

On stage

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Seniors get inside scoop on relocation

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Hammering out the details

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Danville

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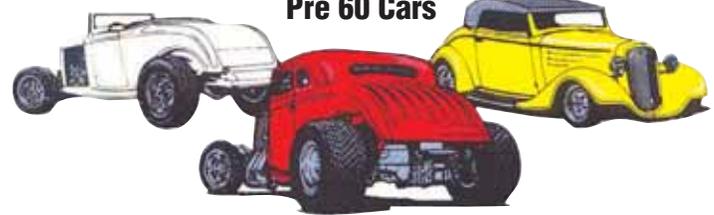
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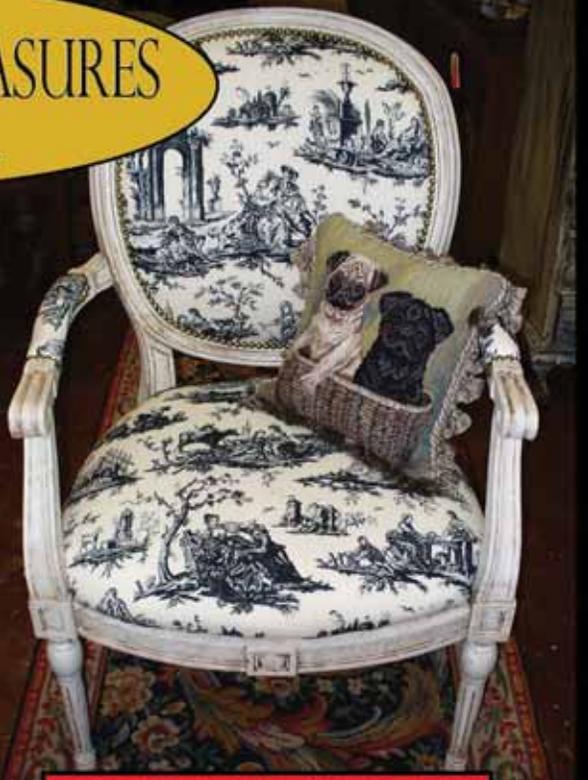
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Q: When you read a novel and discover you are not enjoying it, will you continue to read to the end?



Yes, I'm compulsive that way. Anything I start I finish. I read newspapers and magazines cover to cover. I would finish a book I didn't like. But, of course, I'm fussy about what I choose to read. I tend to go on reviews or choose something by a favorite author.

Helen Starosciak
retired



No. If it's boring to me, it's a waste of my time. I usually choose something by an author I'm familiar with. For example, I enjoy mysteries by Mary Higgins Clark.

Emma Giorsetto
homemaker, volunteer



I rarely read anything but non-fiction. Even for pleasure or entertainment, I would pick up a magazine or newspaper before a novel. I might read a novel if it's going to be made into or has been made into a movie. I usually always enjoy the movie more than the book. But then I love film. The written word just doesn't move me like film.

Brian Cameron
construction worker



No. There are lots of books I haven't finished. I like to read historical novels. I read James Michener's "Hawaii" three times, but could not get through "The Source" or the one about the Caribbean. I like James Patterson espionage. I'll read maybe a fourth of the book before I give up on it.

Gene Brown
science teacher



Of course for school I have to finish it whether I like it or not. I would finish a book even though it's slow getting started. Sometimes it takes a while before the plot kicks in. You have to give it a chance. I tend to pick up a book based on its aesthetics; if the cover catches my eye, then I'll turn it over and read what it's about.

Brianne Spencer
student

COMPILED BY JUDY STEINER

ABOUT THE COVER

Bingo! Isabelle Graber was one of the winners at the Danville Seniors Club last week, which takes over the Danville Veterans Hall from 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m. each Monday. Photo by Shannon Corey.

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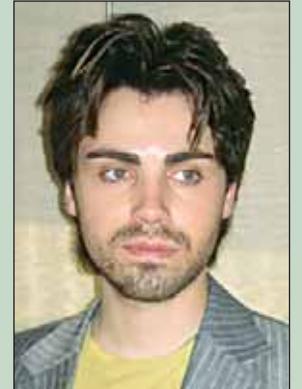
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The more information you have, the more control you have.”

—Gerontologist Catherine Ramey speaking to seniors on “The Inside Scoop on Relocation.” See story, page 6.

Vote for Monte Vista grad

George Kelly, who graduated from Monte Vista High School in 2003, was scheduled to perform pop opera on Simon Cowell's reality television show, “America's Got Talent,” on Aug. 2 and again Aug. 9. The show airs Wednesday nights on NBC at 8 p.m.



Kelly, whose parents Irene and Henry Komsky live in Danville, advanced through the preliminary rounds and was now moving onto to the semi-finals this week and the wild card show next week. At this stage, phone-in viewers decide the winner of each show and who goes on to the final round.

Kelly was originally discovered by a talent scout while performing in a café in Los Angeles. Besides working with vocal experts Seth Riggs and David Romano, he has toured with the Irish dancing extravaganza “Riverdance” as a soloist.

“For George, this is one step in a long journey toward success,” said Joyce Tucker, a longtime neighbor. “He's up against a lot of talent, and he's going to need all the help our viewing community can give him.”

Kelly is a student at UCLA majoring in political science.

Thursdays stay hot

Downtown Danville continues with its excitement each Thursday night through the summer. The evening farmers market continues from 4-8 p.m. each Thursday until Sept. 14, in the town parking lot at the corner of Railroad and Prospect. Also on the schedule are:

Aug. 10 - Hot Summer Nights Car Show

Aug. 17 - Family Sports Night; Summer Nights at the Livery from 6-9 p.m. with live jazz and children's entertainment

Aug. 24 - Final Hot Summer Nights Car Show

Aug. 31 - Do-It-Yourself Fair at the farmers market, featuring a wide range of fun and educational activities.

The DIY Fair is new this year, and will include lessons from a master gardener; cooking demonstrations; flower arranging by a local florist and a flower farmer; and more.

Alamo Web site offers 'more'

A recently launched Web site gives Alamo residents easy-to-access information on community activities and civic involvement. Alamo.org currently posts a calendar with dates and times for summer recreation activities like family fun nights, concerts in the park and outdoor movies. It is also a source for finding out when local meetings are, what will be discussed, and what has been decided in previous weeks.

The site was created by Steve Mick and Alicia Watson, retired Alamo residents who are members of the Alamo Improvement Association, Zone 36 Landscape and Lighting Committee, and R-7A Parks and Recreation Committee. The site states its name was inspired because Alamo has “more community involvement, more civic spirit, more recreational opportunities, and more quality of life.” The name combines “Alamo” and “more” to make that statement.

Home Depot pledges customer service

Alamo residents nail representative with questions on new Yardbirds format and give their suggestions

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Alamo residents told Home Depot representatives last week they want a basic community-oriented hardware store when the company reopens Yardbirds in fall 2007.

About 200 people packed into a hot room at Creekside Community Church during a power outage to hear the company's upcoming plans and give their input. Some were frustrated with the change, others were pleased, and all seemed to hold Alamo's unique home improvement needs close to heart. "Yardbirds is the city hall of Alamo. On a Saturday morning,

you can find almost anyone from Alamo there," said Hal Bailey, outspoken member of the Alamo community of neighbors.

Major product changes will include replacing lumber and hardware, such as bulk nuts and bolts, with upscale appliances and cabinetry. The store will offer more home improvement supplies for outdoor patios, gardens, bathroom designs and kitchens.

"We will merge Home Depot with what you find at an Expo Center," said Tim Seymour, Home Depot spokesman.

Patrons, however, said they would readily give up a fancy home appliance section for the simple

hardware products Yardbirds has carried for the past 30 years.

"I know you've looked into demographics but ... what we want is a nice, down-home, well-stocked hardware store," said Ruth Gulliford of the Alamo Improvement Association.

"We're not looking for a showroom type store, its really about convenience," said Mike Gibson of AIA.

Alamo residents will make a statement by what they do and do not buy, another audience member said.

"We will speak with our dollars," he said.

The interior of the store will be

remodeled to include new display fixtures, racking, and painting jobs on the floor and ceiling, but the size of the store won't be expanded. Signs will be the same size, likely in the same locations, and will read "Home Depot Yardbirds," with "Home Depot" in smaller text, Seymour said.

During the time the store is being remodeled, and considering the recent closure of the Danville Ace Hardware store on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Alamo residents will now have a longer drive to nearby hardware stores. Home Depot in San Ramon and Ace Hardware in Blackhawk will be the closest available hardware stores

until the reopening.

Concerns about the store's out-of-the-area draw—namely, its effect on parking and traffic—were also raised. Las Trampas Center draws busy crowds to its Starbucks and The Dog, a popular lunch restaurant.

"Alamo doesn't need any more compact parking," one man said, and the audience responded with sounds of agreement.

With a Home Depot nearby in San Ramon, Seymour said he doesn't expect the draw to be from outside the area.

But patrons who come into

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Tassajara School—still a learning experience

Shapell contractors rebuild stable, add restroom to beloved old school grounds

by **Dolores Fox Ciardelli**

Let the school bell ring. The latest work at the old one-room Tassajara School has been completed by Shapell Homes, which rebuilt the stable and added a functional restroom behind the school.

The school, opened in 1889, is probably the only site in the Valley that looks much the way it did in the old days, noted Beverly Lane, curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and a board member of the East Bay Regional Park District.

"The restroom looks like a period building," Lane said.

The old stable and another shed that housed a woodshop had been

fenced off for safety some time ago, said Roxanne Lindsay, a member of the board of directors of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, which owns and maintains the property.

They were worried about the children attending the museum's One-Room School Program, which began in 1995. Each spring third-grade classes, close to 2,000 students, attend the school for a day of living history. They also wanted to make the site authentic for the program.

"We started getting bids to restore (the old stable) but they were very high," said Lindsay. "Because the fire department operates on taxpayer money, it wasn't a legitimate expense (for them)."

They hired someone to take down the structures in 2004, and Gordon Rasmussen, a former student at the one-room schoolhouse, stored the wood at his nearby ranch.



Gordon Rasmussen, a former student at the old one-room Tassajara School, admires the replication of the old stable, built by Shapell Homes. He recalled the school children coming on bicycles and leaving them in the shed.

Lane approached Chris Truebridge, a Danville resident and president of Shapell Homes, to ask if the company would be interested in helping, he recalled.

"I have a pretty good pool of civic-minded contractors who were willing to join in and do it at cost," Truebridge said. "Shapell picked up the costs of material and labor."

