

Start a new tradition

Perform 'A Christmas Carol' with your family and friends > **Section 2**

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Schools going solar

Sun to power three elementary campuses
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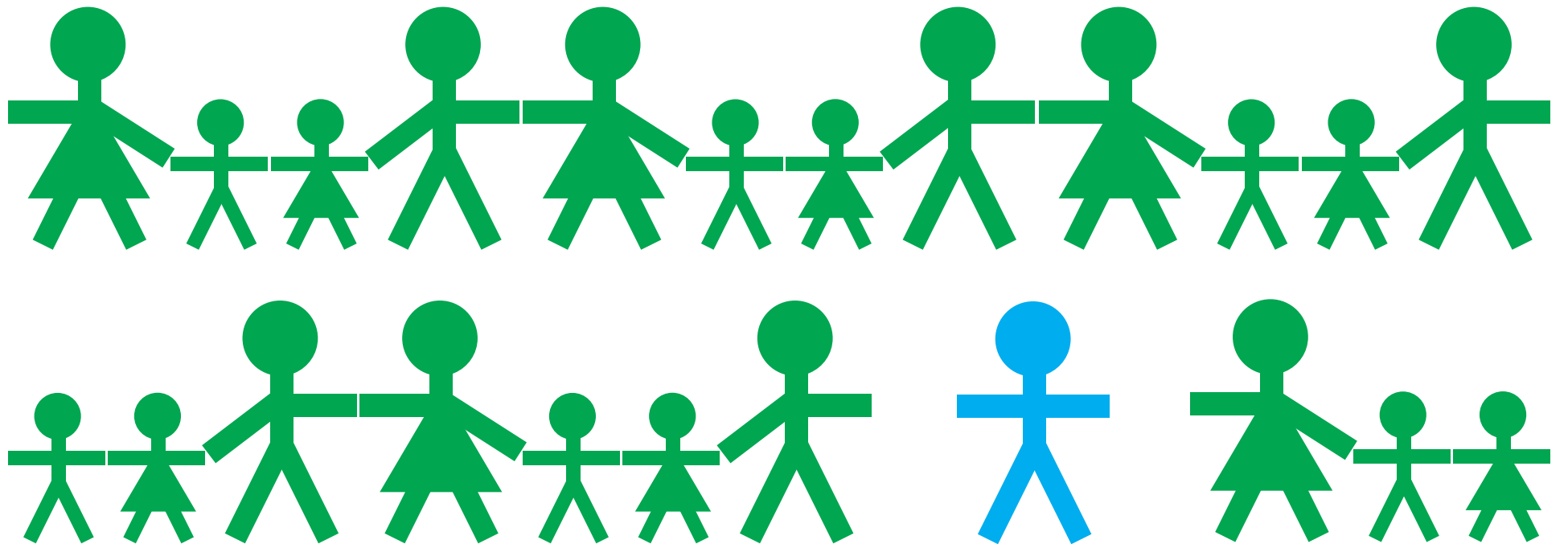
Danville

W E E K L Y

Football season ends

San Ramon beaten in NCS semifinal
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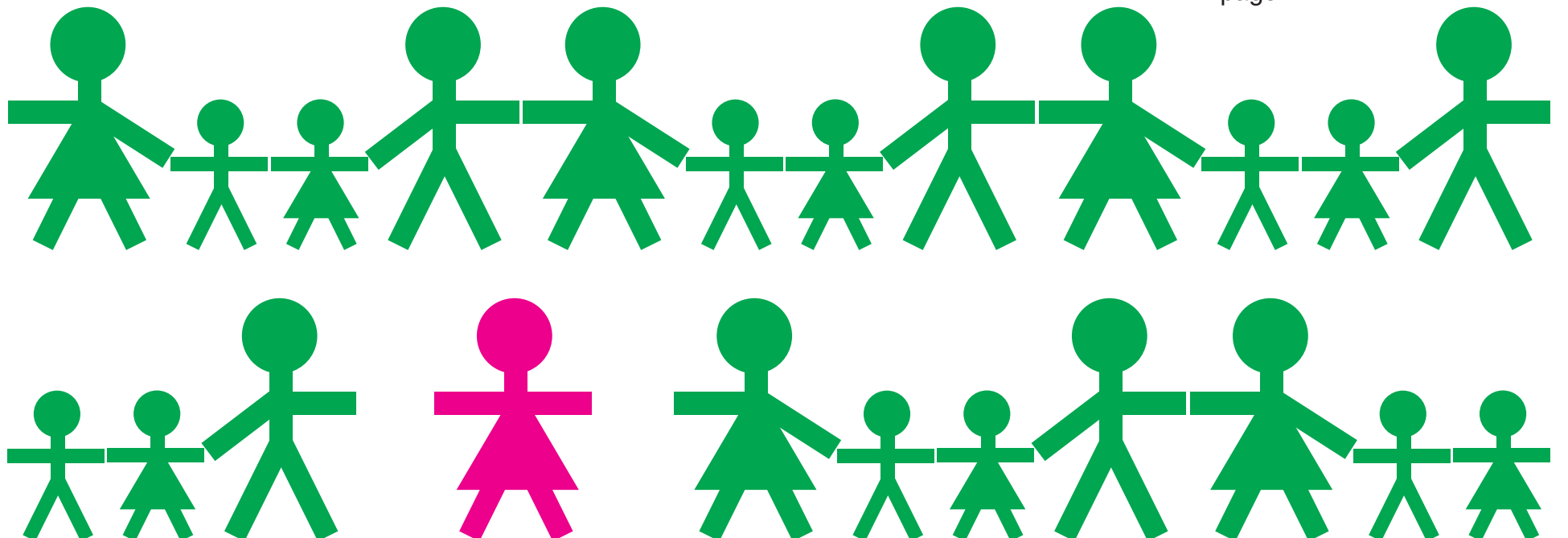
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Single in the suburbs

People share their stories of looking for love in Danville

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—From the staff at Bridges



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Q: What "new" holiday tradition would you like to start?



I'd like to make it a new tradition to take all this unbelievable wealth, even things that just get tossed out here, and ship it to the (U.S./Mexico) border area where the depth of poverty is so great and people have absolutely nothing.

Steve Grer
copyright investigator



My tradition is to put up the tree with the ornaments up. They're all different colors. I want Santa to bring me a crocodile.

Ryder Kelsey
3 years old



I don't know about a new tradition but we have an old one I love. It's getting together as a family Christmas Day and Christmas morning. Being with the family is the best part of all.

Shirley Crawford
housewife and Ryder's grandma



During the holidays I cook. I guess that's not a tradition, it's a must. I think for the Danville area it would be nice to start a tradition for the kids, maybe a block party or something.

Charlie Stoehr
self employed



We have a tradition I just love. All the grand-kids sit with my husband and read "The Night before Christmas" by the fireplace on Christmas Eve.

Pat Roscrans
retired

COMPILED BY RACHEL MCMURDIE

ABOUT THE COVER

Danville is known as a great place for families, but single people face some challenges. Cover design by Jason Lind.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ The scene is just too small. You see the same people everywhere. ”

—Angelina Thomasetti, who is single and says she's had the most luck meeting men at the gym. See story, page 12.

Beacon to commemorate Pearl Harbor attack

The Mt. Diablo Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association once again will light the beacon on top of Mount Diablo in memory of the veterans of Pearl Harbor. The ceremony will start at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, the 65th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Approximately 2,400 military personnel died during Japan's aerial raid on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

A guest speaker will give a talk, and veterans will share their stories at the event. Approximately 250 to 300 people attended the event last year, said Tony Carnemolla, one of the event organizers. The Mount Diablo beacon lighting has been taking place for more than a decade, and Carnemolla said he enjoys hearing veterans' stories.

He said the number of Pearl Harbor veterans are declining. “They are fading away pretty fast,” he said.

