

Ridgeline talk

Developer revises plan for house on a hill > **page 5**

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DanvilleWeekly

Check it out

Danville library
turns 10 with
fanfare and fun

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Danville

WEEKLY



Keep safe

August can be
dangerous time
for toddlers

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Origami master brings ancient art to new level

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a natural fold



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Q: Where does Danville need improvement?



I came here in 1962 so I've seen a lot of changes. The worse change is the amount of traffic; but I don't know how to fix the problem. I think an underground parking structure would be better than building up. Also, I hate to see the independent merchants going in and out of business so quickly. It seems they're only here a year and they're gone.

Anne Louise Van Hoomissen

travel agent/homemaker



I love the small town atmosphere of Danville, that's its charm, and I worry about losing that with more and more growth. I would hate to see more strip-mall type developments like the one at Trader Joe's—a parking lot surrounded on three sides by businesses. And we certainly don't need any more banks and real estate offices.

Terry O'Meara

museum docent



I think they should take out the stop sign on Diablo Road near Athenian School and replace it with a signal light. In the mornings when the kids are going to the high school, the traffic on Diablo really backs up with each car having to come to a complete stop at the sign. A signal would be much more efficient in keeping the traffic flowing.

Tom Tadler

chemist



It's such a great town, that's a hard question to answer. One thing that needs to be done is repair of the sidewalks; I recently fell because of the uneven sidewalk. Also, I hate to see soundwalls going up on 680. They cut out the view of the hills and the mountain as you travel down the highway. The traffic noise bounces off the walls and travels up the hills.

Lou Boscacci

retired



I don't have any problems with Danville. We've lived here over 20 years and plan to retire here. I've had a couple of negative experiences with the police over petty things like jay walking. We found some jewelry on the Iron Horse Trail and took it to the Police Department to turn it in and were told there is no procedure for that and were treated rudely.

Ed Houston

engineer

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ABOUT THE COVER

This Roosevelt elk was composed with a single piece of uncut paper by origami artist Robert Lang, designed as part of his collection of sculptures from the natural world. Behind the origami is a crease pattern Lang created using his computer program Treemaker, which directed him where to fold to create the elk. Cover photo and design by Jason Lind.

Vol. II, Number 15

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ If we cut down every tree that might fall, there wouldn't be any trees left. ”

—Chuck Jeffries, Contra Costa Vegetation Management Supervisor, commenting on trees and limbs that fell during the heat wave. See story, page 5.

New business cares for pets

Fur and Feathers Pet Sitting is a new business in Danville, begun by recently retired Realtor Barbara Monroe. She and her staff take care of dogs, cats and birds while the owner is away, mostly with daily visits but they can also provide companionship overnight, including in vacation homes.

The business charges \$25 per half hour of service. Monroe got the idea because she always used a pet sitter for Maggie, her Welsh terrier. Plus she had been taking care of pets for her clients and her friends for years, she said, adding that there are “amazing similarities” between pet sitting and being a Realtor.

Monroe said she has found many clients by walking up and down the Iron Horse Trail handing out business cards. “I call myself a real estate broker who has gone to the dogs,” she said.

Call Fur and Feathers Pet Sitting at 998-9317 or e-mail furfeatherpet@aol.com.

Library looking for teen advisors

The Danville Library is accepting applications for the 2006-07 Teen Advisory Board set to begin in fall 2006. Teenagers ages 13-18 who would like to play an active role in teen programming are encouraged to apply.

“We are looking for creative and energetic teen volunteers who are interested in making a difference at the Danville Library,” the notice said.

Members of the Teen Advisory Board will give input on teen services at the library, help select books for the young adult collection, and plan teen programs. Other reasons to participate are to meet other teens and because it will look great on college applications and resumes.

The Teen Advisory Board will have monthly meetings from October through June.

Applications are available at the information desk at the Danville Library. Its hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

SPCA looking for outstanding animals and people

The ASPCA is encouraging the public to nominate people or pets for its annual Humane Awards. The selected winners will be invited to attend the Humane Awards Luncheon in New York City on Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Rainbow Room.

Categories include “Dog of the Year” for a dog that performed a heroic act; “Cat of the Year” for a cat that performed a heroic act; “Legislator of the Year” for an activist who has advanced animal rights; and “Law Enforcement Officer of the Year,” for an officer who performed a heroic act to save an animal in the past year.

The nomination should include the nominee's name, category being entered, street address, e-mail address, telephone number, and a 75-word-or-less description of why they deserve the award. Deadline for entries is noon, Thursday, Aug. 31.

To nominate a person or an animal, visit the SPCA Web site at www.aspc.org/nominate or write to: ASPCA Humane Awards Nomination Committee, Special Events Department, 110 Fifth Ave., New York, NY, 10011.

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Timber! Falling branches pose peril due to heat wave

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Arborist Darrell Wise says he needs a nap. With more tree branches than raindrops falling lately, he's had a busy couple of weeks.

Sudden limb drop syndrome, a biological condition made worse by the recent 12-day heat wave, has begun causing trees in the Danville area to snap without warning.

"Branches break and hit cars or houses, and people get anxious for me to come and fix their trees," said Wise, a certified arborist who owns Tree Wise, a landscape and excavation service in Danville.

Large limbs have cracked and fallen into streets, walkways and driveways along Danville Boulevard, the Sycamore Homes Association neighborhood and the Iron Horse Trail. According to the Contra Costa Public Works Department, the problem is occurring throughout the county and

most of Northern California.

"I went out to go downtown and the whole driveway was blocked. I couldn't even take out the recycling," said longtime Alamo Resident Bob Mayre, who lives on the Iron Horse Trail.

Researchers are still learning about the syndrome, but they theorize that during periods of hot dry weather, trees suck more water into their branches. This causes the branches, which are already arid and brittle, to snap from the weight of the water.

"If we cut down every tree that might fall, there wouldn't be any trees left," said Chuck Jeffries, Contra Costa Vegetation Management Supervisor.

One woman reported hearing a loud crack and then seeing water spill out of a large branch, Jeffries said.

Softwood trees like liquid ambers, ashes and oaks have been most heavily impacted by the severe weather

in the area, Wise said.

Wise had to remove several large trees in Alamo and Danville last week as a result of the recent California heat wave, which brought Danville to temperatures above 100 degrees for nearly two consecutive weeks. He removed a 60-foot liquid amber at the end of July that was two feet in diameter on Ocho Rios Drive. And he may have to do the same thing to large oaks on El Pintado that are beginning to split off.

Now, residents have noticed that even though the temperature is cooling off, the trees are still struggling.

"There are still several huge branches coming off in Alamo," said Beverly Lane, who is compiling an archive of articles on trees for the Museum of San Ramon Valley.

Fallen debris can pose safety issues for both drivers and pedestrians. Along the Iron Horse Trail, branches pose a liability issue for



These eucalyptus branches near Alamo were probably victims of "sudden limb drop syndrome."

years in a row. He said the branches blocked walkways but didn't cause any terrible inconveniences.

Keeping trees pruned and trimmed at the top, where branches are weaker, is the best thing you can do to prevent sudden limb drop syndrome, Wise said.

"We can't change the weather or the defects in the tree. Regular maintenance and thinning trees is the best we can do," he said.

Large untrimmed oaks can cost more than \$3,000 to thin, but some residents say it's worth it not to lose the shade and privacy these trees provide their homes.

"People value their trees for shade to keep their houses cool," Mayre said, pointing out it has been vital during the hot spell.

For a place that has such a history of caring for and valuing trees, the impact has particularly jostled Danville and Alamo. In part it is because trees are what give the area much of its identity, Lane said. ■

the county, and can cause bikers and roller bladders to swerve, trip and crash.

Randy Ritter, property manager for Sycamore Homes Association has dealt with fallen branches during the hot summer months two

Britton still pressing for house on the hill

Planning Commission will review down-sized plans at Tuesday meeting

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

After getting rejected by the Town Planning Commission four times, developer Jeff Britton still plans to build a house on a major ridgeline in Danville.

"Either we're approved or we are going to fight," said a frustrated Britton, a Concord resident.

Britton and his associates presented a revised proposal to build a 7,124-square-foot home on a major ridgeline on Lawrence Road to the Danville Design Review Board at its meeting July 10. In previous sessions, the planning commissioners vehemently rejected Britton's proposal because it called for building a home on a major ridgeline, which would mar the town's beauty, they said.

Also, he failed to look at all possible locations, planning commissioners said at past meetings. But Britton said he looked at other locations and contends that building on the ridgeline is the best and safest spot for the house. His 10-acre parcel includes a middle and lower ridgeline.

He has cut out one of six garages and sliced a wing from the home's design, he said. The current size of the home is now between 5,550 and 6,550 square feet. Though he still plans to build the home on a major ridgeline, the project is not on top of it.

His property overlooks Blackhawk, the new development in Dougherty Valley, and a string of large homes across a valley.

"It's the safest spot to build," he said. "It's a challenge to please everyone."

► Continued on page 9



Jeff Britton stands on his property on a major ridgeline off Camino Tassajara in east Danville and points toward Mount Diablo and valley below. He is returning to the Planning Commission next week with revised plans to build on the property.