He said Lane provided photo-

graphs and construction details.

"We went ahead and worked off those pictures pretty much," Truebridge said.

Shapell provides handicapped accessible restrooms at all its models, he explained, so he ordered an extra one for the school grounds, with vertical siding and a roof to match the old schoolhouse. They also put new roofs on the defunct

boys and girls outhouses.

The onsite coordinator was Tim Wright, who is project manager at Gale Ranch, working with CBC Framing, Pacific Rim Plumbing, Peterson Painting, and Peterson and Dean Roofing.

The school, which is located on Finley Road off Camino Tassajara, was closed in 1946 when the Tassajara School District merged with the Danville Union School District. In 1957 the school was deeded to the Tassajara Fire District, which was under the purview of the county Board of Supervisors, and staffed by local residents who volunteered as firefighters.

Gordon Rasmussen, 71, stood in the schoolyard last week and recalled going to school there until it closed, sending him to attend seventh grade "in town."

"It's our part of history," said Rasmussen, recalling the work to keep the building functioning as a community center, where for many years residents voted and meetings were held by 4H and the volunteer fire department. "Everybody had a love for the school."

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Alamo may bypass county to get trees

Activists want trees in front of Yardbirds again

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Residents concerned with Alamo's aesthetics are taking things into their own hands. Alamo Improvement Association and Zone 36 members may go around county staff to get three oak trees put back in front of Las Trampas Center, members said this week.

"I'm (going) to Yardbirds, independent of the county, to see if they will offer a tree program in front

of the store," said Mike Gibson of AIA.

He and members of Zone 36 Landscape and Lighting Committee are interested in preserving the small-town character of downtown Alamo. And they are turning to Yardbirds and Home Depot to get on-going tree issues solved.

County Public Works upset Alamo residents in February when the department accidentally

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Workers remove trees from in front of Alamo Yardbirds earlier this year.

Blackhawk home suffers fire damages

Hot weather accelerates combustion of oily rags

by **Jordan M. Dronila**

Fire consumed an attic, a garage and a room above it in a multi-million-dollar home last week on South Ridge Court in Blackhawk.

"Fire was rolling in the attic space," said Jack Barton, battalion chief for the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

Spontaneous combustion occurred between oily rags and flammable stains in the 108-degree

weather shortly before 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 25.

The rags had been used to varnish the deck, and they were placed in an open one-gallon metal can next to the house, Barton said. The hot weather accelerated the combustion.

The fire climbed up the home's exterior, spread into the attic space and extended into the garage and the exercise room,

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Seniors talk about moving

Step-by-step plan is important when relocating, says gerontologist

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Attention seniors! Reach out and ask and oceans of help will flood your way.

Gerontologist Catherine Ramey believes this to be so, she explained at a presentation she gave to seniors at the Danville Public Library last week, organized by the town Parks and Recreation Department.

Her presentation, "Seniors on the Move: The Inside Scoop on Relocation," talked about the process of moving and gave a step-by-step plan for making change as smooth as possible.

"You want to make an informed decision," Ramey said. "The more information you have, the more control you have. They just don't know what's out there. It's hard for them to come to a decision."

Seniors might decide to move to be closer to their grandchildren, because it will allow them more vacation time, or to let go of housekeeping, she said. Some may need assistance with their daily activities.

Ramey said only a small percentage of the elderly are institutionalized. She noted that many are lively and energetic, and some still date.

"Age is just a number," she said.

"It's really a distinction."

She said when older people decide to relocate they must be aware of four major aspects: making the decision; planning and preparing; making the move; and settling in. She also discussed defining what a "home" is, selling property, and selecting a new lifestyle and getting the most out of it.

Folks must decide why they are moving and where before they begin to relocate, she said. After these decisions are made, they must make sure they are financially secure and also must check out their new environment.

During relocation, Ramey recommended the elderly give serious attention to what belongings they want to bring and what they want to discard.

"It's really important you have control over your belongings," she said. "You create your environment with your belongings."

"Moving can be horrendous," she added. "It depends on how you approach it."

Upon completing the moving process, she advised settling into the new place by getting to know the community and building a social network whether it is a church, friends or family.

At the workshop, the audience

raised issues they had faced when they left their old homes. One resident complained that it's difficult to live alone and make decisions by herself.

Irma Konecny said transportation is a big issue. She said there is not enough public transportation in the area, and the high cost of real estate posed financial challenges when she and her husband Anthony moved to San Ramon. She added that elderly communities in the Danville area are "cliquey."

But despite the struggles of moving from Oregon and Oklahoma to California, she and her husband Anthony wanted to be closer to their grandchildren.

"It's very positive," Irma Konecny said, about the Ramey's presentation.

Ramey is a member of the Gerontological Society of America, American Society on Aging, National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers, and National Council on Aging and American Society on Aging Joint Conference. Additionally, she is a Realtor for Intero Real Estate Services.

She said she combines her real estate and gerontology background to help seniors.

"I could be talking about this forever," she said. ■



DOLORES FOX CARDELLI

Gordon Rasmussen shows the turnstile he built to lead into the grounds of the old one-room Tassajara School. He recalled that when he attended the school, until 1946, it had a similar turnstile to prevent the horses from leaving.

School

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Rasmussen recalled the building being rented out for \$10, and a big community picnic held each July.

"Everybody pitched in," he said. "I still have the long rope we used for a tug of war."

Vandalism became a problem, Rasmussen said, and the windows were broken. When the roof began leaking, which threatened the inside of the building, the fire district paid half of the expense for a new roof and the community held fundraisers for the rest. It was also a community effort to find a construction crane to lift up the old schoolhouse and build a new foundation.

"We were mostly ranchers working on it," noted Rasmussen,

explaining they were used to constructing and repairing their own buildings. "Then we started working on the windows."

They also put up lights, inside and out, which halted the vandalism.

"The community did it," Rasmussen said. "Not the fire district or the school district."

Everyone can learn more about the school at an exhibit called "The One-Room School House" that opens today at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville, and runs through Sept. 27.

The school marm program has been renting portable outhouses for the children to use as they take part in school life, circa 1890, being taught by Mistress Joan Kurtz. But now, with the new restroom, the museum will be spared the expense and inconvenience. ■

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Trees

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OK'd the removal of three oaks that had been dedicated with the Boulevard of Trees project. In April, Supervisor Mary N. Piepho offered to replace the trees at an undefined location in Alamo, after being informed the trees were part of a project to beautify the area.

The Public Works Department and Zone 36 then began looking into spots where dead, diseased or removed trees need to be replaced along Danville Boulevard.

Now members of the community are demanding the new trees be put in where they were taken out.

"Everybody wants them back at Yardbirds," Alamo resident Lilian Burns said at the last Zone 36 meeting.

"They are much more valuable in that location than (other places) along Danville Boulevard," Gibson said, adding that Alamo is in need of street trees in its downtown urbanized areas.

"The trees in that location create a sense of space," he said.

Since landscape and maintenance can affect property values, Alamo residents have been active on issues that affect Alamo's rural charm.

Problems are popping up with the county, however, for several reasons: The sidewalk would have to be dug up, permission from the property owner is needed, and empty holes in the sidewalk could pose a liability issue.

"It's something that can be talked about with the development team," said Eric Whan, Contra Costa County Senior Civil Engineer.

The issue was discussed last week at a meeting with Home Depot, which purchased Yardbirds in late 2005 and will reopen the store in fall 2007.

"Home Depot (was) informed that they can garner great public opinion by putting three trees in," said Steve Mick of Zone 36.

Home Depot spokesman Tim Seymour said he can't yet make a statement one way or another on the likelihood that the trees will be planted in that location.

Getting Home Depot to take on the project would be a weight off the shoulders of Zone 36, considering its small budget, said Valerie Schooley, chairwoman of the committee.

At a meeting this spring, Schooley said it looked like something was missing where the trees were taken out. She recently said she would prefer the trees go back in front of Las Trampas Center, so

long as funds for the replacement don't come out of the Zone 36 budget.

The original location would be easier for Zone 36 to water, Burns pointed out at the last Zone 36 meeting. Instead of contracting a watering team, it could be done through the center. Zone 36 will fund watering maintenance for the new trees while the county will pay for the trees themselves and planting labor.

Watering of the Boulevard of Trees is an issue that is also pending. With the recent heat wave, residents said they were concerned that the Public Works Department isn't on top of watering the Boulevard of Trees.

"It's a very hot summer and I'm really disappointed that this has fallen through the cracks again," Burns said.

Watering trouble can be attributed to change of county staff personnel, Whan said. Lisa Carnahan, who recently left the county, was formerly in charge of that aspect of maintenance and the responsibility will now be up to him, he said.

Updates and community input will be given at the next Zone 36 Landscape and Lighting Committee at Hap Magee Ranch Park at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 13. ■

Home Depot

► Continued from page 5

Alamo to buy cabinets and appliances will likely spend more time in the store, Gibson said. Where old customers might stop by for a light bulb or a screw, these customers will spend hours in the store, he said.

Seymour said they plan to avoid parking issues by creating a faster, more efficient check-out system.

"We will move customers through more rapidly," Seymour said.

Patrons said they hoped efficiency wouldn't take priority over customer service, pointing out they valued the intimate connection Yardbirds' management and employees had with customers.

Self checkout machines will be available to accommodate those who are in a hurry, but those who enjoy person-to-person contact will also have that option, Seymour said.

"I look forward to your mom and pop hardware store because that's what we want," said Steve Mick of AIA.

"We want a store that looks and feels like the community we live in," one woman said.

With large chain retail stores all over the country replacing small businesses, the change was hard for some to stomach. Carroll Hudson, general manager for Yardbirds,

addressed that issue, explaining that the change is best for Yardbirds and Home Depot.

"I appreciate everybody's attitude about our company, but the purchase of Yardbirds was inevitable," he said. "Competing today against multi-national chains isn't easy."

Most Yardbirds employees will stay the same, and customer service will be a top priority, Seymour said. Maintaining the same small-town feeling is something he said he hopes to succeed in.

"What we want is a nice, down-home, well-stocked hardware store."

—Ruth Gulliford, Alamo Improvement Association

"We are reinvesting in our employees so they understand they have to take care of customers first," Seymour said.

Home Depot might not get everything right the first day, Seymour said, but the company understands it has a responsibility to prove it can meet Alamo's needs.

In the end, Home Depot and Alamo have similar interests—the company wants to sell and the community wants to buy. With this in mind, much of the community is optimistic, one neighbor commented. ■

Fire

► Continued from page 5

Barton said. The homeowner was in Pleasanton and called 911 after she heard from her housekeeper that her house was burning.

