ridge Trail in Las Trampas Wilderness.



JULIE NOSTRAND

As Lorrie Sullenberger approached her 40th birthday, she decided to make a change. She had been heavy since childhood and wanted to make a fresh start as she began the fifth decade of her life. As a birthday gift to herself, she vowed to get into the best shape possible.

As many people do, Sullenberger set out to achieve her goal by joining a gym. She spent hours on the treadmill and after a year was disappointed in the results.

"The more I focused on my butt, the bigger it got," said Sullenberger. On the advice of a friend, she decided to try something different. She changed her thinking and made fitness a lifestyle choice. That meant spending less time in the gym and more time outdoors hiking.

"When I was hiking, the focus was outward, not inward. I stopped thinking about me and started focusing on the environment. I exercised longer and I lost weight," said Sullenberger.

That was seven years and 30 pounds ago. Today, Sullenberger, who owns ShapeXpress For Women in Alamo, is an outdoor enthusiast who hikes, bikes and kayaks every chance she gets. She leads local hikes and has blazed trails on the peaks of Mount Whitney and Mount Shasta.

While Sullenberger enjoys the challenge of extreme hikes, she spends most of her time covering ground in the hilly terrain that surrounds this area. In fact, residents of the San Ramon Valley can be at some of the premier hiking locales in the Bay Area with just a 10-minute drive. With spring in the air, the hills turning green, and wildflowers blooming, there's no better time than now to enjoy the natural wonders of our area.

Locally, Sullenberger splits her time between two open spaces: Las Trampas Regional Wilderness and Mt. Diablo State Park. Access to the parks is close to town and each boasts beautiful scenery, stunning views and miles of footpaths.

Las Trampas Regional Wilderness sits just west of Danville. Operated by East Bay Regional Parks District, the open space has several access points in

Alamo and Danville. The main trailhead is located on Bollinger Canyon Road and includes a parking lot, picnic tables and rustic restroom facilities. In Alamo, there are also trailheads on Camille, Hemme and South Avenues that lead into Las Trampas.

The park is bisected by Bollinger Creek. To the west of the parking lot is Rocky Ridge, accessible via a paved road that ascends to the 2,000-foot summit. The parkland adjoins the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) Upper San Leandro Watershed and an entire day can be spent exploring the ridge and the Devil's Hole area. Views from the Rocky Ridge trail take in the entire Bay including the San Francisco skyline.

From the trails accessed via Camille, Hemme or South avenues as well as from the trails on the east side of Las Trampas' main staging area, hikers can explore ridges and peaks offering spectacular views of the San Ramon Valley, Mount Diablo and the Carquinez Strait. The trails can be steep and muddy this time of year, but the views are worth it.

Situated on the east side of Danville, the silent silhouette of Mount Diablo stands 3,849 feet above sea level. According to Save Mount Diablo, an organization dedicated to maintaining the open space on and surrounding Mount Diablo, the park now consists of 83,000 acres. Nestled on its slopes is a state park that offers miles of pathways to explore that range from highly accessible to highly challenging.

From the popular Macedo Ranch staging area on Green Valley Road, trekkers can access a number of footpaths that lead into the park. Or if hikers enter the park's main gate, trailheads at Curry Point and Rock City are popular staging areas.

On a clear day from Mount Diablo, outdoor explorers will enjoy views to the west of the Golden Gate Bridge, to the north of Mount Shasta, to the east of the Sierra and to the south of the Santa Cruz Mountains. For the best views from Mount Diablo, try exploring the park right after it rains.

For Sullenberger, who spends a lot of time in these parks, there are so many good routes, it's hard to decide which path to follow. She looks for three features in a good hike: a loop, a destination or a special feature, and some challenge.

In Las Trampas, she likes to climb the Rocky Ridge Trail to the rock formations that dot the ridgeline. From the main staging area on Bollinger Canyon, she recommends heading up the paved trail to the west. When you get to the top, follow the Upper Ridge Trail south along the ridgeline. The trail is steep, but highly accessible since it's paved most of the way.

Sullenberger says hikers on Mount Diablo won't want to miss the scenery through Dan Cook Canyon on the first part of the Summit Trail. The trailhead is located beyond the park gate on South Gate Road. This three-mile loop is a trail known for its variety of trees and will lead hikers to vistas overlooking sandstone formations and to the mazes of Rock City. It's considered a moderately strenuous hike, which means it will have some steep inclines.

This time of year, Sullenberger also recommends the Falls Loop Trail on the east side of Mount Diablo. Accessed from the Concord side of the mountain, the trail is surrounded by meadows perfect for spring picnics. This time of year, hikers are treated to amazing waterfalls, green hills and wildflowers. The nearly six-mile loop covers a number of trails, and hikers will want to take a map.

Sullenberger points out that hiking is the perfect entry activity for people new to the outdoors. Anyone who can walk can hike. And regardless of the trail and the speed it's traversed, hikers of all fitness levels will benefit from getting out and walking. Hiking at a comfortable pace of two miles per hour burns 240 calories in one hour for a person weighing 150 pounds, according to the American Hiking Society,

Beyond a love of adventure and the outdoors,

Sullenberger believes three items are essential to ensure their outdoor experiences are enjoyable.

"I think a good hiking shoe is the most important," said Sullenberger. She points out that hiking shoes have evolved from the stiff, heavy boots of the past into lighter weight trail shoes that are more comfortable.

Next, Sullenberger recommends a hydration system that can be carried either on the hip or around the waist. The newer systems have flexible, collapsible mouthpieces that make it easy for hikers to drink fluids continuously.

"The problem with water bottles is they're hard to carry," said Sullenberger.

Finally, sun block and a good hat are essential for protecting your skin when exercising outdoors. Overexposure to the sun while hiking can lead to sunburn and skin damage if precautions aren't taken.

There are other risks that hikers should be aware of before hitting the local trails, including mountain lions, snakes and bears that can be encountered while traversing the terrain. But Sullenberger believes the biggest risk is twisting an ankle or encountering an unexpected situation. For that reason, she cautions women to hike with a partner or against hiking alone.

"Find a buddy or get a sitter and a dog," said Sullenberger. "If you're married, your husband; it's a great bonding experience." ■

For many, the risks that may be encountered upon during a hike are far outweighed by the rewards that await adventurers. It's the views and the encounters with nature that keep them returning to their favorite trails year after year.

As Sullenberger leaves another beautiful day behind her in a cloud of trail dust, she says she'll keep hiking.

"It makes me feel connected to the earth and the gifts Mother Nature gave us." ■



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### Try A Hike

To access the Las Trampas Wilderness Area's main staging site, take I-680 south to the Crow Canyon Road exit. Follow Crow Canyon Road west to Bollinger Canyon Road and go right. Stay on Bollinger Canyon until it ends. The staging area is on the left and trailheads are located north of the parking lot. For more information, visit [www.ebparks.org/parks/last-ram.htm](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/last-ram.htm).

To access Mt. Diablo State Park, take Diablo Road three miles east to Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard. The gates for the park open at 8 a.m, but trailheads on Green Valley Road at the Maceda Ranch Staging Area and on Finley Road are outside the park's main gate and may be accessed earlier. For more information on the different trails in Mt. Diablo State Park, visit the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association's Web site at [www.mdia.org](http://www.mdia.org). Under its events schedule section, it has a complete list of hiking activities including trail maintenance opportunities, guided hikes and other events taking place in Mt. Diablo State Park.

### Hiking Tips

If the warm weather is a siren's song beckoning you to take a spring hike, don't forget to take few items to make your outdoor experience more enjoyable.

- Shoes with a substantial tread that hold your foot firmly in place will increase your stability and ability to cover the terrain comfortably.
- Water, water, water. As temperatures climb, the risk of dehydration increases with it.
- Sunscreen to protect your skin from the sun's damaging rays will keep your skin looking young.
- Energy bars are a great snack if you're going to be gone for more than a couple of hours.
- Binoculars to fully enjoy the views and wildlife on your outdoor adventure.
- A cell phone is important to carry, but may not work in the more remote areas of the park.

