

Powerful WOW

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Finding respite

Center offers
activities for
frail elders

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Danville

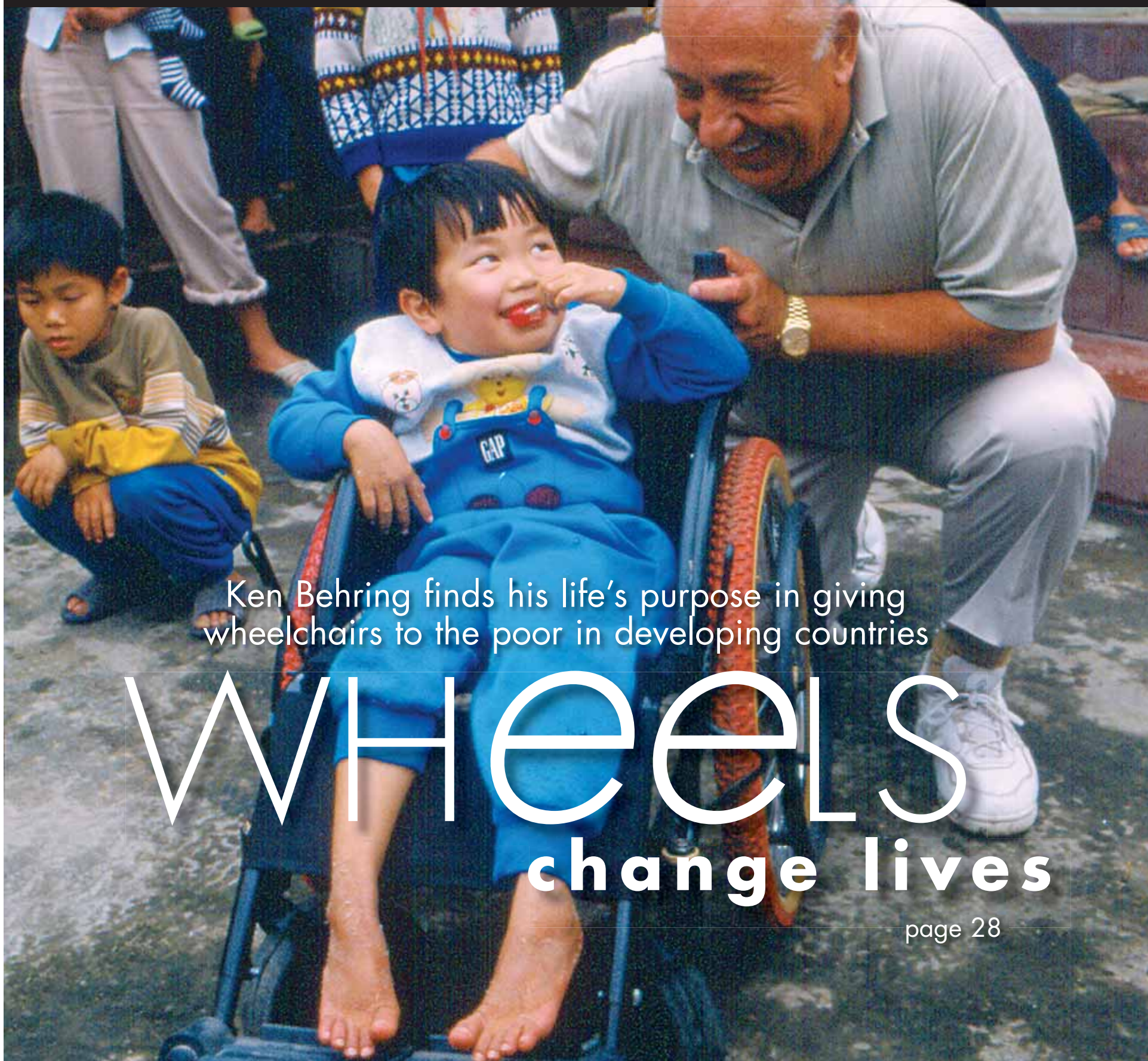
W E E K L Y

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Road holdups

I-680 getting
auxiliary lanes
for easy exit, entry

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Ken Behring finds his life's purpose in giving
wheelchairs to the poor in developing countries

WHEELS

change lives

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

Q: What advice would you give a high school graduate today?



They should look at life as a journey—not as a destination. And set high goals because it's OK if you don't reach your goals. You'll accomplish more by setting high goals. Setting goals that you know you can reach in the long run is not going to enhance personal growth and development.

George Courey
retired software engineer



They are equipped now to serve the world to make it a better place. Find out what the world needs and do it because I think in the long run they will be happy with their choices, instead of looking for the great job—golden handcuffs (I hate my job but I make too much money to quit).

Sally Hawkins
office staff, San Ramon Valley Christian Academy



Don't get behind in college early because once you get behind it's hard to catch up. Going out and partying makes you forget about your work.

Tom Morrisey
student at Chico State



First of all, get to know yourself. Get to know what you like and don't like and who you are. Once you've determined who you are and what you want out of life, don't settle for anything less. Work for it with all your heart, soul and spirit. Spend time with yourself. It's an important step. High school graduates don't do that today. Too much is given to them.

Sandra Jones
owner of Something Old Something New



They succeeded with their first step into society. They should not stop and should continue their studies. They need college to succeed in this world. High school is not enough for succeeding. At least get a B.A.

Gabriela Ramsey
owner of Antigua Doors

COMPILED BY JORDAN M. DORONILA

ABOUT THE COVER

Ken Behring's meeting with Bui Thi Huyen in Vietnam in 2000 and her joy in receiving a wheelchair convinced him to start the Wheelchair Foundation. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

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NEWS DIGEST

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We love to hate
Oftentimes we find
scapegoats instead
of answers. ”

Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, explaining religious groups that ostracize homosexuals. See story, page 9.

Teacher Carothers in final three

Patricia Carothers, the Monte Vista biology teacher who was named Teacher of the Year for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, is one of the three finalists for the county title from a field of 19. The finalists were chosen after a rigorous application screening, a panel classroom observation and an interview. The other finalists are Gloria Payette from the Liberty Union High School District and Susan Yamashita from the Lafayette School District.

The winner will be announced at the Contra Costa County's Teacher of the Year Celebration Dinner on Sept. 21 at the Concord Hilton Hotel. She will then participate in the State Teacher of the Year Program.

Kiwanis awards \$41,000 in grants

The Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley awarded \$41,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations at its annual Grant's Luncheon last week at Round Hill Country Club. The grants range from \$500 to \$2,500, and were awarded to the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation; Discovery Counseling Center; Museum of the San Ramon Valley; Loaves & Fishes; STAND! (against domestic violence); Down Syndrome Connection; Meals On Wheels; and the Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo.

Funds are raised by the sale of sponsorships for the Kiwanis-run 4th of July Parade in Danville and its annual Golf Tournament, which was held in April.

New history books for Special Ed

Special education students in the middle and high schools will be getting new history textbooks—which include the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 and the War in Iraq—this coming school year.

"I think parents and students can be pretty excited," said Carolyn Miller, a teacher on special assignment who is developing special education in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. "Students were using modified curriculum or outdated texts."

High school special education students will receive books about world geography, world history and American government and economics. Seventh-graders will receive texts about ancient civilization and the medieval world. Eighth-grade students in special education will get updated books about U.S. history.

"Each page has an illustration or picture that brings it home to students," said Miller.

The district plans next to add new special education text books in science, health, English and language arts.

Town needs lifeguards

Danville has an immediate need for lifeguards and swim instructors for this summer at the Monte Vista Community Pool and the San Ramon Valley High School pool. The pay range is \$7 to \$11 per hour. Applications are available at the Town Offices, 510 La Gonda Way; the Community Center, 420 Front St.; or on the Web site, www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Applicants should be available days, evenings and weekends and must have valid Lifeguard Certification and CPR for the Professional Rescuer. Danville is offering classes for certification or re-certification at the Monte Vista pool, starting Wednesday, June 7. Call 314-3400 or visit the town Web site.

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Final delivery

Carrier retires after 27 years on Hidden Oaks route

by Jordan M. Doronila

The first mailman to deliver in Blackhawk retired last Friday after saying his good-byes and holding back his tears.

Ken Tucker, an Antioch resident, has been delivering mail to the Hidden Oaks community in Blackhawk for 27 years, and he disliked saying goodbye. He said he is leaving the post office to join the rodeo trail.

"After 27 years of delivering mail, I have finally decided to hang up my spurs," he wrote in a letter to his community. "(I'm going to) put on my boots and hit the rodeo trail. It has been a great ride that I have really enjoyed."

"It never occurred to me that it was a job," he added. "I have met some mighty nice folks; you know who you are. I have a lot of good memories of you and your families, watching your kids grow up and go to college and some have families of their own. And I can't forget my furry friends."

A small group of residents gathered at the Hidden Oaks gate when

Tucker finished his delivery at 3 p.m. There were balloons, and a sign by the gate wishing him well.

They said he knew all their names and informed them of what was going on in the neighborhood.

"He's been here longer than I've been here," said resident Barbi Mencendiek. "He knows everybody's name. He's been here for so long. He's a friendly guy. He's part of the matrix here."

"He gets out and says hello," she added. "He's always been good at his job. We're sorry to see him go."

Other residents echoed Mencendiek's sentiment.

"We have been here for 25 years," said Anita Soule. "He has been delivering mail since we moved here. It's not going to be the same neighborhood. He keeps us all connected as neighbors. He loves our kids. He watched them grow up."

She added that he was the first one who knew that her daughter got accepted to UCLA.

"It's a big packet," he told her when he was delivering the acceptance package. "It's a good sign."

Tucker said he does not know



Postal carrier Ken Tucker waves his final goodbye as he retires after delivering mail to the Hidden Oaks community for 27 years.

how retirement feels yet because it is too early.

"It hasn't really hit me yet," he

said.

But though he is leaving the community, he still believes he will see all

of them someday on another path.

"I will see you down the road," he told them. ■

I-680 construction causing delays

Auxiliary lanes being added on two stretches between Diablo Road and Bollinger Canyon

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

What's the holdup? Traffic is meeting some slowdown on I-680 as construction crews work from Diablo Road to Sycamore Valley Road and from Crow Canyon to Bollinger Canyon to build auxiliary lanes. These lanes connect onramps from one interchange with the offramps of the adjacent interchange, enabling drivers to travel from one exit to the next without merging with through-traffic.

The project includes widening both sides of the freeway to add the 12-foot lanes and also new shoulders.

"People have heard about it for a long time and they're happy it's going to occur," said Mayor Karen Stepper. "But there will be temporary inconveniences."

She said the town has reported to Caltrans the current difficulty in merging when entering the freeway going south from Diablo Road. An accident took place at that location Wednesday morning, May 24.

The construction work began in April and is scheduled for completion in one year; final landscaping is due in fall 2007. The third segment of the project, from Sycamore

Valley Road to Crow Canyon, is not yet funded.

The current work includes expanding the Iron Horse Trail crossing under I-680 at Laurel Drive, which raises more issues for the construction, noted Stepper.

Pedestrians will be able to use the Iron Horse Trail at Laurel Drive throughout the construction although it will be temporarily realigned. Signs will inform users of the detour. Neighbors and trail users may notice an increase of trucks in this area during construction.

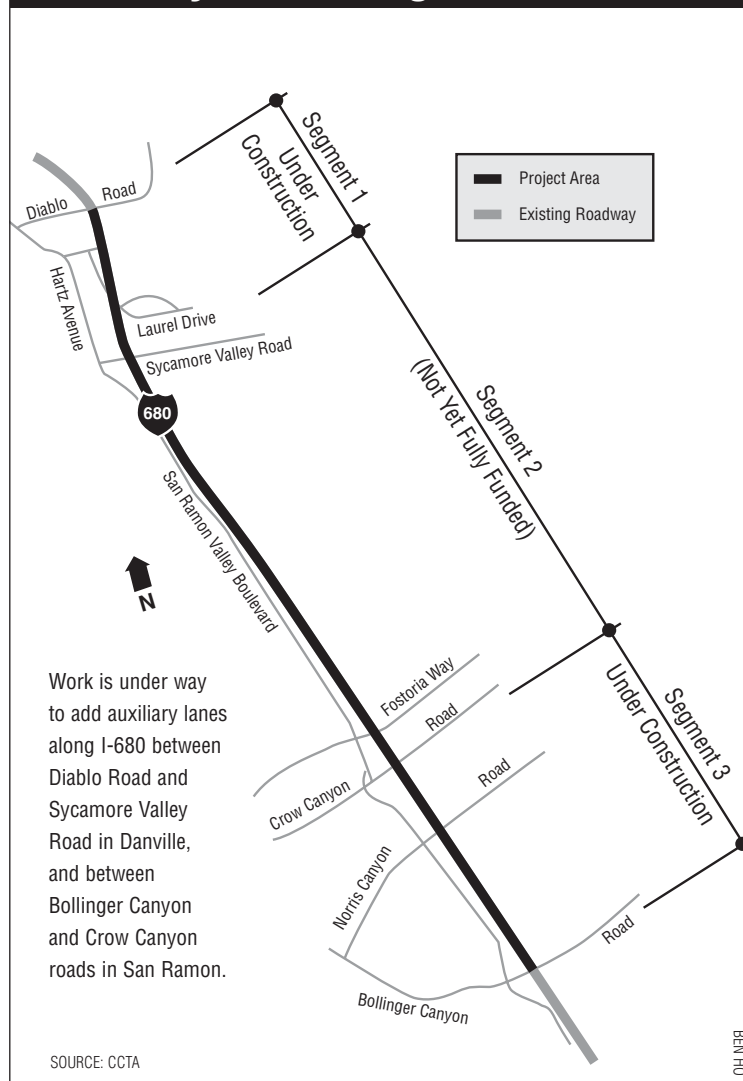
"We've already negotiated with Caltrans that their trucks can't use neighborhood streets, they have to use downtown, and not during school times," Stepper said.

Some trucks will go directly to the construction zone off the freeway so they will not have to use town streets at all, she added.

The freeway needs to be widened on the eastside between Laurel Drive and Diablo Road to accommodate the auxiliary lane and new shoulder. Additional columns will also be added to support the wider bridge structure.

Stepper said another concern

Auxiliary lanes being added on I-680



Work is under way to add auxiliary lanes along I-680 between Diablo Road and Sycamore Valley Road in Danville, and between Bollinger Canyon and Crow Canyon roads in San Ramon.

SOURCE: CCTA

Baby Pack arrives

Healthy little girl weighs in at 9 pounds, 8 ounces

by Natalie O'Neill

For Bob and Carmen Pack, hope came in a small package.

The couple who lost their two children to a drunken driver in fall 2003 celebrated the birth of their healthy 9-pound, 8-ounce baby girl Monday. Noelle Corinne Pack was delivered at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek at 4:45 a.m. after three hours of labor.

"We're so excited and so in love with her," Bob Pack said Tuesday.

The exhausted but elated parents said the delivery went smoothly and the baby is doing well. Excited friends and family members visited the hospital to see the newborn and congratulate the couple Monday afternoon.

The community has followed the couple's trek through tragedy and hardship after their 10-year-old son Troy and 7-year-old daughter Alana were killed by a hit-and-run driver who was drunk and high on pain killers. The driver, who was a

► Continued on page 6

► Continued on page 8

County plans to plant new trees

Uprooted oaks near Yardbirds to be replaced—and doubled

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Three dedicated oak trees that were uprooted in front of Yardbirds will be replaced by County Public Works but the location and species of the trees are undecided, Zone 36 members and county representatives said this week.

Public Works will plant double

the number of removed trees for a total of six, Supervisor Mary N. Piepho wrote in a letter to Dianne Tinnes, the former chairwoman of the Boulevard of Trees Project.

