

## Sporting speed

Diablo family helping athletes hone their skills > **page 16**

Vol. II, Number 11 • July 14, 2006

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## Place of art

Blackhawk artists  
co-op searching  
for new home

> **page 5**

# Danville

## W E E K L Y

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## Troupe joins YMCA efforts

Fundraising next  
on the program  
for Danville theater

> **page 5**



**Exchanging digs and hospitality helps  
travelers get into the local scene**

**page 14**

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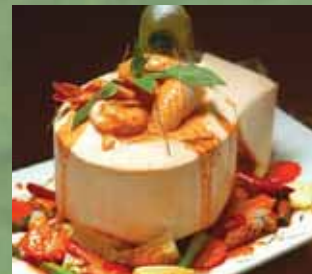
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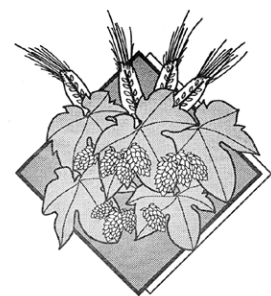
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## Q: What's the worst or best experience you've had while traveling?



My worst trip was in Mexico in La Paz. There were just horrible long waits. Surly bureaucrats. No air-conditioning. Corrupt and crooked airport officials. They are always looking for pay-offs. We were attacked by poisonous ravens. It was awful. I was glad to get out of there.

**Don Baker**

*part-time consultant*



1969. Landing in Libya when I was with my parents. We got nailed by a sandstorm. The U.S. Embassy forgot to have our visas. We were waiting at the airport. The Libyan officials let us go and told us we had 24 hours to get out of the country. We rented a car and drove across the desert to Tunisia.

**Jeffery Davis**

*computer scientist*



The vacation that bothered me the most was when I stopped at Jamaica. I had a day trip at Dunn's River Falls. I slipped and cut my tendons of my fingers. I slipped and fell on a piece of glass. It kinda ruined the trip.

**Howard Corlett**

*part-time consultant*



I have had lots of vacations and I've enjoyed them all.

**Max Shapiro**

*retiree*



We always enjoyed going to Yellowstone. We could see the geysers. We walked around the boardwalk. It has beautiful weather. It has beautiful clouds. I could stay there forever.

**Roger Minick**

*photography teacher at American Academy of Dramatic Arts in San Francisco*

COMPILED BY JORDAN M. DORONILA

### ABOUT THE COVER

Summer is travel time, and Web sites help travelers get off the beaten path for more enriching trips. Cover design by Jason Lind.

Vol. II, Number 11

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Art feeds your soul  
and furnishes your home. ”

—Tracy Bauer, coordinator of the Blackhawk Art Gallery,  
which needs to find a new home after 18 years.

See story, page 5.

**Diablo MAC to meet with Piepho**

The Diablo Municipal Advisory Council met with the county's Diablo Community Service Department on Tuesday at the Diablo Country Club to discuss being managed through that department. The meeting will be followed with a Diablo Town Hall Meeting at which county Supervisor Mary N. Piepho will likely address the issue, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 3. The location for the Town Hall Meeting has not yet been confirmed but will probably also be held at the Diablo Country Club, county officials said.

The meetings come after a countywide effort to standardize MACs upset members of elected MACs in the area. To make the county advisory groups uniform, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution stating that all MACs must be appointed. Members of the Diablo MAC, which had traditionally been an elected group, began fighting the decision. MAC members said they plan to attend the town hall meeting Aug. 3 and publicly voice their frustration.

**New theater season looking good**

Danville's Role Players Ensemble Theatre, which performs at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., has announced its upcoming 2006-06 offerings.

The season will open Oct. 13-Nov. 4 with "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" by Neil Simon, and directed by Scott Fryer. The play stars a would-be playboy who decides after being faithfully married for 23 years, to change his life. Jerry Motta, the Bay Area's premier Neil Simon actor, will perform Barney, bringing to life his comedic, yet poignant, mid-life crisis.

Next the ensemble will present "Incorruptible" by Michael Hollinger, directed by Jerry Motta, from Jan. 19-Feb. 10; and "An Evening at the Grand" written by Joel Roster and directed by Scott Fryer will run from April 20-May 12.

Subscribe for the season now and save money, at [village-theatreshows.com](http://village-theatreshows.com) or at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St.; call 314-3400. Tickets for individual shows go on sale Sept. 1.

**Thirst-quenching donations**

Big O Tires has taken over efforts to raise funds for pediatric cancer research started by a young girl named "Alex" Scott. At age 4, Alex was suffering from an aggressive form of childhood cancer and opened a lemonade stand to raise money for research. The idea caught on and when Alex passed away at age 8, she knew she had raised more than \$1 million to help find a cure for other children.

This week, through tomorrow, the Danville location on West Linda Mesa Avenue will be one of the stores nationwide that has Alex's Lemonade Stand set up for customers to enjoy a refreshing beverage for a good cause, said salesman Ernesto Gurule. The corporate office is donating \$50,000, and this will give customers a chance to give directly.

**Blood drive at Grange on Friday**

Blood supplies are critical after a low donor turnout at the May blood drive, said Patti Parks-Telek, who coordinates the Red Cross drives in Danville. She is urging residents to sign up for the drive taking place from 11:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Friday, July 21, at the Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Road. To make an appointment, call 1-800-give-life (448-3543); go online to [beadonor.com](http://beadonor.com); or call 837-4399.

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### \*Equity Lines to \$750,000\*

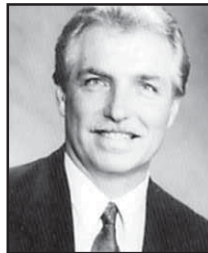
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NATALIE O'NEILL

## Carving karma

Artist Glen Sievert says his bear statues are “karmically and spiritually proper for the area,” as he carves three bears into a diseased tree with a chainsaw in the back yard of Danville resident Becky Johnston. Rather than having the tree removed when it began to rot, Johnston decided to hire Sievert to create the wood sculpture. Sievert sells his original sculptures at art shows and has carved them for many customers in Danville and Alamo, including the famous bears that sit along the Iron Horse trail and across from Yardbirds.

## Artists co-op needs new home after 18 years

*Blackhawk Plaza gave artists break to get them started*

by **Natalie O'Neill**

In the midst of upscale retail stores, there is an art gallery co-op in which 30 artists are struggling to pay their shared rent. They throw monthly art parties with music and wine. And their venue is filled with mixed-genre pieces—from provocative sculptures to enchanting oil paintings.

It sounds like a scene from urban bohemia, but it's happening with professional artists in the center of Blackhawk. The Blackhawk Art Gallery is planning a series of showings that will begin at 5 p.m. tomorrow, July 15, in the Blackhawk Plaza—although it needs to move out of the space this fall.

“Art feeds your soul and furnishes your home,” said volunteer gallery coordinator Tracy Bauer.

The theme of the opening, “contrasting classic and modern art,” will be highlighted through three local featured artists: Stephen Sanfilippo, Connie Lambkin and Jill Gandolfi.

The lease for the venue is divided by the 30 artists, who in turn get a space to show and sell their art. With so many contributors to the space, the pieces are always changing, Bauer said.

“Artists are always bringing in new, fresh stuff. There is truly something for everyone,” she said.

Sanfilippo, for instance, uses oils to paint hard-to-reach scenes from nature in a realist/impressionistic way. Lampkin, on the other hand, paints with acrylics and experiments with abstract geometrical shapes and color.

After struggling to bring in enough business to support their lease, the gallery's owners are cur-

rently looking for a new venue after 18 years. In order to keep art prices reasonable, they are hoping for a less expensive location that will draw more art-lovers.

“If we were in Carmel, sales would quadruple,” said Sanfilippo. He added that not many people in the East Bay know Blackhawk Plaza exists and it doesn't have any “street presence.”

“People would love this place if they just knew it was here,” Bauer said.

The change comes as part of an effort to re-vamp Blackhawk Plaza in order to increase the shopping center's draw. Blackhawk Plaza management hopes new tenants will bring in more patrons, said manager Bonnie Monares. Blackhawk Art Gallery is adjacent to Gottschalks, which is being expanded to accommodate Draeger's, a gourmet marketplace.

“(The plaza) is getting a major facelift,” said Blackhawk community manager Mark Goldberg.

The Blackhawk gallery group is open to new local spaces for showing, and members hope to stay together. Artists need a network of support like this to thrive, Sanfilippo said.

“We have a satellite community of artists and they all seem to be flourishing,” he said.

Organizations like this help to keep artists from feeling alone and discouraged in a profession that is often isolating, he said. Community support is essential for a gallery's success, he added.

“Without support for the galleries, the art in the community will start to disappear,” he said.

But the community is not just good for art—art is good for the community, Bauer said.

If there is no venue for art,

► Continued on page 7

## Beleaguered theater in Danville moving forward

*YMCA partnering with popular Willows Theatre*

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A partnership between the YMCA and a Concord theater company plans to make a Danville performing arts center, which was marred in scandal, into a hub of family activities and a venue for teenage filmmaking.

The Mt. Diablo Region YMCA and the Willows Theatre Company of Concord have recently come together and plan to raise \$5 million to finish building the Mt. Diablo Center for the Performing Arts on La Gonda Way and El

Cerro Boulevard in Danville. Once the project is completed, the partners hope it will become a vital part of community life.

“We want to have a performing arts center become a reality in the community,” said Michael Erwin, the Mt. Diablo Region YMCA chief executive officer. “It's an opportunity to reach more kids and families through a theater venue.”

“We want to be able to offer the performing arts center for enrichment programs for kids in the county,” he added.

The center's exterior is finished, but the interior needs to be completed, said Erwin. Willows Theatre, which serves more than 70,000 patrons annually, and the

YMCA will conduct a fundraising feasibility study this fall to determine how to raise funds for the arts center. Arts foundations and private contributions are likely to be the main sources for funding, he said.

The results from the study should be ready early next year. The partners will then determine when the theater will open and how it will be used.

“It's basically wide open in terms of types of programs we can offer in that theater,” Erwin said.

The Mt. Diablo Region YMCA worked with the Attorney General's Office to purchase the performing arts center from the Belasco Theater Company for \$100,000 in 2004.

► Continued on page 8



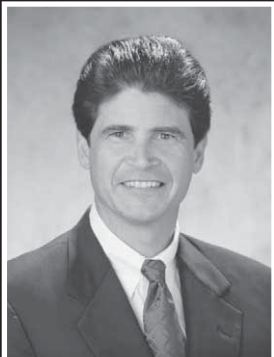
FILE PHOTO 2005

The YMCA recently formed a partnership with Willows Theatre Company for the Mt. Diablo Center for the Performing Arts; the first step will be to raise the \$5 million needed to finish the theater's interior.

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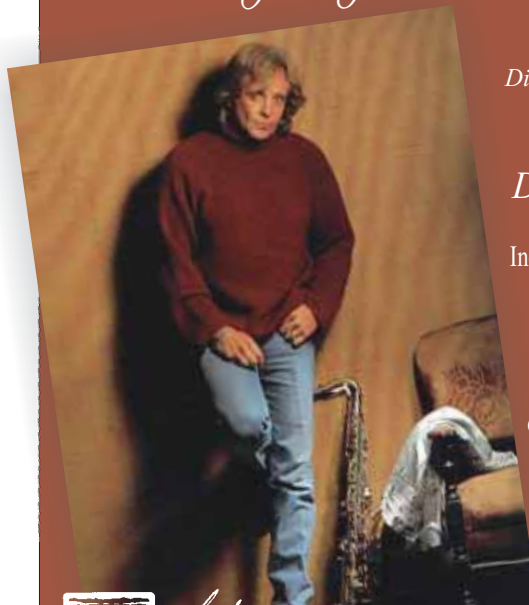
JORDAN M. DORONILA

### Being bookish

Rose Davis puts the books in order at last week's book sale at the Danville Public Library on Friday. The Friends of the Danville Library sponsors the quarterly three-day book sale to raise money for the library. "We are holding the book sale to raise money to supplement the library," said Elizabeth Johnson, who was in charge of the sale, which raised more than \$1,900 and moved approximately 2,500 books. "Every one finds a home," Johnson noted. Dozens of customers moved in and out the door, purchasing bulks of books such as Gore Vidal's "Julian" and William Shirer's "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" at 50 cents to \$1 for each book. Friends is a non-profit all-volunteer organization established in 1958 to provide the local library with books and materials that would not otherwise be available. The group also operates a used bookstore in the library, open 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday and Tuesday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information about Friends, call 837-4455.

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## Parents can 'get ready for school'

*Class teaches how to prepare children for kindergarten*

by Kevin Zhou

Parents of kindergarteners will have a chance to learn how to prepare their children for elementary school in "Getting Ready for School," a program being offered for the first time by the Town of Danville starting July 26.

The three-part class will cover the child development of 4- and 5-year olds; strategies to help children become ready for kindergarten; and how to communicate with schools effectively.

"We go above and beyond," said Erin Hill-Freschi, the class instructor. "Everything from preparing them cognitively to the emotional transition for both the child and the parent."

While part of the class will consist of lectures, the course will also

include group activities and discussions in small and large groups.

"A lot of child development research is hard to digest if you get it on your own," said Lauren Hosterman, youth services coordinator for Danville. "Having a clear understanding of that can be very helpful."

