

Canine companions

Two SRVHS students start classes with their new guide dogs > **page 16**

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School board race is on

Four candidates running for three open seats

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Danville

W E E K L Y

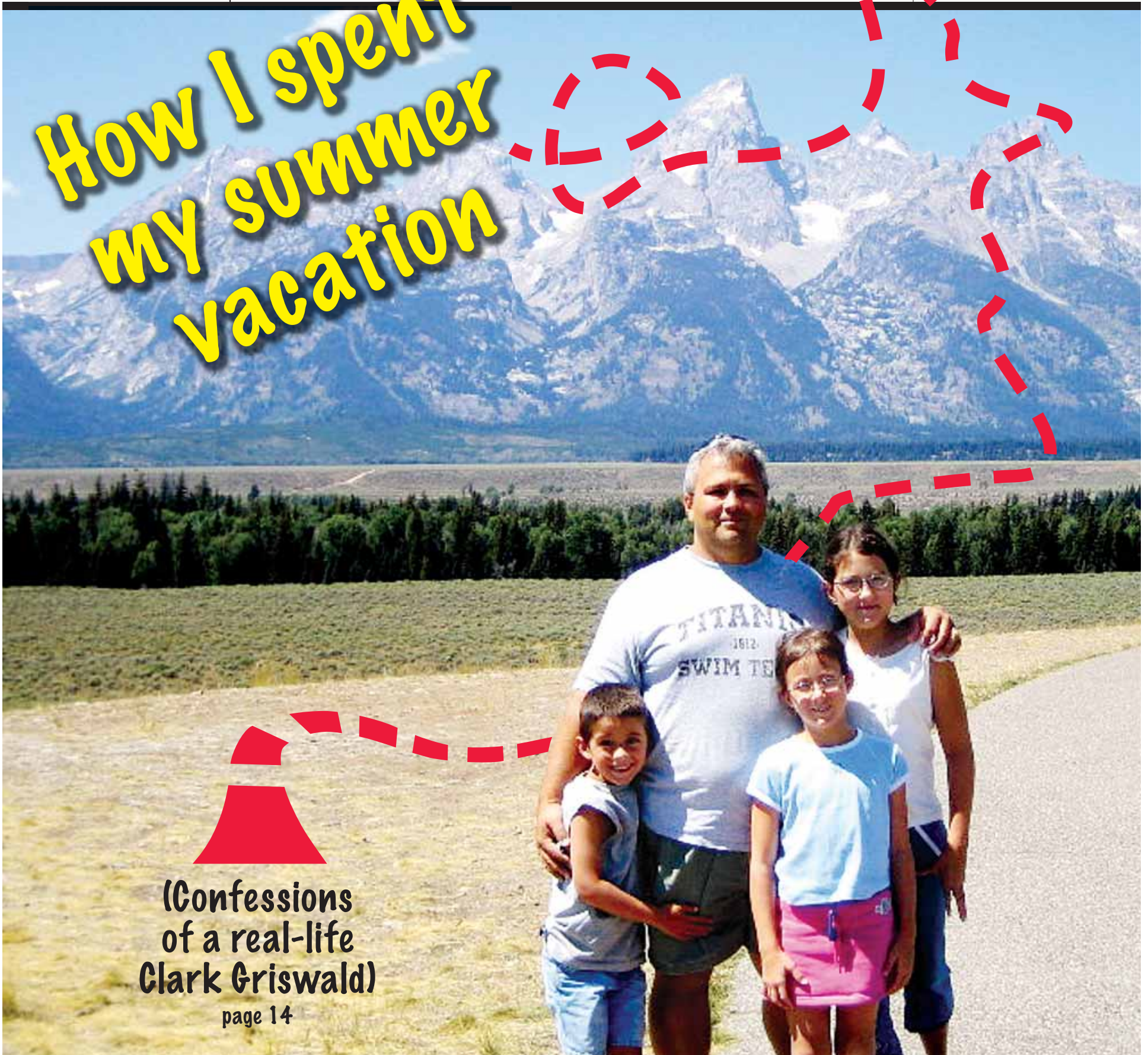
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Ready for fun

Alamo recreation debates charges for fall classes

> **page 5**

How I spent
my summer
vacation



(Confessions
of a real-life
Clark Griswald)

page 14



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Streetwise

ASKED ON HARTZ AVENUE

Q: What has been the highlight of your summer?



Graduating from high school was great. I'm going to Diablo Valley College now but plan to go to UC Davis next year. Also a highlight would be going to a concert of "Sounds of the Underground" in Seattle. It was the last big hurrah with my friends before everyone goes off to college.

Mark Zorich
student



I've enjoyed just staying local. I like being outside and we have so many nice restaurants where you can dine outside.

Wayne Hinkley
real estate broker



Taking my golden retriever Norman to the new dog park at Hap Magee Ranch. We also enjoyed the Iron Horse Trail. I liked not traveling this summer and just staying home. I went to Germany last year and our town is every bit as quaint as any little town in Europe.

John Cruger
mortgage broker



A highlight of the summer would be starting a new job that allows me to work from home. I love being able to spend more time with my kids and my kids like spending more time with me and not having to go from camp to camp.

Lisa Kallen
client representative



It's been fun buying little girl stuff for my daughter's first baby. I have nine grandchildren, seven boys and two girls. Thank goodness we're having another girl.

Cheryl Conley
mortgage broker

compiled by Judy Steiner

ABOUT THE COVER

Some called him "crazy," others said "brave" but Geoff Gillette, shown with children (l-r) Harry, Emma and Maddy in front of the Grand Tetons, nonetheless headed east for a 24-day, 5,700-mile road trip. He learned some surprising lessons along the way. Cover design by Ben Ho.

Vol. II, Number 18

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Alamo residents are paying property taxes, why should they have to pay twice? ”

—Tom Matthews, member of R-7A Parks and Recreation Committee about setting class fees for Alamo residents and non-residents. See story, page 5.

Alamo to strike up the bands

It's Alamo's only all-day festival for both kids and adults. The Alamo Music and Wine Festival, sponsored by Alamo Rotary, will begin at 2 p.m. and run until 11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, at Alamo Plaza.

"It will start off like a wedding reception and just get livelier and livelier," said Rotary President Al Makely. The festival will feature food, wine tasting and music for adults, along with rock climbing, games and a blow-up structure for kids.

Dinner tickets to feast on specialties from Faz, Forli's and Forbes Mills will be available for \$15. A booth with inexpensive food, like hotdogs and chips, will be there for the children. Makely said the Rotary Club made the decision to incorporate more activities for young people when he noticed families leaving early last year because the children were uninterested in the festivities.

This year, bands from both Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley high schools will play, as well as Que, a professional local band. Like last year, Makely expects a lot of dancing and celebration.

"The only thing that comes close to it is the Christmas tree lighting. It's a big party," he said.

Danville girl receives Bronze Congressional Medal

Danville resident Carolyn Talley received a Bronze Congressional Medal on Aug. 22 for her volunteer work. She has volunteered her time at a scientific research lab where she worked on neuro-biological experiments and also volunteered at an assisted living center where she greeted visitors and spent time with the residents.

The award was presented by U.S. Rep. Richard W. Pombo (R., 11th District). "Carolyn is an exceptional young woman, and I am very proud to honor her achievements with the Congressional Medal Award," said Congressman Pombo.

The Congressional Award is a public private partnership created by Congress to promote and recognize achievement, initiative and service in America's youth, ages 14 to 23.

Police advise on junk mail

The Danville Police Department is sending out notices advising residents how to get their name removed from marketing lists to stop receiving junk mail. The lists are compiled from information when people enter contests, apply for credit, order magazines, sign up to receive free samples or discount offers, etc. To get your name off marketing lists, call (888) 567-8688, which will remove your name from credit bureau marketing lists. Police advise that when making this call, people must provide their Social Security numbers but say this is a secure phone line.

Folks can also write or apply online to have their name, address and phone number removed from many other marketing lists at the Direct Marketing Association site, www.the-dma.org. There is a \$5 online opt-out fee, but it is free by mail. Once on the Web site, double click on "remove my name from those lists." Write to DMA Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512; or DMA Telephone Preference Service, P.O. Box 1559, Carmel, NY 10512.

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Four candidates vying for three seats on school board

Incumbents will face newcomers in November

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Ring the school bell! The deadline has passed, and four people have filed papers to run for the school board.

Incumbents Joan Buchanan and Bill Clarkson and newcomers Rachel Hurd and James McVay are vying for three seats on the San Ramon Valley Unified School Board of Education in the Nov. 7 election.

Incumbent Nancy Petsuch, whose term expires in November, decided not to run again.

"I've done it now for 25 years," Pestuch, 60, said about her time as an administrator and a school board member. "It's time to retire. It really is."

"It's time to get fresh ideas," she said.

Among the prominent issues that have been a concern in the school district are improving special education; completing building projects at schools; enhancing the curriculum; maintaining fiscally conservative policies; and creating customer friendly rapport with parents.

The upcoming challengers said they want to build better services for special education students and parents.



Joan Buchanan



Bill Clarkson

"There's definitely room for improvement," said Hurd, 42, a San Ramon resident and a former engineer for McDonnell Douglass. "There are a lot of complaints from people. It's a very difficult thing to deliver."

"Special education needs a real metrics system," said McVay, 43, another San Ramon resident, referring to tracking the progress of special education.

The incumbents said they, too, want improvement in special education services, but they also want to make sure that all building projects—such as construction of new school facilities funded by Measure A—in the district are finished.

"There are still some things I want to accomplish," said Buchanan, 53, who has been serving on the school board for 16 years and lives in Alamo. "We have to follow (building new facilities) through."

She said this is her last term if she is re-elected, and she will not seek another term.

Clarkson also said he wants to complete construction on new school buildings.

"I want to finish what we sort of got going—the Measure A construction projects," said Clarkson, who resides in San Ramon. "During my eight years on the board, we built or are building seven developer-paid schools in the Dougherty Valley without costing the taxpayers a dollar."

"I really enjoyed that process," he said about being involved in decision-making on the school board. ■

Alamo finalizing fall class schedule

Non-residents to pay double what residents are charged

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Make it fun and keep it cheap. That's the vision Alamo Parks and Recreation Committee has for its fall recreation program.

Last week, committee members decided Alamo residents will pay one-half of what non-residents pay for community classes. The idea is not to make money but to increase participation and involvement, members agreed.

"Alamo residents are paying property taxes, why should they have to pay twice?" said Tom Matthews, secretary of the committee.

From yoga and hip hop to animation and scrapbooking, Alamo's fall recreation program will feature classes for all ages and interests, starting Sept. 18.

"There is stuff for everyone from babies to seniors and now it's just about filling up the classes," said recreation programmer Valerie Matlock.

The recreation program is funded by R-7A Parks and Recreation, which is able to create the classes thanks to Alamo taxpayers. The committee members decided unanimously in January that their vision was to provide activities with little or no fee to residents.

Minimal payment is necessary to cover class instruction and supplies, Matlock said. Classes will cost anywhere from under \$10 for low-budget art instruction to more than \$700 for extensive five-day ski trips with instructors.

"Initially I'm not expecting a huge rush. It's going to take a while for this to get established," Matlock said.

But while resident fees dropped, members debated whether increased

► Continued on page 8



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Where did the summer go?

Eager young grammar school children accompanied by parents flock to the newly renovated John Baldwin Elementary School on the first day of school on Monday. Construction was completed at John Baldwin during the summer and was finally open for business when school started in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. It was selected as a priority project for Measure A funding due to the inability of the school's pod configuration to meet the district's Education Specifications for classroom size and configuration. There are three new one-story classroom buildings, a two-classroom kindergarten building, and a new library and administration building. Each classroom is equipped with computer data ports and new projector systems. Greenbrook Elementary School also finished construction of its new buildings over the summer.

Supervisor Piepho names new chief of staff

Paige D'Angelo plans to attend events and meet people in the community face to face

by **Dolores Fox Ciardelli**

Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho announced Tuesday the hiring of Paige D'Angelo as her new chief of staff.

D'Angelo, who assumed the position Aug. 7, is managing Piepho's policy agenda and board committees as well as the District 3 offices and staff functions.

"I look forward to working with the constituents of District 3 and Contra Costa County," said

D'Angelo. "I am excited to be part of Supervisor Piepho's team."

"The most important goal is to build a cohesive team," she said, adding that she wants this team to work within the community. She plans to accompany the field representatives to community events and meet people face to face. She said meeting them and understanding people's concerns translates into serving them better.

D'Angelo has served as field representative for state Assemblyman Guy Houston (R, District 15). She

has also been manager of regulatory and legal support for SBC Communications.

"Paige comes to my office with an extensive background and experiences that will assist me in leadership for my constituency," Piepho said.

D'Angelo has a degree in communications with a minor in government from St. Mary's College in Moraga. She has lived in Livermore for the last six years.

Former chief of staff Ryan Koblas resigned in late April, and

Supervisor Piepho said at the time that he gave no reason.

Piepho said D'Angelo has a personal commitment to the community in addition to her other qualifications.

"Paige has a great personality and dedication that will serve our constituents well," said Piepho.

"My main goal is to support Mary and to make sure she has the ability to do her job," D'Angelo said. "My success is her success."

—Reporter Jordan M. Doronila contributed to this story.



Paige D'Angelo, new Chief of Staff for District 3

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Ashley saves the day

Black Lab barks out a warning as flames attack neighbor's home

by Jordan M. Doronila

A spunky, black flat-coated Labrador retriever helped save a home on South Ridge Court in Blackhawk that was blazing profusely several weeks ago.

Seven-year-old Ashley shriled a piercing bark toward the next door neighbor's home as its garage area and exercise room were being devoured in flames on Tuesday, July 25, neighbors said. Ashley's owner Bob Jensen called 911 and Bob's wife Joyce worked to douse the fire by hosing water on it until the firefighters arrived.

"It was a different kind of a bark," said Joyce Jensen. "The bark was louder and more persistent."