"I'm a tree hugger. I love the environment, too," Piepho said, while discussing the issue with Zone 36 and R-7A members in April.

In February of this year, Public Works gave Yardbirds' property manager permission to remove the trees, which had been dedicated to members of Alamo families as

part of the project. The county then butted heads with former members of the Boulevard of Trees Project, a group that planted the oaks as part of an Alamo beautification effort.

"We are looking at planting places that aren't going to buckle sidewalks or be under another tree," said Senior Civil Engineer Eric Whan.

The new trees should be planted at the location where they were removed, said Alamo residents and members of the Boulevard of Trees Project. Without the oaks, the area

in front of Yardbirds is not balanced aesthetically, residents said.

"It would be a substantial cost to do that. The department will have to pay to cut out sidewalk," Whan said.

The Zone 36 committee will have the final say on where the trees will be planted, and funding for watering and maintenance will come out of the Zone 36 budget. The county will pay for the trees and the planting.

While it will likely be difficult to plant the trees at the exact location they were removed, Public Works is looking into planting in the area behind the sidewalk in front of Yardbirds.

what Yardbirds will allow them to do. And Public Works is currently researching related right of way issues, Whan said.

"I'd like to see priority given to Danville Boulevard," said Steve Mick, an alternate member of Zone 36.

Spots where other trees have died or been removed along Danville Boulevard may be the best options for planting, he said. It makes the most sense, considering the group's goal was to plant 300 trees along Danville Boulevard, Zone 36 members said.

Along with right of way and interference with other plants, species of the trees and the possibility for disease are also factors in deciding location.

"We have to look at why the tree died in the first place," Whan said.

Since the county is taking the responsibility of watering the trees, Public Works representatives said it would be ideal for all six trees to be in the same area. In this climate, watering must be done for three seasons after a tree is planted.

"We will want to monitor those to make sure they are watered throughout the summer," said Lisa Carnahan of Public Works.

Tinnes said it might be best to wait until fall to plant the trees because then the weather provides the trees with the most natural watering.

"The winter rains give the new trees a good start," she said. ■



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"I'm a tree hugger. I love the environment, too."

—Supervisor Mary N. Piepho

Property manager Scott Kertz said he removed the oak trees as well as magnolia trees because the roots were knuckling. When tree roots push through the sidewalk it is a safety liability for the county, said Assistant Public Works Director Joe Yee.

Valerie Schooley of Zone 36 said the committee is looking into

I-680

► Continued from page 5

has been that sound walls had to be removed for construction. New sound walls will be constructed as permanent masonry walls so will be an improvement for the neighborhoods adjacent to the freeway.

The auxiliary lanes should improve the overall operation of the freeway, noted a project report, providing a longer merging distance for vehicles entering and exiting the freeway. "The new lanes will eliminate on-ramp delays by providing exclusive travel lanes for vehicles entering the freeway," according to the report. "This will result in much smoother weaving

on and off the freeway."

Construction hours are generally between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, but some work will occur until 5:30 p.m., according to the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Restriping work and barrier placement on 680 will take place at night, and some weekend and night work will be necessary. Work necessitating lane closures will take place at night.

The \$59.7 million project for all three segments is being funded by Measure C, the half-cent gas tax passed in 1998 for transportation improvement; the Surface Transportation Program; Southern Contra Costa Regional Development fees; Tri-Valley Transportation Development fees; and State Transportation Improvement fees. ■

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Taking on the No. 1 fear

Fifth-graders and middle schoolers participate in district speech contest

by **Kevin Zhou**

Fifth-graders and middle schoolers from across the district gathered at Windemere Ranch Middle School recently to participate in the 31st annual District Speech Contest.

The first-place winners were Michael Abood of Golden View Elementary School for the fifth-grade division; Rebecca Herman of Stone Valley Middle School for sixth grade; Blake Marggraff of the Dorris-Eaton School for seventh grade; and Sebastian LeDuca of the Dorris-Eaton School for the eighth-grade division.

"It's amazing," said Mary Blasquez, the district contest's coordinator. "It's so impressive to see these students speak; they are just exemplary young boys and girls. It makes you feel really proud to be a teacher, to be a parent, to be part of such a positive event."

For the contest, students were required to write a three- to five-minute speech on topics designated for each grade level. These ranged from "rules to live by are..." for fifth-graders to "one person can make a difference" for eighth-graders.

Students first gave their speeches to their classes, and the best orators advanced to schoolwide competition. From there, each school selected the best speakers to move on to the district contest. Since schools could only choose one student for every 100 enrolled in each grade level, the competition was tough.

For those who were ultimately selected, practice was key in the days leading up to the competition.

"Michael gave his speech to us and then we gave him input," said Susan Abood, the mother of the fifth-grade first-place winner, a Danville resident. "He refined it and got some tips along the way."

Judges at the district level ranged from members of local businesses to high school students. All three high schools participated, and those who judged generally



Michael Abood, a Danville resident and fifth-grader at Golden View Elementary School, won first place in his division at the School District Speech Contest.

came from their school's leadership classes, performing arts programs, or speech and debate teams.

Prior to the competition, they were versed on specific areas to heed.

"They received a pretty extensive criteria sheet," said Blasquez. "There were presentation skills, poise, posture, articulation, use of vocabulary. It was really important that the judges could see these were the students' words and not the adults' words. We wanted to make sure it was really from the kid's point of view."

The contest consisted of three preliminary rounds. While there was a total of about 102 students competing, only five from each grade level were selected to move onto the final round.

In the preliminary rounds, students delivered their speeches in classrooms to three judges, and in the final round, students delivered their speeches to five judges.

Parents and family members were also in attendance, but most of the students delivered their speeches very confidently.

"Very relaxed," Abood described her son. "You wouldn't know he was nervous."

The contest winners received plaques to commemorate their achievements, and finalists received ribbons. After learning about their victories, the winners also had to give their speeches in the auditorium to everyone in attendance.

Blasquez believes this sort of a competition will be invaluable to the students' futures.

"Speaking in public is the No. 1 fear for all people," she said. "Conquering the fear gives you so much confidence. For anybody, any type of public speaking opportunity really increases their self-confidence and gives them a sense of accomplishment." ■

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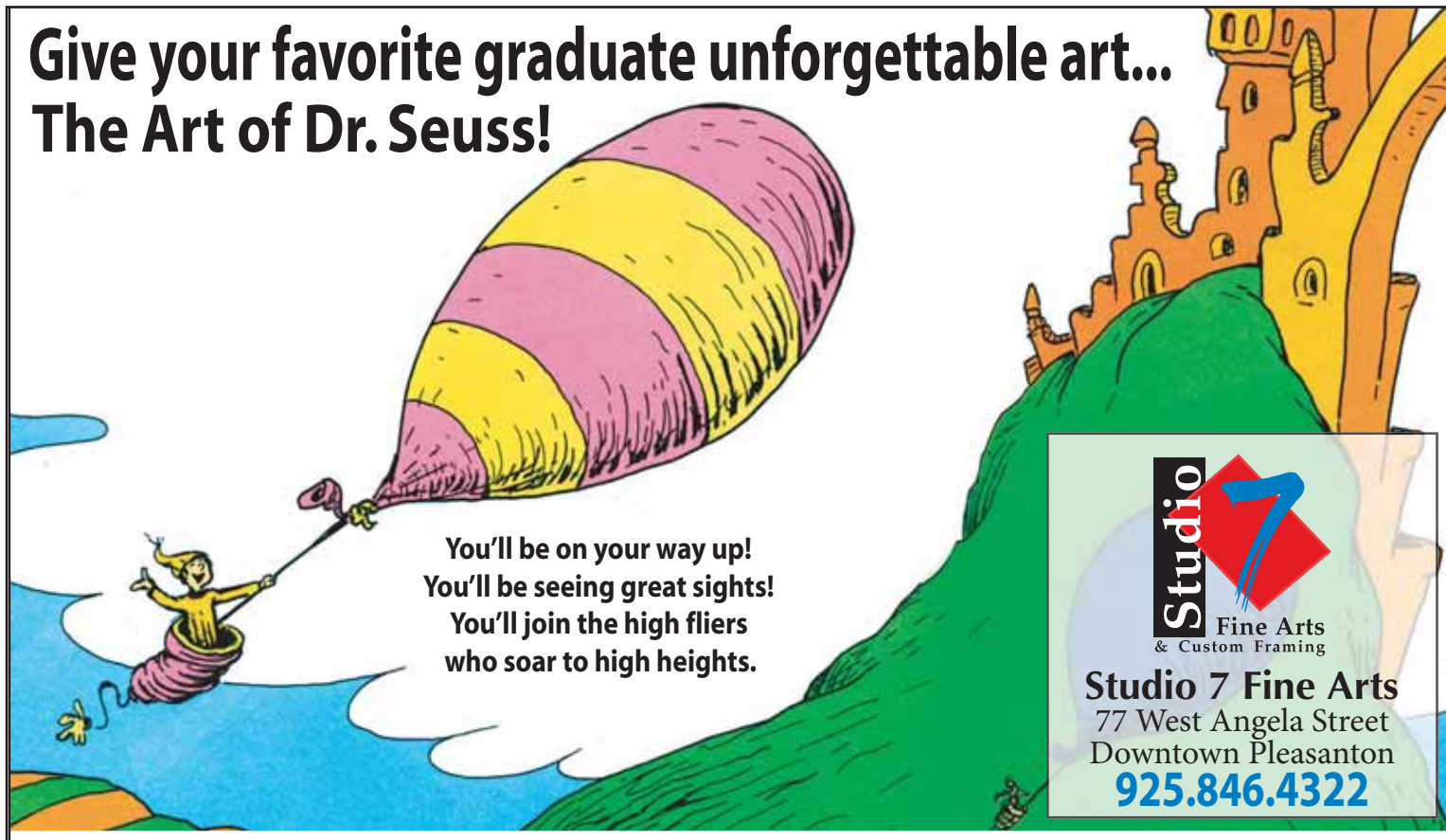
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Portrait of Alan Vance

Monte Vista senior's goals are in focus

by Jordan M. Doronila

In the dark is where his love unfolds.

Monte Vista High School senior Alan Vance spends his school days creating innovative photos while he dreams of directing photography at Vogue magazine in New York City.

"I live, breath and eat photo," he said. "I do eat in the darkroom."

Vance—who just received an ROP Student of Excellence Award—is one of several students in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District who has attended high school and has taken courses from the Contra Costa County Regional Occupational Program. ROP gives technical training to students and adults who want to develop their skills at the professional level.

The program offers courses in newspaper journalism, photography, video production, auto service, computer programming, cooking, graphic design and teaching to high school students. They get technical experience and develop skills at a professional level, said Janet Haun, principal of student programs at the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

"It allows students to gain knowledge but get hands-on experience," she said. "Through this technical education, it makes learning rel-

evant. They know why they need to learn it; they learn why to read and write well."

She said 90 percent of ROP students are from the high schools, and they see the program's course offerings in the school catalog. The county partners with school districts to meet the interests and needs of every student, she said.

She added that word of mouth helps others learn about the program.

"(ROP) tends to engage students very well," she said.

Graduating ROP students might attend a four-year college such as University of California or decide to pursue a job immediately, said Haun. In many cases, students who take ROP courses receive college credit, she said.

Vance said he enjoys fashion photography because he loves controlling what he creates. He said his older sister Nicky Vance got him into photography.

"I fell in love with the style shooting," he said about fashion photography. "It gave me a lot of control of my subjects and creativity."

He said he signed up for a ROP photography course to take him beyond what was offered at Monte Vista.

"You can do more stuff in ROP," he said.

Vance said that he took all his academic courses as a freshman, and then he took electives in the

ROP program when he became an upperclassman. Now, as a senior, yearbook photography and being a teacher's assistant in advanced and beginning photography takes up his class time.

"Beginners are just pointing the camera," he said. "They are taking boring pictures." He said at his level he wants to create the scenes in his work.

"I make it happen," he said.

He mostly has done portraits, which include photos of action figures, teenagers and himself.

"I see the same people every day," he said. "It's pretty enjoyable. I get to spend my day creating beautiful things."

"I'm not the typical high school student," he added. "I don't really do things that (high school students) do."

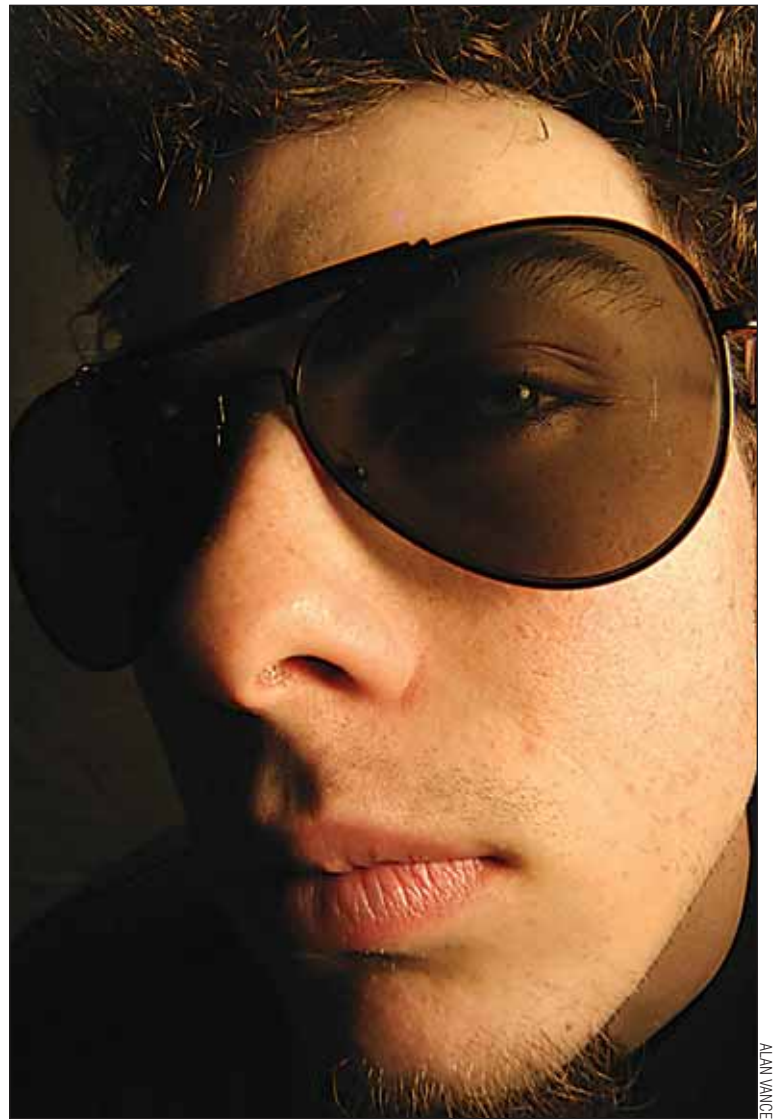
The ROP program started in 1974, and the state Department of Education wanted it to be career training and preparation for high school students over the age of 16 and adults.

"All of our teachers are credentialed and have five years in the field that they are teaching," Haun said. "It's amazing."

She said the program serves 12,000 students throughout the county.

Vance will attend Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

"It's photo heaven for photo students," he said. ■



This self-portrait of Alan Vance, Monte Vista High School student and ROP graduate, is part of his portfolio.

Danville International Children's Film Fest winners

Local residents take home awards

The third annual Danville International Children's Film Festival, which featured the screening of 73 films from around the world, concluded with the presentation of awards to the following winners:

• Best Picture—"The Lost Princess," Producer Douglas

Kondziolka, Director Duncan Pace; Mesa, Ariz.

