

Like nature?

Junior Ranger program makes Mount Diablo come alive > **page 18**

Boost for Blackhawk Plaza

Draeger's upscale market only the beginning of exciting changes

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Vol. II, Number 49 • April 6, 2007

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Danville

W E E K L Y

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

School upgrades nearing completion

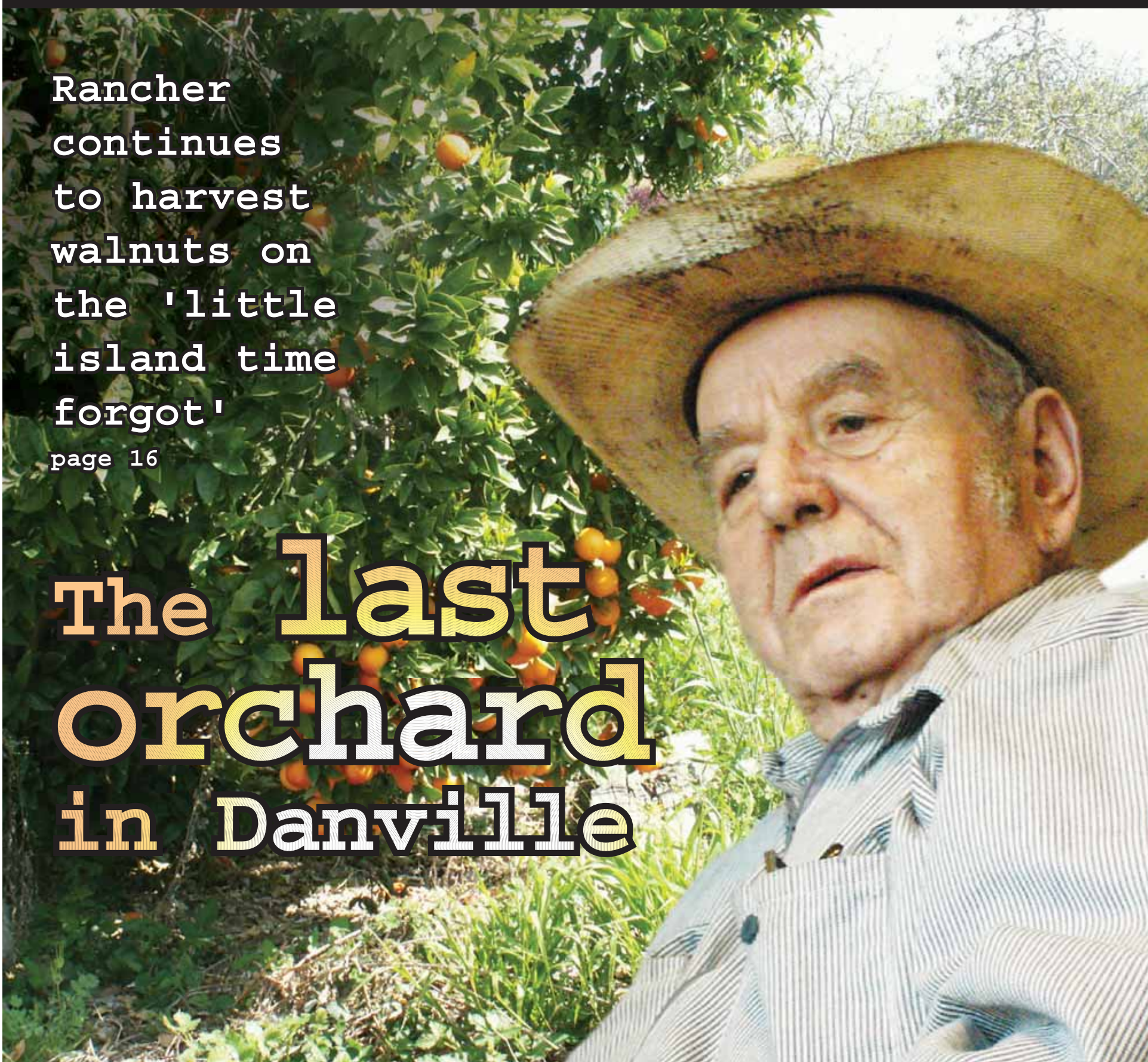
Measure A projects help school facilities make the grade

> **page 7**

Rancher
continues
to harvest
walnuts on
the 'little
island time
forgot'

page 16

The Last
orchard
in Danville



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Q: What are your plans for spring break?



I'll probably stay home. I have to train for ice skating. I like doing it, and I have to prepare for competition in the summer. It's become my life aside from school.

Coral Chou
sophomore



I'm going to the state championship for speech and debate. This is going to be at Fullerton. Afterward, we get to go to Disneyland. It's Disneyland!

Hinh Tran
sophomore



I'm going on a cruise in the Caribbean. I'm really excited because I get to spend time with my parents and I get to relax.

Crystal Gem King
sophomore



I'll probably be staying at my house or visiting my brother. He lives in Boston. He goes to MIT. I've never been there yet. I get to see other colleges. I think that it'll be pretty cool. If I stay home, I'll ride my bike and chill in my back yard.

Elliott Velson
sophomore



It's not very exciting. I'm staying home. I'm going to be studying for the upcoming SATs. My parents want me to get good grades. They want me to be studying chemistry and for math tests and English. I'm taking a break from all this stress from school. I'll sleep a lot.

Tiffany Ting
sophomore

COMPILED BY JORDAN M. DORONILA

ABOUT THE COVER

Ever wonder about that walnut orchard across the street from Costco? It's owned by rancher Armand Borel, who's lived on the property since 1945 and continues to harvest the walnuts commercially. Photos by Jordan M. Daronila. Cover design by Ben Ho.

Vol. II, Number 49

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. © 2007 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The world runs on money and so does music—it’s very expensive.”

—Monte Vista High School choir director Bruce Koliha, accepting a \$1,000 check for music programs from Alamo Rotary. See story, page 8.