The course will also outline a clear set of expectations that the San Ramon Valley Unified School District has for incoming kindergarteners. Not only will this allow parents to make a decision on whether or not their children are ready to attend school, but it will also alleviate some of their stress.

"It's important for parents to know that kindergarten has changed, and that there are different expectations," said Hill-Freschi. "When parents can hear what the kindergarten teachers are looking for, they are so much more relaxed."

Hill-Freschi said she expects about 20 people to sign up for this summer's session. Smaller classes give her more time to closely interact with each of the parents.

"It's very interactive, where I meet the needs of the individual parents," she said. "If they have specific questions, I make sure we answer them if they're not covered in the curriculum."

"It is tailored to the parent's expectations for preparing their child," added Hosterman.

The class meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesdays, July 26-Aug. 9 at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. For Danville residents, the cost of the class is \$45 with \$15 for each additional parent. For non-residents, the cost is \$54 with \$18 for each additional parent.

To register for the class, visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us) or call 314-3400. For more information about the program, contact Lauren Hosterman at 314-3477. ■

## Area suffers power outage

A power failure affected more than 3,300 residents living in Blackhawk and Danville last Saturday, a PG&E spokesman said, a day when temperatures reached 100 degrees.

"Fortunately, it lasted only a couple of hours," said Paul Moreno, a PG&E public relations officer.

An underground splice failure occurred in PG&E wiring on Blackhawk Meadow Drive,

north of Green Meadow Drive. Approximately 3,362 customers were without power at 12:30 p.m.

Moreno said electricians rerouted power from another direction and fixed the splice when the outage occurred. He said power was back at 2:15 p.m. for all but 106 customers. The area near the splice took a bit longer to repair, he said, but it was fixed several hours later and power was back on for the remaining 106 residents at 2:25 a.m. Sunday.

"We'll be checking to see what caused the trouble to help pre-

vent us from having this happen again," Moreno said, explaining that splices can occur "for a variety of reasons."

Use of air conditioning during the weekend heat wave could be a reason.

"That's certainly a possibility," he said. "It was a hot day. There were a lot of residents at home that day."

He said customers who did not receive power because of the outage would not be billed for that segment of time.

—Jordan M. Dornila

## Artists

► Continued from page 5

then creativity, self expression and a platform for social commentary may begin to fade, she pointed out.

"Music and art programs in schools are getting more and more whittled away," she said. "It's important for adults to pass something on to create an appreciation for art."

The board is in the process of reviewing what will happen when the artists leave the location this fall. The possibility of becoming a nonprofit group, finding a similar new space, or showing in commercial buildings are being discussed.

"Ideally we'd love to find another space like this," Bauer said.

The showings offer a chance for people and artists to network, socialize and make connections. Owners bring food, wine and flowers, and at the showing tomorrow there will be a free drawing for a \$75 dinner at the Blackhawk Grille. Prices for art pieces are usually from the high hundreds to the low thousands, but some are as low as \$88.

"It's a wonderful chance to come see a variety of art and to come meet the artists," said Connie Lampkin, a featured artist.

There's a buzz that happens with the reception, Sanfilippo said. He



In preparation for the art opening tomorrow, Blackhawk Gallery featured artist Stephen Sanfilippo arranges his oil paintings.

added that it's a place where a hundred people can come to talk, connect and have fun.

Owners point out the difference between owning original art and buying prints. Hanging originals in your home is your chance to connect with the artist, the time, and the place it was created.

The management of Blackhawk

Plaza helped the gallery get on its feet by giving them a deal on their lease. Some of the artists are hoping a possibility like this will arise in the future. It's unique to find a gallery that is artist-run, so keeping that spirit alive is a priority, Bauer said.

"Other galleries are driven by curators, but this is about the artist," she said. "We'll find another



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## Theater

► Continued from page 5

Earlier, community leader and former attorney William McCann had spearheaded building the performing arts center in the late 1990s. He approached real estate developer Sid Corrie and asked him to donate a portion of his property on 500 La Gonda Way to build a children's theater.

At the time, McCann was president and chairman of the Belasco Theater Company (BTC), a non-profit children's theater company in which his daughter had performed. He had been involved with the company for years, and served as its attorney; he represented to Corrie that he had full authority to act on behalf of BTC.

He proposed a complicated deal in which Corrie would donate 58.33 percent of the 2.69-acre parcel of land to BTC. McCann and his partner Gordon Bingham would purchase the remaining 41.67 percent, on which they planned to construct an office building, for a fair market value of \$1.4 million based upon an appraisal of \$3,360,000 for the total property.

Corrie agreed to the deal in late December 1997, contingent upon his ability to take a 1997 tax deduction for the charitable contribution. But he soon found there were inconsistencies with the deal that prompted the IRS to disallow his tax deduction. He filed a civil lawsuit against the partners charging them with a number of offenses, including fraud.

At the end, the court charged McCann with felony tax evasion. Bingham died of leukemia before facing the court's decision.

Since then, the completion of the arts center has been stalled.

Officials from the YMCA hoped to move the project forward after acquiring it a couple of years ago. Erwin said his group did market research to determine viable uses for the performing arts center and what the primary secondary markets would be. It also needed to determine how the theater could operate in a solvent manner.

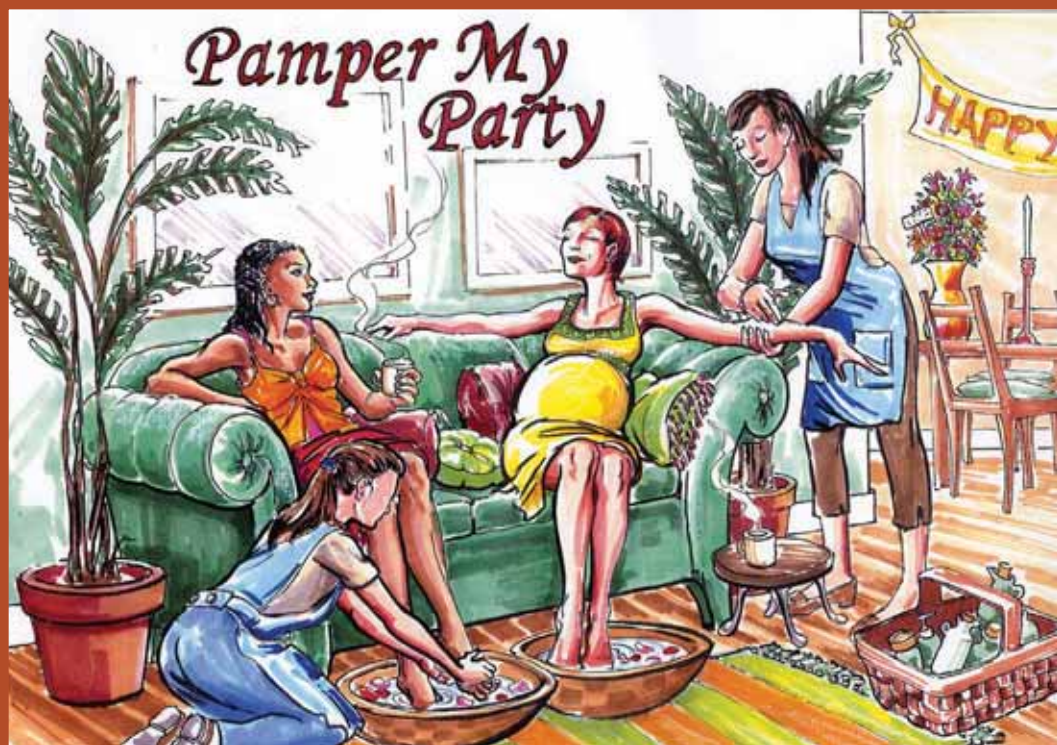
The Mt. Diablo Region YMCA needed a partnering group that attracted a large number of arts patrons and enough manpower to raise money. Willows Theater Company fits its criteria.

Willows Theatre is a nonprofit professional theater company that develops and produces contemporary American plays and musicals. It has been in existence for 30 years.

"We are delighted and excited to have the Willows Theatre Company as a partner," Erwin said. He noted that Contra Costa County Christian Theatre and the Diablo Light Opera Company (DLOC) were the other financial suitors but Willows won the partnership because of its large size.

"It came down between DLOC and Willows Theatre," he said. "It came down to the number of constituents. Willows Theatre is almost twice as big as DLOC."

"We needed a partner to move forward with this last piece," he added. ■



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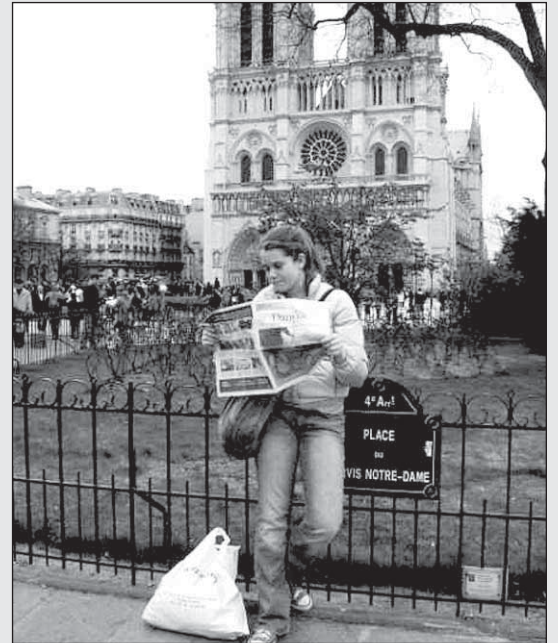
**Camel capers**

Sarah Bossatti and John Hoering celebrate their birthdays in Tangiers, Morocco, with the camels—and the Danville Weekly.



**Quiet moment in Germany**

Jane and Phelps Euler enjoy their Danville Weekly in front of a fountain in Trier, Germany, while on a river cruise of the Rhine and Moselle rivers in April.



**In the shadow of Notre Dame**

Rachel Horn, a junior at Monte Vista High School, ignored Paris to read her Danville Weekly during spring break.

**Parade winners**

The Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley announced the winners of its popular 4th of July Parade, noting it had 116 entrants that stretched out over a mile. The winners, in 25 separate categories, were awarded trophies at the Kiwanis regular weekly noon luncheon July 6 at Round Hill Country Club as follows:

- Entry that best followed parade theme of "Honoring Teacher and Educators": Museum of the San Ramon Valley
- Band: San Ramon Symphonic Band
- Float: Safeway
- Scout unit: Cub Scout Pack 815
- Marching unit: Mt. Diablo Detachment, Marine Corps League
- Antique automotive entrant: Nor-Cal Dodge Bros and Sisters
- Media award: Lance Lew, NBC 11
- Majorette award: Red Hot Flashers of Danville—Red Hat Society
- Best of beer (special award): Markstein Sales Co. for the Clydesdale horses
- Non-motorized transportation: Blue Star Moms
- Novelty-comic group: Sycamore Lawnmower Brigade
- Horse: Tassajara 4-H
- Non-horse: Discover Danville Association
- Neighborhood association award: San Ramon Valley YMCA
- Best dance/theatrical: Studio 8 Dance and Performing Arts
- School: Forest Home Hills
- Family entry: Blackhawk Country Club
- Real estate: Century 21 Heritage
- Sports team: San Ramon Valley Girl's Athletic League
- Church: San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
- Country club: Reinstein Ranch
- Retail business: Richard Lee's East West Kung Fu
- Service business: Visiting Angels
- Special Interest Community Service: San Ramon Regional Medical Center
- Special Interest Auto: Danville D'Elegance

The Danville Police Department estimated the crowd at 35,000 this year. They reported there were no problems and everything went smoothly. ■



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*Sunrise Assisted Living is committed to furthering the knowledge of senior living topics through events and seminars designed to help and inform seniors and their caregivers.*

EVENT DETAILS

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**Time:** 5:00pm-8:00pm

**Place:** Sunrise of Danville

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## Shrinking violets don't wear red hats



What helps you feel better as you grow older? No, not prunes. Donning a red hat and a purple outfit and getting together with friends. This is the creed of the Red Hat Society, a group for women over 50 who believe fun should be shared; beneath the silliness lies real affection for fellow members.

A woman named Sue Ellen Cooper founded the group in Fullerton in 1998. One day she bought a bright red fedora at a thrift shop just because she liked it and because it was cheap. A year or so later she came across the poem, "Warning," by Jenny Joseph that begins, "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple, with a red hat which doesn't go," and immediately identified with it. She gave her red hat and a copy of the poem to a friend on her birthday, who enjoyed it so much that Sue Ellen repeated the gift for another friend, and another. Soon, she realized, they had a "society."

One of the Danville chapters of the Red Hat Society is called the Red Hot Flashers. The members won an award for their appearance in the Fourth of July Parade, which sent me to the Internet to find out more. I learned that Danville has eight chapters and they are all full! Carolyn Strauch, 65, who has lived in Danville for 28 years, is "queen" of the Red Hot Flashers. She started her chapter in September 2004, put a notice on the Web site, and within two weeks 30 members had

signed up.

"It's nice to meet new people," Carolyn told me. "My husband has passed away, it's almost three years now, and I wanted to meet other people in the same predicament—widows, divorcees." Other members are married but like to get out with women friends, too. "If you don't like to go out to dinner or the movies by yourself, out of 30 you can always find someone who will go with you," Carolyn said. In March, she hosted a martini pajama party. "They had to be red or purple pajamas, and about 10 spent the night."