New mayor to be named Tuesday

The Danville Town Council will name its new mayor for the year 2007 at the 25th annual Mayor's Installation and Community Service Awards program, which begins at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5.

More than 20 plaques of recognition will also be presented to volunteers who have given their time and services to Danville.

The event takes place at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., and will be followed by a reception in the library.

Like mosquitos?

Danville is looking for someone to represent the town on the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees beginning in 2007. The office lasts two years for the first term, and subsequent terms are two to four years.

Applicants must be residents of Danville, at least 18 years old, and have an interest in any of the following areas: public health, public policy, wetlands, farming, community education, finance, personnel or land development.

The board meets the second Monday evening of every other month, and each trustee receives \$100 per month in lieu of expenses. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7. The entire Town Council will conduct interviews and make appointments at its Dec. 19 meeting.

Applications are available at the Town Web site, www.ci.danville.ca.us or by calling the city clerk's office at 314-3401.

Homes for the holidays

The AAUW Holiday Home Tour and Boutique takes place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., today and tomorrow, Saturday, Dec. 2, and includes seven exquisitely decorated homes in the Danville and Alamo area.

Tickets for \$30 are available at 2533 Roundhill Road in Alamo or at Design Concepts, 3235 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Proceeds will go toward local scholarships and Tech Trek science camp for middle school girls.

The home at 2533 Roundhill Road has been newly remodeled and is also the site of the boutique, which is open to all without tickets. This home features a brass banister that was originally in the San Francisco Wells Fargo Bank, a 250-gallon indoor in-ground aquarium, and a very open floor plan. Each of the seven homes is uniquely decked out to inspire others in their decorating for the holidays.



Snow Angel and Father Christmas announce the lighting of the town tree last Friday evening.



The Brad Schwartz family heads to the Danville Oak Tree Lighting.



Little girls enjoy the holiday excitement—and the snacks.

Holidays are officially here

Danville tree-lighting kicks off the season

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A chorus of holiday songs, laughter, cheers and smiles saturated the air during the Danville Oak Tree Lighting last week.

Hundreds of families and children gathered on Diablo Road to see the lighting of the Danville Oak Tree

on Friday evening, Nov. 24, which was organized by the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce. The event began around 5:15 p.m.

The Danville police blocked off parts of Diablo Road so people could convene.

The San Ramon Valley High Chorus—directed by Ken Abrams—sang a medley of songs to spread the Christmas spirit.

Mayor Karen Stepper, wearing a soft, red Santa's hat, gave a talk

about being thankful for the many opportunities available to Danville residents. And Father Christmas, with his white beard and wooden staff, and the Danville Snow Angel, wearing a white winged gown, announced the lighting of the tree around 6:15 p.m.

Afterward, the attendees flocked downtown to visit the gaily decorated shops and the Christmas exhibit at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. ■

Dead coyote causes crash on freeway

Motorcyclist suffers minor cuts and scrapes

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A motorcyclist whammed into a dead coyote on I-680 and fell on the road during rush hour Tuesday morning, suffering minor cuts and scrapes. Medical personnel and a fire truck arrived at the accident, causing heavy traffic and long delays on the freeway.

"It looked a lot worse than it was," said California Highway Patrolman Scott Yox.

Tracy resident Esequil Licea, 30, was driving his 2003 Suzuki motorcycle northbound on I-680 between El Pintado Road in Danville and Stone Valley Road in Alamo and collided with the dead coyote as he was changing lanes at

around 8:15 a.m.

He was driving in the fast lane, saw the coyote's carcass lying ahead and wanted to avoid hitting it, said Yox. However, there was not enough space for him to shift right and change lanes so he decided to gear up and thrust over the coyote.

When he drove over the carcass, he lost control and fell off his motorcycle, which slid into the back of a 2003 Nissan Exterra. No one else was hurt besides Licea, who was taken to a hospital.

"He ultimately wound up with minor injuries and cuts," Yox said.

He said mostly deer come down from the hills onto the highway. He noted the importance of scanning well ahead down the road to anticipate and avoid problems.

"It all comes down to looking down the roadway," Yox said. ■

Survey of seniors to find out what services are lacking

by **Natalie O'Neill**

A group of vocal seniors confronted the Town Council last month, citing reasons why programs, town staff and services for the elderly are lacking in Danville. As a result, the town plans to conduct an extensive needs assessment survey of seniors, which is aimed at understanding what the aging population of Danville wants and needs.

"Seniors need to have a place they can walk to, a place where they can get out and be social," said senior Linda Stolow, pushing the need for a senior center.

The survey will probably begin in late January. It will look at a large group of people ages 55-75 to get input, said Marcia Somers, assistant town manager. Danville residents ages 55 and over make up about 21 percent of Danville's

Danville prepares for 'silver tsunami'

population, according to the 2000 census.

And the population is only expected to grow in the years to come.

"We definitely have a surge of baby boomers," Somers said, recognizing the need for information on the demographic.

"It's been dubbed the 'silver tsunami,'" Stolow said. "It's like a wave that's going to hit the beach."

With a large aging population in Danville, some seniors feel more attention and funding should be given to programs and services specifically for them.

The town currently offers day trips, bridge club, bocce ball and senior info sessions. But Stolow said seniors often fall back on adult recreation programs and church activities because there aren't enough events and activities for the elderly.

"The churches are picking up the town's slack," said Stolow, who used to head Senior Sneakers day trips and has written senior col-

umns for the Valley Citizen.

Chris Paton, who is a senior working with the town on the surveys, said he uses programs for the elderly from other cities because Danville is lacking. Walnut Creek, Dublin and San Ramon all have senior centers, and Paton said he enjoys a hiking group for seniors in Dublin.

The needs assessment, which will likely be a catalyst for improving senior programs, will be conducted by contractors who will meet in focus groups and one-on-one with seniors. This is important, Stolow said, because face-to-face meetings are much more thorough than merely sending out questioners.

"They need to really get out there in the community," she said.

In response to the surveys, Paton applauds the town staff for its effort and willingness to help but is skeptical that the needs assessments will accurately reflect the senior community.

► Continued on page 9

Three schools in San Ramon Valley district to go solar

Panels will be installed at no cost, plus help save money in energy costs

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

The school district will install solar panels at the end of the school year to power Greenbrook, Bollinger Canyon and Walt Disney elementary schools.

The Board of Trustees approved a measure that allows the San Ramon Valley Unified School District to move forward in installing solar

cells in these three elementary schools, one in Danville and two in San Ramon.

"The school district gets two benefits," said Mike Bush, district superintendent of business services. "One, it saves us money. Two, it's going to provide an educational benefit to our students."

When the pannels are installed, students will learn the process of storing solar power and conserving power, he said.

The district plans to install panels that will power between 110 and 120 kilowatts of solar energy in

each of the three schools. The solar rays will power 25 percent of the schools, Bush said.

PG&E approved the district's application for a grant of approximately \$1.2 million to help finance the project. The district will also buy solar power at a reduced rate from the company that installs the photovoltaic cells.

"The more power we buy from the panels, the more money we save," Bush said. "The systems installed would be at no cost to the district."

Also, the installation company

receives a federal tax credit for its service.

"All these things help defray the cost of installing the systems," Bush said.

Installation will start at the end of the school year and finish when the new school year begins.

"It can't be all done in July or August," he said. "We will be meeting principals at each site."

The district began discussing the project two years ago, Bush said. It did not move forward with the idea because it was occupied with other endeavors, such as building new

facilities.

"There wasn't time to pursue this," he said.

When Bush arrived at the district in May, the school board and district administrators began moving the project forward.

"Our goal is to have it completed by the opening of the new school year," he said.

These three schools are the first in the district to use photovoltaic solar electrical systems, said Bush.

"We expect to expand to other schools as part of our energy conservation program," he said. ■

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Christmases past

Take a holiday trip down memory lane at the museum

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Remembering Christmas is a community activity at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Many of the items on display at the current Christmas Memories exhibit are on loan from Valley residents.