Looking to ‘Lend a Hand’

About 200 volunteers are gathering to Lend a Hand in the community through the Community Presbyterian Church and the Town of Danville. The program is in its fourth year, helping seniors and families with limited resources with free yard cleanup and minor home repairs.

“People assume residents in our community are all affluent, but there are many people on fixed incomes or who have health issues and struggle to maintain their properties,” said Jenn Overmoe, program coordinator for Danville. “With Lend a Hand, we reach out in our local community. Our partnership with CPC has enabled the town to expand the number of individuals being served.”

This year’s event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 28. To volunteer to join a work crew or to volunteer your home to have some chores done, contact Overmoe by April 10 at 314-3476.

The Town of Danville also will provide supervision and activities for children ages 3 to 10 whose parents who are assisting with the project. For arrangements, call Overmoe at the same telephone number.

“Helping those who cannot help themselves is what creates a strong sense of community,” said Michelle Lacy, recreation services manager. “Danville residents care about their community and their neighbors, which makes this a great place to live.”

Danville resident joins Arts Commission

District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho has appointed Joan Trezek of Danville to the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County. Bobbie Hill of Pittsburg was appointed by Supervisor Federal Glover to fill the District 5 seat.

Trezek is a public relations consultant who specializes in healthcare and nonprofit organizations. She holds a master of arts degree from the University of Illinois. A member of the Commonwealth Club, she serves on the County Library Commission and as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. She is also a theater and music buff.

The commission was begun in 1994 in response to a growing interest in arts advocacy on the part of artists, educators, the business community and county officials.

School bus survey for parents

The Measure J School Bus Program Parent Survey has been circulated to approximately 22,000 families whose children attend public schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

“It allows us to have an understanding of what parents’ needs are in regards to school transportation,” said district spokesman Terry Koehne.

Approximately five bus routes currently serve between six to eight schools in the district, Koehne said. Parents pay for the transportation, although the district funds bus-ing for special education students.

The scope of the school transportation program is being studied by Danville, San Ramon, Contra Costa County and the school district to develop it to serve the needs of the San Ramon Valley. Funds from Measure J, the countywide half-cent sales tax measure to relieve traffic congestion, are earmarked to develop a student transportation system.

The survey is available online until April 10 at www.ci.danville.ca.us.

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The suffering before Easter

Third-grader Sydney Tshimbalanga, 8, performs as Jesus Christ in an reenactment of the Stations of the Cross at St. Isidore Catholic School in Danville in the week before Easter, which is Sunday. Joseph Alarab, 9, plays the Roman soldier. The Stations of the Cross depict the final hours of Jesus, according to Christian belief, as he was led through the streets of Jerusalem to be crucified on Good Friday in order to rise from the dead Sunday morning, proving that he was the Son of God.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Blackhawk Plaza getting major revamping

Draeger's was first piece of 'cool' new puzzle

by Natalie O'Neill

Foodies awaiting the opening of Draeger's upscale market and delicatessen in Blackhawk Plaza will have more to look forward to than just produce and pastries when the store opens Oct. 15.

The opening of the Peninsula-based specialty foods store has been postponed from spring to fall, but along with its unveiling will come a large-scale remodeling and tenant change for the plaza.

"Without a great anchor store like Draeger's, the other pieces in the puzzle wouldn't have come together," said Fred Bruning, president of Center Cal, the retail developers in charge of the project.

The plaza already has at least five new hip-but-sophisticated retail stores signed on, including Anthropologie clothing and home decor and several others that Bruning said he would reveal publicly at a later date.

"We're adding the 'cool' factor," he said.

The purpose of establishing new tenants is to cater to a younger, wider demographic. Gottschalk's department store, which is being replaced by Draeger's, brought in

clientele with an average age of 62 years.

Other changes include plans to get rid of the "monochromatic brown" buildings and convert them to colorful pastels that will face outward toward the movie theater instead of inward toward the courtyard.

The movie theater will also be renovated with plush leather seats. And the courtyard will have the option of being enclosed to prevent chilly gusts of wind and to better house musical acts.

The revamping will be completed in time for Christmas shopping, he said.

"I think people will visit the plaza and say, 'They've finally got it right,'" Bruning said.

A beach-like play area with sand near the fountain will be added for kids, allowing parent shoppers to relax in the outdoor seating with coffee or a glass of wine.

Draeger's will offer outdoor cafe-style seating along with a wide selection of self-serve food customers can take outside and eat, owner Richard Draeger said.

"We'll have a tremendous assortment of freshly made delicatessen-

► Continued on page 10

Restaurant review system launches on DanvilleWeekly.com

Residents can post their own reviews of local restaurants plus make reservations

Visitors to DanvilleWeekly.com, the Danville Weekly's community Web site, can now rate local restaurants and access reviews written by both professional and amateur reviewers from across the Internet.

The new feature, which can be found at www.DanvilleWeekly.com under the "Restaurants" section,

has been developed by a Palo Alto start-up company called BooRah, which plans to eventually roll out the system nationally.

"Embarcadero Publishing Co.'s Web sites are the testing ground for BooRah's service," said Danville Weekly publisher Gina Channell-Allen said. "This cutting-edge technology will enhance the usefulness

of our Web site and further our commitment to engage our readers in the content of the site."

The name says it all, according to Eric Moyer, co-founder and CEO of BooRah. Boo means thumbs down; Rah means thumbs up, he pointed out.

► Continued on page 9

What users can find with BooRah

Those using the new restaurant review feature get instant access to reviews and basic information on more than 800 restaurants in the Bay Area, including:

- A summary assessment based on all the reviews that have been written about a restaurant.
- Links to both professional and user reviews available from other Web sites.
- Ratings on food, service, ambience and overall quality.
- Address, hours, driving directions, maps, etc., for all local restaurants.
- An easy way for users to post their own reviews of local restaurants.
- A search feature allowing users to search by name, cuisine or location.
- Online reservations.

