

Animal rescue

Danville woman enjoys ARF lifestyle > **page 22**



Fall Dining Out
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Hardware store missed

Former YardBirds neighbors say businesses suffering

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Danville

W E E K L Y

Mailed free to homes in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo

Mustangs take title

Girls water polo team prevails as NCS champs

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Struggle

The challenges of special education

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Q: What are you thankful for?



I'm thankful for basketball. I can make lay-ups but once I fell on my knee and ripped a hole in my pants.

Hayden Brown, 4-1/2
Creative Learning Center



Thanksgiving isn't my favorite holiday. I like Christmas and birthdays better. I got a piggy bank and a jumbo jelly fish that bounces. In my piggy bank I saved up money for my friend's birthday.

Jimmy Preston Divine, 4
Mary Jane's Pre-School



I'm thankful for ... Thanksgiving. At my house on Thanksgiving we look for wild turkeys outside. We hear them in our back yard. They go "gobble, gobble." They are our friends, we don't eat them.

McKenna Blanton, 4
Creative Learning Center



Horses. I'm going riding later today and I watch lots of movies about horses. Reading Rainbow is OK, too. The best part of Thanksgiving dinner is the pumpkin pie.

Isabella Brown, 7
Rancho Romero Elementary



I don't know. On Thanksgiving we invite my whole family over and I play with my cousins. I always eat the light meat turkey.

Alec Woodridge, 6
Rancho Romero Elementary

compiled by Natalie O'Neill

ABOUT THE COVER

Special education student Trevor Pawlak, 7, uses puzzles to help develop his cognitive skills. Photos by Jordan M. Doronila. Design by Jason Lind.

Vol. II, Number 29

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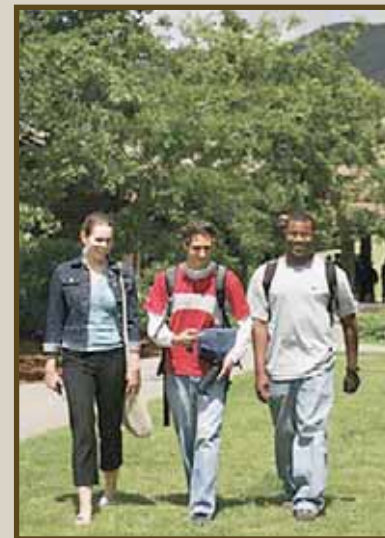
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ When we first came here,
the problem was that the
parking lot was too full.
Now it's vacant. ”

—Drew Nichols, co-owner of *The Dog* sausage restaurant
in Las Trampas Center in Alamo. See story, page 6.

Tree-lighting to kick off holidays

The holidays will officially begin in Danville on Friday, Nov. 24, when the town and the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce light the big Diablo Road oak tree to kick off the season.

Everyone is invited to gather on Diablo Road beginning at 5:15 p.m. for holiday refreshments, music and a sing-along with the San Ramon Valley High School Chorus. The Danville Girls Chorus and the Monte Vista Beauty Shop Quartet will also perform.

At around 6:15, Father Christmas and the Snow Angel will do the ceremonial lighting of the tree. Then the crowd will stroll downtown to enjoy open houses at the shops, with holiday music, entertainment and refreshments, until 8:30 p.m.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will also welcome guests that evening to enjoy its Christmas Memories exhibit, which will continue through Jan. 6. It shows the evolution of Christmas in the Valley by displaying Christmas trees from three periods of time: 1890, 1930 and 1950.

Some downtown streets will be closed to traffic at approximately 3:30 p.m. and reopen around 10 p.m. Streets impacted are Diablo Road between Interstate 680 and Hartz Avenue; Front Street between Diablo and Prospect; Prospect between Front and Hartz Avenue; Hartz Avenue between Linda Mesa and School Street; and West El Pintado near Diablo Road.

Wanted: bikes for a good cause

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville is gearing up its bicycle workshop for the holiday season and is looking for used bikes in working order, especially teen and adult size. Its volunteers will safety check the bikes, add helmets, then donate them to folks who need them, through the Adopt-A-Family programs of Monument Crisis Center and the Salvation Army in Concord.

Many families that receive these bikes use them as their primary means of transportation. Last year a crew of volunteers refurbished more than 160 bikes.

Bikes can be dropped off at St. Timothy's, 1550 Diablo Road, just east of Green Valley Road. Turn on Clydesdale Drive and take the second right into the parking lot. Bikes can be left near Noah's Ark Preschool against the building. Donation receipts will be available. Bikes must be received by Nov. 30.

Volunteers to work on the bikes are also welcome. Questions can be directed to Tania Hanson-De Young at taniahd@sbcglobal.net or call 837-4993, ext. 12.

New owner for Amber

Amber Bistro, located in a historic little building at 500 Hartz Ave. in downtown Danville, has been purchased by Eric Janssen, former food and beverage director of the Huntington Hotel in San Francisco.

“I fell in love with Amber immediately,” said Janssen. Executive chef Jerry Gomez has an East-meets-West cooking style.

Janssen is a native of the Netherlands and has worked at luxury restaurants both in Europe and the United States. In Holland, he was the restaurant captain at the Hostellerie Du Chateau, which held a Michelin star.

For the last several years, Janssen, a certified sommelier, has worked in wine distribution. He said that at Amber he will offer a food-friendly wine list, with rare bottles as well as the classic mainstays.

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Danville denies appeal for canine daycare

Puppy Playland still searching for new home

By Geoff Gillette

Members of the Danville Town Council faced a packed house at their Nov. 8 meeting as dozens of residents turned out to protest the proposed location of a canine daycare and boarding facility near the town's southern border.

Council members held a public hearing over a request by Puppy Playland owner James Barbour to overturn a ruling by the Town Planning Commission denying him a special use permit to move his facility from San Ramon to a building at 3420 Fostoria Way. The

commission considered the request at both its Aug. 15 and Sept. 26 meetings before voting to deny the application by a vote of 5-2. The denial came despite staff recommendations of approval for the project.

"The Planning Commission chose to ignore facts and the staff opinion," Barbour told the council. "They chose instead to follow the emotion of the previous meeting."

Commission members stated that the proposed business was inappropriate for the location due to its proximity to residential properties. The main concerns were the potential noise generated by the dogs and their owners as well as the smell generated by the animals relieving themselves outside the building.

The space being considered is on

the north end of a building on the north side of Fostoria, near the Iron Horse Trail crossing. The nearest residential units were estimated to be 80-100 feet away.

Barbour told the council that he had conducted a noise study based on his current facility at his own expense. The study, conducted by Thorburn Associates, showed that inside the building with 30 dogs barking at the same time, the noise level reached 91 decibels. After factoring in the brick construction and the distance to the lot line, the ambient level was reduced to 57 decibels.

As for sanitary concerns and odors, Barbour said he will provide a specified area for elimination, which would have a garbage can for solid waste and would be washed

down regularly to deal with urine.

Barbour acknowledged that many of the area residents are against the business coming to that location. He asked the council to make its decision based on facts, not the emotions of the residents.

"It's beyond my comprehension that the Planning Commission would deny this and put us through the appeal process on the basis of emotions," he said.

Some 57 people turned in registration forms to speak during the public hearing and, over the course of an hour, many of them addressed the council. The majority who spoke against the facility live in the townhomes and houses surrounding the location.

"It's not compatible with the residential units around it," said

Hal Sampson, representing a dozen homeowners. "Seventy-five percent of the area is surrounded by homeowners."

He said having 70-plus animals in the facility would generate noise and odors that would be an issue for the residents.

"I've attended the hearings, read the written material, I think it's time we quit talking about it," he added. "I see no reason to overturn it."

"The Planning Commission discussed a lot of issues," said resident Elaine Brovont. "Planning Commission found it couldn't be mitigated. You asked for input. More than 325 people who live around it support the Planning

► Continued on page 12

Council moves ahead

Residents criticize members for endorsing against incumbents

By Geoff Gillette

Just a day after the November elections, members of the Danville Town Council welcomed back two of their number and made plans to meet the challenges ahead with a united front.

These declarations from the council came as a response to comments made by residents during the "For the Good of the Town" opening portion of the Nov. 8 council meeting. Many of the concerns dealt with the three-way race for two council seats.

Tony Carnemolla expressed dissatisfaction with the endorsement of Robert Storer by current council members Mike Doyle, Candace

Andersen and Newell Americh.

"I feel the three endorsements for Town Council have caused a lot of bad blood," Carnemolla said.

Resident Russ Gorman decried the endorsements as divisive.

"I grew up at a time when people voted for someone rather than against them," he said. "I'm dismayed to say that's not the case anymore."

He added that he believed the support of three council members against the other two constituted an embarrassment.

Under normal circumstances, the council does not offer rebuttal to residents during "For the Good of the Town." However, Councilwoman Andersen responded to Gorman's comments by stating that it has not been unheard of to endorse non-incumbent candidates.

"When Mike (Doyle), Newell

► Continued on page 11



Eighth-grader James Foster on trombone with the renowned Charlotte Wood Middle School's Symphonic Band.

A symphony of talent

Charlotte Wood band honored with invitation to convention

by Jordan M. Doronila

A critical audience of music experts has invited the Charlotte Wood Middle School's Symphonic Band to a prestigious convention in Southern California early next year.

The band—composed of 40 seventh- and eighth-grade students—has been invited to perform at the California Music Educator Association's annual convention at the Ontario Convention Center from March 15-17.

This is the first time in 25

years that a middle school from the San Ramon Valley Unified School District has had the honor of being selected to perform at this event.

"It's incredibly exciting," said Christine Barnes, instrumental music director. "We are pushing ourselves to play at a level we've never played before."

"It shows they can be better than what they have ever imagined," she added.

The band recorded its 2006 Spring Concert in an audition tape, which they submitted to the convention's judges. This summer, the judges reviewed numerous recordings of middle and high schools, as well as junior colleges throughout the state.

The Charlotte Wood band

received an official letter of acceptance in September.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students and school," Barnes said. "The goal of our performance is to demonstrate legitimate middle school band repertoire at the highest caliber possible."

"We will be performing music of varying degrees of difficulty in order to achieve a wide range of goals," she noted.

Some goals are to demonstrate technical achievement and to educate the audience about literature it may not have heard before.

Tim Smith, music professor at California State University-East Bay, has agreed to act as the

► Continued on page 9

Times closing Danville office

Staff to work from downtown Pleasanton

by Jordan M. Doronila

One are the days when all newspapers built their homes in the communities they cover. Corporate-owned media companies are finding it difficult to keep advertising dollars and are cutting back staff and resources to save money.

Just ask the Contra Costa Times. The Times plans to sell its San Ramon Valley Times office in the heart of downtown Danville. Top executives said they are selling the office at 524 Hartz Ave. because the property is not being put to its

best use. Its reporters will relocate to the Times offices in downtown Pleasanton.

"It's best for retail usage," said publisher John M. Armstrong about the Danville location. He added that he could not comment on anything else, such as when the building would be sold.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said Danville's zoning requires ground floor retail for businesses downtown, which encompasses most of Hartz Avenue. However, he said, the Times could have requested a non-conforming use permit to remain in that location.

Armstrong informed the town of the planned move in a letter to

► Continued on page 12

Alamo merchants miss YardBirds customers

The Dog suffering 27 percent decrease in sales

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Businesses in Alamo's Las Trampas Center are feeling the impact of YardBirds' closure. Merchants located in the shopping center say they have seen a significant decrease in sales since the popular home improvement store was "temporarily" closed five months ago.

"There's been a direct affect," said Drew Nichols, co-owner of The Dog sausage restaurant, which has seen a 27 percent decrease in sales since the closure.

Customers of The Dog were often employees of YardBirds and contractors shopping at the hardware store, Nichols said.

YardBirds drew patrons from both inside and outside Alamo for nursery and hardware needs until Home Depot bought the store this summer with the intention of reopening it as Home Depot-YardBirds in 2007.

"When we first came here, the problem was that the parking lot was too full. Now it's vacant," Nichols said.

Other merchants also said they miss the draw of YardBirds.

"Men used to come in for painting and plumbing supplies, and their wives would buy clothes and coffee," said Mary Jane Jossey, who owns House of Fashion Wigs.

Jossey said Saturdays and Sundays were big business days for The Dog, her House of Fashion Wigs and the Starbucks, which is catty-cornered to her shop. YardBirds was more than just a place to buy products for home improvement projects in Alamo, it was also a social center and meeting point for residents on the weekends, she said.

But business owners and patrons aren't the only ones affected by the formerly bustling building now standing empty. For those Alamo residents interested in cityhood, the decrease in revenue and sales tax is a setback for the unincorporated area.

Other merchants, however, said they couldn't be sure their slow business was related to the closure. Joyce Chan of Sparklizing Cleaners said she noticed the dry cleaning shop had been less busy but that it may be due to California's economy.

"It has slowed down a little bit,



Alamo's Mary Jane Jossey, owner of House of Fashion Wigs in Las Trampas Center, sorts through a collection of classy-but-casual jackets.

but so has business everywhere," she said.

