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# Danville

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## Q: What is your favorite summer memory?



It was 22 years ago when I had my first baby. He was born in July around the 4th, and I called him my little firecracker baby.

—Allie Harrison

office manager for financial planning office



The summer of 1984, when my parents took my three siblings and me to Europe. We spent six weeks there, visiting 13 countries. It was a wonderful trip.

—Mary Jane Urban

administrative assistant



My best summer was 1993 when my parents took our family along with my four uncles and their kids camping for two weeks to Scott's Flat outside of Auburn.

—Brian Cousin

butcher at Lawrence's Meat Market



The summer I was 20 I was hired as a recreation director on board the SS President Wilson, and we spent the summer cruising the Orient.

—Marilyn Bailey

computer specialist



My favorite summer memory was the year I was 12 and I spent the summer at my aunt and uncle's cottage on the Fox River in Illinois. We spent the summer fishing, farming and riding a tractor.

—Ken Carter

CFO, Goodwill Industries



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Alamo Hay and Grain is a throwback to the community's old rural days—and its customers like it that way. Cover design by Jason Lind.

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We laugh a lot thinking about ideas, we think about silly things, we have fun with it. ”

—Alexis Eils, a junior at San Ramon Valley High, who wrote a manual with her brother Kellan about parents guiding and bonding with their children during the writing process. See story, page 8.

**Roseanne to visit Danville**

The Danville International Film Festival takes place this weekend, May 19-21. The annual festival will present more than 75 films made for and by children. It has brought more than 4,500 people to view independent films during the last two years as well as attend special events, autograph sessions, seminars for filmmakers and actors, and an awards ceremony. Patrons can see films in three Danville venues: the Danville Community Center, the Village Theatre and Town Meeting Hall.

Roseanne Barr—best known for her performance as a hard-working mother on the Emmy Award-winning television series Roseanne—will be presented with the 2006 Danville International Children's Film Festival Humanitarian Award for her work on television, at 8 p.m. tonight in the Village Theatre.

**Honoring our loved ones**

Those looking to pay tribute to a loved one who has served in the military, can honor them by purchasing a paver at the All Wars Memorial in Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road.

The pavers line the path along the Freedom Wall at the memorial. They are 8-inch square granite blocks that are engraved to honor individuals, units or organizations that have fought in the military. Any individual who served honorably qualifies for a paver.

The pavers cost \$250 each. For more information, visit the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley's Web site at [www.vnvdv.com/awm.htm](http://www.vnvdv.com/awm.htm) or e-mail [bpicton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bpicton@sbcglobal.net). Act quickly to purchase a paver to be laid in time for the Memorial Day Celebration being held 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, May 29, hosted by the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley.

**Grants keeps computers up-to-date**

The Contra Costa County Library has received a \$43,500 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to upgrade computers previously granted by the foundation. This new grant will allow the library to sustain free access to computers and the Internet.

“Computer and Internet access has become one of the key services that our patrons demand most,” said Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian of Support Services. “It is critical that we have the resources necessary to sustain this service so that our libraries can help Contra Costa County citizens access the information they need to live engaged, successful lives.”

The grant is part of the foundation's U.S. Library Program, which supports public libraries across the United States in their efforts to offer free access to computers, the Internet and digital information. In fiscal year 1999-2000, the foundation donated funding for 29 public access computers in Contra Costa County.

**Host homes needed**

Edu-Culture International, a nonprofit educational organizational based in Pleasanton, is bringing high school students from Germany to Danville for three weeks this summer and needs families to host students Aug. 9-30.

The families need to provide a bed, in either a shared or private room, meals and transportation to and from the planned weekday events. For more information, call Dawn Garlieb at 552-8017 or visit [www.educulture.org](http://www.educulture.org).

## Alamo park almost ready for dedication

Twilight ceremony will honor Andrew H. Young

by **Natalie O'Neill**

A chain-link fence surrounding Andrew H. Young Park will be removed and construction will be nearly complete for the park dedication May 22, Public Works representatives and construction workers said this

week.

"We've got a lot to do. They've got us on a tight schedule," said Raul Rico, who is heading the project for KOO Construction.

The ceremony will honor the late Andrew H. Young, an Alamo spokesperson and lobbyist, with five speeches, songs from a local choir and the presentation of a plaque. It will begin at 6 p.m. on the corner of Danville Boulevard and Jackson Way and is expected

to be done before dark.

Attendees are encouraged to park at Oak Tree Plaza, the neighboring shopping center, said Gina Ferretti, South County Field Representative for District 3.

"We cleared it with the owner Brent Tucker and he said attendees are more than welcome to park there," Ferretti said.

Surrounding businesses have been very supportive, said Alicia Watson, R-7A parks and recreation

committee member.

"I expect people will (also) park in the lot at the Alamo Safeway," Watson said.

"There are always the side streets and it's at 6 p.m., so things should be wrapping up as far as business," said Lisa Carnahan of Public Works.

Ferretti is also working closely with local deputies and volunteers to help coordinate parking and driving safety, she said.

One hundred and fifty invitations were sent out to Young's friends and to committee members in the area. It is also open to the public. Refreshment tables, along with 50 chairs for seniors, will be set up.

"We want to do this particularly for the people who knew Andrew H. Young," said R-7A member Marianne Sasso.

While the turnout is expected to

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## Collision kills Danville man

Darkness means danger when truck stalls on freeway

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A Danville man died last week after he crashed into a sitting flatbed truck on I-680 in Alamo.

Danville resident James Aldridge, 66, drove his Mercury Mountaineer into a 1989 Ford F700 that was stationary in a southbound lane shortly before 10 p.m. Wednesday. Aldridge—still alive after the collision—suffered major intrusion damage toward his chest and died shortly after he was taken to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, according to reports.

California High Patrol Officer Scott Yox said the dark affected Aldridge's ability to see the stopped truck.

"When it's dark like that, it's difficult to see that type of object," said Yox. "It could be an animal."

Yox said mechanical failures had caused Fremont resident Matthew

Ajiake to stop his Ford truck on 680 in the second lane from the right in a section just north of Livorna Road that has five lanes. He said Ajiake had turned on his hazard flashers.

"It was partially lit up," said Yox. Aldridge was driving southbound at an estimated 65 mph and collided with the truck's rear end. A witness driving directly behind Aldridge said he did not see any brake lights, according to reports.

Yox said the truck suffered moderate to major damage but Aldridge's Mercury suffered major damage to its front end. Aldridge was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the accident, he added.

Driving 65 mph in clear daylight is safe for drivers, Yox said, but at night, drivers should take more caution.

"You ought to reduce your speed—though not everyone does—at night to scan further down the roadway," he said. "You constantly need to focus around you. Allow yourself an out." ■



JORDAN M. DORONILA

## Market day fun

Two-year-old Giordan Gitchell concentrates hard as she places her fruit in a bag at the Danville Thursday Farmers Market kickoff last week. The market also offers vegetables, flowers, Mideastern food, freshly baked bread, strawberries and other treats. The Thursday evening market will be open through September in the parking lot behind at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley on Railroad Avenue and Prospect.

## Everything must go!

Yardbirds liquidating inventory in the Alamo store

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Liquidation has begun.

Home Depot—one of the nation's largest home improvement companies—is getting ready to change Yardbirds Home Center in Alamo to its brand name although details of its new format have not yet been decided. For now Yardbirds is selling everything and no longer refilling its shelves.

"It's going to be remodeled and will have the new store format," said Kathryn Gallagher, Home Depot spokeswoman. "It's going to be one of our brands."

In December, Home Depot purchased Yardbirds, a San Francisco Bay Area chain comprised of 10 home improvement stores and a distribution center. Now, after months of planning, Yardbirds in

Alamo, Concord, Petaluma, San Pablo and San Rafael will become Home Depot stores.

Gallagher said the stores began liquidating products this month and should be empty by July.

"Hopefully, we are getting close,"

**"It's going to be remodeled and will have the new store format."**

—Kathryn Gallagher,  
Home Depot spokeswoman

she said.

She added that Yardbirds employees could request transfers to Home Depot stores throughout Northern California, including

San Ramon, Pleasanton, Concord, Fremont, Vallejo, Fairfield, San Leandro, Tracy, Pittsburg, Hercules, San Jose, Sunnyvale, Campbell, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Woodland and Chico.

Gallagher said Home Depot does not know what type of format the former Yardbirds stores will be.

"It's very exciting," she said, noting that Home Depot would tailor its stores to the needs of the community.

The store manager of the Alamo Yardbirds would not comment about the change and referred all inquiries to the Home Depot public relations department.

Yardbirds was founded in 1975 by John Healey and generated about \$185 million in annual sales last year. His family opened two stores

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DOLORES FOX CARDELLI

Yardbirds is liquidating, and there are signs on every street corner in Alamo on the weekends to let people know.

# Action and absurdity take centerstage

Monte Vista presents  
'Alice in Wonderland'

by Natalie O'Neill

To children, the story of "Alice in Wonderland" is an adventure into a world of fantasy and magic. To scholars, it is a coming-of-age tale of altered perceptions, thick with symbolism. And to 28 students performing the story at Monte Vista High School, it is a chance to dazzle audiences with action, absurdity and aesthetics.

"The play is the traditional 'Alice in Wonderland' we all know and love," said Vicki Stadelhofer, Monte Vista drama teacher and director of the production.

A vibrant set design of flowers, dramatic surreal lighting, and a cast of talented students are the highlights of the show, Stadelhofer said. The performance will be featured on the evenings of May 24, 25, and 26 at the Al Gentile Theater on campus.

The cast is made up of the entire advanced drama class, which has been rehearsing together since March. In 1993, drama club president Amy Preston wrote the script, but actors edited and added to it this year.

"We had the chance to re-write some of it because some of the comedy was a little bit dated," said Caila Litman, who is playing Tweedledee.

Humor in the play has a modern

spin, but the plot and theme still align with the novel, Stadelhofer said. When Preston wrote it, dialogue was taken directly from the Lewis Carroll novel.

"It's still true to the novel," Stadelhofer said.

Themes of personal growth and



Sarah Beresh, who is playing Alice, and Ryan Patterson, who is playing the Mad Hatter, rehearse the tea party scene at the beginning of the first act of "Alice in Wonderland," being presented next week at Monte Vista High.

self-esteem are addressed through Alice's character, she said.

"Throughout the play everybody bosses Alice around ... she finds herself when she stands up to the Queen," she said.

Monte Vista productions are different from those at other local high schools because the actors have worked on comedy all year, Litman said. The class also put on "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Mash" this year and has performed sev-

eral Saturday Night Live sketches. Participating in productions like these helps students find a niche, she said.

"You come together as sort of a family," Litman said.

Stadelhofer said she held auditions for parts that were most sought after by students. She said she chose Sarah Beresh for the part of Alice because, as an actress, Beresh is genuine and sweet.

"She's gentle, intelligent, natural and not affected at all," she said.

Aside from the acting, lighting will play a major role in the mood of the play. The drama department invested in two new lighting sources for this play, a strobe and a black light. Cameron Tetzloff, who will head the lighting, creates a dreamlike feeling that aids in visual tricks like making Alice grow and the Cheshire Cat disappear.

"We have three Cheshire Cats ... the cats will pop up from everywhere," Stadelhofer said.

The stage was painted by the stage craft class and required gallons of paint, plywood and cardboard. Costumes were sewn by volunteers Sue Beresh, Kate Moore and Svetlana Pedan.

Funding for the lighting, set and costumes comes from ticket sales, cookie sales and donations from parents. Parents can donate \$100 and receive season theater passes to support the program.

While the budget was a challenge, Stadelhofer said the hardest part of the production has



Angelica Richie as the Queen of Hearts, Sarah Beresh as Alice, and Anusha Mohan as White Rabbit do their first on-stage run-through of a scene.

been rehearsal.

"In class we divide up into groups, but Alice has to be in every scene," Stadelhofer said.

As her students get older, it is harder to get them to after-school rehearsals because they have jobs and other commitments. She said having class time to rehearse helps the group be more relaxed as opening night approaches.