New facilities nearing completion at high schools

Superintendent cites new library, cafeteria, gym, classrooms being built with Measure A funds

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Brand new facilities for students and faculty to use are almost ready at San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista high schools, said Robert Kessler, school district superintendent.

Kessler gave a summary of Measure A projects at the two Danville high schools that are completed or will be finished in the next

couple of years to the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 3.

At San Ramon Valley, workers finished construction of a two-story library and a cafeteria, and they will be operational by the start of the new school year.

"Building up instead of out allows us to create more space and improve the functionality of the schools," said Terry Koehne, spokesman for the San Ramon

Valley Unified School District.

The library and cafeteria are attached and will have a designated commons area. The cafeteria includes a modern kitchen and will allow students to eat lunch indoors.

The library will have computers, and the commons area will have a video and television production facility, Koehne said.

Additionally, an instrumental and choral music building will be

built next to the school's new performing arts center. A new sound-proof drum room will be part of the music facility, Kessler said.

"It's just fantastic," said Kessler. He added that a new gymnasium is being built at San Ramon high.

The estimated cost of the Measure A projects at San Ramon Valley High is approximately \$12 million.

At Monte Vista, the 400-space parking lot across the street from the

school at Humphrey Ranch, with a traffic signal on Stone Valley Road, will be finished by October. In addition, the district will use half a dozen portable classrooms this school year as it builds the foundation for a two-story classroom building, which will include a commons area and space for culinary classes.

The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$14 million, Koehne said. ■



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CARRIE GRIME

Danville squirrel lies spread-eagled on the ground to cool off.

Heat stresses wildlife

People weren't the only ones dealing with extreme temperatures

by **Kevin Zhou**

As a record heat wave gripped the area for almost all of last month, most people quickly became frustrated with the unbearable temperatures. But while they had the luxury of seeking refuge in air-conditioned places, the wildlife did not.

With temperatures easily topping more than 100 degrees, animals accustomed to the normally mild climate suffered from the overwhelming heat. In particular, squirrels and birds experienced difficulty.

"It's in the 90s pretty regularly, but when it gets over that, it causes trouble for them, just like the humans," said Sherrill Cook, a spokeswoman for the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek. "Most of them suffer from dehydration. They don't have trouble finding water; they're just not used to those extreme temperatures."

Normally, animals are able to easily adapt to temperature changes. When summer begins and the temperatures begin to warm up, most animals will find the coolest spots they can, such as damp, breezy or shady areas. Some will nest in the ground or sit in a tree where it is usually much cooler.

However, the spike in temperatures

led to heat exhaustion among the wildlife. In a span of three days, the museum's hospital tended to more than 150 wild animals.

"There were a lot of illnesses and probably some deaths," said Cook. "Like most other extremes, it's the youngsters and older animals that have the most problems."

Good Samaritans tried to lend a hand by tending to the animals that were stuck in the heat.

"This squirrel was so funny, he lives in the redwood tree in our front yard," said Carrie Grime, a Danville resident. "My husband sprayed him with the hose and he just sat there and got drenched. Then the next day, he was on the ground cooling off, spread-eagled. I've never seen him lay on the ground, he was so hot."

While hosing off an animal isn't recommended because it may scare it away, water can be a source of much needed relief, said Cook. Effective ways to cool off animals include misting the air or leaving out drinking water.

"You can have a hose and let the animal choose to go into the stream," said Cook. "Some of them will run through the sprinklers. If the animal looks like it's suffering from heat, bring it in."

However, people should not provide the animals with any food or salt licks.

"You don't want them to become dependent on our generosity," said Cook. "They may get too accustomed to people and lose their fear of people. You don't want that to happen." ■



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A future in clay?

Dick Short of Alamo sculpts a woman's face as two boys outside of Christie James Jewelry on Hartz Avenue ask him questions at the Danville Art and Wine Walk on Aug. 3. Short specializes in life-sized portraits to memorialize family members and to honor influential people, and is a Danville Area Cultural Alliance featured artist. Eleven other local painters and sculptors demonstrated their work as participants tasted wines and wandered along the streets of downtown Danville.

NATALIE ONELLI

Be careful! Accidents pandemic in August

Medical Center releases safety tips for parents

by Kevin Zhou

August is the most dangerous month for children, according to the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and it has released a report detailing common injuries witnessed in its emergency room, with tips on what parents can do to prevent them.

The report lists a number of hazardous accidents that often occur this month, ranging from falls to burns. The most frequent type of accidents are water-related injuries since many children are in the pool at this time of year.

"People have gotten relaxed around their pools," said Vicki Lofquist, Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. "Their parents feel a little more confident about their skills so this is a dangerous time."

Most accidents typically involve children under 5, she said. In addition to their limited ability to swim, they tend to be more curious and

fail to comprehend the consequences of their actions.

"Parents need to be vigilant and can never ever leave them, not even with a swimming vest on," said Lofquist.

While most water-related injuries tend to occur among younger children, adolescents and teenagers are not immune to these accidents.

"Older kids are at risk because they play games," said Lofquist. "If they run into trouble, one may try to save them and they both end up drowning."

To avoid such problems from arising, parents should keep a close eye on their children at all times when they are around water. Remember to always lock pool gates, especially after construction or gardening has taken place around the area.

Another common injury stems from sun-related burns. As families head to vacations on the beach before school starts, they often forget to pack sunscreen and other forms of protective clothing, resulting in sunburn.

Dehydration and heat stroke are

other common problems. Some signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which require immediate medical attention, include hot and red skin, dizziness, nausea, rapid pulse and fever.

"Children get dehydrated quickly, especially on a hot day," said Lofquist. "Make sure water is available."

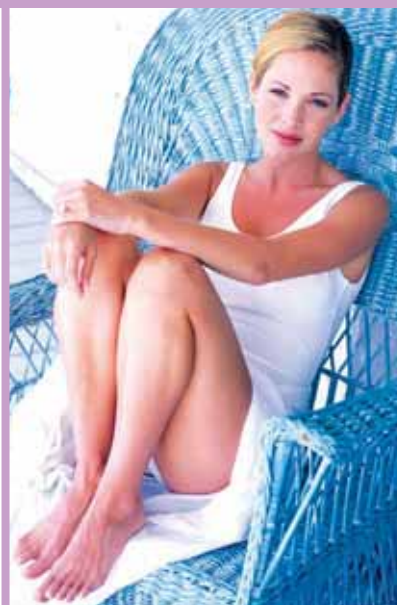
While most cases are simply accidents, many result from carelessness or recklessness and are certainly preventable. Car accidents could become fatal if children or teenagers are not wearing seatbelts; heat stroke could occur if children are left alone in a car; and children could drown if they are not supervised in the pool.

"Teenagers are home from school and they tend to drive fast and not so cautiously," said Lofquist.

"I've seen toddlers falling off of balconies when windows were left open. With toddlers being out at barbecues, they are naturally curious about things and burns are very common injuries."

She summed up her warnings: "We just urge caution." ■

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Sisters in space

Nancy Quintel and Becky Wittmer carried the Danville Weekly all over Florida during their trip last winter, including to the Kennedy Space Center in Orsino.

Ridge

► Continued from page 5

He noted that if the home is built on the ridgeline, it would not slide downward.

The members of the Design Review Board commented that the changes are small and moving the house downward would increase Britton's chances for getting his project approved. But they said they had no power for approval and told Britton to present his plan to the Planning Commission at its meeting Tuesday, Aug. 15, which will be held at the Danville Town Meeting Hall.

However, Planning Commissioner Robert Combs, who is also a member of the Design Review Board, said he was still dissatisfied with the changes. Board members said though it's a smaller house, it has not changed much from previous meetings.

In January, the planning commissioners told Britton to look at all possible options regarding building a home on a major ridgeline at the end of Lawrence Road off Camino Tassajara. He first submitted the proposal last August.

The developer's proposal stalled because of a Danville ordinance

preserving hillsides and major ridgeline areas with significant natural features. Hilltops and ridgelines also comprise a large part of natural open space and scenic resources in the community, officials said.

Since most of the valley has been developed, pressure is increasing to build on the surrounding hillsides, according to the Historic/Ridgeline Danville Guidelines. The hillsides form an important visual backdrop for the urbanized areas and contribute substantially to the unique visual character of Danville, the guidelines said.

Britton said his company has followed all the rules in developing its proposal, and he believes his project will be approved. He also said he does not wish to fight the Planning Commission, but said he has invested a lot in the project.

"I'm not getting paid if the deal is not done," he said. "If they are not going to approve it, we are going to court. ■"



Jeff Britton



COURTESY DANVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Meeting the chief

Danville Police Department Chief Chris Wenzel meets young residents of Blackstone Court in Danville at a National Night Out event, when residents in neighborhoods across the country gather to meet each other and talk about ways to keep their neighborhoods safe. Police attend the registered gatherings to answer questions, distribute literature on crime prevention, and to hand out goodies to the children. Twelve Danville neighborhoods participated this year.

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Whodunit?

It was a dark and stormy night. Actually it was a lovely summer night but a Night of Mystery still sounded like fun.