The annual display takes visitors back to three different periods of time by exhibiting trees from 1890, 1930 and 1950. It includes interactive mechanical toys, international dolls, dollhouses, a tricycle from the 1890s, antique wind-up toys, model trains, dolls, and Santa and his sleigh.

Kate Elliott, who was in charge of this year's display, said she has three favorite parts.

"One is Pooh Corner," she said. Alice Reynolds, a longtime teacher in the area, and her daughter set up the special display of Winnie the Pooh and friends celebrating Christmas.

"The second thing I like is a little grand piano from the 1930s," said Elliott. "One of our volunteers loaned us that."

The third thing she likes is the community involvement, from residents who loan old toys to the California Pedaler loaning a bike similar to those in the 1950s to Sloats Garden Center donating wreathes.

The display of trees from three eras was the idea in the mid-1980s of Jack Hamel, a longtime volunteer at the museum.

"There was an exhibit committee, and we sat around and talked about what we could do for a

Remembering old holidays

What: Christmas Memories

Where: Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville

When: Nov. 24-Jan. 6

Museum hours: 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays

Cost: Admission is free but donations are appreciated

Information: Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsv.org

Christmas exhibit," recalled Hamel. "We had a lot of trains, old pieces of furniture and old toys in our inventory that had never been seen by anyone. We came up with the idea to do Christmases past."

He said they knew children were familiar with Christmas present but might enjoy seeing Christmas trees as their parents and grandparents knew them. Museum resources broke naturally into the three time frames from the past, Hamel said. They had the most items from the 1950s so that tree is on the largest display board.

Hamel also said it was a stroke of good fortune that the Danville Historical Society, with its members' extensive knowledge of local history, decorates the tree from the



JORDANA DORONIA

The Christmas Memories exhibit at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley has decorated trees on display from three different eras: (l-r) the 1890s, the 1930s and the 1950s. Fans visit the exhibit every year to see what additional rare items have been placed in the display.



Christmas at Grandmother's House, a model by Geoff Bishop, is part of the holiday exhibit currently at the museum.

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Jewish cemetery to break ground

*East Bay congregations
worked on effort
near Orinda*

by Jordan M. Doronila

The first Jewish cemetery in the East Bay is scheduled to open in June.

The Sinai Memorial Chapel in Lafayette and the Gan Shalom Corp.—composed of several East Bay congregations including Beth Chaim in Danville—purchased land behind San Pablo Reservoir in Contra Costa County to build a Jewish cemetery and honor the dead on holy ground.

The Jewish community has already begun construction and will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at 1100 Bear Creek Road outside Orinda. Gan Shalom and Sinai Memorial Chapel purchased the property for \$1.2 million.

“Jewish burial space in the East Bay was going to run out,” said Sue Lefelstein, associate director of Sinai Memorial Chapel office in Lafayette. The nonsectarian cemetery in Lafayette has a Jewish section.

“This will be a nonprofit Jewish Cemetery,” she said, adding that even those who are not affiliated with the Jewish community can bury their loved ones in the graveyard. “The profits will be returned to the Jewish community.”

The groundbreaking represents the culmination of a 15-year effort by the Gan Shalom Corp. to establish an all-Jewish cemetery for Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Gan Shalom includes congregations in Walnut Creek and San Leandro.

“It’s the first Jewish cemetery in 50 years,” said Lefelstein, referring to the East Bay. “We started searching in the mid 1980s.”

She said Gan Shalom partnered with Sinai and purchased the land on Bear Creek Road, behind the San Pablo Reservoir. She said one of the reasons it is taking so long to build the cemetery is the length of time it takes to get the necessary permits.

For additional information and directions to the site, contact Sinai Memorial Chapel office in Lafayette at 962-3636 or Gan Shalom at 825-2182. ■

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Seniors

► Continued from page 5

"I'm guardedly optimistic. From my experience, you can make a survey say anything you want it to," he said.

Somers said the amount of money the town has allotted for the study has not been discussed, but Walnut Creek conducted a similar in-depth study using about \$70,000 of the city budget. She added that last month was the first time, in her experience, that a group of seniors in Danville had been so vocal about what they want.

"It was the first time we heard

from them to any significant extent," she said.

National representation at the Area Agency on Aging, along with better transportation and easier access to Meals on Wheels, are also needs that should be met for Danville seniors, Stolow said.

Currently, 150 Danville seniors have loosely formed a group called the Danville Senior Alliance. Its goals are to get a designated town staff member who understands and relates to seniors, as well as a centrally located place for seniors to meet and be social.

"We have worked, paid taxes and raised families and now it's time for a little payoff," Paton said. ■

Memories

► Continued from page 7

1890s each year.

"They got the old-fashioned candle holders," Hamel said. Also under this tree are an antique doll crib and old-fashioned dolls. "The dolls are really extraordinary," Hamel noted.

Carlo and Lois Borlandelli have been invaluable in setting up the platforms and trees and putting toys under them, said Hamel. Also mothers and daughters from the National Charity League help out as do many others.

The museum also has seven gin-

gerbread houses replicating historic buildings in town on exhibit, as well as the Father Christmas outfit originally used for the Danville tree lighting in 1976 and illuminated postcards given to people in the Valley in the early 1900s.

The museum offers an assortment of items in its gift shop, including books, wooden puzzles with local photos taken by Bill Hockins, and inexpensive holiday goodies.

Many families have a tradition of visiting the museum each year during the holidays to see the Christmas Memories exhibit, said its organizers.

"We have old favorites but we try to make it new every year," said Elliott. ■

Excitement builds over downtown project

Living, retail, eatery spaces will preserve historic look

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Architects remodeling the Danville Hotel territories have designed each unit to look like it was built separately during the turn of the century, Heritage Resource Commission members and leasing agents said this week.

"The goal is to make the buildings look like they have been developed over a number of years," said Robert Storer, liaison from the Heritage Resource Commission to the Danville Planning Commission.

The style, which is being designed by the William Hezmalhalch architectural firm, will emulate what already exists in Danville. The goal is to both preserve the historical aesthetics of the town and to create new spaces for living, retail and restaurants in the downtown area, commission members said.

"People jump to the conclusion that newer two-story buildings won't be as charming and that they'll lack details but these buildings will be charming," said Rick Aiken, Hezmalhalch architect.

Aiken expects the completed project to be a draw for people who are walking downtown.

"The individual look of the build-

ings will give each business more identity," said Gary Riele, who will lease the new buildings when they are built next year.

Riele has already spoken to small retail stores and regional restaurant owners who are interested in the space but he is not actively marketing the leasing yet. The remodeled spaces will not likely attract national or regional retailers, he said, but if a major retailer is interested in the future, the new units will appropriate for both major retailers and small boutiques.

"It will be built to maintain retail in today's market," Storer said.

Since the project involves Danville's historic hotel, the process for approval on the project is extensive. First, the Heritage Resource Commission advises the Planning Commission on historical preservation, aesthetics and functionality. From there, the Planning Commission advises the Town Council, which makes final approval decisions.

The spaces will have big windows for displaying retail and will be 14 feet tall, which is standard for retail spaces built today.

To date, the Heritage Resource Committee has recommended a few changes to the architectural team.

"There were some barrel-style roofs we didn't care for and (structure details) that weren't appropri-

ate for Danville," Storer said.

While the spaces don't have to visually scream that they are retail units, architects will want to make it clear that the buildings are not just old houses, Riele said. Big windows and enough space can make or break a retail space he said, citing examples on Hartz Avenue.

When Forward Motion athletic store was built it was designed to be a retail venue, which is why it has large windows for displays, he said. Other small businesses on Hartz Avenue are based out of house-like venues, such as Barry and Volkmann architects; this space works for a firm but is not appropriate for a project that targets retailers, he said.