"We couldn't see anything," said Barton, as he drove near the home. "No smoke was noticed."

But as firefighters drew closer, they saw light smoke coming from the attic area. They first made sure the fire did not spread to other areas of the home. Once the house was clear, they pulled the ceiling walls out and removed the roofing from the attic area to ventilate the flames.

"It's easier to extinguish," Barton

said. "A confined fire will continue to gain momentum."

An estimated \$500,000 was damaged structurally. Approximately \$50,000 worth of contents was destroyed, including a treadmill and other exercise equipment.

While the homeowners were present, firefighters doused the fire with water and foam.

Spontaneous combustion occurs when specific chemicals mix and heat, eventually reaching an ignition temperature. If homeowners are doing varnish work, they need to be careful where they store the flammable materials, Barton said.

"They should be fully contained in a metal container," He said. "Certainly place them away from any structures that will burn." ■

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



When the kids were custodians

Whatever happened to marbles?

Out at the old one-room Tassajara School last week, Gordon Rasmussen, 71, was reminiscing about playing marbles in the old dirt schoolyard. He still has his bag of marbles, he said. He also recalled a game where the kids, boys and girls together, would split into two groups and throw a ball over the top of the schoolhouse, with the object being to retrieve it and run it back around the school to some goal. We both stood looking up at the roof, wondering, "Could we throw that high?"

Gordon was kind enough to meet me at the old school, on Finley Road off Camino Tassajara, to talk about the recent renovations on the grounds. A former stable has been rebuilt and a restroom has been added in the rear, midway between the old girls and boys outhouses. It was fun to stand in the old school yard hearing about life in that very spot more than 60 years ago. Gordon said it looked just the same—except back then, of course, everything had seemed much larger to him. His father also attended the school, after his family moved to their nearby ranch in 1912. Gordon recalled there being 16 to 20 or so pupils, "all from the same old families," when he went there. They all rode their bikes to school, except for one child who came on a horse, little lunch pails in hand, and when

they heard the school bell ringing, they'd pedal harder. What he remembered most was having a constant review of lessons as they heard all levels being taught by one teacher, Mrs. (Gertrude) Arendt.

He shared lots of memories as we walked around the yard and peered through the windows at the original blackboards. The little kids used to sit on half of an orange crate, he recalled, and there was a sink in the back anteroom where they washed off their paintbrushes. Next to that anteroom was a small library and another little room for the teacher. He said the old well was not too dependable and sometimes they ran out of water. One student would be chosen to go to the home across the creek with a bucket to be filled by the old woman who lived there. They called her "Vava," which is Portuguese for grandmother, he said. She was not only generous with her water—the lucky child was treated to home-baked cookies, too.

The students received more than book-learning at the one-room schoolhouse. "We were the custodians," noted Gordon, explaining that they swept the school and helped with the school garden. "Each kid weeded a part," he said, inspecting the bedraggled plants to either side of the front steps for descendants of the lilies he had weeded and watered so many decades ago.

The school has majestic black

walnut trees throughout the grounds. The original students, in 1889, were responsible for keeping them watered. Gordon said by his time, they didn't need any special care, and they had even been well-established when his father went to school there. He remembered the children collecting the walnuts and putting them into big sacks to be sold at the feed store belonging to Mrs. Arendt's husband.

Gordon said he had culture shock when the one-room schoolhouse closed in 1946 and he had to take the school bus to Danville Grammar School to attend seventh grade. He was stunned to be in a class with 25-30 kids all his age. "The noise level is what I remember the most. That first week I thought, 'This is not going to work,'" he said with a laugh. But of course he got used to it.

When he grew up, he stayed on the ranch, remaining part of the community that loved the old schoolhouse and used it for their social center. They voted there and had meetings of the volunteer fire department. To hear more about the old days at the schoolhouse, visit the display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., that opens today and runs through Sept. 27. On Saturdays, former students of Tassajara School will be there to share their memories, including Gordon Rasmussen. Maybe he'll bring his marbles. ■



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PUBLISHER

Deborah Acosta McKeehan

EDITORIAL

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

Assistant Design Director

Ben Ho

Designers

Steve Bruzenak

Trina Cannon

James Greenfield

Jason Lind

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager

Laure Reynolds

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Advertising

Account Executives

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Classified Advertising

Susan Thomas

BUSINESS

Office Manager

Amory Foreman

Ad Services

Veneta Roberts, Manager

Alicia Broadway

Business Associate

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 OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

The nuts and bolts of it

The meeting between Home Depot officials and residents recently was a good first step in putting back together a neighborhood hardware store after the closing of Yardbirds in Alamo. We hope Home Depot listened to what the people had to say and will truly respond.

We like our grocery stores and our drugstores but there is something about a hardware store that appeals to our basic instincts, maintaining our homes that we love. We go to our neighborhood hardware store when we want to fix the nagging drawer in the kitchen that doesn't quite pull right. We ask advice at the hardware store for a product to repair the damage of a water stain on a table. When we want to paint—either a touchup or an entire room—we go to the hardware store for supplies and advice.

Not only did Yardbirds close recently but so did Danville Ace Hardware. Tassajara Valley Ace Hardware in Blackhawk seems to be thriving but that's quite a distance from Alamo and West Danville. Walnut Creek residents are still mourning their loss of Simon's downtown and it's been at least 10 years since it was demolished.

The good news is that Home Depot purchased Yardbirds and it is in the same business. Since the location in Alamo is not as large as Home Depot full service locations, something has to go. Apparently the lumber will be eliminated and the new store will focus on high-end appliances and fixtures. But the main thing people at the meeting said they wanted was the basic supplies needed to fix up a 50-year-old house.

No matter how much our house prices go up, there still comes a time when we need to replace the do-hickey in the toilet. And we depend on our neighborhood hardware store for supplies. Home Depot's motto is "We can do it. We can help." It made the effort to send out a representative to listen to our concerns; we hope they "do it" for Alamo, following through on the ideas expressed at the neighborhood meeting and giving us a true neighborhood hardware store.

There is something about a hardware store that appeals to our basic instincts, maintaining our homes that we love.

YOUR TURN

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

LETTERS: Mail or hand deliver to Danville Weekly, 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526

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LETTERS

Home Depot in Manhattan

Dear Editor:

I'm sorry I was unable to attend the Alamo Improvement Association meeting on July 25 at which a representative from Home Depot discussed the plans for the former Yardbirds store. I am a 48-year resident of Danville and have shopped at Yardbirds since it opened. Like others, I am saddened by the lack of choice that has resulted from the closures of stores like Simons Home Center and Kelleway Hardware in Walnut Creek as well as Ace Hardware in Danville and San Ramon, and now Yardbirds in Alamo.

From the reports I have read regarding the meeting on July 25, it seems like a lot of people were pushing for a neighborhood type hardware store, not a big warehouse store. I'm not certain if the representatives from Home Depot mentioned it, but I believe they currently operate "urban" type Home Depot stores in Manhattan, New York, that operate on a smaller footprint than the big warehouse stores and focus on carry-out type items rather than larger items. I'm wondering if that type of approach would be best for the Alamo location. They could then always direct customers to the San Ramon or Concord stores for other items they don't carry in Alamo.

Good luck to Home Depot working through the process. I anxiously await the outcome.

Gary M. Parsons, Danville

Define 'hardware store'

Dear Editor:

What is a hardware store?

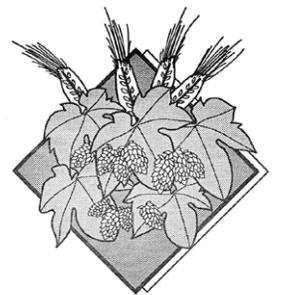
Bring up the word Hardware in Alamo and you can draw a crowd but you might not be able to define that word. It seems patio stores, cabinet stores, appliance centers, tool shops, paint stores and garden centers are all part of Home Improvement Centers and that is what is meant as Hardware. Those things contain hardware but are not hardware.

It's likely we need a new word for Hardware to cover screws, nuts, bolts, nails, lumber, braces, sockets, switches and more. Not all hardware is used to improve a home so we need to invent a word that tells the shopper that they are entering a Hardware store. It can't be the fancy aisle names such as Fasteners, Electrical, Coverings, but a real word that says this is a Hardware store.

It has to be a new word because Hardware is not taught in schools and colleges. Shop classes today are Math, Science and Lab classes for would-be engineers who use components, assemblies and fixtures, and not Hardware. Hardware in most people's minds is computers, printers and more so we need that new word for real Hardware.

In Alamo, we have that word. It's Yardbirds and everybody knows what it means and knows exactly what WAS offered.

Hal Bailey, Alamo



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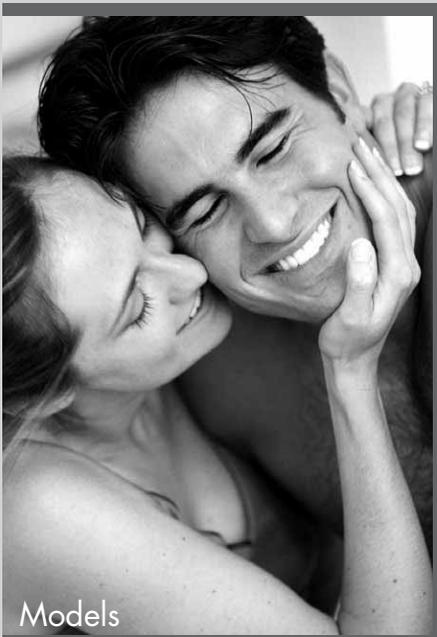


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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Troubled week in Diablo

A short string of disturbances disrupted the harmonious silence on Caballo Ranchero Drive in Diablo last week. A burglary, a domestic violence dispute and an illegal dumping transpired on the road, said officials from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

"The three incidents occurred on the same street, but they are not connected," said spokesman Jimmy Lee. "The reality is that this can happen anywhere."

On Tuesday, July 25, a couple engaged in a physical altercation and harmed one another. One of the household members called police after the incident ensued. Both sustained minor injuries, said Angela Urrutia, crime prevention specialist for the Sheriff's Valley Station in Alamo.

On Sunday, July 30, a job foreman reported that tools were stolen from a house under construction, said police. Sometime between 6 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Sunday, culprits snatched \$1,900 worth of tools from upstairs plus took a \$600 small compressor that was chained to the house. They also hooked up a \$2,220 utility trailer to another vehicle and drove away.

The dollar amounts are estimates, said Urrutia. She also noted the neighbors didn't see or hear anything.