In past months, residents and members of Alamo Improvement Association have voiced requests to Home Depot related to construction, products and landscaping. They stated it was important the company understand the needs of the community and work with Alamo on approval issues.

But merchants suffering from profit decreases said the most important thing is to get the YardBirds-Home Depot opened quickly. There's no need to be nit picky, Nichols said.

"It's ridiculous; they hear a big name like Home Depot and they think they can take advantage," he said.

Jossey, who attended the October

AIA meeting, said she thinks the long list of requests caused the reopening to take longer. She said demanding a new paint job after the store had been already been painted last year, along with installing new air conditioning, were among the most unnecessary requests.

"They were asking too much of Home Depot. It was unreasonable and everyone in the room knew it," Jossey said of last month's approval meeting with AIA.

Still, other residents and AIA members said it was important that the approval process be thorough, as the store is a pillar in the community. Other conflicts centered around aesthetics at the store front, back entrance and storage area along the Iron Horse Trail.

Concentrating on the aesthetics of the storage area, however, seemed unnecessary to several merchants. The somewhat untidy way YardBirds formerly kept it had never caused any trouble, merchants said.

"I've been along the trail. There are rundown parts with graffiti. It's no garden of Eden," Jossey said.

After hours of discussion, the AIA approved the project Oct. 11, and it is still scheduled to reopen this spring. Home Depot has committed to \$250,000 in improvements, and merchants said they expect it will be managed even more efficiently than before.

"The revenue it creates for Alamo is a huge benefit. I think we should welcome them," Nichols said. ■

Police prepare for emergencies at schools

New campus maps would help with response time

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Police officers patrolling Alamo will begin carrying laminated maps of Alamo schools in their vehicles this winter. Keeping the maps with them will improve the department's response time to in-school disasters, said Deputy Elmer Glasser and the Alamo Police Advisory Committee.

"If tomorrow a Columbine-like shooting were to occur, we'd know exactly where it was," Glasser said.

The maps illustrate regions and classrooms of the schools, labeled in a way that will make teachers and administration easily able to report locations to the police. While there hasn't been a serious threat of school shootings in Alamo to date, the distribution of the maps are an essential precautionary measure, members of the Alamo Police

Services Committee said.

"I myself was familiar with Monte Vista, but with the new building up there I would get lost in a heartbeat," said committee member Diane Barley.

Oftentimes when disasters occur, officers from outside the area will be called in to assist. While Glasser himself works on campuses in Alamo and is familiar with rooms of the schools, police officers from other cities are unfamiliar with the layout of the buildings.

"Say you're an officer in Oakley and you're responding to a critical incident at Stone Valley Middle School," Glasser said. "If you don't know where the rooms are and you don't have a map, there's a problem."

The initiative came as part of a department review, during which officers strove to find ways to improve responses to crime in the area. Maps of all schools in Alamo, from elementary to high school, are currently being updated.

"We looked at how we can do our jobs better," Glasser said.

The fire department will also be given copies of the maps, which will be used in case of emergency as well. Presently schools practice fire and lockdown drills, should a fire or an intruder threaten student and teacher safety. The schools shut their doors and have entrance codes to keep intruders out. All students and employees of the school are familiar with the safety measures in case of disaster.

"It's a very necessary thing to have in these days of the unknown," Barley said. ■

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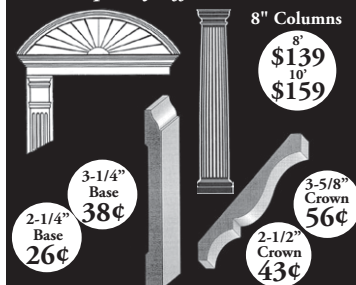
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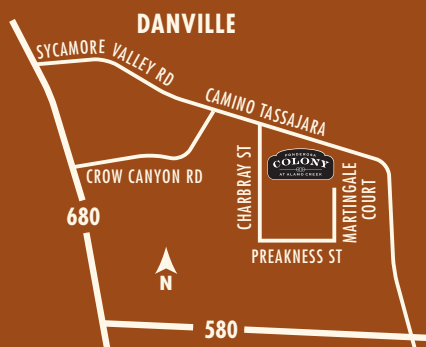
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Map not to scale. 1042-116.



JORDAN M. DORNILLA

The Charlotte Wood Middle School's Symphonic Band rehearses under the direction of music director Christine Barnes, with (below) eighth-grader Kristina Shabaniani on clarinet and seventh-grader Julianna Foster on flute.

Band

► Continued from page 5

band's guest conductor.

"For both the conductor and members of an ensemble, these experiences are opportunities to grow in ways that could never, ever be replicated within the confines of a 'normal' yearly performance schedule," he wrote in a letter to the band.

Over the next six months, band members will be finalizing



music, holding extra rehearsals and performances, working with guest music professionals, and traveling to local universities to refine their craft to pre-

pare for Ontario. "It's fun," said Julianna Foster, a seventh-grade flute player. "I like playing the flute. Mrs. Barnes is great." ■

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Election takes more than money

by Jordan M. Doronila

The election is over and the financial expenditures are being tallied:

- Mike Shimansky: \$2,629
- Karen Stepper: \$11,797
- Robert Storer: \$23,481

The three candidates who ran for two open seats on the Danville Town Council during the Nov. 7 election this year spent thousands of dollars in their election campaigns. Danville's most recent financial reports on campaign contributions and expenditures only cover the period up to Oct. 21, said City Clerk Marie Sunseri. The campaign finance information from Oct. 22 to Dec. 31 is due Jan. 31.

Candidates have also filed some late contributions and expenditures that came after Oct. 21 in their current financial statements, Sunseri said.

Incumbents Stepper and Shimansky defeated challenger

Storer, a planning commissioner, in the election. The vote tally was:

- Stepper: 8,548
- Shimansky: 7,540
- Storer: 6,223

Storer received campaign contributions of \$23,932, Sunseri said. Stepper received \$24,375, and Shimansky, \$8,547.

Storer received a contribution of \$500 from Councilman Newell Arnerich and \$100 from Councilman Mike Doyle. He also received contributions from planning commissioners Steve Condie, Lynn Osborn, Bob Nichols, Mark Graham and Robert Combs, with donations running from \$99 to \$500 each.

Osborn said she is a personal friend of Storer's, however, she noted—before the election results arrived—that the town is indebted to the service of Stepper and Shimansky.

"I value our incumbents," she said. "Karen and Mike have represented the town very well."

Stepper received \$1,500 from the California Real Estate Political Action Committee in Los Angeles, as well as donations of \$1,100 from Brian Cameron, a retired contractor, and \$500 from David Terzolo, a commercial Realtor. She also received \$250 from Ernie Scherer, a former board member of the San Ramon Valley Unified School district who was recalled more than a decade ago. Additionally, she received a contribution from Planning Commissioner Robert Combs of \$100, and the California Women's Leadership Political Action Committee gave \$250.

Shimansky received \$500 from S.A. Moore & Associates, a local recycle waste company, as well as \$250 from Waste Management, which listed a Houston address. He also received \$300 from the Contra Costa Citizens for Responsible Government, and Danville resident R. Gorman donated \$500 to his campaign. ■

Council

► Continued from page 5

(Americh) and I ran, Karen and Mike endorsed Michael Murray against us," Andersen said. "When the election was over we put aside our differences and worked together."

Gorman responded by saying that just because something has been done in the past doesn't make it the right thing to do.

"It's inappropriate for people of the same level to counsel or endorse against each other," he reiterated.

The byplay opened the floodgates for comments from the rest of the council. Mike Doyle said he was thrilled to have three candidates running for the two open spots and he looked forward to working with Shimansky and Stepper.

"We do disagree with each other

at times, but we have the best interests of Danville at heart," Doyle said. He referred to Danville as "Camelot" and stated that the agendas of the three candidates running for the office were identical in many respects. He added that it's a testament to the quality of Danville that such talented and intelligent people are willing to give their time to maintain that standard.

Councilman Arnerich minced few words on the issue.

"Every time there's been an election there was someone else running," he said. "Get over it, there's not a problem."

He stated that once the election is over, no one holds a grudge. The council hits the ground running and works as a team.

Mayor Karen Stepper said she was pleased to be back in office and doesn't see any of the election issues

causing any problems for the council.

"It's a nonpartisan board and we've always had differences of opinion," she said. "When we're all sitting there as a council we put those differences aside and work together. We plan to make sure that when we come to the Town of Danville to make decisions we do so as a council and we work together."

Even candidate Robert Storer, who lost to Shimansky and Stepper in last week's elections, had nothing but positive comments for the council.

"We have many, many passionate people in Danville. And the nice thing about the elections is that after they're over, we're still Danville residents," Storer told the council. "Collectively we should continue to work together. Nothing has changed; I'll continue to be a part of this town and do what I can to help this town." ■

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Canine

► Continued from page 5

Commission's decision. This is not about free enterprise or business, it's about land use process."

"Claim the future, set the course and support the wishes of all the people and deny the appeal," Brovont told the council.

Several residents spoke in favor of the facility as well.

"Puppy Playland provides a valuable service to the community," said Kevin Reedy. "They conduct their business in a professional manner."

In response to the concerns about noise and odors, he said, "It's my personal experience that I don't know I'm at a dog facility until I walk in the door."

William Welch seconded Reedy's assessment.

"Go stand outside Puppy Playland today. You won't hear a sound," Welch said.

He also called on the council to offer equal treatment to all applicants. He said that Barbour runs a clean business, and pointed to the nearby Iron Horse Trail as an example of many people walking their animals and refusing to pick up after them.

"The relief area being required of Mr. Barbour is not a requirement placed on veterinarians," he added.

Mark Fernwood, owner of the property under discussion, strongly recommended approval of the project.

"I can assure you that my concern is greater than your own," he said. "I have a very high level of concern, not just for the neighbors but for the other tenants as well."

Most of the council members seemed unswayed by the sound study as well as the offer of odor mitigation. Councilman Newell Arnerich solidified those feelings.

"I would be reluctant to approve it at its current location. The outdoor area is in the worst possible place," he said. "I don't care what you do, it's going to smell. We owe it to the neighbors to assure them that this will not affect their quality of life."

The remaining council members echoed Arnerich's statement and the appeal was denied unanimously, with the caveat that if the



James Barbour plays with canine friends at the current site of his Puppy Playland in San Ramon. Barbour would like to expand the facility at a site on Fostoria Way in Danville but neighbors have protested.

business were located elsewhere in the building or at another location altogether they would give it due consideration.

Afterward, a disappointed Barbour expressed frustration toward the process.

"I'm dumbfounded. We were given a set of standards to meet and we met them and they still said no," he said. "I feel I'm being unfairly persecuted because of the type of business I want to bring in there."

Fernwood also expressed surprise at the ruling.

"It doesn't make any sense. It seems grossly unfair to turn this request down," Fernwood said. "I don't think the decision was made on the facts, it was made on a 'rabble' mentality."

He said in the past the site has had companies that made and tested detonators, as well as jet engines, so noise has been a part of the location.

"But now," he said, "the houses get built and the utility of my property is lessened."

Town officials say there is no per-

secution going on. Town Attorney Rob Ewing said that while the canine facility may technically fall within the guidelines of a light industrial zoning there are other issues that factor in as well.

"Regardless of where it's located in town, a kennel needs a special use permit," said Ewing. "It could be out on Lawrence Road or somewhere more rural and you still have to get a permit."

Mayor Karen Stepper said she understands Barbour's frustration but the Town Council has to weigh all the factors. The large protest by residents weighed heavily against it as did the ongoing concerns about noise and odor.

"Decisions like this are very hard because we want to encourage small businesses in Danville and businesses that provide a direct service to Danville residents," Stepper said.

Barbour said he hasn't ruled out Danville as a location for his business. He plans to meet this week with his Realtor to begin examining other possible sites. ■

Times

► Continued from page 5

Calabrigo dated Nov. 2. He wrote that the decision to move does not diminish the Times' commitment to covering the community.

Calabrigo said the Town Council members would like to build more retail stores downtown.

"They are really looking in the downtown area (to create) a pedestrian retail environment," he said. This plan would help Danville become more viable economically, he added.

The San Ramon Valley Times building is worth between \$2.5 million and \$3 million, according to its reports. The property is approximately 14,400 square feet and the building is 5,900 square feet, Calabrigo said.

"I don't think they are going to have a lack of potential buyers," he said.

A zoning ordinance, which has been updated this past year, requires new business owners in downtown to have ground retail stores if their buildings have been vacant or have not been established for more than three months. Current businesses that are service-oriented, such as dentists or skin care professionals,

can request a non-conforming use permit, which would allow them to continue.

Gayle Vassar, who worked as a Times reporter at the Danville office from 1990-92, had fond memories of being part of the community.

"It was great," said Vassar, who is now community relations manager for the city of Walnut Creek. "We were very close knit. I enjoyed being part of a small newspaper."

MediaNews Group Inc., which recently purchased the Contra Costa Times, has also eliminated jobs in several locations, with cuts affecting every part of the publishing operations.