Larger corporate retailers like Gap Kids or Old Navy are much more likely to set up in Walnut Creek, Riele said, noting that the commission expects tenants similar to those in the Livery. The buildings are ideal for small boutique owners who may like to live above their shops, Riele said.

"(Big names) come in bunches, we won't get just one," Riele said, citing Papyrus and Chico's as exceptions in Danville.

The project dates have not yet been confirmed, but remodeling will most likely begin next year, commission members and architects said.

"I think it will be really exciting for Danville," Storer said. ■

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Relaxing on the ranch

Lauren Edelman, 6, and her sister Megan, 4, enjoy the Weekly on the 4th of July while visiting grandparents in Milburn, Okla. "It was a wonderful vacation filled with relaxation (no work, swim team practice, etc.) and time with family and friends!" wrote their parents Kristin and Daron.



A capitol idea

Linda, Garrett, Alicia and Gary Johnson enjoy their Weekly while seeing the sights in Washington, D.C., in July.



Vive la Weekly

Bob Rosemeyer celebrates Bastille Day, Jul 14, with his Weekly while visiting Luchon, France, on a cycling vacation with his wife Gail during the Tour de France.

Reading on high

Herb and Marcia Steinhardt, who live on Stonegate Lane in Alamo, visit Glacier National Park with their Weekly.



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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Anticipation vs. realization

The Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving found me, like so many others, at the Oakland airport. My daughter Zoe was flying in from San Diego for the long holiday weekend.

The first year she was at San Diego State, she came home on Wednesday evening. Big mistake. Reports of traffic nightmares at the airport the night before Thanksgiving are not exaggerated. Since then she has arrived on Tuesdays and it's worked out well.

I parked in short-term parking and went into Terminal 2, the Southwest Airlines terminal. The display showed her flight was arriving at Gate 12. The passenger terminal had been transformed since the last time I was there: The entire public area, which used to be half baggage claim, now had long lines of impatient people waiting to go through security to catch flights. The collective anxiety and frustration cast a pall over my happy spirits. However, a nice young man in a blazer with a badge was answering questions from confused people. He told me to go to Terminal 1, where passengers from Gate 12 would exit.

It was much more pleasant at Terminal 1. The arriving passengers were happy to be at their destination and finally leaving the airport scene. Plus the terminal was filled with people like me, anticipating seeing their loved ones. Anticipation. Is it better than actually experiencing the moment? Maybe not but it's a darned close second.

I was a bit early so I checked out the gift shop and resisted buying sourdough bread, magazines or a San Francisco sweatshirt. OK, I bought a little bag of SunChips. Then I noticed a few folding chairs near the security check so I sat down to wait in comfort. Different folks would join me—a young mother and father with a toddler; a woman my age, who had brought along a book. I had come without reading material because I wanted to savor my surroundings. Airports can be a drag, but I like to watch the mini-dramas unfold around me. The reunited friends and families.

A stylish young woman caught my eye. Whom was she waiting for? I tried to guess. Lover? Friend? Relative? She was dressed too sexy to be waiting for her mom. And she was excited and nervous. Boyfriend, I surmised. Bingo! A good-looking guy enfolded her in his arms.

A little girl and boy danced around their mother, alternately chasing each other and hanging off their mom's arms. They must be waiting for grandma, I decided. Then I noticed the mother's concentrated peer down the hall. Maybe they're waiting for their dad. Nope, it's grandma and grandpa. A happy reunion ensued.

Events at departure terminals are just as emotional but less enjoyable. Seeing loved ones tearfully prolong that hug just one more minute brings tears to my eyes. I've been in that scenario too many times. Saying goodbye to family, knowing it would be months or even years before we

were together again. I've never had to say the ultimate goodbye, though, sending someone off to war. The closest I came was as a newlywed when I drove my husband to the Oakland Induction Center to report for duty. I cried all the way home and then some.

But Terminal 1 was full of happy hellos. Passengers would arrive in groups, some would be met, all would walk off merrily into the sunset, well, the darkness. Still there was no Zoe. Her flight had arrived half an hour before but she wasn't among the arrivals. This is when cell phones earn their keep. I called her to learn the plane was still sitting on the tarmac waiting to be assigned an arrival gate. Knowing she was nearby, on the ground safe and sound, stepped up the level of my anticipation.

I began to watch another group and tried to guess what passenger they were meeting. Then I saw a girl in a UCSD sweatshirt and knew the San Diego passengers had disembarked and were walking down the concourse. I began to scan the passengers in earnest, lots of college kids, some business people. Then there was Zoe. And she saw me. All smiles, we stepped purposefully toward each other, embraced tightly, and walked arm-in-arm to the car. Experiencing the moment is better than the anticipation, I decided—by a hug.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
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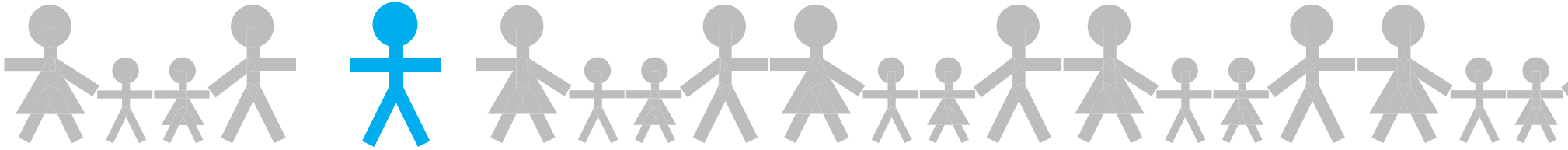
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Single in the suburbs

People share their stories of looking for love

by Natalie O'Neill

Angelina Thomasetti, Sue Saunder and Patty Angeles discuss their plans for the weekend over drinks on a lively Thursday night at Piatti Locali, a popular meeting place for singles in the Danville Livery.

Most people won't go on 100 first dates in an entire lifetime. Danville's dating coach Jeannine Kaiser went on 100 in a year.

"It started out as a joke," says Kaiser, a Danville resident who founded Dating IQ, a service that offers classes and tips to singles nationally.

Freshly single and out of an 11-year marriage, Kaiser toyed with the idea of dating as many men as possible—just for fun. But what started as a playful idea, turned into the most important social exercise of her life.

In the same way a sports coach has to learn to play the game before she can coach a successful team, her two-date-a-week stint taught Kaiser the "rules" of the dating game. In the end, she learned more about the pursuit of love than she did from her first marriage and organizational behavior degree combined.

"When I first started out, I knew more about what I didn't want than what I did," she says over a bowl of soup at Piatti Locali, a lively spot for singles in Danville.

"I got to the point where I could tell if I was interested or not in the first 10 minutes," she says.

Having taught classes on flirting, dating and relationships locally, Kaiser knows the challenges faced by Danville singles. In this small community of busy professionals, finding a healthy yet vibrant place to meet people is tricky, singles say.

Back to the bars?

By and large, singles in Danville are 30-50 years old, have already been through a marriage, and are seeking a second chance at love, Kaiser said.

"You do hear a lot about single divorced parents," says single Danville resident Bonnie Glennon, who took Kaiser's class.

For her, finding the right spot to meet new people is the toughest part of being single in Danville. When one has been married, has raised kids, and is working full time, the opportunities to meet people are limited.

As a result, many middle-age singles in suburbia end up returning to the bar or club scene—searching for a match.

"A lot of recently single people are entering the single world hoping to meet someone the way they did when they were younger, but it's not the same," Kaiser says, pointing out the low success rate of relationships that begin with a bar encounter.

Bars are great for getting back in the mode of meeting people, she says, but it doesn't usually go much further than that.

The single scene

The "strip" on Hartz Avenue, which includes Elliott's Bar and Meenar concert venue, are two of the most popular places where singles convene on weekends in Danville. Piatti Locali and The Crown British Pub and Restaurant and

are also popular places to be Thursday nights for anyone hoping to set up a date for the weekend.