Students said part of why they enjoy the class is that it allows them time to do other things besides their drama activities.

"Everybody does something else, too, which makes it even more fun to collaborate," Litman said.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. The performances will begin at 7 p.m., May 24, 25 and 26. ■

## Yardbirds

► Continued from page 5

in Santa Rosa and Vallejo in 1975. Since 1988, it has opened stores in Santa Rosa and Martinez. The Santa Rosa store is nearly 155,000 square feet with an outdoor garden

center and indoor drive-through lumberyard.

The trademark colors for Yardbirds are yellow and white, and its mascot is a white stork with yellow overalls.

Home Depot has purchased the entire Yardbirds chain, and the stores are closing. Most will reopen

as Home Depot, Home Depot Pro, or Expo Design Centers.

Bernie Marcs and Arthur Blank founded the Home Depot in Atlanta in 1979. The original stores stocked around 25,000 products and were attached to Treasure Island stores. Home Depot grew to encompass stores in Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Alabama within the first five years. The company has expanded to include EXPO Design Center and the Home Depot Supply. There are more than 2,005 stores throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Today, on average, a Home Depot offers 40,000 products and is approximately 106,000 square feet. ■

## TAKE US ALONG



## Sailing, sailing

Colleen and Pitt Turner of Danville leave their cruise ship to enjoy the beach in Costa Rica last winter. They say it was great to thaw out and go barefoot.

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# Pombo, McCloskey jab each other at political forum

Republicans show policy differences on eve of primary

by Jeb Bing

The key opponents in the June 6 Republican Party primary for the 11th Congressional District nomination—U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo and former Congressman Pete McCloskey—spared for 90 minutes Monday on issues ranging from ethical principles to jobs, immigration, energy and qualifications to serve the growing district that now includes much of the Interstates 5, 580 and 680 corridors.

A third candidate, Tom Benigno, a retired businessman who, like Pombo, grew up in Tracy, also participated in the political forum. Seated between the two main candidates, Benigno sometimes cut short his answers to questions from the audience and a six-member panel. Often, his responses had little to do with the specific questions being asked.

More than 400 attended the forum, held in the packed Williams Middle School gymnasium just east of downtown Tracy. It was clearly Pombo turf with large yard signs lining the streets leading to the school and with a groundswell of cheers when the seven-term congressman arrived at the school. Even so, a third of the audience sported McCloskey campaign buttons and cheered or jeered just as loudly during the forum.

At Pombo's request, the forum was not a debate. The same questions were asked of each candidate, with none of the three responding to questions or charges made by an opponent.

Both Pombo and McCloskey took time in their opening remarks to stress their backgrounds. Pombo talked about his successful campaign to win election to the Tracy City Council "to make a difference in the community where I grew up," and then to win the 11th District Congressional race in 1992, where he has continued to be re-elected by substantial margins ever since.

"When we talk about issues affecting the 11th District, I've spent my entire life learning about them and the last 14 years dealing with them," Pombo told the cheering and largely Tracy crowd. "My opponent has been learning about this district for only the last three months since he decided to run against me."

McCloskey countered that although he served in Congress for more than a decade from a district on the Peninsula, he's the fourth generation of a California family, his father was born in Merced, and after 53 years as an attorney, he's gone back to farming in the Central Valley and has taken up residency in the 11th Congressional District specifically to unseat Pombo.

"In 1994, I was particularly proud of the Republicans because of their very public 'Contract with America,'" McCloskey said. "The Republican Party, my party, promised good ethics, a balanced budget, limiting the size of government and that each congressman would serve no more than six terms."

Frustrated at being unable to find a viable opponent to Pombo in the Republican primary, or even in the Democratic Party, McCloskey, a veteran of three wars, said he has returned to politics to make sure Pombo is not re-elected.

"The ethics in the Republican Party today are terrible," McCloskey said. "Three members of Congress have already pleaded guilty to charges of illegal campaign funding and contributions, and all three gave money to Mr. Pombo. He even gave \$10,000 to Tom DeLay for his defense fund after DeLay resigned from Congress in disgrace. What does that tell you about Mr. Pombo's ethics?"

Answering a question about alleged corruption in Congress, Pombo said the Internet, a strong media and public hearings have made the current Congress "quite transparent."

"There's much more exposure today and full disclosure of all the money that we spend and receive," Pombo said. "The vast majority of us who serve in Congress are honest, hard-working people."

On other issues, the two frequently disagreed:

## Immigration

McCloskey said the country has to secure its borders, whether through the use of the National Guard or an increase in the immigration service. He opposed action that he said Pombo supports to turn illegal immigrants into felons and send them back across the border, suggesting that those here illegally be given three months to apply for a special orange card that would show employers that they are registered and want to stay in the U.S.

"Also, I want to make sure that the National Guard troops the president wants to send to the border aren't those just back from serving in Iraq who have already lost much of their livelihood from being away from their jobs for so long," McCloskey said.

Pombo favors a guest worker program that would register illegal immigrants and allow them to continue in the essential services they

are performing in the fields in the Central Valley and in local restaurants and hotels.

"But I am opposed to an amnesty program," Pombo said.

## Energy

Pombo said that those who served in Congress 25 or 30 years ago, as McCloskey did, missed an opportunity to free the U.S. of its dependence on foreign oil when that source represented just a third of the domestic energy supply. Now it's two-thirds, and while supporting programs to find alternative energy sources, Pombo also wants to increase domestic drilling since the country will continue being dependent on fossil fuels for a number of years to come.

McCloskey wants more federal funds to be spent on developing alternative energy sources.

"We should have insisted 10 years ago that American car manufacturers make cars fuel efficient as the Japanese have done," he said. "We shouldn't allow oil drilling

off the coast of California as Mr. Pombo prefers. That's a limited supply at best and won't solve our energy problems."

## Iraq

"Probably the worst thing that has happened to this country is Bush's foreign policy," McCloskey said. "We have antagonized the world with our aggressiveness. It's a tragedy for this country and I think this administration will go down as the worst in history. All of the money for education, health and environmental protection is being plowed into a military establishment across the globe. It's unfortunate."

Pombo said that while no one wants to be in a war, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were in response to Sept. 11, 2001, and the terrorists' attacks. "All but one of the 435 members of Congress gave the president the authority to wage those wars," he said. "To believe that there was a conspiracy or anything else that led us into these wars is spreading a very dangerous idea." ■



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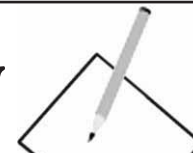
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# Fostering creativity, one parent at a time

Danville siblings encourage parents to write with their kids

by Kevin Zhou

Alexis and Kellan Eils, a sister and brother living in Danville, are looking to share their love for writing with others in the community.

The two will be holding a reading at the Danville Library on May 25 of children's books and a manual they have written—entitled

“The WriteKids”—that encourages parents to guide and bond with their children during the writing process.

Alexis and Kellan will begin by reading from books they have written. They will then discuss how they put their story ideas onto paper, and what parents can do to help. Several copies of their manual will be available to check out. The event will begin at 6 p.m., and includes a 30-minute question-and-answer session.

“I think it will be helpful,” said

Amy Collins, the children's librarian at the Danville Library. “It will encourage kids and parents alike.”

Alexis and Kellan have been writing books since they were young children. Growing up in an environment that encouraged them to read, it was only natural that they began to write books themselves.

“It's always been a part of our lives,” said Alexis, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School. “Books were always there, so I grew up loving them.”



Alexis and Kellan Eils work on their latest project. They will present a workshop at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Danville Library on how parents can guide their children through the writing process.



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When she was only 7, Alexis wrote a story called “Cars Live on Mars.” Over the years, she has conducted several readings of this book, including one at the Danville Library three years ago. Kellan, now a seventh-grader at Charlotte Wood Middle School, wrote a 16-page children's book last year entitled “Xstatikins.”

Although none of their work has been published so far, this hasn't discouraged them from continuing to write.

“That was never our goal, it was more about having fun,” said Alexis. “It'd be great if that happened, but it was never our primary motivation.”

One of the main reasons Alexis and Kellan were able to write so much was because of the encouragement they received from their parents. Once one of them came up with a story idea, their mother or father would ask them questions to fuel their creativity.

As they refined their writing skills and expanded their imagination, they also had a chance to bond

with their parents.

“We were excited by their ideas,” said Karen Eils, their mother. “We wanted to encourage them; we felt like it would be a great opportunity.”

“It's always fun; we laugh a lot thinking about ideas, we think about silly things, we have fun with it,” added Alexis. “It's always relaxed because we don't have deadlines.”

About two years ago, the sister and brother decided they wanted to share their experiences with others. They began to work on “The WriteKids,” a 10-section manual on how kids can form a storyline once they come up with an idea, and how beneficial it can be to work with their parents.

They were motivated to write the manual because of the fun they had from their own experiences, and to tell about how the process had brought their entire family closer together.

“We wanted to share our experience because it's a good way to bring parents and kids to a bonding relationship,” said Kellan. ■

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Under the umbrella

When I arrived home Tuesday night last week, I paused in the street and looked at my house. There it was, home sweet home, with all my belongings in their special places. What if I suddenly lost it all in a natural disaster?

I was returning from a special dinner, held in the big gym at St. Isidore Catholic Church, to celebrate Operation Katrina. This undertaking to build homes in Mississippi for victims of the hurricane began with the Community Presbyterian Church (CPC) and grew to 18 local places of worship that joined together to form the Umbrella of Churches. They have identified another 26 that have shown interest in being part of the next phase.

The link between Danville and Mississippi was a young woman named Megan Voos, a 1987 graduate of Monte Vista High. She had worked for the youth program at Community Presbyterian for 10 years when her best friend moved to Jackson, Miss., and suggested Megan go, too, for "an adventure."

Megan said the culture shock was extreme as she found herself in the 20 percent white minority in Jackson; now her neighborhood is 98 percent African-American. She joined the Voice of Calvary Ministries, which for 30 years has helped find and finance homes for people in need. Before Hurricane Katrina, it assisted 600 families per year. After Katrina, its goal jumped to 900, and Megan put out the SOS to her friends at CPC.

The celebration last week began with a pasta buffet for 600, in itself a huge undertaking. These people seem to do everything big and do it well.

When the CPC folks started to meet in October, they talked about building one house to help out. They traveled to Mississippi, met with leaders of the black churches,

and saw the scope of the devastation; then when they returned to Danville, they saw how interest was growing and realized they might be able to build more than one house. The project grew and grew until now, as a result of their efforts, 14 families in McComb will soon be living in new three-bedroom, two-bath homes.

The celebration at St. Isidore's last week began with a pasta buffet for 600, in itself a huge undertaking. These people seem to do everything big and do it well. A very nice family from Community Presbyterian invited me to sit at their table, Beverly and Rodney Barnes, who said their 15-year-old daughter Nicole and her friend Lizzy Strong were among the teens who spent their spring break helping out in McComb. The event was dubbed "Operation Katrina—A Celebration of God's Work." A video on the project and testimonials by visitors from Mississippi and project director Fred Hull, a retired developer who is a member at CPC, all gave complete credit to God. Nonetheless those at the din-

ner gave Hull a standing ovation for letting God work through him.

The video told the whole story, showing folks in Danville church parking lots hammering nails to assemble the frames. These "houses in a box" were transported by trucks and trains to McComb, then 300 members of the Umbrella of Churches arrived in April in two weeklong shifts to help assemble them on the newly laid foundations. It was touching to see the folks in Mississippi discover messages of love and scripture written on beams by their new California friends. While some put up the walls and roofing and installed electrical panels, others worked to feed everyone. The kitchen became an assembly line—GM would have been proud, one speaker noted. Lexie Elmore, a supervisor in Pike County, Miss., said it was overwhelming to have people come all the way from California to help out and she especially was thankful for the young people. Another speaker recalled some residents in McComb suggesting these out-of-state volunteers were "nuts." He

recalled, "By the end of the day it went from 'It can't be done,' to 'Look what they're doing.'"