I listen to mystery books on tape in the car quite often. Books on tape are wonderful because they add enjoyment to a drive that is otherwise tedious, but I admit it is a totally unnatural way to “read.” You have to stop when you arrive at your destination rather than at the end of a chapter or when you fall asleep, probably not what the author intended either. With a mystery on tape, I often have trouble getting out of the car—my drive may be over but my mental journey continues. Plus I can’t wait to find out whodunit—I need a longer commute.

The mystery night was at the Danville Library, kicking off its 10th anniversary celebration. The moderator was Camille Minichino, who has written seven mysteries based on the Periodic Table, such as “The Hydrogen Murder,” “The Helium Murder,” etc. She was handing out little cards with the Periodic Table, which gave me a flashback to my senior year in high school when my brother-in-law-to-be, a chemist, gave me a massive chart of the Periodic Table that I dutifully hung on my bedroom wall to help me pass chemistry. Not the preference of teenage girls for decorating but I did pass.

Minichino, who has a Ph.D. in physics from Fordham University and works at the Livermore Lab, also teaches writing and is president of the NorCal Sisters in Crime. What a great name! I can’t decide if I really like mysteries or just their names. For instance, the guest authors last Thursday were Simon Wood, who wrote “Working Stiffs” and “Accidents Waiting to Happen”; and Margaret Dumas, author of “How to Succeed in Murder.”

The three had a lively discussion on their particular genre and noted that publishers only want books which can be readily defined for easy marketing. These three writers all have technical backgrounds and said they probably chose their subject matter because it is structured, with a body discovered and subplots to add to the tension.

Wood, an engineer, is from England, and said in the U.K. the genre is called “crime” rather than “mystery” so it covers a broader spectrum. He explained he writes crime and suspense thrillers. He told us he grew up on the “rougher side of town” and is fascinated by the idea that we live life on a knife’s edge and anyone can fall off at any time.

Dumas was a technical writer and

finally had time to write when she was laid off. She said she gave her book a high tech setting because that is where she’d met people she wanted to kill off. She made her lead character thin, beautiful and incredibly rich—“me in my wildest imagination.” Publishers balked at first because her book was hard to pigeonhole, bordering on chick lit, although they settled on “contemporary comedic mystery set in San Francisco.” Dumas said she was more interested in creating the architecture of a mystery novel than the grisly facts. But her second book, “The Balance Thing,” dropped the murder and is pure chick lit, “a Bridget Jones for the Bay Area.”

The three agreed the best background for a writer is a degree in marketing. They also guessed there are probably more people who want to write a book than who want to read a book.

Minichino, on the other hand, has a cousin who is an embalmer and she finds the grisly facts fascinating. Someone in the audience complimented her books for their sense of adventure. Minichino said she enjoys writing about people with qualities she herself does not possess, and added that at first she had trouble getting a scientist do anything wrong.

Several in the audience asked for tips on how to get started writing and were assured there is plenty of help out there. “There is a huge for-profit industry ready to show you how to do this,” said Dumas. The three agreed the best background for a writer is a degree in marketing! They also guessed there are probably more people who want to write a book than who want to read a book.

That settles it. I’m sticking to journalism, and the great novel inside me will have to stay there. Plus I pledge to do my duty as a reader—starting with the three mysteries I bought from the authors last week. I will not wait for a dark and stormy night. ■

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PUBLISHER

Deborah Acosta McKeenan

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

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BUSINESS

Office Manager

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Lisa Oefelein

Circulation Manager

Bob Lampkin, ext. 32

How to reach the Weekly

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100

Danville, CA 94526

Phone: (925) 837-8300

Fax: (925) 837-2278

Editorial e-mail:

Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

Calendar@DanvilleWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Happy birthday, Danville library

The “new” Danville Public Library celebrated its 10th birthday last week and we offer our congratulations. Now, 10 years after being opened, the Danville library and community center are everything the planners envisioned. The attractive buildings have settled gracefully into their surroundings, and it is difficult to remember a time when they weren’t there. Front Street Park across the street is an extension of the restful setting, and its commemorative artwork with the bronze words of playwright Eugene O’Neill reflect back across the street to the library, our literary warehouse.

It takes foresight and determination to plan proper library facilities, which Walnut Creek is finding as it struggles for money to replace its outdated building.

Danville has the distinction of having provided its own funds to build its new library: The Danville Library Foundation was instrumental in raising much of the \$9 million needed for the library project, and the Town of Danville contributed the rest, drawing on a fund begun in 1982, soon after the town incorporated. The perfect location became available when the San Ramon Valley Unified School District relocated Charlotte Wood Middle School to its new campus on El Capitan Drive, vacating 10 acres on Front Street. The town was able to earmark three acres for its facilities while the remaining acres were developed with homes.

When the new Danville library opened 10 years ago, the only thing missing seemed to be enough books to fill the high-ceilinged interior. But the collection has since doubled, with books being donated by community groups as well as individuals. It not only has shelves full of books to check out but reference books and 16 computers with high-speed Internet access. Based on the number of items checked out, the Danville library has the distinction of being the busiest of the 23 community libraries in the Contra Costa County Library System. Congratulations to everyone involved.

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When the new Danville library opened 10 years ago, the only thing missing seemed to be enough books.

YOUR TURN

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

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LETTERS

Special education—our ‘dirty little secret’

Dear Editor:

An article praising San Ramon Valley Unified School District for purchasing history books for special education students ran June 2. Is the public supposed to be impressed? It states that these students have either had no books or outdated books. The article states that health, science, language arts and English books are yet to come. If this article had read “general education students,” would these administrators still have jobs?

Another article (July 21) states that angry parents met with Assemblyman Guy Houston regarding the problematic special education programs. Trustee Nancy Petsuch states that the board wants to meet with parents, however when the board was asked to place special education on the agenda last year, they refused. When I asked to meet with Superintendent Robert Kessler regarding the lack of a credible program for my child, he refused.

I presented samples showing identical work from fourth and 10th grades as well as packets of work from 10th grade identical to 11th grade. Another parent voiced similar concerns at his child’s school, indicating that the problems of repeating the same lessons year after year is systemic and an administrative problem. This concern was brought to the attention of the school board and superintendent years ago.

Our district is spending millions, not thousands, on legal fees to go after parents of special needs children. In the last four years since the board promised reform after it spent \$126,900 in legal fees, it has spent well over \$2 million to this legal firm, but can’t seem to be able to buy our kids an English book.

Our community has one dirty little secret—special education—and it is costing all of us.

Tammy Brock, San Ramon

Code of ethics

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

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE LOG

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

Monday, July 31

- Vandalism on Fairway Dr. at 8:21 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on

- Railroad Ave. at 8:35 a.m.
- Vandalism on Dolphin Ct. at 4:21 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- Auto burglary on Borica Dr. at 6:25 a.m.
- Vehicle stolen, arrest, on Blemer Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 7:40 a.m.

- Petty theft from vehicle on Verona Ave. at 10:30 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Borel Ln. at 10:33 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara at 1:03 p.m.
- Vandalism on Woodranch Cir. at 1:27 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Alta Vista Way at 5:24 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 2

- Suspicious circumstances on La Pera Cir. at 9:57 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Waterman Cir. at 10:23 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Camino Tassajara at 11 a.m.
- Warrant arrest on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:44 p.m.
- Possession of narcotic drugs, arrest, on Camino Tassajara at 10:11 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Hope Ln. at 10:47 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 3

- Commercial burglary on W. El Pintado Rd. at 8:51 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 2:13 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on El Cajon Dr. at 10:15 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Camino Tassajara at 10:28 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 4

- Commercial burglary on Camino

- Tassajara at 6:46 a.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on Starmont Ct. at 6:35 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Hartz Ave. at 7:37 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on El Rio Rd. and Romae Ct. at 8:48 p.m.
- Under the influence of drugs, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 10:54 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 5

- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:38 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on La Gonda Way at 12:02 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Capitan Dr. at 10:28 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 6

- Drunk in public on Roberts Ct. at 1:11 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Borel Ln. at 9:45 a.m.
- Vandalism on Versailles Ct. at 2:38 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 7:37 p.m.

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

ALAMO

Monday, July 31

- Petty theft, all other, on Garydale Ct.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- Armed robbery on Danville Blvd.

Wednesday, August 2

- Domestic violence on Via Robles

Friday, Aug. 4

- Vandalism on Romley Ln.
- Vandalism on Miranda Ave.

Saturday, Aug. 5

- Suspicious circumstances on Via Lucia Ln.

Sunday, Aug. 6

- Suspicious circumstances on Danville Blvd.
- Felony battery at Alamo Plaza

BLACKHAWK

Monday, July 31

- Vandalism on Quail Walk Ln.

Wednesday, Aug. 2

- Residential burglary on Sequoia Terrace

Thursday, Aug. 3

- Domestic disturbance on Kingswood Dr.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
- Credit card fraud on Deer Crest Dr.
- Felony vandalism on Blackhawk Rd.

ROUNDHILL

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- Felony embezzlement on Roundhill Dr.

POLICE BULLETIN

Armed robbery at Alamo Liquors

An armed robber stole an undisclosed amount of money from Alamo Liquors on Danville Boulevard last week, said Jimmy Lee, spokesman for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

The robber, described as a black male in his late 20s and wearing a green mask and a baseball cap, entered the liquor store around 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 1. He flashed a handgun to a cashier and demanded money from the register, Lee said. Afterward, he ordered the employee to give him his wallet.