But even with several nightlife options in the town, singles say they feel frustrated in this family-oriented community.

"Dating doesn't have to be a Bataan Death March; it can be a fun, light, relaxed experience."

—Alex Pissalidis, a single father

"The scene is just too small. You see the same people everywhere," says Angelina Thomasetti, who says she's had the most luck meeting men at the gym.

The chances of making a real connection with someone in an environment based around drinking is slim anyway, Kaiser says.

"Guys go out with the guys, and the girls go out with the girls, so you have cliques that you hope someone will penetrate," she says.

The conversations at these venues rarely get beyond a surface "what's-your-sign" conversation, Kaiser says, noting that people often make the mistake of drinking too much.

"People are drunk and not being themselves," Thomasetti agrees, pointing out the flaws of meeting people through nightlife outings.

Still, others say friendly local watering holes

are a great place to make friends and conversation. Sue Saunder, who frequents Piatti Locali, said the restaurant and bar is a few places where everyone is welcoming and friendly. She says she comes to Danville

of clubs in Washington because it's less crowded and she's more likely to run into friends.

Norberto Norberon, who manages a business, said it's an unusual part of his job to be mingling.

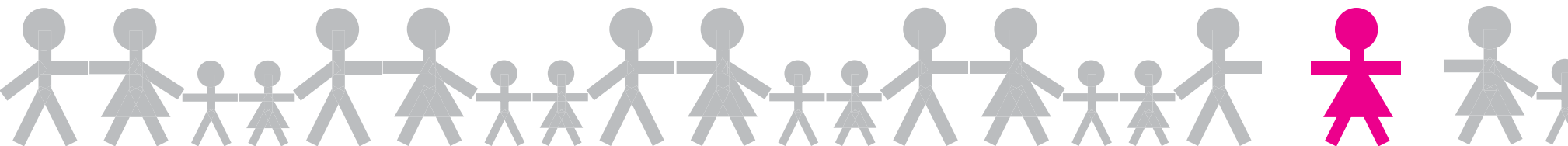
"We help bring people together," he

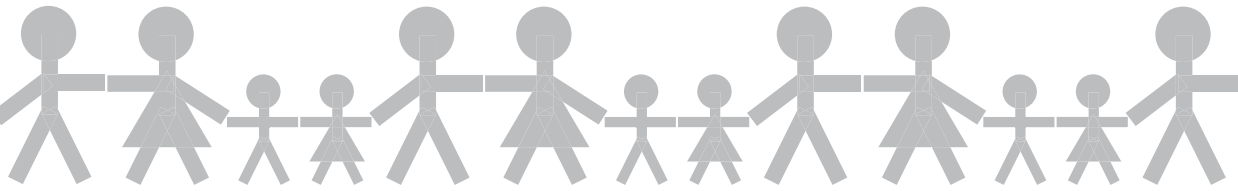
Meeting the old fashioned

While the bar scene in Danville may not be the best place for older singles to get back in the dating game, Kaiser says the best way to meet someone is through a shared hobby.

Joining a local ski club or a writers group, a cooking class or a hiking group has helped Kaiser and other singles feel an immediate bond through shared hobbies and passions, she said. And it's an especially good technique for those who are not finding love on the Internet is too impersonal.

A recent search on match.com showed that Danville residents used the site, posting profiles about their hobbies, relationship status, and even incomes. But both young and old





Love in Danville

Brainna Tutino and Kyle Clark, both 22, who met at church, stopped into Elliott's in downtown Danville while out on a date.

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they find Internet dating flawed in some ways.

"People don't want to put their pictures up and be known as someone who is single and looking," Glennon says.

Joining common interest groups can get you meeting people who share your relationship ideals, without having to post information about yourself in such a public space.

Love and money in Danville

Living in a small, wealthy community can actually make people more guarded when it comes to relationships, men and women singles in Danville say.

At a recent trip to Elliott's in Danville, a group of bar-goers said they find economic status plays a major role in the Danville singles scene. A middle-age male real estate agent, who asked that his name not be used, said he noticed the women he meets in Danville are usually after his wallet. He said women know successful men live here and they come to the bars with that idea in mind.

Glennon added that, as a successful real estate agent herself, she recognizes that well-off men and women do look for partners who can contribute the same amount financially.

From another female perspective, several women interviewed out on the "strip" said single men who live in Danville tend to be rich playboys who refuse to commit. They feel money plays a part in the men's hesitation to marry.

These financial and personal barriers people set up may actually be distancing them from what they ultimately want—love and companionship, Kaiser said.

"You might be keeping yourself from someone who is really fun for you," Glennon says.

It might be more simple than money issues, says John Guillen, a single father in Danville. Men in general just don't feel as much of a drive to settle down, he says.

"Women have a biological clock," he notes, chalking female frustration up to universal differences between the sexes.

The younger crowd

One great thing about the Danville singles scene is it doesn't feel like a "meat market," Thomasetti said, referring to night clubs where singles browse for one-night stands.

For the small younger crowd of post-college age singles, many say they like Danville's night-life because the encounters are more genuine than in big cities.

"You meet people just the way you do at a grocery store," said 23-year-old Corey Whelchel, who said he prefers the older crowds at Meenar in Danville.

For a younger guy who likes to date older women, Danville bars are perfect, he says. Whelchel, who prefers older women because he thinks they tend

► Continued on page 14

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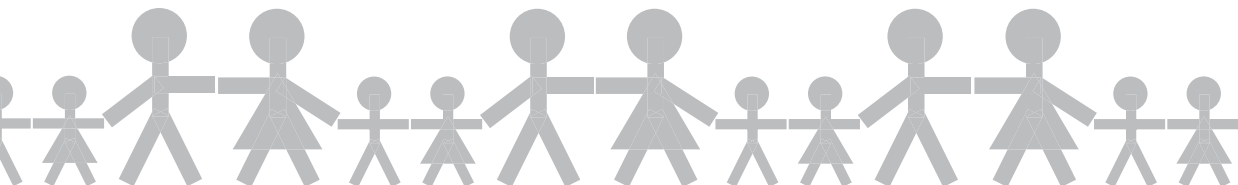
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HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season

Single

► Continued from page 13

to be more intellectual and independent, has met several women he has dated at Meenar. And he unabashedly points out that Meenar is a great spot to find "cougars"—a slang term for 35-plus women who like to date younger men.

He and his friends, who are regulars at Meenar, say it's as good a spot as any to make friends and meet potential girlfriends.

"We're good people and we are here, so you have to believe that other people here are good, too," Whelchel said.

On the other end of the spectrum, some young singles in Danville said they prefer to meet matches through faith groups and family, adding that it's the best way to ensure you and your significant other will have similar values.

"We met at church and we've known each other for years," says 22-year-old Brianna Tutino, who stopped into Elliott's with her date for a glass of wine on a recent Friday night.

Tips from the pro

No matter how you meet the person you are involved with, there are some essential tips for singles in Danville to remember, Kaiser says. The most common problem Kaiser sees is that singles tend to try to compress the dating phase and the relationship phase.

Dating is the process of deciding whether you are interested in someone, and the relationship phase is what comes after you are already sure you want to peruse something deeper. In her class she teaches that keeping the two phases separate is usually integral to finding someone with whom you are compatible.

She also teaches that it's important to keep first dates short—limited to one glass of wine or one cup of coffee.

"Dating doesn't have to be a Bataan Death March; it can be a fun, light, relaxed experience," says Alex Pissalidis, a single father who is coached by Kaiser.

In addition, she says, be aware of the non-verbal signals you are sending when meeting people or dating. Crossed arms or legs may imply you are distant or uninterested, and skimpy or flashy clothes may send the message that you are "hunting" or overly interested. Kaiser also says to be sure to have a "back door" or a place you're supposed to be after a first date—a smooth getaway if things go badly.