U.S. Government agencies are showing interest in the projects under way by the faith-based communities in McComb, which should help with future funding. NeighborWorks America provided \$250,000 seed money to buy and clear the four-acre tract in McComb; the Umbrella of Churches has raised \$500,000. Voice of Calvary Ministries has already processed eight applications out of 180 received; the houses cost \$65,000-\$75,000, using a "pay it forward" concept so proceeds go toward new home construction. The dinner was also to encourage renewed commitment as they launch Phase II of Operation Katrina and indeed it did. There were expressions of interest from six churches to raise another \$40,000 each.

During a storm, everyone huddles together under an umbrella for protection. After an evening under the umbrella, I came away with a new appreciation—for my home and for the work of these wonderful people. ■

## Young Park

► Continued from page 5

fill the small park, R-7A members said they have no way of telling how many people will attend.

"I don't think it will have the same turnout as the tree lighting, but it would be great if it did," Supervisor Mary N. Piepho said.

Watson said it's hard to predict a turnout because Young touched the lives of so many people. He was known for taking part in local civic groups and for being outspoken about issues concerning the preservation of Alamo's rural nature.

"He's so special to so many people," Watson said.

Carnahan guessed a couple hun-

dred people would attend.

Longtime companion of Young, Jeannine Kikkert, said aside from his civic involvement he was known in the community for his frank way of speaking and for his kindness.

"He was such an honest person," she said.

In 1977, Young was named San Ramon Valley Citizen of the Year and his efforts to serve the public were recognized. He was a member of the Steering Committee for San Ramon Valley Regional Medical Center and the Tao House study committee in Danville. He was also an executive director for Contra Costa County Historical Society, president of the Alamo Park Foundation and chairman of the Boulevard of Trees project.

Originally the ceremony was scheduled for April 26 but it was pushed back because of the long rainy season, R-7A members said. Former Chief of Staff Ryan Klobas said District 3 chose to extend the date after Kikkert asked them to make it closer to the anniversary of Young's death. Klobas said the extension had nothing to do with the refurbishing being incomplete.

Kikkert said she had agreed extending the date would be better so that weather would be nicer and construction would be finished.

"We're very excited about moving this forward," Piepho said. ■

Right: KOO construction workers lay new cement in preparation for the dedication ceremony at Andrew H. Young Park at 6 p.m. May 22.



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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Bicyclists beware**

Now that the nice weather is here, bicyclists are out in force; some bicycle routes that pass through Alamo and Danville are considered Bay Area classics. But sharing the roads with lone bicyclists or those in groups can be nerve-wracking for drivers, not to mention dangerous for the bike rider.

A bicyclist was struck by a car Wednesday last week in Alamo as he pedaled north on Danville Boulevard just four blocks south of Livorna Road. A woman going south turned left into Finley Lane as he was approaching it and he crashed into her passenger side. He was not in the wrong but bicycle vs. motor vehicle is an uneven contest. Luckily his injuries were minor.

Many recreational bicyclists fly up and down Danville Boulevard as though they were invincible. On weekends, they often ride two or three abreast, which makes it impossible to stay in their specified bike lane.

Bicyclists should heed these tips for being safe in traffic, presented on Real Bicycles Web site:

- Always leave yourself an exit route;
- Don't be confrontational with drivers who "lose it";
- Signal early, especially when moving into a left-turn lane;
- Be careful not to stop on an oil slick;
- Be alert for drivers opening their doors into the traffic;
- Try to establish eye contact before moving in front of cars;
- Beware of drivers' blind spots; and
- Expect the worst and ride accordingly.

The tip about drivers who "lose it" is especially interesting. There does seem to be antagonism between people using the roads to run their errands and bicyclists out for recreation. The Iron Horse Trail exists for such riders but of course it is much slower, not nearly as smooth, and must be shared with walkers, joggers and skaters.

Bicyclists sharing the streets with cars need to beware: Might may not make right, but the laws of physics prove in a physical crash that might has a far better chance of survival.

Many recreational bicyclists fly up and down Danville Boulevard as though they were invincible.

**YOUR TURN**

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for that week's edition; please limit letters to 250 words, and provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Vegetarian eating is easy**

Dear Editor:

As a vegan of over 15 years, I'd like to respond to a couple of the points raised by Jacqui Love Marshall in her Epicure column of April 28.

First, the need for special concern regarding insufficient protein in a vegan diet has been overblown. Moreover, the myth of protein complementation has long been understood as unnecessary in vegetarian diets. As summarized by Reed Mangels, Ph.D., R.D., on the Vegetarian Resource Group Web site ([www.vrg.org/nutrition/protein.htm](http://www.vrg.org/nutrition/protein.htm)): "It is very easy for a vegan diet to meet the recommendations for protein, as long as calorie intake is adequate. Strict protein combining is not necessary; it is more important to eat a varied diet throughout the day."

Second, as for the amount of time and effort needed to find, buy and prepare vegan/vegetarian meals, my guess is this is no different from that required of anyone wishing to eat a healthy diet regardless of whether meat is included. Many people nowadays, vegetarian and omnivore alike, seek out fresh and organic foods—so much so that these can now be found in

many Safeway supermarkets and other conveniently located grocers. Regarding your juice example, I for one am happy to drink pre-squeezed organic juices just as others might select pre-squeezed nonorganic juices. And cooking a veggie burger or tofu cutlet takes no longer than its meat counterpart. In 2006, a vegetarian diet is as quick and easy as any other.

Thank you again for your efforts to inform your readers.

*Dennis Crean,  
Redwood Valley*

**Civilized living**

Dear Editor:

In the May 12 issue, I so enjoyed your "Presenting the Past" reprint of the 1950s advertisement for Cameo Acres, a new home development in Danville with prices at \$9,350 and payments as low as \$58 per month. My big laugh is that my parents considered buying there in the early '50s but decided on a much more lavish home in a more civilized area: Concord! and it was 50 percent costlier at over \$12,000! It is hard to imagine a time when Concord was chosen over Danville. Compare the areas and prices now.

Thanks for the memories!

*Greg Thibodeaux,  
Alamo*

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Bike collision on Danville Boulevard

An Alamo resident collided with a bicyclist from Pleasant Hill as she was driving her 2001 gold-colored, four-door Mercedes Benz on Danville Boulevard shortly after 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 10.

Anthony Rardin, 34, of Pleasant Hill, was riding his bicycle northbound on Danville Boulevard when southbound Alice Allen-Ervin, 42, turned left onto Finley

Lane in Alamo just south of Livorna Road, said California Highway Patrol Officer Scott Yox.

"She made a left in front of him," he said. "He collides with the passenger side of her vehicle." Yox said the bicyclist had the right of way.

Rardin suffered facial lacerations and a laceration to his right leg, specifically to his knee, according to reports.

"Cyclists need to ride defensively," Yox said. "A bicycle is

no match for a vehicle."

"Motorists need to do the same," he added. "Talking on the cell phone, having their cars as offices, catching lunch inside—all these lead to distraction. Their eyes should be on the road."

Yox—a bicyclist himself—recommended the Iron Horse Trail for recreational bicycle rides, but he said he understood that road cyclists need a challenging spot to ride and a regular road allows bicyclists to go faster.

—Jordan M. Doronila

## POLICE LOG

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

### Monday, May 8

- Misdemeanor battery on Dove Creek Ln. at 12:08 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara and Conejo Dr. at 5:29 a.m.
- Vandalism on Dunsmoor Ct. at 6:10 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Thornhill Rd. at 7:11 a.m.
- Miscellaneous burglary on Love Ln. at 7:41 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Paraiso Dr. at 8:33 a.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Hartford Rd. at 8:35 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on La Gonda Ct. at 8:56 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on St. Ann Ct. at 9:38 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Conway Dr. at 10:34 a.m.
- Resident burglary on Old Orchard Ct. at 10:34 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Paraiso Dr. at 10:35 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Tweed Ln. at 4:14 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 9

- Residential burglary on Zenith Ridge Dr. at 9:11 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Hartz Ave. at 9:49 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Jonathan Ridge Dr. at 10:01 a.m.
- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 12:52 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on southbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:27 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 10

- DUI, arrest, on Alta Vista Way at 1:12 a.m.
- Possession of drug paraphernalia on Jasmine Way at 6:44 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Pulido Rd. at 9:18 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:18 p.m.
- Vandalism on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:14 p.m.
- Petty theft, bicycle, on Hartley Dr. at 8:16 p.m.

### Thursday, May 11

- Malicious telephone calls on Diablo Rd. at 12:39 p.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 2:36 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplifting, on Camino Tassajara at 7:03 p.m.

- Suspicious circumstances on Camino Tassajara at 8:50 p.m.

### Friday, May 12

- DUI, arrest, on Front St and E. Prospect Ave. at 12:24 a.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on El Pinto at 6:53 a.m.
- Auto burglary on W. Prospect Ave. at 7:19 a.m.
- Stolen vehicle on El Cerro Ct. at 7:41 a.m.
- Auto burglary on El Pinto at 7:57 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Hartz Ave. at 9:39 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 12:17 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Serene Ct. at 11:51 a.m.
- Accident on Boone Ct. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:38 p.m.
- Vandalism on Love Ln. at 5:19 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Rassani Dr. at 8:21 p.m.
- Under the influence of drugs on Diablo View Ct. at 8:47 p.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on Ocho Rios Dr. at 10:34 p.m.

### Saturday, May 13

- Vandalism on Zephyr Pl. at 1:55 p.m.
- Possession of narcotics, arrest, on Camino Tassajara at 5:19 p.m.

### Sunday, May 14

- Suspicious circumstances on Glen Ct. at 3:56 p.m.
- Vandalism on La Gonda Way at 7:15 p.m.

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

### ALAMO

#### Monday, May 8

- Petty theft from vehicle on Cervato Cir.

#### Tuesday, May 9

- Suspicious circumstances on Miranda Ave.

#### Friday, May 12

- Vandalism on Carmalita Ct.

#### Saturday, May 13

- Vandalism on Forest Ln.

#### Sunday, May 14

- Possession of unlawful weapon on Sandstone Rd.

### BLACKHAWK

#### Tuesday, May 9

- Commercial burglary on Saddleback Dr.

### Wednesday, May 10

- Vandalism on Liquidamber Pl.
- Vandalism on S. Eagle Nest Ln.

### DANVILLE

#### Sunday, May 14

- Misdemeanor DUI on Knollview Dr. and Rockcreek Ct.

### DIABLO

#### Wednesday, May 10

- Grand theft from vehicle on El Nido
- Two petty thefts from vehicles on El Nido

### ROUNDHILL

#### Friday, May 12

- Vandalism on Tracy Ct.

### TASSAJARA

#### Wednesday, May 10

- Miscellaneous burglary on Old School Rd.

## OBITUARIES

### Jeff Daniel McDonough

Jeff Daniel McDonough, born March 8, 1955, died in a tragic car accident April 24, at the age of 51. He is survived by his wife Jennifer and his two daughters, Abby, 5, and Kate, 2.

He was born and raised in Santa Clara, attained the rank of Eagle Scout, and later resided in Danville with his wife and children. He was a model husband, father, friend and devoted Christian who inspired all who came into contact with him.

A memorial was held May 6 at Community Presbyterian Church.

### William (Bill) O'Connell

William (Bill) O'Connell, a 16-year resident of Danville since 1990, died May 5 at the age of 84.

He was born and raised in Baltimore, Co. Cork, Ireland, the oldest of five children. He immigrated to the United States and settled in Richmond, Calif., where he met his wife Marian and they raised their two daughters. He retired from Chevron Corp. in 1986 after 36 years and they moved to Danville in 1990.

He was a member of the Irish Culture Center and the Benevolent Rebel Cork of San Francisco. He was also an avid reader of history, biographies and sports, and loved to travel. He found great enjoyment in the outdoors, gardening and swimming.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Marian O'Connell; daughters Maureen (Greg) Starnes and Alana (George) Ruegg; and grandchildren Sinead and Keara Starnes and Kaleigh Ruegg.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated May 11 at St. Isidore's Church.