The Jensens said they discovered their neighbor's home was burning after they let Ashley out, and she would not stop barking. Then Joyce Jensen saw the fire when she walked closer to her neighbors' property.

"Flames were shooting out of their house," she said.

Bob Jensen called for help and went inside the neighbor's home to see if anyone was inside. He saw a housekeeper—who spoke little English—and told her the house was on fire. He said she understood him, and she left the house.

Fire officials said the blaze was caused by spontaneous combustion between oily rags and flammable stains in the 108-degree weather. The rags had been used to varnish the deck, and they were placed in a container that allowed a fire to grow, they said. The hot weather accelerated the combustion.

The fire climbed up the home's exterior, spread into the attic space, and extended into the garage and the exercise room, said Jack Barton, battalion chief for the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Ashley was the first to notice that her neighbors' home on South Ridge Court was on fire. Below: The Goldblatt home in Blackhawk was damaged by fire, which was caused by spontaneous combustion of oily rags.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

When firefighters arrived at the scene, one of them told Bob Jensen that a red car parked in front of the home obstructed their path, and its owner had to move it. Bob relayed this information to the housekeeper,



Monday Madness for Marines

The St. Isidore's fifth-grade girls CYO basketball team listens intently as retired Marine John Wintersteen thanks them for collecting items for the Marines. The girls had collected about 10 bags of goods and \$430 for Project Marine Care as part of their Monday Madness, which coaches Blake White and Dan Donnelly hold every August to raise team spirit as they begin to practice for the upcoming season. The girls also wrote notes to go into the packages. One read: "Dear Mr. Soldier, Thank you for fighting for our country. I know it must be hard to be so far away from your friends and family. I am going into fifth grade. I can't wait to start middle school where I will finally get a locker. I hope you are safe. Me and my mom pray for you each night."

who owned the car. She went back inside to get her keys, he said.

"The house was burning," he said. "There was smoke already."

Jensen said he felt responsible so he and a fireman went inside to get the maid. However, they were unable to see through thick white smoke that smothered the home.

Fortuitously, Jensen saw through the windows that the cleaning lady had found her keys and was outside. She had exited through the back, he said. Upon seeing she was safe, the men left the home.

Bob Goldblatt, the owner of the burned home, declined to comment on the incident, saying he wanted to focus on dealing with his dam-

aged house.

"It was a pretty exciting time," Jensen said about the experience, adding that it taught them several lessons.

One, people should soak rags saturated with oily stains in water. Two, cell phones do not work as well as regular phones in emergency situations because rescuers cannot trace the exact location of cell phone users.

Lesson three is to listen to your dog when she barks. If it weren't for Ashley, the fire might have hurt the housekeeper or spread onto his property, he noted.

"She's a very smart dog," Jensen said. "She's pretty extraordinary." ■



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The written word—yesterday and today

Lois and Jim Hammond—and the Weekly—attend the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit in Charlotte, N.C., while there to attend the May 20 wedding of their granddaughter Melisa Cox.

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

Primo's race up and running

Annual event has raised \$2.1 million for schools

by Kevin Zhou

On your mark... get set... register.

There is still plenty of time for recreational and competitive runners to participate in this year's Primo's Run for Education being held Sunday, Oct. 8. To register or to sign up as a volunteer, visit www.primosrun.com or call 866-4127. Online registration for the event will close at 10 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 5.

As in previous years, the two races offered will be the half marathon and the 5K family fun run and walk. The half marathon will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Primo's Pizza and Pasta restaurant at the corner of Diablo Road and Hartz Avenue;

the 5K family fun run and walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon.

All entrants will receive a separate official long-sleeved T-shirt, and the first 500 to register for the half-marathon will receive a complimentary long-sleeved performance T-shirt.

Both races are certified by USA Track and Field, and costs for each race vary from \$20 to \$55 depending on the time of registration and family registration.

The fun will continue at Iron Horse Middle School where the 5K and half-marathon end with a centipede contest, drawings for students who raised money through sponsors, awards for the top finish-

ers, and sponsor booths passing out goodies, as well as bands playing.

The Primo's Run is also looking for volunteers to assist with race day activities. Volunteers are responsible for setting up, directing the runners and vehicle traffic, registering the racers, and cleaning up. Each volunteer receives a T-shirt and a free 8-ounce yogurt at the Yogurt Shack.

This race will mark the 23rd year that the Primo's Run for Education has taken place in Danville. Ninety-one cents out of every dollar collected goes to fund schools across the district, and the race has already raised more than \$2.1 million for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. ■

Recreation

► Continued from page 5

non-resident prices would negatively affect the turnout at the classes.

Newly reinstated member Nancy Dommes said the large difference in resident and non-resident instruction cost might deter people from signing up, bringing friends and filling up classes. With the program fairly new to the area, establishing regular participants is the foremost goal, she said.

"We'll have residents paying \$60 dollars and non-residents paying \$120? It just doesn't look good," Dommes said.

The committee, however, voted 4 to 1 to instate the resident/non-resident fee. Now, if Alamo dwell-

ers choose to bring their friends from Danville, they will both pay accordingly.

About \$7,300 went to the summer recreation program and the program is on a "revolving \$5,000 budget," said senior civil engineer Eric Whan. Another \$2,300 will pay to send postcards to every home in Alamo to inform people of the prices, dates and classes. Matlock said she is currently using multiple forms of inexpensive advertising to promote the fall classes, but that word of mouth is a huge factor.

"The goal has been to establish a presence in the community and I think we've done that," she said.

Matlock is currently working on revisions of the classes and prices. She said people in the community will likely be pleased with the instructors, who are experienced

and professional and were found through phone and e-mail campaigns.

"Over the summer a lot of people attended our events. We're trying to do the same in the fall," she said.

Summer program events included an outdoor movie viewing of "Charlotte's Web," a summer concert series and family fun nights.

Due to cost changes, the recreation program and signup sheet were temporarily pulled from www.alamore.com Web site but are scheduled to be back up by this weekend. Other classes featured will include "Boogie with Your Baby" dance, Tai Chi, flower arranging, outdoor painting, and more.

Contact Valerie Matlock at 451-9176 or alamorec@sbcglobal.net for more information. ■

Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Newcomers and not-so-newcomers

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Being new in town is lonely. Not to mention the logistics of where to shop, find doctors, plumbers, etc. Newcomer clubs to the rescue!

Last week I spoke with a couple of members from the Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club. They wanted everyone to know about its annual kickoff brunch being held Tuesday, Sept. 12, at the Blackhawk Country Club. And—this is important—you no longer have to be “new” to belong.

“It’s our biggest meeting of the year,” said Judy Keilin, who joined in 1998 after moving to Danville from New Jersey. “People who move frequently and join us say this is one of the best in the country, with more activities and more enthusiasm.”

Activities indeed. Groups include bargain hunters, bon appetit, book group, bowling, bridge, canasta and crafts. There are also gardening, golf, hiking, knit and stitch, Mah Jong and movies. Not to mention recipe exchange, scrapbooking, tennis, Tripoly and wine-tasting, plus excursions around the area for special occasions. Whew!

For those interested in learning more about other countries, there is National. “Somebody from another country or who has lived or even just traveled in another country opens their home and people come and hear about it,” Judy said.

For the younger members, there are moms and tots groups and holiday children’s parties. For the crafty sorts, there is a Doll Project that stitches dolls for Children’s Hospital Oakland. Other volunteering includes Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen in Concord and trimming the roses at Osage Park. Last year the club hosted a fundraiser at Round Hill Country Club with the San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Both clubs are now open to not-so-newcomers and attract women who have had a lifestyle change, perhaps retiring or having their children go off to college. But the focus is still on helping newcomers.

“One little group is called SOS in case someone has an emergency,” said Dianne Folsom, a past president. “When they are brand new and their husbands travel they might have one child in the emergency room and another who needs to be picked up from school.”

She joined seven years ago when she and her husband moved to Alamo from Pennsylvania after he was transferred.

“When I came, I didn’t know how to use BART or where to park,” she recalled, saying the outings were her favorite at first. “We went to a museum in the city, to Napa to Copia, different areas. I found out how to get places.”

Sometimes she would return with her husband. “He would complain I’m out playing around but I said, ‘No, I’m doing research,’” Dianne said with a laugh.

She has also enjoyed the hiking group, which the members take turns organizing. “We make a schedule and the leader pre-hikes it and leads it,” she said.

She noted the not-so-newcomers help the newcomers adjust in many ways. They have just paid a lot of money for their homes and want to know why the Bay Area is so expensive and what it has to offer.

“We are able to introduce them to things they may have missed, like free concerts and all the things there are to do right here in Danville and Alamo,” she said. The Web site has an FYI section to e-mail questions, such as where to find a painter, that other members will answer.

And the newcomers bring their own experiences. “We try to have one-third of the new board be new people so we get fresher ideas,” Dianne said.

The club invites prospective members to its monthly get-together coffees. “We get together and talk about the trauma of moving, looking for a dentist, remodeling, living in earthquake country,” Dianne explained. The next coffee is at 10 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 7. Call 775-3233.

Usually a new member will then attend a luncheon. “People always are assigned a seat at the luncheons,” said Dianne. “We mix them up and make sure people meet new people all the time.”

The Alamo-Danville Newcomers’ Club kickoff brunch at Blackhawk on Sept. 12 costs \$30, due by Sept. 7, but the social hour from 10-11 a.m. is free. Call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvillenewcomers.com. To learn more about the San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club, call 648-3525 or go to newcomers.home.comcast.net. Both clubs cost \$30 per year.

How fun to be new to the area and discover the Blackhawk Country Club. Exploring a new home is exciting, especially with others. ■

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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

**Back to school,
back to traffic**

Not only do families have to adjust when the schools reopen each fall, traffic patterns change and not for the better. We have to plan extra time for our commutes on the freeway now and I-680 is more often bumper-to-bumper. But it's the traffic near the schools that is dangerous.

Traffic "calming" is a continual challenge at most schools, as parents jockey for position to drop off children and pick them up. And this is while other students are approaching the school on bicycles or on foot. As the schools and parent groups try to find the most efficient way to handle the traffic during the peak times each day, the best thing parents can do is allow plenty of time. Accidents happen when we are in a hurry.

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is helped in its safety efforts by the Street Smarts program, which has now been in effect for two years. It is an undertaking by the district, the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs, Danville, San Ramon and the county to focus on the safety of our local streets by changing attitudes and therefore behavior.

This year, there are different challenges around Monte Vista High School. The new parking lot on the north side of Stone Valley Road is just completed and includes new drop-off and pick-up areas, surely a boon for parents. A traffic signal is in place for students to cross the street to the high school, plus Stone Valley Road has been widened to improve the traffic flow and access to parking lots. As with any change, there will be a learning process requiring patience for anyone driving in the area.

Remember the messages from Street Smarts: "When You See Kids, Slow Down" and "Want to Meet Cops? Drive Fast." It only takes a few seconds for a poor decision to put someone in jeopardy.

Traffic "calming" is a continual challenge at most schools, as parents jockey for position to drop off children and pick them up. And this is while other students are approaching the school on bicycles or on foot.

YOUR TURN

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

LETTERS: Mail or hand deliver to Danville Weekly,
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LETTERS

More noteworthy swimmers

Dear Editor:

My wife and I really enjoy reading the Weekly. We especially like the focus on the local happenings. I am writing because as I was reading this week's edition in the Sports section (Aug. 25), it seems that one of the swim teams in the league was omitted from mention, as it happens, my daughters' team, the Marlins from Club Sport. We were disappointed to not see them mentioned. Though the team is technically from San Ramon, I guess, they are in the same league as all of the other teams mentioned. I believe the Marlins had six or more competitors in the County event. I just thought that their achievement, too, was worthy of note.

Nevertheless, I'd like to thank you for the local flavor. We're looking forward to reading many more issues in the coming weeks.

Patrick Dowling, Danville

Having an opinion on no opinion at all

Dear Editor:

In the San Ramon Valley, there seems to be a majority, very strong opinion that residents should not provide any public opinion. In reviews of opinions offered in guest editorials locally a while back, the authors received many comments that opposed the publication of opinions and not the opinions themselves. In one example, the author wrote a rebuttal to a District 3 rebuttal to a newspaper editorial. The author received significant comments about expressing his opinion but few that agreed or disagreed with the opinion.

Thus, in my opinion, that justifies the creation of Towne Fools in communities, larger neighborhoods and cities that will simply ask the questions nobody is willing to ask and provide the answers, and defining opinions, everyone wants to know. More importantly, these Towne Fools will accept all the opinions of others that believe that the town fools should not have expressed opinions in explanation of the answers even though the opinions and answers were appreciated.

Likely, in many ways, reporters and editors must often feel like town fools based on community responses.

One could imagine your Streetwise column asking, "Do you read Letters to the Editor? And what do you think of the authors?" Likely, the majority would answer "Yes" to the first part of the question and "Crackpots" to the second part. And then if you asked, "Are Letters to the Editor informative?" I would believe most would say, "YES!"

What is your opinion?

Hal Bailey, Alamo

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

After-dinner arrest

Four people fled Denny's restaurant in Danville without paying for dinner last week, Danville police said.

Police officers arrested transient Scott Collier, 18, and Danville resident Joseph Spanne, 18, for fleeing and refusing to pay their tab at Denny's on Camino Ramon last Friday evening, Aug. 26. The other two suspects were not found, said Danville police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Craig said Collier, Spanne and two other individuals ate dinner around 6 p.m. The total cost of their meal was \$38.15. After finishing, they fled without

paying, according to reports. Some witnesses said they saw them run toward the freeway.

Apparently, Denny's staff gave a detailed description of the suspects, and police were able to identify Collier and Spanne. Craig said police arrested Collier nearby, and Spanne returned to the scene in his silver Volkswagen upon hearing that he had been identified as being involved in the incident.

"Taking goods without paying is a violation of law," said Craig. "If we can identify those individuals who violate the law, we will hold them accountable."