• Best Short—"Janie," Producer and Director Christine Shin; Los Angeles

• Best Foreign Short—"Lieve Monster," Producer and Director Marco de Stefanis; Amsterdam, Netherlands

• Best Mini Short—"The Boarder," Producer Marc Carlini, Director Susan Bell; Tallahassee, Fla.

• Best Animation—"Block Party," Producer Bill Gueringer, Director Daniel Racusin; Chatsworth, Calif.

• Best Documentary—"Why Shakespeare?," Producer Jan Wieringa, Director Lawrence Bridges; Santa Monica

• Best Teen Filmmaker Short—"The Kid Who Talked Too Much," Producer and Director Kevin Walker; Walnut Creek

• Best Young Animation—"Fiddle Cat," Producer and Director Stephanie Brock; San Ramon

• Best Young Filmmaker Short—"The Counterpart," Producer John & Cynthia Montgomery; Alamo

• Best Young Documentary—"The Best Week Of The Year," Producer and Director Amy Schleicher; Danville

• The Audience Award—"A Reason For Living," Producer and Director Jim Stafford; Livermore

The Danville International Film Festival is co-sponsored by the California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville. The fourth annual Danville International Children's Film Festival will take place in May 2007. For more information, call 552-REEL (552-7335). ■

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Packs

► Continued from page 5

nanny in Danville, was later tried and convicted of manslaughter.

"It's such a mix of emotions, it seems like only yesterday we were going through (birth) with Alana," Pack said.

After the death of their children, Bob and Carmen made public efforts to rebuild their lives. People of Danville—both friends and strangers—felt strongly connected with the Packs as they strove to begin a family.

In late 2004, the couple received an egg donation from Carmen's 19-year-old Peruvian niece and announced they were pregnant

with twin boys. When they lost the twins five months into the pregnancy, the community grieved along with them.

In early 2004 the Packs began using their publicity to aid campaigns to educate and lobby for traffic safety.

They started Street Smarts, a citywide effort to raise awareness and improve local streets by changing attitudes and driving behavior. They also began the Troy and Alana Pack Foundation, which funds traffic education and lobbying for harsher punishments of DUI offenders.

"It's been so up and down," Pack said. "It seems like Carmen has been pregnant for the last two years. It's great to finally have something so positive for her." ■

Churches to celebrate being inclusive

Peace Lutheran hosting fifth annual gay-friendly interfaith service

by Natalie O'Neill

Five years ago Barb Reed took a big risk. She began organizing Witness Our Welcome, Danville's first official gay-friendly interfaith worship celebration. And she was admittedly nervous.

"The newspaper printed my phone number and address and I didn't know what to expect," she said. "I thought I might find burning crosses in my front yard."

Maybe in some parts of the country.

But here in Danville she's found that progressive members of religious faith groups are ready to stop judging and start embracing the gay community. This year's annual WOW celebration will be held at the Peace Lutheran Church at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 10, and will include people from all sexual orientations and faiths. Everyone is invited.

"Sexual orientation is not an obstacle between us and the divine," said the Rev. Steve Harms of Peace Lutheran Church. "Our sexual identity is a blessing."

"We don't judge anyone," Reed said.

The celebration also affirms parents of gays and lesbians, the "closeted," youths struggling with sexual identity and straight people who believe everyone should be "out" and free, Harms said.

"People of faith should realize that the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) community is right here in Danville," Harms said. "And they are being made to feel excluded from worship groups."

WOW will include readings, hymns, speeches, jazz music and refreshments. Rachel Ciupak-Reed, who is "Baptist and Queer," will be this year's keynote speaker.

Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, who has attended the celebration all five years, said WOW will express support for folks who are feeling ostracized by their own religious groups.

"When people are made to feel 'the other,' we have a moral responsibility to stand up and do something about it," he said.

He said members of the Jewish

faith are no strangers to persecution. In Judaism, the concept of "the other" is used to describe anyone—from women to minorities—who have been oppressed.

"People are hard-wired differently. It's part of the wonderful diversity of the human race," Goldblatt said.

One member of Reed's church said she thought she'd be snubbed if people in Danville knew she was a member of the group PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). She said it was hard to "out" herself as a mother of a gay child.

"People are hard-wired differently. It's part of the wonderful diversity of the human race."

—Rabbi Dan Goldblatt

"It's really saying something about the need for openness in the valley," Reed said.

While more than two dozen religious groups support WOW, Reed said several churches in the area did refuse to be part of the worship ceremony. Church representatives told her they believe the act of homosexuality is a sin, and that the ceremony therefore does not align with their religion.

In past years, police have patrolled the area around the WOW location in case of protestors and picketers. Reed said she is thankful she hasn't had any problems with members of extreme conservative religious groups. A few negative phone calls were the worst reaction she received.

"We've gotten some calls saying, 'God hates (gays)' and 'God hates you,'" she said. "I say, 'I don't think so. Not the God I know.'"

Goldblatt said behavior like this is part of human nature. Members of religious groups sometimes ostracize homosexuals out of fear, he said.

"We love to hate and it's an easy way to get people together," he said. "Oftentimes we find scape-

goats instead of answers."

He acknowledged Old Testament scripture that states homosexual acts are sinful, but pointed out that the same scripture affirms slavery. Most pious people valued that passage at a time when procreation and survival were critical, he said.

"We've moved passed that," he said.

Sexuality and religion has always been a taboo subject, at least in Western civilization. It is a subject that is complex and tends to make people uncomfortable, said Harms.

"We have been afraid of our bodies and our sexual impulses," he said. "We haven't interrelated it into what it means to be whole people of faith."

He said shunning homosexuality is a way of "deflecting" difficult issues of sexuality and religion.

"(This way) people don't have to look at themselves and their own feeling of sexuality," he said.

Lutherans, Methodists, Unitarians, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Jews and nearly 20 more faiths will join in this year's WOW celebration. Reed said the celebration gets bigger every year.

"Ideally, every worship ceremony would be like this. It is joyous and emotional," Goldblatt said. ■

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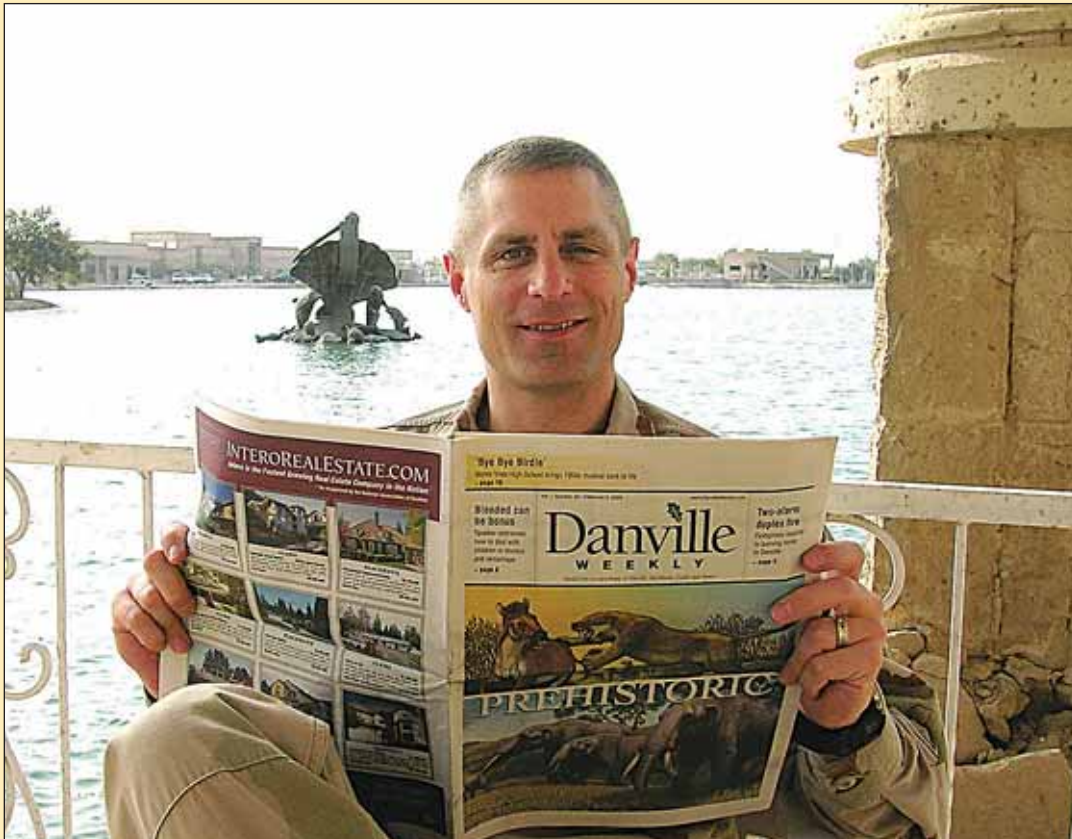
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TAKE US ALONG



Weekly in the war zone

U.S. Army Major David Schmith, who was deployed to Iraq in May 2005, catches up on his hometown news while sitting in a Baghdad palace overlooking the lake. His wife Linda Godfrey-Schmith sends him the paper to keep him in touch with local happenings and take his mind off his day-to-day activities in Iraq. He's looking forward to coming home on leave for the Fourth of July.

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



Grand reading

Daniel and Cortney Chen display their Danville Weekly while visiting Arizona and the Grand Canyon in April so mom Kathy can snap a photo.



Not for wrapping fish

Blackhawk residents Larry and Yikki Chan with their 5-year-old son Bernard—and the Danville Weekly—visit the Fisherman's Wharf in Tamsui, Taiwan, on their two-week trip in April. They reported that the selection and taste of the fish were different from that at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf.



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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Back on the farm

Rose Peters Emery has left her footprints in the soil. I don't know if she seemed remarkable as she went about her life—born in 1905; raised on a 256-acre ranch on the southwest side of Danville off present day San Ramon Valley Boulevard; graduating from UC Berkeley; and teaching high school in Benicia and Richmond while raising her daughter. But in her later years, she wrote a book, "Footprints in the Soil," finishing it at age 97. Her father, who emigrated from the Azores, was originally named Jose Pires Azevedo but changed it to Joe Peters. Her story is that of early Portuguese settlers in the San Ramon Valley although she said she wrote it to honor all of the hardworking immigrants. Portuguese Heritage Publications published the book, and it is for sale at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley for \$12.95.

The book is unusual in many respects. It details every aspect of Rose's childhood as one of 12—walking a little less than a mile to school in San Ramon, and her chores around the house, including feeding the chickens and gathering eggs, churning butter, grinding coffee, bringing in wood for the range (how did they bake in those wood-heated ovens?!?), emptying and scalding out the chamber pots, hanging and taking in the clothes, making school lunches. She also recalls playing outside with her younger sister and brothers, walking through the hills on their property to the 12-foot waterfall and collecting ferns. As a Portuguese girl, Rose was very protected and not allowed the freedoms given to her brothers who as teens hung out in downtown Danville after school. When one brother's health

precluded a future of ranch work and the family sent him to Cal for an education, Rose was able to follow on the same path.

In this day and age of self-publishing, many books are poorly written. It's frustrating to read an imaginative or interesting story, knowing that a thorough editing job would have made it good. But this book is well written, informative and evocative of an early time in the San Ramon Valley. I couldn't put it down. The site of the old Peters Ranch is now the lovely Danville Ranch

"The ranch's spring water was so delicious that her father thought it was worth the trip just to drink the water."

development, built on the contours of the rolling hills. In May the homeowners dedicated their clubhouse to Rose Peters Emery, who died last year at the age of 99. Sandra Paiva and Janice Wilcox were co-organizers of the event and said the festivities drew a packed house. Speakers included historians Beverly Lane and Ralph Cozine; descendants of the Peters family; and three of the five Town Council members, including Newell Arnerich, who raised his children in the neighborhood and was master of ceremonies.

Sandra showed me around the clubhouse last week. When she was growing up in San Leandro, her extended family gatherings were always held at the old Peters' ranch house, which was rented by her aunt and uncle, Jo and Ben Meigs. "My aunt and uncle lived here for 18 years and raised their family here," she recalled, standing on the clubhouse deck and looking west at the hills. She said there were 10 cousins altogether and they loved to gather at the old ranch house from the mid-1950s to the early '70s and play in the yard—called "the lot"—and ride the horse. She remembered family dinners at a big oak table in the kitchen. The ranch's spring water was so delicious that her father thought it was worth the trip just to drink the water. As near as she can figure out, the old ranch house was on the property across San Ramon Valley Boulevard from where Greenbrook Drive ends.

When Sandra heard they were building new single-family homes in Danville Ranch, she convinced her husband they should check it out. They moved there in 1989 and she enjoys living on the land of her happy childhood memories although she said some of her cousins can't bear to see the changes. Rose Peters Emery wrote about returning: "The developments are certainly not the desecration I had feared, yet I was still sad to see them ... I want to remember my family's farm as it was in 1915, a place of beauty, serenity and productive work, a varied playground for growing children." She said in the Afterward: "I have written this memoir so every trace of what used to be will not have disappeared." She certainly succeeded. ■

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PUBLISHER

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Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Staff Reporters

Jordan M. Doronila

Natalie O'Neill

Editorial Intern

Kevin Zhou

Sports Writer

Mike L. Mc Colgan

Contributors

Kathy Cordova

Geoff Gillette

B. Lynn Goodwin

Cathy Jetter

Jacqui Love Marshall

Julie Nostrand

ART & PRODUCTION

Art Director/

Operations Manager

Shannon Corey

Assistant Design Director

Ben Ho

Designers

Steve Bruzenak

Trina Cannon

James Greenfield

Jason Lind

ADVERTISING

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Business Associate

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Circulation Manager

Bob Lampkin, ext. 32

How to reach the Weekly

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100

Danville, CA 94526

Phone: (925) 837-8300

Fax: (925) 837-2278

Editorial e-mail:

Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

Calendar@DanvilleWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com

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EDITORIAL

Election Day

Don't forget: This Tuesday, June 6, is voting day for the California Primary Election. The Danville Weekly only endorses candidates for local offices so we are not taking any positions in this election. We have had some coverage of those running to be the representative for U.S. Congressional District 11, partly because we are proud to have two candidates from Danville running in the Democratic primary.

Following is a list of the most hotly contested positions and issues that residents will be voting on Tuesday:

U.S. Representative 11th District

Democratic

- Steve Filson, airline pilot
- Jerry McNerney, renewable energy businessman
- Steve Thomas, union electrician

Republican

- Thomas A. Begnigo, retired businessman
- Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey Jr., farmer/lawyer
- Richard W. Pombo, rancher/Congressman

Two propositions have qualified for the California Primary Election June 6:

- **Proposition 81**—California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006. Shall the state sell \$600 million in bonds to provide grants to local agencies for the construction, renovation, and/or expansion of local library facilities?
- **Proposition 82**—Preschool education. Tax on incomes over \$400,000 for individuals; \$800,000 for couples. Should the California Constitution and state law be amended to create and support a new, publicly funded, voluntary preschool program for children to attend in the year prior to kindergarten, to be funded by an increase in personal income tax rates for high income individuals?

Measure A—Contra Costa Community College District Bond; for the Contra Costa Community College District to issue \$286.5 million bond to renovate aging college facilities (making energy savings, safety, and handicapped accessibility improvements), and update facilities used by transfer, career and vocational students (for math, science, nursing, technology and other programs) at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, the San Ramon Valley and Brentwood centers. A 55 percent approval is required.

GUEST OPINION

**A letter to our son:
The Empty Nest Society**

by Lisa Maryott Foss

A dark cloud has descended over our household. At first, I attributed it to your raging hormones, Son ... and your insatiable desire to spread your wings and be independent. But I think it is more complicated than that. In part, the cloud is dark because your Dad and I have been unwillingly inducted into the "Empty Nest Society."