Quake proof gas valves coming to Danville

Council debates adding resale homes to ordinance

by Geoff Gillette

The Danville Town Council examined an ordinance at its meeting Tuesday that will require some homeowners to install natural gas valves designed to shut off in the event of an earthquake but sent the law back to staff for additions.

Chief Building Official Mike Leontiades explained at the meeting that having the shutoff valves could reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the case of a quake.

Structural weaknesses in buildings, the absence of appliance

anchoring equipment, and the lack of flexible gas pipe connections could lead to a greater possibility of natural gas leaks during an earthquake, said Leontiades. Subsequent aftershocks, coupled with leaks, could spark massive fires that could seriously damage homes and businesses throughout town.

Leontiades said installing the seismic gas shutoff valves would greatly reduce that risk. It would also reduce the burden on emergency service officials, allowing them to react to the damage and injury caused by the initial quake.

"These valves would reduce the need for water, firefighters and other emergency services," he said.

In the event of a quake greater than 5.0 on the Richter scale, the

valve would automatically shut off the flow of gas into the home. Leontiades said the shutoff valve could be reset manually once the risk of fire has been mitigated.

The ordinance presented would mandate that any new construction be outfitted with the seismic shutoff valves, as well as any home undergoing renovation or remodeling at a cost of \$15,000 or more.

During a public hearing on the ordinance, several residents spoke on the issue. Many felt the ordinance was a good idea but did not go far enough in preventing potential gas-related fires.

"I think we should consider making this a house-to-house, business-to-business mandate," said resident Glen Benson. "Downtown, old

town, the west side and some parts of the east side, the houses are close enough together that if we have an earthquake there's going to be a firestorm. Danville's downtown is going to be hard hit."

Some residents questioned the effectiveness of the devices. One man said he was concerned about the shutoff valve being triggered by the slamming of a garage door. Another suggested using a different type of device called an Excess Flow Valve. The ESV would be triggered by a significant change in the amount of gas flowing downstream.

Council members said they supported the ordinance but split over how it should be implemented. Mayor Mike Shimansky suggested

broadening the ordinance so that in addition to building permits and new construction, it would include homes that are resales as well. The other council members agreed the valve was a good idea but suggested they wait to approve it until they had a chance to discuss it with the real estate community.

The council deadlocked 2-2 over the issue of adding the resale element, with Shimansky and Councilwoman Candace Andersen ready to make the change. Councilman Newell Arnerich was absent.

The ordinance was sent back to staff to draft language to include resale homes. The issue is expected to be addressed further at the council meeting May 1. ■

Lark Lane 'trailhead' is private property

Hikers must use another access to Las Trampas Wilderness

by Natalie O'Neill

A bootleg trail entry leading from Lark Lane in Alamo to Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Area cannot be made into a legitimate pedestrian easement, County Public Works staff said last week.

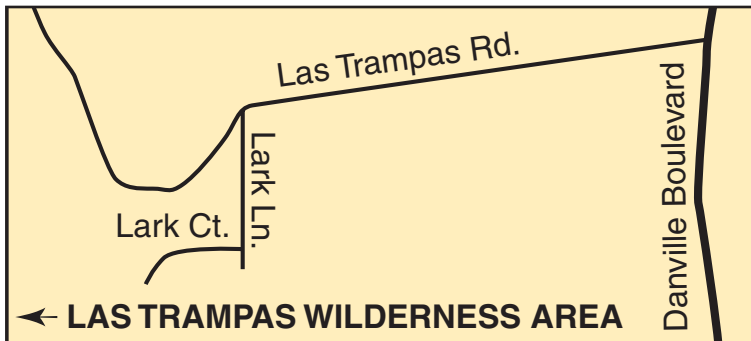
"It's essentially trespassing," said Senior Civil Engineer Eric Whan.

The trailhead is an informal entry that passes through private property and has been used by neighbors in a "don't ask, don't tell way," said Alamo R-7A Parks and Recreation committee members.

So when Alamo residents asked why sections of the trail entry had been overgrown, with no upkeep in years, the answer was simple.

"It was confirmed that it's not in our purview," R-7A committee member Marianne Sasso said.

Neighbors and nearby residents may have started using the trailhead due to development on Las Trampas Road, where a public trailhead exists but no parking is permitted. The makeshift entrance provides a shorter, flatter start-off trail that is closer to Danville Boulevard.



Grant deed information and county records show that a portion of the western end of Lark Lane is public roadway, but that it stops just south of the intersection of Lark Court—before the trail begins. The easement in question extends through the public portion onto private land, county reports conclude.

"The bottom line is that it violates various property rights," R-7A Chairman Steve Mick said.

In order for the county to maintain the trail and establish it for public use, rights must be purchased or donated by landowners. For the county to buy the land rights, an overwhelming greater public need for the trail would have to be shown.

This isn't likely, considering three other access points to Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Area

exist at nearby Alamo locations including at Camille, Hemme and South avenues.

"At this point, I think the obstacles are too great," Whan said.

Based on the county study, staff recommended that the trail access remain private, wrote Hillary Heard of special districts in the report.

Donating property rights to the county shifts liability on to Contra Costa County, though few cases in American history have held property owners liable for non-violent, unintentional injuries to trespassers.

Property owners who wish to donate sections of their land along public trails or parks trails for community use can contact county public works at 313-2000. ■

Contact Natalie O'Neill at noneill@danvilleweekly.com

Danville Post Office doubles in size

by Jordan M. Dronnila

The new Danville Post Office by Trader Joe's on Railroad Avenue is up and running.

The facility, located at Danville Square, officially opened its doors late February, said Danville Postmaster Cathy Ott. It has doubled from its original size of around 1,400 square feet to 3,000 square feet, and has also increased the number of post office boxes for rent.

Additionally, it has expanded other products to customers such as shrink wrappers, Ott said.