As the robber exited the store, a male customer was coming in. The robber again flashed his gun, and the man gave his wallet to the robber, Lee said.

The robber fled in a bright blue 1980s Chevrolet Impala, according to witnesses, which was driven by another male in his late 20s. Police did not know where they went, Lee said.

An employee at Alamo Liquors said Tuesday that workers are doing fine.

The suspect is described as 5 feet 10 inches, 200 pounds. Anyone with information about the robbery can call the Sheriff's Office at 313-2600.

—Jordan M. Doronila



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Hox, Sea Lions dual champs at League meet

Swimmers set 13 new meet records at Chabot College

by Howard Klein

After a long, suspense-filled Valley Swim Association Championship meet Saturday that saw 13 records broken, the Blackhawk Hox and the Crow Canyon Sea Lions ended as champs in a tie with 2,428 points each. Round Hill finished with a strong third about 120 points behind.

The 1,500 swimmers began arriving at Chabot College in Hayward before 6 a.m.

For the past few years, the Valley Swim Association (VSA), which is comprised of nine swim teams from the Alamo-Danville-San Ramon area, has been the premier recreational swim league in Contra Costa County. In 2004 and 2005 the county swim champions were VSA teams, and last year the three highest scoring teams at the County Championship meet all hailed from

the VSA. Furthermore, this season, those three teams—Crow Canyon Sea Lions, Blackhawk Hox, Round Hill Heat—all swam tight dual meets against each other.

Suspense built throughout the day. It took only four events before the first of what would be 13 new meet records was set during the course of a very long day. That race, the 9-10 boys 100 yard IM was won by Dillon Williams of Crow Canyon. The stage was set; throughout the rest of the day, records fell as swimmers from Crow Canyon, Blackhawk and Round Hill, along with the other VSA teams—Sycamore Stingrays, Danville Sea Devils, Del Amigo Dolphins, San Ramon Aquacats, Club Sport of San Ramon Marlins, and the Diablo Sharks—battled it out in the Chabot pool.

At the end of the breaststroke events, with slightly more than half of the meet finished, Crow Canyon clung to a slim lead over Round Hill, with Blackhawk in a solid third place. After backstroke, Crow Canyon had extended its



Blackhawk HOX hold aloft Allyson Vella as they celebrate their tied victory.

lead to more than 140 points over Blackhawk, who had edged above Round Hill. By the end of the butterfly events, Blackhawk would still be trailing Crow Canyon, but by chopping off more than 100 points from the lead, trailed by a mere 36 points.

All that remained were the freestyle relays. Of the 12 freestyle relay events, Blackhawk won six and Crow Canyon won five. But with the top 16 places scoring and each team able to score points for second relays, it was impossible to predict the outcome.

As teams waited by the pool, officials huddled over the computer, churning out results. The results, tabulated, checked, and checked again, were finally ready. Reactions ranging from jubilation to disbelief swept over the crowd, which finally made its way to the



Action was intense at the Valley Swim Association League Championship.

parking lot after a long day of swim races.

Moving up to fourth place and entering the A Division for the first time were the Diablo Sharks, who finished 200 points ahead of fifth place Del Amigo. Rounding out the standings were San Ramon (sixth), Danville (seventh), Sycamore (eighth), and Club Sport (ninth). Club Sport was awarded the most improved team, adding more than 200 points to their 2005 total.

Beside Dillon Williams' record in the 100 IM, other records were set by Crow Canyon were: Daniella Orlandi (9-10 fly), Byron Gruendl (13-14 free), and Dillon Williams again (9-10 fly). Blackhawk record setters were Makenna Turner (6 & under fly), Georgi Cappelletti (15-18 free), Forrest White (7-8 back), Noah Sol (7-8 breast), David Morgan (9-10 free), and Steven Stumph (11-12 IM). Charlotte Meier of Del Amigo set the 6 & under back record, Natalie

Knowles of Diablo set the 7-8 back record, and Christina Ray of Round Hill set the 11-12 free record.

High Point awards were given to the following swimmers who placed first in two of their individual events: 6 & under girl—Charlotte Meier (Del Amigo), 6 & under boy Sean Gerberich (Blackhawk), 7/8 girl(s) Abigail Miller (Blackhawk) and Natalie Knowles (Diablo), 7/8 boy(s) Forrest White (Blackhawk) and Connor Doyle (Crow Canyon), 9/10 girl(s) Jennifer Barcelona and Daniella Orlandi (both from Crow Canyon), 9/10 boy Dillon Williams (Crow Canyon), 11/12 girl(s) Madison White (Blackhawk) and Christina Ray (Roundhill), 11/12 boy Stephen Stumph (Blackhawk), 13/14 girls Diedre Clute and Kelly Peterson (both from Roundhill), 13/14 boy Byron Gruendl (Crow Canyon), 15/18 girl Georgi Cappelletti (Blackhawk), 15/18 boy Chris Glass (Crow Canyon).

Howard Klein is team president of the Blackhawk Hox.

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a natural fold

Origami master brings ancient art to new level

written by Natalie O'Neill
photos by Jason Lind

When it comes to paper, Robert Lang likes to push the envelope. "I have a contrary streak. You can see that in my origami," he says.

As one of the world's most celebrated origami artists, the Alamo resident has broken records, written a series of books, and created computer programs for designing original pieces.

And we're not talking about paper cranes, either.

His intricately detailed paper sculptures can take months to compose and have been shown in art galleries and museums from here to Japan.

"I don't make origami that is soft and warm, that you'd want to cuddle with," he says.

Specializing in creatures of the natural world, the retired physicist designs everything from moose to mollusks, using mathematic algorithms to plan out his sculptures. But what Lang is really passionate about are origami insects—realistic, tediously hand-folded sculptures that have wings, antennae and even scales.

"I've had people tell me they look so real they want to step on them," he says with a laugh.

Rules for the art are simple, which is what makes it so complex. Origami makers must use only one piece of square paper and are not allowed to tear or cut it in any way. Since around 600 A.D., artists have folded and unfolded paper until it resembles objects, plants, animals and

other geometric designs.

Stylistically, it has grown drastically more detailed and complicated in the last 50 years, says Jan Polish, origami enthusiast and board member of Origami USA. Modular origami, in which folders use several pieces of paper, has recently become a popular way to create complex figures. Lang, however, still follows the more difficult traditional style, using feet of uncut tissue paper, origamido paper, or Korean Hanji paper.

"You used to see a cicada made with 10 folds, now you can find one by Robert Lang that is anatomically correct," Polish says.

In this day and age, origami is a culture of its own. Competitive, cutting-edge origami artists use computer programs like Lang's Treemaker to design one-of-a-kind sculptures. Elite origami conventions and meetings are held internationally and professors at Massachusetts Institute of Technology have even begun teaching origami mathematics and theory, thanks to Lang.

"The technical revolution has transformed origami from child's play into a rich sculptural art," says Dr. Erik Demaine, MIT professor and leading theorist in the field of origami mathematics.

"With origami, you use math to go beyond what you can imagine," Polish says.

But math doesn't just help origami; origami helps math. Airbags and expandable space telescopes have been improved using Lang's algorithms. His mathematics has

assisted physicists in finding precise folds to increase the area of material a small container can hold.

In the world of origami and mathematics, Lang is royalty. You just can't talk about ground-breaking origami without his name popping up, Polish says.

So what's his secret? Just passion and practice, he says without hesitation. Years of developing mathematic concepts obviously play a role, but it all centers around his obsession with insects and nature.

Designing and creating origami is a lot like writing and composing music, he points out. Fold patterns closely resemble notes on a musical scale and 2-to-3 ratios make up both songs and origami sculptures. It's these types of calculated repetitions that the audience often finds pleasing to the eye or ear, he says.

"You have composers and you have performers, and then you have people who do both," he says. "Designing one's own origami is pretty rare."

Lang recently designed an elaborate set, made entirely of origami for a Mitsubishi commercial. After weeks crafting trees, mountains, buildings and birds he spent eight 15-hour days in Hollywood folding scenes from the forest and the city.

At its simplest, origami is made up of two types of folds—mountains and valleys. Valley folds are "V" shaped folds by which the paper is creased forward on to itself, and mountain folds are upside down "Vs" by which the paper is creased behind itself.

These were the folds Lang practiced when he got his first origami book as a 6-year-old living in Georgia. He began learning by copying the figures in the book and referencing directions if he got stuck. From then on, he was hooked.

"The bug kind of hit me, I thought this is a cool thing, all you need is paper, no kits or tools," he said.

Growing up in the South, Lang was always exploring, learning about plants, insects and animals.

"As a kid, I'd go tromping around outside," he says, explaining his artistic inspiration.

His fascination with nature shows through in his pieces, which run from about \$200-\$600 and have recently been shown at the Redpath Museum in Montreal and the Fermilab Art Gallery in Illinois.

After giving up his career as a physicist in 2001 to focus on writing his book, "Origami Design Secrets," he was able to turn his artistic hobby into a full-time career. With sales from Treemaker, the release of eight books and commissioned work, Lang is now able to make a living completely from origami.