—Jordan M. Dornila

POLICE LOG

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

Tuesday, Aug. 22

- Grand theft from vehicle on Lehigh Valley Cir. at 12:26 a.m.
- Grand theft on El Pintado Rd. at 7:46 a.m.
- Vandalism on Waterman Cir. at 9:45 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Peters Ranch Rd. at 11:24 a.m.
- Burglary, miscellaneous, on Glen Rd. at 12:10 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:24 p.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 5:59 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Glen Valley Cir. at 6:53 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Brookside Dr. at 9:06 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Edinburgh Cir. at 11:37 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 23

- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 12:50 a.m.
- Vandalism on La Gonda Way at 2:34 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Cloverbrook Dr. and Parkhaven Dr. at 3:31 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on southbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:27 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 24

- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 9:16 a.m.
- Vandalism on Cromwell Ct. at 9:52 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Peartree Ct. at 4:24 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Mustang Dr. at 6:34 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Danville Blvd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 9:10 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Green Valley Rd. at 9:47 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Front St. at 10:33 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 10:45 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 25

- Possession of narcotics drugs, arrest, on southbound I-680 and

- Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:55 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Belgian Dr. at 6:40 a.m.
- Felony vandalism on Glen Valley Cir. at 7:11 a.m.
- Vandalism on Bobbie Dr. at 10:08 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Surrey Ct. at 10:21 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Surrey Ct. at 11:55 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Paraiso Dr. at 4:34 p.m.
- Defrauding innkeeper, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 6:01 p.m.
- Petty theft on McCauley Rd. at 8:14 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 26

- DUI, arrest, on Front St. and E. Prospect Ave. at 12:13 a.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 12:35 a.m.
- Possession of drug paraphernalia on El Rio Rd. at 3:13 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Headland Ct. at 3:38 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 27

- Vandalism on Everett Dr. at 1:42 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:17 p.m.

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

ALAMO

Monday, Aug. 21

- Residential burglary on Stone Valley Way

Tuesday, Aug. 22

- Felony vandalism on Ridgewood Rd.

Saturday, Aug. 26

- Assault with a deadly weapon on Stonecastle Ct.
- Vandalism on Danville Blvd. and Livorna Rd.

- Vandalism on Danville Blvd. and Stonecastle Dr.
- Felony vandalism on Stonecastle Ct.

Sunday, Aug. 27

- Auto burglary on Castle Crest Rd.
- Residential burglary on Dorchester Ln.
- Vandalism on Shawn Ct.

BLACKHAWK

Monday, Aug. 21

- Vandalism on Blackhawk Meadow Dr.

Tuesday, Aug. 22

- Vandalism on Deer Field Way
- Vandalism on Wild Oak Pl.

Wednesday, Aug. 23

- Petty theft on Blackhawk Plaza Cir.

Thursday, Aug. 24

- Vandalism on Wild Oak Ct.

Saturday, Aug. 26

- Suspicious circumstances on Blackhawk Plaza Cir.

DIABLO

Thursday, Aug. 24

- Injury accident on Diablo Rd. and Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd.

ROUNDHILL

Friday, Aug. 25

- Suspicious circumstances on Roundhill Rd. and Tam O Shanter Rd.



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Transitions

OBITUARIES • BIRTHS • WEDDINGS

OBITUARIES

William H. Culver

William H. Culver, 85, passed away peacefully at his Danville home Aug. 10.

He was born Feb. 21, 1921. He served as a lieutenant in the Philippines and Japan during World War II and remained in the U.S. Army Reserves for more than 30 years, retiring as a colonel. He worked for PG&E for 37 years as senior chemist in the Department of Engineering Research, in Emeryville and San Ramon.

He was predeceased by his wife of over 58 years, Lorraine Culver. He is survived by his two daughters, Sharon (Richard) Wells of Moraga, and Barbara (Vern) Rayvon of Killeen, Texas; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel on Aug. 19. Donations may be made to the California Masonic Foundation, General Scholarship, or Vitas Hospice.

William Brenton 'Bill' Harford

Danville resident William "Bill" Harford passed away Aug. 12 at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek at the age of 81.

He was born Feb. 13, 1925, and grew up in Oakland. After graduating from Castlemont High School in 1943, he served in the Navy aboard the USS Honolulu and USS Fall River. Following military service, he attended UC Berkeley, earning his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1948 and his MBA in 1953.

He worked at Lawrence

Livermore National Laboratory from 1952-83, serving as budget officer, business manager, controller and communications manager. He and his family moved to Danville in 1953. He was a member of Diablo Country Club where he enjoyed playing golf. His other interests included woodworking, travel and history.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Arlene; children Richard, Janet and David; daughter-in-law, Susan; and granddaughters Jennifer, Elisabeth and Stephanie. A memorial service was held Aug. 22 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville. Contributions in his memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

William (Bill) George Crozier Jr.

William (Bill) George Crozier Jr., 59, formerly a resident of Danville, passed away Aug. 16 with his wife by his side. They were on vacation in Northern California and were looking forward to celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary Aug. 22. He had been waiting for a heart transplant for three years.

He was born in Seattle, Wash., and excelled in academics and athletics from a young age. He moved to Sunnyvale at the age of 14 and attended Sunnyvale High School, Foothill College and San Jose State University on a baseball scholarship. After earning degrees in geography and secondary education, he coached the San Jose State University Spartans varsity baseball team for four years.

He married his college sweetheart, Susan, in 1970, and they

had three daughters over the next decade. He worked for Bank of America for 30 years. The family spent two years in Tokyo, several years in Southern California, and finally settled in Danville for 20 years. After retirement as a senior executive with Bank of America in San Francisco, he joined CommerceOne as a human resources senior executive.

When he retired, Bill and Susan moved to Scottsdale, Ariz., where their three daughters were attending Arizona State University. He became president of the Silverado Men's Golf Club in Scottsdale and continued his 35-year love affair with golf. In 2001, he was honored as an inductee into the San Jose State Baseball Hall of Fame, due to his outstanding performance as a player and coach.

He is survived by his wife; daughters Megan Newman (Ryan), Cristina and Emily; sister Terry McCompsey (Paul); brother William Thomas Powers (Anita); nieces and nephews; family and friends.

Services were held Aug. 23 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville. A memorial service is also being planned in Scottsdale. In lieu of flowers, donations are being accepted for "Golf in the Darc for Sarc," which benefits the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR). Contact Kirk Mease at (303) 757-3155.

Doris Chinn Wong

Danville resident Doris Chinn Wong passed away Aug. 21. She was born in Chicago on Feb. 27, 1932. Her husband Arnold Wong and her daughter Adrienne Lynne predeceased her.

Her greatest joys in life were cooking, investing and communing with her large network of family and friends. In the 1970s, she combined all three and opened the Magic Wok, the first fast-food Chinese restaurant in the Bay Area. She later developed a "place to lunch" to benefit the Women's Auxiliary at Washington Township Hospital where her husband, a physician, was chief of staff.

More recently, she organized fundraisers with her Happy Cookers to benefit the Blackhawk Museums. She delighted in being one of the charter members of the Blackhawk Chorus, performing in the Bay Area venues and throughout Italy. She was also active in the Child Welfare group in Fremont, Messiah Lutheran Church in Danville, and her investment group.

After her husband's retirement, they enjoyed golf and travel together. They were active members of the Blackhawk Country Club and she made a hole-in-one at the annual Women's Invitational Tournament.

She is survived by her son Arnold Jr. (Kelly); daughter Amber (Bub); grandchildren Alex, Bryce and Ashley; sisters Helen (George) Leong; Violet Lee; and Nancy (Wil) Lee; brothers Harry (Elly)

and Victor Chinn; and numerous relatives and friends.

A memorial service was held Aug. 28 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Danville. Remembrances may be sent to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, or to the charity of your choice.

Thomas Claire Glaspy

Thomas Claire Glaspy, a Danville resident, passed away Aug. 21 at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center surrounded by his wife and children. He was born Dec. 31, 1925, in Youngstown, Ohio, and moved with his family to California in 1964.

He founded and operated a law practice in San Jose that he and his children expanded into the Walnut Creek area, and it is still flourishing.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Mary Lou Glaspy; his sons, Dr. John Glaspy and wife Christine Glaspy of Los Angeles, David Glaspy and his wife Barbara of Pleasanton, Paul Glaspy and his wife Ann of San Jose, Thomas P. Glaspy and his wife Erin of Morgan Hill, Dr. Jeffrey Glaspy and his wife Elizabeth of Pewaukee, Wis.; daughter, Mary Kay Glaspy and son-in-law Clark Kaufhardt of Danville; and by 16 grandchildren.

A Mass was celebrated Aug. 25 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Pleasanton. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org, or (800) 272-3900.

Josephine Antoinette Mercogliano

Danville resident Josephine Antoinette Mercogliano died at Kaiser Hospital in Fremont on Aug. 21 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born Oct. 28, 1926, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

She worked as a campus supervisor at Northgate High School in Walnut Creek for 15 years and was known as "Mom" to thousands of students.

She was married Oct. 20, 1951 to the late Louis P. Mercogliano, also of Brooklyn. She is survived by her three children, Roseann Greenberg, Torre Mercogliano and Joanna Arnemann; son-in-law Edward Greenberg; daughter-in-law Chong Mercogliano; and four grandchildren, Anthony, Marie, Thomas and Michelle.

She was a member of St. Isidore's Church in Danville. A visitation and memorial were held at Hulls Walnut Creek Chapel on Aug. 24, with interment Aug. 25 at Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland.

Charles Irving Wilson

Charles Irving Wilson, resident of Danville, passed away at his home Aug. 23 surrounded by his family and friends. He had celebrated his 95th birthday party on Aug. 12 with four generations of

family and friends.

He was born Aug. 13, 1911, in Oakland, and graduated from St. Elizabeth's High School and attended St. Mary's College. He served during World War II as Naval 1st Vice Commander. He was active in American Legion of the Danville Post #246, VFW Post #75 Danville. He was also a 65-year member of Ham Radio #1V8 San Ramon and SIRARE American Radio Club.

He was an employee for 50 years at Del Monte Foods in Oakland and retired in 1976. He was also a devout Catholic and continued to be an active member of St. Joan of Arc Church and St. Vincent De Paul Society. He and his wife Mardi of 30 years were active in the Old Crows, Crow Canyon Country Club, and enjoyed world travels to South Africa, China, Ireland and Europe. As age 93, he went on a tandem bike ride with his family. At age 94, he led a "Boys' Trip" to Alaska to go salmon fishing. He also enjoyed mornings of coffee and camaraderie among the veterans of San Ramon and Danville.

He was preceded in death by Geraldine Wilson; his beloved first-born son, Charles Joseph Wilson Jr.; and granddaughter, Jenny Essick. He is survived by his wife Mardianne Bagan Wilson; brother Dewitt and Shirley Wilson; and sister Claire Giffra; loving children Mary and Cy Najaar, Charles I. Jr. and Lynn Wilson; and the Bagan children, Carol and David Essick, Mardi Bagan, Pat and Lisa Bagan, Joe and Eileen Bagan, Michelle and Bill Warner, Mary Jane and Harry Nabors, Noelle and Larry Hall, Jim and Meredith Bagan; as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren and dear friends.

A viewing was held Aug. 25 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley, and a Mass was celebrated the next day at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in San Ramon. Interment was private. Memorial contributions may be made to Lifehouse, in memory of Jenny Essick.

Deaths, Weddings and Births

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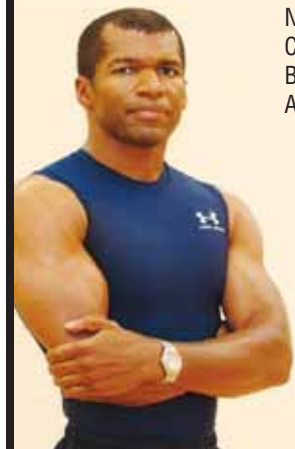
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The return of Friday night lights

High schools gear up for football season ahead

by Rachel McMurdie

For high school football players, next Friday couldn't come soon enough. After a long summer of weight lifting, practice scrimmages and line drills, Friday's games Sept. 8 will mark the end of summer training, and the beginning of the 2006 football season.

With Friday night lights nearly under way, coaches and players are full of hopes and expectations. San Ramon Valley High and Monte Vista High are no exceptions.

Monte Vista Mustangs looking for repeat

After an undefeated league season in 2005, the Mustangs know it takes skill to win a title—and this team has plenty. Twenty-three lettermen will return to the squad this year, led by five first team all-East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) players: quarterback Drew McAllister, running back Peter Geurts, receiver Ryan Whalen, linebacker Brandon

Sweeny and kicker/punter Brook Van Muijen.

While the team will rely heavily on their experience, not everything has been battle-tested. This year's re-built line is without its all-world player, Mike Costanzo, and his running mates David Rudberg, Zach Mosle and John Seroy. It does, however, have help from returning two-way starter Brandon Sweeny and returning players Fred Walker and Chris Krychev. It also has an optimistic coach, Craig Bergman.

"This is a team with a lot of experience," Bergman said. "We've got a good mix of returning players and up-and-coming juniors and sophomores who are really stepping up to the challenge."

Monte Vista will face its first challenge Friday at home against Union City's James Logan High School. In the weeks to come, the Mustangs will also go up against Tracy's Merrill West, which is No. 1 in the Tri-City league, and Berkeley High, Alameda Contra Costa League's 2004 champions.

Returning linebacker Matt Silva said the team is ready.

"We have one of the hardest leagues and a tough pre-season so

we're really looking to step up our performance," Silva said. "We've been working hard in the off season to prepare and I think it's all going to come together when we get out there."

San Ramon Valley senior-filled squad promising big things

The San Ramon Valley Wolves will hit the field Friday, hungry to redeem themselves after last year's 6-6 season and taste a North Coast Section win again. It's a goal head coach Dave Kravitz says is well within reach.

"We're really excited about this season," he said. "We have a lot of experience coming back."