This is no social group like a garden club or yacht club—dues are paid, but from an emotional bank account. Initiation occurs, but it isn't planned and the results can't be anticipated. Meetings aren't held weekly, monthly or quarterly—they happen every day and they certainly aren't voluntary. There's no manual that spells out any rules. Oh, there are members of the society that socialize together, but it's probably more in the vein of Alcoholics Anonymous, whereby people join to deal with an issue, commiserate with each other, and get support from like-minded individuals. Membership means completion of the major steps in the job of raising children—and that isn't always easy to accept.

You are leaving for college in a few months. Your dad and I have spent the last 18 years working tirelessly and diligently to raise a son who is responsible, treats people with fairness and compassion, makes sound decisions, is smart, and is independent—because we believed that it was our responsibility to release a good human being into society. We are finding ourselves at the end of what appears to be the largest part of that cycle ... and we aren't as ready to release you into the wild as we had hoped we'd be. So 18 years later, we are looking at the fruits of our labor, and we are proud—so proud—of the man that you are becoming, but at the same time kind of sad at the loss of our little boy. We want you to go away to college and experience all that it has to offer. We want you to live on your own and learn how to rely upon yourself more and on us less. We want you to grow up, get a great job, do great things, get married, have kids, and be happy and content with who you are. We just don't quite know how to let go.

You see, as much as you are struggling right now with everything that is going on in your life—finishing high school, making college decisions, being in love, planning your summer, getting ready for college, dealing with the inevitable separation from your friends and family—Dad and I are struggling right along with you and carry our own issues to deal with. We love hanging out with you. We love the way you make us laugh. We love being your sounding board and your shoulder to cry on. We love experiencing your life with you. And while all of those things will be true forever and a day, it will be really

difficult for Dad and me to not experience this on a daily basis—hence, the sadness that we feel and the reason why the dark cloud that has descended is affecting all of us. If we seem testy or grouchy at times, or unable to deal well with your emotional state, it isn't because we can't wait to get you out of the house—it's because we wish that you didn't have to leave.

People say when your first child leaves the nest, it can be a painful flight for Mom and Dad, but oftentimes the parents turn their energies to the next duckling to help ease the pain of loss. And then when the last one flies from the nest, there is yet a different mourning that happens; the parents are a little more savvy about the feelings of loss because they've been through that before, but now they are faced with the reality that it's just Dad and Mom with no one else to care for on a daily basis besides each other. And heaven help those of us who had only one child ... because we get to experience all of that at once. Let me say it hasn't been easy, and I don't expect it to get easier any time soon.

The good news for Dad and me is that we are not alone because we've joined the Empty Nest Society and accompany a fine group of people going through exactly what we are going through. When I get sad at the thought of you moving away, I think back to when I went away to college and how exciting and wonderful an experience it was. I think about how going home to see Mom and Dad was grounding and comforting. I think about all of the wonderful adulthood experiences that I've had. I think about how happy I am with the person that I became and that I am who I am because of all these experiences. I think about how for you to ultimately be happy with who you are, you will need to experience life on your own. And with that, I realize we'll always have a great relationship, we three, and that we'll all grow up just fine. Dad and I are happy with the fruits of our labor—you are a terrific kid and we love you.

We will always be here for you, Son. We'll be here to help you with college. We'll be here for you when you get homesick and need to reconnect with family. We'll celebrate with you. As always, we'll be your shoulder to cry on and whenever dark clouds descend over you, we'll be your shelter. But if the dark clouds stay at bay or don't enter the skyline at all, and the sun is shining brightly and your face is lifted to the sky basking in all of its glory, then Dad and I will be there to bask right along with you as proud members of the Empty Nest Society.

—Lisa Maryott Foss is a Danville resident and the mother of a graduating San Ramon Valley High School senior.

Code of ethics

The Danville Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

A welcome respite

Special program provides social group for frail seniors

story and photos by **B. Lynn Goodwin**



Carolyn Poydock shares a handmade flower with Evelyn Lofberg at the Valley Oak Respite Center.

When Jean Lemberger's aging mother-in-law visits, she dresses each morning, waits by the door, and always asks the same question: "Do I go to the center today?"

Alzheimer's keeps her from recollecting that the place she loves is called Valley Oak Respite Center. What she remembers are the emotional components: the warm, caring staff, the companionship and all the fun activities. She would attend every day if she could.

Valley Oak Respite Center, a social group for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias, meets from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in Danville.

Activities coordinator Monika Segal and personal care assistant Xuan Thu Do greet the participants, many of whom arrive on the County Connection bus. Once they are inside the church's multipurpose room, they start the day with light refreshments, socializing and story swapping. Throughout the week, they will play everything from memory games to bocce ball. They eat snacks, socialize and get personal attention, while their caregivers take a much-needed break.

On Monday, their first group activity is a memory enhancement game like Jingo or Trivia. Program director Carmen McCarthy might call out "Abbott and" Participants will respond with "Costello." Because everyone is responding at once, no one hears any mistakes, and confidence grows.

Singing follows the social hour on Wednesday mornings. Seniors resurrect the songs from their era, with a copy of the printed lyrics in front of them and encouragement from the staff.

Fridays vary.

"I grew up with the Mickey Mouse Club so I call Friday 'Anything-Can-Happen Day,'" McCarthy said. There could be more memory games or puzzles

or a special holiday-related activity. Everyone colored eggs at Easter time. A month later, they made paper flowers to decorate hats for a Mother's Day tea.

After lunch, which participants bring with them and the staff serves on plates, the participants exercise in their chairs.

"We have a beanbag toss, bocce ball, and horseshoes," McCarthy said.

What she remembers are the emotional components: the warm, caring staff, the companionship and all the fun activities.

In the last half hour, the group plays bingo. Sometimes one of the participants calls the numbers, and anyone who cannot see the cards echoes the numbers. These accommodations keep everyone active.

"Participants are in a warm and comfortable environment, and their families feel good about leaving them," McCarthy said.

McCarthy, who comes from the corporate world, began volunteering in 1994, joined the Valley Oak staff in 1996, and became the director in 1998. She comes from a culture where people regularly care for their elderly family members and encourages those in the sandwich generation to stop by and get a firsthand look at the gentle supervision provided.

Six volunteers, mostly seniors, support the staff. They do everything from asking about grandchildren, to serving lunch, to calling bingo.

The group began in 1987. Ann Evans, the first director, was assisted by volunteers Jean Douglas, Ray Silva and Betty McKinley. Dee Brook, a member of the Congregational Church, became a volunteer and "keeps us going," McCarthy said.

Today the center is run under the auspices of the Diablo Valley Foundation for the Aging. Up to 30 people can attend. People come and go, but the group usually averages 17 to 21 members.

Valley Oak Center is like a healthy garden supporting seniors at "whatever stage of blooming they are in," Lemberger said. She is on the committee of the center's third annual Memories in the Garden fundraiser, which will be held tomorrow, June 3. Proceeds will provide scholarships to families who need help with the daily fee of \$25 and will offset other expenses.

Memories in the Garden, which includes a Tahoe-inspired back yard and a garden surrounding a miniature railroad, is a self-guided tour covering eight residential gardens in Alamo, Danville, Diablo and San Ramon. It will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by a silent auction. The \$25 ticket covers both events.

The group is also seeking volunteers or tax-deductible donations. Call community liaison Natasha Ong at 945-8040 for more information about either Valley Oak Respite Center or Memories in the Garden.

Respite care helps seniors stay at home as long as possible.

"I believe in these programs," McCarthy said. "I think I'm here because I'm supposed to be here. Just as our children are our future, let us not forget that our elderly brought us to life." ■



Jack Gaumer and activities coordinator Monika Segal share a special moment.

Last chance to tour spring gardens

What: Memories in the Garden, a self-guided tour of eight residential gardens in Alamo, Danville, Diablo and San Ramon, followed by a silent auction

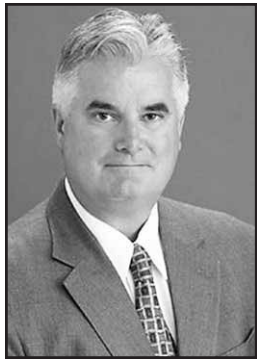
Who: Benefits Valley Oak Respite Center

When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, June 3

Cost: \$25

Information or tickets: Call Natasha Ong at 945-8040, ext. 15, or Carmen at 997-3831

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Epicure



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

How fresh is fresh?

If you're a true "foodie," this passion can lead to getting carried away in a grocery or wholesale food store. I enter with a list of two to five items and, before I know it, I'm exiting with a cart of 20-plus items. And, don't let me see a two-for-one deal: I find myself taking home doubles of carrot juice, day-old bread, strawberries, salad greens—and gigantic jars of mayonnaise to last years! In my saner moments, I conduct a "cart assessment" before I get to the cashier and remove any flagrantly irrational choices.

Then, there's the challenge of where to store all the newly acquired goodies. Next, there's the scramble to cook up the fresh items while they are at their best. (Why did I think I could cook green beans, broccoli and spinach within days?) Inevitably, the painful exercise arrives—dumping food that has gone bad before consuming it. The typical family wastes about 300 pounds of food annually due to spoilage, according to a 1996 University of Arizona Waste Study. Collectively, that sounds like enough to feed a small country. How do you know whether food is still fresh?

It's hard to be sure how to make good freshness choices these days—because of the preservatives hidden in most foods; because we have little clue as to the journey most foods take before they reach us; and because we rarely remember how long an item has been shelved in our pantry, refrigerator or freezer. There's little we can do to affect the first two factors but we can monitor the quality of our food once we bring it home. To ensure that foods are consumed before their expiration dates, apply the FIFO (First-In-First-Out) rule. When re-stocking, place recently purchased items behind existing foods and, where possible, mark the item with the date you purchased it. The exception is leftovers: As a general rule, leftovers (Last-In-First-Out) should be eaten or discarded within 48 hours.

Refrigerated foods

- Any food that is not sterilized will ultimately spoil from the growth of bacteria and other microorganisms. Bring refrigerated/frozen foods home from the store quickly and return them to refrigeration.
- Milk is highly perishable; it should always be capped or closed and never left at room temperature. Milk- and egg-based foods should always be refrigerated. Eggs in the shell can generally stay fresh for three to five weeks until normal refrigeration.
- Fresh meats and seafood are highly perishable due to their high moisture and high protein content. Fresh cuts of meat usually contain some surface bacteria that will grow after three days of refrigeration in oxygen-permeable packaging.

- Fresh fruits and vegetables are often sprayed with spoilage retardants but easily lose nutritional value if not kept at cool temperatures and consumed not long after picking. Food that has not been maintained at proper conditions will spoil rapidly. Check for off-odors, off-flavors, off-color and changes in texture.

Frozen foods

- When fresh fruits and vegetables are exposed to light and air, the vitamins in the food begin to break down. Manufacturers use "quick-freeze" methods to preserve a food's nutrients. Freshly harvested but stored produce may actually be lower in nutrients than food frozen immediately after picking.
- Freezing inhibits the growth of bacteria but long-term freezing reduces the nutritional value and quality of food. Air causes frozen foods to become dry and filled with ice crystals; that moisture turns foods soggy. Always remove as much air from plastic bags as possible before sealing. A vacuum-packaging device (I use Food Saver) that removes all air can extend the quality of frozen foods longer and better than regular plastic bags or containers. Vacuum packaging can also be used for pantry and refrigerator items.
- In power failures or emergencies, perishable foods should be discarded after six hours without refrigeration. If frozen foods have completely thawed but are still cold, they must be cooked or re-frozen within 24 hours. If ever in doubt, discard unrefrigerated or thawed food.
- Think small: Smaller packages encourage faster consumption. Before freezing, divide leftovers into portions that work for meals, sandwiches or snacks. Freeze bulk or batched staples, e.g., vegetables in portions will do not require separation and re-thawing.

Shelved foods

- A food's shelf-life is impacted by the food itself, temperature/humidity conditions, packaging and storage. KRON/Channel 4 shares handy tips from viewers on its Web site: <http://www.kron.com/Global/story.asp?S=1454284>
- Be conscious of all foods on your pantry shelves and work hard to use or discard them, following the FIFO rule. Take the guesswork out of shelf-life questions by marking cans and packages with the month/year of purchase using a permanent marker. To reduce the task, only mark items that you will not consume with a month or two.
- Bottled water has a shelf life of one to two years and should be stored in a cool, dry and low-sunlight location. Emergency food and water should be regularly cycled in-and-out to maintain freshness.

Alas, freshness factors seem to require more information than the average brain can recall so here's

Normal storage life guide

PANTRY	
Nuts, Grains, Cereals	4-6 months
Rice, Pasta	6-12 months
Flour, Spices	8-12 months
Dried Beans, Peas	6 months
Oils, Sauces, Dressings	3-6 months
Jams, Jellies, etc.	1 year
Canned Foods	1 year
Boxed Mixes	6-9 months

REFRIGERATOR	
Dairy Products	1-4 weeks
Opened Condiments	1-4 weeks
Breads	5-7 days
Cheeses	1-2 weeks
Fresh Greens, Herbs	2-5 days
Fresh Fruit, Vegetables*	3-6 days
Fresh Fish, Meats	1-3 days

FREEZER	
Beef, Poultry	6-9 months
Fish	3-6 months
Soups	3-6 months
Coffee Beans	6-9 months
Corn, Green Vegetables	8 months
Bread	6-12 months
Butter, Margarine	9-12 months
Juices, Drinks	1 year
*longer for hardy fruit and root vegetables	

Freshness test for eggs

1. Fill a deep bowl or pan with enough cold tap water to cover eggs.
2. Place egg or eggs in the water:
 - If the egg lies on its side, the air cell within is small and the egg is very fresh.
 - If the egg stands up and bobs on the bottom, the air cell is larger and it isn't quite as fresh.
 - If the egg floats on the surface, it is not fresh and should be discarded.

Note: Grade AA eggs are the highest grade and stay fresh longer. When very fresh eggs are broken, they will have a yolk that stands up and a thick white that doesn't spread much.

Epicure's quick-and-easy guideline: If it's been in your refrigerator longer than one month, consider it "suspect"; if it's been in your pantry or freezer longer than one year (or if you can't even remember), throw it out! And ease your pain by taking a drive to Costco ... or Safeway ... or Trader Joe's....

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.

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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Danville
WEEKLY



Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

Danville settles on a name

Picture the early settlers sitting down after a long day and a hearty dinner, talking over a cup of coffee. They discuss the way the area is changing and growing. In addition to a blacksmith shop, there is now a wheelwright store, a hotel and general store.

People were saying the community needed a name.

Daniel and Andrew Inman were two of the people talking, along with Grandma Sarah Young. Perhaps some others were there, too. The community to the south had been called Brevensville for several years, after a local blacksmith. How about Inmanville? Both brothers rejected that.

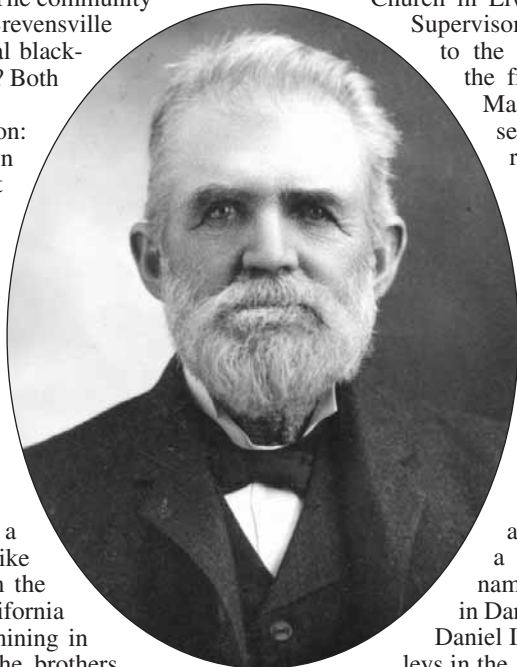
Young had another suggestion: "Danville," after her hometown of Danville, Kentucky. That made sense—it put a little of Dan Inman into the name and brought a fond memory of home to the older woman who was Andrew Inman's mother-in-law.