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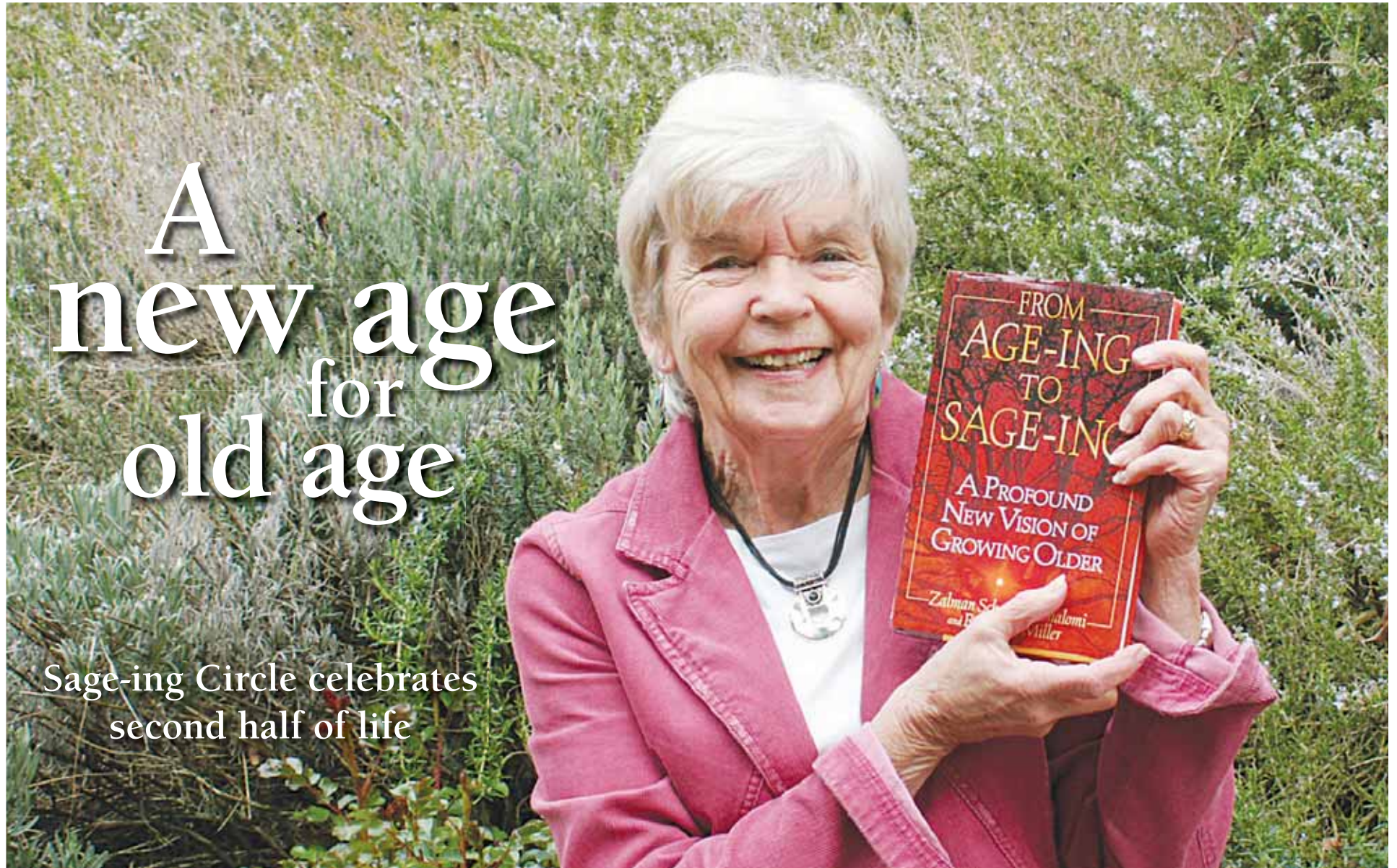
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## A new age for old age

Sage-ing Circle celebrates second half of life

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

At 64, Jean Crane began a successful real estate career. At 76, she “retired” because she had a lot of other things to do. One of them was becoming certified as a Sage-ing Circle leader, and now she is inviting older folks to gather around and explore the next phase of their lives.

Crane, 78, believes in “conscious aging,” looking at it as a positive journey filled with learning, vision and adventure.

“So many people are turning 60 and wondering, ‘Now what?’ ‘What is the purpose of my life?’” Crane said. “They are interested in an inner journey.”

She and her friend Helen Tiernan, who lives in Fairfield, will be giving a class called “Second Journeys: Celebrating the Second Half of Life,” at the Danville Community Center for four weeks in April.

“The whole program isn’t to deny our aging but to see it in a positive light,” said Crane. “I call it ‘Beyond Bingo.’ It’s about breaking stereotypes that we have, and what aging is. It’s about facing our mortality and acknowledging our wisdom.”

Crane distinguishes between successful aging and conscious aging. Many people who are successfully aging may not think they need the class.

### Four class topics

- **Introduction:** What is conscious aging? Breaking stereotypes. Finding purpose. Positive aspects of aging.
- **Forgiveness:** Life Review. Forgiveness—a gift to ourselves.
- **Facing our mortality:** Examining our fears. Death is not a mistake. Engaging more fully in life.
- **Conscious living:** Mindfulness. How to live in the present. Focusing on the positives in life.

“There’s nothing wrong with this,” she said, pointing to attributes of successful aging, which include staying active and attempting to sustain value such as “success” and “productivity.”

“But ‘conscious aging’ is an inner journey,” Crane said. “It’s harvesting all these things we have done.”

Participants first discuss myths about aging, she said. Some are that aging inevitably brings illness and disability; and that getting old means being sad, lonely and unproductive.

Sometimes when store clerks offer a hand with the groceries, an older person might think they have been targeted as “needing help,” she noted, when in fact, the clerks offer assistance to everyone.

“Different things bug them,” said Jean. “I don’t like hearing an older person called ‘cute.’”

Jean Krumboltz, also a Danville resident, took Crane’s classes when they were offered recently at the Unity Center in Walnut Creek.

“I was a bit reluctant to admit I was at the age where a course on aging would be of interest to me,” said Krumboltz, 69, who already knew Crane through an investment group. “I have a husband who plays tennis every morning and is on two softball teams. We’re pretending we’re kids here. But there comes a time when reality sets in.”

“I went with expectations of learning how to grow old gracefully but that’s not it,” she said. “It’s discovering who you are and rejoicing about it. Being in the moment. Once you can really do that—realize that at this moment I am fine, I’m happy—it can extend to all parts of your life.” It’s not thinking of the past or the future. It’s living in the richness of the present moment.

She said the program also works a lot on forgiveness. “We do a life review and do forgiveness exercises,” she said. That means forgiving others for causing a wound to you and forgiving yourself for choices you made.

“A lot of it is letting go of your ego,” Krumboltz said. “It’s

### Join the Sage-ing Circle

**What:** Second Journeys: Celebrating the Second Half of Life  
**Presenters:** Jean Crane, Helen Tiernan, certified sage-ing leaders  
**For:** Men and women, 55 and over  
**When:** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Thursdays, April 6-27  
**Where:** Community Center, 420 Front St., Danville  
**Cost:** \$60 for Danville residents; \$72 for non-residents  
**Signups:** Call 314-3400; or register on town’s Web site

not easy. A lot of times I ask myself, ‘Do I want to be right or be happy?’ If you choose ‘right,’ that’s ego. If you choose ‘happy,’ it’s your spirit.”

She also recalled talking about their fears. “One gal said, ‘I’m afraid to even tell anybody I’m afraid.’ It’s a taboo subject,” Krumboltz said. “Others say being a burden to their children, being less than perfect physically, losing your mind.”

“But you can’t pre-worry,” she added.

They also make a life graph, decade by decade, to help them see major themes in their lives, things to be grateful for, and to help them reflect on their future. And they write in a journal.

Crane said the class is for the baby boomers, now in their late 50s, but it is also for those in their 60s, 70s and 80s.

“They are different from seniors of 20 years ago,” she said. “We can’t stereotype them or put them in boxes.”

Crane had already been certified as a senior peer counselor through Contra Costa County when she became interested in the spiritual aging process. She and Tiernan went to Santa Barbara for workshops by the Sage-ing Guild, a movement started by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. He wrote “Age-

► Continued on page 18



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

## French Onion Soup ... 'S wonderful, 'S marvelous

*"Oh 's wonderful, 's marvelous, that you should care for me!"*  
—George & Ira Gershwin

Did you ever get on a food kick? I'm not talking about a binge like the chocolate ones that possess me two to three times each year. No, I mean a true-blue food kick. In the last two weeks, I've had three different bowls of French onion soup—in Palo Alto, in Berkeley and in San Francisco. You might think I'd have onion-souped myself out, mais non (but no), the three-peat adventure only turned my thoughts to more onion soup.

That's how it is with us "foodies." We spot something on a menu that's dear to our tummies and that we haven't had in awhile and we order it. Soon thereafter, we see it on another restaurant's listings and order another bowl, just to compare to the earlier one. When we see it featured again within days on a third restaurant menu, we figure it must be fate—third time's a charm, right? By then, we're hooked. Now we're on a virtual cross-county competition to critique each bowl, discern all subtle differences ... and maybe outdo them all.

So, it was pretty predictable when I found myself thumbing through my recipe binders to find my favorite onion soup recipes and pondering: "When, exactly, was the last time I made French onion soup?" "Wasn't I past due to make up a homemade pot of it again?" "What was the best version I'd ever had ... where and when?"

My culinary memories did a Google search: The best bowl of the stuff I'd ever consumed had been in December 1969—a honeymoon actually—on a blustery winter day in Montreal, Quebec. Yes, those French Canadians really know how to make wonderful French onion soup. No matter that the cheese was so bubbly and the soup so hot that I scorched the edge of my tongue numb for days. That only added to the warmth I welcomed to offset my frostbitten toes and fingers. (The travel agent had booked us in a charming but very old castle-turned-hotel with insufficient heating for a thin-blooded Southern gal like me.) The fact that I can remember it fondly 30-plus years later only confirms: Yes, that was an outstanding bowl of French onion soup ... the way French

► Continued on page 18

### French Onion Soup #1 (serves 4)

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
- 6 onions (about 3 pounds), thinly sliced
- 6 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 3 cups canned low-salt chicken broth
- 3 cups canned beef broth
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 4 sourdough bread slices, toasted
- 1 cup grated Swiss cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan

1. Over medium heat, melt butter in heavy large saucepan.
2. Sauté garlic and onions until tender and brown, about 45 minutes. Add wine and simmer until reduced to glaze, about 3 minutes.
3. Stir in chicken broth, beef broth and mustard. Simmer 20 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. (Note: The soup can be prepared a day ahead and refrigerated. Return soup to simmer before continuing.)
4. Preheat broiler. Ladle soup into flame-proof bowls. Top each with slice of toast and grated cheeses. Broil until cheeses melt and bubble.