**"If you don't like to go out to dinner or the movies by yourself, out of 30 (members) you can always find someone who will go with you."**

—Carolyn Strauch

"We do all sorts of things," Carolyn said. Once a month they get together as a group. They go to lunch, to dinner, to plays. They recently went to the Culinary Institute in San Francisco for lunch. In August they are having a swim party, and to celebrate their two-year anniversary in September they

are having a Casino Night at someone's house, with their husbands and significant others running the tables. In October they will go on a yacht in the Delta for a Make-A-Wish fundraiser. For their one-year anniversary they went to the White Crane Winery in Livermore and stomped grapes. At Christmastime, rather than exchange gifts they all chipped in \$10 or more to give a donation to the Blue Star Moms.

The Red Hot Flashers range in age from 48 to 85. The 48-year-old has to wear a pink hat until she turns 50, and it's her job to fan the older women with a special red fan if they get a hot flash. The 85-year-old took part in the belly dancing when some of them enjoyed a dinner at El Morocco. Carolyn said they come from all walks of life—retired and working teachers, nurses, Realtors. One is a former Teamster, who drove cement trucks.

In March, eight of them are going on a 23-day cruise that begins in Chile, then goes to Peru, Costa Rica and the Mexican Riviera. "We're going to take red hats and purple outfits to wear one night," Carolyn said. During their birthday month, members reverse the order, wearing a purple hat and a red outfit. "People you've never met before say, 'Happy Birthday,'" Carolyn commented. Wherever red hatters go, they have friends. There are thousands of chapters across the country and in 30 other countries, including Egypt and Japan, but Fullerton remains the "Hatquarters." Some members contact groups in other countries to get together while they are traveling.

Keep your eyes open for the gals in the red hats. Carolyn said at the Fourth of July Parade reviewing stand a man called out, "Can I join?" One woman yelled, "No!" while six others shouted, "Yes!"

"Maybe that's why we won," said Carolyn. "If you join this group, you're not a shrinking violet." ■

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Deborah Acosta McKeehan

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**Editor**

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

**Staff Reporters**

Jordan M. Doronila

Natalie O'Neill

**Editorial Intern**

Kevin Zhou

**Contributors**

Kathy Cordova

Geoff Gillette

B. Lynn Goodwin

Cathy Jetter

Jacqui Love Marshall

**ART & PRODUCTION**

**Art Director/**

**Operations Manager**

Shannon Corey

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Lisa Oefelein

**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**

**The freedom to 'boo'**

The Danville Fourth of July Parade is a proud and festive waving of the flag—a time to cheer the military band, veterans and the Blue Star Moms as they march down Hartz Avenue. The Fourth is a day to celebrate our Constitution and our Independence Day. In Danville, it is also a time to support our country's military efforts to maintain our freedoms, starting with the Pearl Harbor Survivors.

Toward the end of this year's parade, marchers representing the American Civil Liberties Union introduced a different note into the celebration. They were wearing red, white and blue; waving the flag; and holding signs that read "Peace is patriotic" and "Impeach Bush." Many of the bystanders expressed their unhappiness at this diversity of opinions by booing. Perhaps they were not booing the idea of peace but rather the fact that these marchers were introducing a negative note, "raining on our parade." This raises an interesting question: Is a Fourth of July parade the place to point out that we have to be sure to maintain our civil liberties as we figure out how to fight terrorism?

The ACLU often takes unpopular stands in its fight to maintain the basic freedoms that our Constitution guarantees. The wonderful thing about the parade was that it offered them a place to express these views, unpopular as they may have been on this day of unbridled patriotism. How fitting that the ACLU had the freedom to march on this day that celebrates our independence and our liberties. And how wonderful that members of the crowd had the freedom to boo, rude as it may have been. We should cherish this freedom of expression guaranteed by our Constitution, especially on the Fourth of July. That's what our freedom is all about.

We should cherish this freedom of expression guaranteed by our Constitution, especially on the Fourth of July.

**YOUR TURN**

**The Danville Weekly wants to hear from you**

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

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Gay parents more similar than different**

Dear Editor:

We are writing to thank all of the caring and compassionate people who expressed their support of gay marriage in the June 30 Streetwise column. We are a family of two moms and one child, and we are so happy to live in the Valley where we are blessed with the love and support of this community on a daily basis.

I would like to encourage anyone who has concerns about gay marriage or gay parents to get to know some of the local gay parents and their children. I think those with concerns might be surprised to find that there are very few differences between gay parents and straight parents. We really are more similar than we are different.

The number of gay parents in our Valley has grown every year and there are now children with gay parents at nearly all of the 17 elementary schools in our district. As parents, we are everywhere in the Valley serving the community as local business owners, doctors, medical assistants, Realtors, corporate executives, restaurant managers, lawyers, police officers and teachers. We are also members of many different faith communities.

Again, our family is so grateful to feel valued in this community.

*Stacey Bekker and Nori Bekker, Danville*

**Editorial 'unfocused'**

Dear Editor:

Why would you chastise people for being concerned with the impending closing of a local grocery store ("Supporting our shops," June 23), and then try to tie it in with Danville's small independent shops? Seems a bit unfocused. Also, people don't need to be lectured that businesses need to make sales; they know that. It is condescending to state "that is the name of the game."

I don't understand your equating a grocery store to small stores' "lack of sales." The small stores you refer to are not selling groceries. Your quoting of statistics does not address the problem, and I, for one, hope that another market will take the Albertsons space.

*Beth Gardner, Danville*

**Downtown shops too expensive**

Dear Editor:

In regards to the Perspective editorial of June 23, "Supporting our shops," we would love to support

the local talent. It's hard for most of us who have been in Danville for many, many years. I believe if you took a poll of the ages and income of what is considered "most," you would find that our incomes are either fixed or we are working class folks!

Most of us are not wealthy; hence, we shop at Target or Loehmann's—we are not stupid. That's why those stores are flourishing in comparison to the others downtown. And since the downtown stores don't add a little more to their prices, they add a lot. I believe they are forced into this by the town management's high rent. It is mean to make it hard for businesses. They should be having fun doing what they love to do.

*Merri Pike, Danville*

**Students give blood**

Dear Editor:

We wanted to let you know about the many wonderful students who donated blood to the American Red Cross during the 2005-06 school year. We collected more than 6,000 pints of blood during 117 blood drives at 69 high schools throughout Northern California, including Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley high schools. Thanks to these drives, well over 18,000 people may have received the gift of life, as each pint of donated blood can help three people.

Students may have been late for class or even missed a class while they were donating blood. Gym classes may have moved outdoors because the gym was needed for the drive. But much like school itself, donating blood is part of a lesson in life. Giving blood is one of the most important, rewarding and compassionate things a person can do.

Student leaders and faculty advisors put a great deal of energy and effort into organizing a blood drive. By having a blood drive at high schools, students have the opportunity to donate with their peers, making it less stressful. Students who donate are more likely to donate later in life. Regular blood donors are desperately needed.

For all of this, we wish to recognize the students of Danville for their help. Summer is a time when blood banks experience extreme challenges to maintaining an adequate supply of blood for local hospitals. Please make an extra effort to donate soon by calling 800-GIVE-LIFE or visiting www.HelpSaveALife.org.

*Jay Winkenbach, CEO, American Red Cross, Northern California Blood Services Region*

**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

# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE LOG

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

### Monday, July 3

- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:13 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Montcrest Pl. at 2:46 a.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Railroad Ave. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:18 a.m.
- Vandalism on Creighton Way at 3:33 a.m.
- Injury accident on Danville Blvd. and Del Amigo Rd. at 11:04 a.m.
- Vandalism on Junewood Ct. at 3:00 p.m.
- Felony vandalism on Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 7:39 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Del Amigo Rd. at 9:57 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 10:19 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Hartz Ave. at 11:06 p.m.

### Tuesday, July 4

- Felony vandalism on Montcrest Pl. at 12:51 p.m.

### Wednesday, July 5

- Felony vandalism on Alta Vista Way at 7:10 a.m.
- Vandalism on Gold Poppy Ct. at 8:13 a.m.
- Possession of counterfeit bill on Hillmont Pl. at 3:03 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Center Way and Crow Canyon Rd. at 5:14 p.m.
- Vandalism on Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:18 p.m.

- Vandalism on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 11:03 p.m.

### Thursday, July 6

- Felony vandalism on Thornhill Rd. at 2:03 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on La Gonda Ct. at 8:34 a.m.
- Injury accident on Railroad Ave. at 9:11 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on El Cerro Blvd. at 11:08 a.m.
- Accident on Hartz Ave. at 12:16 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Brookside Dr. at 7:41 p.m.

### Friday, July 7

- Auto burglary on Edinburgh Cir. at 8:42 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Cathy Ln. at 10:18 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Portal and La Gonda Way at 1:52 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Diablo Rd. at 2:57 p.m.
- Probation violation, arrest, on Front St. at 2:32 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Montair Dr. at 8:35 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on El Pintado Rd. and El Rio Rd. at 9:09 p.m.
- Vandalism on Bolero Dr. at 11:08 p.m.

### Saturday, July 8

- Vandalism, arrest, on Boone Ct. at 1:16 a.m.
- Under the influence of drugs, arrest, on El Portal and La Gonda Way at 7:26 p.m.

### Sunday, July 9

- DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. and Hartz Way at 12:09 a.m.
- Drunk in public on Diablo Rd. at 1:34 a.m.

- Suspicious circumstances on Danville Oak Pl. at 7:46 a.m.

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

## ALAMO

### Monday, July 3

- Suspicious circumstances on La Serena Ave.

### Wednesday, July 5

- Residential burglary on Lark Ln.
- Vandalism on Sandstone Rd.
- Possession of switchblade weapon on Wilson Rd.

### Thursday, July 6

- Misdemeanor battery on Deodar Ln.
- Residential burglary on Hagen Oaks Ct.

### Friday, July 7

- Grand theft from vehicle on Danville Blvd.

### Saturday, July 8

- Battery at Alamo Plaza

### Sunday, July 9

- Auto burglary on Danville Blvd.

## BLACKHAWK

### Monday, July 3

- Suspicious circumstances on Live Oak Way

### Thursday, July 6

- Accident, property damage, on Blackhawk Plaza Cir.

### Sunday, July 9

- Grand theft from vehicle on Quail Run Ct.

## DANVILLE

### Wednesday, July 5

- Grand theft from building on Saddlehorn Ct.

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Burglars hit Montair home

A burglary took place on the slopes of Montair Avenue in Danville last Friday.

Two laptops and one iPod were stolen from a home on the 200 block of Montair on Friday, July 7, Danville police Sgt. Ron Bradley said. The items were valued at roughly \$2,200. Bradley said the home was burglarized around 3 p.m.

Bradley said one computer was stolen from the home's master bedroom, and the other was taken from the kitchen. The iPod was taken from the kitchen also.

Burglars cruise through communities and look for homes to burglarize, said Bradley, without planning extensively beforehand.

"There are 10 different ways a burglar operates," he said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

## OBITUARIES

### Irene Johnson Sanford

Irene Johnson Sanford, 57, a Danville resident, passed away July 6 after a 12-year battle with cancer. She was born Nov. 10, 1948, and raised in Taylor, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas with a teaching credential. She met her husband Bob while he was serving in the Air Force. They lost contact for five years but met again in 1977 and were married a few months later.

While living in Claremont, she co-founded the House of Ruth, a shelter for abused women. After moving to the Tri-Valley in 1982, she volunteered at churches and schools throughout the Bay Area. She was the Children's Ministry Coordinator for Creekside Community Church in Alamo, creating curriculum and teaching aids that are still in use. She shared her talents, friendship and knowledge with anyone in need of her warm counsel.

She is survived by daughter Katherine, who resides in Oakland, and son David, a Navy hospital corpsman.

A celebration of her life will be held at noon Saturday, July 15, at the Well Christian Community, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin, followed by a Texas barbecue and potluck. Everyone who knew Irene is welcome. Dress is casual and colorful, per her wishes.

**Deaths, Weddings and Births** are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m.



## Friday Nights on the Patio

Live Entertainment 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

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**Ken Cooper** on July 14th  
and **Syria Berry** on July 21st



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PAT CONRAD

Forrest White, 8, competes at the 41st Aqua Pentathlon at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek, where he broke the meet record.

## White sets Aqua Pen record

*Blackhawk HOX take second place at large meet*

Forrest White, 8, who swims with the Blackhawk Swim Team HOX, won the High Point Award in the 41st annual Aqua Pentathlon at Heather Farm Park on July 2. He also broke the meet record with accumulated points totaling 2:25:38.

The HOX placed second at the invitational meet with the following swimmers participating: 7/8s: McKenna Miller, Abigail Miller, Forrest White, Noah Sol; 9/10s: Amanda Miller, Lauren Jeakins David Morgan, Spencer Hughes; 11/12s: Madison White, Alexa Troup, Matt Anderson, Steven Stumph; 13/14s: Sydney Saunders, Karley Troup, Michael Anderson, Parker Klein; and 15/18s Lindsay Borman, Natalie Bierwith, Dan Adams and Alex Berenfeld.