The squad looks much like its 2004 NCS winning team, he pointed out. The team core boasts 32 seniors, "one of the largest, if not the largest" Kravitz has ever had.

It's a group that, as freshmen, saw their varsity team make NCS finals. As sophomores they witnessed the varsity championship win. And as juniors last year they saw the title slip away in the semifinals to Las Lomas High. But this year, they're optimistic they can win it.



RACHEL MCMURDIE

Catching drills are part of long summer workouts for San Ramon Valley High football players as they prepare for the season opener Sept. 8.

"Being so close last year and having so much potential this year, it really fires them up," Kravitz said. "It's a huge motivator. They want it."

Helping them get there will be third year varsity tailback, safety and special teams player Roy Helu Jr., a 2005 all league player who has been recruited by the likes of Cal, Oregon, BYU and Nebraska. Also returning are second-year defensive tackle/offensive guard Zack Madoncik and all-league quarterback Corbin Louks.

Helu said though the team had some growing pains last year, this

year's squad is promising.

"You can expect a lot more big break plays," he said. "We all have more experience, and we have a lot of returning players on the field."

The Wolves will get their pre-season play in Friday when they will face Oakland's Skyline High School. Kravitz said the game will be a good litmus test for the season, but with the senior-filled ranks, the team has hopes for its long-term potential.

"This is the best San Ramon Valley team ever," Helu said. "The best." ■

SPORTS DIGEST

High-point swimmers



Daniella Orlandi (left) and Jenny Barcellona, swimmers for the Crow Canyon Country Club Sea Lions Swim Team, were the high point winners at the Contra Costa County Swimming Championships held Aug. 19-20. Daniella won first place in the 9/10 girls division for butterfly and individual medley. Jenny won first place in the 9/10 girls division for freestyle and backstroke.

Both girls swam on the free and medley relay teams that also won two first-place gold medals and set a new county record. They are entering sixth grade at Charlotte Wood Middle School.

Celtics win Santa Clara Invitational

Mustang Celtic U12 Division 1 soccer team, coached by Hugh

Kinnear, secured its fourth tournament championship in a row with a 5-0 championship win in the 2006 Santa Clara Sporting Invitational. The three-day event is one of Northern California's highest rated boys tournaments of the season with some of the best competition in the area.

The team started off winning its bracket with a record of 2 wins and a draw. The Celtics moved on to win its final two games to secure the tournament. Team results included 4 wins, 1 draw, no losses, 1 shutouts, 19 goals for and 6 against. Local boys playing on the team are from Danville, Pleasanton, Castro Valley and Palo Alto.

Golf event draws local youths

Four local golfers took play in the Fidelity Investments Junior Open golf tournament held Aug. 14-17 at Ruby Hill Golf Club in Pleasanton with the following results:

Geoff Gonzalez, Diablo: 73-69-73-215

Jeffrey Hamm, Danville: 69-79-69-217

Gregor Main, Danville: 74-78-70-222

Jake Bieber, Alamo: 81-72-75-228

The Fidelity Investments Junior Open, conducted by the American Junior Golf Association, was a 54-hole stroke play event with 84 players from 10 states, Alberta

and British Columbia. Sixty-seven of the players were from California, including the winners, Sean Ouhyun Yoon of Temecula and Joanne Lee of San Carlos. They both held off the field by a single stroke, Yoon with 209 and Lee with 216. Yoon fired a final round 4-under-par 68, while Lee carded a 1-over-par 73.

Gregor Main was runner-up in the boys division of the 2005 tournament.

U12 Girls win in Fair Oaks

The Mustang Earthquakes Division III U12 Girls shook the ground at the Fair Oaks Soccer Festival in Sacramento, out-scoring their opponents 14-3.

The team shut out both the Prospector Earthquakes 4-0 and the elk Grove Blaze 2-0. Next they defeated the Fair Oaks Wildcats 5-1 and in the championship game, the River City Frenzy 3-2. The Earthquakes outscored their opponents 39-8 in their last 12 games.

Goals were made by Miranda Bidwell-5, Molly Kuptz-4, Gabby Piombo-1, Bella Ginnocchio-1, Sammy Griffin-1, Veronica Robinson-1, and Sophia Grossman-1. The defense was tough with Amy Ingram, Claire Boxman, Veronica Robinson, Brooke Rosenberg and Devon Gasparini. The team is coached by Allan Robinson.



JEFFREY S. WELLS

Tiger grows at tourney

Aaron Coleman, 9, a student at Alamo Elementary School, is part of the action Saturday morning at Pine Valley West in San Ramon as his U-10 Boys Mustang Tigers coached by Dave Langon play against the San Ramon Vipers coached by Timothy Morris in the White Plus San Ramon Soccer Tournament last weekend.

PREP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Girls Golf: San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 3:30 p.m.; Monte Vista at Foothill, 3:30 p.m.

Cross Country: Monte Vista Invite at Oak Hill Park

Thursday, Sept. 7

Girls Golf: Monte Vista at Cal High, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 8

Football: San Ramon Valley vs. Skyline, 7 p.m.; Monte Vista vs. Logan, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

Water Polo: San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.; Monte Vista at Foothill, 3:45 p.m.

Girls Golf: San Ramon Valley vs. Livermore, 3:30 p.m.

How I spent my summer vacation

story and photos
by Geoff Gillette

One of the treasured memories I have from my childhood is our annual family vacation. For us, it was either Christmas or Spring Break. We would pile into my Dad's Chevy station wagon and he'd drive us down to Florida for a week or two. St. Augustine, Orlando, Naples. The routine would vary from year to year, but the unwavering constant was that my folks would be trapped with me, my two brothers and my sister for two weeks. Perhaps I'm looking through rose-colored glasses, but I don't remember either of my parents being overly stressed about being confined with us.

Maybe that's why I decided that this summer I wanted to share that experience with my kids, going on a four-week vacation where we could see amazing sights and spend time together. When I shared my ambition with friends and family, though, I got some reactions that I'm sure my parents never had to deal with.

"Are you crazy?"

"Wow, you're brave. I could never spend that much time alone with my kids."

"I couldn't do it."

Even my wife Cindi, who loves me and knows me, expressed some doubts: "Are you sure? That's a long time to be with the kids by yourself."

My ego allowed me to shake off these doubting Thomases. I'm Stay-At-Home-Dad Man! I've been the at-home parent for six years! Ha! I laugh at long car rides. Ego bolstered, I set about planning our trip.

The original idea was to head east, with a first stop in Colorado Springs. We moved to Danville from there a year ago, and my kids were missing their friends. So I figured we would stop for a visit, then continue on another thousand miles east to Chicago, where much of our family lives. Cindi would fly out and join us for the visit, then head back to work while we continued on our odyssey.

I thought we might swing south on our way back west, hitting the big Utah national parks like Bryce Canyon, Zion and Arches. My wife, easily the smarter of the two of us, pointed out we'd been to those parks and suggested going north instead of south. Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Tetons and others beckoned us on the road to adventure.

The weeks of July flew by and finally we were ready to head off. The kids had their travel bags and snacks; I had a cooler, an itinerary and a route programmed into my brand new GPS navigation system. At 6 a.m. on July 22nd our adventure began.

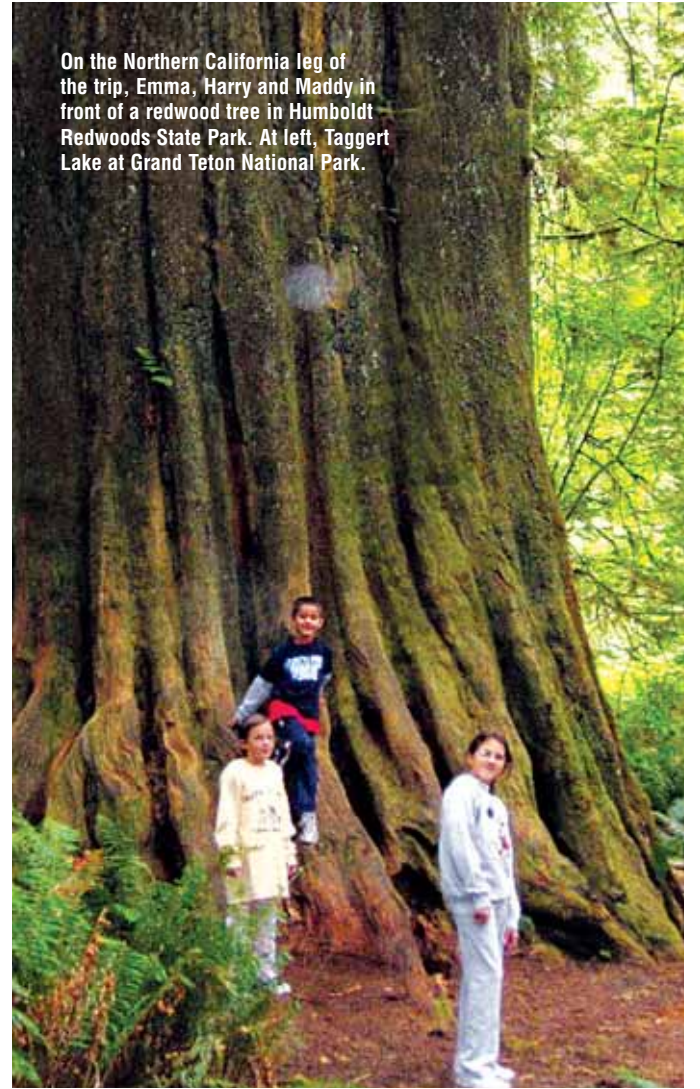
What do you mean 'out of gas'?!

While you wouldn't think that the 730-mile stretch between Danville and Salt Lake City could be very adventuresome or exciting, I can tell you that our first day on the road was fraught with a few more thrills than I would have liked.

All was going well. The kids—Maddy, 10; Emma, 8; and Harry, 6—were all reading, listening to music on their headphones, or playing Gameboy. I had the stereo all to myself and enjoyed those first few hours of blissful peace and quiet. We made it to Lake Tahoe by late morning and continued on after a brief stop for gas and a restroom break. Things didn't get really interesting until early afternoon.

The GPS said I still had another 150 miles to go to Salt Lake.

On the Northern California leg of the trip, Emma, Harry and Maddy in front of a redwood tree in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. At left, Taggart Lake at Grand Teton National Park.



The gas gauge on my Suburban told me I had 250 miles left in the gas tank. To say that was misleading is an understatement. Confident that I could make it to Salt Lake without having to make another stop, I powered on into the broiling midday sun. Into the no-man's land that is western Utah. Up and down hills at 70 mph with the air conditioner blasting in the 105-degree heat took its toll. The Suburban's already feeble gas mileage became nearly anemic and the numbers on the gauge began to drop.

I didn't start to get nervous until the car was telling me it only had 35 miles of gas left and we still had more than 50 miles to get to the city. I queried my navigator about nearby gas stations and was informed there were none closer than Salt Lake. As the gauge continued to drop, I was starting to sweat. Not too badly however, as I believed I still had my hole card. If worse came to worst, I could call for highway service on my cell phone. Sure it'd be embarrassing and costly but at least I wouldn't be stranded on a desolate stretch of highway on a hot summer day with three kids and a dead car.

My jaw dropped when I checked the phone and the "no service" icon was displayed. It seemed that every possible avenue of support had been systematically cut off. "Ding ding ding" went the low fuel alarm, increasing my tension. Instead of displaying a figure in miles, the gauge simply read "low range." My mind raced through the possibilities of dealing with the encroaching situation when I spotted the heavenly blue sign ahead, proclaiming food and fuel available. With a sigh of relief, we swung off the ramp and down into the gas station parking lot, literally as the Suburban began to cough on the few remaining fumes left in the tank.

The remainder of the trip to Colorado Springs passed uneventfully, as did the drive a few days later to Chicago. Despite side trips to Wisconsin and Indiana for family visits, the week went by quickly and it was time to pack up and begin the longer return leg of our journey.

Old-fashioned car games can be fun

I won't dwell on the 15 hours in the car from Chicago to Custer, S.D., other than to say that was the first time on the trip I questioned my ability to carry through on the claims my ego had made. Harry, tired of being in the car, took it on himself to start harassing his sister Emma at every opportunity. Maddy had finished every book she brought on the trip and now had nothing but time on her hands. And Emma, aside from Harry's poking and pushing, was despondent over the loss of our DVD system, which had given up the ghost somewhere around the Minnesota state line.

Whoever it was who invented the license plate game or the alphabet game should have been sainted. They were a lifesaver, keeping the kids distracted from the long car ride and even generating some excitement at times. Who knew that the letters "j," "k,"

(Confessions of a real-life Clark Griswald)
page 14



and “z” could be so hard to find? Actually we all were excited to arrive in South Dakota. It was where we’d never been and it meant the longest chunk of return drive was completed. That excitement continued as I viewed two of the most amazing monuments I’ve ever seen: Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial.

Mount Rushmore has a subtle majesty and quiet grace that casts all over you the minute you walk beneath the monument’s face and see the faces staring down at you. One man near me, on his first sight of the presidents’ faces uttered that it was “history carved onto living stone,” which I found captured the sentiment of the crowd. Groups of people would follow a trail to the base of the mountain and speak in hushed tones, respectful of the history of the place.

Crazy Horse overwhelms you with its size and power and has been one of the most striking projects ever attempted. One family has been blasting and chipping away at the mountain face for 50 years, chipping out the face and arm of the Native American hero. The scope of it is truly astounding. Whereas the Rushmore monument covers one face of the mountain, Crazy Horse will eventually form the entire mountaintop, creating a three-dimensional masterpiece.

After staying in Custer, we wended our way to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. Over the course of five days we visited both parks, experiencing everything from the quiet beauty of Taggart Lake to the power of the Upper Falls to the clockwork precision of Old Faithful. Some sites we drove, others we walked. We saw bison, coyote, moose, elk, hawks and other animals.