"We are very pleased with the final building in what we can offer our customers," Ott said. "It's a very nice increase in square footage to better suit our customers."

"The employees are very happy, too, with the new space," she added.

The post office was part of the construction of two new buildings in Danville Square on the north end of Railroad last year. These new facilities at the back of the center are part of the town's plan to redevelop Danville Square.

The Danville Redevelopment Agency and Danville property owner Marilyn Dreyfuss have been working together to make major improvements on the site.

The construction was part of



The new 3,000-square-foot Danville Post Office is up and running.

the third phase of the square's redevelopment plan. The first phase involved bringing in new retail outlets such as Trader Joe's. The second phase included building new store spaces near the intersection of Love Lane and Railroad.

Currently, Starbucks Coffee, Intero and Real Estate Services do business in those spaces.

"It was good timing," Ott said, in regards to having the Danville Post Office be part of square's renovation. ■

JORDAN M. DRONNILA



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Implementing Measure A

Schools throughout district are completing upgrades

by Jordan M. Doronila

A slew of new school buildings will be completed this summer in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

Staff from the district facilities department gave an update last month to the board trustees on 16 school projects, funded by Measure A, and some of them are scheduled to be completed this summer.

Margaret Brown, assistant superintendent of facilities, said she credited the teamwork and cooperation of all departments involved for the dozens of new buildings in the school district.

"We couldn't do it without the support of school site staff and internal staff," Brown said. "Everybody has to perform. It's not just Facilities."

Monte Vista High School will have a new \$12 million three-story building comprising a classroom, commons area, career technology center and a culinary arts facility completed by the fall. Venture School, which has kindergarten through 12th grade for independent study and home schooling, will have a new \$4.2 million building on the corner of Bollinger Canyon and Albion Road in San Ramon.

Additionally, Vista Grande Elementary School will be completing its new multipurpose room building and office in May. Also, Diablo Vista Middle School's \$5.2 million gym will open in August, and Rancho Romero Elementary School is receiving a \$5.9 million modernization.

Other schools such as Dougherty Valley High School, Montevideo Elementary, Live Oak Elementary, Windemere Ranch Middle School and Cal High Career Tech will open next school year and will have new facilities. Live Oak and Windemere Ranch are developer-funded schools.

Measure A is a \$260 million School Facilities Bond passed November 2002 authorizing the San Ramon Valley Unified School District to renovate, upgrade and expand the schools, providing safe, modern classrooms and relieving overcrowding at existing schools.

The district has already completed several modernization projects in John Baldwin and Greenbrook elementary schools. Also, it built the new parking lot that added 400 new spaces at Monte Vista High.

The district will complete Creekside Elementary School in an unincorporated area in the San Ramon Valley by 2009; a quad counseling and elective center at California High School will be finished by August 2008; and a new gym at San Ramon Valley High is scheduled for completion, also by August 2008.

"The dream of fixing all the schools happened before I came here," Brown told the school board. "You're taking the school board's vision and the oversight committee's vision and making it come to reality." ■

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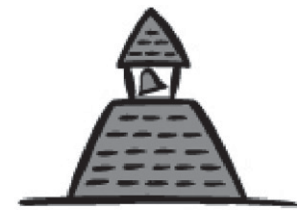
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Presentation Skills	7/23-7/27	8/6-8/10
Computer Booster	7/30-8/3	8/13-8/17

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Sing a song for Rotary

Alamo club gives festival proceeds to school music programs

by Natalie O'Neill

For hundreds of students in Alamo and Danville, music is an inspirational creative outlet they can tap into through school. Unfortunately for schools, running a music program isn't cheap.

That's where the Alamo Rotary Club has come in to lend a hand. Six schools were presented \$1,000 checks to contribute to music programs in Alamo and Danville last week at Round Hill Country Club. The funds were raised during the Alamo Music and Wine Festival in September.

"The world runs on money and so does music—it's very expensive," said Bruce Koliha, Monte Vista High School choir director.

Dedicated teachers and principals from San Ramon Valley High, Monte Vista High, Stone Valley Middle School, Rancho Romero Elementary, Lucille Mauzy School and Alamo Elementary gratefully accepted checks and spoke about the need for contributions.

Some teachers noted that keeping music alive and booming in public schools is one of the biggest budget challenges schools face today.

Ken Abrams, choir director for San Ramon Valley High School, said sheet music, which is copyrighted and can't be legally photocopied, must be purchased for each student. With copies going for nearly \$2 per song, this can really add up over the course of a year, he said.

"Those are our textbooks and we don't have money for them," he said.

Abrams also noted that at a recent regional choir competition San Ramon Valley High School took third place and Monte Vista High School took first.

"We've got two of the three best choirs in Northern California right



Alamo Rotarians Beth and Bill Burlingame playfully embrace at a luncheon last week at which the Alamo Rotary Club presented \$1,000 checks for music programs to Monte Vista High School, San Ramon Valley High School, Stone Valley Middle School, Lucille Mauzy School, Rancho Romero and Alamo Elementary. The money was raised during the Rotary's Alamo Food and Wine Festival in September.

NATALIE O'NEILL

here," he said.

Another instructor, who teaches music to special needs kids at Lucille Mauzy School in Alamo, said learning music brings incredible joy to her developmentally disabled students.

"It helps them learn to follow directions; they feel the instruments in their hands and hear the sounds,"

she said.

The Alamo Rotary Club hopes to raise even more money at the Music and Wine Festival this September, its 25th, where the Rotary Club's goal will be to collect \$25,000.

"We want to raise more money so we can give you more money," said Rotary member and event chairman Bill Ferguson. ■

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Danville students go on odyssey

The Odyssey of the Mind team from Stone Valley Middle School took their Danville Weekly to the State Competition of Odyssey of the Mind in Visalia last weekend: Ian Schutzman, Jessica Lawrence, Sarah Sampson, Laura Leach, Nick Cochran and Vikram Ravi.