"The Aqua Pen is a very challenging meet," said Zack Devenish, head coach of the HOX. "It consists of the top eight teams in Contra Costa County from the previous season. The competition there is very tough and for our team to finish in the top few there and for a lot of our swimmers to do as well as they did is certainly a tremendous

accomplishment."

So far this year, Forrest has broken nine records for a total of 32 records in his young swimming career. His sister Madison, 11, is also a top swimmer. She has placed first in backstroke in the Contra Costa County meet for five years straight. Forrest was the youngest swimmer, at age 7, to qualify for the Junior Olympics, where he swam against 10 and under.

This year's county meet is scheduled for Aug. 19-20 at Acalanes High School in Lafayette. League championship will be held at Chabot College in Hayward on Aug. 5.

"We're looking forward to the rest of the season, to improve, have a good time, work hard and continue to do our best," Devenish said. ■

*E-mail results and photos to [sports@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:sports@DanvilleWeekly.com).*



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## Downtown Danville

### Upcoming Thursday Night Events:

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July 27th — Farmers Market  
Hot Summer Nights Car Show

August 3rd — Farmers Market  
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August 10th — Farmers Market  
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August 17th — Farmers Market  
Family Sports Night

August 24th — Farmers Market  
Hot Summer Nights Car Show

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## SPORTS DIGEST

### Lake Del Valle challenge

An open-water swim event will be offered for all levels at On Your Mark Events' eighth annual Lake Del Valle Aqua Challenge on Saturday, July 22. The Aqua Challenge features a 2-mile, 1-mile, and 1/2-mile distance events, making it good for first-time open water competitors as well as training triathletes. Certified lifeguards will closely monitor all three courses. Water temperature is expected to be 72-plus degrees.

The entry fee is \$30 advance and \$35 on race day; it is another \$5 to compete in the 1/2-mile race along with the 1- or 2-mile races. Entry fee includes refreshments, T-shirt, swim caps (which must be worn during races), awards and entry into a drawing.

On Your Mark Events' Lake Del Valle Aqua Challenge will kick off at 8:30 a.m. with the 1/2 mile race. The 2-mile and 1-mile events will start soon after it finishes. Check-in and registration will begin at 7 a.m. For more Aqua Challenge information or an application, go to [www.onyourmarkevents.com](http://www.onyourmarkevents.com) or call (209) 795-7832.



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# Adventure Travel

## Exchanging digs and hospitality helps travelers get into the local scene

by Natalie O'

**H**ike to an abandoned church atop a mountain in Fiji. Sail to a secret tribal night market on a riverside in Laos. Sleep in a hut on the Dalmatian coast.

You won't stumble upon these adventures by checking into a hotel and going on a guided tour.

As the vacation season approaches, Danville travelers may find themselves watching cable and eating American cuisine in a fancy hotel abroad—if they're not careful. With Web sites like [hospitalityclub.org](http://hospitalityclub.org) and [couchsurfing.com](http://couchsurfing.com), it's getting easier to have a more culturally authentic travel experience.

Through these sites, people all over the world exchange accommodations—from a night on a couch to a private wing of the house. Families, couples and singles offer a place for travelers to stay abroad and in turn ensure accommodation when it's their turn to travel. These site users say living with locals is the best way to get to know a new place.

Just ask Alamo's Mary-Anne Durkee, who has been to nearly 70 countries and is a member of Hospitality Club.

"Staying in a four-star hotel isn't really seeing a country or learning about it," she says. "Why would I want to go to a place that's just like here?"

These nonprofit Web sites help travelers find locals that will help them experience another way of life. The idea is that by doing what the natives do, seeing what they see, and eating what they eat you'll have a more enriching trip. Participants are active members in over 200 countries and in Danville and Alamo, residents are starting to sign up.

"It gives you a lot of insider tips and background. Families show guests around places a tourist would never find or see," says Hospitality Club media spokeswoman Florian Kafer.

On the site, travelers post photos, location, age, accommodation, languages spoken, and other details about connecting. Users can offer anything from an invite for dinner to month-long accommodation. Many people swap houses by staying abroad with a family, then inviting that family back to their home, months or years later.

### *Popping the tourist bubble*

"One thing we have noticed is that people are so generous," said Marika Dragotti of Danville, who belongs to Hospitality Club and has traveled through Eastern Europe and Central America.

Upon arrival in a foreign country, it can be intimidating. Signs are written in unknown languages, smells are exotic, and it may be obvious that you—toting your iPod and expensive suitcases—are an outsider. Hospitality Club helps you throw yourself in the mix with the people who know and understand the area.

"What better way to get to know the culture than through the people?" Durkee said.

Many people want this type of contact but have trouble creating it, Kafer said. They may think they're in the middle of the

action by booking a hotel or a bed-and-breakfast in a prime location, but are let down when they realize they are stuck in a bubble with other tourists.

"When they arrive (in hotels/hostels) the disappointment starts," Kafer said. "Neighbors are usually from the same or at least other industrialized countries and the contact with the locals is difficult."

There's no tour like the casual ones local friends can give you, Durkee said. She added that she avoids crowded tourist sites and guided tours whenever she can.

"I don't like tourists and I never take guided tours, with few exceptions. I don't like having someone tell me where to go, what to see, and when to eat," she said.

Durkee, who is in her 60s and is traveling to Italy this year,

***"A traveler is open-minded and open to new experiences. He wants to meet people and exchange ideas. Travelers give and take. Tourists only take,"***

**—Florian Kafer, Hospitality Club**

plans to use the contacts she's made with Hospitality Club to meet with Italians and explore the area. By "playing it by ear" when she travels, she's able to be flexible and spend time with the people she meets along the way.

Dragotti and her husband do the same. They are preparing to leave for a six-month trip around the world next month and they've decided to "keep things as loose as possible," she said.

### *Swapping houses, learning culture*

Oftentimes travelers are scared to venture beyond what is comfortable because it's unknown. When they do, they are usually pleasantly surprised at how little danger there actually is in most countries abroad, Durkee said.

It is vital, however, to read up extensively on where you are going. Socially and culturally aware Americans are well received in most parts of the world. But there are rough, dangerous patches in every country.

In recounting traveling experiences with locals, Dragotti recalled a story about traveling in Belize. A hurricane hit the area she was staying, and she and her husband turned to villagers for help finding food and water.

"We ran out of water so we stopped and socialized with the locals and they ended up giving us their rice and beans," she said.

Durkee also remembered one conversation she had with an American woman soon after she returned from traveling in India. She said the woman complimented her for being brave enough to travel with "all of the violence" in Bali.

"I said Bali is in Indonesia! There hasn't been violence in India in decades ... It really pinpoints that way of thinking," she said.

This is the No. 1 motivation for Hospitality Club—to gain cultural understanding and tolerance, Kafer said. Gaining respect for other people and places encourages a more open-minded attitude, she added. Guest and hosts exchange ideas and beliefs, and learn about other ways of life.

"Look at the world the way other people see it, and learn about the cultural heritage of that country. You will learn about your own life," she said.

"The more you know about other people, the less likely you are to ever have fear of them," Durkee said.

### *Bringing the kids*

Another concern people have is how they will travel and experience other cultures with their children. Learning about other cultures can be hard on parents and young children, but planning the right way can be great learning experiences.

Hospitality Club families abroad welcome American families into their homes for weeks at a time. This gives young people from different nationalities the opportunity to play, learn from one another.

Dragotti said she and her husband made a conscious decision not to have kids so they would have the freedom to travel. Durkee, on the other hand, has traveled all over the world with her daughter. She said once she was past the age of 10, it was hard for her.

"People are not adventuresome for the most part," she said, adding that some people worry about what their kids will eat in foreign countries. She said her daughter really liked the food and other dishes she tasted for the first time.

She recalled hiking in Thailand, eating unknown foods, and meeting with locals—all with her children. Of course, her family has different needs and abilities, but certainly it is limited solely to tourist traps.

"Traveling has been their greatest form of education," she said. "Kids are very adaptable."

It often boils down to the difference between a traveler and a tourist, Kafer said.

"A traveler is open-minded and open to new experiences. He wants to meet people and exchange ideas. Travelers give and take. Tourists only take," she said.

In the end, people want different things out of their travels. Some want to lounge by a pool and others want to hike. Neither is necessarily better. But if someone is in it for the adventure, these Web sites are a good place to begin.

**Tips on being a traveler—not a tourist**

• **Read before you go**  
 Knowing where you are going is essential. Books like the “Lonely Planet” and “Let’s Go” series offer helpful tips for authentic travel and safety, and blogs also offer an insider’s perspective on unknown areas abroad. They are often written by Americans who are currently in the country experiencing it.

• **Avoid the crowded sites**  
 At the big tourist draws, you may spend more time in lines than you will at the site, and you may be missing out on a more intimate opportunity to experience something similar. For instance, if you want to see modern Spanish art, picking up a brochure that suggests a big popular museum isn’t the best way to go. There is likely a better, smaller, less crowded museum nearby.

• **Learn a bit of the language**  
 Learning even a sentence or two of the language is an immediate “in” with the locals. It shows that you are making an effort to adapt to their culture, as opposed to expecting them to adapt to yours. Often you’ll end up communicating in English anyway but just trying is an important gesture.

• **Avoid Americanized areas**  
 Strips of restaurants and hotels abroad are hip to the fact that Americans travel there. These places will do anything to make Americans comfortable, which often means adapting to your cultural standards and expectations. If you go to these places, you’ll just be getting a more expensive version of what you see back in the States.

• **Do what the locals do**  
 If you go places native people frequent, you’ll likely find the best quality food, sights and entertainment. For instance, if there is a line of locals out the door of a restaurant, you’ve likely found great food at a fair price. If you’ve found a restaurant with a line of tourists out the door, you’ve likely found overpriced, less authentic food.

• **Ask questions**  
 Don’t be afraid to talk to people and ask for help; oftentimes that’s how friendships start and experiences are born.



VICTOR DRAGOTTI

Marika Dragotti of Danville explores Split, Croatia, with her husband Victor on a trip to Eastern Europe. When the couple goes abroad they like to “keep things as loose as possible” so they are able spend time with the people they meet along the way.

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Members of Scorpions Lacrosse in Danville squat and flex to improve their speed at Velocity Sports Performance in Dublin.

*Diablo family serves sports community with training facility*

## Sporting speed

**Story and photos by Jordan M. Doronila**

Scores of athletes believe that speed comes from having the right genes, but the owners of Velocity Sports Performance in Dublin contend it can be learned through practice and perseverance.

"They used to say that speed cannot be taught," said Kim Hensley, a Diablo resident and owner of Sports Velocity in Dublin. "But we do teach speed, and we guarantee it."

Velocity Sports Performance is a local franchise company that works with teams and individuals who play on several Danville sports teams, including Scorpion Lacrosse, Mustang Soccer, the Monte Vista High School basketball team and the T-Birds youth football team.

Around 300 young athletes come from the Danville area, said Hensley.

"We want them to become the best at what they do," she said.

Hensley—a self-proclaimed "wannabe" tennis player—said her family purchased the franchise sports performance company more than a year ago to nurture her love of sports with her children and her surrounding community.

Her husband Lon was a collegiate golf player, her daughter Hannah swims and plays basketball, and her son Joe plays golf and basketball.

"We wanted to buy a business for our family and community," she said. "We thought it was something good and healthy to offer to the community."

The sports performance company helps athletes improve their speed, agility, coordination, strength, power, mobility and flexibility. It also helps them create better energy systems and methods to prevent injury.

The company has many seasoned trainers and coaches who have been involved with professional sports teams. Hensley

said professional football players from the New York Giants and the Green Bay Packers have trained at her facilities.

"They were awesome to watch," she said.

Founded in 1999, Velocity Sports Performance began as the brainchild of world-renowned speed and sports performance coach Loren Seagrave. Some of Seagrave's tenets include maintaining an ideal body weight, developing general strength and increasing neuro-muscular coordination. He also believes in learning how to stop properly, learning proper and safe sport skills, and the importance of a dynamic warm-up.

The company began franchising in June 2002 and has more than 160 centers. At the end of 2004, more than 40 centers were opened across the country, with one in Canada.

"Velocity is a very positive environment," Hensley said. "It's anti-steroid."

Hensley came from Indiana. She moved to the Bay Area in 1991 after meeting her husband while they were working at an athletic consulting firm. They decided they wanted to be on the same "team."

After having two children, she retired to spend time with them. Still, she wanted to continue her passion for athletics and business. So she purchased a Velocity Sports Performance franchise in February 2005.

"It was a 'feel good' thing to do," she said. "We really wanted to become part of the fabric in the community. We build overall athleticism."

She said there are many benefits to improving one's performance in a competitive fashion.

"It's a competitive world out there," she said. "Every gain and edge (is important)."

Improving athletic performance helps build self-esteem, she added. "The more athletes excel on the field, the better they feel about themselves. They just feel better about their

confidence when they do better."

Hensley said her young clients are successfully unleashing their potential.