Danville, it would be.

This hypothetical coffee klatch provided the gist of a letter written by Daniel Inman to the Danville Sentinel in January 1898.

The Inman brothers were a Gold Rush success story. Like many other young men from the Midwest, they came to California to make their fortune gold mining in 1849, when Dan was 21. The brothers had been raised on an Illinois farm where Daniel had been trained as a cooper. With their earnings they purchased a boarding house in Sacramento, which was flooded out. Andrew settled on a farm near the future Danville in 1852. Dan came in and out of the valley and did well at hydraulic mining in El Dorado County.

Finally, in 1858, Dan returned to the Valley to stay. According to his letter: "I came into the Valley



once more—this time for good—and purchased a farm, where Danville is now located, of a man named Pigmore. I went to farming and seeded the lands with wheat that winter." In 1863, he married Josephine Jones, a daughter of one of Alamo's pioneer couples, and moved to Livermore with his friend William Mendanhall in 1865.

In Alameda County, they became community leaders. He and Josephine helped found the Presbyterian Church in Livermore. He served as County Supervisor from 1867-68, was elected to the State Assembly in 1869, was the first Livermore Grange Worthy Master and was an elected representative to the convention that revised the original California Constitution in 1878-79. He also served as the president and manager of the State Granger's Association and store in San Francisco. An advocate for the railroad and for reasonable rail rates for farmers, Daniel Inman was known for his integrity.

When Inman died in 1908 at 81, he was the father of seven children, well-known and honored in Livermore and the Valley. A school and a street in that community were named after him. As a young man in Danville and a leader in Livermore, Daniel Inman left his mark on both valleys in the 19th century.

Sources: J.M. Guinn's "History of the State of California and Biographical Records of Coast Counties," Danville Sentinel, January 1898.

Photograph: Museum of the San Ramon Valley

—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

Alamo-Danville Newcomers help Crisis Nursery

The Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club partnered with Bay Area Crisis Nursery and Mervyns from 7-9 a.m., Saturday, May 20, to host a children's shopping spree. ChildSpree lets children who use the Crisis Nursery services select much-needed clothing with the assistance of volunteers. The newcomers' contribution of \$1,500 gave 15 children the chance to choose \$100 worth of clothing each.

The club also provided "shopping chaperones" to accompany some of the children as they picked out their clothing. The Newcomers Club has been involved with the Bay Area Crisis Nursery for more than 15 years, donating Christmas gifts, nursery supplies and auction items, wrapping gifts, assembling the newsletter, and caring for the children at the nursery.

"Most children in the Alamo-Danville area have so much; it is important that we help those who are not so fortunate," said Sandy Crisafulli, Newcomers liaison with the Crisis Nursery. She cited its "valuable work keeping children safe from abuse and neglect."

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery is the only place parents can voluntarily place their young children for 24-hour care when the parent temporarily can't cope. To volunteer, donate or learn more,

visit www.bacn.jkmas.com or call 685-6633. For more information about the Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club visit alamodanvillenewcomers.com or call 775-3233.

Taking soldiers to the movies

Eagle Scout candidate Ricky Schultz, a Senior Patrol Leader of Boy Scout Troop 236 in Danville, is working on his Eagle Scout Project, "Take a Wounded Soldier to the Movies," sponsored by the Blue Star Moms. He is collecting new DVDs, candy, microwave popcorn, AT&T Phone Cards and letters of support to make up packages to send to the wounded soldiers at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

Donations can be dropped off at San Ramon Valley High School on Saturday, June 10, and Scouts will be standing curbside by the small gym to accept donations; they will then assemble the packages in the school library.

The Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley are setting up an account for checks to help pay for postage and items to complete the packages. Make checks payable to: Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley with a note "Wounded Soldier Movie Fund" and send to P.O. Box 2079, Danville, CA 94526. Schultz has also received support from AT&T, Cellphones for Soldiers, and the Jelly Belly Candy Co. For more information, call 930-7713 or e-mail Rturtle99@aol.com.



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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. Crosss 20/ Regal Imax Theater: 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (560-9600)
Vine Cinema: Corner of First and South O streets, Livermore (447-2545)
Internet address: For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at www.DanvilleWeekly.com/

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

An Inconvenient Truth (PG)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:20 p.m.
Da Vinci Code (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues Noon, 1:40, 3:20, 5, 6:40, 8:20, 9:50 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:30, 3:40, 7, 10:10 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 10:10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:50, 11:20, 11:50 a.m., 12:20, 2:10, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45, 5:30, 6, 6:30, 7, 9, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25 p.m.
Friends With Money (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 8:10, 10:25 p.m.
Just My Luck (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 2, 6:55 p.m.
Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:45, 3:30, 6:45, 9:30 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:30 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:25 a.m., 12:25, 1:35, 3:30, 4:35, 6:40, 7:30, 9:40, 10:35 p.m.
Over the Hedge (PG)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 12:25, 1:30, 2:35, 3:45, 4:45, 5:50, 6:55, 8, 9:05, 10:10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 7:15, 9:20 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:20 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:15, 10:40, 11:40 a.m., 12:30, 1, 2:25, 2:55, 3:25, 4:50, 5:20, 5:50, 7:10, 7:40, 8:10, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25 p.m. No show Sun-Tues 10:25 p.m.; Digital Projection Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:40, 3:55, 6:15, 8:35, 10:50 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 11:40 a.m., 1:30, 3:30, 5:20, 7:15, 9:05 p.m., Mon-Tues 2:45, 4:30, 6:30, 8:10 p.m.; No show Fri 11:40 a.m.
Poseidon (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 4:55, 7:15, 9:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:55 a.m., 1:25, 4, 6:35, 9:10 p.m. Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 10:10 a.m., 12:40, 3:10, 5:45, 8:20, 10:45 p.m.
RV (PG)	Century 14: Fri-Mon 11:15 a.m., 1:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 6:50, 9:15 p.m.
See No Evil (R)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 4:35, 9:30 p.m.
The Break-Up (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Mon 11:30 a.m., 12:20, 1:10, 2, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:15, 7, 7:50, 8:45, 9:30, 10:20 p.m., Tues 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:05, 11:35 a.m., 12:05, 1:45, 2:15, 2:45, 4:25, 4:55, 5:25, 7:05, 7:35, 8:05, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45 p.m.
X-Men: The Last Stand (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11, 11:40 a.m., 12:15, 1, 1:35, 2:15, 2:55, 3:35, 4:10, 4:50, 5:30, 6:15, 6:45, 7:25, 8:05, 8:50, 9:20, 10, 10:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4, 5:15, 6:30, 7:45, 9, 10:15 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9, 10:15 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10, 10:30, 11 a.m., 12:35, 1:05, 1:30, 2:05, 3:40, 4:10, 4:40, 5:10, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 9:20, 9:50, 10:20, 10:50 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:20 p.m., Mon-Tues 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9:05 p.m.; No show Fri 11:30 a.m.

Blackhawk Movie 7 listings were not available at press time

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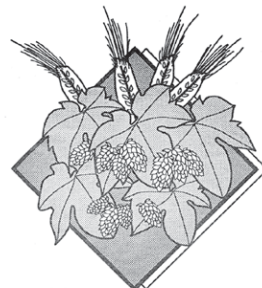
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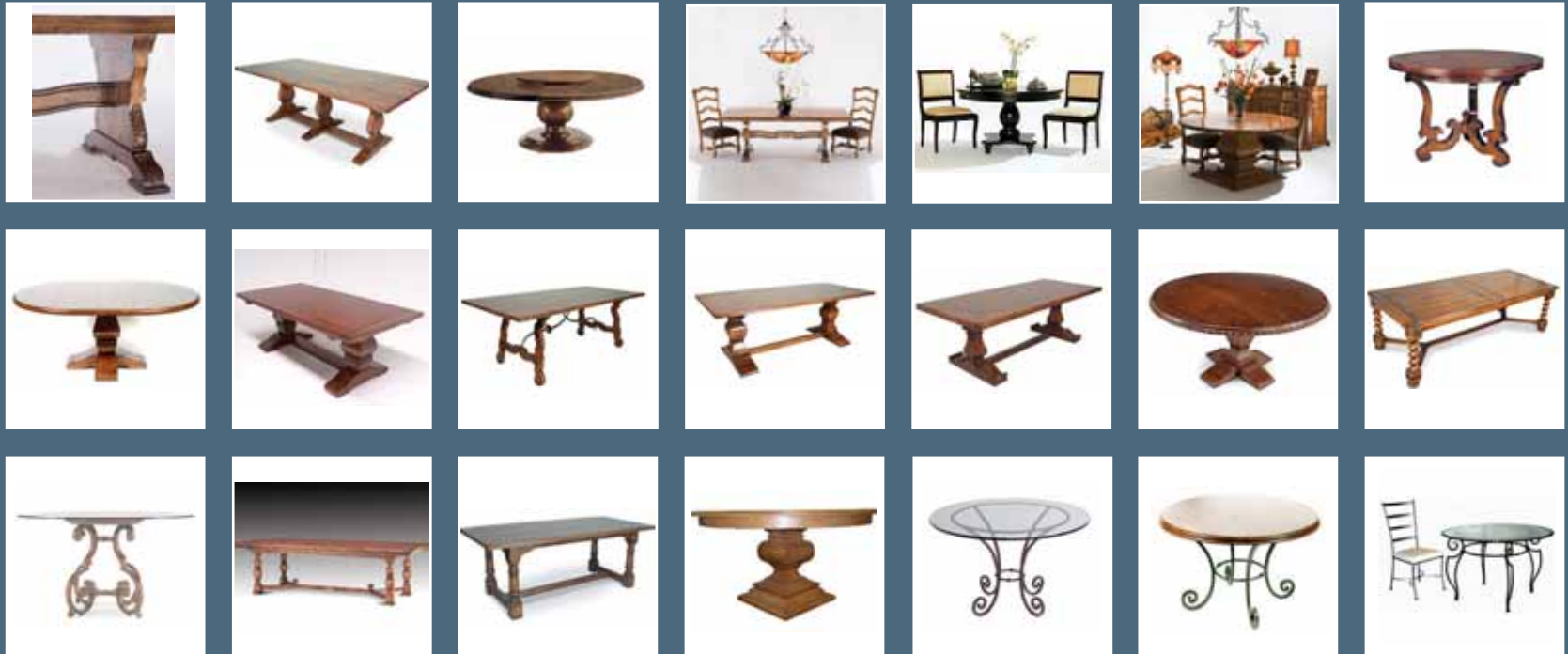
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POLICE BULLETIN

Memorial morning mayhem

A Danville resident held a man at gunpoint when he fled after being discovered breaking into a car, said police Sgt. Philip Wisotsky.

An off-duty Piedmont police officer saw the man and a woman break into a neighbor's van on Briar Place at 5:46 a.m., said Wisotsky. The policeman chased them away and called members of the Danville, Contra Costa County and San Ramon police departments for assistance.

Police officers saw the suspects still lurking in the neighborhood and chased them on foot across I-680, according to reports. The culprits wound up on the corner of Shirley Lane and El Rio. The resident with the gun lived nearby and, after hearing the chase, saw the male suspect and aimed his firearm. When the suspect saw the gun, he hid in the bushes.

Dar, the San Ramon police dog, found the suspect and bit him a few times, police said.

"He wouldn't submit," said Wisotsky.

After Dar bit him, the suspect gave himself up, police said.

Dar also found the female suspect, who was hiding in the area.

Danville Sgt. Ron Bradley said it is "absolutely" OK for citizens to arrest criminal suspects, according to state law. But he said he would prefer them to act more safely.

"We would rather have them be a good witness instead of risking harm," he said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

OBITUARIES

James Douglass Aldridge

James Douglass Aldridge, a resident of Danville, passed away unexpectedly on May 10. Born in Stockton on Jan. 18, 1940, he was a 28-year resident of Contra Costa County, and lived in Danville for the last 21 years. He was retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory after serving 34 years as a machinist, and was active in the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge #1811.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Janet Aldridge; children, Debbie Lenhardt, James Aldridge Jr., Billy and Zachary Poeppel; grandchildren Jennifer Emig, Julie Lenhardt, Desirea Aldridge, Amanda Aldridge, James Aldridge III and Cameron Aldridge.

A celebration of his life was held May 21 at the Elks Lodge.

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 22

- Grand theft from vehicle on Adobe Dr. at 9:44 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:29 a.m.
- School vandalism on Love Ln. at 12:11 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Skycrest Dr. at 4:39 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on La Gonda Way at 8:27 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Edinburgh Cir. at 9:08 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Joaquin Dr. at 9:45 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Camino Tassajara and Creekside Ave. at 11:33 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23

- Grand theft, vehicle parts, on Paraiso Dr. at 6:07 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run, on Love Ln. at 9:56 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:35 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Stowbridge Ct. at 11:37 a.m.
- Petty theft from building on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 5:48 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Camino Ramon and Fostoria Way at 6 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Vista Grande St. at 11:40 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24

- Credit card fraud on Thornhill Rd. at 9:02 a.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Glen Valley Cir. at 10:47 a.m.
- Residential burglary on El Capitan Dr. at 1:23 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on St. Norbert Dr. at 6:55 p.m.

- Petty theft from vehicle on St. Norbert Dr. at 7:09 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Camino Tassajara and Mansfield Dr. at 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 25

- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:38 a.m.
- Petty theft on Stone Valley Rd. at 8:20 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Starview Dr. and Starview Pl. at 2:23 p.m.
- Grand theft shoplifting on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 3:20 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Falcon St. at 6:49 p.m.

Friday, May 26

- Suspicious circumstances on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 2:48 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Diablo Rd. at 9:44 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Railroad Ave. at 12:58 p.m.
- Commercial burglary on Hartz Ave. at 3:20 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Las Barrancas Dr. at 4:33 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Verona Ave. at 7:14 p.m.

Saturday, May 27

- DUI, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 1:27 a.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Serene Ct. at 6:42 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Greenbrook Dr. and Old Orchard Dr. at 8:37 a.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on St. Jean Ct. at 8:41 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Greenbrook Dr. and Old Orchard Dr. at 9:04 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Town and Country Dr. at 1:20 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 7:40 p.m.

Sunday, May 28

- DUI, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Front

St. at 12:24 a.m.

- Residential burglary on Del Amigo Rd. and Glen Rd. at 9:35 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Fostoria Cir. at 11:35 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on La Gonda Way at 3:27 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Hartz Ave. at 7:32 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 22

- Auto burglary on Angela Ave.

Tuesday, May 23

- Vandalism, felony, at Alamo Plaza

Wednesday, May 24

- Suspicious circumstances on Stone Valley Way
- Reckless driving on Danville Blvd.

Friday, May 26

- Two commercial burglaries at Alamo Plaza
- Residential burglary on Miranda Ln.

BLACKHAWK

Monday, May 22

- Petty theft, all other, on Deer Crest Dr.

Thursday, May 25

- Misdemeanor battery on Buttonwood Dr.

ROUNDHILL

Wednesday, May 24

- Commercial burglary on Roundhill Rd.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Royal Oaks Dr.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Biltmore Dr.
- Petty theft, all other, on Roundhill Rd.

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Diablo Scorpions continue to score big on lacrosse field

Coaches bring expertise and passion to the game

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

Results are in for the Diablo Scorpion Lacrosse Club, and coaches, kids and families can be proud of their season. A grand example of the league's success is the Scorpion Venoms, who just won the 7A championship and have been undefeated for two seasons.