Also on July 30, a resident filed a report that someone illegally dumped an old water heater on the resident's property sometime between 4 p.m., Friday, July 28, and 8 p.m. Saturday, Urrutia said.

People dumping items illegally on the resident's property has been a problem, she said.

—Jordan M. Daronila

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 24

- Injury accident on Linda Mesa Ave. and Montair Dr. at 2:12 a.m.
- Grand theft on Woodranch Cir. at 10:57 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara at 12:32 p.m.
- Grand theft from building on Crow Canyon Rd. at 1:52 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Tuscany Ct. at 3:47 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle, arrest, on Danville Blvd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 8:21 p.m.

Tuesday, July 25

- Vandalism on El Portal at 10:06 a.m.
- Injury accident on Hartz Ave. and School St. at 11:56 a.m.
- Petty theft, shoplifting, on Fostoria Way at 2:52 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplifting, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:43 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Dove Creek Ln. at 8:27 p.m.

Wednesday, July 26

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Green Valley Rd. at 8:05 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 9:16 a.m.
- Vandalism on Glen Valley Cir. at 9:24 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Franciscan Dr. at 9:44 a.m.
- Petty theft, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 1:07 p.m.
- Vandalism on Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 27

- Suspicious circumstances on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:19 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:15 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 9:17 p.m.
- Reckless driving, arrest, on El Pintado Rd. and La Gonda Way at 9:41 p.m.
- Felony vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 10:53 p.m.

Friday, July 28

- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 3:50 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 6:10 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Blemer Rd. at 8:36 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. 4:18 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 10:48 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 11:18 p.m.

Saturday, July 29

- Drunk in public, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 12:14 a.m.
- Vandalism, schools, on Harlan Dr. at 9:37 a.m.
- Vandalism on Santiago Ct. at 10:53 a.m.
- Felony vandalism on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:43 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 4:06 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Brookside Dr. at 4:25 p.m.
- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 6:29 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Angel Ct. at 11:13 p.m.

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

ALAMO

Tuesday, July 25

- Loitering on private property on Golden Meadow Ln.

Wednesday, July 26

- Auto burglary at Alamo Plaza
- Petty theft, shoplifting, on Alamo Plaza

Thursday, July 27

- Suspicious circumstances on Danville Blvd.
- Vandalism on Roundhill Rd.

Saturday, July 29

- Suspicious circumstances on Alamo Plaza

Sunday, July 30

- Vandalism on Gran Via

BLACKHAWK

Tuesday, July 25

- Burglary on Blackhawk Club Dr.

Sunday, July 30

- Vandalism on Quail Walk Ln.

DANVILLE

Monday, July 24

- Residential burglary on Shadow Creek Ct.

DIABLO

Sunday, July 30

- Littering on Caballo Ranchero Dr.
- Commercial burglary on Caballo Ranchero Dr.

OBITUARIES

Bruno 'Buzz' Biasatti

Bruno "Buzz" Biasatti, an Alamo resident for the past 48 years, passed away July 25 in Pleasanton at the age of 74.

He was born Feb. 19, 1932, in Stockton to Ermenguido "James" and Lucia Biasatti. He was raised in Livermore, and attended St. Michael's Grammar School, Livermore High School (class of 1949) and Santa Clara University, graduating with a degree in business administration. He served for two years in the Army at Fort

Benning, Ga. He worked for State Farm Insurance as a claims adjuster for 45 years.

He was an avid fan of the SF 49ers and Giants, and after retirement in 1999, enjoyed many happy hours in his garden.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Diane; daughters Lori (Tony) Bracho and Lynne (Kevin) Croak; sons Brian (Sharon) Biasatti and John (Dennis) Biasatti; and three grandchildren, Natalie Croak, Daniel Croak and Brian Patrick Biasatti. He also leaves three sisters, Rina Azzarello, Mary

Shepherd and Giannina Hilbun, and a brother, John Biasatti, as well as in-laws, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Bruno's life was held July 30 at Wilson and Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley, and a Mass was celebrated the next day at St. Isidore's Catholic Church followed by a reception in the parish hall. Interment is at St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore. The family requests that any donation be made to the American Diabetes Association, 1900 Powell St., Suite 120, Emeryville 94608.



Champs again!

The Tassajara American Little League 12-year-old All-Stars successfully defended their championship in the Granada Invitational again this year. They won it as 11-year-olds last year, beating the same opponent in the title game both years, San Ramon Valley Little League. The score was 22-4.

There were originally 16 area all-star teams vying for the title, in a tournament played over six days, three of which had 114-degree temperatures. The boys survived the heat wave and outscored their opponents 57-18, winning six straight games on their way to the title.

Holding first-place trophies are (l-r) Anthony Villa, Brian Peterson, Casey Chavarria, Kevin Hare, Kyle Haggard, Brody Rovner, Michael Hernbroth, Dylan Burkhart, Cody Chavarria (absent players: Joey Viscuglia, Max Dutto). The team was led by manager Stan Chavarria and coaches Steve Villa and Ken Hare.

SPORTS DIGEST

'Tiger' book hits the shelves

"Walking 18 Holes with Tiger," by Danville residents MJ and ML Mc Colgan, who are National Special Olympics champions, is now available at Barnes and Noble as well as some Danville businesses, such as Chamois Car Wash. The 50-page hardback book, which sells for \$16.95, tells the story of a father and son's "special" walk with Tiger Woods during the 70th Masters at the famous Augusta National Golf Course. It describes each hole, Tiger's approach to it, and the new name given it by the Mc Colgans.

MJ Mc Colgan is three-time National Special Olympics Golf Champion and has won the Northern California State Championship

five times in a row. Like Casey Martin, he uses a golf cart to play due to being born with a walking disability. MJ is also a Global Ambassador for Special Olympics Northern California, helping raise money and speaking to various groups about winning and overcoming adversity.

Adult kickball league

Danville will begin a new adult kickball league in the fall, with games played from 6:30-10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Sycamore Valley Park. Signups will be accepted beginning Aug. 14 and games will begin in September. The season will last eight weeks, plus playoffs.

The coed league will be open to players ages 18 and up, and no experience is necessary. The cost is

\$250 for resident teams and \$300 for nonresident teams. For more information, call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

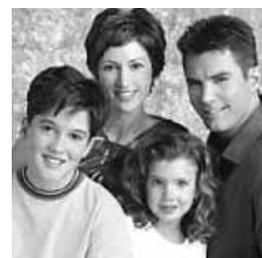
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Backstroke record-breaker

Spencer Peugh, 14, of Del Amigo Swim Team broke the team record for 13/14 boys 50-yard backstroke swimming against Diablo country Club on July 12 with a time of 28.25 seconds. The previous record, set last year, was 28.34 seconds, also set by Peugh.

BORN to BINGO

Danville seniors know it's all about fun, friends and five in a row

story by Dolores Fox Ciardelli
photos by Shannon Corey



Left, thrill
Right, card
seven



Bill Walsh stands on the stage of the Danville Veterans Hall, calling out the numbers. The plastic balls tumble in the machine until one pops out.

"B-12," Walsh says into the microphone. "B-12."

The room is silent as people concentrate on their bingo cards, most playing multiples, either propped up in stands or lying on the tables.

It's the gathering of the Danville Seniors Club, which meets from 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m. every Monday for bingo, line-dancing, bridge, mah jong and more.

"Some do four or five cards but two maxes me out," says Gerry Fuller with a laugh. She moved to Danville from Palm Desert to be near her daughter last year, and said she also comes here to play pinochle.

Walsh keeps varying the bingo games. One wins with all odd numbers. Another



Fran Britt, presi
relaxes with bin
eral meeting.

Britt, 86, had
husband in 1
during the Ja

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explained.

Matt Byrn
the bingo car

"I've been
belonged to
"I like all th
pany."

is "layer cake," which is the entire top, middle and bottom rows across. "Three postage stamps" means four squares in three of the corners.

"Every week it's the same thing," said president Fran Britt. "We have about 80 members but not everybody shows up. We have an attendance book and it's usually about 45, it depends."

There's a lot of history in this room.



Above, Marie Catilus chats with Maria Pires while they wait for a winner to be verified. Left: Louis Vitalis peers closely at the bingo cards to mark his numbers.



Eddie Murphy, who
from New York in
the seniors club.

Kathleen Kelsey, 90, is
ed to be a winner.

at, Matt Byrne sells the bingo
s each Monday, including
ral to himself.



dent of the Danville Seniors Club,
ngo after running the weekly gen-

l traveled to China with her
1935 and was trapped there
panese occupation.

Iraqis and it reminds me of
," she said, recalling being
evacuating her quarters. She
ina until 1954, working for
ican organization on recon-
er the war.

oved here from Hawaii in
ar her daughter after her hus-
-away, has been president of
ub since 2004. She conducts
eting of the club midday. It
he Pledge of Allegiance, a
he day and announcements.
a drawing for the cakes and
s donated by Safeway and

ers bring their own lunches.
y coffee and tea and have
d rolls from Safeway," Britt

e signs people in and sells
ds for \$1 each.

a in Danville 12 years and
the club 10 years," he said.
e people, the fun, the com-



Laurene Knedlik (left) and Gerry Fuller enjoy the
socializing as much as the bingo.

own. At least the parking dilemma near
the Veterans Hall was recently resolved
when the Danville police began to issue
permits to the seniors to park in the two-
hour zones for longer periods of time on
Mondays.

The club was founded in 1971 and its
35th anniversary is in September, which
of course calls for a celebration.

"We've invited the mayor and we're
trying to have entertainment," said Britt.

Meanwhile the Monday fun continues.

Walsh calls number after number until
someone yells: "Bingo!" It's Isabelle
Graber, looking cool in turquoise. The
numbers are verified, and Graber accepts
her \$10 bill with a smile. ■

The club also has trips once or twice a
year, usually to Reno or Indian casinos.
Membership costs \$10 a year; call 743-
4026.

Britt enjoys the club but laments the
fact that it doesn't have a site to call its



o moved to Danville
1988, said he loves



About 45 members generally attend the weekly get-togethers of the Danville Seniors club, held at the Veterans Hall on
Hartz Avenue and Prospect.