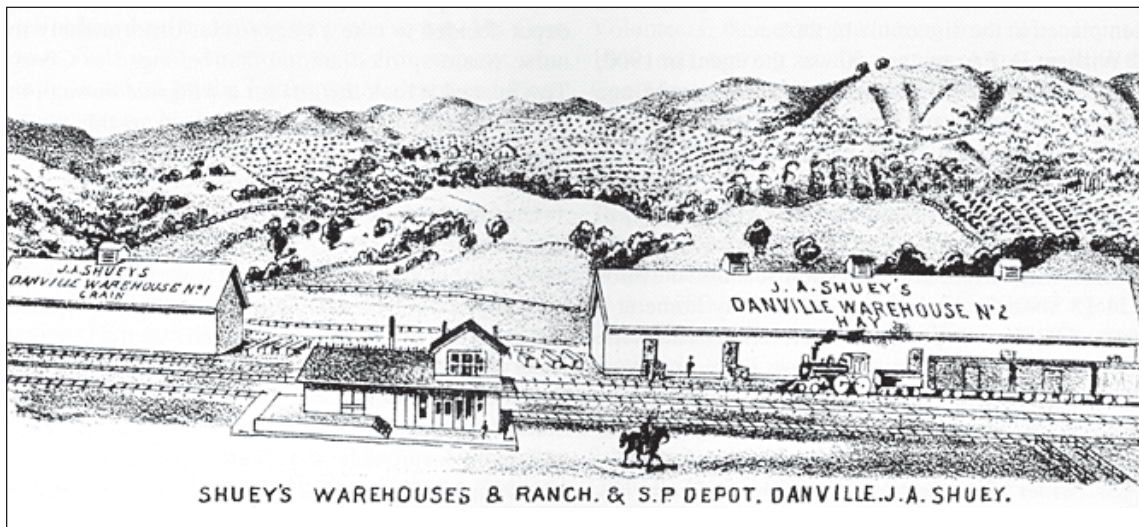
"They are making everything happen to get to the next level," she said. "It takes hard work to get there, and they see the results in the field." ■



Soccer players from the Danville community perform drills, with the aim of running faster and creating a better performance on the court.

# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



## The Southern Pacific brings growth and change

The Southern Pacific railroad's new San Ramon Branch Line had different effects on the three villages in the Valley. Since Danville's main downtown was directly next to the station, significant new building activities took place in town. New houses, hotels, businesses, warehouses and boardwalks were constructed. Newspapers complained about recurring congestion. There was little impact in Alamo, where the small freight depot on Hemme's ranch was south of town.

In San Ramon the village center was nearly a mile away from the depot. The Contra Costa Gazette of June 10, 1891, stated:

"The site of the prospective depot is inconvenient for the people here. At present it is reached in a round-about way through a private road. There is talk of opening a public road direct to the depot, and this should be done immediately."

The San Ramon station was even closed from 1894-95. The situation must have improved, however, because four warehouses (two for hay, two for grain) were shown on the station site in 1897.

With heavy freight moved to the rails, the dirt roads stayed in bet-

ter shape so Valley residents were able to travel with greater speed and ease to many destinations. In 1906, William Meese built Ramona Park next to the track (in today's Greenbrook area) and drew groups by train for a day in the warm sun, making the Valley a premier destination for picnickers.

Throughout the valley, walnuts and fruits of all kinds were successfully planted, gradually shifting agricultural production away from grain crops. During the 20th century, the Bishop Ranch had the largest Bartlett pear orchard in the world. The larger ranches had walnut hydrators that processed walnuts, many of which went to Walnut Creek's "nut house" and received the valued Diamond Brand.

Although the San Ramon Branch Line was a significant transportation asset for people in the Valley, it soon came under the same technological and economic pressures as the rest of railroading. The San Ramon two-story depot was removed in 1927. A small "Shelter Shed" was built instead, measuring 10 feet by 12 feet; it was retired in 1941. Passenger service dwindled, then ended on the line in 1934.

Freight trains continued to run

but, even though more efficient diesel locomotives replaced steam by the 1950s, trucks proved more competitive. By the 1970s, the rail line was a shadow of its former self. In 1973, only 413 cars ran the line; in 1975, there were a mere 123 cars. Southern Pacific abandoned the Branch Line in 1978.

After considerable debate about the future of the right of way, the multi-use Iron Horse Regional Trail was established and is now 28 miles long. The Danville depot became a feed and grain store in the early 1950s, was moved in 1996, and opened as the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in 1999. Thus, with a restored depot and the Iron Horse Trail, the San Ramon Branch Line lives on as an integral part of the San Ramon Valley.

Sources: Irma M. Dotson's "San Ramon Branch Line of the Southern Pacific; Contra Costa Gazettes; illustration from "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon," by Beverly Lane and Ralph Cozine

—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

#### \$64,000 for scholars

Assistance League of Diablo Valley recently honored outstanding high school students with scholarships: (back row, l-r) Chigo Wachuku, Mike Hammonds, Andy Luo, Angela Cortez, Lesley Lara, Jacqueline Cho, Paquel Tapia, Andrew Farrell, Anna Romanowska; (seated) Meribe Gonzalez, Halen Vasquez, Paola Castro, Michelle Laguerta and Thuy Nguyen. The scholarships were established in 1999 and offer financial aid to outstanding high school students, those transferring from community colleges, and Independent Living Skills residents, all of whom have contributed significantly in the Contra Costa community.

After soliciting candidates, reviewing applications and interviewing semifinalists, Scholarships Committee Chairwoman Joan Siltanen announced the recipients at the May Luncheon Meeting.



While maintaining near-perfect academic performance, several have faced such overwhelming odds as relocating to the U.S., learning the English language, diffusing ethnocentrism, and losing a parent to either illness or divorce. A total of \$64,000 will be dispensed among the 14.

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## PERSPECTIVE

# AT THE MOVIES

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

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

<b>A Prairie Home Companion (PG-13)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues Noon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 p.m.
<b>A Scanner Darkly (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:50, 4:10, 6:45, 9:05 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:45 p.m.
<b>An Inconvenient Truth (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10 p.m. <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9:20 p.m.
<b>Cars (G)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:20, 5, 7:40, 10:20 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:50, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4, 6:45, 9:30 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 10:30 a.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:05 a.m., 1:05, 4, 6:55, 9:45 p.m.
<b>Click (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:45, 4:20, 7, 9:30 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 2, 4:35, 7:25, 10 p.m.; No show Sat 7:25 p.m.
<b>Da Vinci Code (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2:50, 6:50, 10:10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:55 a.m., 2:55, 6:20, 10:05 p.m.
<b>Lake House (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:10 a.m., 12:35, 3 p.m.
<b>Little Man (PG-13)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 12:50, 2:25, 3:15, 4:45, 5:50, 7:20, 8:20, 9:50, 10:50 p.m.
<b>Monster House (PG)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Sat 7 p.m.
<b>Nacho Libre (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:35 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:35, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10 p.m.
<b>Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues Noon, 12:40, 3:10, 3:50, 6:20, 7, 9:30, 10:10 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., noon, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 9:55 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 10:20 a.m., 12:15, 1:30, 3:30, 4:45, 7, 8, 10:10 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 10:20 a.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10, 10:30, 11:25 a.m., 12:25, 12:55, 1:25, 1:55, 2:50, 3:50, 4:20, 4:50, 5:20, 6:15, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 8:45, 9:40, 10:40, 11 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 11 p.m., Tues 2:50 p.m. <b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri-Sun Noon, 3:30, 7, 10:05 p.m., Mon-Tues 11:15 a.m., 2:15, 5:20, 8:20 p.m.
<b>Strangers With Candy (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:45, 9:55 p.m.
<b>Superman Returns (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 3:20, 6:40, 10 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:15, 3:35, 6:55, 10:15 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues Noon, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 12:10, 3:05, 3:35, 5:20, 6:30, 7, 8:50, 9:55, 10:25 p.m.; No show Tues 11:40 a.m. <b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri-Tues 10 a.m., 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. <b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 p.m.
<b>The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 12:25, 1:55, 3, 4:30, 6:15, 7:05, 8:50, 9:40 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 10:15 a.m., 12:45, 3:45, 7:15, 9:50 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 10:15 a.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11, 11:30 a.m., 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:05, 7:05, 7:55, 9:55, 10:30 p.m.; No show Tues 2:15, 5:05 p.m.
<b>Who Killed the Electric Car? (PG)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 p.m.
<b>You, Me, and Dupree (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 2, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 11 a.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:05, 11:45 a.m., 1:40, 2:20, 4:15, 5, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35 p.m.



## Spice up your meals with East Indian cuisine

Since many Indian dishes are meatless and well-balanced, I developed a deep penchant for the cuisine during my vegetarian years and the love lingers on. For a long time, though, I avoided actually cooking Indian foods because I was intimidated by the blends of spices used to produce their unique flavors. In fact, 20 years ago, I couldn't even find "garam marsala" in a local supermarket but, thank goodness, all that has changed. The basic spices and ingredients of what we used to call "exotic" cuisines are as accessible as bottled water these days. Albertsons on Crow Canyon Road carries a decent selection.

Indian cuisine is characterized by an extensively diverse and precise use of spices and by the predominance of vegetables, probably more than any other cuisine. Centuries ago, vegetarian was adopted by the religious class as a preferred diet and the tradition took root. While the cuisine is a wonderful mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, a large number of indigenous Indians are vegetarian, either because of their spiritual persuasions or simply because they were raised that way. According to "Ayurveda," a holistic, Hindu medicine, food is either satvic (pure), rajasic (dynamic) or tamasic (lethargic) according to its character and effect upon the body and the mind. Perhaps this is something we American eaters might think more about.

Like the other cuisines I've written about in this series, the diversity of Indian foods has been created with historical, political, religious and geographic input over centuries. Conquerors like the Portuguese, British, Turks and Persians and traders like the Chinese and the Arabs have had great influences upon the cuisine. Indian cuisines are usually described in terms of regions, namely North, South, East and West, which vary in their staple crops, primary ingredients, dominant flavors and special preparations.

Rice, atta (wheat flour) and legumes (e.g., bengal grams, pigeon peas, chickpeas) are staple ingredients of Indian cuisine. Important spices in Indian cuisine are chilli pepper, black mustard seed (rai), cumin, turmeric, fenugreek, ginger, coriander and asafoetida (hing). Other commonly used spices include mint, coriander and bay leaves. Cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg, saffron and rose petal essence are used in sweet dishes. One very important spice is garam masala, which is a blend of five or more dried spices, including cardamom, cumin, cinnamon and clove. In her cookbook, "The Dances of Spices," Laxmi Hiremath, a San Ramon author and cook, describes the importance of a good masala in any curry this way: "Wet or dry masala ... is the soul of this curry-making craft creating a core of depth, flavor and intimacy that is woven into

### Suma's tips for cooking Indian dishes

- For best curry texture, slice the onions lengthwise rather than chopping.
- Use whole (vs. ground) spices whenever possible for more distinct flavors.
- Use fresh tomatoes and cook them down (reduce) vs. using canned tomatoes.

an ornate work of art along with yogurt, nuts, seeds and herbs."

I recently spent an afternoon preparing an Indian meal with a new friend, Suma Canzius. I served as her sous chef, and Suma guided me through the cooking processes, sharing lots of valuable information as she went along. The resulting lunch was delicious to a fault and the experience encouraged me to try more Indian recipes very soon. For a cook exploring Indian cooking for the first time, I've selected three recipes that should delight your palate and give you great cooking pleasure. Although easy, they are not "quickie" dishes, so plan your time accordingly, but all of them will satisfy an imperfect, adventurous chef ... like you. Enjoy!

*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.*

## RECIPES

### Chickpeas in Tomato-Ginger Sauce (serves 6-8 as side dish)

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
2 cups coarsely chopped yellow onion  
6 large cloves garlic, crushed  
2-inch piece fresh ginger, crushed  
1-1/2 tsp. ground coriander  
1 tsp. ground cumin  
1 tsp. cayenne  
1/2 tsp. ground cloves  
1-1/2 tsp. ground pomegranate seeds (optional)  
3 cups coarsely chopped ripe tomatoes (or canned diced tomatoes)  
1/2 cup packed cilantro sprigs, plus additional for garnish  
1 cup water  
2 Tbsp. desi ghee, or unsalted butter  
1/4 tsp. turmeric  
Two 15-ounce cans chickpeas, drained  
1 tsp. salt  
1 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice, or 2 tsp. mango powder (amchur)  
1 medium-size red or white onion, peeled and thinly sliced, for serving  
1 lime or lemon cut into wedges, for serving

1. Heat the oil in a heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion, garlic, ginger and cook, stirring, until

the onion starts to brown, 4-5 minutes. Add the spices and ground pomegranate seeds (optional); stir and cook for a few seconds, then add the tomatoes and cilantro. Reduce to medium-heat and cook, stirring occasionally, until the tomato is softened, 4-5 minutes. Cool slightly and transfer to a blender or food processor. Add 1/4 cup of the water and blend until smooth. Set aside.

2. Heat the ghee in a heavy large saucepan over medium heat. Add the turmeric onion-spice puree. Cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the chickpeas, salt, and remaining 3/4 cup of water. Increase heat, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until the curry is thick, 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in the lime juice, cook 1-2 minutes more. Serve with garnish of lime wedges.