Two Odyssey of the Mind teams from Sycamore Valley Elementary placed second in their divisions and are going on to the world competition held at Michigan State University in East Lansing from May 23-26. Awarded second place in their division for the problem "The Large and Small of It" were Evan Jaffe, Sean Jaffe, Grace Reckers, Seddon Macholz, Sara Kelkar and Katie Klass. Another team from Sycamore Valley comprised of



Florentin Von Haugwitz, Ryan Mullins, Ethan Brouwer, Alex Anzoategui, Jake Carlier, Conor Mullins and Grant Rivas placed second in their division for the problem "Out of the Box Balsa."

A third Sycamore team placed fourth in its division for the

problem "Tag-em": Ashley Page, Ed Kudey, Erin Leeds, Jiwan Karunatilake, Rex Lueth and Vishnu Peri. This team was also awarded the OMER award for outstanding qualities in the spirit and philosophy of the Odyssey of the Mind program.

Restaurants

► Continued from page 5

But the simplicity stops there, he said, as the system behind BooRah is a highly sophisticated "natural language processing" (NLP) technology. NLP automatically compiles evaluations of restaurants (or about anything else, such as hotels, local shops, movies or professional services) from the Internet. NLP is a specific area of the artificial intelligence field of research and development.

The official launch of the system this week at DanvilleWeekly.com and PleasantonWeekly.com followed Embarcadero's Palo Alto Online and sister paper the Pacific Sun in Marin County. It will soon be rolled out in New York and Los Angeles, according to Moyer.

While many Web sites offer restaurant information, online reservations and reviews, the unique feature of BooRah is how it searches the Web and compiles all reviews that have been written about each restaurant, creates a summary review and rating, and allows users to easily access the reviews, Moyer said.

It also encourages users to write their own reviews, rate restaurants and submit updated information about local restaurants. In this way, local restaurant patrons help to keep the information current and can post their opinions about their dining experiences.

Moyer said the idea for the start-up emanated from conversations with a longtime associate, Nagaraju Bandaru, who is now BooRah's chief technology officer. Bandaru formerly was vice president of engineering at MetroFi and has

16 years of experience in management, technology and new-market development, including holding management positions at Covad Communications, Lockheed Martin and Exodus Communications. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in computer science from the University of Hyderabad, India.

Moyer handles overall strategy, marketing and business development. He formerly was vice president of marketing for MetroFi, where he led the service launch of residential broadband wireless service. He has 18 years of experience in the field and met Bandaru when he was with Covad Communications. He has an MBA from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and computer science from Johns Hopkins University. ■

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Hometown reading on a cruise

Danville residents Sal and Carol Riele, George and Lorraine Silva, and Frank and Josie Aiuto read their Weekly while on board the Crown Princess, which left from New York for a nine-day cruise to Bermuda and the Caribbean.



The streets of Paris

Danville residents Paul and Susan Cowell stroll the streets of Paris in September—with their Weekly.

Blackhawk

► Continued from page 5

sens, bakery products, and hot and cold food bars," he said.

After extensive research on the best interior and exterior designs for the store to accommodate professional cooking classes, cafe-style seating and a 5,000-bottle wine selection, the company is now waiting for the go-ahead from the county.

"Plans take an awful long time to put together," Draeger said, noting proposals were submitted to the county for approval last week.

The target opening date was originally for this spring and postponement can be chalked up to "typical construction delays," Draeger said. Demolition on the interior of the store has already begun.

"We're also including a big cooking school which will be a lot of fun—with various celebrity chefs," Draeger said, noting that Food Network hunk Tyler Florence will teach there.

Up until about six months ago, Danville residents could attend cooking classes at Andronico's market on Railroad Avenue. But when ownership changed to Lunardi's Market, classes were canceled, so Draeger's may draw Danville residents to Blackhawk for classes.

This along with the extensive food selection should bring more traffic through the plaza, Bruning said, pointing out the average Draeger's customer visits the store about two-and-a-half times a week.

Imported wines from around the world will be offered as well as wines and produce from the Bay

Area. A full time sommelier will be on staff to help customers with choosing their wine.

"(Danville residents) have more of an appreciation for the quality of the region of the Napa Valley," he said.

Draeger's chose the Blackhawk Plaza location because it mirrors the demographic of the Peninsula with many educated, well traveled consumers of quality foods, Draeger said.

Products are locally grown and environmentally conscious, which he expects shoppers in the Danville area to appreciate.

"The area is second to none when it comes to the quality of agricultural products ... people are really going to enjoy it," he said. ■

Contact Natalie O'Neill at noneill@danvilleweekly.com

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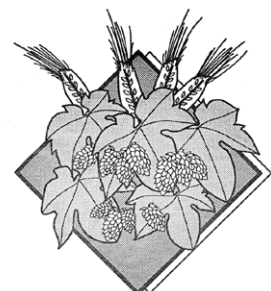
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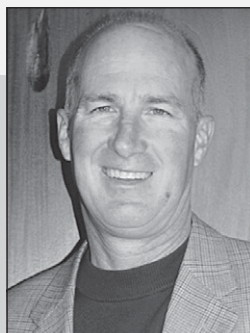
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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



So many books, so little time

Books, books, books were in the air last Thursday night at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

"I loved that book!"

"She uses language so well."

Such snippets of conversation were overheard as hundreds of women, and a few men, converged for the seventh annual Bookies, a Celebration of Books and the People Who Love Them. It was a fundraiser for Project Second Chance, the Adult Literacy Program of the Contra Costa County Library, run by dynamic program director Susan Lynn and her board, which includes Danville residents Nora La Pointe and Gray Wiley. The board president Terry Stinnett lives in Alamo.

Nora was responsible for the colorful book group reading lists hanging throughout the courtyard during the no-host cocktail session, when we also had a chance to bid on silent auction items, such as a round of golf for four at Blackhawk Country Club, bags of books, sailing lessons and a case of wine. The book lists are a big draw to see what other clubs are reading to get new ideas for books or just for the feeling of camaraderie that comes from having read the same good book. These lists are posted at ccclib.org.