"You don't want to set the precedent for eight-hour dates. You'll take away all the intrigue," she says.

Whether you are single and seeking or single and loving it, Kaiser says the most important thing in order to be successful in dating is that you must be happy and confident with yourself. Singles often go looking for someone else to fulfill them, but you have to already feel like a complete person, she says.

"With relationships, I always say two halves don't make a whole—two wholes make a whole," she says. ■

To find out more on Dating IQ or to attend a flirting IQ class Dec. 5, contact Jeannine Kaiser at 355-8081.



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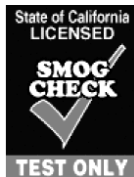
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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A shameful step

Sycamore Homes Association residents are casting important votes before Dec. 11 to decide whether to change their Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions regarding the use of their facilities. A Yes vote on the homeowners proposal, Proposal A, would actually not change anything but would allow things to continue as they have for 30 years, with a swim team that makes good use of the swimming pool during the summer and that has been a draw to families.

In recent years, some of the neighbors decided the CC&Rs should be interpreted so as not to allow non-residents on the swim team or as guests for swim meets. This would mean the end of the Stingrays swim team as a member of the Valley Swim Association league.

A group of swim team supporters formed Save Our Sycamore and collected enough signatures to hold an election to change the CC&Rs to clarify the issue.

However, the homeowners association board, which has three people against the swim team, three for it and one so-called swing vote, has put its own Proposal B out to vote, asking approval to continue opening the facilities to community groups. It omits any mention of the swim team, so if Proposal B passes, the swim team is kaput. The proposal with the most Yes votes wins.

Proposal B is an obvious effort to confuse the issue. The so-called "swing vote" on the board said he just wants to know how people feel and follow their direction. Proposal A was perfectly adequate for this end. A Yes vote on Proposal A means allowing nonresidents to use the facilities as they always have; a No vote would mean following the interpretation of the CC&Rs that would disband the swim team.

Shame on the members of the homeowners' board who voted to add Proposal B. If the majority of the residents agree with them and want to limit the swim team, the results of the vote on Proposal A would have let them know.

The board's proposal B is an obvious effort to confuse the issue.

YOUR TURN

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

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Guest Opinion

BY BRAD CROOKER

Thanks to Dad, and all WWII veterans

This is too late for a Veteran's Day tribute but, in celebration of my father's 84th birthday, I'd like to express my appreciation for his life, especially his experiences in World War II.



Robert Crooker in 1943, age 21

Danville resident Robert Crooker served in the U.S. Army 97th Infantry Division, 303rd Inf. Regt., from 1942-46. The soldiers who still remain from WWII are leaving us rapidly, and I fear that their legacy is being forgotten just as quickly. With our minds on the Iraq/Iran conflicts, we seldom reflect on the previous wars, particularly the decades of freedom and peace that the triumphs of WWII provided for America and Europe and the entire planet.

I had the pleasure of accompanying my dad in 2000 to the numerous festive celebrations honoring U.S. veterans in the Czech Republic. My father's division,

among others, was responsible for the liberation of historic Pilsen and several border towns in the Czech Republic, near the end of WWII. He participated in the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Flossenberg, enabling hundreds of prisoners to escape torture and death.

My dad played a small but significant role in the European battleground, and the Czech citizens remember him with sincere gratefulness. His name appears on a plaque in the town square of Cheb, and he was among the veterans decorated by the Lord Mayor for their efforts in the war, in this relatively small community.

In Pilsen, a thrilling ride in a restored 1940s U.S. Army jeep in the main street parade was my father's favorite moment of the trip, where 250,000 people lined the street, cheering for a mere handful of American WWII vets, whose divisions were directly involved in liberating the country from the Germans. Many citizens desired autographs, hugs and handshakes.

Celebrations were frequent in town after town, where local dignitaries laid out the red carpet for my dad and his Army buddies, and speeches were made with tears and tributes in remembrance of these men. In 2005, my father was honored again when he was asked to present the flowered wreaths at the monuments in Cheb and Pilsen, which read "Thank You America." The Czech president, Vaclav Klaus, and the Minister of Defense presented my father and other veterans

with medals for their efforts in the liberation of Czechoslovakia. Now in their 80s, these WWII veterans no longer look like heroes, yet in the eyes of Czech citizens they were noble and great.



Robert Crooker in 2005

The official dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., in May 2004 was another opportunity for remembrance and recognition that my father enjoyed, accompanied by his granddaughter Molly and me. The enormous attendance at that event spoke volumes about the devotion these men have sustained for their country, their freedom and their values.

The respect that is due to all veterans is under-expressed in our society, but I am grateful for their sacrifices and for the moral testimonies they provide. Thank you for allowing me to share a little about my father. While he is still living, and in excellent health, he deserves this 15 minutes of fame.

—Brad Crooker is a Danville resident.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Man detained for punching police officer

Police arrested a man in his 20s for hitting a peace officer late Wednesday night before Thanksgiving.

Danville resident Tyler Schroder, 21, was arrested for battery after he hit Officer Ian Hebert downtown on Hartz Ave. at 1 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 23. It appears that alcohol may have influenced Schroder's behavior, said Danville police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Schroder and another man were having a pushing match

and were both spinning around in a circle, said Craig. When Hebert interceded, Schroder punched his upper right shoulder with his fist.

Hebert subdued Schroder quickly by taking him to the ground and handcuffing him, Craig said. Police later transported him to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Craig said when large crowds gather, situations similar to the fighting incident are likely to develop.

"You never know what people will do in the heat of the moment," Craig said.

—Jordan M. Dornila

WEDDINGS

Sarah Jean Sigmon and Derrik Gene Oldridge

Derrik Gene Oldridge and Sarah Jean Sigmon were married Oct. 7 in San Francisco overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The reception was celebrated at Mudd's Restaurant in San Ramon.

Sarah is the daughter of Donna Sigmon of Mooresville, N.C., and the late Gary Sigmon. She graduated from Bandys High School in Catawba, N.C., in 2002.

Derrik is the son of Robbin Beebe of Danville and Darren Oldridge and Michael Backhus of Kansas City, Mo. He graduated from California High School in San Ramon in 2003.

The two make their home in Aviano, Italy.

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

Transitions
Danville Weekly
315 Diablo Road, Suite 100.
Danville, CA 94526

Or fax: (925) 837-8300

Or e-mail:
editor@DanvilleWeekly.com
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Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos. Information how to send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly's web site: www.DanvilleWeekly.com

The Weekly reserves the right to edit information for space and format considerations.

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. 19

- Auto burglary on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:28 a.m.
- Petty theft on Burton Ct. at 7:20 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Mission Pl. at 9:18 a.m.
- Miscellaneous burglary on Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:39 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Fostoria Way at 12:49 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 20

- Auto burglary on Borel Ln. at 8:53 a.m.
- Animal cruelty on Glen Valley Cir. at 11:55 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Burton Ct. at 12:44 p.m.
- Petty theft on Green Valley Rd. and Verde Mesa Dr. at 2:02 p.m.
- Identity theft on Windstream Pl. at 7:09 p.m.
- Identity theft on Windstream Pl. at 7:32 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

- Auto burglary on St. Regis Dr. at 9:28 a.m.
- Possession of counterfeit bill on

- Crow Canyon Rd. at 2:23 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 4:29 p.m.
- Accident on Railroad Ave. at 5:41 p.m.
- Arson on Gold Creek Ct. and Parkhaven Dr. at 8:19 p.m.
- Public nuisance on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:25 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Tunbridge Rd. at 9:13 a.m.
- Vandalism on Versailles Ct. at 9:18 a.m.
- Threats disturbance on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:39 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Hartz Ave. and Linda Mesa Ave. at 1:57 p.m.
- Identity theft on Canfield Dr. at 2:24 p.m.
- Identity theft on Barrons Pl. at 2:26 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Great Northern Pl. at 10:40 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Greenbrook Dr. at 10:47 p.m.
- Music disturbance on Harlan Dr. at 10:53 p.m.
- Noise disturbance on St. David Dr. and St. Timothy Ct. at 10:59 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 23

- Party disturbance on Triomphe Ct. at 12:21 a.m.
- Battery on Hartz Ave. at 12:59 a.m.
- Fight disturbance on Boone Ct. at 1:49 a.m.
- Verbal disturbance on Winfield Ln. at 3:44 a.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Jasmine Way at 5:21 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 24

- Identity theft on Bolero Dr. at 10:09 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Front St. and E. Prospect Ave. at 1:14 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Valle Vista Dr. at 7:59 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Triomphe Ct. at 10:59 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 25

- Fight disturbance on Burgess Ct. at 1:53 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Westridge Ave. at 4:27 p.m.
- Battery on Crow Canyon Rd. at 7:31 p.m.
- Vandalism on Las Barrancas Dr. at 9:15 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Borica Dr. at 11:41 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Tweed Dr. at 11:49 p.m.