### Vegetable Biryani Rice (Serves 6-8)

5 cups basmati rice, rinsed  
4 cloves  
2 cinnamon sticks  
8 bay leaves  
10 cardamom pods  
1/2 tsp. turmeric  
1/4 tsp. whole cumin seeds  
1/4 tsp. coriander seeds

3 whole cardamom pods  
10 cups water  
1 tsp. saffron  
1/2 cup organic raisins  
2 Tbsp. Vegetable oil  
2 oz. melted ghee (or 3 tbsp. vegetable oil)\*

1. In a large skillet, heat ghee (or vegetable oil) and quick-fry the onions till they are golden brown. Add the saffron, cardamom, cloves, cinnamon stick, raisins, turmeric, cumin seed, coriander seed, and cook till toasted and fragrant, stirring constantly. Add the vegetables and cook until barely tender.
2. Add the rice and stir until the rice is completely coated with the oil and mixed well with the spices.
3. Pour in the water and salt. Bring to a boil, cover and then simmer on low heat for 20 minutes or till rice is tender.
4. Turn off the heat and let stand for 10 minutes, covered. Fluff it with a fork and serve with curry of your choice.

\*Ghee is purified butter mix that enhances flavor of the Biryani Rice but is fattening so you can substitute vegetable oil or vegetarian butter instead.

For more recipes, go to [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com).

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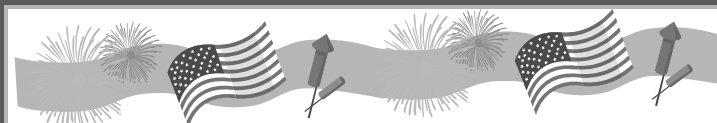
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# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Art

### 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.sanramon-arts.org](http://www.sanramon-arts.org).

## Author Visits

### Bill Wellman

Rakestraw Books will host Bill Wellman, author of "A Man and His Wings," with a reading and signing at 7 p.m., Friday, July 14, at the bookstore, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

### Children's Book Author Visit

Polka Dot Attic will host children authors Dan San Souci, Sarah Wilson, Elizabeth Koehler Pentacoff and Susan Elya from 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, July 20, 411 Hartz Ave., Suite R, Danville. This event is free. Call 838-8004.

## Classes

### People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits Classes

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front

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

### The Art of Drawing

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

### Watercolor

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Watercolor class from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, for all levels. Karen Mason is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

## Clubs

### Contra Costa Rose Society

This club will host Bonnie Brusseau who will be talking about "Choosing the Right Roses for Your Garden," at 7:15 p.m., Monday, July 24, at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 681-1551 or visit [www.ccrose.org](http://www.ccrose.org).

### Diablo Black Men's Group

The Diablo Black Men's Group will be meeting for fellowship among black men and their families at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, July 15, at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive. For information, visit [www.dbmg.org](http://www.dbmg.org).

### Diablo Bonsai Club

This club will host a lecture and workshop on planting and raising

bonsai trees, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 19, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Camellia Room, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 736-9157 or visit [www.angelfire.com/ca2/diablobonsai](http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/diablobonsai).

### Julie's Morning Book Club

This club is currently reading Franz Wisner's, "Honeymoon with My Brother" and will meet at 10:30 a.m., Friday, July 28, at the Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. As a special treat for this meeting, both Franz and Kurt Wisner will be joining the discussion. Call 837-7337.

### San Ramon Valley Newcomers

This club is open to both "new" and "not so new" Tri-Valley residents. Prospective members are invited to a luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, July 20, at Stixx and Steaks Restaurant in the Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. For information, call Jan at 735-3508.

## Concerts

### Alamo Concerts in the Park

Alamo Parks and Recreation will host its Summer Concert Series from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fridays, July 21 (Rosemarie & the Rhythm Riders), and Aug. 18 (Brother Buzz), at Livorna Park, 801 Livorna Road, Alamo. You are sure to get up and boogie! Call 451-9176.

### Love Duets and Arias Concert

This concert featuring Puccini, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Mozart and others will start at 8 p.m., Friday, July 28, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 25 Lake St., San Francisco. The concert will feature Danville resident Elena Yakoubovsky (soprano), Percy Martinez (tenor) and Temirzhan Erzhanov (pianist). Tickets are \$18 for general public; \$12 for seniors and students. Call 964-9994.

### 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 22, Pride & Joy; Aug. 5, East Bay Mudd; Aug. 19, the Cheeseballs. Call 314-3470.

## Events

### 15th Annual Business Showcase, Food & Wine

Danville Area Chamber of Commerce will present the 15th annual Business Showcase, Food and Wine event from 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 13, at

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



## Get out with the grandchildren

Alamo Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a celebration for grandparents and their special little ones from noon-3 p.m., Saturday, July 15, at Hap Magee Ranch Park, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. The day will include games, snow cones and crafts for everyone to enjoy and the opportunity for grandparents to interact with their grandchildren. Call 451-9176.

the Blackhawk Plaza in Danville. The Chamber is now taking reservations for space; call 837-4400 or visit [www.danvillechamber.com](http://www.danvillechamber.com).

**23rd Annual National Night Out**  
Celebrate National Night Out (NNO) with the millions of people nationwide Tuesday, Aug. 1. Danville police officers will visit registered block parties to answer questions, distribute crime prevention information, and hand out goodies to the kids. To register your block party, visit [www.nationalnight-out.org](http://www.nationalnight-out.org) or for more local information, call Toni Ferreira at 314-3359.

### 2nd Annual Doggie Night

Old town Danville merchants along with the Discover Danville Association will host the second annual Doggie Night from 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, July 20. The night will begin at Molly's Pup-Purr-ee on Hartz Avenue and will include a "best dog trick" contest, entertainment, a pet fair and a map to doggie treats throughout downtown.

### Aloha Golf Classic

Danville Area Chamber of Commerce presents the Aloha Golf Classic event starting at 10 a.m., Monday, July 17, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599

Blackhawk Club Drive. The day will include golf, contests for both men and women, lunch, no-host cocktails, silent and live auctions, awards and dinner. Tickets are \$195 for golf, lunch and dinner; \$50 for dinner. Call 837-4400 or visit [www.danvillechamber.com](http://www.danvillechamber.com).

### Cars, Cars, Cars

Blackhawk Museum will host "Cars, Cars, Cars" exploring the concepts behind the Pixar movie from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, July 23, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Participants will design and paint cars and make Rocky Road candy. Free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

### Cupid Pre-Dating

Attention all single professionals ages 27-49. Cupid.com presents a Cupid Pre-Dating event from 6:30-10 p.m., Monday, July 31, at Vic Stewart's, 850 S. Broadway, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$34 if you register before July 29; \$39 at the door. Call (408) 849-4749 or visit [www.predating.com](http://www.predating.com).

### Family Campout


The Town of Danville presents Family Campout including swimming,

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

**Family Fun Nights**

Alamo Parks and Recreation will host a Family Fun Night from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 3 (at Hap Magee Ranch Park). There will be games, karaoke and roasting marshmallows around the campfire. Call 451-9176.

**Farmers Market**

The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday, and from 4-8 p.m., every Thursday from now until Sept. 14, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. "Kids Fest" activities will be held in part with Farmers Market, on Thursday, July 29. There will be an inflatable jump house for kids, crafts and the Market Game Quiz Show. In addition a cooking show demo by Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association and live music will be provided by "Chaz." Call 825-9090 or visit [www.pcfma.com](http://www.pcfma.com).

**Geocaching**

Learn the logistics of geocaching, a modern day, outdoor treasure hunt using a park or trail map and a GPS to find "caches" that can be hidden anywhere. This event starts at 9 a.m., Saturday, July 15, Oak Hill Park, 3031 Stone Valley Road. For information about the event call 314-3400; for information about geocaching, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

**Grandparents' Day**

Alamo Parks and Recreation will sponsor a celebration for grandparents and their special little ones from 12-3 p.m., Saturday, July 15, at Hap Magee Ranch Park, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. There will be games, snow cones and crafts for everyone to enjoy. Call 451-9176.

**Happy 10th Birthday, Danville Library**

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

**Hot Summer Nights Car Show**

Danville Merchants' Association will host Hot Summer Nights Car Show from 4-9 p.m., July 13, 27 and Aug. 10 and 24, on Hartz Avenue, Danville. The staging will be at San Ramon Valley High School, 140 Love Lane, Danville. For information, call Tony at 820-5750 or David at 820-9116.

**Third Annual Community Garage Sale**

Resurrection Lutheran Church will hold its third annual Community Wide Garage Sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, July 22, in the church parking lot, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Doublewide spaces can be purchased for \$25; a Goodwill truck will arrive at the end of the sale. Call 828-1580 or e-mail [resluth@pacbell.net](mailto:resluth@pacbell.net).

**Tri-For-Fun Triathlon Series**

On Your Mark Events hosts the second leg of the Tri-For-Fun Triathlon series starting at 7 a.m., Saturday, July 15, at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton. For information, call (209) 795-7832 or email [info@onyourmarkevents.com](mailto:info@onyourmarkevents.com).

**Walking Tours of Historic Danville**

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley docents will lead tours of historic buildings and sites in Danville. Danville Mayor Karen Stepper will lead walking tours starting at 6:15 p.m., every fourth Friday, from now until August, meeting in front of the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Museum docents will lead morning tours starting at 10 a.m. every second Saturday, from now until August, meeting in front of the museum, 205 Railroad Ave. Call 837-3750 or visit [www.museumsv.org](http://www.museumsv.org).

**Exhibits**

**DACA Art Exhibit**

Danville Area Cultural Alliance and Danville Fine Arts Gallery will display an art exhibit titled "Pieces of Peace" until July 31. Hours for the gallery, at 233 Front St., are 1-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Admission is free and open to the public. Call 838-1959.

**Impressionistic Landscapes and Moody Abstracts Art Exhibit**

The Blackhawk Art Gallery will be celebrating the works of Stephen Sanfilippo and Connie Lambkin with a special reception from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, July 15, at the gallery, 3628 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Free to the public. The exhibit will run from July 15-Aug. 7; gallery hours are from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call Tracy Bauer, (415) 531-2556.

**'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: A Tribute to the Artwork of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance." Museum hours are from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, through August. For more information, contact Jon Hart at 736-2280 or [www.BlackhawkMuseum.org](http://www.BlackhawkMuseum.org).

**Trains at the Depot**

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will have different trains on display from now until July 29 along with related children's activities. Bay Area NTRACK, through July 22; and S Scale Club from July 25-29. Entry is free although donations are encouraged. Call 858-4466.

**Fundraisers**

**Christmas in July**

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

**Sixth Annual Comedy Night**

This annual show, in sponsorship with John Muir Women's Health Center, will benefit the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Comedian Andrew Norelli will headline the show, at 8 p.m., Saturday, July 15, at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts-Hoffman Theatre, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Other comedians include: Ross Turner and Michael Meehan; Charlie B. Earley will take the stage as emcee. Reserved seating is \$37; \$32 for seniors. Call 943-SHOW (943-7469).

**Troy and Alana Pack Memorial Golf Classic**

This fundraiser sponsored by the Golden State Warriors will help raise money to build awareness for the safety of our families and children. This event starts at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, at Blackhawk Country Club, Lakeside Course, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Cost is \$295 for golf and dinner; \$75 dinner only. Call 648-2940 or visit [www.alanaandtroy.org/golftournament.html](http://www.alanaandtroy.org/golftournament.html).

**Health**

**Community Walk**

Fit Studio is hosting free community walks starting at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the studio, 294 B Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 362-8001.

**Discovering the Healing Power of Your Voice**

The Wellness Community presents

a workshop on discovering how the tones in your voice can bring harmony and balance to your body, mind and spirit. This event is from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, July 22, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and friends; reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

**Mindful Chi Kung**

The Wellness Community will host Chi Kung, an ancient practice that allows you to become aware of your body, increase your energy and help your body and mind stay healthy. This event is from 3:30-5 p.m., Thursday, July 20, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and friends; reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

**Step It Up Alamo**

ShapeXpress of Alamo will be hosting a free six-week walking program open to men, women and children of all ages at 9 a.m., Saturdays, from now until July 29, meeting at the gym, 230-A Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Challenge a friend or neighbor to compete! Call 838-5200.

**Take a Hike With 'Trail Mixers'**

The Town of Danville will offer a free walking program to promote friendly and enjoyable, low-impact exercise for all ages on the local trails at 8 a.m., the second Saturday of every month from July-October. The next walk meets at the Sycamore Creek Trail and Open Space Staging Area at the intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Tassajara (Castenada Trail). Call 314-3476 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

**Yoga Classes**

The Diablo Yoga Center offers community classes (taught by student teachers), from 4-5 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, at the Diablo Yoga Center, 125A Town and Country Drive, for \$8 per class. For information, visit [www.diabloyogacenter.com](http://www.diabloyogacenter.com).

**Kids & Teens**

**Summer Storytimes**

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

**YMCA Summer Specialty Camps**

The Mt. Diablo Region YMCA is hosting numerous summer camps for children grades K-12 with different times from now until Aug. 25. Camps for children grades K-6 include: Wizard Camp, Chess Camp, Drama Camp, Princess Camp, Cheer Camp, Magic Camp, Carpentry Camp, and Super Sports Camp. Camps for children grades 5-12 include: Dude Ranch Camp, Team Challenge-Water Sports Camp, Babysitting Camp, Experience the Bay Camp, Rock and Roll Camp (Beginners and Advanced), High School Caravan Camp, and Southern California Coaster Caravan Camp. There are different fees for each activity. Call 831-1100 or visit [www.mdrymca.org](http://www.mdrymca.org).