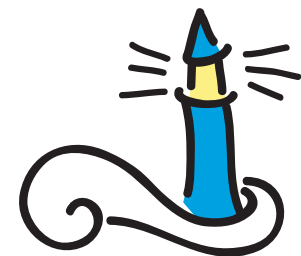
### Stanley Charles Lord

Stanley Charles Lord of Danville passed away peacefully April 24 at the age of 91.

He was a native of Lavina, Mont. He graduated from Bozeman State College and served with the Army Signal Corps during World War II. He was a retired mechanical engineer.

He is survived by his wife Jane, and their three children Anne Ludvik (Charles), Teresa Lord and Steve Lord (Loren); grandchildren Kathy Ludvik, Brandon Lord and Erika Lord; and brother Clement Lord; sister Mildred Lawrence; and granddaughter, Jennifer Ludvik; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held May 13 at St. Isidore Church in Danville. Donations may be made to the Yosemite Fund, 155 Montgomery St., #1104, San Francisco, CA 94104.



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p. 925-242-9700 f. 925-242-9703

# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Author Visits

### Dinner with Kathryn Reiss

Come and join children's author Kathryn Reiss and the winners of the California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch, Young Writers Contest for dinner and a celebration at 6 p.m., Friday, May 19, at Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$17 for CWC members; \$20 for non-members.

Contact Camille Minichino at [camille@minichino.com](mailto:camille@minichino.com) or (510) 881-8929.

### Italy: The History, People and the Art of Glassblowing

Lucia Barbini Falcone, author of "Over Bridges, Across Tables," will be talking about the flair of Murano, Italy, its people, rich history and the art of glassblowing. Falcone, born and raised in Murano, is the recipient of the Eisner Award and has received writing honors from Writer's Digest. This event will start at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 23, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St.

## Clubs

### San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club Hikes

The group is inviting prospective members to attend its May Gadabouts event at 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, May 24 for a fun day in San Francisco. Trip includes a ferry ride, lunch at Pier 39 and the play "Menopause the Musical". The ferry cost is \$6.50 for seniors; \$11 for adults. The Play cost is \$42.50-\$46.00, plus the cost for lunch. For information, please contact Marian at 925-828-8195.

## Concerts

### Musaic performing 'World Voices'

Musaic, a group of men with a passion for practicing and expanding their musical talents, will perform "World Voices" at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 21, at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville. General admission is \$18; students/senior is \$12. Call 837-4993, ext. 15, or e-mail [parish@saint-timothysdanville.org](mailto:parish@saint-timothysdanville.org).

### Prometheus Symphony

The symphony will be performing its final concert of the season at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 21, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Ave., Oakland. The concert will feature Gustav Mahler's Ruckert Lieder with Elspeth Franks, mezzo soprano, and Claudio Santome, tenor. This event is free, but donations are requested. Visit [www.prometheussymphony.org](http://www.prometheussymphony.org).

## Events

### 2006 Hamster Ball Derby

PETCO in San Ramon will host the 2006 Hamster Ball Derby to celebrate hamster power and the rise in small-animal pet ownership. This event will start at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 20, at 2005 Crow Canyon Place. Owners are encouraged to bring their pets' own hamster ball. Registration is free. Winner will receive a Critter Operated Chopper, two-pound bag of Fiesta food and, of course, bragging rights. Call 275-2111.

### Andrew H. Young Park Rededication

The Alamo Recreation Program sponsored by Terry McDaniel Real Estate Team will present a Rededication Ceremony and Reception in honor of Andrew H. Young at 6 p.m., Monday, May 22, at the corner of Danville Boulevard and Jackson Way. For information, call 820-8683.

### Armed Forces Day

Celebrate Armed Forces Day on the USS Hornet Museum by witnessing

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



## Quilts—historic and contemporary

This Friendship Quilt by Rose Bettencourt Ferreira is part of "Quilting Through the Years," currently on display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in partnership with The Quilter's Inn. The exhibit includes historic and contemporary quilts created by talented local quilters through May 27. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday in the restored Southern Pacific Depot, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. Call 837-3750 or visit [www.museumsv.org](http://www.museumsv.org).

simulated flight operations, mission briefings and by meeting former crew members, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 20, at 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. A special family admission price of \$20 is being offered only on this day; regular admission is \$14 for adults and \$6 for children. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit [www.hornetevents.com](http://www.hornetevents.com).

### Filoli Estate and Gardens Visit

Pleasant Hill Recreation is offering a day trip to visit the Filoli Estate and Gardens, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 20. The Filoli Estate and Gardens is known to be one of the finest country estates of the early 20th century. Tickets are \$25 and include bus, admission and the tour. The bus will pick people up in the Pleasant Hill Community Center parking lot, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. Call 682-0896.

### Livermore Valley Wine Auction

Come and celebrate the spirit of the children in your community at the 12th annual Livermore Valley Wine Auction on Saturday, May 20, at the Wine Vineyards, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. Call 447-WINE (447-9463) or visit [www.livermorewine.com](http://www.livermorewine.com).

### Spring to Success Luncheon

Wardrobe for Opportunity will be hosting its 11th annual Spring to Success Luncheon to honor two Clients of the Year with a silent auction, award ceremony, drawings and a fabulous lunch from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, May 19, at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive. Jessica Aguirre from ABC 7 will MC the ceremony. Cost is \$75. Call (510) 463-4100, ext. 1, or visit [www.wardrobe.org](http://www.wardrobe.org).

### Telescopes as Time Machines

Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society will host "Experience Telescopes as Time Machines," at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 20, meeting at the park, Lower Summit lot, Mt. Diablo Summit Museum. Plan to enter the North/South Gates by 6:45 p.m. Leader Jim Head can be contacted at [outreach@mdas.net](mailto:outreach@mdas.net).

## Fundraisers

### Children's Film Festival

The California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville will be hosting the third annual Children's Film Festival, Friday-Sunday, May 19-21. This event will give film enthusiasts a chance to enjoy screenings of three independent films, plus attend special events, autograph sessions, seminars for filmmakers and actors and an awards ceremony. Special guest Roseanne Barr will be at the Opening Night Gala with a screening of "Rocking with Roseanne: Calling all Kids" followed by a Q & A session. Tickets are on sale. Call 314-3463 or visit [www.dicff.org](http://www.dicff.org).

### Comedy and Walk-A-Thon

Jack London Square is announcing its third annual Comedy/Walk-A-Thon that will benefit the Northern California Tuberculosis Sclerosis Alliance, registration starts at 9 a.m., Sunday, May 21, at Jack London Square, Oakland. Contact Janine Steenman at [jmsteeman@comcast.net](mailto:jmsteeman@comcast.net) or by calling 249-1302 or visit [www.childrenshospitaloakland.org.cs.tuberculosis\\_sclerosis.html](http://www.childrenshospitaloakland.org.cs.tuberculosis_sclerosis.html).

### Kitchen & Garden Tour

Greenbrook and Baldwin elementary schools are hosting a Neighborhood Kitchen & Garden Tour, from 1-5 p.m. (check-in begins at 12:45 p.m.), Sunday, May 21, starting at Greenbrook School, 1475 Harlan Drive, Danville. Also included with the tour will be wine, catered delights, a vendor boutique and a silent auction, hosted by WineStyles and the Peasant & the Pear. Tickets bought in advance are \$30; \$35 on the day of the event. Visit [www.ges.srvusd.k12.ca.us/kitchengardentour.html](http://www.ges.srvusd.k12.ca.us/kitchengardentour.html).

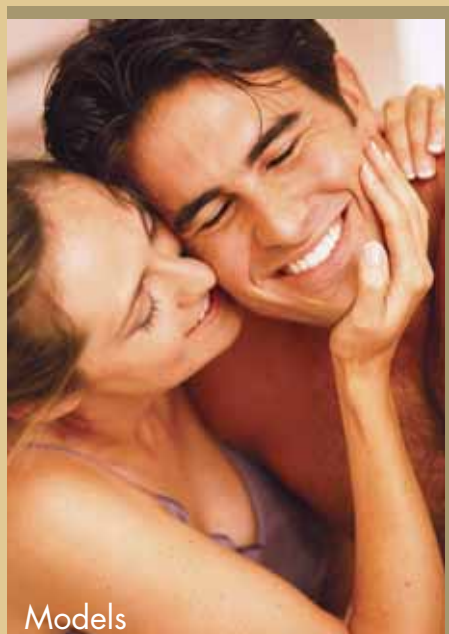
### Martial Arts Fundraiser

Danville's TaoSports is sponsoring a Martial Arts event to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, May 21, at 462 Hartz Ave., Danville. The students and instructors at TaoSports will be breaking boards and concrete blocks that donators can buy in support of this wonderful cause. For information, visit [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

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**Muscle Car, Hot Rods and Art Fair**  
Hats Off America will be hosting its third annual Muscle Car, Hot Rods and Art Fair, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, at the grass field at the corner of Bollinger Canyon Road and Camino Ramon, San Ramon. This event raises money to provide support to families of fallen soldiers. Dave Land and the Downtowers will also debut their second album, "America Rocks." Admission is free. Call Sparky George at 855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us).

**Personal Sanctuaries Spring Garden Tour**  
Personal Sanctuaries will be hosting a Garden Tour to benefit Breast Cancer Research, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 20. Tickets with a map and information about each garden can be bought in advance for \$25 at Artscape, 1161 Alpine Road, Walnut Creek, or by calling Marsha at 944-5173. Tickets bought the day of the tour are \$30. For information, call 944-5173.

## Kids & Teens

**'Cars Live on Mars and Xstatikins'**  
Teen authors Alexis and Kellan Eils will be reading their children's books, "Cars Live on Mars and Xstatikins" and "The WriteKids" at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 25, in the Children's Reading Room, Danville, Library, 400 Front St. This event is for children ages 5 and up. Call 837-4889.

## Lectures

**Changing Makeup of the American Family**  
The San Ramon Valley Republican Women will host a public service presentation with Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Lois Haight on "The Changing Makeup of the American Family Reflected in our Courts of Law." Social hour will start at 11:30 a.m., with lunch and the speaker at noon, Tuesday, May 23, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$22 and the public is invited. To reserve your spot, contact Roxanne Lindsay at 837-6253 or [rlindz@aol.com](mailto:rlindz@aol.com).

**Fourth Event in Art of Living Series**  
Leku Eder presents its fourth event in its Art of Living Series with two lessons, "Color Therapy" from 11 a.m.-noon and "Remodel Intervention" from 1:30-2:30 p.m., Friday, May 26, at 178 E. Prospect, Danville. This event is free,

but registration is required by calling 820-8012.

**In Search of El Dorado**  
The Blackhawk Auto Museum will be hosting a hands-on family funshops "In Search of El Dorado" by Robin Wiley from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, May 21, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Learn the meaning behind Spanish-named cars, participate in silversmithing, and make Mexican paper flowers. This event is free with paid admission to the museum. Call 736-2288 or visit [www.blackhawkauto.org](http://www.blackhawkauto.org).

**Operations Start-Up, Monitoring, HR**  
This event will include business organization development processes and will be from 8:30-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 24, at Carr American Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. This event is free, but registration is required. Call 960-1600 or visit [www.techventures.org](http://www.techventures.org).

**Video For Peace**  
Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center will show "Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land" (80 minutes) with a potluck at 6:30 p.m. and the video at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 24, at the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Call 933-7850 or e-mail [info@mtdpc.org](mailto:info@mtdpc.org).

## On Stage

**'Alice in Wonderland'**  
Monte Vista High School Theater will present "Alice in Wonderland" with

high-tech light shows and hand-made costumes, Wednesday-Friday, 7pm May 24-26, in the school's Al Gentile Theater, 3131 Stone Valley Road, Danville. Tickets are \$8; \$5 for children and students. For information, call Vicki Stadelhofer at 552-2878.

**'The Typographer's Dream'**  
The Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service is presenting "The Typographer's Dream" by Adam Bock. Encore Theatre Company of San Francisco will give the play at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 21, in the Old Barn at Tao House. Tickets are \$20; call 820-1818. Ticket price includes transportation to Tao House via Park Service van since private vehicles are not allowed.