The names of the book clubs are also fun, and Dave Simpson of the Lafayette Book Store read them off at the dinner. Some were PTL (Praise the Literature); Queens and Pages; Read and Feed; The Bibliotantes; Desperate Book Wives; Women of Words (WOW); and The Hot Mamas. A Breakfast Book Club meets at 7:30 in the morning, Simpson told us, and a club called the Crickets is 130 years old!

I am proud that my Livorna Book Group has been meeting since 1994. Many of us met when we were in the Livorna Babysitting Co-op 25 years ago. After that we were together with the Livorna Swim Team, Alamo School PTA, etc., etc., etc. By the early '90s we found that when we saw each other at gatherings, the conversation often turned to books. Finally Maria Carter, who has a lot of energy and a good knack for organization, hosted us at her home one evening to discuss starting a book club. And here we are, 143 books later.

Lolly Winston, author of "Good Grief" and "Happiness Sold Separately," was the guest speaker at the Bookies dinner, which was sold out, and related the story of her success with a dry wit. How was she to know when her publisher booked a 26-city book tour

that flying every day wasn't all that much fun? And that Wednesday night meant Bible study in the little Alabama town so no one would dare show up to meet her? And how did she know that her last booking with a "naturist" group meant it was in a nudist colony?

The book lists are a big draw to see what other clubs are reading to get new ideas for books.

Another reason for the frisson of excitement was the good cause it benefited. Fittingly, the group of readers wholeheartedly supports Project Second Chance. Most of us cannot imagine life without a good book in progress, not to mention the practical aspects. Project Second Chance's latest newsletter tells about one man they helped who was finally able to travel to meet his wife who was overseas on business. A year ago, he wouldn't have considered making such a trip because he couldn't read gate announcements, signs or customs information. Another student finally passed written tests for a driver's license and is training to become a bus driver.

The next tutor training series begins April 11 although e-mail registration ends today, April 6. For more information, visit www.ccclib.org/psc or call the office in Pleasant Hill at 927-3250. The 14-hour training teaches about learning styles, learning disabilities and strategies for instruction. It includes meeting learners and tutors who are currently taking part in the program. Another session begins Sept. 5. Tutors must commit to teaching twice a week for an hour and a half each lesson, held at a public location, plus time for preparation. A commitment of one year is requested. The group has other volunteer opportunities besides tutoring, such as helping with the newsletters.

And of course the group can always use monetary donations. The next big fundraiser is its eighth annual Martini Tasting being held in June at the Lafayette Park Hotel; it will probably draw a more equitable representation of the sexes.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
can be e-mailed at
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The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50/year.

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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Don't thank teachers with expensive gifts

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District has a policy that employees, including teachers, have to report any gifts worth more than \$50 received from a single source in one calendar year. The district's legal counsel advised the district it should have such a policy.

Guidelines on gifts are a good idea for any public agency to make sure vendors know they cannot influence buyers to give them business through monetary or other gifts. The limit under the school district policy is \$390 from a single source in a calendar year, or any amount or at any time if the conditions or timing are questionable.

Now how about teachers? They do wonderful work with our children, and at the Christmastime and at the end of the school year many parents want to thank them for their work by giving them gifts. Some parents have worked side by side with teachers in the classroom and want to acknowledge this relationship. This ritual of students giving gifts to their teachers has been going on since children started leaving the home to go to school and brought apples or other simple presents to their teachers in the one room schoolhouses.

In this area, parents sometimes lavish costly presents on teachers such as gift certificates or the use of vacation homes. While we do not like to believe a teacher would actually show favoritism to a child based on expensive gifts from the parents, it could still become a sticky situation. Plus some teachers have said they find such generosity embarrassing.

As with most occupations, the best reward can be a letter thanking them for a job well done, and perhaps a letter to the principal as well. If a gift is meant to say thank you, parents can say it just as well with words, even citing examples of the special things the teacher has done to help their student during the school year. Such letters are priceless but do not have to be reported under the district's gift policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fence is a beauty

Dear Editor:

I want to congratulate Home Depot, the Alamo Improvement Association, Contra Costa County planning staff, and interested Alamo residents for working together to create the long fence that borders the Iron Horse Trail behind the remodeled Yardbirds/Home Depot store in Alamo.

I am one of thousands of users of the trail who regularly enjoy its many different near and far views. Thank you, all, for making a fence which is necessarily tall also beautiful!

Grace Schmidt, Alamo

Let's ask what Alamo wants

Dear Editor:

Alamo has a very different view of parks and recreation from those created by the R-7A county agen-

cy, District 3 and public works. If we were to believe R-7A, as no more than four to five people of Contra Costa County Public Works Special Districts, the six to seven people of District 3 and the five to six members of the R-7A county agency committee, Alamo wants more formal parks, recreational classes and facilities, and fully landscaped hiking and equestrian trails.

Quite interestingly, none of those are really what Alamo neighborhoods and their residents really want. In several polls of more than 4,000 Alamo residents, Alamo asked for natural open space and trails, outdoor health and fitness activities, and teen and children sports and recreation programs at schools serving our community. Alamo didn't ask for YMCA commercial facilities, formal parks within neighborhoods, pocket parks along the Iron

► Continued on page 13

Guest Opinion

Students stand up for their environment

by Christy Glaser's fourth-grade class, Greenbrook Elementary School

Do you know how much pollution can hurt our environment in the Bay Area?

Our fourth-grade class at Greenbrook Elementary found plastic, soda cans, paper and other trash littering our neighborhood. All of these things have an effect on our environment.

The creek that runs through our neighborhood, Cow Creek, leads to the San Francisco Bay. Trash that gets into this creek, or into our storm drains, ends up in the Bay. Once in the Bay, it can affect the animals there and disturb the food chain.