The semi-final game was a 10-0 win over the Scorpion Spyder 7A team; the championship game was a 6-1 win over the Lamorinda Blast 7A team.

"The old saying that defense wins championships was so true for this team," said assistant coach Brad Hock. "Our team gave up the fewest goals of any team in the junior division (seventh and eighth grades). Of our 16 games, nine were shutouts."

"The success of our program is a result of the dedicated and experienced coaching staff and the support of the parents," said Phil Connelly, club president. "Our coaches are predominantly former

college players, and our players benefit tremendously from the passion for the game these coaches demonstrate."

Scorpion coaches include head lacrosse high school coaches, including Adam Lechner from Monte Vista; Bob O'Meara of De La Salle; Peter Worstell of San Ramon Valley; and Kurt Vierra of Cal High.

The Diablo Scorpion Lacrosse Club consists of more than 400 boys and girls from kindergarten through the eighth grade from Danville, Alamo, Diablo and San Ramon. It has a total of 18 teams and fields 12 boys and four girls teams that compete in the Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association against 46 clubs from Sacramento to Monterey.

The program sends the majority of its players to San Ramon Valley, Monte Vista and De La Salle high schools. Monte Vista has won the Northern California High School Championship three years in a row, and the San Ramon girls won their

first championship this year. Many of these players continue playing at the college level.

The Diablo Scorpion Lacrosse program was started in 2000 by Danville residents George Pereira, Steve Wahrlich, Peter Worstell, Paul Ferry and Steve Reyda. Pereira was president of the club from inception until 2005 when Connolly took the job.

"I got involved with the program when I relocated to Danville," said Connolly.

He grew up in Garden City, NY, with two of the founders so they knew he had played varsity lacrosse at West Point.

"I have been hooked ever since," said Connelly. "In 2002, I helped establish and coached the bobble-head program for second- and third-graders. Since that time, I have either coached or assisted other teams in our program."

The Diablo Scorpion Lacrosse league runs from February through May. Player registration fees range



Mackie Greason shoots for the Champion 7A Scorpion Venom team.

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from \$100-\$300. Information can be obtained at www.scorpionlacrosse.com by calling 648-7845. ■

Diablo Scorpion 2006 results:

Boys:

- Junior A - 8th grade division: Champions (undefeated), coached by Martin Wenzel of Alamo
- Junior B division: Bronze medal winner, coached by John Demarest of Danville
- Junior A - 7th grade division: Champions (undefeated), coached by Sam Greason of Lafayette
- Pups A - 6th grade division: Champions (undefeated), coached by

Peter Worstell of Danville

- Pups A - 5th grade division: Champions (undefeated), coached by Beau Shore of Lafayette

Girls:

- Junior A - 1 division: Champions, coached by Rick Jeffrey of Diablo

SPORTS DIGEST

Athenian heading to NCS finals

The Athenian School baseball team, with a winning record of 13-6 at the end of league play, beat Rincon Valley Christian, 9-3, in the North Coast Section Tournament semifinals on Friday in Santa Rosa. This is Athenian's first appearance in the prestigious tournament, which invites the top 16 teams each year.

"This year's accomplishments could not have been achieved without the dedication, commitment and talent of seniors D.J. Lynch, Andres Gopnik-Lewinski, Sharif Palmer, Jack Piels, Darrin Thomas-Mintor, Mike Goldberg and Jesse Jobert," said coaches Carl Eleck and Robert Gunter. "They have helped create a new era of Athenian baseball."

Next the Athenian Owls will face Crystal Springs Uplands in the finals tomorrow, June 3, at Skyline College in San Bruno. Four Athenian players won All-League Honors this year: Goldberg, Lynch, Rob Simmons-Beck and Jereme Palmer.

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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Alamo-Danville Artists' Society
The Alamo-Danville Artists' Society will be displaying paintings by Alamo and Danville artists: Carolyn Jarvis, Mardeyn Ellis, Roz Zinns and Sandra Mortimore at the Danville Town offices, 510 La Gonda Way. The offices are open on weekdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., mid-May through mid-July.

Artists Wanted

The Alamo Danville Artists' Society is looking for artists to submit work for the eighth annual Art in the Park on Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Painters and three-dimensional artists are encouraged to apply soon for the few openings in these categories. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Norma Webb, 67 Hazelnut Court, San Ramon, CA 94583 or e-mail nor-mawebb@comcast.net.

Bedford Gallery Art Morning

Carrie Lederer and several exhibiting artists will be giving a talk followed by refreshments and a docent tour, at 10 a.m., June 7, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Reservations are required. Admission is \$7. Call 295-1417.

Calling for Artists

San Ramon Arts Walk & Festival, Sept. 23-24, in San Ramon is looking for artists ages 18 and over, residing in California to enter a piece of original fine art in any medium, with a Sept. 1 deadline. There will be a special garden for display of sculptures. Digital images should be sent in the form of jpeg files. A non-refundable entry fee of \$10 per art

work. For information, call 336-0267 or visit www.sanramonarts.org.

Author Visits

Author Visit and Discussion

Linda Donn, author of "The Little Balloonist," will be discussing her book over wine and heavy appetizers at 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 5, at the Blackhawk Grille, 3540 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Cost is \$25. To reserve a spot, contact Carol Mascali at 352-7640 or cpmascali@aol.com. Space is limited.

Calvin Trillin

To celebrate the new release of "A Heckuva of a Job," author and journalist Calvin Trillin will be talking about his book full of poetry satirizing contemporary American politics, at noon, Sunday, June 4, Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

Children's Authors Visit

Polka Dot Attic will be hosting a number of children's authors with continuous readings from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, June 3, at 411 Hartz Ave. (Danville Hotel courtyard). Authors include Dashka Slater, Kim Zarins, Suzanne Williams and Susan Elya. There will be food, drawings and fun! Call 838-8004.

Playwright Kathryn G. McCarty Visit

Playwright Kathryn G. McCarty will share tips for finding inspiration for stories at a luncheon sponsored by California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch, starting at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 10, at the Concord Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Ave. Cost is

\$17 for CWC members; \$20 for non-members. RSVP by Monday, June 5. For information or to RSVP, call Camille Minichino at (510) 881-8929 or e-mail camille@minichino.com.

Three Women Poets to Read

The Century House Poetry Readings, sponsored by the city of Pleasanton Civic Arts will resume from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, June 4, Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The guest poets will be Molly Fisk, Jane Hilberry and Ryan Williams; an open mike segment will follow their readings. Cost is \$5. For information, call 931-5350 or email Michelle Russo at mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Classes

Clay Character Modeling for Kids

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Clay Character Modeling for Kids class from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturdays, for ages 6-13. Michael Yen is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$86 for four weeks plus \$15 for materials. For information, call 838-1959.

Mixed Media Fun for Kids

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Mixed Media Fun for Kids class from 3-4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, for ages 6-13. Marilyn MacDougall is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$78 for five weeks, plus \$8 for materials. For information, call 838-1959.

Oil and Acrylic Painting Class

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers an Oil and Acrylic Painting class from 10 a.m.-noon, Mondays, and from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays.



PHOTO COURTESY DEAN FERRY

'Everything Elvis!'

Memphis Cotton (Elvis) is flanked by Wall of Hope President and Founder Marilyn Burch and Vickie Coker, a real estate agent in Alamo. "Elvis" along with his Beale Street Band, including an eight-piece orchestra and two gospel singers, will perform at "Everything Elvis!" beginning at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 3, Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive. The night will include dinner and dancing, and awards will be given in several different categories for those who dress up as Elvis or members of his "fan club." Cost is \$75 per person. Call Marilyn Burch at 736-7100 or visit www.wallofhope.org.

Charles White is the instructor. Classes are ongoing and for all levels. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

Painting Classes

Dublin Cultural Arts will be offering acrylic painting classes for beginners to intermediate levels beginning Saturday, June 13. Beginning level painters will go through a 6-week course and will be introduced to the colorful world of acrylic. Beginning to

intermediate painters will go through an 8-week course called "Acrylic Painting - Special Techniques." To register, visit www.dublinrecguide.com or call 556-4500.

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It meets at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 935-3325.

Alamo Merchants and Professional Association

AMPA meets the second Tuesday of each month for its business luncheon, at 11:30 a.m. for networking, and noon for lunch, including a guest speaker, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Round Hill Road, Alamo. AMPA also holds a mixer the fourth Wednesday of each month. For information regarding the luncheons and mixers, call Barbara Malan at 831-3329 or visit www.alamobusiness.com.

Alamo Rotary

The Alamo Rotary meets at noon every Wednesday at Roundhill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road. Call Mark Kahn at 837-3262.

Alamo Women's Club Federated

The club meets on most

Wednesdays at its clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd. It holds a business meeting and tea the second Wednesday at noon; meets for Mah Jong at 10:30 a.m. the third Wednesday; and holds a luncheon with program at noon the fourth Wednesday. For information, call Jean Stringfellow at 552-9733.

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club

This club is open to new and long-time residents of Alamo and Danville interested in making new friends while learning more about the area. Many activities are available. Their Prospective Member Coffee is held the fourth Thursday of the month, and a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday. Call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvillenewcomers.com.

Bay Area Single Christians

BASC club is a free, large, online group with event listings for Christian single adults around the S.F. Bay Area. See information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bascingles/>.

Blackhawk Republican Women

Blackhawk Republican Women will host a luncheon meeting with speaker Fred DaSilva of the Contra Costa Grand Jury. He will talk about the jury's role, history of constitutional institution and how people can get involved. This event will start at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon, Monday, June 5, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Cost is \$16. Call 820-7313.

Blue Star Moms California

Blue Star Moms is a support group for families of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It meets at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Peggy at 866-7035 or Patty at 838-9096 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

Business Development Network

BDN is a group of professionals that share resources and develops business through relationships. It meets 7:45-9 a.m., the second and fourth

Thursday of each month at Denny's, 807 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call Bonnie at 648-0222.

Business Network International

The Danville Chapter of Business Network International, a world-wide networking organization that focuses on helping local businesses grow through building strong networking relationships, meets at 7 a.m. every Friday at Denny's Restaurant on Camino Ramon. For information, call Glenn Polanco at 831-3372.

Contra Costa Rose Society

The Contra Costa Rose Society will host a talk by Barbara Gordonat, "Leave the Prickles on the Rose," at 7:15 p.m., Monday, June 26, at the Gardens at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. For information, call 681-1551 or visit www.ccrose.org.

Danville AM Toastmasters Club

The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at Father Nature's, 178 E. Prospect Ave. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact Dave Miklasevich at 899-1543 or dmik210@yahoo.com or www.danvilleamtoastmasters.org.

Danville Area Cultural Alliance

The Danville Area Cultural Alliance (DACA) will have a board meeting at 7 p.m., every third Monday of the month at the Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville. For information, call Paul Sveckler at 820-5391 or visit www.danvilleareaculturalalliance.org.

San Ramon Valley Exchange Club

The San Ramon Valley Exchange Club invites you to join them at noon, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at Faz, 600 Hartz Ave., (sign in at 11:45 a.m.). RSVP 275-2412 or couchstepper@yahoo.com. The cost for lunch is \$16.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club Hikes

The San Ramon Valley Newcomers would like to invite prospective members to a luncheon including a game of Bingo and cash prizes at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 15, Marie Callenders, 18070 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon. To reserve your spot, call Jan at 735-3508 or visit www.newcomers.home.comcast.net.

San Ramon Valley Rotary Club

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

Tri-Valley Writers Association

This club exists to inform, educate and have fun and is open to anyone interested in the craft of writing. The club meets at 11:30 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Membership dues are \$50 per year (starting July 1) or \$24 for a half year (starting Feb. 1). Contact Steve Workman at 485-1011 or skworkman@aol.com. They will also be hosting a Literary Showcase from 7-10 p.m., Wednesday, May 17, at Livermore's Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. This event is free.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75

The organization's next meeting will begin at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 8, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. For information, call Post Commander Mac McCuskey at 837-2740 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

American Music Masters

The Danville Community Band will present "American Music Masters" at 2 p.m., Sunday, June 3, at the Dean Lesh Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Reserved seating is \$14 for adults; \$12 for seniors; and \$10 for students.

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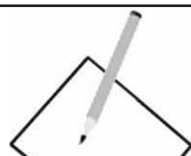
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Danville Girls Chorus Auditions
Danville Girls Chorus will be holding auditions for the upcoming 2006-07 season from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, June 14, San Ramon Valley High School, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Singers grades 3-8 will learn a variety of musical styles, quality choral music education, the fundamentals of musicianship and participate in exciting local performances. Call 837-2624.

Jazz at Peace Series
Peace Lutheran Church will host the Gerry Grosz Quartet as apart of the Jazz at Peace Series at 5 p.m., Sunday, June 11, at the church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free. For information, call the Rev. Steve Harms at 648-7000.

Music in the Park
The Town of Danville is holding its 21st annual Music in the Park series from 6-8 p.m. on four Saturdays, in July and August at Oak Hill Park, 3031 Stone Valley Road. The concerts are supported by East Bay BMW, Charterhouse Mortgage and Intero Real Estate. July 8 will feature Lydia Pense & Cold Blood; July 22, Pride & Joy; Aug. 5, East Bay Mudd; Aug. 19, the Cheeseballs.

'That's Broadway!'
The Danville Girls Chorus will perform their final concert of the season, "That's Broadway!," with popular show tunes at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 3, at the East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara Road, Danville. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and may be purchased in advance by calling 837-2624 or at the door.

Events

BMX Bike Safety Show
OnTrack Learning presents the second annual BMX Bike Safety Show including half-hour demonstrations featuring "Perfection on Wheels," a world class BMX stunt team, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., Friday, June 9, at Creekside Community Church, 3250 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call 552-5777.

Cancer Survivors' Day
A Celebration in the Park will be held to honor all cancer survivors and their families from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, June 4, Castle Rock Park, 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek. It will be hosted by the Picnic People, American Cancer Society, Anna's Program, John Muir Health, Kaiser Permanente, San Ramon Regional Medical Center, Sisters Three and the Wellness Community. A free BBQ lunch will be served from noon-2 p.m. and the afternoon will have many fun-filled activities. RSVP to John Muir Cancer Institute at 947-4447

Contra Costa County Fair
The Contra Costa County Fair is open now through Sunday, June 4, at the fairgrounds at 10th and L streets in Antioch. Cost is \$7 for ages 13-61; \$4 for older than 61 and younger than 13; free for children under 7. Parking is \$3. Box office hours Saturday and Sunday are 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; carnival is open until 11 p.m. both nights. Friday is Kids Day and 12 and under are free. For more information, call 757-4400 or visit www.ccfair.org.

Danville Fine Arts Faire
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce will host the Danville Fine Arts Faire from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25, on Hartz Avenue in downtown Danville. 200 Fine Art and Contemporary Crafts will be on display along with gourmet food, fine wines and microbrews, Italian street painting and entertainment. Call 837-4400 or visit www.danvillechamber.com. Admission is free and a free shuttle service will be available. All vendors must contact MLA Productions at (831) 438-4751 or claudette@mlaproductions.com.

Family Campout
The Town of Danville presents Family Campout including swimming, youth crafts, family games and a movie

under the stars starting at 3 p.m., Saturday, July 29, and ending at 11 a.m., Sunday, July 30, at Oak Hill Park, 3031 Stone Valley Road. Danville residents' cost is \$30 per family of four, \$5 each additional family member; non-resident cost is \$36 per family for four, \$6 each additional family member. To register and find out what families should bring, go to the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or by visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Family Stargazing BBQ
Save Mount Diablo will host a sunset BBQ and short hike at its Chaparral Spring property for star gazing that will be interpreted by St. Mary's professor Ron Olowin. Everyone will meet at the park at 6 p.m., Saturday, June 3, at the Three Springs Entry, March Creek Road, two miles east of Regency Drive. Guests should bring flashlights, warm clothing and a blanket. A \$5 donation per person is requested for the BBQ; RSVP by calling 947-3535 or jseelen@save-mountdiablo.org.