**Lectures/ Workshops**

**2006 Nor Cal Educational Conference**

Join hundreds of real estate and escrow professionals to discuss issues and trends affecting escrow today at a two-day conference, Friday-Saturday, July 14-15, at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive. Cost is \$200 for CEA members; \$250 for non-members. RSVP by calling Geoff Disch at 556-2013; for information, call Lena Signor at (408) 445-3610.

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### Class for Parents of New Kindergarteners

The Town of Danville will host a series of classes for parents of new kindergarteners from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesdays, July 26-Aug. 9, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. The cost is \$45 for residents (\$15 for additional parent); \$54 for non-residents (\$18 for additional parent). To register, call 314-3400 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

### Entering the Entrepreneurial World

Technology Ventures Corp. presents "Entering the Entrepreneurial World," from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 19, at Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. This event is free, but registration is required by calling 960-1600 or visit [www.caconference.com/location](http://www.caconference.com/location).

### Herbs and Cancer Support

The Wellness Community presents a lecture about how herbs and foods can aid in helping cancer patients' immune systems become strong again. Joan Kasich will answer your questions from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, July 18, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and friends; reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

### Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers

B2B Power Exchange will host a leads group from 7:45-10 a.m., Thursday, July 20, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. Cost is free to members; \$40 for non-members. Call 201-3410 or visit [www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin](http://www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin).

## Live Music

### Rock & Dine at Bridges

Discover Danville presents Rock & Dine with a choice of a three course dinner at Bridges, 44 Church St., Amber, 500 Hartz Ave., or at Corks, 411 Hartz Avenue, #G, Danville, all starting at 5 p.m., Sunday, July 30. This unique dining experience will end with a concert with legendary rocker Eddie Money. Tickets are \$125; which does not include liquor, sales tax or gratuity. Call 314-3463.

## Miscellaneous

### Magic of Videogames

Ken Balough and Chris Navarro from LucasArts will discuss the

magic behind videogames at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 15 at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. in the Valley Oak room. Call 837-4889.

## Seniors

### 'Aftershock' at the Oakland Museum

The Town of Danville will host an outing for seniors to the "Aftershock" exhibit at the Oakland Museum from 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m., Wednesday, July 26. Participants will meet at Pleasanton BART. Cost is \$8 for residents; \$9 for non-residents. Bring money for lunch. Activity level is 3.5-4.0 (some walking and standing). Call 314-3476.

### 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 \$10 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

### Hot Air Balloon Overnight Trip

The Town of Danville will host an overnight trip for seniors including a tour of a botanical garden in Sonoma County, a picnic lunch at Jack London Historical State Park (bring lunch money), docent-led hike/tour of the Beauty Ranch, a hot-air balloon ride and will finish with a tour of the Canine Companion Independence facility. This event is Sept. 5-6. Cost is \$303 for single residents or \$364 single non-residents; \$265 double-residents or \$322 double non-residents. Register by July 17 by calling 314-3476.

### Laugh Club

Research has shown increased levels of endorphins, neurotransmitters, immune system cells, and decreased levels of stress hormones. This club meets at 10:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. This event is free and open to the public. Call Fred Turner at 216-4590.

## Spiritual

### Thursday Evening Seminar

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## Support Groups

### American Chronic Pain Association

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

### 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

## Volunteering

### Friends of Discovery

Discovery Counseling Center has received more than \$5 million, thanks to Friends of Discovery. The organization is looking for volunteers who can commit eight hours per month in the Thrift Station, 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call Le Anne, 837-7998.

### Help Your Senior Neighbors

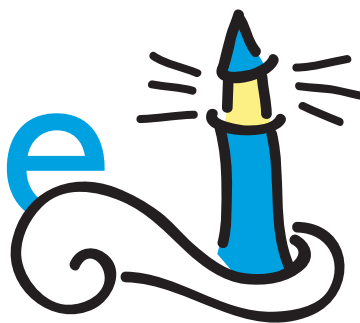
A lot of Danville seniors need rides to their appointments, stores or to special events. The Seniors' Club at Veterans Memorial Hall is looking for volunteers to provide rides on an "as-needed basis" on one or more Mondays a month. Call Jenn Overmoe at 314-3476 for more information.

### 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://diablowalley.assistance-league.org>.

### Blackhawk Museum Docent Training

If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! For information, contact Norma at 736-2277 ext. 238.



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## INDEX

- **BULLETIN BOARD**  
100-155
- **FOR SALE**  
200-270
- **KIDS STUFF**  
330-355
- **JOBS**  
510-585
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**  
600-690
- **HOME SERVICES**  
700-799
- **FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE**  
801-860

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

Chronic Pain Support Group

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### 135 Group Activities

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Fibromyalgia Arthritis Support

### 140 Lost & Found

#### Lost - Sony Camcorder

Sony Camcorder in Black Case. Lost between Midland Way & San Ramon Valley Blvd on July 4, 2006. Please contact Carolina at 925-584-8286, reward if found.



#### Lost Chocolate Lab

\*\*\*\$1000.00 Reward\*\*\*  
Chocolate Labrador - Male. 3 Years old. Last seen on 6/23 near Valley and Bernal in Pleasanton. If you have any information or have found Rusty, please call me at 925-580-5394.

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Danville, 126 Cameo Dr., 7/15, 9 - 4

Danville, 90 Stowbridge Ct, 7/15, 8-3

Pleasanton, 2107 Goldcrest Cir., 7/8, 7-4

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Pleasanton, 2928 Lethbridge Ct, 7/15, 8-2

Pleasanton, 4111 Moller Dr, 7/14-15, 9-3

Pleasanton, 4617 Black Avenue, July 15 & 16 8-2

**Pleasanton, 4774 Sutter Gate Ave, 7/15&16, 9-3**

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**355 Items for Sale**

Barbie Jeep - Like New! - \$150  
Graco double stroller plus cover - \$80.00  
NEW MEDELA ADVANCED BREAST PUMPS - \$265.00  
Treehouse Dectives Series - \$7.95

**390 Kids for Summer  
Jobs**

**Tennis Practice Partner**  
Need tennis practice partners(paid) for a ranked junior player.Call Amy 925-963-8272.

  
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**Jobs**

**500 Help Wanted**

**Administrative Assistant**  
to Property Manager with Computer, Office, RE sales or rental skills. Long term, flex hours, benefits in Los Altos Possible Housing. Resume to HNC, MMhousing@aol.com 650 962-8525

**BOOKWORM'S DREAM!  
Free rent!**

Artist seeks roommate to share 3bed apt in San Ramon. Ideal roommate shares similar interests. Apt in budding community close to shopping, new library & nature trails.

*This is an employment position.*  
Send resume/cover letter to **Brian (510) 618-1570 (fax)** or email: **ebroommate@yahoo.com**

**F/T Experienced Pressman.**

Immediate opening. Medical/dental, 401k avail. Lisa 1-530-846-3661 or mail resume to publisher@gridleyherald.com or POB 68, Gridley, CA 95948 (Cal-SCAN)

**Fortune 500 Company**

Seeks Business to Business Daytime Insurance Sales. No experience required. First year potential \$60,000+-. Call 916-526-2735 or email resumes to Michael.Peacock@coloniallife.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Get Involved in the Pursuing of the  
American Dream (\$14.50/hr)**

Non-profit supported living agency seeks committed, energetic, and flexible person to provide floating support to adults w/disabilities who live in their own homes in Alameda County.

Requirements:  
VERY FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE, willingness to work in Alameda County, able to be on-call for 4-5 days per month and one weekend every 3rd month. Must have CA driver's license, car & insurance.  
Please send cover letter/resume to: **ebispecialist@yahoo.com** or fax (510) 618-1570 Attn: Lisa

**HAIRSTYLIST + MANICURIST**  
station for rent. Receptionist position also available. Upscale, friendly Danville salon. 925-389-1805

**HOUSECLEANERS NEEDED  
Good Wages - Weekly Pay  
Ideal Hours - Paid Mileage**  
Car, CDL & insurance are necessary  
Call **Merry Maids / Pleasanton**  
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Awesome Positions! No Fee!  
\$13-18/hr  
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[www.nannyconnection.com](http://www.nannyconnection.com)

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for contact information

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Make up to \$500-\$1000 or more per sale! Sales made from ads, leads & references. Home office support & training for local Steel Building Dealer. No investments. 1-800-964-8335. [cwirth@wedgcor.com](mailto:cwirth@wedgcor.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Progressive non-profit needs go-getters**  
to provide support to persons with disabilities in Liv/Pleas Mon-Fri 2:45p til evening hours and Sat/Sun day hours avail. All training paid, paid medical benefits @ 20hrs per wk, full benefits for FT. \$11.50-12.05/hr Please send cover letter/resume to: **eastbayinnovationsjobs@yahoo.com** or fax (510) 618-1570 Attn: Lisa

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Downtown Pleasanton  
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opening in 200+ newspapers in California. Reach over 6 million readers for only \$500. Statewide Classified Ad program. Visit [www.cal-scan.com](http://www.cal-scan.com) (Cal-SCAN)

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All drinks, snacks, sizes and brands. Great Equipment, Great Locations! Financing Available with \$7,500 Down. 1-877-843-8726. (Cal-SCAN)

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**Come join our Sales Team**

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

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

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

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

Laure Reynolds  
East Bay Sales Manager  
Pleasanton Weekly & Danville Weekly  
[lreynolds@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:lreynolds@pleasantonweekly.com)

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100  
Danville, CA 94526  
(925) 837-8300



- No phone calls, please -  
The Danville Weekly is an equal-opportunity employer.

**Pet of the Week**

**Meet Justine**

She is one of the many beautiful housecats at the East County Animal Shelter awaiting release for good behavior. Justine has a sweet disposition and loves to be petted. She's as playful as a kitten and purrs happily when you give her attention. Justine has amber eyes and pretty orange and white fur. Other pets currently available at the animal shelter include rabbits, pet rats, a guinea pig, kittens and many more wonderful adult cats. Visit Justine (pet #61098) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.



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Vehicles, wood, windows, murals, banners and more.  
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Quality Work, Dependable & Affordable  
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Refs Avail / Free Estimates / 10 Yrs Exp  
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**BETTY'S OFFICE CLEANING**  
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Complete professional cleaning to your request! Reliable, affordable, efficient, trustworthy.  
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**CR'S HOUSECLEANING SERVICE**  
"Professional Service with the Personal Touch"  
COMPLETE CLEANING  
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Local housecleaner looking for a few new commercial and residential clients in the area.  
**\* 50% Off 4th Cleaning \***  
Experienced / Excellent References  
- Licensed & Bonded -  
For free estimate call Martha  
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- All Types of Cleaning -  
Move In/Out Our Specialty!  
10 Yrs Exp ~ Dependable, Quality Service  
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One Less Thing To Worry About  
We are insured, bonded & tailored to meet your needs  
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\$15/hr - 3 hr. minimum  
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\* Pleasanton area only! \*  
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Mon-Fri Call btwn 9:30am-6:30pm only  
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**RELIABLE HOME CLEANING**  
Experienced, Affordable Rates, Fluent English, References  
Call Gloria 510 589 6460 (c)

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Residential & Commercial  
Quality Work ~ Dependable  
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Local Refs ~ City Lic# 040421

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Full Service \$80/month  
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**Real Estate**

**801 Apartments/ Condos/Studios**

Danville, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2395  
Pleasanton, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1400

**805 Homes for Rent**

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

**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**

Alamo, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$1,375,000  
Alamo, 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$2,095,000  
**Incline Village, Nv, 4 BR/2 BA**  
Incline Village, NV, spec lake view, 4  
bd/2 ba, remodeled, furnished,  
\$999,900; (925) 837-2315 \$999,900  
Livermore (gothouse.com), 5+ BR/4+  
BA - \$1049000  
Livermore 2 Homes 4 Sale  
(gothouse.com), 4 BR/3 BA - \$995,000

Livermore, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1,110,000  
San Ramon Bradywalsh.com, 3BR/2BA -  
\$439999  
San Ramon Home, 3BR/2BA  
San Ramon Homes, 4BR/2.5BA  
San Ramon, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,050,000  
San Ramon, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1,650,000

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**Arizona - 1st time offer.**  
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Stunning ranch with amazing views.  
Diverse topography, abundant ground  
water. Great for horses, private retreat  
or buy & hold. Subdividable. E-Z terms.  
Call AZLR 1-866-516-4868. (Cal-SCAN)

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Land Specialist  
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Mtns, Within looming presence of  
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Community. Incredible setting, including  
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and diverse topography. Excellent  
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Outstanding Rocky Mt. Views from this  
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under construction! Call RCL Today! 1-  
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Call for your private showing. 1-866-  
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(Cal-SCAN)  
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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2006

Danville	Alamo	Diablo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 28	Total sales reported: 5	Total sales reported: 1	Total sales reported: 29
Lowest sale reported: \$490,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,162,500	Lowest sale reported: \$2,400,000	Lowest sale reported: \$315,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,118,000	Highest sale reported: \$3,275,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,400,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,560,000
Average sales reported: \$1,100,571	Average sales reported: \$2,155,000	Average sales reported: \$2,400,000	Average sales reported: \$685,724