"This is a labor of love," he says, gesturing to his folded insects.

His work will be shown at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in New York from September to December and will then move to the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek. To see examples of his work and find upcoming exhibit information, visit www.langorigami.com. ■



This 8-inch African Elephant made with watercolor paper is a smaller version of a 3-foot-long origami elephant that decorates Lang's studio. Like 95 percent of his work it, was created from one uncut square piece of paper.



A flower folded from dollar bills is, ironically, among the least expensive paper Lang uses to compose his origami.



When a group of origami composers challenged Lang to design this hermit crab at the 2004 Origami USA Convention, Lang accepted.



This male hummingbird was composed with one multi-colored piece of red and black paper, while the honeysuckle was folded with a separate piece.



Lang keeps stacks of high-quality folding paper from around the world in his workshop. He says he prefers the thin but strong Origamido paper for folding detailed pieces.



A locust made with Origamido paper and a Mount Diablo Tarantula made with Korean Hanji paper are part of Lang's collection. With multiple legs and antennae, insects and arthropods are the perfect origami challenge, he says.



Robert Lang holds up an origami orchid featured in his book 'Origami Design Secrets.' The piece is made entirely from paper except for the wire used as a stem.



Enjoying the Danville Library celebration, and taking a break from a bike and stroller ride, are Suzanne Figueroa and her 1-1/2-year-old nephew Ryan, and Natalie and Kaley Parkinson with 8-month-old Shane. Librarian Anne Cain holds a 10-year anniversary plaque presented by the town of Danville. The Motu-aina Polynesian Dance and Drumming group grabs centerstage with its Hawaiian beat, bright colors and smiles.



photos by Lani Allen

Celebrate

Danville Library turns 10



The Danville Public Library celebrated its birthday Saturday, Aug. 5, exactly 10 years and one day after moving into its spacious new home Aug. 4, 1996, and 100 years after the Danville Grange applied to the California State Library for a loan of 50 books in 1906. The library now has 73,000 items for its patrons, including hardbacks, paperbacks, magazines and audiovisual supplies. Plus it offers programs for the young, seniors and everyone in between.



Ceviche and Mojitos: a match made in Caribbean heaven

The hot days of summer always remind me of my Miami and Caribbean roots. No, I don't miss the heat and humidity but I do miss other things. Like the warm, clear blue waters of the Atlantic and its tributaries ... sipping cool cocktails on a sandy beach after a day of snorkeling ... and the ethnic blends of Cuban, Haitian, Jamaican, Bahamian, Puerto Rican and other island foods and drinks.

Two of my favorite stay-cool treats in hot weather are ceviche and mojitos. Neither can be beat for offering resort-like refreshment on a hot summer day but together, the pairing will bring sublime joy to your palate while conjuring up refrains of that song, "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

Ceviche—or seviche or cebiche, depending on the recipe of origin—is a centuries-old Latin American dish, served as an appetizer or main dish. Seafood is prepared by a non-cook method: using the acidic juices of citrus fruit to “cook” the fish flesh until it becomes opaque and firm. It is said that fishermen, most likely in Ecuador or Peru,

created the original ceviche as a way to “cook” pieces of the fish they caught to eat for an on-water lunch, using lemons and salt in lieu of heat and consuming the citrus-soaked fish immediately.

The “old world” dish became a popular “new world cuisine” appetizer during the 1980s in South Florida, where many South American and Caribbean immigrants remembered it from their own countries. Since then, many variations on the basic ceviche recipe have been created. The low-fat, low-calorie and low-carb dish lends itself well to light summer snacking, along with a ice-cold drink like the mojito.

Mojito (pronounced: mo-hi-to) is traditionally made of five ingredients: mint, rum, sugar, lime juice and club soda. The drink originated during the days of European explorers into Caribbean waters. According to legend, a medicinal tonic made from an early-generation version of rum was concocted by a British pirate, Richard Drake, to soothe the body as well as the soul. As rum was increasingly refined, the drink eventually evolved into

the mojito and became a drink of enjoyment rather than healing. According to www.barcardimojito.com, the word mojito comes from the African word “mojo” or magic and means to cast a little spell. I love that definition as mojitos have a wonderful light-hearted taste to them that definitely evokes a little magic, like its Brazilian cousin, the caipirinha. While the mojito is made with rum, a derivative of molasses; the caipirinha is made with cachaça, a derivative of sugarcane juice.

If you want to take yourself on a spiritual vacation to a remote Caribbean island before summer's end, make generous amounts of the recipes that follow, then laze around your pool or under a shady spot to enjoy the cooling combo. Better yet, make large group batches of mojitos and ceviche and invite friends over for an afternoon Caribbean cruise.

Bon voyage!

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

Ceviche de Camaron: Shrimp Ceviche Cocktail (serves 6 as appetizer)

1/2 cup plus 2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
1 lb. unpeeled smallish shrimp (I prefer the ones that are 41/50 count to a pound)
1/2 medium white onion, chopped into 1/4-inch pieces
1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus several sprigs for garnish
1/2 cup ketchup
1 to 2 Tbsp. vinegary Mexican bottled hot sauce (such as Tamazula, Valentina or Bufalo)
About 2 Tbsp. olive oil, preferably extra-virgin (optional, but recommended to smooth out sharpness)
1 cup diced peeled cucumber or jicama (or 1/2 cup of each)
1 small ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and cubed
Salt
Several lime slices for garnish
Tostadas or tortilla chips for serving

Bring 1 quart salted water to a boil and add 2 Tbsp. of the lime juice. Drop in the shrimp, cover and let the water return to a boil. Immediately remove from heat, set the lid askew and pour off all the liquid. Replace the cover and let the shrimp steam off the heat for 10 minutes, then cool completely.

Peel and de-vein the shrimp if you wish. Toss the shrimp with the remaining 1/2 cup lime juice, cover and refrigerate for an hour.

Rinse the onion under cold water and drain. Add the limed shrimp along with the cilantro, ketchup, hot sauce, optional olive oil, cucumber and/or jicama and avocado. Taste and season with 1/2 tsp. salt. Cover and refrigerate if not serving immediately.

When serving, spoon the ceviche into sundae glasses, martini glasses, or small bowls; garnish with sprigs of cilantro and slices of lime. Serve with tostadas or tortilla chips.

Easy Mojito (per person)

2-1/2 oz. light rum
1 lime
1 Tbsp. simple syrup
Mint leaves (8 or so)
Club soda
Crushed ice
Muddler (or some other utensil that can be used to mash the mint leaves)

Make a batch of simple syrup: Heat equal parts sugar and water in a saucepan until just before boiling and stir until the sugar has completely dissolved. Make up a batch, e.g., a cup of sugar and a cup of water, then store it in the refrigerator. Keep it on hand so you can make mojitos at a moment's request. Syrup will last for weeks.

Place the mint leaves and 1 Tbsp. of the cooled simple syrup in a glass, then squish it all around with a muddler (or whatever utensil you can find) for 20-30 seconds, until you can smell the fragrance of the mint.

Cut the lime in half. Squeeze the juice out from both halves into the glass, then drop one half into the glass. Pour in the rum and stir. Add plenty of crushed ice, then top off the mixture with club soda. Garnish with a sprig of mint and enjoy!

Bacardi Mojitos (a mix for 6)

10 oz. Bacardi Superior Rum
3 sprigs of mint
6 halves of limes
6 oz. of simple syrup
1 liter of club soda
Crushed ice
Muddler

Make a batch of simple syrup: Heat equal parts sugar and water in a saucepan until just before boiling and stir until the sugar has completely dissolved. Make up a batch, e.g., a cup of sugar and a cup of water, then store it in the refrigerator. Keep it on hand so you can make mojitos at a moment's request. Syrup will last for weeks.

Muddle the mint and limes, then add the syrup rum and club soda.

Stir well and serve in a tall glass over crushed ice. Garnish with a wedge of lime and mint leaf.

More recipes for Ceviche can be found at www.DanvilleWeekly.com.

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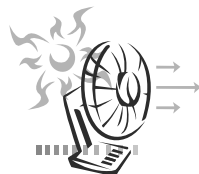
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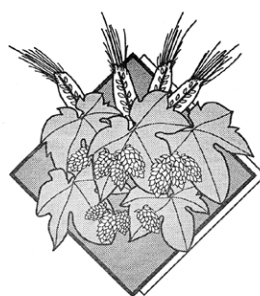
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AT THE MOVIES

CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill: 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (687-1100)

Century 14 Walnut Creek: 1201 Locust St., Walnut Creek (937-7025)

Blackhawk Movie 7: 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0368)

Crow Canyon 6: 2525 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon (820-4831)

Hacienda Crossings 20/ Regal Imax Theater: 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (560-9600)

Vine Cinema: Corner of First and South O streets, Livermore (447-2545)

Internet address: For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at www.DanvilleWeekly.com/

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Ant Bully (PG)

Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7, 9:10 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:55 a.m., 1:25, 4:05, 6:55 p.m.

Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m.

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG)

Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:15, 9:25 p.m.

Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 1:50, 4, 7, 9:20 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11, 11:50 a.m., 1:35, 2:20, 3:50, 4:35, 6:10, 7:05, 8:30, 10:55 p.m.