A "sudden and steep" decline that has jolted the housing market in the Bay Area, coupled with an ongoing migration of advertising money to the Internet, has forced papers to reduce staffing, Armstrong said in a Times story.

The cuts have also affected other MediaNews Group publications such as the San Ramon Valley Herald, the Tri-Valley Herald and the Oakland Tribune.

Additionally, Times management has eliminated jobs in the Contra Costa Newspapers advertising production department with plans to outsource work to Express-KCS, a U.S. company with operations in India. ■

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Gobble, gobble

Let's talk turkey. And that's easy to do around here because the hills are alive—with the sound of gobbling.

When I play tennis with my friend Judy, a flock often struts single file up and down the hill behind the neighborhood courts on McCauley Road in Danville. If one of us gives a shout in the heat of the athletic moment, the turkey trotters will join in with a gobble gobble gobble.

The world is divided into two types of people, says Phil Martinelli, president of the state chapter of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, who lives in Alamo. There are those who love turkeys and those who hate them.

"If they are in your back yard and gobble in the afternoon, it's cute," he said. If they gobble at 4 a.m. and are roosting not more than 30 feet from your bedroom, it's a different story.

Plus they can make a mess. The problems may begin when homeowners befriend them with food or happen to have tasty vegetation. Turkeys love acorns, nuts, seeds, fruits and roots but will also eat lizards. Then a flock might take up permanent residency, squashing plants and leaving a mess on the patio. And they can be aggressive during breeding season.

The Mount Diablo Chapter of the turkey federation is currently working to remove a flock of 100 turkeys from a neighborhood in Blackhawk.

"We are going to trap and transport and release them," Martinelli said. Sometimes they use cages to trap turkeys but for large flocks such as this one, they drop a net. Turkeys can fly but their wings are only made for short bursts to new feeding sites.

If the California Department of Fish and Game issues a depredation permit to trap animals, they must be killed, Martinelli explained. When pest control professionals remove raccoons or skunks from yards, they must dispose of them even though that may not be what the homeowner intended.

The trapped turkeys will be released in a wildlife area. There is one at Cash Creek, said Martinelli, and another near Fresno. The volunteers also remove turkeys from state parks due to what Martinelli calls the department's 11th commandment: Thou shalt not have non-native species in the park. Martinelli says turkeys are native to California based on ice-age evidence found in the La Brea tar pits. But there are no fossil records of the California turkey after about 10,000 years ago, which brings up the point: What is a "native"?

"We are hunting conservationists," Martinelli explained about the



National Wildlife Turkey Federation. The wild turkey population was down to about 50,000 at one time, he said, and is now up to more than 2-1/2 million. He added that the only way to maintain the population is to trap and move them; if you just put out the eggs to hatch, the young ones are born without survival skills.

Martinelli said the biggest threat to local wild turkeys are cats—housecats as well as coyotes and bobcats that come down from Mount Diablo. Also, skunks and raccoons like to eat turkey eggs.

Martinelli goes turkey hunting several times a year, in California as well as Missouri, Montana and Arizona. And, yes, his family will be eating wild turkey on Thanksgiving.

"This year's turkey came from Geyserville," he said. "A wild turkey is much better for you. It has zero fat and also is not getting stored chemicals from grain. It tastes like regular turkey."

Wild turkey is a family tradition for him because when he was growing up in Sacramento, his father hunted the Thanksgiving dinner. And he learned from his mother that although she would cook it, the hunter cleans it.

His family also has a tradition of serving ravioli on Thanksgiving. When I married my Italian husband I was surprised that his family served pasta with turkey—or anything else—on every holiday. Everyone would eat hearty helpings of ravioli and the turkey was barely touched.

Martinelli welcomes both deer and turkeys to his back yard off Roundhill Road and said a flock of about 30 turkeys marches up and down the hill behind his yard on a regular basis. He can ignore the turkey mess, he said, but he did get annoyed when the deer ate his tomato plants.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
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Gina Channell-Allen

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Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Staff Reporters

Jordan M. Doronila

Natalie O'Neill

Sports Writer

Rachel McMurdie

Contributors

Cheri Eplin

Geoff Gillette

B. Lynn Goodwin

Beverly Lane

Jacqui Love Marshall

Katharine O'Hara

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Bob Lampkin, ext. 32

How to reach the Weekly

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100

Danville, CA 94526

Phone: (925) 837-8300

Fax: (925) 837-2278

Editorial e-mail:

Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

Calendar@DanvilleWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Backing candidates

From the corporate world to the political scene, people must work together to get things done, including the Danville Town Council. The fact that the voters re-elected the two incumbents probably means they are pleased with Danville and its leadership.

In the council election, council members Karen Stepper and Mike Shimansky were up for re-election, challenged by Planning Commissioner Robert Storer. The other council members, Newell Arnerich, Candace Andersen and Mike Doyle, supported Storer in his bid.

At the Town Council meeting last week, the night after the election, a supporter of Shimansky's took the podium to tell the three that they should not have campaigned against sitting council members. Councilwoman Andersen reminded him that in the last election, the two running this year had supported someone else against the incumbents.

Although Town Council members represent the residents of Danville in making decisions for the good of the town, as individuals they are entitled to their own opinions. Since they work with each other on so many issues, they get to know each other from a different perspective and can offer insight as can other people who work with them on regional committees or projects.

People's supporters tell a lot about them, which is why people running for office try to get endorsements from elected officials as well as other people. There is no reason that council members should be excluded from this process. We trust that when five people are in office they will work together toward the common goal, no matter what their differences of opinion or what happened during election time.

Each member has the right to express his or her opinion on the best candidate for office. It's not necessarily bad if they don't endorse each other. The important thing is that they can put aside their personal differences and get things done.

We trust that when five people are in office they will work together toward the common goal, no matter what happened during election time.

LETTERS

No 'can do' for seniors

Dear Editor:

I agree with Linda Stolow's letter of Nov. 10—Danville does need a senior center; however, when the idea was brought up some months back, it was vigorously opposed and "shot down" by a town official. I forget the reasons offered but was disturbed by the vehemence shown toward the question of why we do not have one.

I do not like to think that the nice town of Danville, which has a "can do" attitude toward many projects, wants to brush off this important and worthy need.

*Beth Gardner,
Danville*

Kudos for independent films

Dear Editor:

The California Independent Film Festival, which is headquartered on Hartz Avenue in Danville, put on a great five-day festival recently. My adventure at the Orinda Theater and at the Ed Asner Lifetime Achievement Award at the Livermore Community Center was a peek into another world. A tender highlight of the evening was the appearance of Ed Asner's high school sweetheart from long ago. Mr. Asner and all of the stars were gracious and friendly to the capacity crowd. Another noteworthy experience was meeting two representatives from the Sapporo Japan Short Film Festival, which is a sister city event to Livermore's.

Short films by free-thinking artists make me wonder why I pay so much to see big-name full-length movies that usually are not nearly as entertaining or thought provoking as the independent short works. When you stay to study the credits at the end of a 15-20 minute short you realize how many dedicated people put forth so much effort for their art. Go meet all those artists who are so open and free with their ideas and knowledge. It doesn't take long to find out how expensive filmmaking is. Where the beginner finds the financial support is a story in itself. Obviously it involves some sort of magic.

As the worn phrase goes, "What's wrong with this picture?" There are thousands of great short movies from all over the world floating around in the mail or lying on someone's desk and Hollywood spends millions promoting a full length dud that you and I are expected to pay \$9 to see.

*Frank Thornburgh,
Walnut Creek*

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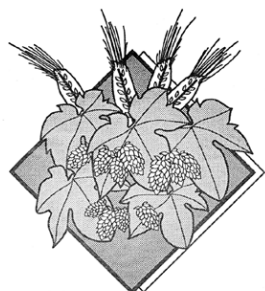
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Struggle

The challenges of special education

by Jordan M. Doronila



Parents of some special education children bewail their failure to flourish in a system they have found intimidating, unresponsive and unfriendly.

In the past few years, dozens of parents in the San Ramon Valley have bemoaned publicly that the needs of their children in special education are not being met, which has created friction between them and top administrators in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

Many of them have taken school officials into lengthy legal proceedings to resolve their differences, with each party spending thousands of dollars on lawyers to win their arguments. Last year, the district spent more than \$800,000 in special education disputes. Of this, \$135,000 went to deal with a fraud case with a company that was supposed to provide special services.

This year, the budget for settling legal cases is around \$500,000, said District Superintendent Rob Kessler.

Approximately 50 parents complained to Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., District 15) at an emotionally charged meeting last summer. At a follow-up gathering, around 100 parents showed up and several have continued venting to Houston.

"I find the district intimidating," said Agnes Pawlak, the mother of 7-year-old Trevor, an autistic child. "There are a lot of struggles."

"Special education is not a scientific process. It's an emotional process. Parents and staff care very deeply."

—Superintendent Robert Kessler

"It's unbelievable what we have gone through," noted Tammy Brock, also a mother of an autistic child. "I don't think the issues are that difficult to solve."

"We shouldn't be considered to be an angry parents group just because we are trying to advocate for our children," she added. "That's our job as parents. It's not just a small group of parents."

"It's very confrontational. We need to have a better system than we have now," said Jim McVay, a father of two children with special needs, who recently ran for school board. "Hundreds and thousands of dollars have been spent on both sides. It shouldn't come to that."

"We never like getting to that place," Kessler said.

District officials and School Board trustees have agreed that special education services need to improve, and they have been working diligently to make learning opportunities available for all students.

Also, they said the majority of parents who have

kids with special education were pleased with the district's services and only a handful of parents have found them unsatisfactory.

Regardless of the number of complaints, they said they are making efforts to revamp the system.

"It's going to be a priority," Trustee Joan Buchanan said.

What is special education?

Special education is instruction in public schools that is individually designed for children from birth to age 22 who qualify according to laws and regulations made by the state and federal governments. It is based on the 1975 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the nation's special education law, according to a 2005 report by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Children are eligible for special education if they need special services and meet the age requirements and the disability criteria of the 13 disabling conditions outlined by IDEA.

The disabilities are the following: autism; deafness; deaf-blind; hard of hearing; mental retardation; multi-handicapped; severe orthopedic impairment; health problems such as heart conditions, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, nephritis and asthma; emotional disturbance; specific learning disability; speech impairment; traumatic brain injury; and visual impairment.

Students are declared eligible if their disability adversely affects their educational performance. An "adverse effect" is when youths fail to receive passing remarks as they progress through the grades.

"It's a system that's based on failure," Buchanan said. She had a dyslexic child in the district who did not qualify for special education because he did well enough in his regular classes.

There are approximately 25,000 students in the district, and roughly 2,400 children are in special education.

IDEA provides billions of federal dollars to assist states and local communities in providing instruction for approximately 6 million students with varying degrees of disabilities who participate in special education, according to the report.

In exchange for federal funding, IDEA requires states to provide a "free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment" and supports due process to ensure the provisions of the law are enacted.

Kessler said the district spends \$23 million on special education and has received approximately \$16 million to \$17 million from federal and state levels combined. He said the district's general funds make up the difference.

The Contra Costa Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA) is the regional organization in charge of making sure federal and state funds flow to districts

for special education. There are 15 districts and the County Office of Education in the regional SELPA.

"The money that comes from the SELPA—a combination from state and federal—is not based on the number of special education and special needs. It's based on the total district enrollment," Kessler said.

The West Contra Costa and Mt. Diablo school districts have their own SELPA because of their large size.

Kessler noted that one of the difficulties with federal and state funding is it does not cover all of the costs for special education.

"It's not unique to California," Kessler said.

To qualify for special education, a child and parent must go through an assessment to ascertain whether a child needs special services.

School personnel are responsible for identifying children with exceptional needs and referring them for assessment. Also, the district encourages teachers and parents to join the process.

Parents questioning their child's progress, either developmentally or academically, should first request a conference with the teacher. A teacher, parent, physician or any other person involved with a child's educational growth can make a referral to special education.

Assessments include testing and conferences with school professionals such as teachers, nurses, counselors and therapists to determine if a child needs special services. Parents need to provide a written consent to receive an evaluation and also need to participate.

If the assessment finds a child needs special education, the child and the child's parents or guardians will develop an Individual Education Program (IEP), which creates specific coursework and instruction tailored to the individual needs.

A student's IEP team may include:

- The student, if appropriate;
- Parents;
- Special education provider;
- A district representative;
- A transition service agency representative;
- A person who can interpret the assessment results;
- A district representative; and
- Others with knowledge or expertise about the child.

Together, the IEP team writes a program for the special needs student. A meeting to write it must be held within 30 days of deciding a child is eligible for special education and related services, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Also, educators must tell the parents the purpose of the meeting and inform them who will be attending.

Buchanan said this process, with so many specialists involved, can be overwhelming to parents, who are learning how special education works for children.

After the plan begins, progress reports are made to make sure a child is reaching his or her goals. The child is re-evaluated every year.

Parents or guardians have the option of due process if they have issues they feel cannot be resolved informally with administrators.