For example, six-pack rings can get caught around a fish's neck and strangle them. Animals could eat the trash, thinking it's food, and mess up their digestive systems.

People who fish in the Bay may not be able to tell when a fish is polluted and eat it. This would pass on the pollution to humans.

According to sources, water pol-

lution occurs when people put so much waste into a water system that its natural cleansing processes cannot function properly.

What can you do to stop pollution in our watershed? Don't litter! Pick up the litter you see! Before you throw something away, think about if it can be recycled or reused. Cut the rings of six pack holders before you throw them away. Don't throw batteries in the trash.

Don't wash your car in your driveway! The soap runs into the storm drains and ends up in the Bay. Also, make sure to dispose of oil from your car properly. Take it to an auto shop. Paint that is washed down storm drains can also pollute the Bay.

These are just a few ideas about helping the environment we learned through the Kids for the Bay program. To learn more about how you can get involved, visit www.kidsforthebay.org.

Letters

► Continued from page 12

Horse Trail or, for that matter, horse manure in Hap Magee Park.

In the past, R-7A had some successes. Far eastern Alamo access to the Monte Vista pool is a great example that can be duplicated for the majority of Alamo at the other Danville high school easily accessible by private and public transportation. Alamo would have such a major presence at the Danville Aquatic Center, it is rumored that it will be called the Alamo Region Aquatic Center.

Let's applaud Ms. Valerie Matlock's success as the Alamo Region recreation programmer and, this time, ask Alamo neighborhoods' majority of residents just what parks and recreation they actually want.

Too shocking an idea?

Hal Bailey, Alamo

Beware of popcorn

Dear Editor:

We are middle school students at the Athenian Middle School in Danville. Recently we have done a research project on the butter flavoring on popcorn and

we discovered that a chemical in the flavoring is very bad for your bodies. If you could aid us in getting the word out, it would be great.

Diacetyl, the bad chemical in butter flavorings on popcorn, is very dangerous for you when it is heated and becomes a vapor. It can cause eye, nose and throat irritation, or intermittent attacks of wheezing, or intermittent attacks of wheezing. Although none of this even compares to the disease you can acquire, called bronchiolitis obliterans. Some workers who have developed bronchiolitis obliterans have even needed lung transplants. As far as research shows us, the flavoring doesn't affect the consumer, but researchers at the FDA and the EPA are still conducting experiments.

It would be great if you could help us by informing people of this. Not many know these facts or would ever guess that popcorn could be bad for you, but it is important. Also, you could inform the people of a precaution they can take. All the consumer has to do is let the bag air out a little before they open it; this way the toxins dilute in the air before you can inhale it.

Jack Bodine, Paden Tomasello, Josh Latner

YOUR TURN

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that Friday's edition.

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For more information, contact Dolores Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 29.



Dyslexia / Learning Disorders

Albert Einstein Was A Genius- And A Dyslexic!

As many as 15% of school children are affected by dyslexia

or other learning disorders. Many parents and teachers associate dyslexia with the most commonly known symptom of reversing "Ps and Qs" and "6s and 9s," yet this is present in less than

20% of those who have the disorder. Dyslexic kids can be smart but struggle with reading and other school-related tasks, such as writing, comprehension and even math.

They can confuse directions (right/left) or misread small words (the, he, is). Because these tasks are difficult for them, they tire easily while performing them and can develop avoidant techniques. This often causes people to assume that the child is lazy or has ADD/ADHD. Tutoring

can provide temporary relief and advance the child to the next grade; but, in the long run, it does more harm than good by giving parents a false sense of security. It delays him or her from receiving the right kind of help, which is desperately needed, and does nothing to fix the core cause of the problem, which will continue into adulthood if left untreated.



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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

19-year-old arrested for drunken driving

Police arrested a 19-year-old Danville resident for driving under the influence on Houston Court and Quinterra Lane in Danville last weekend.

Danville patrolman Eric Nygard was conducting residential checks when he made contact with the young adult, who was driving a 2001 white Honda

Civic around 1:42 a.m., Saturday, March 31, said Sgt. Troy Craig. Two of his friends were passengers.

Nygard evaluated the 19-year-old and arrested him on suspicion of drunken driving. He was found to have a blood alcohol level of .112, according to police reports, and the suspect was released to his mother.

"Don't drink and drive," Craig said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

OBITUARIES

Fred J. Morgan

Alamo resident Fred J. Morgan passed away March 16 in Alamo at the age of 83.

He was born July 15, 1923, in Santa Rosa and was a fourth generation Danville/Alamo resident. His great-grandparents came to the San Ramon Valley in the 1850s. He was a graduate of Fremont High School in Oakland and Golden Gate College in San Francisco. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a proud World War II veteran. While stationed in England, he met and married his beloved wife, Dorothy (Diane)

Fielding. They were married 62 years.

He was employed for many years at Crown Zellerbach and Champion International Paper. After he retired from Champion, he earned his real estate license and worked for a short time at Rossmoor Realty. He was past commander and a 60-year member of American Legion Post 246 in Danville. He was an avid fan of the Oakland Raiders, Oakland A's and Golden State Warriors. He enjoyed coaching adult basketball and participated in Danville Senior Softball and won several trophies for the American Legion in annual Guy Zimmerman Horseshoe Tournaments.

He is survived by his wife Diane; daughters and sons-in-law Jan and Dale Noonkester, and Gloria and Steve Hobough; and son and daughter-in-law David and Joyce Morgan; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters-in-law Edward and Emeline Mullikin, and Richard and Betty Mullikin; as well as nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service was held March 30 at Wilson and Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville. Memorial contributions may be made to the Museum of San Ramon Valley or a favorite charity.

POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available from its incident summary report:

Sunday, March 25

- Misdemeanor battery on La Gonda Way at 1:53 a.m.
- Accident on Adobe Ct. and Adobe Dr. at 4:11 a.m.
- Drunk in public on Hartz Ave. at 3:28 p.m. and 4:02 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Lehigh Valley Cir. at 4:55 p.m.