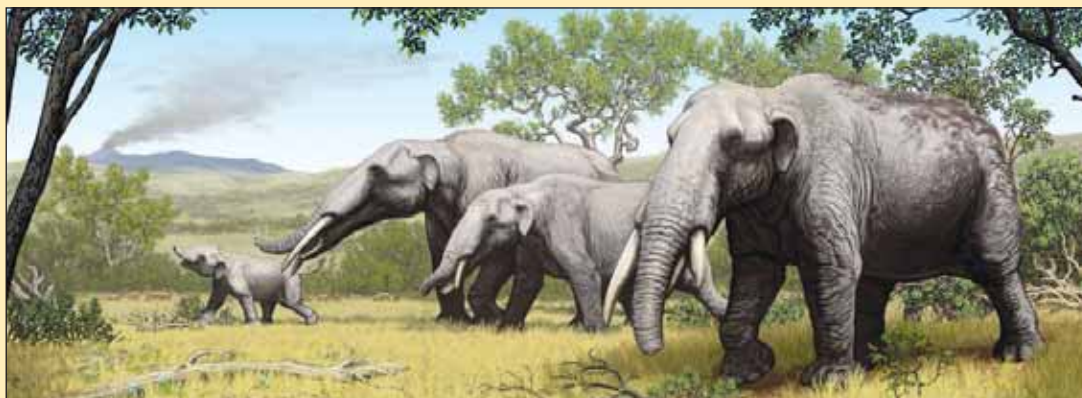
### French Onion Soup #2

#### Soupe a L'oignon au Fromage (serves 6)

- 5 pounds large onions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 stick ( 1/4 cup) unsalted butter
- 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 quarts beef broth
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 12 1/2-inch-thick slices of French bread, toasted
- 3/4 pound Gruyère cheese, coarsely grated

1. Over moderate heat in a large pot, cook the onions in the butter, stirring frequently, 35-40 minutes or until they are golden brown.
2. Sprinkle the onions with the flour and cook the mixture, stirring, for 3 minutes.
3. Add the broth slowly, stir the soup constantly until it comes to a boil, and simmer it, covered, for 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Put 2 slices of the toast in each of 6 heated soup bowls, top each toast with 1 tablespoon of the Gruyère, and pour the soup over the toasts. Alternate serving option: Arrange 2 toasts each on top of 6 flame-proof bowls of soup, heap each of them with 1 tablespoon of the Gruyère. Broil them in a preheated broiler several inches from the heat for 2-3 minutes or until the cheese is melted and bubbly.

## Presenting the Past



### Presenting prehistory

At the Blackhawk Ranch Fossil Quarry, fossils have been unearthed from an antecedent of mastodons and elephants, the "Gomphotherium simpsoni." University of California paleontologists have investigated the site since the 1930s. This illustration by Carl Buell first appeared in Bay Nature magazine (July/September 2001). The drawing may be viewed as a large color mural in the "Beasts in Your Backyard" exhibit until April 22 at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, housed in the restored Danville train depot at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues.

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## AT THE MOVIES

**CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill:** 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (687-1100)  
**Century 14 Walnut Creek:** 1201 Locust St., Walnut Creek (937-7025)  
**Blackhawk Movie 7:** 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0368)  
**Crow Canyon 6:** 2525 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon (820-4831)  
**Hacienda Crossings 20/ Regal Imax Theater:** 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (560-9600)  
**Internet address:** For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at <http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/>

**Note:** Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

<b>16 Blocks (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 4:45, 9:25 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 1:35, 4:10, 6:40 p.m., Sat no show 6:40 p.m.
<b>ATL (NR)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50 p.m.
<b>Basic Instinct 2 (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 2:05, 5:10, 7:55, 10:50 p.m.
<b>Curious George (G)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:45, 4 p.m.
<b>Deep Sea (NR)</b>	<b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri-Tues 10:30, 11:35 a.m., 12:40 p.m.
<b>Eight Below (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:55, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:20, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25 p.m.
<b>Failure to Launch (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 10:05 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues noon, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:40 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:10, 10:45 p.m.
<b>Hills Have Eyes (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 4:15, 9:35 p.m.
<b>Ice Age 2 (G)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 12:30, 12:45, 2:45, 3, 5, 5:15, 7:15, 7:30, 9:30, 9:45 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:30, 9:45 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 12:15, 12:50, 1:25, 2, 2:40, 3:15, 3:50, 4:25, 5:05, 6:15, 6:50, 7:30, 8:05, 8:40, 9:15, 9:55, 10:30 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2, 4:20, 7, 9:20 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:20 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10, 10:30, 11, 11:30 a.m., noon, 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30, 3, 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9, 9:30, 10, 10:20, 10:55 p.m.; Mon-Tues no show 10 a.m.
<b>Inside Man (R)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 12:40, 3:35, 6:30, 9:25 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:25 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 1:35, 2:50, 4:20, 5:45, 7:15, 8:45, 10:05 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1:10, 4, 7:10, 10 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:35, 1:10, 3:40, 4:20, 6:45, 7:40, 9:55, 10:40 p.m.; Closed caption: Fri 12:35, Sat 3:40, Sun 12:35, 9:55, Mon 12:35, 6:45 p.m.
<b>Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 7:20, 9:40 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 12:55, 3:30, 5:50, 8:15, 10:35 p.m.
<b>Lonesome Jim (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 12:30, 2:50, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55 p.m.
<b>Mrs. Henderson Presents (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 3:15, 7:35 p.m.
<b>Pink Panther (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:20, 7:10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 1:40, 6:50 p.m.
<b>Shaggy Dog (PG)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 10 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7, 9:20 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 6:40, 9:10 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:35 p.m.
<b>She's the Man (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:40 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:25, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:35 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:50, 5:35, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.
<b>Slither (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55 p.m., Open Captioned Tues 2:20, 9:55 pm.
<b>Stay Alive (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:30 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:30 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10 p.m.
<b>Take the Lead (PG-13)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Sat 7 p.m.
<b>Thank You for Smoking (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 12:40, 2, 3, 4:20, 5:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:10, 10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 12:25, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05, 9:40, 10:30 p.m.
<b>Transamerica (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 1:05, 5:25, 9:45 p.m.
<b>Tsotsi (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:50 p.m.
<b>V for Vendetta (R)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:35 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:35 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 1:20, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:50 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:40, 6:20, 9:25 p.m. <b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri-Tues 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.

## Epicure

► Continued from page 17

onion soup was meant to taste!

But all that pondering and reminiscing worked up an appetite for, you guessed it, soup. I was now fixated on whipping up a batch of my own. And I was going to try and match that memorable bowl in Montreal. Should I have worried that it was probably made by some French Canadian executive chef who earned his culinary degree from the Sorbonne and had secured the recipe from his great-great grandmother Antoinette? C'est la vie! I tried anyway.

And, now that I have satiated myself with onion soup for at least a year, let me see if I can pass this food kick on to you. The weather's still chilly enough to enjoy a hot bowl of soup. On the list of must-try recipes, French onion soup is a standard-bearing dish for every good cook. You must try making some before spring flowers come into bloom! I'm offering you two time-tested recipes. Try either. But, if you're a real "foodie," I'm betting you won't just make one. One, two, three bowls ... just don't be surprised if, between tongue-scorching sips, you break into song: "S wonderful... 's marvelous!"

P.S. By the way, the imperfect chef in me knows a shorter route. One of the fastest and tastiest versions of French onion soup can be found at Trader Joe's in downtown Danville. The next time you're in Joe's, pick up a package of its French onion soup from the frozen food section and tuck it away in your freezer. One of these days, you'll have an overwhelming urge for some onion soup. Put on your DVD of "Gigi" or "An American in Paris," pop the soup in the oven, and light a couple candlesticks. Within minutes, a bowl of steaming, almost-authentic French onion soup...voila!

*Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage-car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes. E-mail her at [Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com).*

## Sage-ing

► Continued from page 16

ing to Sage-ing," proposing a new model for late life that helps older people become "spiritually radiant, physically vital and socially responsible 'elders of the tribe.'" The idea is that as they become older, people can begin an upward arc of expanded consciousness.

Crane, who lives with her husband in Danville, has been in the travel business and raised four daughters. She has given workshops on "Clarity, Direction, and Purpose," has been a yoga instructor, and is a feng shui consultant. Her partner Tiernan is also married with many years of life experience in business and the creative arts.

Krumboltz already had an interest in spirituality, too, but said she hopes that image won't keep people away. "This is a wonderful way to start a conversation about aging," she said. "It's not 'new age'; it's remembering." ■

# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Art

### PBS Artist Stefan Baumann

Alamo-Danville Artists' Society will be hosting well-known PBS Television artist Stefan Baumann at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. This event is free and visitors are welcome. For information, visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org).