The Gillette mutiny

It was also during these days that I began to see I had a potential problem on my hands. The bickering had increased 10-fold and all were bored and tired. Each time we made another stop, a collective sigh would issue from the back seats. While they enjoyed the natural beauty of the mountains and the forests, the two-and-a-half weeks away from home were taking their toll. I wondered perhaps I was trying to pack too much into each day, falling a little too much into Clark Griswald mode and not just enjoying the experiences we did have.

Things improved when I realized that all of our activities involved walking up to something and looking at it. What the kids needed was to actually do things instead of just looking. A hike at the end of a day of touring, or a swim in a frigid mountain stream



Emma, 8, sleeps in the car. “Why aren’t we flying? Because getting there is half the fun. You know that.” —Clark Griswald, National Lampoon’s “Vacation”



Maddy, Emma, Harry and Dad at Artist Point near Upper Falls in Yellowstone National Park.

kept them engaged and happy. It also helped to make certain all of our hotels had a pool or a hot tub to give them something to look forward to.

As our trip progressed, keeping them excited became more and more difficult. While they would enjoy what they were seeing, they would want to spend less and less time there. I think they were trying to get through all the sites we were going to visit in order to get home. Each night when we made our call to let them talk to Mommy, more and more I was hearing, “I miss you a lot, Mom.” Harry even took to counting down the days until we got home and giving Cindi an update each night.

I, too, was starting to feel the pressure of being alone with the kids 24/7. At the end of the day, I looked forward to talking to my wife, if only to have some adult conversation. Both Maddy and Emma had birthdays while we were on the road and it was hard for everyone that we weren’t all together to celebrate and sing. By the time we got to Crater Lake, Ore., I had started my own countdown to home.

The wonder of it all

It was when we were at Crater Lake though, that I noticed something astonishing. We talked. No deep philosophical conversations, but just little things. They talked about the upcoming school year or soccer practices. I talked about things I had done as a child. It was fun because there was no agenda. I wasn’t trying to convince them that they needed to do something or act a certain way using my own past as an anecdote, and they weren’t trying to talk me into giving them something or doing something for them. It was just talking. Relating to them on a level that, as a parent, I don’t get to do very often. I liked it.

As parents we’ve come to expect little in return for our efforts. We think of kids today as feeling entitled, of being unappreciative of what we do for them. But I think we sometimes overlook the pay-

Harry, Emma, Maddy and Dad see the wilderness on horseback near the Crazy Horse Monument in South Dakota.

offs we get every day. An unguarded conversation with a pre-teen is worth its weight in gold. I can think of other things as well...

...Walking on a gorgeous trail through the Redwood National Forest, sunlight tinted green by the foliage overhead, holding hands with Maddy, even getting a kiss on the forehead when we stop on a log to catch our breath.

...Emma, up to her knees in the waters of Taggart Lake trying to catch minnows suddenly stopping to squint up at me and murmur, “I love you Daddy.”

...Or sitting and looking at the crystal blueness of Crater Lake and having Harry (who moments before had told me I was the meanest Dad in the world) crawl into my lap and put his head on my chest before offering me a simple, “Thanks.”

During the course of our trip we traveled 5,700 miles, crossed through 15 states and saw over half a dozen national parks and monuments over the course of 24 days. But that “thank you” delivered with the simple innocence of a child ... well, it just made it all worthwhile.

Since we’ve been back I’ve gotten to hear them tell friends and family all about our trip. Even now, a week later, with school looming and summer coming to an end I hear the thrill of excitement in their voices as they talk of photographing a trio of elk from 40 feet away, or watching a herd of bison stroll past our car. I hear that and I think, “We’ve made some memories. Things for our kids to tell their kids and maybe take them on a similar trip years from now.”

I love my kids and enjoyed spending this time with them, experiencing the natural wonder and beauty that we are fortunate enough to have in our country. It was a once in a lifetime experience and one I will carry with me forever. As for next summer ... well, the beach is sounding pretty good to me. ;-) ■

Travel bags

The first thing I do before embarking on a trip with the family is to pack travel bags for the kids. If they are old enough, I recommend letting them do it, as they have a better idea of what will hold their interest than you do. Maddy, 11, brought a hair brush and her journal in her travel bag. Some recommendations are:

- Books
- Paper and pencil (crayons or colored pencils are also good)
- A puzzle or skills book (something that will keep them engaged)
- Music (CD’s to play in the car or their own CD player)
- Dolls, cars, small toys (something easily portable and not bulky)
- Extra batteries (for CD players and other items)
- Gameboy/PSP (optional—some folks try to avoid electronics)

Make sure they pack a good assortment of things. If driving, keep the travel bags small and flat enough so they can be placed on the floor in front of the child without completely blocking off the seat rows. A zippered bag helps keep things from spreading all over the car. Pencils and crayons should be kept in a zippered pouch or carry bag.



Soul mates

Dogs guiding the way for two San Ramon Valley High students

story and photos by **Natalie O'Neill**

“Forward,” 16-year-old Derek Czajka says with a stern, steady voice.

At the command, Esquire, his black Labrador, eagerly pulls him across a cluttered sidewalk. They dodge a parked motorcycle, a trash can, patio chairs and a cement post.

This suburban obstacle course would make even Danville’s most seasoned walkers rethink their route. But it doesn’t stop Derek—who has been blind since birth—from treading ahead at the pace of a slow jog.

“They say it takes time to establish a bond with your dog, but I’ve felt it very quickly,” he said of his relationship with his guide dog.

He and Caitlin Hernandez, who both attend San Ramon Valley High School, recently graduated from a month-long training session at Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael. At this sleep-away school, intensive training helps the visually impaired increase their mobility by using canines to navigate.

After living with the dogs and using them outside of the program for more than a month, both Derek and Caitlin say they are starting to feel a new sense of independence. The two have been friends since third grade and live less than a mile away from each other in Danville. Derek has CMV Retinitis and Caitlin has Leber’s Congenital Amaurosis, and they have both been blind their entire lives.

Using a canine to maneuver around objects, over curbs and down stairs is much more efficient than a using a white cane, Caitlin said.

“There’s security that you don’t have with a cane,” she said. “With a cane you have to go slower because you can trip and get stuck on things.”

At Guide Dogs for the Blind, participants learn commands and practice how to walk with their dogs in everyday situations. They also work on maneuvering in difficult places, like on streets with no sidewalks and inside new buildings.

“I concentrate on the sound of the traffic or the texture of the ground,” Caitlin said.

As participants became more comfortable using their dogs, instructors allowed them to go places on their own, following behind at a distance. Exploring unknown territory is especially hard for them, Caitlin said.

“I’m used to having someone always there with me, so it was a little freaky at first. I was the only one making the choice to cross or not cross a street,” she said.

Derek and Caitlin were matched with their dogs, Esquire and Lancaster, based on the dogs’ personalities and their own lifestyles. Trainers chose relaxed dogs for both of them because there will be a lot of downtime for the dogs as the two teens sit in their classes every day.

Trainers say it is important that high school students be paired with dogs who are content sitting most of the day and who won’t be

antsy or overly energetic. Fortunately, the 2-year-old dogs both love to sleep.

“He is laidback and very careful,” Caitlin said about Lancaster. “If he sees a crack in the sidewalk, he’ll pause.”

“Esquire is calm and focused,” Derek said.

Guide dogs serve as essential tools for the safety and mobility of the blind, but their relationships with handlers are not just about work. When the walking harnesses are removed, dogs know they are off duty and are then able to play at home.

“After a day of work it’s like he thinks, ‘Am I allowed to be a dog now?’” Caitlin said.

Still, part of their bond comes from relying on each other as partners. For example, Lancaster gets blue if he doesn’t get to guide Caitlin. The guiding makes him feel like he has a purpose, she said.

“It’s almost human-to-human because we are both helping each other,” she said.

Before pairing the dogs with their handlers, trainers worked closely with the dogs for five months. The dogs were raised from puppies by “puppy raisers” who exposed them to social situations, smells, sights and noises.

“The idea is to get them out, take them to restaurants, parks and schools and to get them used to being around all that,” said Derek’s mother Kelli Kay.

Now, it is solely up to Derek and Caitlin to take care of their dogs. This strengthens the human-animal bond and solidifies the

Guide dog Esquire stops Derek Czajka, a blind teenager from Danville, from stepping over a curb outside Starbucks in Blackhawk. Esquire takes a break in the shade under a chair while Derek and his mom talk at the table above. Next to her bed, Caitlin Hernandez, who is also blind, pets her guide dog Lancaster while he sits on the mat he uses for a bed.

canine’s feeling that they are dependent on each other.

“It’s good for me to have responsibility. I have to feed him and water him and take him out every few hours to go to the bathroom,” Derek said.

When the dogs are especially careful or attentive, handlers show them praise by using their voice, physical affection and sometimes giving them treats. Esquire, for example, will stop at the edge of curbs to let Derek know he’ll have to step down. Every time he does this, Derek makes a point to pet him and say, “Good boy.”

Last week the teens practiced class routes they would take at the high school, as the new school year began. Caitlin was looking forward to eventually taking Lancaster off campus to restaurants across the street for lunch, now that she is a junior. And both students say they plan to take their dogs with them to college.

“I think it’s going to give me more freedom,” Derek said.

“It’s great to have him ... no one is going to hold my hand for the rest of my life,” Caitlin said.

To find out more about becoming a puppy raiser or attending a training session, visit www.guidedogs.com or call (415) 492- 4199. ■



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Let's have a party!

Have you been contemplating giving a party—perhaps to launch the start of the new school year ... or a friend's engagement? Daydreaming about a surprise celebration for your daughter's 10th birthday ... or a cocktail party with the neighbors? If it's been awhile since you've hosted a party, you may be reluctant to jump into the party mode. Breathe deeply, relax ... you can do it. It just takes a little forethought and some focused effort to host a low-stress event and have some fun, too. Epicure has compiled a list of helpful thoughts and tips to turn your anxiety into eager anticipation. Consider this baker's dozen and adopt the ones that most appeal to you:

1 Pick a theme

Whether it's a birthday, anniversary, wedding, holiday or other event, a theme helps you connect all the dots and make coordinated decisions as you go. It could be a color scheme or revolve around music, cuisine, season, era ... or the host/ess' favorite hobby, TV show, sport or travel destination. Jennifer Franklin, sales and marketing director for Patrick David's Fine Catering & Event Planning suggests: "Keep the theme present throughout the event. From the invitation to food, colors, drinks, etc. It helps people identify with your concept. Ask your guests to dress in theme attire. Most importantly, make it fun for everyone."

2 Organize the work

The shortest distance between two points is not a straight line—it is organization. First, ask yourself five critical questions: Who (and how many)? What? Where? When? How? Now, generate definitive answers to each. Next, establish a plan: From Point A (OK, I'm having a party!) to Point B (Yikes, the party is now!), outline every individual task that must be accomplished by you or someone else. Shuffling the tasks, create a timeline leading up to and at least one day after the event ... or at least batch them into priority groupings. Continually modify the plan as you go. Jennifer adds: "If this is your first time planning a party, do a little research about what it is your event is going to be. Make notes for yourself about things that you want and don't want. If it's more than a casual gathering, give yourself at least six to eight weeks. If you're expecting over 50 guests or a wedding, give yourself six months to a year. Things come up, and there could be many details to work through."

3 Simple is better

Decide how much you're willing to spend to create the effect that will make you happy without breaking the bank. To keep from being overwhelmed with cost and work, start with simple, basic elements and let your theme provide

accent and a cohesive ambiance. At great parties, people are having so much fun, they don't have time to wonder what you don't have or didn't do. The only no-no on simple is plastic. You can always load the dishwasher "mañana."

4 Use what you have

Think about things you own in non-traditional but creative ways. Wine glasses can be used as vases to float flowers, votives can be batched on mirrors and set outside for added ambiance, a large silver tray from your grandmother's tea service can be used to serve cocktails or as a bar station. Your teapot collection can display individual flowers, your Paris souvenirs can brighten a restroom and your crystal punch bowl can serve shrimp or guacamole. Don't be limited by regular uses of items; Let your theme steer you down new decorating and serving paths.

5 Be eclectic

If you're like me, you have lots of nice china, cutlery and serve ware put away "for company" that is rarely used. Pull it out and use it. Trust me, the pieces themselves will appreciate being re-discovered. And since most pieces come in sets of 4, 6 and 8, feel free to mix it up—using unmatched pieces in interesting combos while providing enough to accommodate the crowd.

6 Surf for stuff

Try a Google search to see what comes up for your theme. You may get even more ideas and sources. If you need a specialty item or food, find and buy it online to save you time and frustration in shopping for your party goods. Visit Web sites for interesting recipes and menus to complement your theme.

7 Seating is important

First, make sure you have enough seating for the crowd, regardless of whether it's a sit-down affair or mingling event. If it's very casual, just be sure there are sufficient places to park a drink, plate or butt. Round tables and seating in clusters will help stimulate conversation. If it's a formal dinner, seat guests based on common interests but spread your chatty and shy guests evenly, if possible.

8 Splurge a little

Two party essentials that deserve special attention and your best choices are food and flowers. And if you have to choose, serve the best food and skip flowers all together. (Better to have no flowers than cheesy ones and divert the extra dollars to great food.) In order to offer vittles that will linger in guests' minds, cut corners in

other ways—use inexpensive fabric instead of fancy tablecloths, borrow extra dishes/glasses from your friends and eliminate the chocolate fountain.

9 Give it some punch

Instead of unlimited bar (which increases cost and creates half-used bottles), create one specialty drink—cosmos, margaritas, champagne punch, martinis, etc. Make it in large batches and let guests help themselves. Always offer alcoholic and non-alcoholic alternatives, even if only water.

10 Use your best assets

I love to cook for parties but that may not be your forte. On the other hand, don't look for me to bartend or DJ. Know your strengths and play to them. Do the things that will bring you joy and pride, leave the other work to those who know it best.