## Support Groups

**Managing Cancer Treatment Symptoms and Side Effects**  
Chris Raymond, RN, OCN, will host an informal workshop to answer questions about cancer treatment side effects and discuss methods of managing nausea, fatigue and other symptoms, from 6-8 p.m., Monday, May 22, at Valley Care Health Library & Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 Las Positas Blvd., second floor, Pleasanton. This event is free, but reservations are required. Call 933-0107.

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## Friday Nights on the Patio

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## ROAMING HORSES AND SCATTERED STARBUCKS

Bellandi, who has run the feed store for 27 years, said he and his staff have done as much as they can to preserve the store's rustic atmosphere. But outside, in an area that is quickly developing, the feed store is the only remaining sign that Alamo was once a town for horse farmers and cattle ranchers.

Longtime Alamo resident and San Ramon Valley historian Jones remembers when the shop on Danville Boulevard at Stone Valley Road was a grocery store owned by Oscar Peterson in the 1950s. She said shopping was a totally different experience back then.

"It was a lot more friendly, everybody knew everybody. Now there are too many people," she said.

With the rest of the area changing, so have the sales at Alamo Hay and Grain. Most of its business comes from people buying food and supplies for smaller animals like rabbits, chicks and ducks. This is what happens when a place grows in population—house lots get smaller and so do pets, Bellandi said.

"This used to be a horse town, now people buy backyard pets. You'd be surprised, I'd say one in every five houses with kids around here has a chicken," he said.

The horse riding has also changed from what was once the popular western style to a more upscale English style, said Chris Ridener, who works at Alamo Hay and Grain.

"You don't see a lot of hicks now, it's mostly the classier English riders," he said.

Western style usually includes riding trails for enjoyment. English horseback riders, on the other hand, typically own trained horses that compete in shows. The store still offers specialty food and pet products along with supplies for show animals.

While outwardly, the area has changed since the Alamo Hay and Grain opened in 1962—with scattered Starbucks and mansions on top of rolling hills—one thing has stayed the same. Most people who visit the store have the same values they did 40 years ago, Bellandi said.

## THE COUNTRY LIFESTYLE

"People still come to Alamo with the intent to raise kids the way they were raised. If they wanted a high rise in San Francisco, they would be there instead," Bellandi said.

Loving and caring for animals is a big part of the country way of life. When kids grow up caring for pets, it teaches them to be selfless and responsible, he said. He has seen kids from Alamo grow up, marry and then bring their own children back to buy animals.

"You don't get better than this place," said patron Bonnie Watson, "It's so much better than a pet store."

When parents encourage children and teens to be interested in horses and 4H, it helps them stay out of trouble during their formative years, Bellandi said.

"If a girl between 14 and 18 grows to love horses, it's well worth it for parents," he said. "When a girl really gets into horses there is no one first in her life."

Bellandi, who grew up in San Jose and has children of his own, said oftentimes a passion for horses is passed down from parent to daughter. He finds that people who grow up in the city are often fascinated with country life and that females are more likely to become equestrians.

"A woman came in who had been coming here since she was a kid. (Customers) give me an incentive, they say, 'Hey, don't you want to see me?' he said.

## HAY YOU SAY?

## Alamo Hay and Grain is a throwback to the past

photos and story by  
Natalie O'Neill

**H**is workplace isn't like yours. Replace the sound of shuffling papers and ringing phones with the gentle squawk of baby ducklings. Now switch the smell of stale office coffee to sweet alfalfa, and let a whiff of hay tickle your nose.

While most people in the Bay Area don't associate newborn animals and fresh country air with an average day at work, John Bellandi does. As the owner of Alamo Hay and Grain, these sensations are just part of his daily routine. For many Alamo residents, though, a trip to the feed store feels like an escape back to the old days.

"I think people associate this place with old-time Alamo and with things they want to remember," Bellandi said.

Under the high arched roof, the pace of life seems to slow to a leisurely roll. When patrons step foot inside the shop, some visibly change. Suburban mothers move a little slower. Curious kids smile a little more frequently. And rugged farmers, clad in weather-worn denim, take a break to pet a rabbit.

"It has a small-town feel," said Kristine Bortz, a regular patron at Alamo Hay and Grain. "We like the country atmosphere. It's a treat for the kids to stop here after school."



John Bellandi, who has run the feed store for 27 years, takes a break from handling bags of chicken feed. The feed store is a symbol of the country lifestyle.



Rabbits and other small animals are popular at Alamo Hay and Grain. Most of the store's income comes from selling supplies for these animals.

And local support for Alamo hay and Grain doesn't stop there. When it caught fire on a rigidly cold day in January 1991, the response from the community was unprecedented. More than 200 volunteers rallied around to help clean up the ash and rebuild the shop.

## A SYMBOL OF OLD-TIME ALAMO DESTROYED

The feed store is open-air and was so cold on that winter morning that Bellandi had several space heaters going at the same time. He was in front of the shop, unloading hay bales from a New Year's Eve party, when he saw the shop was ablaze. In a matter of minutes his store had completely burned to the ground.

"I thought everything would disappear," he remembered. "And I thought, 'Why should I start over?'"

But then residents of Alamo and Danville let him know—loud and clear—how much the store means to them.

"You saw people who were wealthy in their own right, take a day off work to help. That just doesn't happen," he said.

Prize-winning pigeons, worth tens of thousands of dollars, along with thousands of dollars of food and supplies were lost in the fire. After that morning, Bellandi had to rebuild the shop from the ground up.

"It was either that or let them put in something like a McDonald's," he said.

Having an impersonal corporate chain take over an authentic slice of rural culture was the last thing these people wanted to see, he said.



has owned Alamo Hay and Grain for all from a customer while using several as a seat. Locals say Bellandi and his symbol of rural culture.

## WHERE THE COWBOYS WORK

Part of the reason people come into the shop is because they enjoy the attitude and the character of the staff, Watson said as she paused in her shopping. "We come in to see John and the boys," she said. Bellandi has a deep raspy voice and would come off gruff if it weren't for his playful smile and warm demeanor. He gets frequent visits from people who stop in to say "hi."

When Watson refers to "the boys," she's talking about Alamo Hay and Grain's staff of six young men. Cowboy hats, boots and faded Wranglers make these guys look like they've been trucked in from a ranch somewhere in Texas.

"What can I do for you, ma'am?" Ridener says with a slight drawl.

"I'll take two bags of chicken feed," one patron answers.

Ridener loves his job because he loves being outside. Lifting hay bales and large bags of animal feed is great exercise and he gets to meet a lot of friendly people, he said. He delivers hay in a truck to farms in the area and says the job can be challenging if you're not physically fit.

"I could never have an office job," he said. "I get good hours and I get to be around horses."

Bellandi laughs when he thinks about what his typical employee has been like.

"I've had some pretty macho cowboys, but all good people," he said.

"In this business whether they are rich or poor, my customers and workers have big hearts," Bellandi said.

For those Alamo residents grappling to hang on to the area's rural roots, it may be refreshing to take a peek into the feed store—to see "the boys" tossing bales of hay onto a truck, while a spring breeze blows through the shop. But beware: You may find yourself walking a little slower and smiling a little more frequently. ■



Small animals are the biggest attraction at Alamo Hay and Grain. Bellandi says he makes the patrons who buy food for backyard pets

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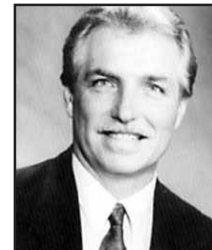
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## Treasure hunt with a twist

*Geocaching—the latest outdoor adventure*

Abby poses with the cache she and the author found on their latest geocaching adventure. It's the perfect activity for dogs and their pals.

by Liz Cherene

Geocaching is the latest way to treasure hunt, using maps and a Global Positioning system. The Town of Danville is offering a class on geocaching at 9 a.m., Saturday, July 15, but here we offer a personal insight on the experience from someone who enjoys the activity with her pooch.

Do you have a little “Indiana Jones” lurking inside you? If you’re looking for a new adventure, and one you can have with your dog, then geocaching might be just right for you. Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing) is a high-tech game of hide and seek, a treasure hunt with a twist. All you need to get started is access to the Web and a handheld GPS (global positioning system).

This is how it works. Someone hides a container and posts details about the cache and its coordinates on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The adventurer (that’s you!) loads the coordinates into a handheld GPS and starts the search. When you discover a cache, it will usually have a logbook to sign, indicating that you’ve found it. Locating the cache is the true prize, although you might find an item or two inside to take home. These are intended as trades, so I always carry a little something with me to leave in the container for the next person who finds it.

You can choose what kind of adventure you’d like from a listing on the Web site. Caches are graded based on terrain, difficulty, type and size. For example: a “virtual” takes you to an interesting place; “multi” is a sequence of findings; “puzzle” requires some sleuthing just to uncover the coordinates. The

container can be anything: mint tins, 35mm film canisters, Tupperware, even huge buckets. Not knowing exactly what you’ll find is part of the fun.

Although the game itself is not top secret, you need to be discreet when seeking. You want to be sure the cache remains safe for the next person searching and that it won’t be vandalized by someone who’s not familiar with the game. Afterward you can log your adventure on the Web site.

When I first heard about geocaching, I knew it would be a perfect fit for my dog and me. Abby, an energetic Portuguese Water Dog who was adopted from the Tri-Valley SPCA, has turned out to be a perfect caching partner. She’ll gladly splash around in a creek while I look along a bank for a cache. If I’m preoccupied searching, she’ll alert me if people are coming. She doesn’t mind the walks, the hikes or, on occasion, the endless circling within the same 30 feet if I can’t seem to find the container.

Abby and I have found caches under benches disguised to look like rocks, tucked in trees, out in the open. We’ve found more than 100 caches in the past year, and we hope to find many more. It shouldn’t be too difficult. The last time I checked, there were more than 242,383 active caches stashed in 221 countries, and the number keeps growing. How many caches are in the Bay Area? Too many to count! I work in Pleasanton and there are over 400 caches within a 10-mile radius of my office. You and your dog could be busy for many years to come.

Before the rain ended, we had a clear day one weekend and I decided it was a perfect

opportunity to find a couple of geocaches. I loaded the coordinates into my GPS and Abby and I were off on another adventure. We ended up at a regional park, and, with the GPS and park map in hand, we found the

How many caches are in the Bay Area? Too many to count! There are over 400 caches within a 10-mile radius of my office.

trail that would bring us closest to the cache. The hike was fairly short with a strenuous ascent, and we finally zoomed in and found the cache.

We sat down and the logbook told me that SnoWake and Dingo has been there in May 2003, Blue Blaze Irregulars and Bill the Dog found it November 2005. Now it says BayAreaLiz and Abby made it in March 2006.

You can sometimes identify cachers by the trade items they leave behind. Many people leave a signature item—perhaps a custom button, imprinted pencil, sew-on patch, wooden nickel—with the cacher’s name on it. You’ll sometimes find fun toys like hot wheels, yo-yo’s, or stickers. Trading isn’t required, but it can sure be fun. I like leaving a button with a photo of Abby and, if the container is big enough, I’ll leave a “Bay Area Back Roads” travel card.

The view from the cache site was nothing short of amazing. Abby and I spent quite some time on the hillside just enjoying the sun, the breeze and the quiet around us. We had a fantastic hike and a perfect caching day.

Geocaching is a great sport that offers special rewards. Abby and I have had some fantastic explorations together. I’ve become more familiar with the Bay Area, its local history, and many monuments around town just through caching. Best of all, geocaching helps us spend quality time together, getting great exercise and enjoying the outdoors as a team. Indiana Jones never had it so good. ■

*Liz Cherene was the winner of the Alamo Weight Loss Challenge Group in March. You can frequently find her—with or without Abby—on the Iron Horse Trail. This story appeared first in the Woofertimes, [www.woofertimes.com](http://www.woofertimes.com).*



## Cooking Chinese

Almost two decades ago, I took a Chinese Cooking class in the evenings. It was taught by Victoria Chen, a local Maryland housewife, born in Shanghai and who had moved around various provinces of China during the Japanese invasion. Chen taught us to cook centuries-old, everyday Chinese dishes—nothing fancy, just delicious and healthy meals—and her recipes continue to delight to this day. The lessons I learned in that class helped me appreciate how geography affects a particular cuisine, how to balance flavors in a menu, how to prep food for cooking, and how to honor the “kitchen gods.”