BIRTHS

Melina Kelsey

Sherri and Trevor Kelsey became the parents of a baby girl, Melina Kelsey, who weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center on Oct. 24. She has a 4-year-old brother, Ryder, and grandparents Mitch and Shirley Crawford of Danville and Ray and Sharon Kelsey of Fremont.



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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

California Watercolor Association
An art exhibit featuring Robin Purcell's "Below Fossil Ridge," Helene Yu-June Rice's "Landscape," and Samantha McNally's "Victoria's Roses" will run until Dec. 8 at the gallery in Blackhawk Plaza, Danville. Call 648-9113.

Holiday Art Sale

Civic Arts Education and the Clay Arts Guild will host their annual Holiday Art Sale with an opening

party from 5-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7. The sale, which includes Danville artists' works, will go on from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10, at Ceramics in Studios, 1313 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 943-5846.

Author Visits

Leslie Sbrocco
Rakestraw Books will host Leslie

Sbrocco, author of "Simple & Savvy Wine Guide: Buying, Pairing, And Sharing for All," at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, at the bookstore, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Come enjoy the evening while raising money for Meals on Wheels. Call 837-7337.

Civic Meetings

Danville Parks and Leisure Services Commission
The Commission meets regularly

on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

Danville Planning Commission

The Commission meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

Town Council Meeting

The Danville Town Council normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

Classes

Clay Character Modeling for Kids

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

Divorce and Raising Kids

Community Presbyterian Church will host two classes for adults on "Moving Forward After Divorce" from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays, for 12 weeks starting Jan. 10 and "Got Kids? For Parents Who Want to Raise Great Kids" from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays, for five weeks starting Jan. 10, at the church, 222 W. El Pintado Road, Danville. The classes and childcare are free. Call 837-5525, ext. 319, email mike@cpcdanville.org or visit www.cpcdanville.org.

Mixed Media Fun for Kids

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

Oil and Acrylic Painting Class

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

Pencil Sketching

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Pencil Sketching class from 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays, for beginners-intermediates. Michael Yen is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits Classes

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits class on Thursdays for all levels. Beth Batchelor is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$30 per class or \$100 for four weeks. For information, call Beth at 837-5654.

The Art of Drawing

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

Watercolor

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Watercolor class from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, for all levels. Karen Mason is the instructor. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. They also offer a Tuesday night class from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays, for all levels. Fee is \$80 for four weeks. Classes are ongoing. For information, call 838-1959.

World School of Massage and Holistic Healing Arts

World School of Massage and Holistic Arts will offer free classes in Holistic Health from 3:30-5 p.m., Wednesday,

Dec. 6, at the school, 699 Peters Ave., Pleasanton. Call 461-2533.

Clubs

Alamo Cribbage Club

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

Alamo Rotary

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

Alamo Women's Club Federated

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

Blackhawk Republican Women

This club will host a luncheon meeting starting at 11:15 a.m., Monday, Dec. 11, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Please bring an unwrapped gift for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. Lunch is \$16. Guests are welcome. Reservations are required by noon, Friday, Dec. 8 by calling Ms. Lyons at 820-6452.

Danville Area Cultural Alliance

This club will host the Danville Arts Salon at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, at 233 Front Street, Danville. Truth, Honesty and Integrity will be the theme. Bring finger food, drinks, donation and a chair. Call 216-4590.

Danville Lions Club

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

Danville Mid-day Referral Group, BNI

Danville Mid-day Referral Group, a chapter of Business Network International, meets from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., every Wednesday, at Louka's, 267 Hartz Avenue, Danville. Call Fran Bates at 363-4327 or e-mail franbates@marykay.com.

Danville PM Toastmaster Club #1785

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

Danville Rotary

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

Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary

The Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club meets for breakfast at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Join them for great fellowship and make a difference in your community and the world. Call Scott at 743-8449.

Diablo Bonsai Club

This club will host a lecture and workshop on planting and raising Bonsai Trees, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 736-9157.

Diablo Diggers Dance Club

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WEEKEND PREVIEW



TOWN OF DANVILLE

Elf Workshop

The Town of Danville presents the Elf Workshop with two different times: 9:30-11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$5 for residents, \$6 for non-residents. This workshop is very popular and tends to fill up fast; reserve your child's spot by calling 314-3400.

ing with a live band in the Danville or Walnut Creek area. The club is looking for a few new members, couples only. For information, call 938-0316.

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

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

Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild
The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome (\$2 donation). Annual membership fee is \$30 (\$20 for seniors 65+). For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

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

Diablo Valley Women in Business
This club will host "Wisdom in the Workplace: Working with your Intuition" workshop at 7:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 8, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members; breakfast included. Visit www.dvwib.org or email information@dvwib.org.

Kiwanis San Ramon Valley
The San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m. every Thursday, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo. Meeting includes a guest speaker and lunch. For information, visit its Web site at www.kiwanis-srv.org.

Concerts

Blackhawk Chorus
Come and see the 130-voice Blackhawk Chorus perform "Rejoice Greatly!" at 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Tickets are \$15. Call 828-1580 or visit www.resluthdublin.org.

Celebrate Christmas Concert
Danville Community Band presents its holiday concert "Celebrate Christmas" with music from The Polar Express,

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J.S. Bach and more. The concerts start at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara Road, Danville. This event is free. Call 736-1673.

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.

HNU Orchestra
The orchestra will perform the First Symphonies of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at Regents' Theatre, Holy Names University, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for seniors, \$5 for students. Call (510) 436-1330 or visit www.hnu.edu/academics/MusicEvents.html.

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.

Winterfest
Conductor Duane Carroll and the Contra Costa Wind Symphony will host "Winterfest" at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. This event is free, but donations are accepted. Call 944-5392.

Young Performers Concerts
The talented youngsters of Young Performers Orchestra and Diablo Regional Youth Orchestra will present their Holiday Concert at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Shadelands Campus of Civic Arts Education, 111 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek.

Advance tickets are \$10, \$12 at the door. Call 943-5846.

Events

Art of Living Series II
Leku Eder will host their final event in the Art of Living Series II with jewelry artist, Vicki Smith from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at the store, 178 E. Prospect, Danville. Call 820-8012.

Coffee, Music and Shopping
Yellow Wood will host the San Ramon Valley School Choir at 10 a.m., Saturdays, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, at the shop, 215 Alamo Plaza, Suite E, Alamo. Call 837-1175.

Holiday Books and Music
Friends of the Danville Library and San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Club present their First Wednesday Program with the theme of "Holiday Books and Music" at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 6, at the library, 400 Front St. Guest speakers will be Michael Barnard from Rakestraw Books and the SRVHS singers. Call 314-3400.

Mayor's Installation and Community Service Awards
The Town of Danville will host the Mayor's Installation and Community Service Awards at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Call 314-3401.