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Diablo	Walnut Creek
<b>142 Alta Vista Way</b> J. Coleman to M. & H. Pence for \$1,460,000	<b>742 Danville Boulevard D. &amp; R. Babcock to J. &amp; C. Schwenger for \$1,350,000</b>	Sayaghi for \$710,000 <b>230 Jasmine Way</b> R. & D. Correa to B. & C. Athearn for \$1,075,000	<b>Court B. &amp; S. Beck to S. &amp; M. Saunders for \$1,900,000</b>
<b>316 Bolero Drive</b> Sarracino Trust to J. & P. Nues for \$1,100,000	<b>56 Dubost Court T. &amp; S. Rice to M. &amp; M. Hensley for \$827,000</b>	<b>532 Knollwood Court T. &amp; M. Downey</b> to E. Valiente for \$1,222,000	<b>1483 Menton Street</b> Lennar Homes to D. & C. Schroeder for \$1,095,000
<b>651 Christine Drive</b> Carlsen Trust to J. & J. Sarracino for \$1,210,000	<b>314 Elati Court</b> Beeler Trust to D. & L. Kelly for \$1,100,000	<b>300 Liverpool Street</b> Brumage Trust to P. & J. Ting for \$1,000,000	<b>30 Monaco Court C. &amp; A. Shauger to J. &amp; A. Roth for \$960,000</b>
<b>210 Country Meadows Lane G. &amp; L. Wilson to M. &amp; N. Brocato for \$675,000</b>	<b>4121 Fox Creek Court</b> Primacy Closing Corporation to J. Villamil for \$1,480,000	<b>16 Luree Court J. &amp; S. Pollard to L. &amp; B. Loughnane for \$1,300,000</b>	<b>189 Montair Drive</b> Gustafson Trust to B. & S. Hoadley for \$2,118,000
<b>214 Country Meadows Lane S. Dalvie to I. Khokhlov for \$725,000</b>	<b>216 Garden Creek Place C. &amp; E. Mullin</b> to R. Brainerd for \$490,000	<b>16 MacPherson Place M. Cook</b> to Fisher Trust for \$1,270,000	<b>2112 Myrtle Beach Lane</b> Emig-Keathley Trust to P. & M. Szulborski for \$705,000
<b>7 Creeledge Court</b> A. & C. Dickson to Vanpoppel Trust for \$1,585,000	<b>5 Hardy Court</b> Cinco Casas Limited to Chica Trust for \$995,000	<b>901 Matadera Way</b> R. & C. Costanzo to J. Sposeto for \$1,500,000	<b>2129 Oneida Circle</b> Epstein Trust to Alvine Trust for \$685,000
	<b>147 Heritage Park Drive</b> H. Amiri to A.	<b>29 Meadow View</b>	<b>39 Serene Court G.</b> Frates to S. Nguyen for \$695,000

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

### Danville

#### 2 Bedrooms

<b>137 Midland Wy.</b> Sat 11:30-4:30 Coldwell Banker	<b>\$489,950</b> 984-3060
<b>513 Garden Creek Pl.</b> Sun 1-4 Prudential CA	<b>\$490,000</b> 734-5000
<b>2198 Shoshone Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 Empire	<b>\$695,000</b> 984-1787
<b>2138 Myrtle Beach Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$759,000</b> 855-4075

#### 3 Bedrooms

<b>140 Maiden Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 Re/Max	<b>\$1,099,000</b> 943-3333
<b>124 San Thomas Wy.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,175,000</b> 838-6386
<b>311 Prospect Ave. W.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,299,000</b> 648-5374
<b>881 Bryce Wy.</b> Sun 1-4 Prudential CA	<b>\$549,000</b> 734-5244
<b>216 Jewel Terr.</b> Sat 1-4 Empire	<b>\$649,959</b> 200-0525
<b>1891 Ridgeland Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$699,000</b> 413-8353
<b>305 West Meadows Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 Century 21	<b>\$710,000</b> 577-4004
<b>2180 Oneida Cir.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 Empire	<b>\$759,950</b> 984-1787
<b>812 Luz Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Pacific Union	<b>\$779,000</b> 314-4803
<b>20 Laurel Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 CRH Group	<b>\$785,000</b> 216-8082
<b>63 Haskins Ranch Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 Empire	<b>\$844,950</b> 217-5090
<b>205 Gil Blas Rd.</b> Sun 1-4 Prudential CA	<b>\$859,950</b> 734-5076
<b>18 Haskins Ranch Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$925,000</b> 855-4125

#### 4 Bedrooms

<b>62 St. Mark Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,015,000</b> 855-4060
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<b>139 St. James Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC	<b>\$1,050,000</b> 314-4841
<b>718 St. George Rd.</b> Sun 2-4 1st CA Homes	<b>\$1,100,000</b> 510-914-1482
<b>1144 Trowbridge Wy.</b> Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,259,000</b> 323-6735
<b>705 Mistral Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,275,000</b> 979-1001
<b>839 Buckingham Pl.</b> Sun 1-4 Better Homes	<b>\$1,279,000</b> 785-4320
<b>4262 Nottingham Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 Better Homes	<b>\$1,299,900</b> 785-4320
<b>404 Plata Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,344,900</b> 855-4159
<b>214 Sabina Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Re/Max	<b>\$1,349,950</b> 943-3333
<b>1111 Country Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker	<b>\$1,545,000</b> 847-2226
<b>371 Montair Dr.</b> Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero	<b>\$1,790,000</b> 858-5233
<b>5098 Blackhawk Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,949,000</b> 876-6935
<b>235 Bridgeside Cir.</b> Sat/Sun 2-5 Pacific Union	<b>\$739,000</b> 314-4803
<b>229 St. Christopher Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	<b>\$879,900</b> 389-7754
<b>315 Gil Blas Rd.</b> Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero	<b>\$895,000</b> 855-4108
<b>1763 St. Helena Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker	<b>\$899,000</b> 785-9373
<b>72 Haskins Ranch Cir.</b> Sun 1-4 Empire	<b>\$899,000</b> 217-5061
<b>124 Freesia Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire	<b>\$929,000</b> 217-5050
<b>1102 River Rock Ln.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$939,000</b> 855-4049
<b>605 Glasgow Cir.</b> Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero	<b>\$939,999</b> 648-5330
<b>1306 Brookside Dr.</b> Sun 1-5 Re/Max	<b>\$975,000</b> 577-2600
<b>45 Bordeaux Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Empire Realty	<b>\$999,950</b> 324-9700

#### 5 Bedrooms

<b>416 Coventry Pl.</b> Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,139,000</b> 876-6935
<b>117 Merano St.</b> Sun 2-5 Empire	<b>\$1,249,000</b> 217-5048
<b>26 Bormio Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,499,000</b> 984-1945
<b>132 Alta Vista Wy.</b> Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell	<b>\$1,499,990</b> 339-3500
<b>205 Morris Ranch Rd.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,618,000</b> 413-8353

#### 6 Bedrooms

<b>1357 Lawrence Rd.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$2,999,000</b> 855-4159
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### Alamo

#### 4 Bedrooms

<b>199 Canyon Vista Pl.</b> Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire	<b>\$1,299,000</b> 217-5050
<b>18 Hagen Oaks Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Diablo Realty	<b>\$1,399,950</b> 437-4135
<b>117 Samantha Ct.</b> Sun 1-4 Re/Max	<b>\$1,399,999</b> 943-3333
<b>3024 Oakraider Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$1,499,000</b> 855-4040
<b>340 South Ave.</b> Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,649,000</b> 791-2550
<b>1606 Litina Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,699,000</b> 323-6735
<b>61 Vista Ln.</b> Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel	<b>\$1,895,000</b> 323-6735
<b>263 Livorna Heights Rd.</b> Sun 1-4 Re/Max	<b>\$2,100,000</b> 943-3333
<b>172 East Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	<b>\$2,998,000</b> 366-9555
<b>504 Oakshire Pl.</b> Sun 1-4 Intero	<b>\$3,699,000</b> 855-4159

#### 5 Bedrooms

<b>1 Tanglewood Ln.</b> Sun 1-4:30 Intero	<b>\$1,575,000</b> 736-7657
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<b>2618 Danville Blvd.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 Century 21	<b>\$1,777,000</b> 209-1131
<b>1427 Vine Ln.</b> Sun 2-5 Empire	<b>\$3,195,000</b> 217-5028
<b>306 Las Quebradas Ln.</b> Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	<b>\$3,795,000</b> 366-9555

#### 6 Bedrooms

<b>420 Crest Ave.</b> Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max	<b>\$1,799,000</b> 735-7653
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### Blackhawk

#### 3 Bedrooms

<b>887 Redwood Dr.</b> Sun 1:30-4 Intero	<b>\$1,279,000</b> 736-7657
<b>11 Deer Meadow Ct.</b> Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE	<b>\$1,298,000</b> 736-4155

#### 4 Bedrooms

<b>311 Live Oak Dr.</b> Sun 1-4 Century 21	<b>\$1,149,000</b> 577-0525
<b>59 Deer Meadow Ln.</b> Sun 1:30-4 Intero	<b>\$1,399,000</b> 648-5342
<b>388 Live Oak Dr.</b> Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE	<b>\$1,429,000</b> 736-4155

### Diablo

#### 4 Bedrooms

<b>21 Calle Del Casarillo</b> Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	<b>\$1,795,000</b> 984-3060
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#### 5 Bedrooms

<b>1671 El Nido</b> Sun 1-4 Re/Max	<b>\$3,999,950</b> 943-3333
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#### 6 Bedrooms

<b>2315 Caballo Ranchero</b> Sun 1-4 Empire	<b>\$2,195,000</b> 217-5048
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# Great news *for* first-time homebuyers



A **3% down payment** could get you a loan **up to \$700,000**—with **no mortgage insurance required.**

### Now you can afford a new home!

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

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- Down payment as little as 3%
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- Affordably low closing costs
- HLPR is not a government-related program
- Experienced mortgage consultants are available to meet you at your convenience—at home, at the office, or even the local café

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

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

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



All loans require Tech CU membership and credit approval. Additional conditions and restrictions apply. Please contact a mortgage consultant for additional information.

## NorthPoint Real Estate Investment Services Welcomes



### John Derham Senior Loan Consultant

John Derham comes to NorthPoint from Golden State Mortgage, where he spent the last several years specializing in purchase loan transactions and "no cost" refinancing.

With 12 years of professional experience in outside sales throughout Silicon Valley, John has a clear and focused understanding of analyzing his clients needs and providing financing solutions to meet their long and short term financial objectives, which has been the key to his success.

He has helped hundreds of people with their home financing and real estate investing needs, and has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and clients. His continued success can be attributed to his knowledge, hard work, and commitment to providing exceptional service.

John resides in Pleasanton with his wife Robin, a speech pathologist, and their three children. He enjoys spending time with his family and coaching his boys in several youth sport programs in the area.

**Office: 925.218.1025**  
**Toll-Free: 1.866.784.7646**  
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### DANVILLE

**Custom Single Story** **\$1,950,000**  
Five bedrooms, 4 baths, bonus/media room and library. Beautiful pool, spa and outdoor fireplace.

**Julie Whitmer** **925.997.5120**



### DANVILLE

**Desirable Westside Rancher** **\$1,618,000**  
This home offers it all! 5bd, 3ba, close to Danville's small town charm. Roomy living space with upgrades throughout, keeping with traditional flavor.

**Jim Kolins & Tammy Bergstad** **925.855.4172**



### ALAMO

**Updated Alamo Rancher** **\$1,499,000**  
Updated 4bd, 3ba single story on two-thirds +/- acre. Gorgeous kitchen with granite counters, travertine tile floors. Spectacular rear yard.

**Dave Bauer** **925.855.4040**



### BLACKHAWK

**Fabulous Appointments Throughout** **\$1,455,000**  
Overlooking 14th tee of The Falls golf course. Beautiful 5bd, 3ba home with large deck off master suite with golf course views.

**Carol Erbert** **925.736.1666**



### BLACKHAWK

**Decorated to Perfection** **\$1,279,000**  
Dramatic golf course views, 3bd, 2.5ba plus small loft (perfect office), beautifully remodeled slab granite kitchen, redone baths, soaring ceilings.

**The McDougall Team** **925.672.2499**



### BLACKHAWK

**Gorgeous Golf Villa** **\$1,189,000**  
Largest plan, seldom on the market. Private yard backs to open space and a creekside setting. 3bd, 2.5ba, marble tile entry, spacious master on upper level.

**Larry Paparelli** **925.648.7482**



### DANVILLE

**Gorgeous Curb Appeal** **\$1,065,000**  
Darling single story in Greenbrook. Hardwood floors, plantation shutters, crown and shir rail moldings. 4bd, 2.5ba, updated kitchen and master bath.

**Sharon Dare** **925.855.4041**



### DANVILLE

**Large Corner Lot** **\$1,050,000**  
Brand new roof, exterior paint, new driveway, updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, wood interior doors, large master with French doors to deck.

**Mike Romero** **925.855.4102**



### DANVILLE

**Best Value in Greenbrook HOA!** **\$1,015,000**  
Single story, prime end of court location, 4bd, 2ba, 3-car garage. Gorgeous hardwood floors, plantation shutters, 50-year tile roof.

**Loray Hawkins** **925.855.4060**

**Danville**  
**Blackhawk**

**15 Railroad Avenue**  
**4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle**

**925.855.4000**  
**925.648.5300**