The cuisine of China is divided into four geographic regions: North, South, East and West. In the Southern region, Szechuan is in the Red Basin near the Yangtze River. The weather is hot and humid, so people need to perspire. Thus, the food there is hot and spicy. Hunan belongs to the Southern region as well. In the Northern region, where it gets very cold, you’ll find Peking. The food there is very rich, with more fat to resist the bitter temperatures. Shanghai is in the East and has a fertile delta. Shanghai dishes are sweet and employ many varieties of vegetables and seafood. In the subtropical regions of Canton and Taiwan, foods are milder and less greasy. Patterns of geography have influenced other ethnic cultures and countries. If you explore just a bit of the history and climate of an area as you enjoy its local cuisine, you will discover these patterns hold pretty true.

Because the Chinese population has always been much larger than its agricultural capabilities, many Chinese dishes use soy or tofu to provide adequate protein. The Chinese use efficient portions of meat and vegetables to flavor the tofu. One such dish, Ma-Po, is one of my favorites. According to Chinese legend, Ma Po—“ma” meaning scarred from smallpox and “po” meaning woman—was created by a woman with a scarred face to generate a living for her dead brother’s family. She was honored by the Emperor for her culinary inventiveness and the rest is history. Try the Ma-Po recipe given here.

Chinese cooking is very dependent on chopping, slicing and shredding. My hunch is that, during adventures to the East, the French

probably learned the concept of pre-cooking preparation from the Chinese and named it “mise en place” for the rest of the world to know (I’ve written about this concept in a previous column). At any rate, get your prep bowls and sharp knives ready before you start cooking Chinese. Cutting into uniform pieces is important for even cooking as well as appearance. Chen taught us to cut foods into chunks, then into slices, then stacking the slices, into shreds. She modeled the art of holding the food with the fingertips, pushing the knuckles up against the knife or cleaver and rocking it as you push the food toward the knife. We practiced by chopping dozens of cucumbers in her classes. If you want to perfect your cutting skills, use the sliced cucumbers in the Cucumber Salad recipe.

The traditional Chinese meal includes four courses: soup, salad, rice and dessert. The key is to find a good balance in menu choices of the five tastes—salty, sweet, sour, hot and bitter. While Chinese cooking relies on spices for variety, good cooks use spices to bring out the unique flavor of foods but not over-spicing or overwhelming the natural flavors of the ingredients. Marinating meats, creating sauces and heating your wok before adding foods are other important techniques in Chinese cooking.

Finally, Victoria Chen had a saying that a good Chinese kitchen has four main characters. She said: “Number one chef is Red Wok, who does all the cooking. Second chef is Cleaver Edge, who does all the cutting. Third chef is Oil Wok, who does all the frying.” Lastly, “Flour Two takes care of the dough and batter.” (Flour Two does not like to be considered the least important one so he calls himself Flour Two to imply he is only in second place to the other three.) These kitchen gods bring “good vibes” to the kitchen but they must always be honored by attending to each of these tasks and maintaining order as you cook.

May the kitchen gods watch over you and keep your culinary skills sharp as you prepare and partake of these tasty dishes. Chow!

*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.*

### Szechuan: Ma-Po (serves 4)

- 1 package (or 2 pieces) tofu bean curd
- 1 Tbsp. minced ginger
- 1/2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 4 oz. ground pork
- 1 Tbsp. black fermented beans
- 1/2 cup stock
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. hot bean sauce
- 1 crushed dried red pepper
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch in 2 Tbsp. water
- 1 tsp. sesame oil
- Ground pepper to taste

1. Cut tofu into 1/2 x1-inch cubes. Heat wok/pan with 2 Tbsp. oil.
2. Sauté ginger and garlic; then stir fry pork. Push aside in wok and sauté black beans.
3. Add tofu, stock, soy sauce and salt. Cook 10 minutes with wok/pan covered. Gently mix in hot bean sauce and pepper with tofu. Pour in cornstarch water to thicken.
4. Add the sesame oil and pepper just before serving. Serve with steamed white or brown rice.

### Cucumber Salad (serves 4)

- 4 cucumbers, peeled and sliced
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. hot bean sauce
- 1 Tbsp. chili sauce
- 2 Tbsp. sesame oil

1. Add 1 tsp. salt to the cucumber slices, toss and let stand for 2 hours. Drain and squeeze juice from cucumbers.
2. Blend remaining ingredients to create the dressing. Add dressing to cucumbers 3-5 hours before serving.

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### Attention, Epicure readers

In coming weeks, Epicure plans to run a series of columns on ethnic cuisines—Chinese, Mexican, Soul Food, etc. If you have expertise in a particular ethnic cuisine or have personal ethnic recipes to share, we’d like to hear from you. Please e-mail us at Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com.

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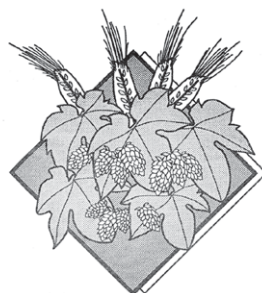
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## AT THE MOVIES

**CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill:** 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (687-1100)  
**Cent. 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)  
**Hac. Cross 20/ Regal Imax Theater:** 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (560-9600)  
**Internet address:** For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com/](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/)

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

**Akeelah and the Bee (PG)** **Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30 p.m.  
**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:05 a.m., 3:50, 9:35 p.m.

**Art School Confidential (R)** **CinéArts:** Fri-Tues Noon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 p.m.

**Da Vinci Code (PG-13)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 9:35 a.m., 12:45, 3:55, 7:05, 10:15 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 9:35 a.m., Sun-Tues 10:15 p.m.

**Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 10:15, 11:10, noon, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 9:55 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 10:15 a.m.

**Crow Canyon 6:** Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:40, 3:40, 4:50, 7, 8, 10:10 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 10:10 p.m., Mon-Tues 10:30 a.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10, 11:20, 11:50 a.m., 12:20, 12:50, 1:20, 2:40, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 4:40, 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 9:20, 9:50, 10:20, 10:50, 11:20 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 11:20 p.m.

**Down in the Valley (R)** **CinéArts:** Fri-Tues 12:35, 3:35, 6:45, 9:35 p.m.

**Friends With Money (R)** **Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:30, 3:40, 5:45, 8, 10:20 p.m.

**Goal! The Dream Begins (PG)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 9:55 a.m., 2:50, 7:45 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 9:55 a.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 12:55, 6:35 p.m.

**Hoot (PG)** **Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 1:45 p.m.

**Ice Age: The Meltdown (G)** **Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 1:35, 4 p.m.

**Just My Luck (PG-13)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 9:45 a.m., 12:10, 2:35, 5, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 9:45 a.m., 12:10 p.m., Sun-Tues 9:55 p.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 1:25, 3:50, 6:40, 9:25 p.m.

**Kinky Boots (PG-13)** **CinéArts:** Fri-Tues 1, 5:15, 9:30 p.m.

**Lost City (R)** **CinéArts:** Fri-Tues 12:50, 3:55, 7:10 p.m.

**Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 11:10 a.m., Sun-Tues 10:10 p.m.

**Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9, 10 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 10:30 a.m.

**Crow Canyon 6:** Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 10 p.m., No show Sun-Tues 10 p.m., Mon-Tues 10:50 a.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 12:35, 1:50, 3:30, 4:55, 6:40, 7:50, 9:40, 10:55 p.m.

**Over the Hedge (PG)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 9:30, 11:10 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 1:30, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 9:30, 11:35 a.m., Sun-Tues 10 p.m.

**Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 10:20, 11, 11:40 a.m., 12:30, 1:10, 1:50, 2:40, 3:15, 4, 4:50, 5:30, 6:15, 7, 7:40, 9:10, 9:45 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 10:20 a.m.

**Crow Canyon 6:** Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 12:45, 2:50, 5, 7:15, 9:30 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:30 p.m., Mon-Tues 10:40 a.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:10, 10:40, noon, 12:30, 1, 2:25, 2:55, 3:25, 3:55, 4:50, 5:20, 5:50, 6:15, 7:10, 7:40, 8:10, 8:40, 9:30, 9:55, 10:25, 10:50 p.m.; No show Mon 7:10 p.m.

**Poseidon (PG-13)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 9:50 a.m., 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 9:50 a.m., 12:15 p.m., Sun-Tues 10:05 p.m.

**Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:25, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40, 10:25 p.m.

**Crow Canyon 6:** Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 2, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:20 p.m., Mon-Tues 11 a.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 12:10, 1:10, 2:40, 3:35, 5:10, 6:10, 7:45, 8:45, 10:05, 11:15 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 11:15 p.m.

**Regal Imax Theaters:** Fri-Tues 10:10 a.m., 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45 p.m.

**RV (PG)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 9:40, 11:55 a.m., 2:10, 4:25, 7, 9:30 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 9:40, 11:55 a.m., Sun-Tues 9:30 p.m.

**Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.

**Crow Canyon 6:** Fri-Tues 1, 4:10, 7:30, 9:50 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:50 p.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 6:45, 9:05 p.m.

**See No Evil (R)** **Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:25 a.m., 1, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05, 10:35 p.m.

**Stick It (PG-13)** **Blackhawk Movies 7:** Fri-Tues 12:30, 5:25, 10:20 p.m.; No show Fri, Mon-Tues 12:30 p.m., Sun-Tues 10:20 p.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 p.m.

**Thank You for Smoking (R)** **Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:40, 6:55 p.m.

**CinéArts:** Fri-Tues 3:15, 7:30 p.m.

**The Sentinel (PG-13)** **Cent. 14:** Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 p.m.

**Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 6:35, 9:10 p.m.

**The Wild (G)** **Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 10:45 a.m., 1:05, 3:45 p.m.

**United 93 (R)** **Hac. Cross 20:** Fri-Tues 6:25, 9:15 p.m.

**Water (PG-13)** **CinéArts:** Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55 p.m.

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# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

## Alamo once called 'metropolis of the future'

In the 21st century, the community of Alamo is a green enclave with large-lot homes tucked between Walnut Creek and Danville. As the second oldest community in the county (Martinez is older), its history is a long one. At one point, Alamo was even touted as the "metropolis of the future."

"Alamo" means "poplar" or "cottonwood tree" in Spanish. This name was frequently used in Hispanic California. "Alameda," for example, means "poplar grove" in Spanish.

Information about Alamo's earliest years is available primarily because of a remarkable woman who wrote about them, Mary A. Jones. She recorded the reaction of her husband John when they first saw the San Ramon Valley in 1847:

"Mary, look! Did you ever see anything so beautiful?" There was nothing in sight but nature. Nothing to show that man had been here, except a little mud and stick hut close to where the Alamo Bridge is."

After they had looked for a while, John said, "If I live and can ever get a home here, I am going to have it."

They did return, after living in San Jose and mining in the Sierra, finally coming to the valley with the William Mitchell family on Nov. 10, 1851. Initially both families lived in an adobe, which had once belonged to Francisco Garcia (at the present site of the Stone Valley Center).

The community grew quickly in the 1850s, outpacing Lafayette because of its excellent location. Alamo was the midway point for travelers going to and from Martinez and Mission San Jose. In addition, a road from the redwoods, west of the Moraga Valley, came over the divide and brought people to Alamo.

David Glass established the first small store or trading post at his house just north of Alamo to take advantage of the location; this was the first store in the county outside of Martinez. It was followed soon by George Englemeyer's store and Captain Wall's boarding house, just 1-1/2 miles south of Walnut Creek.

James D. Smith wrote later about the housewarming

that Captain Wall hosted after his building was completed:

"The music was two violins with the second violin, Arch Penniman, doing the calling for the dances ... there was a large attendance from Lafayette, Moraga and from Martinez ... a fine supper was served and the dance closed when the company joined in singing 'We Won't Go Home Till Morning' and they did not."