An emotional process

"We are dealing with children," Kessler said. "Special education is not a scientific process. It's an emotional process."

"Parents and staff care very deeply," he added. "It's a partnership that's governed by 4,000 different procedures."

Relationships have sometimes become contentious in seeking the best quality services and curriculum for youths in special education in the district.

"We are still struggling to work on this," Tammy Brock said.

Parents have complained that special services are not being provided or are being outright denied to children, she said.

The state Department of Education had found the district "out of compliance" by not providing speech language or occupational therapy for Brock's son, according to a department report.

Others have said their children have not received the appropriate help.

"It's ultimately about getting the right service," McVay said.

He recalled that it took six months for his son to get an aide shortly after he was qualified for special education.

"It hurt his ability to participate in class by not getting the support needed in time," he said.

Additionally, it took 17 to 18 months for his son to receive services from the initial time when his educational plan was formed. McVay said his son's assessment started in March and his IEP was made in November. He did not receive services until February of the following year.

"It's a lot of time that was lost," McVay said.

"They should have quality service when they start," he added. "It's too slow in providing services."

However, he said he is satisfied now with the instruction that his child receives.

Several parents said the IEP process has been inconsistent and unwelcoming.

Jess Pawlak, Trevor's father, added that IEP team members often do not come to a unified decision about what is best for his son.

He believes they are too influenced by top administrators.

"They can't make any decisions," he said. At times, the IEP team brings in lawyers when they all meet together.

Brock remembered that her daughter's IEP team held a meeting without her.

"We were fed up," she said. "Holding an IEP without a parent is like saying, 'Sue me.'"

Several parents noted there is a high turnover of teaching aides and staff specialists. McVay said the district finds it difficult to retain some professionals such as speech therapists.

Additionally, some complained, the quality of instruction can be inappropriate.

Jess Pawlak said his son was diagnosed with a series of complex disabilities—nonverbal autism among them—and aides lack credentials to sufficiently tend to his needs.

Brock said another complaint is that the district lumps kids with special needs together in too broad of a group. As a result, the interactions can be acerbic or hurtful.

She said her daughter was clumped together in a classroom with a girl who had traces of volatile behavior. She said they had a fight and the girl stabbed her daughter with a pencil.

"She's traumatized," Brock said and her daughter tells her, "I hate school."

"How do you teach to that?" she asked.

When parents and the district fail to resolve their differences, they often go into a "fair hearing."

The district responds: Working on solutions

"I feel that we need to do a much better job in being welcoming in our special education system," Kessler said.

"I assure you we are behind in making changes to make the system better," Buchanan said.

Both Kessler and Buchanan said the district is doing many things right in special education, and they said most parents and students have been happy with its services.

"We are doing a pretty good job in helping the students get successful," said Kessler. "It's a handful of situations that don't get resolved at an informal level."

When district officials haven't been welcoming or they haven't followed the procedures correctly, or the parents would like services the district cannot provide, they go into disputes with attorneys, Kessler said.

"(The legal process) is heavily regulated," he said. "You haven't resolved something significant to the family. Sometimes, you have tried everything."

Kessler said the high turnover rate and inconsistency with specialists, such as speech therapists, is due to a shortage of professionals nationally.

"There has been a high turnover rate in some areas such as speech," Buchanan said. "We are recruiting at the college level and some in the private sector."

"We just don't pay enough," she said. "We live in a very expensive area."

"We notified parents," Kessler said about the lack of speech therapists. "Once we find somebody, we will compensate for services missed."

Kessler said there is a steering committee that has been in place for three years for parents and staff of all levels to monitor special education and make recommendations for improvements.

"We shouldn't be considered to be an angry parents group just because we are trying to advocate for our children."

—Parent Tammy Brock

Moreover, Buchanan said she has been consulting with a parent liaison in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District who provides advice and feedback on how to make the system better.

She added that a committee has met with an independent advocate from Sonoma County, and the district is thinking of bringing in an ombudsman to provide alternative ways to solve disputes and train parents about their rights.

"We need to find friendlier ways," Buchanan said. "We need to work better and minimize the conflict we do have."

"We may never have a system that's perfect," she added.

In addition, the district Parent Teachers Association has a strong special needs community, and it is working closely with the district.

Also, the district is working to create its own SELPA, which will be running in June 2007. This will give the district more control over special education money and more flexibility to use it "in ways that are going to help our community," Kessler said.

Board trustees approved the district's own SELPA plan at their meeting Tuesday.

The portion of money used to pay for the technical costs of the Contra Costa SELPA can be used for other services in special education, Kessler said.

"It will be good for us to have our autonomy," said Linda Rowley Thom, the district assistant director in special programs. "It really narrows our focus."

Brock suggested some of the following to the district: Assign a manager of special programs to get to know parents' children; fulfill everything in the IEP; allow parents and their experts to view programs; and observe procedural timelines and notice requirements.

Some parents said they feel they have been left out of the district's steering committee.

"We didn't even know it existed," said Jess Pawlak. "They have to have some new ideas."

Parents hope their efforts come to fruition and their children grow up able to function well in society.

"You have to count your blessings," Brock said. "When you don't get the support you need, it makes life a lot more difficult."

"I don't mind working with the school district as long as it's fair and equitable," said Pawlak. ■

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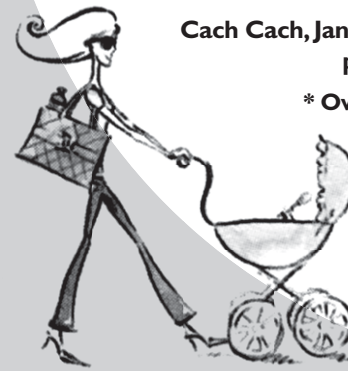
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POLICE BULLETIN

Massage room too hot to handle

Fire damaged a small building used for massages that belongs to the Body Adventure boutique Monday afternoon in Danville, said Battalion Chief Mike Brown of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

The fire broke out at 3:30 p.m. in a detached cottage behind the Body Adventure at 160 E. Prospect Ave. It started in an exhaust vent of a heater unit, then spread up the wall and into the attic, Brown said.

Masseuses on the premises saw smoke and immediately called for help. Firefighters responded with four engines and one truck and contained the

fire in the facility. They poked a hole into the roof to release the fire and doused it with water.

No one was injured, Brown said. The fire caused an estimated \$50,000 worth of property damage. Plus \$5,000 damage was done to contents of the cottage, including draperies, decorations and some clothing.

Brown said the probable cause of the incident was a breach in the exhaust vent of the heater, due to old age.

"These types of things happen," Brown said. "Things should be inspected on a regular basis. You should have your heater units inspected by certified heater technicians."

—Jordan M. Doronila

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Nov. 5

- Party disturbance on Everett Dr. at 3:50 a.m.
- Auto burglary on La Gonda Way at 9:09 a.m.
- Drunk in public on La Gonda Way at 3:37 p.m.
- Identity theft on La Gonda Way at 5:37 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 6

- Vandalism on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:51 a.m.
- Identity theft on Still Creek Pl. at 10:16 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Dorado Ave. at 10:21 a.m.
- Felony hit-and-run on El Capitan Dr. and St. Regis Dr. at 3:39 p.m.
- Accident with major injuries on Montcrest Pl. at 4:03 p.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 4:08 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon and Dubost Ct. at 4:19 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

- Suspicious circumstances at Charlotte Wood Middle School at 10:48 a.m.
- Drunk in public on Ashley Cir. at 11:01 a.m.

- Felony, other, on Glen Eagle Ct. at 3:04 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 5:41 p.m.
- Possession of counterfeit bill on Wilshire Ct. at 6:13 p.m.
- Identity theft on Green Valley Ct. at 7:45 p.m.
- Trespassing with vehicle on Town and Country Dr. at 8:09 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- Auto burglary on Westfield Cir. at 9:17 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Fountain Springs Cir. at 2:43 p.m.
- Court order violation on Railroad Ave. at 4 p.m.
- Petty theft on Cottage Dr. at 5:09 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 6:11 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- Drunk in public on Railroad Ave. at 1:12 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Cerro Blvd. and I-680 north-bound onramp at 9:10 a.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Summer Hill Ct. at 9:42 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Railroad Ave. at 10:16 a.m.
- Petty theft on Linda Mesa Ave. at 10:55 a.m.

- Identity theft on San Thomas Way at 1:24 p.m.
- Identity theft on San Thomas Way at 2:15 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon at 3:28 p.m.
- Drug violation on Green Valley Rd. at 7:07 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 7:53 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Stone Valley Rd. at 9:44 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 10

- Battery on Hartz Ave. at 12:01 a.m.
- Computer data access fraud on Dunhill Dr. at 10:25 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 10:29 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Shadewell Rd. at 11:22 a.m.
- Grand theft on El Cerro Ct. at 12:10 p.m.
- Drunk in public on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:17 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Hartz Ave. at 7:23 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11

- Identity theft on Hermosa Ct. at 10:23 a.m.
- Battery on Winfield Ln. at 1:56 p.m.
- Grand theft on El Cerro Ct. at 2:25 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Railroad Ave. at 4:58 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Blackhawk Plaza and Camino Tassajara at 7:06 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Crow Canyon Rd. at 8:55 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Hartz Ave. at 10:22 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 10:47 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Hartz Ave. at 10:54 p.m.
- Petty theft on Camino Tassajara at 10:58 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Crown Canyon Rd. and St. George Rd. at 11:10 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 11:11 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Cathy Ln. at 11:13 p.m.

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OBITUARIES • BIRTHS • WEDDINGS

Salley Ardery Cirimele

Salley Ardery Cirimele, 63, a resident of Danville, passed away Oct. 22.

She was born Sept. 3, 1943, the daughter of Winston Breckenridge Ardery of Louisville, Ky., and Cembra Stephens Ardery of San Francisco.

She was a woman of faith, known for her beautiful flower arrangements, thoughtful letters, vibrant watercolors and zest for life.

She was preceded in death by her husband Derryle Cirimele; she is survived by her three children, Kathy McCardia, Renee French and Ken Kincaid; as well as her five grandchildren. Sally also leaves behind her best friend and sister, Wyn Flo; her boyfriend, Ken Yagi; and cat, Casey.

A memorial service was held Oct. 28 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of the San Ramon Valley in Danville and a "celebration of her life" is planned for January. Memorial contributions in Sally's name can be made to Shepherd's Gate, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore, CA 94551.

Richard T. Kirk

Richard T. Kirk, 71, peacefully passed away Oct. 26 at his Danville home after a long illness.

He was born Dec. 27, 1934, in Pittsburgh, Pa., graduated from West View High School in 1952 and served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He went to work for Chevron in 1957 as a gas station attendant and retired in 1992 as a purchasing manager.

He served in YMCA Indian Guides, Little League, Pony League and Senior Baseball Leagues, and high school booster clubs for baseball, football, volleyball and softball. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, a Master Mason, a member of Buchanan Flying Club, SIRS, Chevron Retirees, and the Diablo A's Model A Ford Club.

He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Adell; son Stephen; daughter Deborah and her husband, Brad Everett; and his beloved grandchildren, Scott, Kate and Matthew.

A memorial service was held at First Lutheran Church in Concord on Nov. 4. The family would appreciate donations in his memory to the American Lung Association or a charity of your choice.

Marjorie Ann Aiken Fisher

Danville resident Marjorie Ann Aiken Fisher, 91, passed away Oct. 30, joining loving husband John; parents Margaret and William Aiken, and granddaughter Betsy.

She was born June 14, 1915, in New Castle, Pa., and grew up in Sharon, Pa. In 1935, she married John C. Fisher and they later moved to Albany, N.Y., where they raised their daughter, Margy. In

1968, they moved to Danville.

She was a longtime member of Community Presbyterian Church and a Deacon. Later in life, when her eyesight was seriously impaired, she listened to books on tapes and used a magnifying projector to correspond with friends and family.

She is survived by her daughter Margy; son-in-law Arthur; grandson Dave; granddaughter Sharon; great-grandson, David; daughter-in-law, Laverne; brother-in-law, Ed ("Mick") Fisher; and several nieces and nephews. She was a "second mother" to Elizabeth Aiken Burt, a niece. She also leaves behind many dear friends who loved her.

A Celebration of Life was held Nov. 2 at Creekside Community Church in Alamo. Donations may be made to the Compassionate Friends, P.O. Box 5523, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.



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To the rescue



COURTESY OF ARF

Danville woman finds her lifestyle at Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation

ARF executive director Elena Bicker with Kayla (left) and Sadie near the ARF facility, which opened in 2003.

by B. Lynn Goodwin

Banner signs outside the Livery often invite the public to view animals available for adoption. Some lucky dogs and cats will find new homes that day, but the ones left behind are also lucky: They are being helped by Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation, which makes a concerted effort to match each potential pet parent with the right animal.

"ARF is about people rescuing animals and animals rescuing people through companionship and unconditional love," said Elena Bicker, a Danville resident who has been ARF's executive director since August.

"I don't look at ARF as a career. I look at it as a lifestyle," she said.