## Author Visits

### Author Don Larsen at Library

Don Larsen, author of "I've Never Been an Old Man" and "Prairie Tides: The Ebbs and Flow of an Era," will be telling his story at 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. For information call 837-4889.

### Meditate with Dr. Marshall Zaslove

Come and meditate with Dr. Marshall Zaslove, who will be offering simple and effective techniques to help you find your inner peace, at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 6, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. For information call 837-4889.

## Clubs

### Danville Women's Club

The Danville Women's Club meets for lunch and a program at noon the third Thursday of each month from September to June at the Clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa. The cost for lunch is \$15 per person. To reserve a place or table, call Helen at 820-2621. For information, call 837-7528.

### Danville-Alamo Garden Club

Danville-Alamo Garden Club will be touring the UC Botanical Gardens for a docent-led tour "Around the World in 60 Minutes," on Thursday, April 6. The group will be meeting at 10:30 a.m., in the Sycamore Park & Ride parking lot. For information and reservations, call Sandy at 736-2989.

## Concerts

### Mad & Eddi Duran Quartet

The Jazz at Peace Series continues with the Mad & Eddi Duran Quartet, at 5 p.m., Sunday, April 9, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. For information call 648-7000 or visit [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org).

### 'Musical Night at the Movies'

A 85-member concert band will be offering "A Musical Night at the Movies" with a divine dinner and Danville's own Three Tenors, at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 9, at the Blackhawk Country Club Lakeside Ballroom. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and the concert will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45. For reservations or information call 736-6500, ext. 0.

## Events

### Got E-Waste?

Electronic Waste Management will be hosting a free E-Waste Recycling Event, noon-5 p.m., Friday, March 31, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2, in Diablo Valley College's Lot 7-Overflow Parking Lot, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Items that will be accepted are TVs, fax machines, VCRs and DVDs, monitors, etc. Please do not bring copiers, appliances, microwaves, batteries, audio/visual equipment, fans, stereo equipment, vacuums, lamps, video cameras or smoke detectors. Call (866) 335-3373 or visit [www.acqoffice.com](http://www.acqoffice.com).

### Open Mic Night

Can you sing? Tell jokes? San Ramon is looking for you to fill five-minute time slots at its Open Mic Night, starting at 7 p.m., Friday, March 31, at Front Row Theatre inside the new Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. This event is free. If you would like to perform, call 973-3372 to reserve a five-minute slot. All ages welcome!

### Pinewood Derby

The Mt. Diablo Silverado Council along with the Blackhawk Museum will be hosting the sixth annual Blackhawk 500 Pinewood Derby with fun for the whole family. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with an opening ceremony at 9 a.m., and the races will start at 9:30 a.m. with an awards ceremony at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, April 8, at the Blackhawk Museum.

### Wine Tasting Party

Winesocials.com and the Society of Single Professionals invites you to a Wine Tasting Party with wines from different boutique wineries accompanied by specialty French appetizers from 7:30-10 p.m., Saturday, April 1, Consignment Plus Home Furnishings, 4250 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. Cost is \$20 in advance or \$30 at the door. For information, call 945-8340 or visit [www.winesocials.com](http://www.winesocials.com).

## Exhibits

### Beasts in Your Back Yard

The new exhibit at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley features fossils excavated from the Blackhawk Quarry in the late 1930s. The exhibit is running through April 22 at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. There is no admission fee but donations are encouraged. Call 837-3750 or visit [www.museumsv.org](http://www.museumsv.org).

### Car Illustrations

Blackhawk Museum presents Art Fitzpatrick, a fine artist who created a series of car illustrations for Pontiac Division in 1959 and also created the popular "Sporty Cars" series for the U.S. Post Office, from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 22, at the Blackhawk Museum. For information, call Jon Hart at 736-2277, ext. 248, or visit [www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).

### The Art of the Poster

Blackhawk Museum is paying tribute to the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance with a special exhibition titled "The Art of the Poster." Museum hours are from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, now through August. For more information, contact Jon Hart at 736-2280 or [www.BlackhawkMuseum.org](http://www.BlackhawkMuseum.org).

## Fundraisers

### 'Blossom Into Spring' Fashion Show

GFWC/Danville Women's Club is hosting a fashion show, "Blossom Into Spring," to benefit Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa, at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 29, Crow Canyon Country Club. Tickets are a donation of \$35 and must be purchased before April 20 by calling Barbara Chavez at 828-0347 or 837-1165.

### Children of Faith Auction

'Footprints in the Sand' Valley Christian Elementary School will be hosting its first annual Children of Faith Auction, "Footprints in the Sand," starting at 6 p.m., Friday, April 28, at 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. The silent auction will start at 7 p.m. and the live auction

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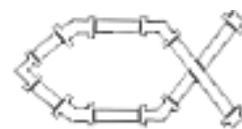
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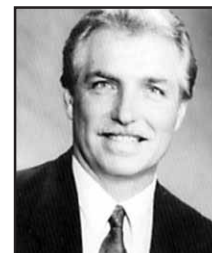
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will start at 8:30 p.m. and will help fund their programs. For information, contact Renee Rogers at 648-7999 or reneerogers@vcesauction.com.

**Couture Printemps**

The Diablo Ballet will be hosting a fashion show featuring clothing from Talbot's, evening wear from Clarissa and jewelry from Tiffany & Co., at 11 a.m., Thursday, April 6, Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. This event will benefit the Children's Educational Outreach Program. Tickets are \$70. For information, call 943-1775 or visit www.diabloballet.org.

**Easter Hat Parade Fashion Show**

The Blackhawk Museum Guild will present an Easter Hat Parade fashion show with mistress of ceremonies Tori Campbell of KTVU News, featuring clothes by Jones New York and lunch catered by Scott's Seafood Grill & Bar (no host bar) at 11 a.m., Saturday,

April 1 (no fooling), Blackhawk Museum. Cost is \$65 to benefit the Children's Education Transportation Fund, which helps defray transportation costs for schools in Contra Costa County. Call the Museum Guild at 736-2277 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

**Fourth Annual Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive**

Youth groups from all over the Tri-Valley will be collecting nonperishable items for local food pantries, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 29. About 1,000 youth volunteers will be going door-to-door around the Tri-Valley area to collect donations. For information, contact David Bahr at 998-6513 or visit www.youthfooddrive.com.

**Sheriff's Jubilee Charity Ball**

Contra Costa County Sheriff's Charity will be hosting its 26th annual Jubilee Ball to benefit the Wheelchair Foundation and West Contra Costa Salesian Boys & Girls Club, at 6 p.m., Sunday, April 9, Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This event will include dancing and a cocktail reception. Tickets are \$125 each, or \$250 per couple. Call 372-0969.

**Spring Boutique Sale**

The MOMS Club and Children's Film Festival will be hosting a Spring Boutique Sale from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at the Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. This event will benefit a national charity, Mother to Mother Fund. Free refreshments will be provided, with drawing prizes and entertainment for the kids. For information, contact Cori at 803-8083.

**SRVHS Fastpitch Girls Softball Crab Feed**

SRVHS Fastpitch Girls Softball Team will be hosting a Crab Feed to help raise money for improvements to the fields and equipment, starting at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 22, Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Tickets are \$35 and are available from any SRVHS player or by calling 837-8639.

**Third Annual Teen Esteem Fundraiser**

Teen Esteem will be holding its third annual fundraiser, "Don't Be Fooled," starting at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 1, at the Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. The night will include a silent and live auction, no host bar, dancing, guest speaker Doug Herman, and dinner starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$95 per person. For information and a listing of auction items, visit www.teenesteem.com.

**Third Annual UCP Golf Classic**

With a day of golf, including lunch, exciting contests, prizes and special celebrity appearances, the third annual UCP Golf Classic will be starting at 10 a.m., Monday, April 24, Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. This event will conclude with a gourmet dinner and a silent auction to benefit United Cerebral Palsy of the Golden Gate. Tickets for the whole day are \$175; \$40 for dinner only. Call (510) 832-7430, ext. 4, or visit www.ucpgg.org.

**Health**

**New Approaches to Spine Problems**

A seminar called, "Spine Care: New Approach to Common Problems," will be hosted by San Ramon Regional Medical Center, from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, in the South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. This event is free; reservations are required. Call (800) 284-2878 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

**Holidays**

**Eggstravaganza**

Don't miss a fun filled family morning at Eggstravaganza for children ages 1-9, with different times per age group. The event is 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 15, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road, Danville. Cost is \$5 for resident, \$6 for non-resident.

**Kids & Teens**

**Arts for Terrific Twos, Threes & Fours!**

Spring art, crafts, movement and music classes for your 2-4 year olds will be starting with a variety of dates and times: Tuesdays, April 18-June 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m.; Wednesdays, April 19-June 7, 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m., at the Danville Community Center, Art Room. Eight classes cost \$95 per child with a \$10 materials fee payable to the instructor, Mary Buschini.

**Children's Author Day**

Children's Author Day will host 11 amazing children's books authors from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 1, at The Polka Dot Attic, Danville. Come and meet, hear their books and get autographs with food, fun and prizes! This event is free. For information, call 838-8004 or visit www.thepolkadotattic.com.