11 Employ others' strengths

Make the event personal but don't try to handle everything yourself. Whether it's your best friend or your favorite caterer, let someone else help with your vision and guidance. People love to offer their gifts and generally feel honored to be a part of something special. Give yourself permission to "cheat" as needed: Cook the entrée but order the side dishes. Create the main meal and ask friends to make different desserts. Or, let the caterer deliver the food but serve it yourself!

12 Keep it casual

Create a "first base" space where guests can get acclimated and hang out as people arrive in waves. Make it self-service while you handle finishing touches and last-minute details. Do the same for dessert: Put out several choices with plates and forks and let guests cut sizes to suit their tastes, appetites and diets, while you put on the coffee.

13 Relax, enjoy

Jennifer cautions: "Being a guest at your own event is the hardest task of all." If you wind up in the kitchen all night, your planning went astray somewhere. And a hostess-on-the-verge-of-a-nervous-breakdown can quickly kill a party mood. Spend time with your guests and enjoy all your hard work. You'll want to experience everything your guests did so you'll be able to share in the post-party debrief.

So, go ahead, have that party ... soon. You'll probably wish you had done it sooner. And, always, always be grateful for the "up close and personal" time with friends and family.

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.



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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.

Accepted (PG-13)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8, 10:15 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:15, 3:35, 5:45, 8:25, 10:40 p.m.
Ant Bully (PG)	Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 p.m.
Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:05 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:45, 5 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:20, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10 p.m.
Beerfest (R)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:50, 4:25, 7, 9:35 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:35 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:15 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8, 10:40 p.m.
Boynton Beach Club (NR)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:10 p.m.
Crank (R)	Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:30 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10 p.m.
Crossover (PG-13)	Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 7:25, 10 p.m.
Factotum (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 9:40 p.m.
Half Nelson (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 p.m.
How to Eat Fried Worms (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:20, 3:35, 5:40, 7:55 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2:10, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20 p.m.
Idlewild (R)	Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 12:45, 3:55, 6:50, 9:45 p.m.
Illusionist (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:40 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:25 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55 p.m.
Invincible (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:50 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 12:40, 2:15, 3:10, 4:45, 5:35, 7:15, 8:10, 9:45, 10:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 10 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 12:25, 1:50, 3:05, 4:20, 5:35, 7:10, 8:15, 9:45, 10:45 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Mon 11:45 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15 p.m., Tues 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:05 p.m.
Little Miss Sunshine (R)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:25, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:25, 7, 9:35 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:40, 5, 7:20, 9:40 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:40 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Mon Noon, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:25 p.m., Tues 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:15 p.m.
Material Girls (PG)	Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7, 9:40 p.m.
Monster House (PG)	Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:15 p.m.
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 12:05, 3:20, 6:40, 9:55 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 12:05, 3:30, 6:45, 9:55 p.m.
Scoop (PG-13)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 12:05, 2:35, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55 p.m.
Snakes on a Plane (R)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 10 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 10 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:35, 4, 6:40, 9:35 p.m.
Step Up (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:55 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:55 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:55, 4:20, 7, 9:35 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:10 p.m.
Superman Returns (PG-13)	Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 7:20, 10:20 p.m.
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:45 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 p.m.
The Quiet (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:40, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 12:55, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05, 10:25 p.m.
Trust the Man (R)	Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 10:30 p.m.
Wicker Man (PG-13)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:10, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:30 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20 p.m.
World Trade Center (PG-13)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20 p.m.; No show Mon-Tues 9:20 p.m. Hac. Cross.: Fri-Tues 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05 p.m.

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4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

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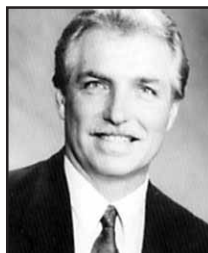
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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

Early school days in Danville

An early Danville Grammar School on Front Street is shown, surrounded by trees with teacher Albert J. Young on the right. He taught Danville students from 1883 to 1900 and was the Presbyterian Church Sunday School superintendent for more than 50 years.

Source: "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon" by Beverly Lane and Ralph Cozine

OF NOTE

Black Box season

A staged reading of "Sight Unseen" by Donald Margulies, the Role Players Ensemble Theatre's first production for its Black Box Season, runs Sept. 15, 16, 22 and 23, at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St., Danville. Performances begin at 8 p.m. and tickets at the door are \$10; cost for donors and subscribers is \$5.

Black Box theater places the actors and the audience in an intimate and involving relationship, unlike conventional productions. In "Sight Unseen," Richard Aiello (The Artist), Carolyn Cox (his Ex-lover, Muse) and Stephen Rexrode (her Husband) negotiate the give and take of their characters' changing relationships. It follows a successful American painter as he detours from a London retrospective of his work to visit the lover he hasn't seen for 15 years in the spartan farmhouse where she now lives and works with her archeologist husband.

The Role Players' Black Box productions are designed to augment the company's main season by presenting challenging plays in a more intimate setting. "Backed by minimal sets and with scripts in hand the actors will present this play through the power of its language and its themes," said Wendy Cooper, president of Role Players board of directors.

Role Players' second Black Box production will be a small-scale production of "Copenhagen" by Michael Frayn in March. Its main season, under the artistic direction of Scott Fryer, will present Neil Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" from Oct. 13-Nov. 4; "Incorruptible" by Michael Hollinger, Jan. 19-Feb. 10; and an original cabaret production "An Evening at the Grand," book conceived and written by Joel Roster, April 20-May 12.

For more information, call 820-1278.

Scouts presenting Janelle Concert



Girl Scouts Isabel Bustamante, Delaney Reid, Kendall Gerberich and Jane Kennedy, promote their Janelle Concert.

Girl Scout Troop 1240 is bringing Christian pop star Janelle to town for a concert Oct. 4, to be held at St. Isidore Church Rettig Activity Center.

"We are really excited she is coming to Danville," said troop leader Caroline Kennedy.

The girls chose Janelle to perform because they said her super high energy makes her concerts fun and they are something the whole family can enjoy. She also interacts with the audience. Proceeds will support Friends of Girl Scouts, an organization that supports disadvantaged girls who wish to participate in Scouting.

Tickets are \$12 before Oct. 2; \$15 at the door, \$10 in a group of 10 or more; and \$45 for a family of six or fewer. Buy tickets at www.JanelleOct4.com or sent checks written to Girls Scouts of SFBA Troop 1240 to St. Isidore Church Office, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville 94526.

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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Alamo-Danville Artists' Society

The Alamo-Danville Artists' Society will be displaying paintings by Alamo and Danville artists: Edith Dittert, Pam Howett, Roswitha Kress and Jessie Spears at the Danville Town offices, 510 La Gonda Way. The offices are open on weekdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., from now until mid-September.

Calling for Artists

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

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 until 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.

Auditions

Diablo Ballet Nutcracker Auditions

Diablo Ballet will be holding auditions for Diablo Ballet Professional Intermediate Program (PIP) and for "The Nutcracker." PIP auditions will be from 10 a.m.-noon for 11-13 year olds and from noon-2 p.m. for 14-18 year olds, Saturday, Sept. 9; "The Nutcracker" auditions will be from noon-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16. Both auditions will be held at Shadelands Campus, 111 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. Call 943-5842 or 943-1775, ext. 2.

Classes

Acrylic Painting Classes

Livermore Adult Education is offering acrylic painting classes: "Beginning Acrylic Painting" is from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sept. 11-Oct. 16; "Intermediate Acrylic Painting" is from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Oct. 23-Dec. 4. Both classes will be held at Livermore Adult Education School, 1401 Almond Ave. Cost is \$35 for each class. Call 606-4722 or visit www.livermoreadult-ed.org.

Alamo's Fall Recreation Programs

Alamo Parks and Recreation is offering new recreation programs for the fall season including 30 classes for all ages. For information, call 451-9176, e-mail alamorec@sbcglobal.net or visit www.alamore.org.

Clay Character Modeling for Kids

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

Mixed Media Fun for Kids

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

Oil and Acrylic Painting Class

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers an Oil and Acrylic Painting class from 10 a.m.-noon, Mondays, and from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays. Charles White is the instructor. Classes are ongoing and for all levels. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

Clubs

Alamo Cribbage Club

The club plays cribbage for fun. It meets at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 935-3325.

Alamo Rotary

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

Alamo Women's Club Federated

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

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club

This club will host their annual Big Kick-off Brunch to recruit new members with a free social from 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Guests are welcome to attend the Brunch at 11 a.m. for \$30. Checks should be sent to Tracy Tredger, Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club, P.O. Box 2843, Danville, CA 94526. For information, call 775-3233.

Bay Area Single Christians

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

Blackhawk Republican Women

This club will host a luncheon and a talk on the connection between poverty and terrorism at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Sept. 11, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. To reserve your spot, call Mrs. Lyons at 820-6452 or e-mail rylons1009@sbcglobal.net.

Blue Star Moms California

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

Danville AM Toastmasters Club

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

Danville Area Cultural Alliance

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

Danville Lions Club

The Danville Lions Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Brass Door Restaurant, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Join us as our guest to learn the contribution you can make as a Lion. For information, call President Ted Fichter at 227-6617.

Danville PM Toastmaster Club #1785

The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, Room 217, 3150 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com

Danville Rotary

The Danville Rotary meets at noon every Monday at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, visit www.danvillero-tary.org.

Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary

The Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club meets for breakfast at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Join them for great fellowship

WEEKEND PREVIEW



DOLores FOX CARDELLI

Learning together

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is hosting an exhibit through Sept. 27 on the One Room Schoolhouse that will take you back to when blackboards, ink wells and feather quills were a sign of the times. The display was inspired by the Tassajara School, which third-graders from the school district visit every spring for a day of living history. Museum hours are 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays. Call 837-3750.

and make a difference in your community and the world. Call Scott at 743-8449.

Diablo Singles Dance Club

Diablo Singles Dance Club dances regularly the last Wednesday of the month from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at the Arts Education Building, corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. All are welcome. Call 837-2851.

Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman

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

Events

141st Scottish Gathering and Games

Caledonian Club of San Francisco presents the 141st Scottish Gathering and Games from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 2-3, at Alameda County Fairgrounds,

4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Admission for adults for one day is \$15, \$22 for two days; \$10 for youth 8-16, seniors and handicapped.

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. Cost is \$10 for food only; \$15 for food and five wine tastings. Call 837-4400 or visit www.danvillecchamber.com.

24th Annual Alamo Music and Wine Festival

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

Art in the Park

Town of Danville will host the 8th annual Art in the Park from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, at Town Green, near the Community Center and Library on Front Street. Call 314-3466.

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Arts Walk and Festival

San Ramon Arts Foundation will host the Arts Walk and Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 23-24, at Dougherty Station Community Station, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. For information, call 336-0267 or visit www.sanramonarts.org.

Autumn Harvest Tea

Elliston Vineyards will host an Autumn Harvest Tea at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 24, at the vineyards, 463 Kilkare Road, Sunol. The menu includes tea sandwiches, desserts, champagne and teas. Cost is \$56. Call 862-2377.

Blue Oval Performance Day

Blackhawk Museum and Bay Area Cobra Club will host "Blue Oval Performance Day" with Cobras, Shelbys, Daytonas, Ford Muscle Cars, GT40s and GTs on the Plaza from 10:15 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This event is free with paid admission to the museum. Call 736-2280.

California Independent International Film Festival

California Independent Film Festival Association will present this eighth annual festival in Livermore from Oct. 25-29. For information, visit www.caindiefest.com. Zephyr Grill & Bar will host the opening night reception on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1736 First St., Livermore. Tickets go on sale Sept. 1; call 552-7335.

Dedication Ceremony

A dedication ceremony of the new Reflective Garden including a Commemorative Plaque will be unveiled in honor and remembrance of the Sept. 11 victims at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Sept. 11, in front of Pleasant Thoughts, Danville Livery Shopping Center, 510 Sycamore Valley Road. Call 838-7070.

Farmers Market

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

Free E-Waste Disposal and Recycling

Electronic Waste Management is hosting a Free E-Waste Disposal and Recycling event from noon-5 p.m., Friday, Sept. 8, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 9-10, in DVC's Parking Lot 7, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Call (866) 335-3373 or visit www.noewaste.com.

Inventions, Inc.

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

Mount Diablo Challenge

Save Mount Diablo presents Mount Diablo Challenge, an exciting cycling event at 7 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 1, starting at Athenian School, 2100 Mount Diablo Scenic Blvd., Danville. Riders of all ages are welcome; riders under 18 must be accompanied by an adult rider. Early registration fee is \$50 (paid by Sept. 17) by visiting www.active.com; day of event fee is \$60. For information, visit www.savemountdiablo.org/mount.

Patriots and Heroes Week

USS Hornet Museum will honor the community's emergency response teams with a week-long tribute to Bay Area "Patriots and Heroes" from Sept. 11-17 including free admission into the museum. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit www.hornetevents.com.

Pleasanton Heritage Festival

Pleasanton Downtown Association will host this festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 23-24, on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. For information, call 484-2199 or visit www.mlproductions.com.

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 Wars Memorial, Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road. The Exchange Club is conducting an essay contest among Danville and San Ramon middle school and high school students entitled "How the September 11th Ceremony at Oak Hill Park Impacted Me." Prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded. Call 275-2412.

Sidewalk Sale

Danville Livery shops will be hosting a Sidewalk Sale from Friday-Sunday, Sept. 8-10. The Livery is located just off I-680 at Sycamore Valley Road West and San Ramon Valley Boulevard. Call 838-7070.

Exhibits

Chinese Experience in the Valley

Museum on Main, Livermore Heritage Guild and the Chinese American Cooperation Council present "The Chinese Experience in the Valley" exhibit that will run from Sept. 14-Dec. 3, at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Admission is \$2. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Embroidered Stories, Knitted Tales

This exhibit will include knitted and embroidered pieces as means of expression in fine art from Sept. 24-Nov. 5, at Bedford Gallery, Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Admission is \$3. Call 295-1417 or visit www.bedford-gallery.org.