Farmers Market
The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com. Thursday night Farmers' Market will be from 4-8 p.m., May 11-Sept. 14.

Free Shakespeare in the Park
The city of Pleasanton will host the annual Free Shakespeare in the Park, with "The Tempest" by the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, June 24-July 9, Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Admission is free. Picnic suppers and low lawn chairs are welcome. Call 931-5340.

Grizzly Peak Cyclists Ride
Bart Borland from Grizzly Peak Cyclists will lead a ride starting at the Park-N-Ride lot at Rudgear Road and I-680 and then riding over to Athenian School, continuing to ascend up Mount Diablo. The descent will take you into Danville for coffee at Peet's. This ride takes place from 8:45 a.m.-noon every Tuesday until June 13. Contact Bart Borland at (510) 601-5062 or gbborland@yahoo.com.

'Jump Start Your Summer' at the Alameda County Fair
Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton is from June 23-July 9 with concerts, funnel cakes, games and the fourth annual Cooking Academy. If you buy your tickets before Thursday, June 22, you will save 33%. Special admission days include: Military Appreciation Weekend June 23-25 with free admission with valid military I.D.; Kids Free Fridays (12 and under) on June 23, 30 and July 5; Monday Madness, June 26: Everyone is free before 3 p.m. and \$2 off ride wristbands; Seniors Free Wednesdays (62+), June 28 and July 5; and Wacky Wednesday: \$3 admission fair all day and \$2 off ride wristbands. For information, visit www.alamedacountyfair.com.

Mountain Bike Ride for Beginners
In support of Save Mount Diablo's Spring on the Mountain Series, the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay is leading a mountain bike ride for

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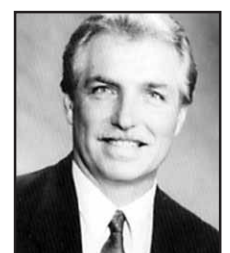
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beginners and intermediates in Shell Ridge from Indian Valley School to the China Wall Formation for lunch. Great views of Mount Diablo and environs. Meet at the Indian Valley School at the end of Marshall Drive in Walnut Creek at 10 a.m., Sunday, June 4. Ride leader is Mike McCormack, 942-3653.

National Trails Day

Town of Danville and other communities will be celebrating National Trails Day from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, June 10, at Oak Hill Park, 3031 Stone Valley Road. For information, call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Pediatric Department Open House

San Ramon Valley Primary Care Medical Group's Pediatric Department will be hosting an open house from 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, in the department's office, 200 Porter Drive, Suite 300, San Ramon. This event will allow expectant couples to meet the pediatricians, tour the facility and ask questions. Refreshments will be served. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling Kathy Dunne at 314-2502.

Spring-tober Fest

Alamo Rotary presents Spring-tober Fest with music, dancing and Bavarian food from 4-8 p.m., Sunday, June 4, at St. Isidore's Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Music will be provided by Joe Smeill's Bavarian Fest Band. This event will help support schools and your local community. Tickets for dinner are \$10 and can be purchased

at Mark Kahn Jewlers or by calling 820-6847. Drinks and dessert will be sold separately.

Summer Sewing Room Sale

The Diablo Valley Quilter's Guild is hosting a sewing sale, silent auction and bake sale from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 21, at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Lots of fabric, quilt books and patterns will be priced at bargain prices. The public is invited. Free admission. Call Dianne at 837-1863.

The Science of Everyday Negotiations

Diablo Valley Women in Business present "The Science of Everyday Negotiations" from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Friday, June 9, Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$25 for members; \$40 for non-members. The first part of the event will include a networking breakfast; afterwards the Golf Clinic will provide a clinic from 9:30-11 a.m. which costs \$30 for members; \$45 for non-members. Call 866-0260 or visit www.dvwb.org.

Exhibits

'The Art of the Poster'

Blackhawk Museum is paying tribute to the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance with a special exhibition titled "The Art of the Poster." Museum hours are from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.,

Wednesday through Sunday, now through August. For more information, contact Jon Hart at 736-2280 or www.BlackhawkMuseum.org.

'Visions of Youth' Art Exhibit

The Kiwanis Club, Danville Area Cultural Alliance and art teachers around the county will host an art show celebrating the work of students from kindergarten through seniors in high school. The work will be on display from now until June 3, at the Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville. There will also be a closing reception to honor the exhibitors from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, June 3, at the gallery.

Fundraisers

Auction Benefits Student Ministries

The Church of the Valley Student Ministries will host a dinner catered by Kinders Deli, Meat and BBQ and auction at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 3, at the church, 19001 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. This event will help support students going on a trip to the Washington, D.C., area to help the needy. For information, call Matt Moore at 829-3366.

Best Martini Contest

Level Vodka by Absolut and the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa will present the seventh annual Best Martini in the East Bay Contest to benefit Project Second Chance. This event is from

6-8 p.m., Monday, June 19, at the hotel, 3287 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Generations in Jazz will provide music while you sip martinis and watch bartenders from 14 different bars compete for two cash prizes. Tickets are \$20, available at the door only. Must be 21 to attend. Call 927-3250.

Blue Star Moms Collecting

Danville's Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Blue Star Moms are teaming up to collect items for care packages to send to overseas troops in time for the Fourth of July. Items should be donated by Saturday, June 3, at Coldwell Banker, 600 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. A complete list of items can be found by visiting Coldwell Banker or www.BlueStarMoms.org or by calling 837-4100.

Oakland Raiders Golf Classic

Oakland Raiders Golf Classic to benefit Special Olympics Northern California will start at 11 a.m., Monday, June 5, at Wente Vineyard, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. The day will include golf, cocktails, longest drive, hole-in-one, closest to the pin and 5K putting contests, live and silent auctions and an awards dinner. For information, call 944-8801, ext. 203, e-mail jennifers@sonc.org or visit www.sonc.org.

Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk

Hats Off America will be hosting a 10K Run and 5K Walk to raise awareness and money for families of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. The event will start at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 10, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive. Entry fee is \$35 per person; runners will receive a red T-shirt and food after the run. For information or to register, call Sparky George at 855-1950 or thebearflag-runner@yahoo.com.

Second Annual Wiggle Waggle Walk-A-Thon

This Walk-A-Thon will help defray costs for general operations at the Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton. This event will be 4-7 p.m., Saturday, June 3, at Robertson Park in Livermore. The walk will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the course will be flat and mostly paved. Walkers should bring bottled water; water stations will be available along the course for dogs. Registration is \$25 per person or walkers can raise pledges of \$50 or more. Registration forms are available at the Valley Humane Society or at Fleet Feet Sports, 310 Main St., Pleasanton., or by calling 426-8656.

sports events, bowling and much more. Call 831-1100.

Children's Arts Festival

Pleasanton Civic Arts will host its annual Children's Arts Festival from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, June 4, at Centennial Park, 5353 Sunol Ave., Pleasanton. Children can participate in interactive art experiences like rubbings, watercolor painting and much more. Admission is free. For information, call Julie Finegan at 931-5355.

Music Industry and the High Strung Band

Calling all teen musicians! The High Strung Band will give a performance and present insiders' view about recording albums for major labels and creating a music video for MTV at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 8, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 314-3400.

Track and Field Sign Ups

Starting June 1, youths between the ages 7-18 are welcome to join the Tri-Valley Track Club that meets throughout the year. Practices will be held from 6-7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in different areas around Pleasanton. Call Coach Rik Richardson at 862-0855 or 518-9356 or visit www.trivalleytrack.com.

University Academy

Attention all students entering sixth and seventh grades in Contra Costa County: JKF University will host a Language Arts and Math program to help you "bridge the gap" between elementary and middle school, from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday, June 26-July 14, on its campus, 100 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill. For information, call 969-3575, e-mail jfox@jku.edu or visit www.jku.edu.

Youth Bicycle and Road Safety Class

Pleasant Hill Recreation will be offering a Bicycle Safety class for youth grades 4-10 from 1-2 p.m., Saturday, June 10, Community Center Courtyard, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. The class will cover basic maintenance, road rules, signaling and more. Students should bring a bike, helmet and water. Registration is \$23; \$19 for district residents. Parents may attend free with their child. Call 682-0896 or visit www.pleasanthillrec.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

Breakthrough Leadership Workshop

Stephen Ministries of St. Louis will be hosting a new leadership training workshop, "Breakthrough Leadership Workshop," from 5:30-9 p.m., Saturday, June 3, and from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, June 4, Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado Road, Danville. Cost is \$45 and includes refreshments, workshop handouts and lunch Saturday. To register, call 855-1367, ext. 534, or visit www.cpcdanville.org.

Breast Cancer Seminar

San Ramon Regional Medical Center will present a free community seminar with Dr. Michael Sherman about advanced breast cancer treatments from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 7, in the hospital's South Building, South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling (800) 284-2878 or by visiting www.sanramonmedctr.com

Sales Management Lunch Executive Briefing

Roberts Management Group Inc. presents "Sales Management Lunch Executive Briefing" from noon-2 p.m., Friday, June 9, Roberts Management Group, Inc., Bishop Ranch 6, 2410 Camino Ramon, Suite 164, San Ramon. This event is free, but registration is required by calling 355-9300 or by visiting www.robertsmanagementgroup.com.

Town Hall Meeting With Ellen Tauscher

Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center will host U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher, at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 10, at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. She will be talking about U.S.

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nuclear weapons and possible U.S. attacks on Iran. Call 933-7850.

Understanding Grief Workshop
Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa is offering a workshop about how to understand grief, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, 3470 Burkirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. For information and/or to register, call 887-5678.

Miscellaneous

Host Families Needed for German Exchange Students
Interested Danville families are needed to host one or two German exchange students from Aug. 9-30. Families are required to provide a bed in a shared or private room, meals and transportation to and from the weekday events. If you are interested or need more information, call Dawn Garlieb at 552-8017 or visit www.educulture.org.

On Stage

'Laughter on the 23rd Floor'
Center REPeritory Company will present Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" from now until June 17 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, showing a hilarious behind-the-scenes peek into the writers' room for the Sid Caesar TV show. For tickets, call 943-7469.

'Wigged Out!'
Victoria's Hair on Stage is proud to present the musical comedy, "Wigged Out!" featuring Desperate Housewives, the CSI guys, Anna Nicole Smith, Michael Jackson and many more. Performances start at 7 and 9 p.m., Saturdays, June 3, 10, 17 and 24. Proceeds benefit Hats Off America. Wine and beer bar available; no one under 21 admitted. Tickets are \$40. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) for tickets.

Seniors

Bridge
Seniors meet to play bridge from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every Friday at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Cost is \$1. Reservations are required. Call Jerri Kaldem at 837-6283.

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

Laugh Club
Medical research has proven what people have known for ages that laughter is good for you. Research has shown increased levels of endorphins, immune system cells and decreased levels of stress hormones. Join us for a half-hour laugh session at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. This event is free and open to the public. Call Fred Turner at 216-4590.

Spiritual

Buddhist Meditation for a Busy Life
Dzalandhara Buddhist Center presents "Stress Less - Buddhist Meditation for a Busy Life" from 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, June 7, at the Cultural Arts Center Studio, 4477 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Cost is a \$10 suggested donation. For information, call (510) 551-8757 or visit www.meditationin-berkeley.org.

Catholics@Work Breakfast Meeting
Catholics@Work will be hosting a breakfast series with an opportunity to network with people who are looking for a purpose and leadership in their lives, from 6:45-8:30 a.m., every second Tuesday of the month until June and September-December, at Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville. For information, call 389-0704 or visit www.catholicsatwork.org.

Sports

Adult Basketball Leagues
The Town of Danville will start offering two different basketball leagues: 3-on-3 games played on Tuesday nights and 5-on-5 games played on Thursday nights. The leagues play June 25-Aug. 24 at Los Cerros Community Gym, Los Cerros Middle School, 968 Blemer Road, Danville. The teams will play two games per night. There are no referees, and players should call their own fouls. Call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

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

Adult Softball
Adult Softball plays pickup softball at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays year-round. New members welcome. Call Bob Randall at 855-4646 for more information.

Cubbies Soccer Sign-Ups
The Town of Danville will begin sign-ups for a six-week soccer program to introduce children to the basic skills of soccer. The first practices begin from 5:45 p.m. or 6-6:45 p.m., the first week of July 10 and you can choose to go Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, at Osage Station Park, 816 Brookside Drive, Danville. This is a parent-run program and no coach will be provided. Each child will receive a T-shirt, water bottle and award. Call 314-3482.

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

Support Groups

American Chronic Pain Association
The ACPA group meets from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville.

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

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

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

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group
Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. Meetings are from 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays (except holidays), at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. For information, call 297-9246 or 426-5311. Please note, no meeting July 3.

Danville TOPS
The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m., every

Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa Offers Support Groups
Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa is offering different support groups; individual grief counseling for Hospice families is also available. "Widow and Widower's Support Group" meets from 6-8 p.m., until June 21, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill; "Adults Who Have Lost a Parent Support Group" meets from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays evenings, from now until June 20; "Footsteps: A Support Group for Children" meets 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings, from now until June 6. For information and/or to register, call 887-5678.

Volunteering

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

Child Abuse Prevention Council
The Contra Costa County Child Abuse Prevention Council needs volunteer speakers for the community education program. Volunteers must complete a mandatory 24-hour speaker's training course. For information, call 946-9961.

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

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

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

Make a Difference
Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living (RCJL) in Danville provides assisted living, Alzheimer's and skilled nursing care in a community our residents call home. Volunteers play a key role at RCJL and opportunities are available for students and adults. For

information, call Volunteer Coordinator Irma at 964-2098.

Regional Medical Center
The Contra Costa Regional Medical Center needs volunteers to work in patient services, gift shop or at the information desk. For an application or information, call Julie Kelley, Volunteer Coordinator, at 370-5441.

Rides for Seniors in Lafayette
Rides for Seniors, based in Lafayette, is looking for volunteers (25 years and older) to allow seniors "to age in place" in their homes and be safe when transported to a doctor appointment or grocery shopping. If you are available for a couple of hours periodically, call 284-6699. Fingerprinting and DMV background check required.

Search and Rescue
The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team needs vol-

unteer members to respond to missing person incidents, disasters and other critical incidents. The program provides required training including wilderness traveling, first aid, map and compass, tracking disaster response and search skills, and may additionally include special training for canine, equestrian, technical, mountain bike or other rescue skills. For information visit www.contra-costasar.org or call 646-4461.

Wardrobe for Opportunity
Make a difference and volunteer for Wardrobe for Opportunity by attending their upcoming New Volunteer Orientations, 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, May 30, 3496 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill; 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, 570 14th Street, Oakland. Reservations are required; call (510) 463-4100 ext. 12 or email volunteer@wardrobe.org.



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Ken Behring always knew he was going places. Raised in poverty during the Great Depression, he started earning money at the age of 6 by catching nightcrawlers and selling them for a nickel a can.

by Kathy Cordova

But a bicycle was the real catalyst of his life as a small businessman. Behring got a paper route and began to teach himself the entrepreneurship lessons that would serve him throughout his life.

"That bicycle gave me freedom and mobility for the first time," he writes in his autobi-

ography, "Road to Purpose."

It's little wonder that decades later, the multimillionaire Blackhawk developer would find his life's purpose in helping others go places they had never dreamed they could go.

Behring's establishment of the foundation that has provided almost half a million needy people with mobility through donations of wheelchairs happened either by accident, coincidence or divine intervention, depending on one's view of how the world works.