**Danville Invites Teen Involvement**

Danville Town Council is inviting teens to get involved in local government by volunteering to serve on the Parks and Leisure Services Commission and Arts Commission. The two-year terms begin July 1. The Parks and Leisure Services Commission will meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of each month and the Arts Commission will meet on at 6 p.m. every first Wednesday of alternating months. Obtain an application and more information by calling 314-3410 or visiting www.ci.danville.us. Applications are due by 4 p.m., Friday, May 19, and an appointment to the Commission will be made at the Town Council meeting Tuesday, June 20.

**Fitness Celebration**

ValleyCare Health System presents its third annual "Fitness Celebration," run with rides, health fair and a summer youth camp kickoff starting at 7 a.m., Saturday, April 8, LifeStyleRx, 1119 E.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



**Come to the 'Kabaret'**

Danville resident Sophie Oda is performing in "Kabaret for Kids," a musical variety show for kids and families that benefits Foster a Dream. The event will have four different showings starting at 2:15 p.m., Saturdays, April 1, 8, 15 and 22, at Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$12 each and can be obtained at calling 943-SHOW (943-7469) or by visiting the box office.

Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All proceeds will benefit Healthy Kids P.E. programs in Tri-Valley Elementary Schools. To register call (209) 795-7832 or visit www.onyourmarkevents.com.

**Junior Ranger Program**

Mt. Diablo State Park is offering a Junior Ranger Program for children ages 7-12, where kids will have the opportunity to learn about wild-life and geology on Mount Diablo. Sessions will run from 2-5 p.m., with five Saturday sessions from May 6-June 10 for children and one parent. Registration is required. There is no charge for the program, only the Park's entrance fee is required. For more information and registration, contact Ranger Jack Duggan at 837-6129 or jduggan@parks.ca.gov.

**Summer Sports, Activities Programs**

LifeStyleRx will be presenting a lot of sports and activities for kids and teens including, Basketball, Boot Camp, Speed Agility Quickness (SAQ), All-Access, Volleyball, Multi-Sports and Activities, Lacrosse, Foot Hockey, Hukilau Hula, Cardio Hip-Hop, Tweens and Teens Power Yoga, Princess Pointers, Summer Splash, Group Swim Lessons, Summer Rec Swim Team and Teen Chefs! These classes are held Monday-Friday with different times and dates that can be found by calling 454-6342 or by visiting www.lifestylere.com. Early bird specials: April 1-May 1.

**T-bird Football and Cheer**

T-bird Football and Cheer are holding a registration from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, April 2, at Vista Grande Elementary, Danville. Football only registrations will be held 1-4 p.m., Sunday, May 21, and from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, June 6. For information, visit www.srvtbirds.com.

ASL-trained instructors, will teach parents and babies basic sign language in a fun environment, meeting every Tuesday, May 2-June 13 (No class Tuesday, May 13) at the Town Hall Meeting Room, 201 Front St., Danville. The "Walkers" class, ages 13-24 months meets from 9:30-10:15 a.m., and the "Pre-Walkers" class, ages 5-12 months meets from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required and the class cost \$135. (Registration is \$85 and Sign, Say & Play Starter Kit is \$50.) For information, visit www.babysignsbayarea.com.

**Internet Safety Workshop for Parents**

San Ramon Valley High School and SRVHS PTSA will be providing a informative workshop for parents of middle and high school teens about Internet safety from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, SRVHS Performing Arts Center, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Registration is not required, but requested. For information, contact Jill Schratz at 837-3578 or ptsamail@earthlink.net.

**Networking to Get What You Want**

Mt. Diablo Business Women invite you to their Networking Extravaganza with open networking, a sit down dinner and an interactive presentation on "Networking to Get What You Want," from 5:45-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 13, Lafayette Park Hotel. Reservations are required by calling 429-9253 or visiting www.mtdiablobusinesswomen.org.

**Preparing a Business Plan**

Technology Ventures Corp. will present "Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan," from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. This event is free, but registration is required. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org.

**'Spirit of Adoption'**

Debbie Thomas and America World Adoption Association will be sponsoring a workshop, "Spirit of Adoption," from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 22, Valley Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 2252 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. This event is free, but registration is required by visiting www.awaa.org or registering at the door.

**Lectures/ Workshops**

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## Literary Events

### Learn About Criminal Justice with a Bay Area Judge

The Mt. Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club is hosting a luncheon with Criminal Justice Expert, Judge Marchiano, at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 8, Concord Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Ave., Concord. Reservations are required and is \$17 for CWC members and \$20 for non-members. Contact Camille Minichino at (510) 881-8929 or camille@minichino.com before April 5 for reservations.

### Monet and Friends

Kay Payne will be presenting a slide survey and talk on the current exhibit at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, "Monet and Friends," at 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 3, Danville Library, 400 Front St. For information call 837-4889.

## Miscellaneous

### Candidates for the Parks and Leisure Services Commission

Danville Town Council invites Danville residents to get involved in local government by serving on the Parks and Leisure Services Commission. The four-year term begins July 1. The Parks and Leisure Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of each month. Applicants can obtain an application and more information by calling 314-3410 or visiting [www.ci.danville.us](http://www.ci.danville.us). Applications are due by 4 p.m., Friday, May 19, and an appointment will be made at the Town Council meeting Tuesday, June 20.

### Celebrating the Second Half of Life

Sage-ing Circle, Second Journeys ... Celebrating the Second Half of Life will meet from 9:30-11:30 a.m. four consecutive Thursdays beginning April 6, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., aimed at baby boomers turning 60. Preregistration is required and is \$60 for Danville residents including all four sessions. Call 314-3400 or e-mail Jean Crane at [jcrane88@pacbell.net](mailto:jcrane88@pacbell.net).

### Edible Schoolyards

Chelsea Chapman, program coordinator of Chez Panisse Foundation, will tell of a vision, "Edible Schoolyards," and the success of educating children on the growing of gardens and eating healthy food, at 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, Danville Library, 400 Front St. For information call 837-4889.

### Four Days on Diablo

Save Mount Diablo will be hosting a 30-mile trip up the Diablo Trail from Walnut Creek to Brentwood crossing over 50,000 acres of open space, from Wednesday-Saturday, May 3-6. Hikers will carry day packs and the equipment will be shuttled so each night the hikers will find the camp ready with wine, gourmet meals and evening lectures. Cost is \$750 per person, limited to 20 people. Call 947-3535 or visit [www.savemountdiablo.org](http://www.savemountdiablo.org).

### Watch the State of Town Address

Did you miss the State of Town Address meeting? Comcast will be presenting a re-play of Danville Mayor Karen Stepper's State of the Town Address, at 5:30 p.m., Friday, April 7, Comcast Channel 26.

## On Stage

### 'Devil's Due' Auditions

"Devil's Due," a new comedy, will be auditioning for a June production from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, April 2, Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Applicants are asked to bring a prepared two- to five-minute monologue and a headshot. Rehearsals will begin on Monday, April 17, and the show will run Fridays through Sundays, June 9-24. For information, call (510) 444-8521.

### Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents 'Gun Shy'

The Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Gun Shy," a funny story about marriage, divorce, infidelity, infertility, eternal love and diets no one should try. "Gun Shy" will be starting at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday and

Saturday evenings; and at 2 p.m. for Sunday matinees, from April 21-May 13, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$13-\$22. For tickets call 314-3463 or visit [www.village-theatre-shows.com](http://www.village-theatre-shows.com).

### Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'

San Ramon Valley High School will be performing William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," at 7 p.m., Sunday-Tuesday, April 23-25, in their Performing Arts Studio, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Tickets are \$7 per person; call Chuck Perryman at 552-3089 or send requests to [cperryman@srvhs.org](mailto:cperryman@srvhs.org). Tickets will also be sold at the door at \$8 per person.

## 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.

### Laugh Club

Medical research has proven what people have known for ages. Laughter is good for you. Join us for a half-hour laugh session at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. This event is free. Call Fred Turner at 216-4590.

### Lend-a-Hand Day

The Town of Danville will be helping Danville seniors with their spring yard clean-up, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 29. Seniors or volunteers should call 314-3476 for an information packet if they would like help with their yard clean-up.

## Spiritual

### San Damiano Retreat presents 'Entering the Pascal Mystery'

San Damiano Retreat presents "Entering the Pascal Mystery" as part of its Lenten Series from 7-9 p.m., Sunday, April 2, San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Preregistration is helpful, but walk-ins are welcome and the cost is \$15/evening, or \$75/series. Call 837-9141 or visit [www.sandamiano.org](http://www.sandamiano.org).

### San Damiano Retreat presents 'Following a Creative Path' for Women

San Damiano Retreat presents "Following a Creative Path" for women including presentations, quiet time, Eucharist and group sharing, from Friday, April through Sunday, April 9, San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Registration is required, \$155 for single occupant or \$185 for double occupancy. Call 837-9141 or visit [www.sandamiano.org](http://www.sandamiano.org).

## Support Groups

### San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support

San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia,

Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support meets from 7-9 p.m., every other Monday in Danville. Call Denise for location and information at 837-0510.