The Alamo post office is the oldest one in the San Ramon Valley and began in 1852 with John Jones as postmaster. The mail carrier made a round trip from Martinez through Alamo to Mission San Jose twice a week, using a horse and cart.

The entire Valley was sometimes described as "Alamo" in the early days. The census of 1860, for example, included the valley in Township 2, which was grouped as the "Lafayette and Alamo Post Offices." In 1856, when Bret Harte wrote letters from the Tassajara Valley, where he was a tutor, he headed the letters with the date and "Alamo," which probably indicated the post office.

Civilization in the form of churches, school and lodges began as families moved in. Alamo Masonic Lodge No. 122 held its first meeting in 1858. Mary and John Jones were instrumental in establishing a grammar school, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Union Academy (a boarding and day high school).

Alamo did not turn out to be "the metropolis of the future," but in the 1850s it had the same natural beauty and the crucial location that residents take pride in today.

Sources: Virgie V. Jones' book "Remembering Alamo ... and Other Things Along the Way"; J. P. Munro-Fraser's "History of Contra Costa County" (1882); James Smith's Recollections.

Photo: Mary Ann Smith Jones, who lived to be 93, wrote "The Story of My Life" beginning when she was 80.

—Beverly Lane, a longtime Danville resident, is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon."



### OF NOTE

#### New entrance to Danville

Diablo Valley Bank broke ground May 3 for the construction of its new administrative and banking office at 387 Diablo Road in Danville, which will mark the entry to town for those turning west on Diablo Road off I-680.

The new 9,000-square-foot headquarters will replace the branch on Railroad Avenue and the corporate office in Alamo. This was formerly the site of the old Coco's Restaurant.

#### Two stride for hope

Marianne Bordogna, a Danville Realtor, and Stacy Gilbert with Intero Real Estate Services participated in the Strides for Hope Marathon on Sunday, May 7, at the Avenue of the Giants in Humboldt County. The event was to raise money for the Wellness Community in Walnut Creek, which provides hope, education and support to people with cancer and their loved ones. Every program is offered free of charge.

Bordogna was the event co-chair for a team of approximately 40 participants, which has raised

more than \$95,000. Anyone wishing to donate can contact her at 855-4025.

#### Students selected for arts training program

Three San Ramon Valley residents are among 12 from throughout Contra Costa County who will be honored May 31 as gifted and talented artists who have been selected to participate in an intensive pre-professional training program at the California Summer School for the Arts in Valencia.

The arts scholars include Vicki Chen of San Ramon and a student at California High School, whose interest is dance; Lucy Liu of San Ramon, and Allison Long of Danville, both of whom attend Monte Vista High School. They are pursuing studies in vocal music.

Honors will be bestowed upon the students during a public ceremony, arranged by the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County, at 4 p.m. in the chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 651 Pine St, Martinez. The students will perform at the ceremony, and the event will be followed by

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## Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

## San Ramon swimmers win 4th straight EBAL Championship

Lady Mustang Kim Bierwith sets new meet record in 50 freestyle

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

The San Ramon Valley High School boys swim team won its fourth straight EBAL Championship, at the San Ramon Aquatic Center on Saturday. The Wolves scored 454 points, finishing 32 points ahead of second-place Foothill High.

Senior Sheldon Gruendl led the Wolves, finishing first in the 100 freestyle and third in the 50 freestyle. He also led the 200 freestyle team to victory. Gruendl has been on all four EBAL Championship teams.

In the girls event, Monte Vista scored 538 points to top second-place Foothill's 447 to win the EBAL Championship. Paige Bradley and Kim Bierwith led the Mustangs to victory winning individual events. Bierwith set a new meet record in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.05, breaking a record of 24.36 set in 1985.

Interscholastic Federation Northern Regional Championships on May 22 at Mira Vista Country Club in El Cerrito. The Mustangs shot a team score of 383 and finished behind second-place De La Salle, 379, and the winner Foothill, 370.

Chris Oki led the Mustangs with a score of 74. The top three teams and four low individual players advanced to the State Championships next week.

### Tennis

Monte Vista boys tennis lost in the NCS finals at San Marin High School to Redwood-Larkspur, 6-1, on Saturday. Both Redwood and Monte Vista will now advance to the California Interscholastic-Federation playoffs May 19-20 at the Fremont Tennis Center. ■

E-mail your results to sports@DanvilleWeekly.com or fax 837-8454.

### PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, May 19

#### Baseball

Monte Vista vs. San Ramon Valley, 3:45 p.m.

#### Boys Tennis

CIF/MORCAAL Team Championships, May 19-20



### Third time's the charm for Roadrunners

After being in the State Cup finals three times, the Mustang Tri-Valley Roadrunners won their first CYSA State Cup defeating the San Juan Spirits 88 from Sacramento, 3-2. They will represent Cal North at the Western Regionals in Boise, Idaho, at the end of June. Captains Melissa Buich and Adrian Samson (Monte Vista High School) and Lauren Huntley (San Ramon High School) handed out the first-place ribbons at the awards ceremony. Other team members are Christen Allen, Brittany Boehm, Annie Canalin, Christine Dixon, Katelin Hopping, Julie Kopp, Holli McGue, Rachel Ortega, Dana Perry, Elli Seo, Thea Sutton, Rochelle Van Buskirk, Katie Zasly, Laura Zasly and Jennifer Zenovich. The head coach is Greg Fish of Monte Vista; assistant coach is Amy Apodaca from Granada).

### Baseball

Monte Vista varsity baseball lost a close game to California, 7-6, last Friday in a battle for first place in the EBAL. Monte Vista took a 4-1 lead but in the fourth inning Cal's Jeff Johnson hit a grand slam homerun to make it 5-4. The Mustangs rallied back but Cal never relinquished the lead.

The Mustangs are now 16-5 overall and 9-2 in the EBAL. California is 17-3 overall and 9-1 in the EBAL.

### Golf

On Monday, the Monte Vista boys golf team finished in third place at the North Coast Section tournament held at Redwood Country Club in Fortuna. This earned them the right to advance to the California

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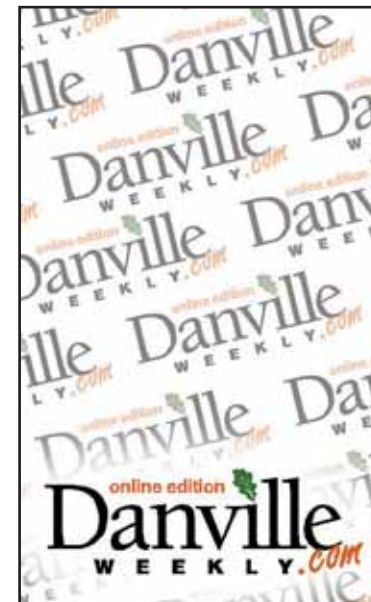
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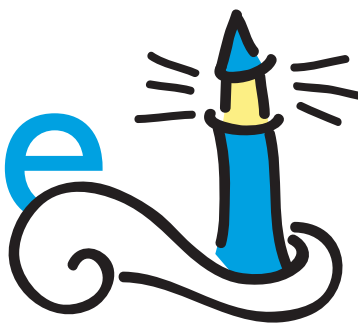
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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

Chronic Pain Support Group

### \* DEADLINE \*

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

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**925-600-0840 x12**

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### MISSING/LOST CAT

Sassy has been missing from Second Street in Pleasanton since late Monday night, May 8. She is a mature, long-hair orange cat with some white on neck, stomach and paws and has beautiful green eyes. She was not wearing a collar/tags. She is normally very shy and doesn't like strangers. Contact 925-998-1964. Reward.

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### 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

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Original 454 engine runs well. Original owner no longer drives so must sell. \$2750 or b/o.

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### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

**FLEA MARKET / FUND RAISER**  
Saturday, May 20th, 8am-2pm.  
No Early Birds!!

Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave (across from Aquatic Center). All proceeds to fund the Sierra Service Project trip to Pendleton, OR to help the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes. For more info about the Sierra Service Project call Sara Ardell, Project Coordinator  
925-462-7479 or visit:  
www.sierraserviceproject.org/

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### HUGE 40 Family Garage Sale

Sat 5/20 8am-1pm  
Pleasanton YMCA Preschool  
Corner of First & Bernal

### Pleasanton, 1913 Fiorio Circle, May 20, 8-2

Neighborhood Garage Sale - Danbury Park - Fiorio & Moller Sts. 8-2, May 20th.

Pleasanton, 3264 Clifford Cir, 5/20, 8:30-1

Pleasanton, 4444 Black Avenue, May 20, 8:00am - 2:00pm

Pleasanton, 527 Tannet Court, May 20, 8-4

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Catherine Hansen Fluh

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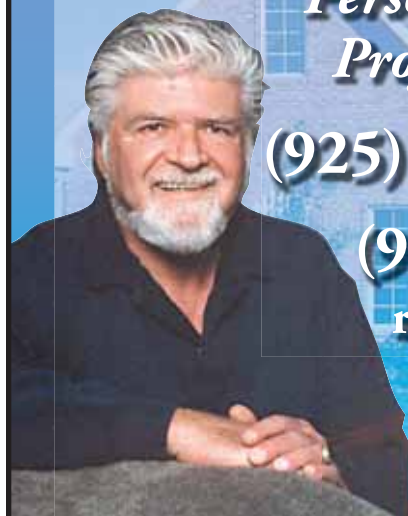


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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 14	Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 24
Lowest sale reported: \$495,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,475,000	Lowest sale reported: \$274,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,320,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,750,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,150,000
Average sales reported: \$1,191,179	Average sales reported: \$2,112,500	Average sales reported: \$655,646

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
<b>19 Alamo Springs Court</b> Corrie Development to R. & W. Linney for \$950,000	<b>25 West Brightwood Lane</b> R. & K. Hunt to J. Sims for \$2,320,000	\$585,000
<b>111 Benjamin Lane S.</b> Ghoreishi to B. Slepko for \$1,420,000	<b>523 Zephyr Circle</b> V. Housen to R. Douros for \$980,000	<b>2127 Dunblane Court</b> L. Kim to J. Rietman for \$990,000
<b>318 Borel Lane</b> K. Mo to Kahn Trust for \$495,000	<b>255 Eagle Court</b> K. & B. Collins to B. Crowder for \$2,750,000	<b>14 Jolie Lane</b> S. & L. Loughran-Smith to A. & T. Edell for \$905,000
<b>9 Creekledge Court</b> R. & T. Auster to N. Exline for \$1,900,000	<b>1859 Piedras Circle</b> R. & K. Bleier to Nakazato Trust for \$1,475,000	<b>1212 Juanita Drive</b> L. & S. Krasky to J. Lindemuth for \$830,000
<b>4039 Eagle Nest Lane</b> Gray Trust to D. Brandenburg for \$1,309,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #162</b> Alpine of Alma Development to D. & D. Messerschmitt for \$464,000	<b>55 Normandy Lane</b> P. Duran to J. Consos for \$700,000
<b>80 Glasgow Circle</b> J. Stone to J. & N. Alfaro for \$900,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #212</b> Alpine of Alma Development to M. Cuddihy for \$568,000	<b>2550 Oak Road #212</b> Bridgeport Commons to L. Fleming for \$387,500
<b>533 Knollwood Court</b> P. Shrivastava to T. & M. Akright for \$1,160,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #232</b> Alpine of Alma Development to M. & S. Hensley for \$497,000	<b>67 Orchard Estates Drive</b> C. & B. Amacker to J. & C. Walsh for \$1,150,000
<b>449 Liverpool Street</b> K. & K. Key to G. & R. Franklin for \$1,449,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #236</b> Alpine of Alma Development to J. Oneal for \$274,000	<b>518 Persimmon Road</b> S. & A. Stone to D. & E. Schrag for \$875,000
<b>1834 North Forest Hill Place</b> Sagers Trust to T. Albrigo for \$719,000	<b>1125 Avenida Sevilla #1B</b> Bert Trust to Boex Trust for \$599,000	<b>2978 Putnam Boulevard</b> R. Schulze to R. Abanto for \$779,000
<b>20 Panorama Court</b> J. & M. Gantenbein to Pearson & Williams Limited for \$1,299,500	<b>1305 Boulevard Way #211 J.</b> Giammara to T. Courtenay for \$310,000	<b>1646 San Miguel Drive</b> San Miguel Drive Venture to L. Maxey for \$440,000
<b>4170 Rockcreek Drive</b> Victa Trust to R. & L. Baraceros for \$1,050,000	<b>513 Chandon Court</b> B. Sovereign to S. Thompson for \$575,000	<b>1565 Siskiyou Drive</b> M. Severe to R. Seely for \$585,000
<b>515 Silver Lake Drive</b> Schmitz Trust to M. Mohler for \$725,000	<b>542 Churchill Downs Court</b> Haines Trust to P. Malone for \$542,000	<b>2402 Stirrup Court</b> Weckesser Trust to B. & K. Lebovitz for \$852,500
	<b>3324 Citrus Avenue</b> Veitch Trust to Go Trust for \$850,000	<b>3352 Terra Granada Drive #1A</b> E. & E. Smith to J. & D. Starr for \$815,000
	<b>1889 Countrywood Court</b> J. Bryant to E. & S. Wiesel for	<b>696 Whippoorwill Court</b> Z. Ismail to S. Ghorban for \$770,500
		<b>1919 Ygnacio Valley Road</b> #24 B. Hamidi to G. Sanchez for \$392,000