Bicker glows as she talks about the participation of her yellow Lab Sadie in a program called Tender Loving Care. This pet-assisted therapy was begun by ARF in 1999 for adolescents at the Chris Adams Girls' Center, a 20-bed residential facility located next to Juvenile Hall in Martinez. Through the program, the girls learn about unconditional love and nurturing as they work daily to care for, train and socialize ARF animals.

Bicker recalled being in the audience when Sadie graduated from the 12-week TLC program. Sadie's caregiver, a teenage girl from a single parent household in Richmond, announced with great pride, "This is my dog, Sadie."

Bicker was both surprised and proud. Sadie was her dog and would be coming home with her that day.

"I learned a lot from Sadie because when my mom would yell at me, I would shut

down, and wouldn't listen to her. I'd make my mom really mad," the young caregiver went on to say. "When Sadie wasn't listening to me, I would get mad, but the madder I got, the more Sadie didn't listen. I learned that's not good communication."

Speaking directly to Sadie, she added, "I know when I was with you I told you I didn't like your kisses, but I'm going to miss those the most."

Normally Sadie camps out in Bicker's office along with her other dog, Kayla, a 14-year-old golden retriever. Bicker came to ARF in 1993 as a volunteer, after learning about the organization at a Wynona Judd concert. Five years later, she joined ARF's staff as the marketing director and generated more than \$1 million in funding during her first year. She was appointed to the temporary executive director position in January and the assignment became permanent in August.

Bicker grew up with dogs and cats as she moved frequently as a child because her father was a fighter pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. She fell in love with Northern California when she attended St. Mary's College in Moraga and stayed in the area after she earned her bachelor's in business in 1985. Before joining ARF's staff, Bicker spent 11 years with GE Capital.

She and her husband Bill live in the Hidden Oaks neighborhood with their two "four-legged" children, Sadie and Kayla.

"I love cats, however, I do not have one currently," she said. "This does allow me to spend quality time with the cats rescued from death row. There are more than 100 to choose from on any given day."

ARF's no-kill policy is a source of pride

for Bicker. Animals that would have been put to death live in cozy, glass-enclosed "condos." Visitors can observe the dogs and cats, make eye contact, and possibly fall in love.

When people adopt a pet, the \$200 fee includes six classes to help owner and pet bond. These classes help everyone to "speak the same language," Bicker said.

ARF offers several People Connect programs that turn the shelter into a community center: The All Stars Humane Education Program teaches children how to approach pets and how to care for them; the Visiting Animal Program brings pets to hospitals and senior centers; Project ALIVE invites young adults with severe mental and physical disabilities to bond with the animals; and Tender Loving Care reaches out to at-risk youths.

The organization has grown in leaps and bounds and moved several times since it was founded in 1991 by LaRussa, the former manager of the Oakland A's. When a cat was cornered after wandering onto the A's baseball field in 1990, LaRussa was dismayed to find there was not one animal shelter in the East Bay with a no-kill policy. Tony and his wife Elaine found a home for that cat,

and eventually went on to start their Animal Rescue Foundation.

The organization now resides in a state-of-the-art, 37,700-square-foot facility on Marshall Drive in Walnut Creek, opened in June 2003.

Though it functions as a community center, it is much more.

"Calling ARF a community center is like calling the Taj Mahal a house," Bicker said.

"People don't know we are a hidden jewel. I wish more people knew about it."

"ARF has an amazing selection of animals," she added. "I fall in love every day—it is hard not to, with more than 150 animals on the property on any given day. I love canoodling with the cats and greeting the dogs when out for a walk with one of ARF's volunteers."

The enduring commitment made by more than 500 volunteers, whose work adds up to that of 28 full-time staff members, has been amazing to her.

Hours to meet the animals are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 256-1ARF (256-1273) or visit www.arf.net. ARF also welcomes volunteers and donations.

Or next time the mobile adoption unit is in town, check out the possibilities for friendship. ■



Cat condos at ARF are roomy and comfortable, which makes the animals more adoptable and more adaptable to their new homes.

COURTESY OF ARF



Side dishes to be thankful for

Regardless of whether you favor a juicy drumstick, a crispy wing or gravy-topped breast pieces, who doesn't love right-out-of-the oven roasted turkey on Thanksgiving dinner? It's just not Thanksgiving without the turkey. But, for me, a Thanksgiving dinner would be less than memorable without all those delectable, mouth-watering side dishes. Truth be told, the turkey meat tastes even better when it slides over into the mashed potatoes or soaks up the flavor of the candied yams. Yes, the Thanksgiving season provides an ideal opportunity to showcase great side dishes that can enhance a meal any time of year. In fact, cook and serve one of your family's favorite Thanksgiving side dishes at a non-holiday time and you'll see how much delight the surprise offering will bring.

As you plan your Thanksgiving side dishes, think variety—of taste, texture and color—to create a meal that is broadly appealing. If you know the culinary preferences of your guests, try to include something for everyone. All green vegetables, no carbs or too many spicy dishes just won't do for a multi-generational crowd. Neither will low-fat, vegetarian fare suf-



fice unless that's what everyone is expecting. And, when your Thanksgiving gathering is a collective experience (as it often is), ask guests to bring their favorite dish and, when you learn what others are bringing, round out the holiday meal with complementary dishes if necessary. Even when I am only "hosting" the holiday collective meal in my home, I still provide a couple standard side dishes of my own. Based on experience, it's not unusual for a holiday dinner guest to have a day-of "hiccup" of some kind—from leaving the casserole on the kitchen counter to having a perfectly prepared pie topple over in the trunk.

I asked a few friends to name their No. 1 Thanksgiving side dish and, not surprisingly, classics topped the list—stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked macaroni and cheese, candied yams and green beans. But to add a little seasonal spice to this holiday, I'm offering you a few recipes that are twists on traditional dishes. Consider starting a new Thanksgiving tradition with one of these. And, be grateful for the rich variety and diversity of life ... and food. I certainly am.

Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage-car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes. E-mail her at Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com.

RECIPES

Thanksgiving side dish recipes

No-Carb Cauliflower with Garlic & Rosemary (serves 4)

This is a variation on the South Beach Diet recipe and a healthier alternative to traditional mashed potatoes. Cauliflower is an excellent backdrop for other flavors: Try a tablespoon of Colman's English mustard or curry powder, 1/4 cup grated Parmigiano, crumbled blue cheese or mushrooms.

- 1 head cauliflower, 2—2 1/2 pounds
- 3 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. garlic, crushed
- 1/4 tsp. rosemary, minced

1. Pull the leaves off the cauliflower and cut out the core. Pull the florets apart with your fingers, using a knife when you need to. Break or cut the florets into smaller pieces (1-1/2 inches). Steam the florets, stirring a couple times as they steam so they cook evenly. They should be tender but still with some texture. Reserve 3/4 cup of the pot liquid.
2. Put half of the cauliflower into a food processor, pour in 1/4 cup of the liquid and purée together until smooth. Put the remainder of the cauliflower on top, add 1/3 of the remaining liquid and purée again, stopping to push down the top layers as needed. Add more liquid as needed but keep the consistency as thick as possible.
3. With the motor running, add in the

butter, salt, pepper, garlic and rosemary through the tube. Adjust seasoning to suit your taste. Serve immediately or prepare in advance and reheat over low heat or microwave.

Roasted Asparagus (serves 4)

- 1/2 pound asparagus
- 2 large shallots cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup roasted pine nuts, optional
- 1/8 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
 2. Toss the asparagus and shallots with the oil and salt on a baking sheet. Roast, stirring twice during roasting, until the shallots have caramelized and the beans are beginning to brown and wilt, about 10 minutes. Drizzle balsamic vinegar on top and sprinkle with pepper and pine nuts. Serve hot.
- Note: You may substitute green beans. Roast 40 minutes, giving the beans 15-20 minutes head start before adding the shallots.

Sausage Fennel Stuffing (enough to stuff a 10-12 lb. turkey with extra to bake as a side)

- 1 pound sweet Italian sausage, casing discarded
- 1/2 stick (1/4 cup) unsalted butter
- 2 medium-large onions, chopped fine
- 1 1/2 pounds fennel bulbs (about 2

- medium), stalks trimmed flush with bulbs and bulbs chopped fine (4 1/2 cups)
- 2 tsp. fennel seeds, chopped fine
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 cup Pernod (or another anise-flavored aperitif)
- 2 tsp. dried thyme, crumbled
- 2 tsp. dried tarragon, crumbled
- 4 cups corn bread or packaged corn bread stuffing

1. In a 10-12-inch heavy skillet cook sausage over moderately high heat, stirring and breaking up lumps with a fork, until no longer pink. Transfer sausage with a slotted spoon to a large bowl.
 2. Add butter to the fat remaining in skillet and cook onions, chopped fennel, fennel seeds and salt to taste over moderate heat, stirring, until fennel is softened, about 10 minutes.
 3. Add broth, apéritif, thyme and tarragon, and cook, stirring, until most of the liquid is evaporated but mixture is still quite moist. Add mixture to sausage with corn bread or packaged stuffing and toss to combine well. Season stuffing with salt and pepper and cool completely. Stuffing may be made two days ahead and chilled, covered.
- Note: To prevent bacterial growth, do not stuff turkey cavities until ready to cook.

Find more Thanksgiving side dish recipes online at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

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A movie review of what's **READY TO RENT** by Joe Ramirez

On Her Majesty's Secret Service

MGM Home Video – 2hrs 20mins
Director: Peter Hunt



One of the only movies I have ever walked out on was a mid-'90s "James Bond" with Pierce Brosnan. As I sat in the theater and watched Brosnan flare his icy nostrils and engage in deadly combat with a skimpily dressed Russian spy, a sinking feeling told me that this kinda seemed boring, even borderline dumb. James Bond, the '60s, '70s and even '80s movie symbol of singular teenage-male-chauvinism, had aged badly. He had been usurped by Indiana Jones, Batman and a host of other movie heroes with a few more shades of gray, its stories with a little more resonance. The franchise had also evolved to the point where it was not enough for the uber-villain to want to destroy the world to get us involved. We, like Bond, had seen possible Armageddon a hundred times before and the urgency just wasn't there for me and it seemed Brosnan as well (and I'm sure it had evaporated long before then). Does the world, then, need a new Bond movie?

Before I answer that let me state that the most involving James Bond movie for me is 1969's "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" with the debatable George Lazenby as Bond. I cannot say that I can watch it again and again, but it can always get me involved when it's on TV and I never feel ashamed to mention it in a room full of women. It is a movie where the producers seemed to want to strip down the bombastic nature of the James Bond movies (to an extent) and focus solely on actually telling its story and, a pretty good one at that. In retrospect, it's also a James Bond movie that seemed to be the last gasp before embalming the series in Roger Moore's image where the set-pieces got bigger and bigger and the women became permanent ornaments on its gaudy Christmas tree.

"On Her Majesty's Secret Service" reminds me of a retro-retro-Tim Burton film due to its bizarre sets and costumes and its visual evocation of the darker swinging in the '60s. Bond (Lazenby, whose overly chiseled features remind me of a Bond caricature) gets into a row with his superior "M" and takes a holiday in Spain. He is approached by the mobster named Draco to find his daughter Tracy Di Vincenzo (lovely Diana Rigg) who, like any girl under 30 in Europe in the '60s (and even now), is partying a little too hard with daddy's money. Both meet, hate each other, but wind up getting married only after Bond thwarts the cat-cuddling Ernst Blofeld's (THE Telly Savalas) plan to kill many with Christmas gift baskets containing poisonous perfume.

What makes this film so watchable? Even special? I think it's the time it evokes and its willingness to take a unique chance with a franchise. The movie still makes me yawn in places (especially toward the end with the inevitable shoot out), but I think what compels the film is both Lazenby's very charming and earnest performance as Bond and Rigg's too brief appearances as his confidant. It also has a groovy romantic sense of danger as well, as if Dumas was present during the script sessions (with possible mind expanding drugs on hand). So does the world need a new James Bond film? Well, if they took notes from "On Her Majesty's Secret Service," there could be one last hurrah for the aging gentleman hipster.

—Joe Ramirez

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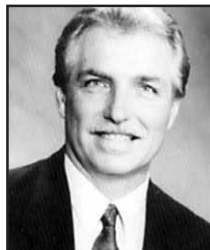
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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

California Indian baskets— objects of beauty and utility

California Indian baskets were written about and collected by the first Europeans who invaded California. Indian basket weavers demonstrated extraordinary artistry and expertise when they made these baskets, and that tradition lives on today as contemporary basket weavers create new works of art.

"Baskets were integral to the activities that were the foundations of life—infants were carried in baskets, meals were prepared in baskets, and baskets were given as gifts to mark an individual's entrance into and exit from this world." Basketry scholar Bruce Bernstein has noted.