## Volunteering

### Bringing Back the Natives Tour

Volunteers are needed for the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sunday, May 7. This

tour will include 64 pesticide-free, water conserving gardens that provide habitat for wildlife and native plants. Registration is required to volunteer. Contact Kathy Kramer at (510) 236-9558. Visit [www.bringingbackthenatives.com](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.com).

### Diablo Valley Literacy Council

The Diablo Valley Literacy Council (DVLC) is looking for volunteers to help non-English speaking adults learn how to read, write and speak English. There will be three tutor-training workshops held: Saturday, May 6; Tuesday,

May 9; and Saturday, May 13, at DVLC, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. There is a non-refundable \$15 registration fee. For information or to register, call Jane at 938-0139.

### Help Your Senior Neighbors

A lot of Danville seniors need rides to their appointments, stores or to special events. The Seniors' Club at Veterans Memorial Hall is looking for volunteers to provide rides on an "as-needed basis" on one or more Mondays a month. Call Jenn Overmore at 314-3476 for more information.

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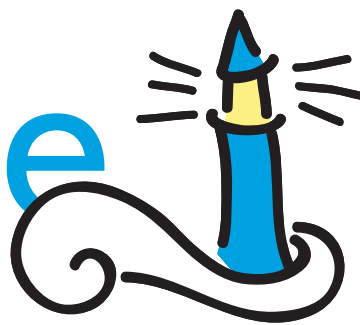
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**115 Announcements**  
Chronic Pain Support Group

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### 345 Tutoring/Lessons

**A+ PRIVATE TUTORING**  
Math, Science, English, Reading, SAT, in the privacy of your home.  
Grades 5 through high school.  
Retired Teacher ~ Reasonable Rates  
**925-846-5247**

### SPANISH TUTORING

**Spanish Tutoring**  
Millie Narvaez 925.736.7810  
Spanish tutoring

**TUTORING K-8**  
by licensed Elementary teacher and professional tutor, in my Danville home.  
\$15/hr MF.  
**925-648-3295**

### Violin Lessons

### 350 Preschools/Schools/Camps

ADVENTURES SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

Hacienda School Info. Night

Writing Camp in Pleasanton & PA

### 355 Items for Sale

A toy motorcycle for girl - \$8

Antique cradle - \$400

Counterfeit Det. Kids Mystery - \$7.95

NEW MEDELA ADVANCED BREAST PUMPS - \$265.00

**SIMMONS BABY CRIB \$80**  
**925-371-6842**

Oak ~ Good condition.

## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**"Wanting to Relocate to the Oregon Coast?"** Beautiful Astoria, Oregon awaits the right person! Experienced Agency Producer: Sales and Service Position. Established Insurance Office. jmarsch@farmer-sagent.com (Cal-SCAN)

### ACCOUNTANT

Inovys Corp. has openings for Accountant. Mail resume to: 6940 Koll Center Parkway, Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Attn: HR

**Bow Wow Extra \$\$\$.**  
Premium Pet Food Co. Seeking Individuals for in-store Pet Food Sales. Part Time Weekends 1-800-939-7387 x302. (Cal-SCAN)

### Detention Officer:

Phoenix, Arizona, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. \$14.99/hr. Excellent benefits. No Experience Necessary. Contact 602-307-5245. 1-877-352-6276, or www.MCSO.org 400 vacancies, including civilian positions. (Cal-SCAN)

### DRIVERS: \$1000 Bonus!

Just for hauling your FIRST flatbed load. Call Werner Enterprises for this and More!  
**800-346-2818, x135**

**DRIVERS: Start a New Career**  
Get your Commercial Drivers License 4 Weeks Training  
Jobs Available Upon Completion!  
**1-866-887-4937**

**DRIVING INSTRUCTORS**  
Precision Driving School is seeking P/T instructors. Flexible days. Clean driving record. \$14/hr.  
Call **925-803-9544**

### Firefighters.

Limited entry level openings for trainees w/H.S. diploma. Good physical condition. Must be under 34. No legal issues. Paid training, relocation expenses +bnfts. Call 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

### HAIRSTYLIST & ESTHETICIAN WANTED

Looking for experienced professionals F/T or P/T for busy full service salon. Great Atmosphere!  
Call **925-484-3650** or fax resume to **916-434-0238**

### HOUSECLEANERS NEEDED

**Good Wages ~ Weekly Pay  
Ideal Hours ~ Paid Mileage**  
Car, CDL & insurance are necessary  
Call **Merry Maids / Pleasanton**  
**(925) 462-0991**

### INSIDE CARRIER SALESPERSON

for transportation technology company. Telephone sales experience would be a strong plus. Transportation industry knowledge not necessary.  
If you are interested, please send your resume to the email address attached.  
**pmaloney@realtimefreight.com**  
Or call **925-426-1793**

### Lead Manufacturing Technician

Pleasanton Company seeks responsible, accountable, mature person to operate small manufacturing assembly group. The right candidate will have good communication skills and some experience in assembly and inventory control. Great work environment and excellent benefits package and vacation/holiday/sick time. Mon - Fri 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### NANNIES NEEDED!!!

Awesome Positions! No Fee!  
\$13-18/hr  
**A Nanny Connection**  
**925-743-0587**  
**www.nannyconnection.com**

### NANNY POSITIONS - see our display ad for Angelic Faces

### 525 Adult Care Wanted

**HELP NEEDED**  
for adult total care daughter confined to wheelchair. Weekday afternoons & weekends.  
Call **(925) 828-4068**

### 550 Business Opportunities

**A cash cow!**  
90 Vending Machine units/30 locations. Entire Business - \$10,970. Hurry! 1-800-836-3464. (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertise your home, property or Business for sale** in 125 community newspapers in California. Reach over 3 million readers for only \$1,500. Call this participating newspaper and ask about the Statewide Display ad program, or visit [www.cal-scan.com](http://www.cal-scan.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertise your job** opening in 200+ newspapers in California. Reach over 6 million readers for only \$500. Call this participating newspaper and ask about the Statewide Classified Ad program or visit [www.cal-scan.com](http://www.cal-scan.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**All cash candy route.**  
Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and candy. All for \$9,995. MultiVend, LLC 880 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, NY 11729. 1-888-625-2405.(Cal-SCAN)

**Great Investment:**  
Convenience Store, Liquor, Lotto, 12 RV spaces, 2 homes, for the price of a home/Tulelake, CA \$347,500. Call Jolene 1-530-640-2139; [www.KlamathFallsHallmarkRealty.com](http://www.KlamathFallsHallmarkRealty.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Learn to Buy Foreclosures,** tax liens, and rehabs for pennies on the dollar. Mentor walks you through each deal A-Z to insure SUCCESS. 1-800-693-3967 (Cal-SCAN)

**Mattress Cleaning & Sanitizing Business.** Over 4000 European Dealers. New in U.S. Removes dust mites/harmful allergens. Big profits, small investment. Complete training/support. Hygienitech. 1-888-999-9030. (Cal-SCAN)

### Start your own

Home Business for as low as \$19.95 per month. Must have computer with internet service. For Free Info - [www.biz12.com](http://www.biz12.com) or 1-770-725-6102 7am-2pm. (Cal-SCAN)

### 560 Employment Information

#### Attention Class -A

Truck Drivers and Owner Operators: Regional runs in AZ, CA & NV. Make the move to McKelvey. Call 1-800-410-6255. (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver- Make more money!**  
Regional, dedicated & OTR. Comfort zones available. CDL Training. Top of the line equipment. Call: 866-333-8801. Mention ref#163B.EOE (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver: Take Care of your Family.** Join ours. Swift offers excellent miles, compensation, CDL training. OTR, regional, dedicated runs. [www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com](http://www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com) 1-866-333-8801. Ref#163. EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver: Tuition Paid** training! CDL-A in 3 1/2 weeks! Great New Pay Package! Tuition reimbursement for recent school graduates! Must be 21. Drive CRST. [wgreen@crst.com](mailto:wgreen@crst.com) 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

**Drivers - Earn 41CPM** and Get Home! Regional runs - California and Arizona. Excellent equipment. CDL-A and 1 year OTR required. Henderson Trucking 1-800-851-4943. (Cal-SCAN)

### Drivers - CDL A

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**Great Pay. Truck Driving**  
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### SUPPLEMENT YOUR INCOME

Real Estate / Loans, FT/PT, Prepare For, or Licensed. Also need Team Captains, Telemarketers, Training. Danville or Concord location. Call Sylvia 925-285-1801

### Trainees Needed.

Earn up to \$40k+ next year. No experience required. \$0 down. CDL Training available. Call Central Refrigerated 800-777-9100 ext. 8571. (Cal-SCAN)

## Business Services

### 601 Accounting/Bookkeeping

**NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS?**  
Over 18 years experience in all aspects of bookkeeping.  
No job too big or too small!  
Call **Linda at 925-918-2233**



## Furry Friends

### Pet Sitting Services

Trained professional, daily visits, basic home care, reliable & caring.  
- Serving Pleasanton / Livermore Only -  
Call **Monika Harris 417-0424**  
Registered Veterinary Nurse

Accommodating  
Healthy and  
Special Needs  
Pets

### 604 Adult Care Offered

**Sylvie (RN) and Rebecca** will find the professional caregiver who matches your needs.

*We will help YOU stay in YOUR home with maximum independence.*

❖❖ R-S PROCARE ❖❖  
**HOME HEALTH SERVICES**  
Rebecca (925) 788-2503  
Sylvie (925) 890-7424

### 605 Antiques & Art Restoration

"A Labor of Love"  
**Antique Furniture Restoration & Repair**  
**925-462-0383**  
Impeccable Quality & Integrity of Workmanship

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*"I Make House Calls!"*

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**Need Cash? Lower Payments?**  
Amazing home refinance programs for All credit types. Save thousands. For Free report call 24 hr. recorded info: 1-888-286-3176 ext. 5520. (DRE01300747) (Cal-SCAN)

### 628 Graphics

## Sign Painting

**Hand-painted and vinyl lettering**

Vehicles, wood, windows, murals, banners and more.