Industrial Art

The Blackhawk Museum will host "Doodles, Drafts and Designs" from Sept. 9-Nov. 5, which has been organized by SITES (Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition Services) and is sponsored by the Blackhawk Museum Guild. This exhibit will appeal to audiences interested in art, design, history, technology and popular culture. For information, call 736-2280 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

One Room School House

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

Fundraisers

A Harvest of Friends

This event will benefit Comfort for Kids and will include a wine-pairing dinner, silent and live auctions, cocktails and dancing from 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 9, at Scott's Seafood and Grill, Jack London Square, Oakland. Tickets are \$80. Call 887-5678 or visit www.hospicecc.org.

Annual Summer Clearance

Assistance League of Diablo Valley's

primary fundraiser at the Way Side Inn Thrift Shop and Costume Rental is just around the corner. Check out the different sales including: Sept. 12-14, all merchandise is 1/2 off; Sept. 15, everything is \$1; Sept. 16, fill a bag for \$5; and Sept. 19, the new fall product will arrive. The shop is located at 3521 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette.

East Bay Heart Walk

This walk presented by Subway will benefit the American Heart Association to emphasize the importance of walking. This event is from 8:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 17, meeting at the Danville Livery and Mercantile, 100 Sycamore Valley Road. There are no fees, but walkers should raise a minimum of \$100 to receive the Heart Walk T-shirt. For information, call Jill DeGiacomo at (510) 904-4000 or email jill.digiacommo@heart.org.

Friends of Camp Concord Golf Tournament

ABC Channel 7 News' Dan Ashley will host the Friends of Camp Concord Golf Tournament starting with registration and breakfast at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 26, at Blackhawk Country Club, Falls Course, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Shotgun start for golf is at 11 a.m. The day will also include live and silent auctions, lunch, dinner, drawings and tee prizes. Cost is \$350; \$30 dinner only. Call 389-1984 or visit www.friendsofcamp.com.

Fun Raisers for Charity Golf Tournament

Fun Raiser for Charity Inc. will be hosting a golf tournament to raise money for local charities from 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 15, at Sunol Valley Golf Club, 6900 Mission Road. Cost is \$109, including green fees, cart, lunch and dinner. Call 876-7136 or visit www.egcgolf.com.

German Shepherd Classic Golf Tournament

The 16th annual German Shepherd Classic Golf Tournament will include lunch, green fee, driving range, on-course beverages, gift bag and dinner starting at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Oct. 16, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Cost is \$250 per player or \$900 for four-some. Dinner only is \$70. Proceeds will benefit the German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California. Visit www.germanshepherdclassic.org.

Hats Off America 10K Run/5K Walk

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

Master Gardeners' Garden Walk

The Contra Costa Master Gardeners will host a Garden Walk including six local gardens from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, in Concord, Walnut Creek, Danville and Blackhawk. Contra Costa Master Gardeners will be present to answer any questions. Proceeds will benefit the program for staffing the Help Desk, Speakers

Bureau, etc. For information or to purchase tickets, call Patty Click at 682-6719 or email mclick777@aol.com.

Troy and Alana Pack Memorial Golf Classic

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

Health

Ask the Doctor

Internal Medicine Specialist Stephen Pratt and a urologist will answer questions for a live taping of "Ask The Doctor" from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 6. Viewers can call in questions to 313-1190 or fax questions to 313-1185. The show will rebroadcast on Channel 27 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 1-2 p.m. Thursdays; and 9-10 p.m. Sundays.

Community Walk

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

Mindful Chi Kung

Come and experience this ancient practice to be aware of your body from 3:30-5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients and their friends and family, but reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

Trail Mixer

Town of Danville will host a Trail Mixer on the Sycamore Park Trail from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 9, meeting at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville. Bring a picnic lunch. Activity level is 4-5. Call

Kids & Teens

Adventure Guides

The San Ramon Valley YMCA offers three programs for fathers and their children. Formerly Indian Princesses and Guides, the Adventure Guides are Junior Explorers (pre-school to kindergarden), Guides and Princesses (kindergarden-third grade), and Trail Blazers (fourth-eighth grade). Fathers spend special times with their sons and daughters, camping, rafting, at sports events, bowling and much more. Call 831-1100.

Day on the Glen

Dublin will present "Day on the Glen" with a day of family focused, fun-filled activities from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, at Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, Dublin. This event is free. Call 556-4500 or visit www.dayontheglen.com/info.

Fall Story Times

Danville Library will host Fall Story Times for children beginning Monday, Sept. 18. Mother Goose Time for children ages 2 and under meets 10:15 a.m. Mondays-Wednesdays, and Preschool Story Time for children ages 3-5 meets at 11:15 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. Registration is required, call 837-4889.

Hip Music for Kids

Kidsfaire, America's Family Expo, presents the Hipwaders "Hip Music for Kids" from Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 23-24, at the Alameda Country Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton. Cost is \$8 for adults; \$4 for kids ages 2-12. Call (866) 283-8600 or visit www.thekidsfaire.com.

Kids Circle and Teen Talk

The Wellness Community presents a talk for kids and teens "When Mom or Dad Has Cancer" from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

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to a free S.A.T. strategy session presented by the professionals from the Princeton Review. There will be two sessions from 6-7:30 p.m., Thursdays, Sept. 28 and Nov. 2, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889 to reserve your spot.

Lectures/Workshops

Executive Challenges in the Sales Organization

Roberts Management Group, Inc. presents "Executive Challenges in the Sales Organization" from 9-10:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 15, at Bishop Ranch 6, 2410 Camino Ramon, Suite 164, San Ramon. Cost is \$49, including breakfast. Call 355-9300 or visit www.robertsmanagementgroup.com.

Leads Group for B2B Business Developers

B2B Power Exchange presents this workshop from 7:45-10 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, 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.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop

The Wellness Community presents a 12-week workshop for women who have been just diagnosed or are in treatment or starting treatment for

breast cancer, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays, through Oct. 25, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and friends; reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

Robotic Assisted Surgery for Prostate Cancer

San Ramon Regional Medical Center will present a free seminar on Minimally Invasive, Robotic Assisted Surgery for Prostate Cancer from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 12, in the South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. To reserve your spot, call (800) 284-2878 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

Working Toward Peace Forum

Rabbi Michael Lerner will give a talk on "How to End Wars in the Middle East and Iraq - and Keep Out of Future Wars" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 12, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. The Center is suggesting a \$10-20 donation; no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Call 933-7850.

Literary Events

Library Book Discussions

The Book Discussion Group has chosen books for 2006. The discussion group meets at 11 a.m. the second Thursday of every month from September through May at the Mt. Diablo room of the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Everyone is welcome.

Two Cities, One Tale

Danville and San Ramon Libraries are teaming up for CityRead 2006 for a six-week, book-sharing event to read "The Samurai's Garden" by Gail Tsukiyama together. The group will conclude with a special presentation from Tsukiyama herself at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Live Music

28th Annual Community Concert Series

Creative Musical Alternatives presents the 28th annual Community Concert Series with offerings in Alamo to include Saturday night performances: Will Ackerman & Alex DeGrassi on Nov. 18; Golden Bough Holiday

Concert on Dec. 16; John McCutcheon on Jan. 20; Laurence Juber on Feb. 24; Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir on March 24; Jesse Winchester on April 21. All shows start at 8 p.m., at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. For prices and information, visit www.communityconcerts.com.

Blues and Kenny Blue Ray

Beat the Sunday blues at Stacey's at Waterford with the "Blues and Kenny Blue Ray" band from 3-6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 3, at Stacey's at Waterford, 4500 Tassajara Road, Suite C, Dublin. Call 551-8325.

Taylor Dayne

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts presents Taylor Dayne from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 23, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$20, \$30, \$35 and may be purchased online at www.civictickets.org, by calling 931-3444 or at the Amador Theater Box Office from 10a.m.-2 p.m. on the weekends.

Miscellaneous

Gardens Sought for Garden Tour

Bringing Back the Natives is looking for gardens that are bird-and-butterfly friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving and contain 30% or more California native plants. The gardens should be located in Contra Costa or Alameda county. For an application visit www.bringingbackthenatives.com; applications are due by Sept. 15. For information, call (510) 236-9558.

On Stage

'A Night at the Improv!'

San Ramon Parks and Recreation Department will host "A Night at the Improv!" at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, at Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Cost is \$5. Call 973-3200 or visit www.sanramonimprov.com.

Comedy Night

Join Elliston Vineyard for a night of food, wine and laughter from 6:30-10 p.m., Friday, Sept. 15, at the vineyards, 463 Kilcare Road, Sunol. Rick Pulido is the headliner along with Todd Link and Jason Downs. Cost is \$65 plus gratuity and tax; \$57 for Club 200 members. Call 862-2377

'Long Day's Journey into Night'

The 2006 Eugene O'Neill Festival will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first U.S. production of O'Neill's

"Long Day's Journey into Night" by presenting the Pulitzer-Prize winning play at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Oct. 6-7 and at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 8, in the Old Barn at Tao House, Danville. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.gov. For information, visit www.eugeneoneill.org.

'Sight Unseen'

Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Sight Unseen" at its first "black box" production with showings at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Sept. 15-16 and 22-23, at Danville Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for subscribers and donors. Call 820-1278 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

St. Mary's College Performing Arts Series

This series opens Sept. 16 with Byron Motley's one-man show Hits and Homeruns; the Quartet San Francisco will bring their infectious enthusiasm on Oct. 6; one-woman show, Caterpillar Soup, performs Nov. 15; and a Musical Celebration for Christmas is Dec. 9. For information, call 631-4670 or visit www.stmarysca.edu.

'The Marriage of Figaro'

The production of "The Marriage of Figaro" will run from Sept. 12-Oct. 7 at different times, a production of Center REPeratory Company, in the Leshner Theatre, Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$14-38. For more information, call 295-1413 or visit www.dlrca.org.

Seniors

Bridge

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

Buzz Sessions

Town of Danville presents Buzz Sessions for seniors from 1-2:30 p.m., each fourth Tuesday of the month, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. These events are free, but register to reserve your place by calling 314-3400. The next session will be on Disaster Preparedness on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Celebrating the Second Half of Life

"Sage-ing Circles" is for men and women 55 years and over to move beyond the cultural stereotypes of aging by discovering deep sources of inner wisdom, purpose and creativity. This class runs for four weeks from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sept. 14-Oct. 4, at Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Cost is \$60. Call 314-3400 or Jean Crane at 820-3345.

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.

HICAP Appointments

The Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) offers its services free to anyone on Medicare or at least 60 years old with questions about health insurance coverage. Appointments are available the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of every month by appointment; call 314-3400.

Laugh Club

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

Prime Time

Join this club for a nondenominational gathering of "seasoned citizens" from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays (beginning Sept. 12), at the Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. On their Sept. 19 meeting they will host Mark Cutis, KTVU Channel 2 Morning News co-anchor man. A home-cooked lunch is served at noon for \$3. Call Ruth Ann at 820-6387.

Senior Bocce Ball League

Join Danville seniors in the Bocce Ball League from 10-11:30 a.m., every Thursday until 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.

Senior Sneaker Trips

Town of Danville will host Senior Sneaker Trips to different attractions throughout the area. For a list of dates, go to the Danville Community Center at 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us. The next trip will be to the Alamo Idea House from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 15. Cost is \$8 for residents; \$10 non-resident; includes transportation. Bring money for lunch.

St. Isidore's 'Young at Heart'

Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

Valley Oak Respite Center Activities for Seniors

Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1936 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. The cost is \$25 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040.

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Sports

Adult Kickball League

Town of Danville will host an adult coed kickball league for players 18 years and up. The games will be played between 6:30-10 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville. The season will last eight weeks, plus playoffs. Cost is \$250 for resident teams; \$300 for non-resident teams. The deadline for submitting rosters is Sept. 1. 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

American Chronic Pain Association

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

Bipolar Support Group

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

Breast Cancer Support Group

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

Cancer Support Groups

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

ClutterLess 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

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous

Are you having trouble controlling the way you eat? There is a solution to weight and diet obsession. This effective 12-step program has proven results. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Wednesday, at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. For a complete listing of East Bay meetings, call 600-6028 or visit www.foodaddicts.org.

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.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop

This 12-week workshop is for women who have just been diagnosed, in treatment or just starting treatment. The workshop is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 19-Jan. 9, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

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.

Return to Wellness

This is a 10-week workshop for women who are at least three weeks past treatment for breast cancer. The workshop will meet from 4-6 p.m., Sept. 11-Nov. 15, at the Wellness Center, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 933-0107.

San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support

San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain

Support meets from 7-9 p.m. every other Monday in Danville. Call Denise for location and information at 837-0510.

Volunteering

AARP Community Presence Team

This team will host a recruitment event with a number of volunteers that will present why they are donating their time, what they do and its benefits from 1-3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 12, at the Concord Senior Center, Conference Room A, 2727 Parkside Circle, Concord. For information, contact Sara Aranda at (866) 448-3614.

DVLC Needs You

Diablo Valley Literacy Council (DVLC) is looking for volunteers to help non-English speaking adults learn to read, write and speak English. They will host three tutor-training workshops on Sept. 23, 26 and 30 at 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. There is a \$15 non-refundable registration fee. Call 938-0139.

Friends of Discovery

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

Hats Off America

This organization needs your help at the Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 9. Volunteers are needed as spotters and to pass out water. A BBQ will be provided after the run. For information, contact Sparky George at 855-1950, email thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

LPGA "Long's Challenge" Tournament

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

Mount Diablo Challenge

If you cannot ride or would like to help out at the Mount Diablo Challenge on Sunday, Oct. 1, please e-mail smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org. Volunteers will be needed throughout the course.

Sunset Magazine Idea House

The Sunset House is looking for volunteers to work five hour shifts in the "House of Innovation Idea House" by greeting the public, answering questions and selling tickets from Sept. 8-Nov. 12, at the Idea House in Alamo. Volunteers must be able to stand for five hours (although breaks will be provided). Training will be provided. Call (800) 786-7375 or visit www.helpnow.org.