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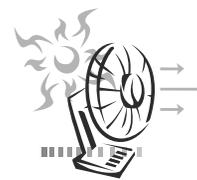


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	Under 30	\$170
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	35-39	\$244
	40-44	\$321
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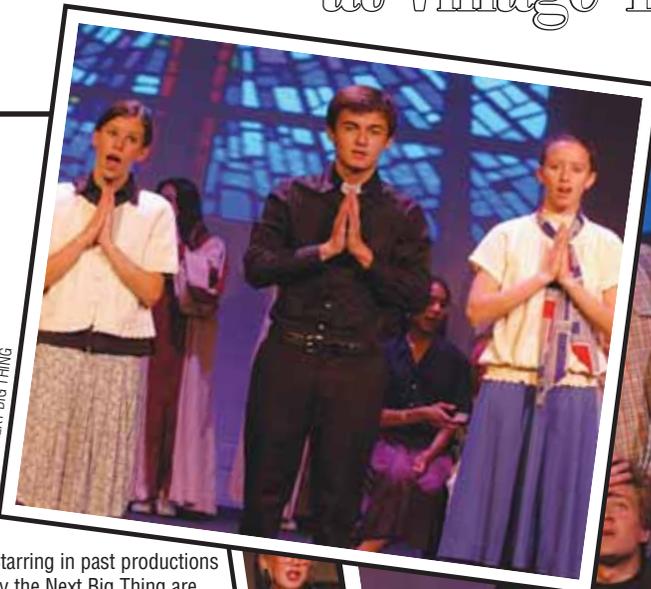
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Young stars shine at Village Theatre



Starring in past productions by the Next Big Thing are (top, l-r) Stephanie Rocco, Vanessa Williams, Kelly Flynn, Michèle Pfluger, Alexa Murphy; (middle) Marissa Murphy, Erich Ritter, Katie Montero; (right) Kelly Flynn, Max Filippoff, Kenny Allen, Jason Budge.

New generation hits the stage as the Next Big Thing

by B. Lynn Goodwin

A group of animated teens sits on the stage of the Village Theatre, dressed in costumes for the closing number of "Footloose." They are waiting for notes about their final dress rehearsal.

Carrie Blanding, "administrative goddess" and music director of Danville's Next Big Thing Theatre Company, stands before the crowd.

"I'll give notes tomorrow," she announces. "Right now, I have stars."

The cast buzzes with excitement, wondering who will be honored today.

"This is for somebody who was with us last summer and has really made progress. Drum roll, please..." Blanding says.

Hands drum against the varnished wooden floor as she announces an actor's name. A burst of cheers goes up, as a boy costumed in a black leather jacket comes forward.

Blanding repeats her presentation of stars and Next Big Thing pencils, accompanied by enthusiastic cheers from the crowd. One goes to someone who has "shown a lot of commitment," and another is given to a "round-faced bundle of joy." There is a star for someone who has "done a lot of great work," and "someone who is new and a welcome addition."

Everyone is valued here and the participants are bursting with pride. If they are not honored today, they know their turn will come.

Next Big Thing has been training performers from ages 8 to 18 in summer camps over the last five years. In addition to rehearsals, the camp offers audition workshops, field trips, dress-up days and game days, all leading up to quality performances. The talented staff plays a huge role in the growth of each performer.

Carrie Blanding and Erin McKevitt took over the company five years ago when the original director, Charlie Merenghi, left the area. He picked them for their energy, enthusiasm and devotion to the kids. Although Blanding has a background in arts administration, it is her directing talents that shine as she coaches and mentors the kids.

Erin McKevitt, who teaches drama at Borrello Middle School in San Mateo, is the "artistic genius" and choreogra-

pher. She puts on the same musical at Borrello that she will be working on with Next Big Thing, gaining experience with the script, the demands of the show, and even collecting costumes that can be reused. Like Blanding, she bubbles with enthusiasm and the kids love and respect her.

"Acting guru" and assistant director Jeff Morris was passionate about energy at the final dress rehearsal. He demands the best and he gets it. Who wouldn't want to please this dynamic director?

Summer intern Mia Filippakoff, aka Smithers, rounds out the staff, performing numerous tasks that are critical to the success of each production.

Blanding loves her relationship with the aspiring actors and with the staff. It's like "playing all day long," Blanding says. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

The Teen Camp, for ages 12 to 18, was so popular among returning performers this year that it was filled by March 3. Thirty of the 37 performers came back. That's a "big strength," Blanding said.

After three days of auditions, the Teen Camp had four weeks to mount "Footloose," which played to full houses in the Village Theatre on July 14-15.

Rising Stars Camp, for performers 8-12, is following. The camp culminates in the "Rising Stars Review," which will be performed at the Village Theatre at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10, and Friday, Aug. 11. Tickets cost \$6 for children and seniors, and \$10 for adults. Contact the Village Theatre Box Office at 314-3470.

"The review will include excerpts from productions we've done over the last five years since Erin and I took over—it's a five-year anniversary show," Blanding said.

Next Big Thing will offer performing arts camps again next summer and has information on its Web site, www.nibits.com. Sign up for the mailing list by e-mailing goddess@nibits.com. The camps will also be announced in the Town of Danville Parks and Recreation Activity Guide for Summer 2007.

Next Big Thing offers a great opportunity for kids who want to be part of a tight, upbeat, performing arts community. They try on roles and search for their special talent, knowing they will be performing soon.

"It provides a place for kids who don't have a niche elsewhere," Blanding said. They get recognition, a place to belong, respect and friends. Next Big Thing Children's Theatre is a place to build lasting skills—and memories. ■



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Keeping your cooking cool as temperatures rise

OK, everyone in the pool for dinner ... the cook is taking a couple days off!

When the temperatures get above 100 degrees, the last thing I look forward to is heading toward a warm kitchen and turning on the oven or stove. Yet, really warm weather forces most of us inside so it's usually the time you're likely to have a full house for meals. While other family members hover around the ice dispenser or take cold showers, the cook needs to stay cool, too.

One strategy is preparing meals with minimal cooking and maximum efficiency. No-sweat but how, you ask???? Here are a few suggestions:

- Do your prep work early in the morning and refrigerate various parts during the day; assemble and/or re-heat just before serving.
- Marinate meats and vegetables the night before then cook them on an outside grill after the sun sets.
- Bake or grill double portions of meats that can be used in hearty salads and casseroles. Employ the oven in the evenings or early mornings.
- Cook more dishes in two-day portions, alternate or modify second day servings so the family doesn't think "leftovers."
- Prepare your favorite baked casseroles as a chilled dish or convert them to cool versions.
- Pull out your favorite no-cook recipes now or try a new one.

• Consider purchasing healthy off-the-shelf or grocer-prepared ingredients to shorten your cooking processes. You can do wonders with a rotisserie chicken, a can of salmon or a bag of pre-cooked shrimp as the core ingredient. (Epicure Tip: Trader Joe's has a wealth of pre-cooked meats and ingredients in the dairy and frozen sections.)

To help everyone in the family stay cool, focus on dishes that can lower the body temperature or at least feel "cooler" and lighter to consume. Take advantage of seasonal ingredients that your family most enjoys. Think salads, fresh fruits and chilled soups. Think ice-cold beverages. Think frozen desserts. And, think easy to make, eat and clean up.

Below and at www.DanvilleWeekly.com is a collection of refreshing menu ideas, with a few no-cook recipes thrown in for good measure. My guess is you have a stack of recipes of your own that you haven't tried lately. Now is the perfect time to pull out those recipes and peruse them with a tall glass of lemonade in hand. Spend 30 minutes cooling off and re-discover a recipe that may save you at least that much time (or more) over a hot stove!

—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

Cool foods for hot weather

more recipes at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Cucumber/Zucchini Soup & California Garden Rolls

CUCUMBER ZUCCHINI SOUP (serves 2)

- 1 lb. zucchini, chopped
- 3/4 lb. seedless cucumber (usually plastic-wrapped), peeled and chopped (2 cups)
- 1/3 cup chopped sweet onion
- 1/4 cup white-wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tsp. fresh hot green pepper, chopped
- 1 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground coriander
- 1/2 cup crème fraîche (4 oz)

Purée zucchini, cucumber, onion, vinegar, water, chopped pepper, 1 tsp. of the salt, and 1/2 tsp. of the coriander in a blender until very smooth. Whisk remaining salt and coriander into crème fraîche. If not serving immediately, refrigerate until serving. Serve soup topped with dollops of crème fraîche.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN ROLLS (4 rolls for 2 servings)

- Four flour tortillas, 10-inches each (Note: Rice flour rolls may be substituted)
- 1/2 medium avocado, lightly mashed
- 12 leaves green- or red-leaf lettuce
- 4 small tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 cup shredded carrot
- 2 cup torn spinach leaves
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 2 cup shredded red cabbage
- 4 tsp. red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Spread the tortillas with avocado and top with lettuce and tomato. In a bowl, combine carrot, spinach, onion and cabbage; toss with vinegar; add salt and pepper to taste.

Divide salad among tortillas and top with cheese. Fold and roll the tortillas around the salad. Serve alone or with your favorite salad dressing on the side.

Grilled Ahi Niçoise Salad

(makes 6 servings)

Serve with mini-baquettes

Dressing:

- 3 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. Dijon-style mustard
- 1 tsp. anchovy paste
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme, crumbled
- 1/4 tsp. sugar
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 pound 1-inch-thick tuna steak, cut into 6 pieces and grilled
- 1 pound green or wax beans or a combination, trimmed and cut into 2-inch lengths
- red-leaf lettuce for lining the plates
- 1 red bell pepper, roasted and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 pint red or yellow cherry tomatoes or a combination, quartered
- 1 cup Niçoise (or Kalamata) olives, drained

In a small bowl or processor, whisk together the vinegar, mustard, anchovy paste, thyme, sugar, and salt and pepper to taste. Add the oil in a stream, whisking, and whisk the dressing until it is emulsified.

Set aside 2 Tbsp. of the dressing. Arrange the tuna pieces on a baking sheet, and brush them lightly with the mixture. Let the mixture stand for 15 minutes.

In a pot of boiling water, cook the beans for 5 minutes, or until they are crisp-tender. Drain them in a colander and transfer to an ice water bath. In another bowl toss the beans with 3 Tbsp. of the remaining dressing.

Grill the tuna for 2-1/2 minutes on each side; grill the red pepper in a tent of aluminum foil until crispy-tender. Line 6 plates with the lettuce, on each plate a piece of tuna, sliced diagonally, and divide the beans, roasted pepper, tomatoes and olives among the plates. Drizzle the remaining dressing over the salads or serve it separately.