**Art Works for You**  
Melissa  
**925-580-2810**  
Pleasanton

### 650 Pet Care/Grooming/Training

**We're the Super Pooper Scoopers!**  
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*Pet waste yard sanitation service*  
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**www.YourDogsBz.com**

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#### Custom Designed Sewing Work

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**Andrea's Cleaning Service**  
*Personalized Cleaning Home & Office*  
Quality Work, Dependable & Affordable  
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Cleaning schedule as you require!  
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**COMPLETE CLEANING**  
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Honest / Dependable / Thorough  
Move In/Out, Weekly/Bi-Weekly  
Licensed ~ Insured ~ Exc. references  
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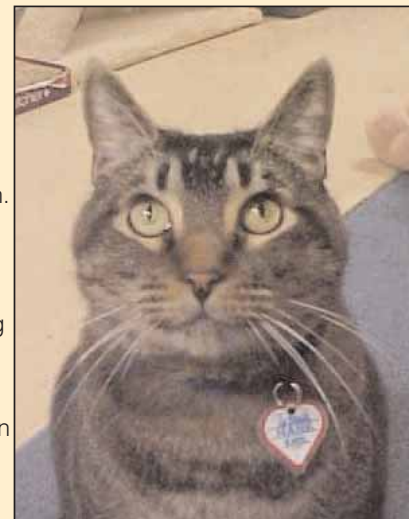
**Merry Maids**  
*"One Less Thing To Worry About"*  
We are insured, bonded & tailored to meet your needs  
**925-462-0991**

**Natalie's Housecleaning**  
**\$15/hr - 3 hr. minimum**  
MOVE-OUTS (\$20/hr - 3 hr. min)  
\* Pleasanton area only ! \*  
12 Yrs Exp ~ References  
M-F Call btwn 9:30am-6:30pm only  
**925-371-6842**

## Pet of the Week

**Say 'Hello, Hank!'**

Hank is a big, mellow gentleman. He is 6 years old, neutered, and he gets along well with other cats and even dogs when properly introduced.



Catherine Hansen Rush

Hank is de-clawed so he must be a strictly indoor pet. Hank is big, beautiful boy. He has a sweet disposition and he loves people. Visit Hank (pet # 6362) at Valley Humane Society, 273 Spring St. Valley Humane is open Tuesday-Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday-Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 426-8656 or visit [www.valleyhumanesociety.org](http://www.valleyhumanesociety.org)



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Residential & Commercial  
Quality Work ~ Dependable ~ Affordable  
Weekly / Biweekly / Monthly / Move In-Out  
Refs Avail / Free Estimates / Supplies  
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Specializing In  
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CULTURED MARBLE & ONYX  
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One-Day Interior Redesign, Decorating,  
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REDECORATE?**  
Advertise your home services business  
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little as \$7.25 per week.  
For details call 925-600-0084

  
**J.H. Designs**  
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Residential Telephone Service  
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Reaching 71,000 potential customers  
costs as little as \$7.25 per week. To  
advertise call 925-600-0840 today!

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GARDEN MAINTENANCE**  
Yard Clean-Up & Maintenance  
Good References Avail-10 yrs Exp  
Reasonable rates / Free estimates  
\$70 mo-2x mo. \$95 mo-4x mo.  
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Call for a  
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No job too small!

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requires that contractors taking jobs that total  
\$500 or more (labor or materials) be licensed  
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license number on all advertising. You can  
check the status of your licensed contractor at  
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Full Service Residential / Commercial  
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Dependable \* 30 Yrs Experience  
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\* Pleasanton area only \*  
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HAULING & TREE SERVICE**  
Yard & Garage clean-up / Dump runs  
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Tree Experts! Low Rates/Free Estimates  
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Is your pool ready for summer?  
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**Real  
Estate**

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San Leandro, 2 BR/1 BA  
San Leandro Duplex. Remodeled two  
bedroom with laundry in garage.  
\$1175/mo. No Pets. 925/846-2687

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Garage. Community Pools. \$2550/mo  
Dublin Bradywalsh.com, 4 BR/3 BA -  
\$2800  
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New Concord, 4 Bedrooms  
3 Full baths, Central Heat  
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Almost New 4 Bed / 2 Baths  
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**Fish Lake Valley N.V**  
New to Market. 7ac Trout Stream  
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Don't miss this opportunity to build  
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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 March 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 16	Total sales reported: 4	Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$226,500	Lowest sale reported: \$1,385,000	Lowest sale reported: \$363,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,695,000	Highest sale reported: \$3,205,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,475,000
Average sales reported: \$1,026,500	Average sales reported: \$1,941,750	Average sales reported: \$745,773

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
<b>554 El Pintado Road</b> P. & M. Barrata to J. & T. Peterson for \$1,275,000	<b>15 Sierra Ridge Court</b> J. Lee to R. & N. Groff for \$950,000	<b>240 Miranda Place</b> J. & K. Martie to R. & C. Hamilton for \$1,385,000
<b>232 El Pinto</b> Affinity Land to S. & J. Woodward for \$470,000	<b>1947 South Forest Hill Place</b> Bloedorn Trust to Bloedorn Trust for \$645,000	<b>1562 Ridgewood Road</b> J. & C. Myers to J. & L. Shaffer for \$1,427,000
<b>3070 Fostoria Circle</b> V. Padron to J. & A. Hendryx for \$495,000	<b>685 South Paradise Valley Court</b> Driscoll Trust to O. & F. Alocozy for \$830,000	<b>Walnut Creek</b>
<b>833 Glen Road</b> J. & C. Novelli to D. Lee for \$1,402,500	<b>4037 Sugar Maple Drive</b> D. & E. Larimer to D. & T. Davis for \$1,405,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #237</b> Alpine of Alma Development to P. Bensen for \$402,000
<b>321 Kingswood Lane</b> Themigroup Inc. to E. & S. Vendil for \$1,230,000	<b>121 Sunhaven Road</b> P. & N. Totman to S. & L. Maloney for \$1,500,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #245</b> Alpine of Alma Development to L. Wong for \$363,000
<b>1130 Lawrence Road</b> Buckley Trust to K. & H. Yamashita for \$1,450,000	<b>182 Tweed Drive</b> D. & S. Defesi to E. Napolitano for \$770,000	<b>3246 Bennington Court</b> F. & C. Smith to K. & G. Borchers for \$1,269,000
<b>8201 Mallard Street</b> E. & D. Eusebio to P. Elfving for \$645,000	<b>705 Ynez Circle</b> L. & J. Chiles to C. McGuire for \$226,500	<b>225 Clyde Drive</b> Patrick Trust to T. & D. Weis for \$1,475,000
<b>2 Maplewood Court</b> Moskow Trust to G. Singh for \$1,435,000	<b>Alamo</b>	<b>1875 Del Monte Court</b> Simmons Trust to G. Debruyne for \$702,500
<b>4311 Quail Run Lane</b> R. & C. Bertrand to B. & K. Park for \$1,695,000	<b>148 Alamo Springs Drive</b> C. & H. Pendell to T. Labenz for \$3,205,000	<b>1254 Edgewater Court</b> E. Gordon-Ramek to Iwig Trust for \$1,105,000
	<b>2900 Danville Boulevard</b> Adams Trust to D. Kanner for \$1,750,000	

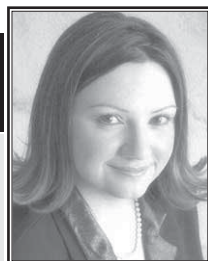
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\$600,000	1.000%/6.538%	\$1930 Monthly	\$1517 Monthly
\$800,000	1.000%/6.538%	\$2573 Monthly	\$2022 Monthly

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### This Week's Featured Home

#### FULLY FURNISHED



An old world theme sets off this single story, former model home that is being sold totally furnished. It has 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, family room, living room, formal dining room, huge kitchen with nook and a stunning office. A must see if you are thinking of relocation to the Auburn area. Offered at \$1,175,000

#### Other Homes & Land Available in Auburn

- New Construction, Single Story, 2600 sq.ft., views of Auburn Country Club and Buttes, 1/2 acre, \$749,950
  - New Construction, Single Story 2560 sq.ft., cul-de-sac, 3/4 acre, 3 bedrooms, office, great room, \$849,950
  - Sunset/golf course views, 2 acres w/pond, oak trees, flat building site, sewer and water available, \$325,000
  - Easy build 3/4 acre lot, with oak trees, rock out croppings, sewer and water available, \$335,000
- Hwy 80 getting off at Hwy 49 toward Grass Valley. Go approximately 7<sup>1/2</sup> miles. Make a left on Lone Star Road. Go 1.2 miles. Take Auburn Valley Road to Upper Valley Road to Spyglass.