Night of Stars Community Awards Dinner
San Ramon Chamber of Commerce will host its Night of Stars Community Awards Dinner from 5:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, at San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. Tickets are \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members. Call 242-0600 or visit www.sanramon.org.

Nuclear Weapons Hearing
U.S. Dept. of Energy will hold a public hearing on Nuclear Weapons at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Call 443-7148 or visit www.trivalleycares.org.

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.save-mountdiablo.org.

Exhibits

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

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

Christmas Memories at the Museum
The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host "Christmas Memories" until Jan. 6, at the museum, corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. Donations are encouraged for admission. The museum is open 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Call 837-3750.

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

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
The museum will feature two new special exhibits: "Broken Wings: Portraits of Non-Releasable Raptors" and "One Man's Window" from now

until Dec. 31, at the museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 935-1978 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Film

The Great Turning
Diablo Post Carbon Group will show David Korten's "The Great Turning" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Children's Chapel, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. For information, e-mail Natylie at natyiesb@gmail.com or Tyler at peak_tyler@yahoo.com.

Fundraisers

Annual Holiday Shopping Event
The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. (JLOEB) and Crate and Barrel will host "The Crate and Barrel Shopping Night" from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at the store, 1115 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Proceeds including ticket sales and 15 percent of all purchases will benefit JLOEB. Call 284-3740.

Holiday Tea and Fashion Show
Museum on Main will host its second annual Holiday Tea and Fashion Show at noon and 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at the museum, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$35, \$30 for museum members. Proceeds will benefit the museum. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

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.

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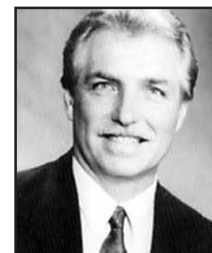
Example	30 year	40 years
Loan Amount	\$500,000	
1st Year Monthly Payment	\$1,608	\$1,264
2nd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,728	\$1,358
3rd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,857	\$1,460
4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

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



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.

Toys for Tots

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Danville will host a collection site for the

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots until Friday, Dec. 15, at 600 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Toys should be new and unwrapped. Call 837-4100.

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.

Yoga Classes

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

Holidays

A Christmas Story

Vine Cinema and California Independent Film Festival Association will host a showing of "A Christmas Story" at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at Vine Cinema, 1722 1st Street, Livermore. You'll have the chance to meet Ian Petrella (played Randy Parker) and Scott Schwartz (Flick). Tickets are \$10. Call 552-7335 or visit www.caindiefest.com.

Alamo Winter Wonderland

Alamo Merchant and Professional Association will host the Alamo Winter Wonderland, Oak Tree Lighting Event and Sheriff's Toy Drive at 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at Andrew H. Young Park, next to Oak Tree Plaza in downtown Alamo. Warm winter beverages will be served. Bring a new, wrapped toy for donation to the Sheriff's Toy Drive. Call 838-1456.

Annual Holiday Home Tour

Danville-Alamo Branch of American Association of University Women presents its second annual Holiday Home Tour from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2. Tickets are \$25 by Nov. 25, \$30 thereafter. Proceeds will benefit Local Scholarships and Tech Trek science camps. Call 820-6158.

Breakfast With Santa

Job's Daughters will host its 13th annual Breakfast with Santa from 7:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Road. Cost is \$6.50 per person, including breakfast. The day will include breakfast, meet-and-greet with Santa, bake sale and holiday boutique. Call Mari at 828-9522.

Celebrating the Joy of Christmas Tree Lane

Valley Care Health System has holiday events to celebrate including: Tinsel Tea is from 10 a.m.-noon, Friday, Dec. 1, and cost is \$20; Silent Night Soiree is from 6:30-11 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, and cost is \$60; and a gourmet luncheon with entertainment and drawings from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2. All of these events are at Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindberg Way, Livermore. Proceeds will benefit ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center. Call 373-4560.

Celebration of Christmas

To celebrate the Christmas season, come and enjoy performances by the Monte Vista High School Chamber Singers, San Ramon Valley High Chamber Singers, Charlotte Wood Choir and Danville Stake Choir from 7-8:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at Danville Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints, 655 Old Orchard Road. Refreshments will be served.

Christmas in Danville

Community Presbyterian Church will host "Christmas in Danville" at 9 and 10:34 a.m., Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24, at the church, 222 W. El Pintado Road, Danville and at 9:30 a.m., Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24, at the Tassajara campus, Diablo Vista Middle School, 41 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Call 837-5525 or email info@cpcdanville.org.

Holiday Home Tour

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.

Holiday Performances, Santa and Pet Photos

Blackhawk Plaza will host holiday performances by local area school choirs and jazz bands, and Santa Claus will be at the plaza to pose for pictures through Dec. 24. The plaza is located at 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. For information, call 736-2751 or visit www.theshopsat-blackhawk.com.

Holiday Open House

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House offering champagne and hors d'oeuvres while people shop. It is taking place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Dec. 8, 9 and 10, at 310 Sycamore Valley Road in the Livery.

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.

Menorah Lighting Ceremonies

Blackhawk Plaza will host the Beth Chaim Congregation's Menorah lighting at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15, and Thursday, Dec. 21, at the plaza, 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 736-2751 or visit www.theshopsat-blackhawk.com.

New Year's Eve Casino Classic Celebration

Blackhawk Museum and BHEI Inc. will host their New Year's Eve Casino Classic Celebration from 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 31, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Tickets are \$135; deadline to reserve your seat is Sunday, Dec. 24. Black tie optional. Call 736-2277, ext. 653, or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

New Year's Eve Party

USS Hornet invites you to its ultimate New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 31, aboard the ship, Pier 3, Alameda Point, Alameda. Tickets are \$48 for general admission, \$65 for reserved seating and \$95 for premium reserved. Call (510) 521-8448, ext. 282, or visit www.hornet-event.com.

Santa and Pet Photos

Valley Humane Society will host its 15th annual Santa and Pet Photos from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 2-3, at Alden Lane Nursery & Garden Center, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. No appointment necessary. Cost is \$20 for two 4x6 photos and frames. Call 426-8656.

Sing-A-Long Messiah

San Ramon Arts Foundation presents "Sing A-Long Messiah" at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. Visit www.sanramonarts.org.

Kids & Teens

Bethlehem Breakfast

Creekside Community Church will host a festive breakfast and crafts for children K-5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Cost is \$10 per child. Registration is required by visiting www.creekside-church.com. For information, call 820-9031.

Elf Workshop

Town of Danville presents the Elf Workshop with two different times: 9:30-11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$5 for residents, \$6 for non-residents. To reserve your child's spot, call 314-3400.

Lectures/ Workshops

Choral Workshops

San Ramon Community Center will host choral workshops at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, 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.

Medicare in 2007

San Ramon Regional Medical Center and HICAP will present a free seminar on "Medicare 2007: Get Ready for Major Changes and 55 Drug Plans" from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the hospital's South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call

(800) 284-2878 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

Systematic Investing

National Wealth Network presents "Systematic Investing" from 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, at San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 855-3205.

Literary Events

Civic Engagement Series

San Ramon Library will host San Francisco Chronicle Columnist Debra Saunders at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, at the library, 100 Montgomery Street, San Ramon. Call 973-2850.

Library Book Discussions

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

Miscellaneous

Danville Grange Hall Blood Drive

Blood donations are always needed and area residents will have a chance to donate blood from 11:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, at the Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Road, Danville. Call (800) 448-3543 or visit www.beadonor.com.

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.

'La Traviata'

Martinez Opera presents "La Traviata" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2 and 9; and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10, at Alhambra Performing Arts Center, 150 E. Street, Martinez. Tickets are \$50, \$45 or \$40. 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.civictickets.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.

'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).

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, 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.

Support Groups

American Chronic Pain Association

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

Bipolar Support Group

The Tri-Valley Support Group pro

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

Blue Star Moms California

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

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