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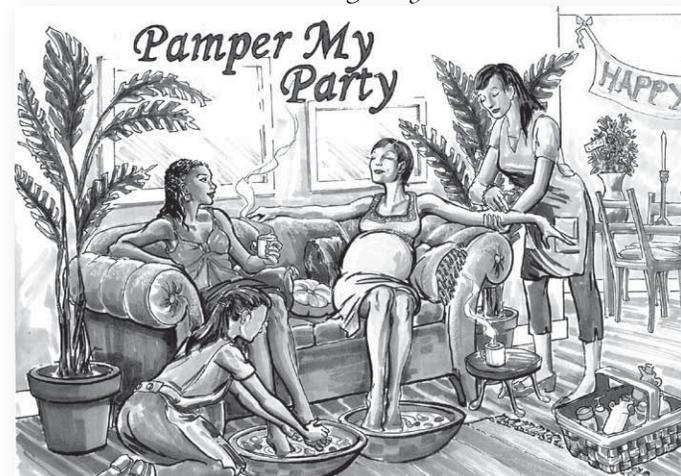
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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



A well-arranged school house

The San Ramon Grammar School, an all-wood structure, had two rooms with 13-foot ceilings and a bell tower. Carpenter Ebenizer Dole built the 46- by 26-foot school in 1867. According to the Contra Costa Gazette in 1874: "the building is one among the neatest and best arranged school houses in the county." In this circa 1900 photograph teacher Mary Wilson stands in front with her students and the San Ramon Methodist Church can be seen in the background.

Source: Picture from museum files; information from "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" by Beverly Lane and Ralph Cozine.



High school students (l-r) Mariel Lerma, Marah Deininger of San Ramon Valley High, and Amanda Miller analyze DNA samples at the Bio-Tech Summer Science Camp.

Learning biology, solving crimes

Twenty-five high school students from across the county had a chance to learn about the health-care and biotechnology fields at the third annual Bio-Tech Summer Science Camp, which was held the week of July 10-14 at the campus of Cal State East Bay in Concord.

The weeklong program included lectures, labs and field trips led by education administrators, law enforcement officials, and a congressional representative. The students learned about cloning, forensic science, and Mad Cow Disease,

among other topics.

Several interactive activities were also offered. The students visited the John Muir Hospital Clinical Lab, and even had a chance to work on their own mock crime scene investigation.

"The students are using some of the same forensic equipment they see on TV," said Julie Nevis, a teacher at Monte Vista High.

The Bio-Tech Summer Camp was begun due to the continuing growth of biotechnology jobs in the Bay Area.

OF NOTE

Danville glass art on display

Danville artist Rob Tribble will showcase his glass art at the San Francisco Fine Craft Show, which will take place from Aug. 11-13 at the Fort Mason Center.

Tribble will be among a group of more than 260 local and visiting artists. Known for his non-technical approach to glasswork, he has based much of his work on the areas he has lived, including Hawaii, Colorado, Italy and California.

Admission for one day is \$10; a two-day pass costs \$16. In addition to the art galleries, the event will include wine tastings from Northern California Vineyards.

To view Tribble's work, visit www.robtribble.com.

Becky Smith

Becky Smith, the principal of Monte Vista High School, was recently inducted into the 2006-07 edition of "The Heritage Registry of Who's Who." The program selects individuals who have demonstrated distinguished success in their fields of endeavor. Smith was included due to her record in the field of Education Services.

Italians give scholarships

The Italian American Federation awards scholarships to six students from the San Ramon Valley Unified School District: Jeff Tomasich from California High; Caitlin Rugg from San Ramon Valley; Stephanie Alberti from Monte Vista; and Stephanie Roberts, Sarah Blair and Matthew Felicelli from San Ramon Valley High. They attended a dinner in their honor at the Galileo Club in Richmond along with 14 other East Bay recipients.



AT THE MOVIES

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

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

An Inconvenient Truth (PG)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 p.m.
Ant Bully (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tu 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tue 11:30 a.m., 1:40, 3:50, 6, 8:10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:30, 4, 6:20, 8:45 p.m. Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tu 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m.
Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:30, 3:40, 5:55, 8:05, 10:20 p.m. Crow C. 6: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 1:50, 4, 7, 9:20 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues Noon, 12:50, 2:30, 3:20, 4:50, 5:40, 7:10, 8, 9:30 p.m.
Cars (G)	Century 14: Fri-Tu 11:05 a.m., 1:50, 4:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:05 p.m.
Clerks II (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 7:25, 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:50, 3:25, 5:45, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.
Click (PG-13)	Hacienda 20: Fri-Tues 10:45 a.m., 4:05, 6:55 p.m.
John Tucker Must Die (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:15, 3:30, 5:50, 8, 10:15 p.m. Hacienda 20: Fri-Tues 10:20 a.m., 12:40, 3:05, 5:25, 8:10, 10:25 p.m.; No show Tues 10:20 a.m.
Lady in the Water (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 9:10 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:30, 3, 7:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:35 p.m.
Little Man (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 1:25, 9:30 p.m.
Little Miss Sunshine (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:55, 2:55, 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:45, 9:10, 10:05 p.m.
Miami Vice (R)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:25, 4, 7, 10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tue 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:05 a.m., 1:15, 3:25, 4:25, 6:40, 7:35, 9:50, 10:45 p.m.
Monster House (PG)	Blackhawk 7: Fri-Tues 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:40, 10 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tue 12:20, 2:45, 5, 7:20, 9:30 p.m. Crow C. 6: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:15 a.m., 1, 3:25, 6, 8:20, 10:35 p.m.
My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:45, 7:30 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 5:30, 10:25 p.m. Hacienda 20: Fri-Tu 10 a.m., 12:35, 3, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50 p.m.; No show Tues 12:35, 10:50 p.m.
Night Listener (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:10 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tu Noon, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:10 a.m., 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:25, 10:45 p.m.
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)	Blackhawk 7: Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues Noon, 3:20, 6:40, 9:50 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tu 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40 p.m. Hacienda 20: Fr-Tu 12:05, 3:30, 6:45, 10:05, 10:30 pm
Scoop (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tu 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:40, 9:55 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tu 11:40 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:05, 9:40 p.m.
Superman Returns (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 10:30 p.m. Hacienda 20: Fri-Tu 11:55 a.m., 3:10, 6:35, 10 p.m. Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tu 4:15, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 1:05, 2:20, 3:45, 4:55, 6:20, 7:30, 8:55, 10:05 p.m. Crow C. 6: Fri-Tu 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10 p.m. Hacienda 20: Fri-Tues 11:10, 11:50 a.m., 1:55, 2:35, 4:40, 5:20, 7:25, 8:05, 10:10, 10:50 p.m.
The Descent (R)	Hacienda 20: Fri-Tu 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 p.m., Tu 12:25 p.m.; No show Tues 12:10 p.m.
The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35 p.m. Crow C. 6: Fri-Tu 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50 p.m. Hacienda 20: Fr-Tu 10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35 p.m.
World Trade Center (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 p.m.
You, Me, and Dupree (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:10, 5, 9:45 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40 p.m. Hacienda 20: Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:20, 3:55, 6:45, 9:30 p.m.

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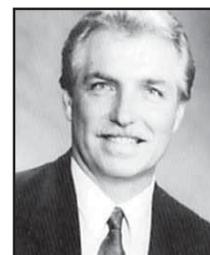
Example	30 year	40 years
Loan Amount	\$500,000	
1st Year Monthly Payment	\$1,608	\$1,264
2nd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,728	\$1,358
3rd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,857	\$1,460
4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
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Offer applies only to the 1-Month Option ARM. The interest rate/APR may increase after the first month. The interest rate may change more frequently than the minimum payment amount. The minimum payment is always the lowest payment that can be made each month. Making the minimum payment each month can result in negative amortization. All payment options are not available each month. In addition, on 15-year loans, only up to three payment options are available. Interest that accrues between the date of closing and the month preceding the month in which your first payment is due will be based on the higher of the start rates or the fully indexed rate. APR is effective 4/05/06. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only to borrowers with FICO scores equal to or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles. The APR and 1.000% start rate are also only available on purchase money and non cash-out refinance loans secured by 1-2 unit owner-occupied properties with terms of 15 and 30 years, Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios of up to 70% (purchase money and non cash out refinance) and loan amounts of up to \$1.5 million. Additional limitations and restrictions may apply. Higher rates may apply 1-Month Option ARMs with different parameters. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Alternative pricing options may be available. Ask a Washington Mutual loan consultant for details. Typical financing examples of a \$200,000 loan with an LTV of 70% and pre-paid finance charges of \$3,607.29, a starting interest rate of 1.000%, Index of 4.011%, a Margin of 1.875% and a fully Indexed Rate of 5.886%. On a 30-year loan the APR would be 5.982 and the 360 minimum monthly payments would vary from \$643.28 to \$1,374.20. On a 15-year loan the APR would be 6.052% and the 180 minimum monthly payments would vary from \$1,196.99 to \$1,891.35. Washington Mutual has loan offices and accepts application in: Washington Mutual Bank- many states; Washington Mutual Bank, doing business as Washington Mutual Bank, FA- many states; and Washington Mutual Banks fsb- ID, MT, UT.



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.

San Francisco Fine Craft Show

Danville artist Rob Tribble will show his glass art along with more than 260 artists at this craft show Aug. 11-13, at the Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. For information, call (212) 274-0630 or visit www.craftcouncil.org.

Author Visits

Nina Planck

Rakestraw Books will host Nina Planck, author of "Real Food: What to Eat and Why," at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 18, at the bookstore, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. She will be providing information to help us make the appropriate decisions in regard to food. The night will include dinner and "bring your own wine." The cost is \$25; reservations are required by calling 837-7337.

The Century House Poetry Readings

City of Pleasanton will host Matt Miller, guest poet at the Century House Poetry Readings event, from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 6, at 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Admission is \$5. Call 931-5350 or email PoetsLane@comcast.net.

Clubs

Alamo Merchants and Professional Association

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

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club

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

Danville Area Cultural Alliance

The Danville Area Cultural Alliance (DACA) will have a board meeting at 7 p.m., every third Monday of the month at the Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville. For information, call 838-1959 or visit www.danvilleareaculturalalliance.org.

Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman

This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit www.diablovalleyflyfish.org.

Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild

The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome (\$2 donation). Annual member-

ship fee is \$30 (\$20 for seniors 65+). For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

Diablo Valley Single Parents

This group meets at 6:30 p.m., on various days each month, and at different locations in the valley. Contact Rich at abersr@toast.net or 838-9487.

Diablo Valley Women in Business

This club will host a workshop called "Out of the Swamp" from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Friday, Aug. 11, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members, or \$30 for first time guests. Call 866-0260 or visit www.dvwb.org.