TO PREVIEW THESE LISTINGS & MORE INFO ABOUT AUBURN VISIT  
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# Community 2006

Real Estate...  
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## Attention Realtors

This is your opportunity to let readers know all about your expertise in helping them (or their friends) make their Real Estate dreams a reality!

What neighborhood or community is your specialty? What type of homebuyer will benefit from working with you? What is your track record for sales in the area? What personal accolades and accomplishments are noteworthy to the readers throughout Danville, Alamo, Diablo, Blackhawk, and Pleasanton?

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**Special publication coming to homes April 28**

For more details, contact Owen McAleer  
(925) 837-8300 or omcaleer@danvilleweekly.com



# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

To list your home in the Danville Weekly Open Home Guide, please email: [OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com)

## Danville

<b>2 Bedrooms</b>		
407 Oneida Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$665,000 984-1787	
<b>3 Bedrooms</b>		
665 Silver Lake Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4:30 p.m. Prudential CA	\$769,000 998-8300	
<b>4 Bedrooms</b>		
269 Jasmine Wy. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$1,125,000 217-5017	
663 Bridgewater Cir. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. United CA Brokers	\$1,139,000 855-2000	
3845 Sheffield Cir. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	\$1,149,999 484-0900	
214 Sabina Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord	\$1,400,000 943-3333	
119 Gerald Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	\$1,499,000 362-2058	
310 Amelia Ln. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$1,585,000 217-5048	
189 Montair Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$2,249,000 217-5048	
373 Squirrel Ridge Wy. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$959,950 217-3126	
14 Woodranch Cir. Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Empire	\$979,000 217-3112	

## 5 Bedrooms

742 Danville Blvd. Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$1,449,000 998-9747	
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## 6 Bedrooms

265 Montego Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	\$4,600,000 831-3329	
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## Diablo

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>		
21 Calle Del Casarillo Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	\$1,950,000 984-3060	
<b>6 Bedrooms</b>		
2315 Caballo Ranchero Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$2,195,000 217-5048	

## Alamo

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>		
117 Samantha Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord	\$1,549,950 943-3333	
<b>5 Bedrooms</b>		
94 Parkmeadow Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$1,395,000 855-4155	
554 Oakshire Pl. Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord	\$2,800,000 943-3333	

## Blackhawk

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>		
3894 Cottonwood Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$1,299,000 648-5359	
<b>5 Bedrooms</b>		
4339 Quail Run Ln. Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate	\$1,459,000 683-6058	

## Walnut Creek

<b>4 Bedrooms</b>		
1942 Highridge Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell	\$859,990 339-3500	

## Dublin

<b>2 Bedrooms</b>		
11831 Newbridge Wy. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$499,500 855-4050	
7771 Tuscany Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$559,900 217-5017	
4613 Sandyford Ct. Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate	\$587,500 736-4155	

## Pleasanton

<b>2 Bedrooms</b>		
2173 Arroyo Ct. #3 Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	\$389,950 734-5057	
845D Division St. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$419,900 251-2556	
1360 Alexander Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$535,000 426-3834	
<b>3 Bedrooms</b>		
4148 Georgis Pl. Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	\$635,000 397-4300	
4147 Moller Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$642,000 200-4723	
4319 Holland Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21	\$709,000 846-7997	
4229 Wells St. Sat 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley	\$739,950 200-2602	
3937 Petrified Forest Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell	\$749,000 339-3500	
4719 Golden Rd. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley	\$889,950 200-2602	
3608 Vine St. Sun 1-4 p.m. Valley Brokers	\$930,000 484-0506	
3608 Vine St. Sun 1-4 p.m. Valley Brokers	\$930,000 484-0506	

## 4 Bedrooms

415 Abbie St. Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	\$1,199,000 577-5787	
6637 Amber Ln. Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$1,398,000 426-3845	
4122 W. Las Positas Blvd. Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$759,900 997-8405	
7652 Chestnut Wy. Sun 2-5 p.m. Keller Williams	\$814,999 397-4229	
6788 Melody Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	Supper 700,000 463-0436	

## 5 Bedrooms

2411 Via De Los Milagros Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	\$1,339,950 734-5061	
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## San Ramon

<b>2 Bedrooms</b>		
389 Catalan Wy. Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes	\$799,900 791-4214	
<b>3 Bedrooms</b>		
1111 Nancy Ln. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$695,950 642-0365	
626 S. Blackbrush Ln. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$720,000 984-1787	
3019 Sombra Cir. Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate	\$777,000 736-4155	
2481 Milford Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$788,888 217-5069	
<b>4 Bedrooms</b>		
3512 Sandalford Wy. Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$1,098,000 735-7653	
7435 Hillsboro Ave. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$859,950 855-4155	
113 Posada Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$929,000 217-5044	
174 Pebble Pl. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$934,500 968-1452	
34 Ascot Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$939,000 735-7653	
6046 Lakeview Cir. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$994,500 968-1452	
<b>5 Bedrooms</b>		
2954 Ascot Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$1,099,500 968-1452	
361 Adelaide Hills Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$1,199,999 855-4112	
65 Longwood Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$1,224,500 968-1452	
1806 Hollyview Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$1,324,500 968-1452	
117 Avalon Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$1,369,000 855-4112	

Marilee Headen Presents...



**1924 Alameda Diablo, Diablo**  
Historic property in lower Diablo. Four bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Spanish style home on 1.53 park-like level acres with pool, corral and three stall barn. **\$3,495,000**



**2298 Alameda Diablo, Diablo**  
Absolutely charming Cape Cod in Diablo. Four bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms plus den/bonus room. Beautifully landscaped yard, Viking range, three fireplaces, large family room and walking distance to the club. **\$2,395,000**

**PENDING**



**4939 Pleasanton Hill Road East, Martinez**  
Newer custom home on 1.07 acres with foothill views. Great commute location. Private setting, four good size bedrooms, three full baths, spacious family room with cathedral ceiling and oversized 3 car garage with workshop. **\$1,045,000**



**7 Donner Creek Court, Clayton**  
Nicely updated, single level town house in Clayton. This home features three bedrooms, two baths, vaulted ceilings, wood burning fireplace, attached two car garage and two private patios. A great investment opportunity! **\$495,000**

**For More Information Call**

Marilee Headen  
925-743-1225

www.MarileeHeaden.com  
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\* With interest reserve account  
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## OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM

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	City	
# of Bedrooms	Street Address	\$ Price of property
Day, Date & Time Open	Agent Name Real Estate Agency	Phone Number

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**FAX TO: (925) 600-9559**

**OR E-MAIL TO :  
OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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WEEKLY

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### DANVILLE

**Model Perfect!** **\$1,688,000**  
5bd, 5ba newer home with gorgeous upgraded granite kitchen, maple flooring throughout. Au pair set-up upstairs with living space, bed and bath.  
**Julie Whitmer** **925.997.5120**



### DANVILLE

**Absolute Luxury!** **\$1,449,000**  
Stunning, model perfect home with 5 bedrooms (one is a library). Less than 2 years old.  
**Carol Erbert** **925.736.1666**  
**Steve apHugh** **925.736.0717**



### ALAMO

**Updated Beauty on Half Acre Lot** **\$1,449,000**  
4bd, 3ba on quiet court. Updated kitchen with new granite and appliances, updated master bath, newer roof and windows.  
**Ralph Sessa** **925.858.5233**



### BLACKHAWK

**Enchanting Hidden Oaks** **\$1,400,000**  
Remodeled single level in a quiet, gated community. Granite slab counters, maple cabinetry, vaulted wood ceilings. Yard with sparkling pool and spa.  
**John Richmond** **925.831.2929**



### DANVILLE

**Fabulous Location** **\$1,299,950**  
4bd, 2.5ba, plantation shutters, hardwood floors, Corian counters. Newer roof, carpet and so much more. Private yard with huge sideyard access.  
**Ju Dee, Ju Dee, Ju Dee** **925.855.4022**



### BLACKHAWK

**Remodeled Blackhawk Beauty** **\$1,299,000**  
Beautifully remodeled 4bd, 2.5ba, 2700+/-sf, master down, 3-car garage, fabulous yard. Free 24hr recorded info or faxed flyer at 877.446.4630 x 38942.  
**Suzanne Gardner** **925.577.4165**



### DANVILLE

**Hidden Valley!** **\$1,249,999**  
This is the home you've been waiting for! Full bed, bath and separate office on main level. Upgraded kitchen with solid surface counters, upgraded cabinetry.  
**Lisa and Greg Doyle** **925.855.4046**



### DANVILLE

**Fantastic Upgrades Throughout** **\$1,189,000**  
This gorgeous Lexington home in OldTown Danville shows like a model. 4bd (+ possible 5th), 3.5 full baths, 2859+/-sf, professional landscaping.  
**Todd Weinberg** **925.855.4125**



### DANVILLE

**Terrific Tassajara Ranch** **\$1,150,000**  
Great family home on cul-de-sac. 1bd,1ba on first floor, 4bd, 3ba, 2860+/-sf, open kitchen/family room combo with eating area and wet bar.  
**Dave Bauer** **925.855.4040**

**Danville**  
**Blackhawk**

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