Beverly Ortiz, an ethnohistorian and naturalist for the East Bay Regional Park District, wrote an article on "California Indian Basketry" that provides an introduction to these baskets. The following is excerpted from the article:

Baskets are among the best-known items made by California Indians. While they can be admired as art forms because of their exquisite appearance, they were made to be used. Throughout California, baskets were an integral part of Indian households. Any given family had upwards of 20 different types of baskets, which served a variety of utilitarian functions: food gathering, storage, processing, cooking and serving; cradling babies; general storage; animal trapping; carrying wood and other items; and gifts and mortuary offerings. In some areas they were used as

bottles, elements of ceremonial regalia, hats, baby rattles, and game implements.

Baskets are no longer necessary for survival, but they are still made by some as an expression of cultural heritage, as an enjoyable past time, as something to be used, and something to be treasured . . . Whether old-style or new, each basket shows tremendous skill, time, patience, and caring on the part of the maker, skill which elevates basketry well beyond the level of a craft.

While some openwork baskets can be woven quickly, most baskets cannot. Often, the plant materials used in the basket must be harvested well in advance of actual weaving. Depending on the plant species needed, burning or winter pruning may be necessary to ensure long straight shoots and vigorous growth, or careful digging techniques to ensure long roots and rhizomes (underground stems). In the latter case, a sandy loam soil is needed for roots and rhizomes to grow straight.

Currently, access to native materials presents difficulties to those still practicing and teaching basketry and other skills. There are many stories to tell about a favored collecting site, sometimes used by the same family or group for generations, now fenced off, built upon, buried under the waters of a reservoir, destroyed by creek channelization, or bulldozed out of existence. Sometimes such stories are old, but they are also about the day before yesterday, today, and tomorrow.



GATHERING ACORN—DRAWING BY BUNNEN MCFARLAND

Despite these and other difficulties, basketry and other such skills continue within the framework of modern life.

Sources: *Archives of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, "California Indian Basketry" by Beverly Ortiz in East Bay Regional Park District Log, December 1988*

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

OF NOTE

Diablo woman named top financial advisor

Morgan Stanley has announced that Taryn Sievers, a senior vice president, wealth advisor, in the firm's Oakland office, has been named to the 2006 Barron's list of "Top 100 Women Financial Advisors." These individuals are chosen on the size and success of their practices, the quality of service provided to clients, adherence to high standards of industry regulatory compliance, and leadership in "best practices" of wealth management.

Sievers has lived in Diablo since 2002 with her husband, Vince Chow, and two children, Ciara and Connor.

Week of Caring

Assistance League of Diablo Valley joined numerous East Bay businesses this year for projects during the United Way's Week of Caring.

Volunteers from Office Max

returned to launch the Week of Caring 2006 by joining Assistance League chapter members in assembling Welcome Home Layettes, a countywide philanthropic project. With production line precision, some 300 layette kits were assembled, then picked up by Welcome Home Baby Program workers, members of a project affiliated with Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services.

Another partner, Chevron Corp., sent community volunteers to work hand in hand in Operation School Bell, a nationally acclaimed philanthropic project that outfits elementary school students in Pittsburg with uniforms as determined by the school district, as well as socks, underwear, a backpack and grooming kit, and a shoe voucher card.

A welcome addition was the "Volunteer! Wells Fargo" team. It participated in Week of Caring by assisting in an Operation School Bell clothing event held in the Annex of Assistance League of Diablo Valley. Macerich Co.,



Wells Fargo volunteers participating in the Assistance League of Diablo Valley Week of Caring were (l-r) Katie Singh, Tracy Curtis, Marian Capitul, Linda Ballard, Assistance League of Diablo Valley Vice President Membership, Blanca Cetin and Cathy Bulich.

which owns Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek, also organized a volunteer team to clothe elementary school children.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley is one of 114 chapters in the nonprofit, philanthropic, volunteer organization dedicated to improving lives in the community through hands-on projects. For more information, call Joan Siltanen at 934-0901.

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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Author Visits

Beverly Lane and Ralph Cozine
The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host Beverly Lane and Ralph Cozine as they sign their book, "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" from 1-4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 24, at the museum, corner of Railroad and Prospect Avenues, Danville. Call 837-3750.

Rakestraw Books Authors
Rakestraw Books is hosting authors Tim Egan at 10 a.m., Friday, Nov. 17; Nancy Tillman at 10:30 a.m., Saturday,

Nov. 18; Leslie Sbrocco at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, at the bookstore, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

Clubs

California Writers Club
California Writers Club, Tri-Valley Branch will host Camille Minichino, author of "The Oxygen Murder," from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, at Girsolo Grille, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Cost is \$18 for members, \$25 for non-members. Contact Cathe or Fred at fman300@aol.com.

Concerts

Fall Concert
Prometheus Symphony Orchestra presents its Fall Concert featuring Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 1, Hugo Alfvén Midsommarvaka and Tom Baker Summer Breezes at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 19, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 116 Montecito, Oakland. This event is free. Visit www.prometheussymphony.org.

Flute Concert World Premier
Civic Arts Education will host a "Flute Concert Featuring World Premier" at

3:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at Civic Arts Education, Shadelands Campus, 111 N. Wiget, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$7. Call 943-5842.

Happy Holidays ... and All That Jazz!

Walnut Creek Marriot presents "Happy Holidays ... and All That Jazz!" starting with a silent auction at 7 p.m. to benefit the Young Actors' Theatre Camp scholarship fund; show is at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$25, \$23 for seniors and youth. Call 943-7469.

Holiday Concert

Danville Community Band presents its Holiday Concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara Road, Danville. Call 736-1673.

Musical Celebration for Christmas
Saint Mary's College presents "Musical Celebration for Christmas" at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at the college chapel, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Tickets are \$25 for general, \$24 for seniors and \$12 for students. Call 631-4670.

SRVHS Winter Concerts

San Ramon Valley High School will host a Winter Jazz Concert featuring the jazz band and ensemble at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, and the Winter Symphonic Concert featuring the orchestra, concert and symphonic bands at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, both at the school, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students; \$1 with ASB card. Call 552-5580.

The Edlos

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts will host holiday music by The Edlos at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Advance tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18 for adults; and \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children. Call 931-3444.

Will Ackerman, Alex DeGrass and David Cullen

Community Concerts presents Will Ackerman, Alex DeGrass and special guest David Cullen at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$27 for seniors and children. Visit www.communityconcerts.com/ccs-wesley.html.

Events

Art of Living Series II

Leku Eder will host the eighth event in its Art of Living Series II with the theme of "English's Witnesses of the Past" from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, at the store, 178 E. Prospect, Danville. This event is free. Call 820-8012.

Lithorama 2006

Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem and Mineral Club presents its 33rd annual show and sale, Lithorama 2006, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 19, at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Admission is \$3. Call 443-5769 or visit www.lithophiles.com.

The Eye of Diablo

Save Mount Diablo and Pearl Harbor Survivors Association will host "The Eye of Diablo: Lighting of the Pearl Harbor Beacon" one hour before sunset, Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Mount Diablo Summit. Dress very warmly. Call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

YoungLife

San Ramon Valley YoungLife has been the leaders in reaching out to adolescents for the past 60 years. They will meet for coffee at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 29, at a private residence. For information, contact Michele Sbrana at 270-7185 or msbrana@aol.com.

Exhibits

Anatomy of a Hot Rod

Bedford Gallery presents Anatomy of a Hot Rod from Nov. 19-Feb. 11, at the gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday. Call 295-1417.

European Train Enthusiasts

Blackhawk Museum presents the European Train Enthusiasts exhibit from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-

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Saturday, Nov. 24-Jan. 7, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The exhibit will include 360' of track, 57 turn-outs, 35 working signals and more! Call 736-2277.

Fundraisers

Clothing Swap

A Clothing Swap will be held from 4-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, at Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Proceeds will benefit a local Alamo resident who is running her sixth Honolulu AIDS marathon. Advanced tickets are \$25; \$30 at the door. Visit www.clothingswap.org/events.

Napa Valley Estates Holiday Home Tour

St. Helena PTA will host a holiday home tour of several spectacular wine country homes from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2. Tickets are \$30. Proceeds will benefit St. Helena Primary and Elementary Schools. Call (707) 967-9814 or e-mail davaq5@aol.com.

One Warm Coat

Celebrate the 11th anniversary of "Protection from the Cold" with San Ramon Valley Rotary Club and donate a coat, sweater or blanket until Dec. 16. There are various drop off locations in Danville including: Heritage Bank, 310 Hartz Ave.; Pascal's Cafe, 155 Railroad Ave.; or ReMax Accord, 313 Sycamore Valley Drive West. For information, call Larry at 200-7640 or Dany at 838-9110. ERA Golden Hills Brokers are also accepting coats until Nov. 18, at 3223 Crow Canyon Road, Suite 110, San Ramon; call 216-4590.

Thrift Shop Promotions

Assistance League of Diablo Valley presents its primary fundraiser until Nov. 28, at Way Side Inn Thrift Shop and Costume Rental, 3521 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. The sale will include Thanksgiving and Christmas merchandise, holiday clothing and cashmere sweaters. Proceeds will benefit philanthropic projects. Call 284-4781.

Wine, Dine and Diamonds

B. Allen Jewelers and Bridges Restaurant present "Wine, Dine and Diamonds" to benefit the Samantha Corpus Foundation from 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, at Bridges Restaurant, 44 Church St., Danville. Tickets are \$125. Visit www.samanthacorpus.com.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



WIGGED OUT!

Shhhh ... it's a secret

Victoria's Hair on Stage will open their doors again for another season of "Wigged Out!" The season runs from November-June, at Victoria's Hair Salon, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. All seats are \$38. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469).

Health

Cancer Treatment Help

The Wellness Community will host many different workshops for cancer patients and their friends and family. Nutrition and Cancer Treatment is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2; Managing Holiday Stress from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 9; Mindful Chi Kung from 3:30-5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14; and African Drumming Circle from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15, all at The Wellness Community Center, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

selected dates until Christmas for parents to take their own photos. Call 838-7070 or visit www.danvillelivery.com.

Holiday Boutique

Iron Horse Mothers Club (IHMC) will host its annual Holiday Boutique from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, at Iron Horse Middle School, 12601 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon. Proceeds will benefit IHMC's Caring Fund. For information, call Mary at 964-0585.

► Continued on page 28

Holidays

Art in the Barn

Come do a little holiday shopping from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 19, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Food will be available. No entrance fee, but donations will be accepted. Call 973-3281.

Here Comes Santa Claus!

Here Comes Santa Claus...Right Down Sycamore Valley Lane with an arrival at 11 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 26, at the Danville Livery, off of I-680 at Sycamore Valley Road West and San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. He will visit with children from noon-3 p.m. The Livery will host a Holiday Open House from noon-5 p.m. including many different special activities at different shops like Elegant Clutter. Santa will continue to appear on



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(Across from Dean Leshner Performing Art Center)

Valley Children's Museum will host its third annual Holiday Home Tour from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10, in the Pleasanton community of Ruby Hill. Cost is \$35. Proceeds will benefit the museum. Call Linda at 461-6574, ext. 3 or e-mail linda@childrensmuseum.org.

Holiday on the Farm

City of San Ramon will host its annual Holiday on the Farm from noon-3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$3. Call 973-3282.

Lighting of the Old Oak Tree

Danville Chamber of Commerce will host the Lighting of the Old Oak Tree from 5:15-8:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 24, on Diablo Road. The lighting ceremony will start at 6:15 p.m. The magic will continue with music, entertainment and refreshments. Call 837-4400 or visit www.danvillechamber.com. The Museum of San Ramon Valley will host a holiday celebration with hot cider during the opening of their "Christmas Memories in the Museum" at 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 24, at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750.

Lights of the Valley

Hospice of Contra Costa Foundation will host "Tree of Lights" ceremonies at various locations including: 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, at Blackhawk Road and Blackhawk Drive; 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 26, at Danville Livery in front of Pleasant Thoughts, 510 Sycamore Valley Road West, Danville; and at 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10, at Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Symbolic lights can be purchased for \$20. Call 887-5678 or visit www.hospicecc.org.

Kids & Teens

Bethlehem Breakfast

Creekside Community Church will host a festive breakfast and crafts for children K-5 from 9-11 a.m. and from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo.

The session from 9-11 a.m. is free; the session from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. is \$10 per child. Registration is required by calling 820-9031.

Working on the Railroad

Blackhawk Museum will host "Working on the Railroad" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 26, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Activities will include blasting a tunnel, laying Thomas Tracks and more! This event is free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

Lectures/ Workshops

Choral Workshops

San Ramon Community Center will host choral workshops at 9:30 a.m., Saturdays, Nov. 18 and 25; and at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, at the community center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths ages 12 and under; visit www.sanramon.ca.gov/tickets.

Network, Celebrate and Contribute

Mt. Diablo Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development presents "Network, Celebrate and Contribute" from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 21, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Call (510) 668-1617.

Live Music

Will Ackerman and Alex DeGrassi

Windham Hill Founders celebrate their 30th Anniversary and perform live at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Cost is \$30 for adults; \$27 for seniors and children. Call 229-2710 or visit www.communityconcerts.com or www.windham.com.