Friends of the Danville Library

Friends of the Danville Library are renewing annual memberships and recruiting new members to help support, raise funds and sponsor programs for the Danville library. There are many benefits of being a Friend including merchant discounts, volunteer opportunities and preview of book sales. Dues and donations are tax deductible. Application forms are at the library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4455.

Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society

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

San Ramon Valley Exchange Club

The next meeting will feature "Defense Support of Civil Emergencies" with Col. Mark Armstrong at noon, Wednesday, Aug. 9, at Faz, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$16. To reserve your spot, call 275-2412 or e-mail coachstepper@yahoo.com.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club

This club is for both "new" and "not so new" Tri-Valley residents. They invite prospective members to attend a luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 18, at Canyon Lakes Restaurant, San Ramon. To reserve your spot, call Jan at 735-3508.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75

The organization's next meeting will begin at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. The regularly scheduled meetings for July and August will be held on the third Thursday of the month. The Sept. meeting will return to the normally scheduled time. For information, call Post Commander Mac McCuskey at 837-2740 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

Alamo's Summer Concert Series

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

Mid-Summer Night's Piano Concert

This concert will include a program of Bach, Ravel, Schubert and Chopin performed by Juilliard-master John Boyajy from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 5, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Tickets are \$20. A dessert, wine and fine art reception will follow the performance. Call 838-1959.

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Fun in pajamas

Stars 2000 Teen Theatre, sponsored by the Diablo Light Opera Company, is presenting "The Pajama Game," with Danville resident (pictured) Stephen O'Malley who plays the lead part of Sid. The evening performances start at 8 p.m. with matinee performances at 2 p.m., until Aug. 6, at Diablo Valley College Center for the Performing Arts, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Tickets are \$10-13. Call 798-1300.



STARS 2000

Music in the Park

The Town of Danville is holding its 21st annual Music in the Park series from 6-8 p.m., Saturdays in August at Oak Hill Park, 3031 Stone Valley Road. The concerts are supported by East Bay BMW, Charterhouse Mortgage and Intero Real Estate. 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 the Blackhawk Plaza in Danville. The Chamber is now taking reservations for space; call 837-4400 or visit www.danvillechamber.com.

18th Annual Post Pebble Beach Open House

Blackhawk Museum will host the 18th annual Post Pebble Beach Open House including refreshments and light snacks provided by Scott's Seafood and Grill from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday, Aug. 21, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Music will be provided by Earl Watkins. Call 736-2280.

24th Annual Alamo Music and Wine Festival

Alamo Rotary presents the 24th annual Alamo Music and Wine Festival including music, wine and food from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9. All proceeds will benefit Alamo Schools Music Departments. For information, call Mark Kahn at 837-3262 or any Alamo Rotarian.

Family Sports Night

Bring the family to Old Town for an evening of sports-related demonstrations, activities and prizes from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17. For information, call Rick at 831-3188.

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. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com.

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., 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.

Inventions, Inc.

Blackhawk Museum will host "Inventions, Inc." explore how to make things out of household items that go, move, fly and bounce, from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 10, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Participants will color their own play dough and design and eat a treat that "moves." Free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

Moonlight on the Mountain

Save Mount Diablo will celebrate its 35th anniversary at its fifth annual Moonlight on the Mountain at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 2, near China Wall. The night will include an elegant dinner, auction and entertainment with the south slopes of Mount Diablo as the backdrop. Tickets are \$200 per person; RSVP by calling 947-3535.

Remember September 11

The Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley in cooperation with the Town of Danville and the City of San Ramon will present "Remember September 11" at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 11, at All Wars Memorial, Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road.

Speedway

Blackhawk Museum will host "Speedway" by exploring speed and making things that go fast from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 13, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Participants will design a balloon rocket car, play a race car game, and eat checkered flagged cookies. Free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

Summer Nights at the Livery

Summer Nights at the Livery will include live jazz, entertainment for the kids and special store offerings from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17. The Livery is located on San Ramon Valley Boulevard and Sycamore Valley Road West. Call 838-7070.



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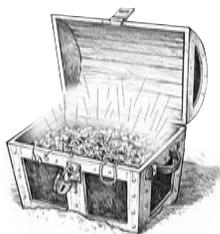
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Summer Series Under the Stars
Alameda County Fairgrounds and Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center present the first Summer Series Under the Stars. The performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sundays, during the month of August. Cost is \$12 for adults; \$8 for seniors/youth; children under 7 are free. For information, visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org or www.alamedacountyfair.com.

Wardrobe for Opportunity Open House

This organization will host a breakfast open house to create awareness from 8-9:30 a.m., Friday, Aug. 4, at the Pleasant Hill Boutique, 3496 Buskirk Avenue. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling (510) 463-4100, ext. 13, or e-mail maugenstein@wardrobe.org.

Exhibits

Best of the Best Art Exhibit

The Danville Fine Arts Gallery is spotlighting the "Best of the Best" work from the area's finest artists from now until Aug. 25. Gallery hours are from 1-6 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, located at 233 Front St., Danville. Call 838-1959.

One Room School House

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host the "One Room School House" exhibit from Aug. 4-Sept. 27. It will take you back to when blackboards, ink wells and feather quills were a sign of the times. Museum hours in August are 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday-Saturdays; in September they are 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays. Call 837-3750.

'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.

10K Red T-shirt Run

Hats Off America will host the 10K Red T-shirt Run and 5K Walk at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville. This event will benefit families of soldiers that have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. The cost is \$35, which includes T-shirt and BBQ. For information, contact Sparky at 855-1950 or thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

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.

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 now until October. Call 314-3476 or visit 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.

Lectures/ Workshops

Executive View of Challenges in Sales

Roberts Management Group Inc. presents "An Executive View of Challenges in the Sales Organization," from 8-10:30 a.m., Friday, Aug. 4, at its offices, Bishop Ranch 6, 2410

Camino Ramon, Suite 164, San Ramon. Cost is \$49, includes breakfast. Call 355-9300 or visit www.rob-ertsmangementgroup.com.

How to Bring a New Idea to Market

Contra Costa Small Business Development Center presents "How to Bring a New Idea or Product to Market: from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 10, at Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 646-5377 or e-mail cjensen@contracostasbdc.com.

Leads Group for B2B Business Developers

B2B Power Exchange presents a Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers from 7:45-10 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 17, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. Cost is free to members; \$40 for non-members. Call 201-3410 or visit www.b2b-powerexchange.com/dublin.

Market Research, Marketing Plan

Technology Ventures Corp. presents "Market Research and the Marketing Plan" from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 16, at Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 960-1600.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop

The Wellness Community presents a 12-week workshop for women who have been just diagnosed or are in treatment or starting treatment for breast cancer, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays, through Oct. 25, 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.

On Stage

Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway

Walnut Creek Honda and Oakland Acura present Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway with performances from the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Aug. 18-19 and at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 20, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$27 for general admission; \$25 for seniors and students. Call 943-SHOW (943-7469).

'The Pajama Game'

Stars 2000 Teen Theatre, which is sponsored by The Diablo Light Opera Company, is presenting "The Pajama Game" with many teens from Danville and Alamo. The evening performances start at 8 p.m. with matinee performances at 2 p.m., July 28-Aug. 6, at Diablo Valley College Center for the Performing Arts, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Tickets are \$10-13. Call 798-1300.

Spiritual

Thursday Evening Seminar

San Damiano Retreat presents Thursday Evening Summer Series on responding to God's yearning for us through journaling from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17, at San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost is \$15. Call 837-9141 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

Support Groups

ClutterLess Self Help Group

Is clutter stressing you out? This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Monday (except on a holiday, like Labor Day) at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 or 426-5311.

Danville TOPS

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

Hospice Offers Support

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa offers a variety of support groups and workshops for people experiencing grief and loss after the death of a loved one. Individual grief counseling for Hospice families is also available. Groups are offered from 7-9 p.m., Friday evenings at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo. All groups and workshops are offered without fee and require preregistration. For a schedule of groups in the Pleasant Hill area, for additional information and/or to register, call 887-5678.

Overeaters Anonymous

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

PFLAG

The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7:30 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.

San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support

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

Volunteering

Help Your Senior Neighbors

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

Lindsay Wildlife Museum

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

LPGA "Long's Challenge" Tournament

The LPGA "Long's Challenge" Tournament will be hosted by the Blackhawk Country Club from Monday-Sunday, Sept. 18-24 and they are looking for more than 800 volunteers to help make this event successful! To volunteer, contact Bonnie Guttman at 314-3395 or bguttman@ci.danville.ca.us. For information, visit www.longsdrgschallenge.com.

Make a Difference

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

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Hours: Mon-Sat 8-6

available for students and adults. For information, call Volunteer Coordinator Irma at 964-2098.

Role Players Ensemble Theatre

This Danville theatre company needs the assistance of a bookkeeper and/or treasurer to keep track of their income and expenses. To apply, call 820-1278 or e-mail danvilletheatre.com.

Trails Maintenance

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

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

TVAR will host two volunteer orientations from 1-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug.

12, and Sunday, Aug. 27, at the shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin. For information, contact Cathy Bergren at 426-2472 or calicocathy@yahoo.com.

Valley Children's Museum Needs Volunteers

If you are interested in working with kids, Valley Children's Museum is looking for you! For information about volunteer opportunities, call 461-6574, 3 # or e-mail Linda@valleychildrensmuseum.org.

Volunteers in Mission to Mississippi

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will be sending more teams of volunteers to work on storm damaged homes in Mississippi and they need your help! If you can get away from your "day job" for a week, please contact Chris Lotz at 837-3187 or cj_lotz@hotmail.com.

Xenia!