In the late '90s,

Behring was doing a lot of traveling around the world, especially to Africa for big game hunting. On his expeditions, local trackers would take him to villages to visit schools and health clinics. Behring was dismayed at the primitive conditions and the lack of basic necessities, so he began to solicit donations of medical and educational supplies to take back with him on future trips. In 1999, the LDS Charities heard about what he was doing and asked him to take emergency food, clothing, blankets and other supplies to Kosovo refugees. After loading Behring's plane, there was a little space left, so the volunteers asked him to stop by Romania and deliver wheelchairs to a hospital there.

"We had the space for six wheelchairs," Behring writes. "Little did I know that these six wheelchairs would alter the direction of my life."

Behring was struck by what he learned on that trip. A doctor in Romania explained that in third world countries, people are often ashamed of the disabled and treat them as less than human. A common belief is that people born with disabilities are being punished for sins of the family, so both they and their families are stigmatized.

"Nobody wants to see them crawl on their stomach and they're too big to carry," says Behring, "So they lay in a pile of rags in the back of a hut and just get one meal a day. I have seen people living in boxes in back rooms."

In Romania, Behring was introduced to an old man, a World War II vet,



WHEELS

change lives

Ken Behring finds his life's purpose in giving wheelchairs to the poor in developing countries

Ken Behring meets each wheelchair recipient with a handshake and a smile during a trip to China in 2004.

PHOTOS COURTESY WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION

who had lost his wife and then suffered a stroke.

"When we lifted him into his wheelchair, he started to cry," Behring remembers. "He said, 'Now I can go out and talk to my neighbors.'"

"It was the first time that I really got that feeling of how much (giving someone a wheelchair) means," he says. "Not only are you giving them mobility, but you're showing them that somebody cares, and you're giving their life back."

"I had previously seen wheelchairs as a form of confinement," he writes. "I didn't comprehend the liberation that one could bring to those who are unable to afford them."

Behring continued to make trips to poor countries around the world delivering wheelchairs. Seeing the gratitude of the recipients and the huge impact that the gifts had on the disabled and their families brought Behring profound joy, and something more—purpose.

In June 2000, Behring launched the Wheelchair Foundation with a pledge of \$15 million from his personal foundation and an international board of advisors including Nelson Mandela, King Juan Carlos and Mikhail Gorbachev.

"My father felt this could become a worldwide movement," says David Behring, president of the Wheelchair Foundation and Ken's son. "It's a massive problem and no one person could do it, so we solicited help from many charitable, religious, corporate



Ken Behring and his wife Pat distribute wheelchairs in South Africa in 2001 with Nelson Mandela.

cific person. Religious and civic groups often will sponsor an entire container of chairs to a developing country for \$21,000. The groups typically pay their own way to deliver the chairs and often combine the trip with other humanitarian donations or volunteer work.

The foundation distributes wheelchairs through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in each country that determine recipients with the greatest need.

"One provision is that no wheelchairs are sold," says David. "Everyone who gets a chair is impoverished. They have to have a permanent disability and be poor enough that they can't afford a wheelchair on their own."

A year and a half ago, the foundation opened a gallery within the Blackhawk Museum to educate the public about the conditions that currently exist around the world and to explain why there is such an overwhelming need for wheelchairs—estimated at between 100 million to 200 million.

Causes of disability include natural disasters, such as earthquakes, which have particularly devastating effects in third world countries, car accidents (exacerbated by poor road conditions and ramshackle vehicles), war injuries, advanced age and birth defects, which are often caused by contaminated water and lack of prenatal care.

Some of the most horrific causes of disabilities are landmines.

"Landmines are not an issue in the U.S., but they're still being planted in countries all over the world—Afghanistan, Iraq and

Colombia. Then there are the leftover landmines from Vietnam and Eastern Europe," says David. "It only costs one dollar to plant a landmine, but it costs one thousand dollars to remove one, so nobody ever removes them."

Young children playing and farmers walking through fields often step on the landmines, which are designed to blow off the victim's legs. In some countries the toll of landmines is unimaginable.

"Angola went through a major civil war about 20 years ago. They have the highest rate of landmine victims in the world," says David. "It's estimated that as much as 20 percent of the population of 12 million is disabled."

The foundation has a multitude of partners who are actively involved in their mission, including Rotary Clubs, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Knights of Columbus, ChevronTexaco, the Oakland Athletics and many others.

Val Nunes, one of the founders of Wine for Wheels, an organization that raises funds through culinary and wine events, just returned from a distribution in China where they gave away 360 wheelchairs.

"It was one of the best days I ever had," he says. "It was as close to heaven as you can get on earth."

In the four years that Nunes has volunteered for the Wheelchair Foundation, he has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars and made several humanitarian trips all over the world. Nunes and his wife, Belia, plan

their vacations around the distributions and have taken along their daughters, too.

"We take the kids to teach them how to be contributors to the world," he says. "It's the best way I can spend money and time and energy. When I see (the disabled), and they are so left out of society, and something as small as a wheelchair can completely change their life."

Beyond improving the lives of the recipients, the foundation may have an even more important and far-reaching role.

"We are creating international friendship, and the wheelchair distribution is the catalyst for it," says David.

Nunes agrees.

"We went with about 20 volunteers and we shook all their hands and talked to them, spreading good will," he says. "Sometimes the impression of Americans is that we're always just consuming. This shows that we care."

The Behrings believe that because of its size and geopolitics, China is an especially important relationship for the United States.

"We have to gain China's support against terrorism," says David. "They want their economy to grow, and I always tell people that with economic freedom, political freedom is going to follow."

In May 2004, the foundation sponsored the donation of 1,000 wheelchairs in China—the largest distribution of wheelchairs in the world.

Ken Behring has learned through his travels that people all over the world are just like us and that it's important for both peace and the global economy for us to form strong international relationships.

"The surprising thing is how small the world is and how much help is needed," says Behring. "You don't have to give a lot."

"The thanks that you get back is so much greater than what you're giving," says David. "I remember this 80-year-old woman in Guatemala who broke down crying and hugging me and she wouldn't let go. She said in Spanish, 'I've been praying for God to send me an angel ever since I had my accident. You are the angel that God sent me.'" ■

How to Volunteer

You can assist the Wheelchair Foundation with its mission to deliver hope, mobility and freedom in the following ways:

Donate! Each \$75 tax-deductible contribution will sponsor the manufacturing and delivery of one wheelchair; \$150 will sponsor and deliver two. Each \$75 donor receives a complimentary copy of Ken Behring's autobiography, "Road to Purpose."

Spread the word! Educate yourself about the Wheelchair Foundation by going to its Web site www.WheelchairFoundation.org or visiting its gallery in the Blackhawk Museum, and then spread the word to others. Telephone 791-2340. The Wine for Wheels Web site is www.wineforwheels.org.

Have a fundraiser! A dinner or cocktail party in your home can serve as a venue to tell people about helping others by supporting the Wheelchair Foundation. The foundation supplies everything you need, including donation forms, newsletters and brochures.

Help seek out corporate or club sponsorship! Help find corporations and clubs that have interests in countries that need help. The group can target its sponsorship to specific countries and needs, and its logo will be embroidered on wheelchairs identifying a sponsor of an entire 280-wheelchair container.

Go on a wheelchair distribution! The Wheelchair Foundation has partnered with Howard Tours to enable people to participate in wheelchair distributions around the world. There is a list of upcoming wheelchair distributions that folks can participate in as well as information about these trips in the travel section of the Web site.



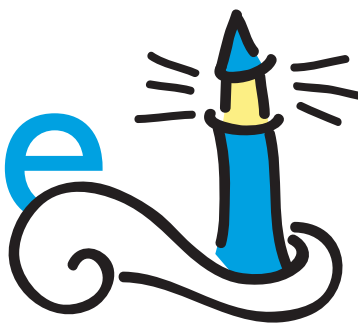
This elderly Vietnamese woman told Ken Behring that she had wanted to die—until she received her new wheelchair.

and government organizations. The goal was to supply 1 million wheelchairs. We're probably going to reach the half-million mark in six years."

Today the Wheelchair Foundation has provided chairs to 145 countries all over the world. The wheelchairs operate manually, are built to get around in primitive areas, and utilize puncture-proof tires to make them more durable.

Each wheelchair can be purchased and delivered for an average of \$150. The chairs normally cost \$500 in the United States, but the large quantities that the foundation purchases enable them to pay much less. The foundation is gifted with matching funds so that every \$75 donation will purchase a wheelchair in a developing country. For developed countries, a \$150 donation purchases a wheelchair.

Wheelchairs are sent in containers of 280. Individuals can request that their donation goes to providing a chair for a disabled person in a particular country, but not to a spe-



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Pleasanton, 3717 Bairn Court, Jun 3, 8-1

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Livermore, 3BR/2BA
Pleasanton Bradywalsh.com, 3 BR/2.5 BA

Pleasanton Bradywalsh.com, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$1995
Pleasanton Homes, 3BR/2BA
San Ramon Bradywalsh.com, 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$4000
San Ramon Homes For Rent Bradywalsh.com, 3 BR/2 BA

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Livermore 3270sf (gothouse.com), 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1116900
Livermore, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1,124,000
Pleasanton, 5+ BR/3.5 BA - \$1,995,000
San Ramon Bradywalsh.com, 3 BR/2 BA - \$439999
San Ramon, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,050,000
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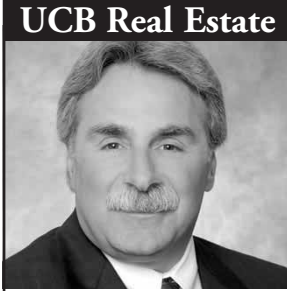
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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during May 2006

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 3	Total sales reported: 18	Total sales reported: 31
Lowest sale reported: \$1,251,000	Lowest sale reported: \$655,000	Lowest sale reported: \$305,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,390,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,444,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,450,000
Average sales reported: \$2,147,000	Average sales reported: \$984,694	Average sales reported: \$698,532

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
93 Betten Court Stockberger Trust to M. & K. Cox for \$1,000,000	50 Camino Monte Sol CMS Group to R. & C. Barber for \$3,390,000	1218 Jillian Court Yoshizumi-Kriegler Trust to R. Perkins for \$915,000
524 Buttonwood Drive J. & L. Wahleithner to J. & T. Hutchens for \$1,200,000	1490 Livorna Road S. Cadenasso to R. Abalos for \$1,800,000	441 La Vista Road M. Ball to J. & N. Rossi for \$1,450,000
24 Cedar Hollow Drive Rutlege Trust to Sylvester Trust for \$915,000	51 Sara Lane F. Wainwright to L. Olin for \$1,251,000	1282 Laurel Oak Lane D. & S. Rector to J. & B. Loving for \$1,060,000
1016 Dunhill Court Belonax Trust to J. & C. Cesca for \$1,065,000	Walnut Creek	470 North Civic Drive #101 Schuster Trust to K. Payvar for \$305,000
644 Dunhill Drive R. & N. O'Connor to B. Simon for \$1,179,000	1315 Alma Avenue #432 Alma Development to Moller Trust for \$540,000	2550 Oak Road #112 Bridgeport Commons to P. Batsha for \$368,000
20 Highland Court I. Sanders to T. & L. Hickman for \$1,444,000	2070 Banbury Road E. & H. McFadden to R. & K. Regan for \$1,100,000	
1334 Knolls Creek Drive Shapell Industries to A. & M. Prine for \$1,186,000		
36 Lily Court B. & M. Weir to M. Yaden for \$925,000		
1812 Mockingbird Place Lalamentik Trust to F. Ventura for \$660,000		
407 Oneida Court Turnbull Trust to H. Oesep for \$655,000		
206 Promenade Lane Buck Trust to Feldman Trust for \$855,000		
3842 Sheffield Circle E.		

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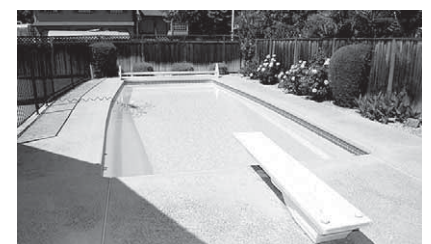


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2 Lyman Ln. \$999,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 360-7627

4 Bedrooms
23 Scripps Haven Ln. \$1,499,950
Sat 1-4 p.m. Empire 998-3098
30 Vernal Ct. \$1,650,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 217-5017

5 Bedrooms
92 Quebradas Ln. \$2,199,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 998-9747

Danville

2 Bedrooms
615 Morninghome Rd. \$699,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 381-3660
1165 Sunshine Cir. \$699,950
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 217-5017
2198 Shoshone Cir. \$700,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 984-1787

3 Bedrooms
205 Gil Blas Rd. \$859,950
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA 734-5076
63 Haskins Ranch Cir. \$865,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 217-5050
1160 Delta Wy. \$875,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 855-6410

4 Bedrooms

62 St. Mark Ct. \$1,075,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4060
3894 Cottonwood Dr. \$1,249,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 648-5359

5 Bedrooms

132 Alta Vista Wy. \$1,649,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 339-3500
1120 Finley Rd. \$2,975,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. UCB 351-8686

Diablo

6 Bedrooms
2315 Caballo Ranchero \$2,195,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 963-8294

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms
6199 Lakeview Cir. \$639,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes 791-4214

3 Bedrooms
486 Blanco Ct. \$649,500
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 968-1452
2113 Joree Ln. \$708,888
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 989-4123
2328 Millstream Ln. \$764,950
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential 463-6128
2211 S. Donovan Wy. \$769,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4110

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OPEN SATURDAY 1-4

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Reduced to \$639,000



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

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2100 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, plus office on .39 acres. Additional exterior Au Pair, office or hobby space. Custom features abound in this home where dreams do come true. Completely updated with special features beyond compare. Fabulous neighborhood. Walking distance to Historic Downtown Danville and schools. Home backs to creek with no rear neighbors. Granite gourmet kitchen, laundry room/ service porch, dual paned windows, cathedral ceilings with old world charm. Huge backyard featuring beautiful landscaping, sprinklers, deck and so much more. Hurry as this will not last.

Offered at \$1,399,000

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Your own private villa to get away from the hustle of the city, but not too far. 5bd, 5-full/2-half baths.
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Private end of court, surrounded by open space. Large granite and stainless kitchen, downstairs master and office, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen and much more.
Bonnie King 925.855.4072



DANVILLE

Magee Ranch Custom \$2,050,000
Custom home on sought-after street. 1bd/1ba on first floor. Formal office. Large kitchen/family room. Lovely yard, in-ground spa, backing to open space.
Dave Bauer 925.855.4040



DANVILLE

Best of Bettencourt Ranch \$1,329,000
Spacious 5bd, 3ba, 3-car garage. Carpet, hardwood & tile floors, plantation shutters and more. Gourmet kitchen with island. Master suite with fireplace.
Betsy Tan 925.855.4109



ALAMO

Wonderful Whitegate \$1,295,000
Exceptional single level located at end of cul-de-sac with great views overlooking open space. Updated granite/stainless kitchen. 5bd, 2.5ba.
John Lopes 925.855.4155



BLACKHAWK

Dramatic Gold Course Views! \$1,279,000
Stunning, decorated to perfection. Beautifully remodeled slab granite kitchen, redone baths. 3bd plus loft, 2.5ba, 2-car plus golf cart garage.
McDougall Team 925.672.2499



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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



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Greenbrook Single Story \$1,075,000
4bd, 2ba, .25+/-acre at the end of the court. 3-car garage. Hardwood floors. For more information, visit www.Loray.com.
Loray Hawkins 925.855.4060



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Come See What's New \$1,050,000
New carpet and paint. 4bd, 2.5ba. Great cul-de-sac location. Perfect backyard for relaxing family gatherings or entertaining with BBQ, pool, spa.
Campbell Team-Chris Campbell 925.838.5700

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**925.855.4000
925.648.5300**