Miscellaneous

2006 Citizen, Business and Educator of the Year Nominations

Danville Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for the 2006 Citizen, Business and Educator of the year. Forms can be found at the Chamber offices, 117-E Town and Country Drive, Danville or by visiting danvillechamber.com/join_us.html. The deadline is Friday, Dec. 15. Call 837-4400.

Bikes Needed for Adopt-A-Family

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Monument Crisis Center and the Salvation Army are teaming up to collect bikes for Adopt-A-Family. Bikes can be dropped off until Nov. 30, at the church, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville. Call 837-4993, ext. 12.

On Stage

'A Christmas Carol'

Center Rep Company presents "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 7-17, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$14-38. Call 943-7469.

'Beauty and the Beast'

Danville Children's Musical Theater presents "Beauty and the Beast" at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Nov. 16-17, 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18, at Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$9.50 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and children. Call 314-3463.

'Camellia'

Martinez Opera Company presents "Camellia" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday-Friday, Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 9-10, at Alhambra Performing Arts Center, 150 E Street, Martinez. Tickets are \$50, \$45, \$35. Call 798-1300.

Poems for the Iraqi People

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts presents "Gift of Words-Poems for the Iraqi People" from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at Century House, 2401 Santa Rita

Road, Pleasanton. Cost is \$5. Call 931-5350.

'The Nutcracker'

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts presents "The Nutcracker" at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$14 or \$18 for adults; \$6, \$10 or \$14 for children. For information, call 931-3444 or visit www.civicartstickets.org.

'The Nutcracker'

Diablo Ballet with Civic Arts Education in Walnut Creek present "The Nutcracker" starring many residents from Alamo and Danville at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2 and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$26, \$24 for children under 12 years old. Call 943-7469.

'The Tale of Cinderella'

Diablo Ballet presents "The Tale of Cinderella" by Nikolai Kabaniaev at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Nov. 17-18, at Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 943-7469.

'Wigged Out!'

Victoria's Hair on Stage has opened its doors for "Wigged Out!" and will host a champagne reception at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Cost for the champagne reception is \$40. The Wigged Out season runs from November-June. All seats for regular shows are \$38. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469).

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.

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 non-denominational gathering of "seasoned citizens" from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, at the Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. A home-cooked lunch is served at noon for \$3. Call Ruth Ann at 820-6387.

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.

St. Isidore's 'Young at Heart'

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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.

Spiritual

Contra Costa Grand Menorah Lighting

Chabad of Contra Costa and The Broadway Plaza will host a Grand Menorah Lighting from 3-6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, in Broadway Plaza, Promenade Fountain (across the street from Nordstrom) and a community night skate "Chanukah on Ice" from 7:30-10 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the downtown Walnut Creek Ice Rink in Civic Park. Call 937-4101 or visit www.jewishcontracosta.com.

Longing for the Healing Balm of Christ Coming

San Damiano will host "Longing for the Healing Balm of Christ Coming" from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 or 14, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost is \$15, pre-registration is recommended. Call 837-9141 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

Sports

San Ramon Valley Tennis Club

This women's league is year round for both A and B players meeting for practice weekday mornings. Membership is \$30 annually. For information, call Patty at 820-8131 or Laurie at 820-0695.

Volunteering

Assistance League of Diablo Valley

This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and

staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

Help Your Senior Neighbors

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

Sheriff Seeks Senior Volunteers

The Sheriff's Valley Station Office in Alamo is seeking people interested in assisting law enforcement in the community. Citizens should have a clean criminal history and would be responsible for one shift a week for four-and-a-half hours. Interested applicants should call James Hogan or Elmer Glasser at 837-2902.

Trails Maintenance

East Bay Trail Dogs is an all-volunteer

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

Valley Children's Museum Needs Volunteers

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

Volunteer Interpreters

The California Medical Association seeks community volunteer interpreters for Contra Costa County to assist physicians when other interpretation resources are not an option. If you possess a proficiency in any foreign language and experience interpreting in a health care setting, you are encouraged to apply. Contact CMA at (866) 241-4262, or e-mail communityvip@cmanet.org.

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Mustang Tigers get a head start

Top, Jordan Weil makes a header as Mustang Tigers teammates Marco Geagea and Ethan Hall look on at a game against the Mustang Vipers earlier this month. Bottom, the Mustang White Plus Tigers won the Dick King U-10 Tournament last weekend after defeating the Mustang Phoenix in the finals in double-overtime, winning a sudden-death shootout. The Tigers are (back row, l-r) Coaches John Stame, Bruce Dereshuk and David Langon; players Drew Woodruff, Jordan Weil, Yian Liou, Christos Dereschuk, Matthew Hoff; (front row) Ethan Hall, Marco Geagea, Benjamin Stame, Nathan Aepli, Ryan Langon, Douglas Partridge, Aaron Coleman and Jake Pantic/Horne.

High school sports in grip of NCS showdowns

Mustang girls bring home water polo title

by Rachel McMurdie

For the third time in four years, the Mustang girls' water polo team came home with a North Coast Section title. On Saturday, No. 1 seed Monte Vista (26-2) beat out No. 2 Northgate in a 6-2 rout for the crown at Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School in Moraga.

Northgate (21-6) took an early lead, earning the first point two minutes into play and holding off the Mustangs for nearly 12 minutes. Then, with 2:15 left in the first half, Mustang Georgi Capelletti struck hard and made it stick, giving Monte Vista its first goal. Moments later, teammate Kiki Golden scored again, giving the Mustangs a 2-1 edge to close out the first half.

Golden and Capelletti scored two more goals each in the Mustang win. Monte Vista keeper Kerry Beeman had nine saves.

The Mustangs beat out College Park in the semi-final round Thursday to advance to the finals. San Ramon Valley girls also made it to the semifinals, advancing over Marin Catholic in a 12-5 quarterfinal game. In the semifinals, the Wolves fell to the Campolindo Cougars in double overtime, 6-5.

Boys water polo: De La Salle gives SRV the slip

Despite hunting down a half-

time tie, the San Ramon Valley High School Wolves fell 6-3 in Saturday's NCS semifinal game against De La Salle (21-6) at Campolindo High School. Sam Finlayson, David Hasselfeld and Taylor Herman each had goals for San Ramon Valley (21-6) but De La Salle's Kevin Peat, who recorded 13 saves, kept the Wolves mostly at bay. SRV's Elliot Arthur had six saves.

Football: Wolves take down Mustangs, 21-17

The Wolves ended their regular football season with a hometown win over the Mustangs 21-17, last week on Thursday night. San Ramon (9-1, 5-1 EBAL) got an early edge on Monte Vista with a 14-0 lead after the first quarter. SRV's Roy Helu Jr. scored first with a 44-yard run, followed by a 22-yard touchdown pass from Corbin Louks to Ryan Vandersloot. Steve Roberts finished off both with field goals. Louks was 13-27 in passing for 186 yards.

Monte Vista (7-3, 4-2 EBAL) gained some traction in the second with a 32-yard field goal, but it wasn't until the third quarter that their comeback seemed viable. Sweeny made a 10-yard run for the Mustangs first touchdown. Then, finally taking the lead, Drew McAllister, who finished out the game 19-29 on passing for

163 yards, connected with Ryan Whalen on a 23-yard touchdown pass putting the score at 17-14 going into the fourth.

SRV regained its lead and sealed the win in the fourth with a six-yard touchdown run from Louks.

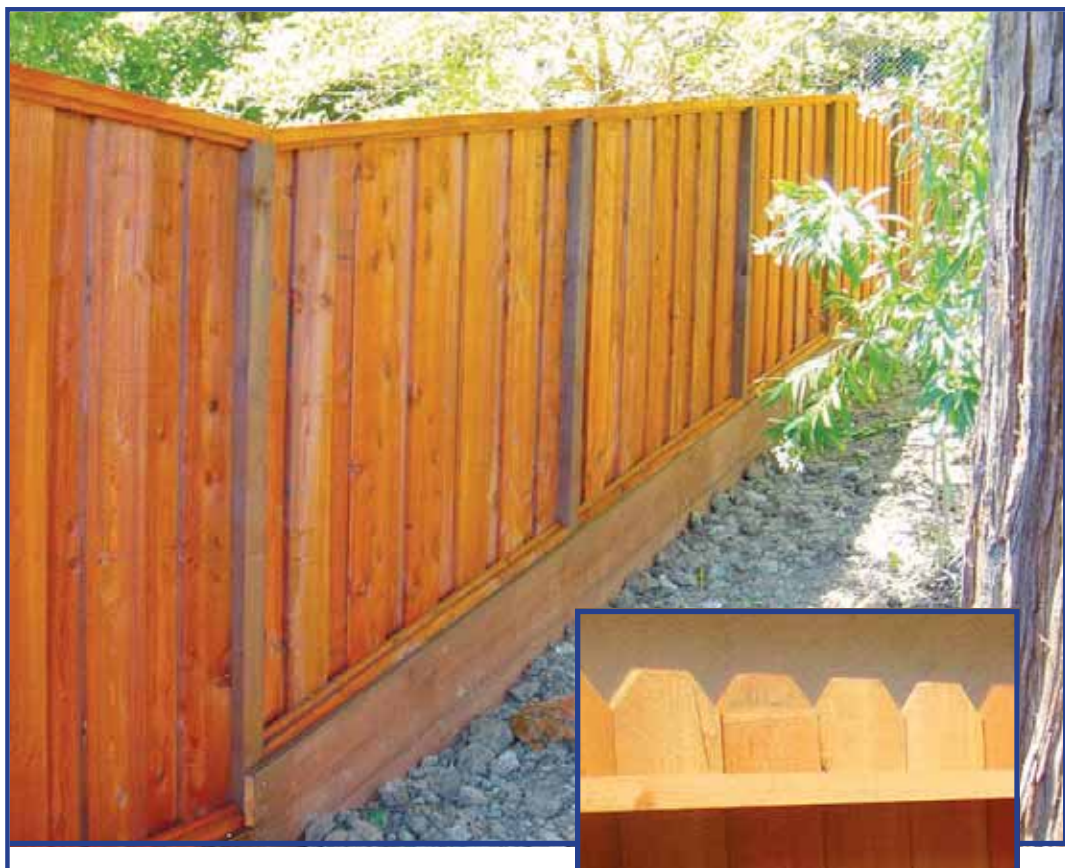
Volleyball: Wolves ace Mustangs in round two

The San Ramon Valley girls killed their way to another three-game league win over Monte Vista this season. The games went 25-21, 25-16, 25-21. Mustang Lauren Claybaugh led the way with 11 kills, 10 digs and a block. Teammates Laura Managan had 4 kills and one ace; Bekah Weisser logged 15 digs; and Carly Kenyon earned 31 assists and 5 digs. With the win, the SRV record improves to (8-4 EBAL, 20-8).

Girls tennis: Monte Vista and Foothill at it again

Monte Vista locked in its bid to the NCS team tennis championships Saturday with a 7-0 win over San Ramon Valley. Rain delayed the final showdown between the Mustangs and the Foothill Falcons for the section title. The championship was to feature familiar rivals: Monte Vista's Mia Giovanni and Foothill's Kerri Kummer. ■

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Pleasanton, 6225 Camino Del Lago, 11/18, 8-2

PLEASANTON, 6868 Massey Ct, 11/18-19, 9-3

San Rafael, 55 De Luca Place, 11-18, 9-3
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Desk & Credenza - \$75
Dining Table - \$70 or B0
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245 Miscellaneous

AccuCut Die Cut Machine - \$175
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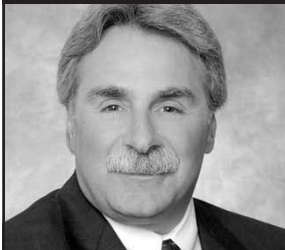
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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during October 2006

Danville	Alamo	Diablo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 19	Total sales reported: 5	Total sales reported: 1	Total sales reported: 24
Lowest sale reported: \$770,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,150,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,537,000	Lowest sale reported: \$349,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,000,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,491,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,537,000	Highest sale reported: \$3,350,000
Average sales reported: \$1,175,736	Average sales reported: \$1,361,600	Average sales reported: \$1,537,000	Average sales reported: \$759,562