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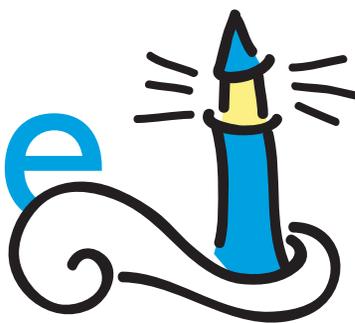
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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\$999,900

Livermore (gothouse.com), 4 BR/3 BA -
\$995,000

Livermore (gothouse.com), 5+ BR/4+
BA - \$999,800

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Livermore, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1,110,000

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report: 9 Must Avoid Buyer Traps
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Northstar Village, 3 BR/3 BA

FOR SALE: NEW CONDO, 3 BED/3BATH,
BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, FULLY FUR-
NISHED, TAHOE MTN CLUB MEMBER-
SHIP AVAIL. (925) 837-2315

San Ramon Bradywalsh.com, 3BR/2BA -
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Incline Village vacation home, panoramic
view of lake, 4 bed, 2 ba, sleeps 8
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NEW CONDO, FULLY FURNISHED

FOR RENT: NEW CONDO IN NORTHSTAR
VILLAGE, 3BED,3BA, BEAUTIFULLY
APPOINTED, FULLY FURNISHED, TAHOE
MTN CLUB MEMBERSHIP AVAIL.(925)
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NORTHSTAR - Ski Trail Condo

Remodeled 2Bd / 2 Ba
Ski In/Out. Holiday dates avail.
925-838-6261
email: wprcl@aol.com

Sierra Retreat in Arnold CA

Get away to this beautiful 3 bedroom 2.5
bath house plus loft & hot tub. \$450 for
2 nights. Inquire for more details at
925.997.0339

845 Out of Area

North Carolina

Gated Lakefront Community. Pleasantly
mild climate. 1.5 acres, 90 miles of
shoreline. Never offered before with
20% pre-development discounts, 90%
financing. Call 1-800-709-5253. (Cal-
SCAN)

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tureland, borders BLM. 1930's stone
homestead and barn ruins. Horseback
riding, hiking, hunting. Perfect ranch,
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365-4122. (Cal-SCAN)

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Tehachapi. Fresh mountain air and pic-
ture perfect views. Streams and oaks.
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buy and hold. Financing. Call owner 1-
888-821-5253. (Cal-SCAN)

Arizona - New to Market
36 AC - \$49,900. Perfect for private
retreat. Endless views, beautiful setting
w/fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife.
Secluded with good access. Financing
available. Call AZLR 1-877-301-5263.
(Cal-SCAN)

Arizona -1st Time Offer

Wickenburg area 36AC - \$189,900.
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)

Fish Lake Valley, NV.

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Trout Stream \$49,900 (Abuts BLM).
Eastern slope of White Mtns. Within
looming presence of Nevada's highest
peak and range. Snow covered year
round. Providing cool, clean water that
feeds the Rainbow Trout Creek which
borders the entire back boundary. One
of a kind! Inspiring, must see! Call 1-888-
581-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Lakefront Land Liquidation -

Private Wooded Parcel was \$69,900
now \$39,900; Lakeview Parcel was
\$149,900 now \$99,900. Competing pri-
orities and excess inventory for the
developer means limited time opportuni-
ty for substantial savings. Gorgeous set-
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Chattanooga. Level land to the water.
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rity gates! Call 1-877-593-9760 or visit
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Mining Settlement less than 2hrs
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Farming & Mining Community. Incredible
setting, including frequently running
river, spring, views and diverse topogra-
phy. Excellent financing. Call NML&R,
Inc. 1-888-370-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Pleasanton 1 acre 925-417-0806 -
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BKYARD, LOT APPROX 15,451 SQ FT
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Pet of the Week

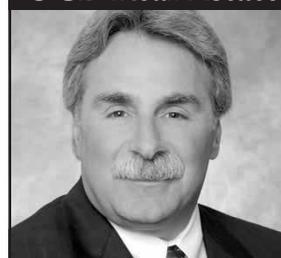


Catherine Hansen Rush

Get the skinny on Sam

So, here's the lowdown on
Sam the Dachshund. He
has short legs, a long
body and a big heart! Sam
is 7 years old, neutered
and weighs 28 pounds. He
loves treats and long
walks, a good combination
for keeping in shape. Sam
(pet #63196) is friendly
and active. He enjoys
socializing with people
and with most other dogs.
Sam is available for adop-
tion at the East County
Animal Shelter, 4595
Gleason Dr., Dublin, open
daily 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Call 803-7040. Visit
www.tvr.org for listings of
adoptable pets in Tri-Valley
Animal Rescues foster
care program.-

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OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

2 Bedrooms

137 Midland Wy. Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker	\$489,950 984-3060
416 Sycamore Cir. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$529,000 413-1068
2198 Shoshone Cir. Sun 1-4 Empire	\$695,000 984-1787
731 Glen Eagle Ct. Sun 1-4 Re/Max	\$715,000 242-8989

3 Bedrooms

140 Maiden Ln. Sun 1-4 Re/Max	\$1,099,000 362-0422
124 Lawnview Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	\$609,000 791-2548
4 Danville Oak Pl. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$639,000 413-1068
167 Heritage Park Dr. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$695,000 855-6410
1891 Ridgeland Cir. Sat 1-4 Intero	\$699,000 413-8353
20 Laurel Ct. Sun 1-4 CRH Group	\$765,000 216-8082
818 Luz Ct. Sun 11-1 Pacific Union	\$779,000 314-4803
42 Casablanca St. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$789,950 855-4072
24 Sage Hill Ct. Sat 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC	\$820,000 314-4805
186 Tivoli Ln.	\$824,000

Sun 1-4 Intero	413-1068
40 Casablanca Dr. Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel	\$879,000 209-7498
1193 River Rock Ln. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$915,000 855-4065
863 Orange Blossom Wy. Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero	\$959,000 855-4108

4 Bedrooms

73 Edgegate Ct. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$1,039,000 260-8883
104 Club Terr. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,050,000 997-1787
129 Parkhaven Dr. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$1,074,000 260-8883
3845 Sheffield Cir. Sun 1-4 Prudential CA	\$1,075,000 484-0900
131 Parkhaven Dr. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams	\$1,090,000 260-8883
84 Stowbridge Ct. Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	\$1,099,000 209-7498
141 Turrini Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,149,950 875-1738
368 Verona Ave. Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero	\$1,179,000 855-4108
1144 Trowbridge Wy. Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	\$1,189,000 323-6735
839 Buckingham Pl. Sun 1-4 Better Homes	\$1,195,000 785-4320
1024 Ocho Rios Dr. Sun 1-4 Prudential CA	\$1,199,000 314-2428
117 Merano St.	\$1,249,000

Sun 1-4 Empire	217-5048
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405 Mistral Ct. Sat 1-4 Intero	\$1,265,000 648-5324
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705 Mistral Ct. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,275,000 997-1001
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404 Plata Ct. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,344,900 855-4159
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20 Glenhill Ct. Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	\$1,375,000 876-6935
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302 Cliffside Dr. Sun 1-4 Prudential CA	\$1,427,000 876-5554
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1049 Ocho Rios Dr. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,489,000 648-5342
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371 Montair Dr. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,710,000 858-5233
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5098 Blackhawk Dr. Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	\$1,949,000 876-6935
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435 Bridgeside Cir. Sun 2-5 Pacific Union	\$739,000 314-4803
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1210 Sunshine Cir. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$749,900 855-4046
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126 Cameo Sun 1-4 Intero	\$879,000 838-4300
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315 Gil Blas Rd. Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero	\$895,000 855-4108
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18 Haskins Ranch Cir. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$899,000 855-4125
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25 Stirling Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero	\$899,900 819-7568
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5 Bedrooms

133 Conway Ct. Sun 1-4 Empire	\$1,050,000 351-5859
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26 Bormio Ct. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,499,000 984-1945
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2023 Scarlet Oak Pl. Sun 1-4 Re/Max	\$1,750,000 819-0660
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711 Camino Amigo Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,799,000 838-4300
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2013 Camino Ramon Pl. Sat 1-4; Sun 2:30-5 Empire	\$969,000 837-5679
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6 Bedrooms

251 Royal Palm Pl. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,175,000 855-4096
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1357 Lawrence Rd. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$2,899,000 788-6155
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265 Montego Dr. Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	\$4,480,000 209-3451
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Alamo

3 Bedrooms

1491 Laurenita Wy. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$999,000 838-4300
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4 Bedrooms

100 Daniel Dr. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,549,000 838-4300
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1606 Litina Ln. Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	\$1,699,000 323-6735
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5 Bedrooms

101 Daniel Dr. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,599,000 838-4300
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2618 Danville Blvd. Sun 1-4 Pacific Union	\$1,177,000 209-1131
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44 Stonecastle Ct. Sun 1-4 Intero	\$1,625,000 683-5165
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61 Vista Ln. Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel	\$1,895,000 323-6735
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230 St. Paul Dr. Sun 1-4 Empire	\$1,995,000 330-1846
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133 Mystic Pl. Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire	\$2,299,000 788-5827
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129 Linhares Ln. Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE	\$2,890,000 858-1797
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Diablo

6 Bedrooms

2315 Caballo Ranchero Sun 1-4 Empire	\$2,195,000 217-5048
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Carol Erbert **925.736.1666**



BLACKHAWK

Pepperwood District of Blackhawk C.C. **\$2,599,000**
Private, end of court surrounded by open space. 5bd, 3.5ba, large granite/stainless kitchen. Downstairs master and office. Pool, spa, outdoor kitchen.
Bonnie King **925.855.4072**



ALAMO

Privacy & Close to Town **\$1,798,950**
Beautiful gardens on this .7+/-acre. 2983+/-sf, 5bd, 3ba, updated and staged home. Enjoy sitting by the pool.
Constance R. Hughart **925.648.5328**



DANVILLE

Breathtaking Mt. Diablo Views **\$1,710,000**
Breathtaking views of Mt. Diablo and the Martinez straits from this spectacular 4bd, 3ba custom home on 1.77+/-acres close to downtown.
Ralph Sessa **925.858.5233**



ALAMO

Private Cul-de-sac Location **\$1,685,000**
Beautiful home shows pride of ownership. Newly remodeled kitchen with state of the art appliances and appointments. 4bd, 3.5ba.
Campbell Team-Chris Campbell **925.838.5700**



BLACKHAWK

Single Story with Carmel Charm **\$1,359,000**
Reduced!! Stunningly updated 4bd, 3ba single story with sparkling pool and spa. Serene and private setting on 10th fairway.
Vance and Sue Smith **925.648.5342**



BLACKHAWK

Stunning Location **\$1,299,900**
Gorgeous 4bd, 2.5ba, Sotillo tile throughout 1st floor, Andersen windows, custom paint in and out, new shake roof. Pool, spa, waterfall and more.
Bonnie King **925.855.4072**



BLACKHAWK

Backs to Open Space **\$1,189,000**
Beautiful 3bd, 2.5ba, largest plan golf villa with dramatic ceilings, marble tile entry. Spacious master suite on upper level. Secluded yard.
Larry Paparelli **925.648.7482**



DANVILLE

The Best of the Westside **\$1,179,000**
Over \$100K in recent upgrades including granite, hickory hardwood floors, dual pane windows. Large great room adjacent to kitchen.
Clarke Stone **925.855.4108**

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