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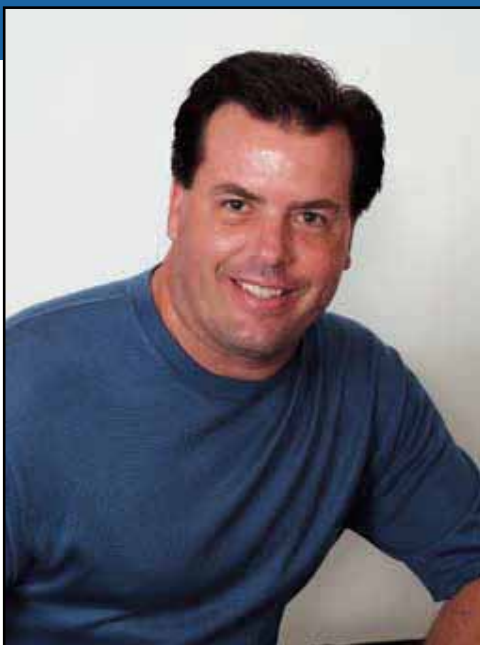
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Mortgage industry veteran, Tony Locy, who is recognized throughout California as one of the most prolific and accomplished loan officers and home mortgage specialists, has joined NorthPoint Real Estate Investment Services as Senior Vice President/Mortgage Consultant.

Tony comes to NorthPoint from Stonecastle Land & Home Financial where he was a top-producing loan officer, specializing in purchase loans and no-cost refinance transactions.

"Tony has attained deep respect among both his clients and peers for having established himself as a trusted expert in home mortgages," says Frank Richards, Chief Executive Officer of NorthPoint Real Estate Investment Services. "He will play an instrumental part in helping his clients with their home financing needs, as well as help them plan for wealth building through real estate investing.

Entering his 18th year in the mortgage industry, Tony is a graduate of San Jose State University with a bachelor's degree in finance. He also played on two championship football teams as a quarterback while at SJSU.

A California native, Tony currently resides in San Ramon with his two children, Alyssa 14 and Austin 9.

Personal Philosophy: "I will make every effort to give my clients the type of service and advice which, had I been in a similar circumstance, I would have applied for myself."

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# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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## Danville

### 2 Bedrooms

<b>3087 Fostoria Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21	<b>\$462,950</b> 510-220-4426
<b>433 Sycamore Cir.</b> Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$515,000</b> 791-2580
<b>527 Sycamore Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$525,000</b> 791-2580
<b>1165 Sunshine Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$699,950</b> 217-5057
<b>2198 Shoshone Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$700,000</b> 984-1787
<b>588 Cambrian Wy.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$769,000</b> 837-5679

### 3 Bedrooms

<b>180 San Thomas Wy.</b> Sun 1-5 p.m. Intero	<b>\$1,100,000</b> 915-0300
<b>4049 Skylark Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$644,500</b> 968-1452
<b>167 Heritage Park</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	<b>\$725,000</b> 855-6410
<b>305 W. Meadows Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21	<b>\$732,950</b> 577-4004
<b>151 Heritage Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	<b>\$742,950</b> 251-2579
<b>1644 Fountain Springs Cir.</b> Sun 2-4 p.m. Pacific Union	<b>\$799,000</b> 314-4871
<b>434 Winfield Ln.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$799,000</b> 217-5050
<b>63 Haskins Ranch Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$872,500</b> 217-5090
<b>294 Gil Blas Rd.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Valley Brokers	<b>\$899,000</b> 484-0506
<b>122 Freesia Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	<b>\$919,000</b> 831-3343
<b>248 Abigail Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	<b>\$925,000</b> 314-2428

### 4 Bedrooms

<b>73 Edgegate Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	<b>\$1,059,000</b> 260-8883
<b>605 Ambience Wy.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,079,000</b> 323-6735
<b>2845 Sheffield Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	<b>\$1,124,900</b> 484-0900
<b>504 Honey Lake Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	<b>\$1,149,900</b> 785-4959
<b>36 Haskins Ranch Cir.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max	<b>\$935,000</b> 719-0972
<b>152 Santa Clara Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$995,000</b> 791-2580

### 5 Bedrooms

<b>416 Coventry Pl.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,199,000</b> 876-6935
<b>230 Lyon Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,429,000</b> 846-6500
<b>15 Discovery Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max	<b>\$1,595,000</b> 838-1117
<b>8 Mrack Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Windermere	<b>\$2,400,000</b> 922-0822

## Diablo

### 4 Bedrooms

<b>21 Calle Del Casarillo</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	<b>\$1,895,000</b> 984-3060
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### 6 Bedrooms

<b>2315 Caballo Ranchero</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$2,195,000</b> 217-5048
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## Alamo

### 4 Bedrooms

<b>151 Pebble Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	<b>\$1,448,000</b> 831-3329
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<b>30 Vernal Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$1,725,000</b> 217-5068
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<b>420 Crest Ave.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max	<b>\$1,999,000</b> 735-7653
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### 5 Bedrooms

<b>23 Scripps Haven Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$1,499,950</b> 998-3098
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<b>1427 Vine Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	<b>\$3,195,000</b> 998-3098
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## Blackhawk

### 3 Bedrooms

<b>11 Deer Meadow Ct.</b> Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk	<b>\$1,298,000</b> 736-4155
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### 4 Bedrooms

<b>3894 Cottonwood Dr.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	<b>\$1,249,000</b> 648-5359
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<b>311 Live Oak Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21	<b>\$1,299,000</b> 577-0525
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<b>388 Live Oak Dr.</b> Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk	<b>\$1,489,000</b> 736-4155
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### 5 Bedrooms

<b>33 Liquid Amber Ct.</b> Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk	<b>\$1,345,000</b> 510-406-4836
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<b>4339 Quail Run Ln.</b> Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk R E	<b>\$1,399,000</b> 683-6058
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## Walnut Creek

### 4 Bedrooms

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

### 2 Bedrooms

<b>6445 Sherwood Pl.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	<b>\$545,000</b> 997-8267
<b>7459 Oxford Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	<b>\$mid 500,000</b> 463-0436

### 3 Bedrooms

<b>4520 Sparrow Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	<b>\$789,950</b> 734-5017
<b>4204 Preciado Wy.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Golden Pacific	<b>\$799,950</b> 216-4799

### 4 Bedrooms

<b>7760 Bloomfield Terr.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC	<b>\$1,285,000</b> 858-5400
<b>5752 Shadow Hill Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	<b>\$799,999</b> 397-4390

## San Ramon

### 5 Bedrooms

<b>300 Rubicon Valley Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max	<b>\$1,039,000</b> 735-7653
<b>2639 Melbourne Wy.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	<b>\$1,139,888</b> 200-7373

<b>100 Allannmere Ct.</b> Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk	<b>\$1,177,000</b> 736-4155
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<b>361 Adelaide Hills Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	<b>\$1,199,999</b> 785-3684
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<b>117 Avalon Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	<b>\$1,298,000</b> 785-3684
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### 4 Bedrooms

<b>1923 Hollyview Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,024,500</b> 968-1452
<b>315 Rio Grande Pl.</b> Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	<b>\$1,025,000</b> 314-2428

apr.com



## RECENTLY REMODELED 131 RUBICON CIRCLE, DANVILLE

Don't miss the opportunity to purchase this adorable, open and airy two bedroom, two bath condo located close to Downtown Danville, shopping and easy freeway access. This home features all new windows, paint, bathrooms, new carpet and tile throughout, and views of the redwoods and pool area. This one won't last. Just move in!

- Approx. 1300 sq. ft.
- New tile floors in kitchen and baths
- New appliances
- All new windows
- New wall to wall carpet
- Large inside laundry room
- Pantry in kitchen
- One carport with storage
- All new lighting
- Great location!!!

**OFFERED AT \$555,000**



### Amy Phillips

Realtor

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925.413.7901 cellular

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### ALAMO

**Spectacular Estate in Vintage Acres**      **\$6,750,000**  
Your own private villa that will take you away from the hustle of the city, yet close enough to enjoy city life. 5bd, 5-full/2-half baths.  
**Sharon Dare/925.855.4041 Pamela Schmidt/925.855.4018**



### DIABLO

**Historic Diablo!**      **\$4,250,000**  
Overlooking the 18th fairway, this updated historical home is filled with custom features and old world charm. 5bd (3 suites), 4ba, spectacular yard.  
**Dave Bauer**      **925.855.4040**



### ALAMO

**Privately Gated Alamo Ridge**      **\$3,497,000**  
Knock-out gorgeous home situated on nearly 7 acres, in an enclave of exclusive estates on large parcels. Smashing views of Mt. Diablo. 4bd, 3-full/2-half baths.  
**Carol Erbert**      **925.736.1666**



### DANVILLE

**Totally Renovated!**      **\$1,799,950**  
Majestic 5bd, 4.5ba with all the upgrades! Stunning views of the hills. Gorgeous in-ground pool with spa. Master with retreat and fireplace.  
**Khrista Jarvis**      **925.855.4065**



### DANVILLE

**Wonderful Westside Danville**      **\$1,499,000**  
Gorgeous .53+/- acre lot with views of Mt. Diablo. 2 separate yards, one with pool/patio, the other with large grass area. 4bd, 3ba, remodeled kitchen and more.  
**Brad Gothberg**      **800.492.6365 X 3062**



### SAN RAMON

**Breathtaking Mediterranean Villa**      **\$1,379,000**  
Entertainer's dream home! Every imaginative upgrades, custom paint, shutters, granite, maple hardwood floors and more. Lush landscaping with pool.  
**Valerie Betts**      **925.368.8667**



### DANVILLE

**Great Home in Hidden Valley**      **\$1,199,000**  
Full bed, bath and separate office on main level. Upgraded kitchen with upgraded cabinetry. 5bd, 3ba, big open family room, quiet court location.  
**Lisa and Greg Doyle**      **925.855.4046**



### SAN RAMON

**Bollinger Hills!**      **\$1,194,500**  
Desirable arrowhead model on premium lot with views. Large kitchen and family room. Downstairs bedroom converted to office/den. 4bd, 3ba.  
**Dennis Harvey**      **925.519.4748**



### DANVILLE

**Classic Rancher in Sycamore**      **\$1,099,000**  
Newly remodeled maple/stainless kitchen, 4bd plus den, 2.5ba on private one-third+/- acre with vineyard/fruit trees. 3-car garage.  
**Esther Langhofer**      **925.683.5165**

**Danville  
Blackhawk**

**15 Railroad Avenue  
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle**

**925.855.4000  
925.648.5300**