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Diablo	Walnut Creek
3240 Blackhawk Meadow Drive J. & S. Kern to K. Cole for \$1,500,000	421 Rioja Court KB Homes to R. Mohr-Wendt for \$1,114,000	5920 Horsemans Canyon Drive #1B Price Trust to Lee Trust for \$475,000	2600 Jones Road #33 A. Ursino to A. Navarro for \$470,000
1662 Colchester Street Lennar Homes to Y. & I. Margulis for \$1,174,000	1398 Casa Vallecita Bowman Trust to M. & L. Kovalik for \$1,250,000	221 Normandy Lane Zaro Trust to Normandy Group for \$3,350,000	430 North Civic Drive #509 A. Shields to J. Northrup for \$349,000
1688 Colchester Street Lennar Homes to A. Bukta for \$1,119,000	101 Daniel Drive D. & A. Hudson to P. & J. Petrillo for \$1,465,000	430 North Civic Drive #509 A. Shields to J. Northrup for \$349,000	1003 Northoak Drive M. Dewindt to W. & N. Armstrong for \$575,000
673 Contada Circle R. & P. Montana to E. & C. Gayden for \$1,007,000	2678 Roundhill Drive G. & J. Kimball to E. & P. Chaback for \$1,150,000	2530 Oak Road #101 Bridgeport Commons to S. & I. McPeak for \$432,500	2594 Oak Road #262 M. Ben-Arie to H. Ung for \$520,000
546 El Pintado Road Daly Trust to G. & L. Dolivo for \$950,000	340 South Avenue C. & K. Muentner to B. Stockton for \$1,452,000	2721 Oak Road #1 J. Owens to J. Kupras for \$430,000	78 Park Avenue Chaffee Trust to T. & J. Elliott for \$660,000
854 El Pintado Road Tandrow Trust to T. & K. Huether for \$2,000,000	2433 Southview Drive Dibari Trust to C. Wilkins for \$1,491,000	1930 Parkside Drive Holtrop Trust to P. Ho for \$585,000	2209 Ptarmigan Drive #3 Otto Trust to D. & B. Peterson for \$377,000
225 El Pinto Affinito Trust to J. & C. Zdanowski for \$1,975,000	21 Calle Del Casarillo Lee Trust to J. & M. Moeller for \$1,537,500	2454 Sky Road D. Cleary to E. & M. Kahn for \$1,080,000	862 Stonehaven Drive Sirva Relocation to M. Mertz for \$900,000
2225 Genoa Street Lennar Homes to Nutakki Trust for \$1,098,000	2463 Aarles Court M. & M. Lapp to S. Kaplun for \$820,000	945 Terra California Drive #2 R. Davis to Devlin Trust for \$818,000	945 Terra California Drive #3 F. & L. Barnes to Davidson Trust for \$650,000
702 Glen Eagle Court K. Bereta to D. & O. Oliveira for \$770,000	1925 Cactus Court #4 Mcglauffin Trust to B. Burke for \$465,000	25 Virginia Court Richmond Trust to G. & M. Moore for \$918,000	1077 Wesley Court #2 Gracey Trust to L. Roaldson for \$389,000
120 Hope Lane R. Lewis to W. & J. Gallagher for \$1,625,000	1790 Candelerio Court C. & N. Archibald to J. Nixon for \$547,500		
286 Jasmine Way Kruger Trust to J. & J. Diedenhofen for \$969,000	1802 Cannon Drive K. Morton to J. Lukza for \$467,500		
230 Lyon Court R. & C. Harrison to J. & D. Kruger for \$1,278,500	2105 Dapplegray Lane B. Dulac to K. & C. Finn for \$563,500		
163 Molitas Road Bordetsky Trust to Y. Liu for \$881,000	3464 Freeman Road G. & M. Moore to J. & J. Taylor for \$1,125,000		
136 Nanterre Street KB Homes to S. Tam for \$883,500	3034 Grey Eagle Drive Laporta Trust to Lim Trust for \$1,262,500		
184 Nanterre Street KB Homes to N. Cruz for \$944,000			
217 Nanterre Street KB Homes to T. & L. Chung for \$930,000			
403 Rioja Court KB Homes to J. Delgadillo for \$1,171,000			

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Joe Combs

4 Bedroom San Ramon



4 Bedroom 3 Bath in San Ramon
 Walk to Iron Horse Trail, Large Master Bedroom Suite, Huge Bonus Room With Built Ins. Large Back Yard. \$849,000

Great Views in Diablo



1.6 Acre Building Lot
 Build Your Dream Home In One Of The Most Expensive Zip Codes In The United States. \$1,500,000

Walnut Creek Duplex



Walnut Creek Duplex
 Each Unit Has 3 Bedrooms and 2 Baths, Walk to Down Town. Live in one side, rent the other side. \$900,000



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LIST YOUR OPEN HOME FOR FREE!

OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM

LIST YOUR OPEN HOMES—FREE

DEADLINE IS
 TUESDAY 10 A.M.

E-MAIL OPEN HOME INFORMATION TO :
OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com

Space available
 only basis

Danville
 WEEKLY

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

Alamo

3 Bedrooms

914 Ina Dr. **\$1,498,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451
150 Crest Ave. **\$995,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-3444

4 Bedrooms

155 Wilson Rd. **\$1,175,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 368-8667
116 Post Rd. **\$1,299,950**
Sun 1-4 Intero 885-4041
2694 Roundhill Dr. **\$1,469,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 998-5868
46 Vista Ln **\$1,649,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 672-2499

5 Bedrooms

18 Kirk Ct. **\$2,699,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2550

Blackhawk

3 Bedrooms

147 Birchbark Pl. **\$1,198,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451
11 Deer Meadow Ct. **\$1,199,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE 736-4155
118 Kingswood Cir. **\$925,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE 736-4155

4 Bedrooms

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

Danville

2 Bedrooms

441 Sycamore Cir. **\$514,950**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 858-9365
4032 Skylark Ln. **\$534,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452
2200 Oneida Cir. **\$660,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5510

3 Bedrooms

619 Cotnada Cir. **\$1,025,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4134
4 Danville Oak Pl. **\$599,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 413-1068
154 Lawnview Cir. **\$599,550**
Sun 1-4 Better Homes 389-0618
167 Heritage Park Dr. **\$655,900**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410
305 West Meadows Lane **\$659,900**
Sun 1-4 PM Alain Pinel 648-6500
653 Doral Dr. **\$749,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 ERA Golden Hills 519-5740
1148 River Rock Ln **\$768,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4075

4 Bedrooms

1024 Ocho Rios Dr. **\$1,065,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 314-2428
250 Tim Ct. **\$1,599,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Better Homes 389-0618
129 Windover Dr. **\$1,699,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 838-4300
11 Jillian Wy **\$1,748,900**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 818-4078
1193 River Rock Ln **\$849,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4049
1097 River Rock Ln **\$929,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4107
705 Mistral Ct. **\$943-3333**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 362-0460
577 La Gonda Wy **\$950,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4125
389 Squirrel Ridge Wy **\$995,000**
1-4 Intero 833-1822

5 Bedrooms

126 Bormio Ct. **\$1,355,000**
Sun 12-3 Intero 984-1945

112 Laurelwood Dr. **\$2,049,950**
Sun 1-4 Intero 977-1386

124 Victoria Pl. **\$2,199,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 785-1386

246 Stetson Dr. **\$879,000**
Sun 1-4:30 Prudential CA 876-5554

6 Bedrooms

251 Royal Palm Pl **\$1,099,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4096
586 Zephyr **\$1,099,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4123
265 Montego Dr. **\$4,200,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

Diablo

1 Bedrooms

4165 Clarinbridge Cir. **\$478,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

6 Bedrooms

2315 Caballo Ranchero **\$2,125,000**
Sun 1-4 Empire 217-5048

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms

2653 Fountainhead Dr. **\$465,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 819-7653
950 Springview Cir. **\$620,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire 217-3112

3 Bedrooms

1407 Dawn Ct. **\$599,000**
Sat/Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker 640-8283
1612 Arianna Lane **\$628,888**
Sun 1:30-4 Realty World 336-1558
9746 Broadmoor Dr. **\$649,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452
100 Amaryllis Cir. **\$664,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 819-2747
1094 Vista Pointe Ci **\$710,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 885-4128
2516 McLaren Ln. **\$Upon Request**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

4 Bedrooms

116 Pearlgrass Ct. **\$1,068,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Empire 217-5061
136 Canyon Lakes Way **\$1,119,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 785-1586
604 Vine Hill Ln **\$1,155,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 833-1822
11 Henry Ranch Dr. **\$1,459,000**
Sun 1:00-5:00 All CA Brokerage 699-7955
12 Tackwood Ct. **\$910,000**
Sun 1-4 Empire 217-5082
1923 Hollyview Dr. **\$949,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452
2433 Wildhorse Dr. **\$997,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 366-4544

5 Bedrooms

16 Connick Ct. **\$1,150,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747
16 Pine Valley Pl **\$1,434,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 487-6211
4025 Tulip Wy **\$1,565,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410
1424 Allannmere Dr. **\$949,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 785-1386

Walnut Creek

2 Bedrooms

501 Allegheny Dr. **\$679,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-3444

3 Bedrooms

2716 Oak Rd. #101 **\$450,000**
Sat 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 642-0365

4 Bedrooms

1600 Springbrook Rd. **\$829,800**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 362-2022

Dublin

2 Bedrooms

10725 Wallace Ln. **\$485,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 413-1068

3 Bedrooms

7750 Firebrand Dr. **\$545,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747
3657 Sinnian Wy. **\$679,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Dublin Hills 829-9811
3981 Strafford Ct. **\$695,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero 963-0093

4 Bedrooms

3916 Gorham Ct. **\$779,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero 963-0093

5 Bedrooms

2718 S. Kilbride Ln. **\$1,024,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452
5012 Round Hill Dr. **\$1,449,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

Livermore

3 Bedrooms

780 Mariposa Ave **\$519,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410
1206 Hillview Dr. **\$550,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 362-1645

513 Alameda Dr. **\$579,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4:30 Valley Properties 998-5312

6341 El Capitan Ct. **\$629,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4:30 Intero 200-5026

426 Andrea Cir. **\$699,950**
Sun 1-4:30 Valley Properties 998-5312

4 Bedrooms

1431 Spring Valley Cmns. **\$440,000**
Sun 12-3 Valley Properties 455-6048
4521 Maureen Cir. **\$725,000**
Sat 1-4 Century 21 699-9508

Pleasanton

3 Bedrooms

560 Gerard Ct. **\$1,175,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 398-0234
4922 Black Ave. **\$698,900**
Sun 2-5 Re/Max 735-7653

4 Bedrooms

2189 Martin Ct. **\$1,599,000**
Sun 1:00-4:00 Re/Max 352-7307
2105 Cascara Ct. **\$2,340,000**
Sun 1-4 Windermere 922-0822
2297 Greenwood Dr. **\$808,888**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410
4642 Sierrawood Lane **\$834,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 362-1645
7603 Maywood Dr **\$988,888**
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

5 Bedrooms

2503 Vineyard Ave. **\$2,199,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 200-0858

PRISTINE CONDITIONS INSIDE AND OUT

Open Sunday 1-4 • HUGE REDUCTION!



4111 Reedland, Danville - Ideally located near open space on the upper loop of Reedland Circle. This 4 bedroom 2.5 baths, 2,323+/- sq. ft. home offers very generous room sizes and comfortable amenities Central air, central vacuum system, alarm, separate laundry room. Formal dining, kitchen with breakfast nook, separate family room and much more. The back yard offers an ample patio and privacy. Auto sprinklers front and back. The HOA maintains the lush front landscaping. **Offered at \$839,000**



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DANVILLE

Magee Ranch Custom \$2,499,000
On the "circle", 5bd, 4.5ba, library w/cherry built-ins, bonus room. Extensive use of woodwork. An entertainer's delight w/pool, spa, Mt. Diablo views!
Julie Whitmer 925.997.5120



DANVILLE

Westside Custom Single Story \$1,649,950
Very open & bright 4bd, 3ba floor plan. Sunset Magazine award-winning backyard w/pool and Mt. Diablo view. Newer roof. 3-car side entry garage.
Brad Gothberg 925.977.8965



ALAMO

Totally Remodeled on Westside \$1,595,000
4bd, 3ba, slab granite kitchen w/wood and travertine floors. Many French doors, all new windows. New master bath w/shower. Great grounds.
McDougall Team 925.672.2499



DANVILLE

Rare Single Story on Quiet Court \$1,262,000
4bd, 2.5ba, new carpeting, new light fixtures, meticulously maintained. Lovely brick accented pool and separate spa. 3-car garage.
Carolyn H. Young 925.963.0093



ALAMO

Just Reduced!! \$1,175,000
Enjoy Mt. Diablo sunrises & Las Trampas Ridge sunsets! 4bd, 3.5ba with new: roof, deck, windows, carpet, refinished hardwood floors, gourmet granite kitchen.
Valerie Betts 925.368.8667



DANVILLE

It's a WOW! \$1,162,000
5 large bedrooms, remodeled kitchen, travertine master bath. New furnace, A/C, ductwork, water heater. Large side yard with patio.
Judy Bradley & Bob Gibbs 510.410.6311



DANVILLE

Bettencourt Ranch Executive Home \$1,099,950
Like new inside and out! 4bd, one downstairs, 3ba, family room w/used brick fireplace, bar, morning sun breakfast area, huge master suite.
Chuck and Renee Lamb 925.899.9651



DANVILLE

Ready To Move In \$1,099,000
6bd, 3ba, gorgeous remodeled kitchen and baths. Gleaming hardwood floors, faux paint walls, Tuscan touches. Newer roof, dual pane windows.
Vince Perpetuo 925.855.4096



DANVILLE

6 Bedroom Home in Danville Station \$1,099,000
Room to roam in this wonderful 6bd plus huge loft, 3ba home just steps to community pool and greenbelts. Stunning cherry/granite/stainless kitchen.
Loraine Ward 925.855.4123

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