John Tucker Must Die (PG-13)

Hacienda Crossing 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)

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 9:30 p.m.

Little Miss Sunshine (R)

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55 p.m.

Miami Vice (R)

Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 p.m.

Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 9:50 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55 p.m.

Vine Cinema: Fri-Tues 8:30 p.m.

Monster House (PG)

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:15 a.m., 1, 3:25, 6, 8:20, 10:35 p.m.

Vine Cinema: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:15, 4:15, 6:30 p.m.

My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13)

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 9:25 p.m.

Night Listener (R)

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 Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50 p.m.

Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:05, 3:30, 6:45, 10:05 p.m.

Pulse (PG-13)

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:20 a.m., 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20 p.m.

Scoop (PG-13)

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40 p.m.

Step Up (PG-13)

Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20 p.m.

Vine Cinema: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15 p.m.

Superman Returns (PG-13)

Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 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.

Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 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 Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 p.m.

The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)

Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:20 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 6:50, 9:50 p.m.

World Trade Center (PG-13)

Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15 p.m.

Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues Noon, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:05, 10:30 a.m., 1, 1:30, 4, 4:30, 7, 7:30, 10, 10:30 p.m.

You, Me, and Dupree (PG-13)

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:20, 3:55, 6:40, 9:30 p.m.

Zoom (PG)

Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30 p.m.

Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10 a.m., 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35 p.m.

Century 14 Walnut Creek and CinéArts movie listings were not available at press time

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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

A melodious name with a not-so-melodious meaning

East of the San Ramon Valley, a lovely valley and creek bear the name Tassajara. Melodious as it may sound, this Spanish word means "place where the meat is hung." It may have been an Aztec term, which the Spanish adopted and spelled "tasajera."

One way the Spanish preserved beef was to slice fresh meat into strips, dip it in brine, and hang it on poles at the tasajera, allowing it to sun-dry into the "carne seca" called "charqui." This was the origin of our word jerky. In California's Hispanic era, cattle grazing was the main occupation and hides and tallow were major trade products. After roundups and slaughters, most meat was left for the wild animals, but some of the meat was preserved in the tasajera.

Tassajara Creek begins in the foothills of Mount Diablo and drains south. It is part of the huge Alameda Creek watershed, which covers 405,000 acres in two counties. The portion of this watershed in Contra Costa County is called the Upper Alameda Creek Watershed and encompasses 40,000 acres.

After the Gold Rush, settlers moved into the Tassajara Valley with their families and raised a variety of crops including hay, grains, orchards of fruit and nuts, vineyards and tomatoes. Nina McPherson Williams loved growing up in the valley and wrote: "In the land of sunshine in the county of Contra Costa, along an oak-rimmed stream, lies the Valley of Tassajara. Rich fields of native grasses gave the valley much fame from olden times to the present."

Immigrants from many areas settled in the valley—Portuguese, Danes, Welsh and Scots. The Tassajara Grammar School pro-



The restored Tassajara School, opened in 1889.

vided a place for these settlers to educate their children, share parties and create new communities. Student names in the school registers reflected their family origins: Williams, McPherson, Finley, Bettencourt, Lawrence (Portuguese), Rasmussen and Hansen. The second school house, built in 1889, has been restored, at 1650 Finley Road.

Vivian Coats Edmonston, who was born in the Tassajara Valley in 1901, recalled the days when the threshing machine came to their ranch. Her mother and grandmother cooked all day, feeding crews of five or six men who worked from dawn to sunset and ate three big meals, plus two smaller meals in between.

According to Nina Williams, "Tassajara was even better known for its purebred horses than for its cattle. The Clydesdale and Norman horses raised in large numbers by John and Thomas Johnston had a wide and ready market. The J.J. brand on a draft horse was its guarantee." She also noted that the first

oil lease on Tassajara land was given by Edward Williams in 1899.

Pleasanton and Danville are about the same distance for Tassajara residents, depending on where they live. When Tassajara had a post office, from 1896 to 1921, the mail came from Pleasanton by rural carrier. Parts of the valley continue to have Pleasanton addresses, even though they are in Contra Costa County.

No matter what its original meaning, the name is now part of our California landscape. The valley's volunteers served as firefighters for a Tassajara Fire District from 1969 to 1990. And today a new school, Tassajara Hills, is located at the edge of this beautiful valley, which is filled with reminders of our rural past.

Sources: Mildred Hoover, "Historic Spots in California"; Museum of the San Ramon Valley archives; Contra Costa County Watershed Atlas, 2003

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

OF NOTE

Danville Realtor elected to board

Rachel Knight of Intero Real Estate Services in Danville has been elected to the Board of the Contra Costa Association of Realtors. CCAR is a professional trade association with more than 4,300 Realtors and affiliate members.



Knight was elected by her peers to serve a two-year term as director a District 4, which includes Danville, Alamo and San Ramon, beginning in 2007. "It's such an honor to have the trust and respect of my col-

leagues," Knight said.

She has been a Realtor since 1998 and lives in Danville with her family.

Ready to cook

Ashley Nicole Teplin of Danville has earned her associate degree in Culinary Arts from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. The institute offers degrees in culinary arts and baking and pastry arts and has an enrollment of 2,700 students. Its 37,000 alumni have helped it earn a reputation as one of the world's premier culinary colleges.

Teplin is a 1997 graduate of Monte Vista High School and also holds a bachelor's degree from UCLA.

New pres for Danville Rotary

Jeff Behring has been elected president of the 48-member Danville Rotary club, the oldest of the five clubs within five miles in the San Ramon Valley. Behring has been a member for four years.

"Belonging to Rotary gives you an enjoyable and organized way to make a contribution to our community and to the world," Behring said.

Behring is a general contractor and lives in Danville with his wife Jane and has five children ranging in ages from 24 to 11. He is also the director of special events of the Wheelchair Foundation.

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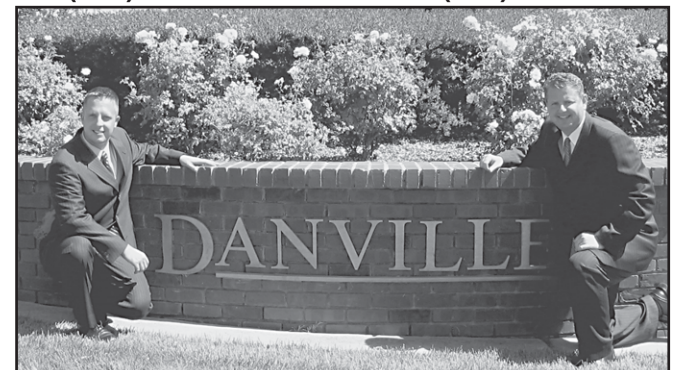
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Transitions

OBITUARIES

Frances Rothenberg Goran

Frances Rothenberg Goran, an Alamo resident, died July 23 in Alamo, surrounded by her family.

She was born on April 24, 1908, in the Bronx, N.Y. She taught at P.S. 81 for 30 years and was also its first school librarian. She was one of the founders of the Child Study Association of America and participated in the Brandeis Women's Group in Riverdale, N.Y. She spent many summers attending classes, the opera and the symphony. Even in her 80s, she continued to take classes in art, music, history and psychology.

When she moved to California at the age of 86, she made a new group of friends. She had a flair for art and entertaining, and her home was filled with unique pieces she collected on her travels. She was also a great humanitarian working toward making the world a more peaceful place, campaigning against war and the use of nuclear weapons.

She was predeceased by her husband Benjamin Goran. She was the mother of Michelle Gabbay Towery (O.B.) and Jeanie Goran Schkritz (Nick). She is also survived by her beloved grandsons Jacob Towery (Ellen), and Alex Towery; granddaughter, Kate Towery Yates (Duncan). Additional survivors include her nephews, Martin, Michael, Paul and Robert Mermelstein; and niece, Abigail Champagne; as well as her beloved friends.

Heather (Fraser) Sprung

Heather (Fraser) Sprung, a resident of Martinez, passed away suddenly in Graeagle, Calif., on July 24. She was raised in Alamo and was a graduate of San Ramon Valley High School and Cal State Hayward. She was active in the Danville Junior Horsemen and had a lifelong love of animals.

She had a wide variety of jobs throughout Contra Costa County and was renowned for her upbeat personality and winning smile. She married Larry Sprung of Martinez in October 2005 at sunset on the beach in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

She is survived by her husband, Larry; his three children, Courtney, Trevor and Kyle; her father, John; her sister, Kim; and grandmother, Elinor Fraser, all of Alamo; and a menagerie of cats, dogs and horses. A celebration of her life was held Aug. 3. Donations may be made to the Autism Society of America, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 300, Bethesda MD 20814.