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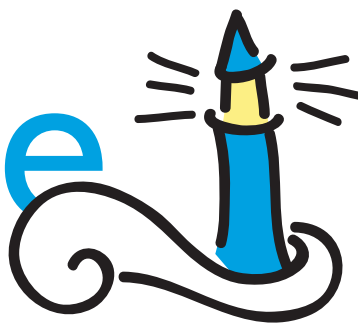
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

* DEADLINE *

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Tuesday 11:59 PM
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Danville, 15 Bordeaux Ct., Sept. 1 & 2, 9-2

PLEASANTON, 3987 Churchill Dr (3-family), Sat 9/2, 9-5
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PLEASANTON, 5633 San Antonio St, Sat 9/2 & Sun 9/3, 9-4

Pleasanton, 576 Sycamore Creek Way, Sept 3 & 4, 11-4
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805 Homes for Rent

Dublin Homes For Rent BradyWalsh.com,
5+ BR/4+ BA - \$3495

Livermore Houses For Rent
BradyWalsh.com, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$1995

Livermore, 3BR/2BA

Pleasanton Homes For Rent
BradyWalsh.com, 3 BR/1 BA - \$1695

Pleasanton Homes For Rent
BradyWalsh.com, 4 BR/2 BA - \$2400

Pleasanton Homes For Rent
BradyWalsh.com, 5+ BR/3.5 BA - \$4995

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

Pleasanton Homes, 3BR/2BA

Pleasanton, 2 BR/2 BA
\$1500, JulieLauer.com

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

**825 Homes/Condos
for Sale**

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

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

Dublin, 4 BR/2 BA - \$699,000

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

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

Livermore, 3 BR/1 BA - \$450,000

Livermore, 3 BR/1 BA - \$515,000

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$610,000

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$619,999

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$549,999

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$528,000

Livermore, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$699,900

Livermore, 4 BR/2 BA - \$618,000

Livermore, 4 BR/2 BA - \$648,888

Livermore, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$775,000

Livermore, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1,035,000

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Northstar Village, 3 BR/3 BA
FOR SALE: NEW CONDO, 3 BED/3BATH,
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4 BR/2.5 BA

Pleasanton, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$805,000

San Ramon Home, 3BR/2BA

San Ramon Homes, 4BR/2.5BA

San Ramon, 2 BR/2 BA - \$579,000

Williamsteam.net/livermore, 5+ BR/4+
BA - \$1,250,000

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3 BR/2 BA - \$839,000

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Incline Village vacation home, panoramic
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845 Out of Area

Arizona -
Below Market. 36AC - \$159,900.
Wickenburg area. 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)

Gulf Front Lots \$595k.
Homes starting mid-\$300k. New master
planned ocean front community on
beautiful Mustang Island, near Corpus
Christi, TX. www.CinnamonShore.com ,
1-866-554-5758. (Cal-SCAN)

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Private 62 acre Ranch \$129,990.
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pastureland, borders BLM. 1930's stone
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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 - 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)

New Mexico -
First Time Offer. Abandoned Farming /
Mining Settlement less than 2hrs
Albuquerque. 20 acres - \$17,900. Old
Farming & Mining Community. Incredible
setting, including frequently running
river, spring, views and diverse topogra-
phy. Excellent financing. Call NML&R,
Inc. 1-888-370-5263 or visit
www.SantaRitaRanches.net (Cal-SCAN)


Pleasanton 1 acre 925-417-0806 -
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Pet of the Week

Sterling Silver
This beautiful silver
and black cat named
"Sterling" is dreaming
of a new home.
Sterling is an adult,
spayed female
housecat with a fluffy
coat of fur and a
sweet disposition.
Sterling has been at
the animal shelter for
two months because
"kitten season" makes
it more difficult for
adult cats to be
chosen for adoption.
Consider adopting a
well-mannered adult
cat to warm your lap and your heart. Sterling (pet
#F62027) is available for adoption at the East County
Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin, open daily
11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.



Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 8	Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$588,000	Lowest sale reported: \$920,500	Lowest sale reported: \$293,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,775,000	Highest sale reported: \$3,725,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,150,000
Average sales reported: \$1,133,000	Average sales reported: \$2,322,750	Average sales reported: \$671,684

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Walnut Creek	
1584 Colchester Street Lennar Homes to N & C Flores for \$1,177,000	1676 Arbutus Drive K Haberman to L & S Ruffinelli for \$745,000	2916 Saklan Indian Drive Paikoff Trust to Braumoeeller Trust for \$935,000
2261 Genoa Street Lennar Homes to C & A Thompson for \$1,139,500	3427 Briertown Court J Cassano to V Vuong for \$950,000	1412 Stanley Dollar Drive #2A Steel Trust to C King for \$550,000
2267 Genoa Street Lennar Homes to S Passeri for \$1,034,500	1942 Highridge Court J & N Seuss to S Noack for \$825,000	703 Terra California Drive #4 Sherbourne Trust to Beanland Trust for \$475,000
3 Hillside Drive Devries Trust to W Davidson for \$1,775,000	2 James Court T & C Christian to K & C Mansour for \$760,000.00	2764 Venado Camino R Weeks to E & M Valladolid for \$989,000
55 Marseille Court M Pence to S Rezaei for \$1,000,000	100 Lancaster Road Muldoon Trust to J Bouquin for \$849,000	1404 Via Loma Rowley Trust to J Archibald for \$645,000
88 Monza Court F & C Barreto to D & K Means for \$1,525,000	1465 Marchbanks Drive #1 A Becker to D & S Juricic for \$293,000	1236 Walker Avenue #109 M Pinkston to S Fordham for \$293,000
4 Ramon Court Geza Trust to T Carson for \$825,000	420 North Civic Drive #306 C Shavor to F Orourke for \$295,000	1246 Walker Avenue #308 E & J Budgin to E Hoyer for \$380,000
138 Summerside Circle C & R Tabatt to C & L Coffin for \$588,000	2605 Oak Road #F R Kelly to B Besharati for \$350,000	2212 Westmoreland Court Toole Trust to M Maizels for \$578,000
Alamo	2641 Ptarmigan Drive #2 R Brooks to R & C Dickson for \$610,000	1560 Westwood Court D & A Publicover to T & L Smith for \$1,150,000
70 Lark Place Lark Place Limited to D & C Welsch for \$3,725,000	3216 Ravenglass Court A Harmon to P & L Stackpole for \$1,090,000	
2 Lyman Lane King Trust to R Beck for \$920,500		

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

Alamo	Blackhawk
3 Bedrooms	5 Bedrooms
1470 Danville Blvd., #2 Sun 1:30-4 Empire \$524,950 200-2471	4065 Eagle Nest Ln. Sun 1-4:30 Intero \$1,399,000 736-1666
5 Bedrooms	Danville
44 Stonecastle Ct. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,575,000 683-5165	2 Bedrooms
Blackhawk	2198 Shoshone Cir. Sat 1-4 Empire \$674,950 984-1787
3 Bedrooms	100 Shoshone Ct. Sun 1-4 Empire \$695,000 984-1787
11 Deer Meadow Ct. Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE \$1,259,000 736-4155	3 Bedrooms
4 Bedrooms	124 Lawnview Cir. Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel \$588,000 683-7084
3155 Deer Meadow Dr. Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker \$1,299,000 640-8283	1891 Ridgeland Cir. Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero \$699,000 413-8353
	2180 Oneida Cir. Sun 1-4 Empire \$759,950 984-1787

Danville

3 Bedrooms		
42 Casablanca St. Sun 1-4 Intero \$779,950 855-4072		
1102 River Rock Ln. Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero \$939,000 788-6155		
29 La Gonda Ct. Sat 2-5 Hometown GMAC \$998,500 417-8601		
4 Bedrooms		
654 Adobe Dr. Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE \$1,020,000 200-0426		
3845 Sheffield Cir. Sun 1-4 Prudential CA \$1,075,000 484-0900		
21 Ocho Rios Pl. Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel \$1,099,000 791-2513		
117 Merano Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire \$1,197,000 217-5048		
1116 Blue Spur Cir. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,235,000 855-4110		
65 Crestridge Ct. Sun 1-4 Empire Realty \$1,250,000 623-6234		
1049 Ocho Rios Dr. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,489,000 648-5342		
5950 Bruce Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max \$4,250,000 803-4042		
18 Haskins Ranch Cir. Sun By Appt Intero \$899,000 984-1770		
1093 River Rock Ln. Sun 1-4 Intero \$925,000 855-4049		

5 Bedrooms		
2380 Avalon Wy. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,259,000 785-1386		
1124 Blue Spur Cir. Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,299,000 736-1666		
133 Conway Dr. Sun 1-4 Empire \$998,000 351-5859		

6 Bedrooms		
251 Royal Palm Pl. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,125,000 855-4096		

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms		
246A Canyon Woods Wy. Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams \$579,000 292-SOLD		
114 Cortona Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 United CA Brokers \$833,000 977-8977		

3 Bedrooms		
516 Estancia Ct. Sun 1-4 Empire \$1,489,000 360-6041		
18869 Bollinger Canyon Rd. Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC \$2,195,000 487-1194		
2513 Soren Wy. Sun 9-3 Empire \$629,000 200-0525		
9784 Belladonna Dr. Sat 1:30-4 Intero \$714,500 260-8440		
2724 Moet Ln. Sat 1-4 Re/Max \$849,900 735-7653		

4 Bedrooms		
22 Diamond Ranch Ct. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,549,950 577-4165		
9948 Broadmoore Dr. Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE \$755,000 683-5689		
7600 Northland Dr. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams \$765,000 463-0436		
4111 Reedland Cir. Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC \$885,000 487-1194		
228 Veritas Ct. Sat 1-4 Keller Williams \$909,000 989-4123		
12999 Hawkins Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA \$948,000 463-9500		

5 Bedrooms		
2380 Avalon Wy. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,259,000 785-1386		

Walnut Creek

4 Bedrooms		
180 Springside Rd. Sun 1-4 Intero \$914,800 855-4179		

Dublin

2 Bedrooms		
3368 Monaghan St. Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC \$579,000 487-1427		
3 Bedrooms		
4262 Clarinbridge Cir. Sun 1-4 Empire \$625,000 465-2025		
3940 Southbridge Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel \$729,000 998-9747		
4 Bedrooms		
7760 Bloomfield Terr. Sun 1-4 Intero \$1,198,880 855-4179		
6974 Prince Dr. Sun 2-5 TT Worster RE \$679,000 270-9000		
5146 Bridgton Ct. Sun 1-4 Intero \$829,900 683-9799		

5 Bedrooms		
4939 Sequoia Ave. Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC \$899,500 846-4697		

Livermore

3 Bedrooms		
1881 Devaca Wy. Sat 1-4 Olde Towne \$499,000 426-9122		
4 Bedrooms		
3866 Santa Clara Wy. Sat 1-4 Keller Williams \$648,888 292-SOLD		
5 Bedrooms		
1453 Rebecca Dr. Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers \$1,045,000 461-0993		
3195 Faltings Dr. Sat 1-4 Keller Williams \$1,174,000 321-3296		
4250 Azores Ct. Sat/Sun 11-5 Courtesy Brokerage \$934,000 245-1782		

Pleasanton

3 Bedrooms		
5135 Bianco Ct. Sun 1-4 Prudential CA \$579,000 463-6175		
2211 Oakland Ave. Sat/Sun 1-5 Realty World \$685,000 699-7589		
29 Colby Ct. Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel \$689,950 876-4459		
991 Rose Ave. Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers \$699,000 719-0160		
2173 Corte Ricardo Sun 1-4 Intero \$819,000 984-3195		

4 Bedrooms		
4234 Remillard Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 Northstar \$1,779,950 766-1100		
3955 Churchill Dr. Sun 1-4 Keller Williams \$778,000 397-4301		
527 Tannet Ct. Sun 1-4 Re/Max \$868,000 699-2133		
2375 Meadowlark Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC \$880,000 417-8601		
7865 Flagstone Dr. Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC \$896,000 209-7162		
3665 Huff Ct. Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Intero \$975,000 548-6500		

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BLACKHAWK

Country 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**



BLACKHAWK

Surrounded by Open Space **\$2,499,000**
Private, end of court 5bd, 3.5ba, large granite/stainless kitchen. Downstairs master and office. Pool, spa, outdoor kitchen.
Bonnie King **925.855.4072**



DIABLO

Escape From The Ordinary **\$2,175,000**
G. L. Lewis designed and built property. Great location, curb appeal and price make this a super opportunity to own a home in Diablo.
John Lopes **925.998.8262**



ALAMO

Private, Yet Close to Town **\$1,725,000**
Beautiful gardens on this .7+/-acre. 2983+/-sf, 5bd, 3.5ba, updated and staged home. Stunning rear yard with pool.
Constance R. Hughart **925.648.5328**



DANVILLE

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



DANVILLE

Desirable Westside Danville Rancher **\$1,618,000**
This home offers it all. 5bd, 3ba, 3149+/-sf. Roomy living space with upgrades throughout-all keeping with the traditional flavor of the California rancher.
Jim Kolins & Tammy Bergstad **925.855.4172**



BLACKHAWK

Priced To Sell! **\$1,148,000**
Beautiful 3bd, 2.5ba, largest plan golf villa with dramatic ceilings, marble tile entry. Spacious master suite on upper level. Secluded yard.
Larry Paparelli **925.648.7482**



DANVILLE

Completely Remodeled Gem **\$1,099,000**
All new bathrooms, new granite/stainless kitchen, new 40-year roof, fresh paint in and out, new flooring. Backyard with workshop and pool.
Ron Cooper **925.577.4756**



DANVILLE

Updated Danville Station **\$1,069,000**
4bd, 2.5ba, Brazilian cherry wood floors, slab granite kitchen, remodeled baths, custom windows, 6-panel doors, ceiling fans.
Paul Harris **925.855.4134**

Danville
Blackhawk

15 Railroad Avenue
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle

925.855.4000
925.648.5300