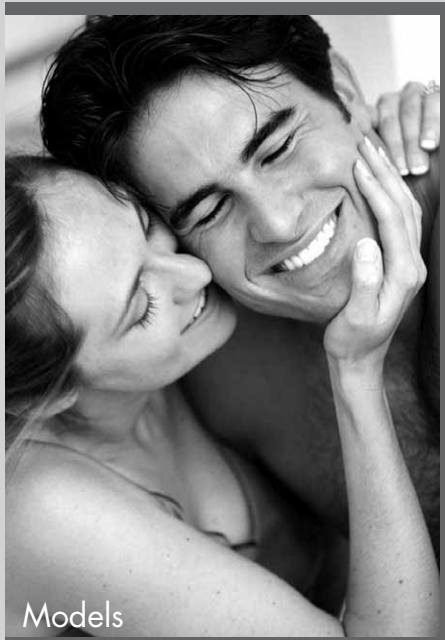
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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Calling for Artists

San Ramon Arts Walk & Festival, Sept. 23-24, in San Ramon is looking for artists ages 18 and over, residing in California to enter a piece of original fine art in any medium, with a Sept. 1 deadline. There will be a special garden for display of sculptures. Digital images should be sent in the form of jpeg files. A non-refundable entry fee of \$10 per art work. For information, call 336-0267 or visit www.sanramonarts.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

Author Night at Polka Dot Attic

Gennifer Choldenko, Newberry author winner for "Al Capone Does My Shirts," will read and sign her newest book from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Polka Dot Attic, 411 Hartz Ave., in the Danville Hotel courtyard. Four more children's authors will be there, too. Call 838-8004.

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.

Clubs

Contra Costa Rose Society

This club is hosting a talk on "Sound Rose Care" by Steve and Diana Steps at 7:15 p.m., Monday, Aug. 28, at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. This

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Planes, trains and automobiles

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

event is free. Call 681-1551 or visit www.ccrose.org.

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.dvwib.org.

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

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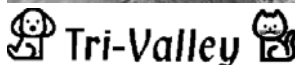


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from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 18 (Brother Buzz), at Livorna Park, 801 Livorna Road, Alamo. You are sure to get up and boogie! Call 451-9176.

Music in the Park

The Town of Danville is holding its last concert during the 21st annual Music in the Park series from 6-8 p.m., Aug. 19, Saturday, at Oak Hill Park, 3031 Stone Valley Road. The concert will feature 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 Watkings. Call 736-2280.

Cupid Pre-Dating

Cupid Pre-Dating presents a date

night for single professional ages 27-39 and 47-58 from 6:30-10 p.m., Monday, Aug. 28, at Vic Stewart's, 850 S. Broadway, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$39; visit www.predating.com or call (408) 849-4749.

Family Sports Night

Bring the family to downtown Danville, the parking lot south of the Danville Hotel on Hartz Avenue, 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. On Aug. 31, the market will host a Do-It-Yourself fair including lessons from a master gardener, cooking demos; and more. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com.

Hot Summer Nights Car Show

Danville Merchants' Association will host Hot Summer Nights Car Show from 4-9 p.m., Aug. 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.

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.

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.

Walking Tours of Historic Danville

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

Impressionistic Landscapes and Moody Abstracts

The Blackhawk Art Gallery will celebrate the works of Linda Lemanski (sculptor), Lonia Zaborovsky (painter) and Jim Halverson (photographer) with an exhibit open from Aug. 12-Sept. 9, at the gallery, 3628 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The gallery is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday. Call Tracy Bauer at (415) 531-2556.

Kids & Teens

Python Ron's Reptile Kingdom

Come and celebrate the end of "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales" with Python Ron at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. This is for all ages. Call 837-4889.

Lectures/ Workshops

Adjustable Rate Mortgages

Meridian Financial will host a workshop, "Adjustable Rate Mortgages, the Facts, the Figures, the Future," from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 15 and 22, at 2694 Bishop Drive, Suite 202, San Ramon. Call 328-4907.

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Meridian Financial is hosting this workshop at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 15,



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Eileen Zagelow, BA, CMC Geriatric Care Manager, Eldercare Services

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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.

Women's Guide to Investing
This workshop will teach women how to invest their money. There are two sessions: 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17 or 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 19, both at San Francisco Bay Area Agency, LLC, 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 395, Walnut Creek. Call 979-2385 or e-mail jpeterson@finsvcs.com.

Live Music

Acoustic Music and Wine Tasting
Come and enjoy the finest locally produced wines and enjoy live acoustic rock by Dan & Brian from 7-10 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17, at Bello Vino, 3450 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Cost is \$12. Call 648-1300.

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).

'Rising Stars Review'
Next Big Thing presents "Rising Stars Review" featuring performers ages 8-12 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., tonight, Aug. 11, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$6 for seniors and children. Call 314-3470.

Seniors

Danville Senior Citizens Club
The club meets from 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. Membership is just \$10 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

Senior Bocce Ball League
Join Danville seniors in the Bocce Ball League from 10-11:30 a.m., Thursdays, Aug. 24-Oct. 19, at Sycamore Valley Park, Bocce Courts, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville. Cost is \$20 for residents; \$24 for non-residents. Call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Spiritual

ALPHA Course
Community Presbyterian Church will begin a 10-week introductory

course on the Christian faith starting on Wednesday, Sept. 13, until Nov. 15, at 222 W. El Pintado Road, Danville. Childcare will be available for a small fee. For information, call Terry Campbell at 736-1306 or e-mail terymccaycampbell@yahoo.com.

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.

Sports

Adult Kickball League
Town of Danville will host an adult coed kickball league open to players 18 years old and up. The games will be played from 6:30-10 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, starting in September. Registration will start August 14; the cost is \$250 for residents, \$300 for non-residents. Call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

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

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

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 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.

Volunteering

CCI Volunteer Puppy Raising Program
Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) are looking for special volunteers interested in raising a CCI puppy for 15-18 months and are now accepting applications. For information, call 1-800-572-BARK (2275) or visit www.cci.org.

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

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

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.

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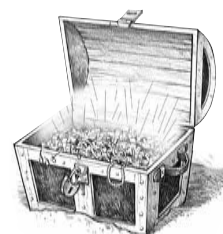
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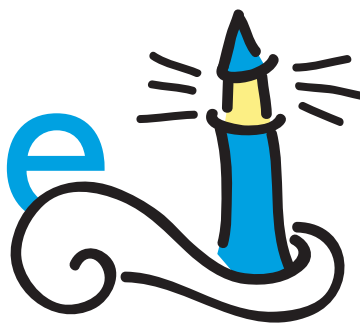
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Pleasanton, 490 Adams Way, 8/12 & 13 9-3

PLEASANTON, 5781 Corte Libre, Fri 8/11 & Sat 8/12, 8-4

Pleasanton, 8125 Moller Ranch Dr, 8/12, 9-3
Garage Sale in Pleasanton Saturday, August 12th 9AM-3PM 8125 Moller Ranch Drive

Pleasanton, 9624 Crosby Drive , August 19th, 8am-1pm
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For all the resources you need to make the correct financing decision, please visit:
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Livermore, 3BR/2BA

Pleasanton Homes For Rent, 4 BR/2 BA - \$2495

Pleasanton Homes, 3BR/2BA

Pleasanton, 5+ BR/3BA - \$2995

Stonybrook Home
1 block from Old Town Danville. New condition, 2 Bd / 2.5Ba / 1 loft. W/D, Refrig, Pool. \$2200 mo. Month-to-month rental. 1st mo. + \$4400 security deposit reqd.
Call (925) 963-3907

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Alamo, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$1,375,000
Alamo, 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$1,995,000

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Incline Village, Nv, 4 BR/2 BA

Incline Village, NV, 1600+ s.f. home, spec lake view, 4 bed/2 bath, recently remodeled, furnished (925) 837-2315 \$999,900

Livermore (gothouse.com), 4 BR/3 BA - \$965,000

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

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

No Money Down!!
Free Computerized list of properties available with no down payment. Free report: 9 Must Avoid Buyer Traps www.NeedZeroDown.com 24hr Message 1-888-882-4731 ID#2020 (Cal-SCAN)

Northstar Village, 3 BR/3 BA
FOR SALE: NEW CONDO, 3 BED/3BATH, BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, FULLY FURNISHED, TAHOE MTN CLUB MEMBER-SHIP AVAIL. (925) 837-2315

Patterson, 3 BR/2 BA
Great 1st Time Buyer/Inv Prop 1189 Sq Ft Call Agent Amy 925-200-5478 \$374,950

Pleasanton, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$825,000

San Ramon Home, 3BR/2BA

San Ramon Homes, 4BR/2.5BA

Turlock, 3 BR/2 BA
Great 1st Time Buyer/Inv Prop 1575 Sq Ft Call Agent Amy 925-200-5478 \$359,000

840 Vacation Rentals /Time Shares

Incline Village, 4BR/2BA
Incline Village vacation home, panoramic view of lake, 4 bed, 2 ba, sleeps 8 (925)837-2315

MENDOCINO COAST - Gualala
Beautiful private home. White water view. 3Bd / 2Ba w/spa & fireplace. Great kitchen! TV / piano. \$225 per night to select renters. Weekends or weekly.
Call 925-837-7864

NEW CONDO, FULLY FURNISHED
FOR RENT: NEW CONDO IN NORTHSTAR VILLAGE, 3BED,3BA, BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, FULLY FURNISHED, TAHOE MTN CLUB MEMBERSHIP AVAIL.(925) 837-2315

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 plus acres, 90 miles of shoreline. Never offered before with 20% pre-development discounts, 90% financing. Call 1-800-709-5253. (Cal-SCAN)

850 Acreage/Lots /Storage

A Dream Find -
20 Acres - Reduced \$129,900. Near Tehachapi. Fresh mountain air and picture perfect views. Streams and oaks. Ideal for horses, country getaway, or to buy and hold. Financing. Call owner 1-888-821-5253. (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)

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)

Fish Lake Valley, NV.
New to Market. 7ac \$27,900; 11ac 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)

Looking To Own Land?

Invest in rural acreage throughout America: coastal, mountain, waterfront properties, 20 to 200 acres. For FREE Special Land Reports: www.landbuyers-guide.com/ca (Cal-SCAN)

New Mexico -
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Pleasanton 1 acre 925-417-0806 - \$950,000

Pleasanton 1 acre 925-417-0806 - \$950,000


PRIVATE LOT - TRUCKEE
PRIVATE LOT, W/PLANS FOR 3 BDRM W/DEN OR 4TH BDRM, 3 BA, APPROX 3,500+ SQ FT HOME W/PRIVATE BKYARD, LOT APPROX 15,451 SQ FT (925) 837-2315 \$425,000

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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during July 2006

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 4	Total sales reported: 19	Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$632,000	Lowest sale reported: \$318,000	Lowest sale reported: \$320,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,800,000	Highest sale reported: \$3,498,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,000,000
Average sales reported: \$1,517,750	Average sales reported: \$1,188,184	Average sales reported: \$674,295

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

3 Bedrooms

1488 Sunnybrook Rd. **\$847,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 285-1728

4 Bedrooms

199 Canyon Vista Pl. **\$1,299,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire 217-5050

151 Pebble Ln. **\$1,375,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3329

145 Sugar Creek Ln. **\$1,799,000**
Sun 2-5 Interio 785-6219

3105 Stonegate Dr. **\$1,995,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3329

504 Oakshire Pl. **\$3,699,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4159

5 Bedrooms

44 Stonecastle Ct. **\$1,625,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 683-5165

Blackhawk

3 Bedrooms

887 Redwood Dr. **\$1,229,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Interio 672-2499

147 Birchbark Pl. **\$1,248,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

11 Deer Meadow Ct. **\$1,259,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE 736-4155

4 Bedrooms

3155 Deer Meadow Dr. **\$1,299,000**
Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker 640-8283

641 Birchwood Ct. **\$1,349,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4072

525 Kingswood Pl. **\$1,698,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

5 Bedrooms

2707 Deer Meadow Dr. **\$1,950,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

Danville

2 Bedrooms

100 Shoshone Ct. **\$695,000**
Sun 1-4 Empire 984-1787

2198 Shoshone Cir. **\$695,000**
Sat 1-4 Empire 984-1787

3 Bedrooms

124 San Thomas Wy. **\$1,099,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4102

124 Lawnview **\$599,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2568

216 Jewel Terr. **\$629,000**
Sat 1-4 Empire 200-0525

4 Danville Oak Pl. **\$639,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 648-5331

1855 Ridgeland Cir. **\$699,000**
Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 963-3959

545 Silver Lake Dr. **\$749,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Interio 586-5456

2138 Myrtle Beach Ln. **\$759,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4075

2180 Oneida Cir. **\$759,950**
Sun 1-4 Empire 984-1787

59 Summerhill Ct. **\$779,950**
Sun 1-5 Pacific Union 997-3966

42 Casablanca St. **\$789,950**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4072

186 Tivoli Ln. **\$824,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 413-1068

40 Casablanca **\$879,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 209-7498

47 Verona Ct. **\$929,950**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4075

1102 River Rock Ln. **\$939,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4049

863 Orange Blossom Wy. **\$959,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Interio 855-4108

4 Hardy Ct. **\$970,000**
Sun 1-5 Pacific Union 997-3966

180 San Thomas Wy. **\$999,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4102

4 Bedrooms

3845 Sheffield Cir. **\$1,075,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 484-0900

84 Stowbridge **\$1,099,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-7498

316 Borica Drive **\$1,150,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 963-8938

1212 Robyn Dr. **\$1,169,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Empire 217-3108

368 Verona Ave. **\$1,179,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Interio 855-4108

4304 Nottingham Dr. **\$1,199,900**
Sun 1-4 Better Homes 997-5836

404 Plata Ct. **\$1,344,900**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4159

1049 Ocho Rios Dr. **\$1,489,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4104

229 St. Christopher Dr. **\$865,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 389-7754

18 Haskins Ranch Cir. **\$899,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4125

319 Deepcreek Ct. **\$925,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4050

5 Bedrooms

602 Morninghome Rd. **\$1,140,000**
Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 368-9504

872 El Quanito Ct. **\$1,245,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 833-1822

26 Bormio Ct. **\$1,499,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 984-1945

2023 Scarlet Oak Pl. **\$1,750,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 819-0660

1763 St. Helena Dr. **\$899,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 362-2061

2013 Camino Ramon Pl. **\$969,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Empire 837-5679

133 Conway Dr. **\$998,000**
Sun 1-4 Empire 351-5859

6 Bedrooms

1357 Lawrence Rd. **\$2,899,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4159

265 Montego Dr. **\$4,480,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms

1002 Radiant Ln. **\$515,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 216-1448

3 Bedrooms

1132 Bellingham Sq. **\$1,085,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Interio 855-4108

18869 Bollinger Canyon Rd. **\$2,195,000**
Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC 487-1194

9005 Alcosta Blvd. #222 **\$429,000**
Sun 1-5 Re/Max 768-7878

5032 Lakeview Dr. #101 **\$549,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 463-9500

2513 Soren Wy. **\$639,000**
Sun 1-4 Empire 200-0525

1312 Nancy Ln. **\$639,950**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4072

117 Enchanted Wy. **\$709,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 200-3908

9784 Belladonna Dr. **\$714,500**
Sat/Sun 2-5 Interio 260-8440

168 Vildavia Cir. **\$728,800**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 457-4551

2211 S. Donovan Wy. **\$739,000**
Sun 2-4:30 Interio 855-4110

209 Westvale Ct. **\$749,950**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4022

1046 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$754,900**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4128

429 Donner Wy. **\$959,900**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4128

4 Bedrooms

48 Mainprice Ct. **\$1,034,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

1959 Hollyview Dr. **\$1,084,950**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 463-6113

2433 Wildhorse **\$1,099,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4059

320 Ginger Ct. **\$1,189,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 736-0717

152 Elisha Ln. **\$1,350,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 784-7000

9948 Broadmoor Dr. **\$755,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE 683-5689

7600 Northland **\$765,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

73 Boxford Pl. **\$838,000**
Sun 1-4 Empire 217-5089

4111 Reedland Cir. **\$895,000**
Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC 487-1194

232 Sun Ridge Dr. **\$899,000**
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 362-2061

228 Veritas Ct. **\$909,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 989-4123

121 Wycliffe Ct. **\$929,800**
Sat/Sun 1-4 UCB 200-8856

310 Salem Dr. **\$974,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

121 Fulham Ct. **\$975,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 216-1448

5 Bedrooms

361 Adelaide Hills Ct. **\$1,085,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 785-1386

100 Allannmere Ct. **\$1,159,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE 736-4155

2380 Avalon Wy. **\$1,259,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 785-1386

2012 Longleaf Cir. **\$1,365,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

531 Treyburn Cir. **\$789,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

6 Bedrooms

2018 Longleaf Cir. **\$1,330,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

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County French Chateau **\$3,800,000**
6bd, 2 offices, 5.5ba, granite, limestone, Crestron Sound, Viking range, massive windows take in the pool, spa, BBQ, gazebo and golf course beyond.
Mike Fay **925.838.2239**



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Custom Trademark Home by Pucci! **\$2,250,000**
Stunning, one-of-a-kind Westside home with distinctive top-quality architecture. Extensive use of designer craftsmanship; too many upgrades to list.
Sharen Metz **925.855.4087**



ALAMO

Gorgeous Westside Alamo **\$1,700,000**
Updated granite/stainless kitchen, 4bd, 3ba. New fixtures, windows, paint, floors. All nestled on private lane backing to Iron Horse Trail.
Taso Tsakos **925.855.4121**



DANVILLE

Prestigious Westside Location! **\$1,489,000**
Fabulous 4bd, 3ba, completely remodeled. Two stunning master suites (one is a brand new addition). Lush landscaping with sparkling pool, spa, waterfall.
Vance & Sue Smith **925.648.5342**



BLACKHAWK

Fabulous Appointments **\$1,399,000**
Great location overlooking the 14th tee of The Falls golf course. Large deck off master suite with great golf course views. 5bd, 3ba on cul-de-sac.
Carol Erbert **925.736.1666**



DANVILLE

Private Yard with Pool **\$1,245,000**
Great cul-de-sac location. 5bd plus large bonus room. 3ba, updated kitchen with spacious, open floor plan.
Tom & Mary Kennedy **925.833.1822**



DANVILLE

Tuscan Touches Throughout **\$1,175,000**
Gorgeous remodeled kitchen and baths, 6bd, 3ba, gleaming hardwood floors, newer roof, dual pane windows, huge backyard.
Vince Perpetuo **925.855.4096**



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