Monday, March 26

- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 1:26 a.m.
- Public nuisance on Greenbrook Dr. at 12:08 p.m.
- Trespassing on Love Ln. and Railroad Ave. at 2:24 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Love Ln. at 3:22 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on Graham Ct. at 3:27 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Adobe Ct. at 5:51 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 6:01 p.m.

Tuesday, March 27

- Auto burglary on Rancho Verde Cir. W. at 6:18 a.m.
- Auto burglary on St. Norbert Dr. at 7:49 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Rancho Verde Cir. E. at 9:39 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on Paraiso Dr. at 2:36 p.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 3:22 p.m.
- Vandalism on Camino Tassajara at 4:04 p.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:09 p.m.
- Harass disturbance on Lomitas Dr. at 4:12 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Hartz Ave. and Linda Mesa Ave. at 4:18 p.m.
- Identity theft on Scout Pl. at 5:28 p.m.
- Grand theft on Rancho Verde Cir. E. at 6:43 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Holbrook Dr. at 7:49 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Boone Ct. at 8 p.m.
- Grand theft on Santiago Dr. at 8:09 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Boone Ct. at 9:09 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28

- Vandalism on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:54 a.m.

- Petty theft on Stone Valley Rd. at 12:46 p.m.
- Identity theft on New Boston Ct. at 2:17 p.m.
- Identity theft on La Gonda Way at 3:23 p.m.
- Verbal disturbance on Clydesdale Dr. at 4:22 p.m.
- Petty theft on Railroad Ave. at 8:06 p.m.

Thursday, March 29

- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 8:10 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 9:36 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Matadera Cir. at 9:45 a.m. and 10:16 a.m.
- Alcohol on school grounds on Love Ln. at 1:24 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara at 5:46 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Crow Canyon Rd. and Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 6:06 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:53 a.m.

Friday, March 30

- Vandalism on Dunhill Dr. at 8:01 a.m.
- Burglary, miscellaneous, on Glasgow Cir. at 8:54 a.m.
- Petty theft on Stone Valley Rd. at 9:48 a.m.
- Petty theft on Hartz Ave. at 10:43 a.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 1:31 p.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Diablo Creek Pl. at 2:16 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on La Gonda Way at 4:06 p.m.

Saturday, March 31

- Verbal disturbance on La Gonda Way at 2 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Blackstone Ct. at 7:38 a.m.
- Vandalism on Esther Ln. at 9:23 a.m. and 10:39 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 11 a.m.
- Accident on Alta Vista Way and Camino Tassajara at 1:14 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:06 p.m.
- Accident on Hartz Ave. at 2:30 p.m.
- Commercial burglary on E. Prospect Ave. at 4:04 p.m.
- Vandalism on Greenbrook Dr. at 6:11 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Front St. and Hartz Way at 6:13 p.m.
- Petty theft on Patricks Pl. at 8:23 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Laurel Dr. at 9:07 p.m.

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Face off on Round Hill greens

San Ramon Valley High School's Michael Perchak tees off against Monte Vista High School at a match-up of the cross-town rivals last week on Tuesday, March 27, at Round Hill Country Club. The final score was Monte Vista 199, San Ramon Valley 209.

Wolves beat Falcons second time around on the diamond

by Rachel McMurdie

Mike Candau's tie-breaking home run helped the San Ramon Valley boys come up with their first East Bay Athletic League win in game two of their double header against Foothill last Friday on the baseball diamond. The Wolves beat the Falcons 3-2 at home.

After Wednesday's 4-3 loss to Foothill, San Ramon Valley knew it would have to dig deep if it wanted to win. They found that power in Candau's bottom-of-the-sixth run.

On a 1-1 pitch against Foothill reliever Alex Law, Candau knocked a low line drive to right field. The home settled the 3-2 score.

The Falcons (1-1 EBAL, 7-2) had the lead at 2-0 in the second inning off hard-throwing SRV starter Scott Griggs, who hit 90 mph a few times during his 4-inning stint and struck out six. The Wolves battled back in the bottom of the second on a two-run double by Erik Reveal.

After the Wolves secured the lead, San Ramon's closer Ryan Palsha held off the Falcons through a dicey seventh inning.

Foothill's Michael Chinn threatened a comeback when he opened the inning with a double to left field, his third hit of the day. Palsha then struck out Steve Carroll on an 87 mph fastball, but that only brought up cleanup hitter Troy Channing.

Palsha fell behind 2-0 and eventually semi-intentionally walked Channing on a 3-1 pitch. With the tying and go-ahead runners on base, Palsha refocused and got Justin

Serrao—who drove in two runs, one a homerun, in Wednesday's game—to fly out harmlessly to center fielder Ryan Lucas to end the game. The Wolves, who are 6-4 overall, improved their league record to 1-1.

Monte Vista rounded out its preseason with an 8-0 win over Washington (Fremont). The Mustangs (6-3) who earned 11 hits and no errors came out strong, scoring six of their eight runs in the first two innings. Austin Stewart earned four RBI's for his team; Brandon Sweeny, Chip Tengler, Taylor Gigliotti and Cody Burman also brought home runners. Tengler, who is starting pitcher for the Mustangs, recorded five strikeouts. The boys will head into league play this week with back-to-back games against Livermore High.

Softball

The drought continued for Monte Vista girls through their away game league openers. On Tuesday the Mustangs lost to Foothill 2-5; on Thursday they lost to California 3-4.

The Mustangs (0-2 EBAL, 5-4) earned a one-run lead in the bottom of the fifth, but California (1-1, 8-1) battled back. Their run in the sixth tied the game and they scored again in the seventh to win.

San Ramon Valley girls opened their league run with a 3-4 win over Granada. While Granada (0-2 EBAL, 6-3) was the first to break the stalemate that lasted through four innings, the Wolves (1-0 EBAL, 8-1) answered with

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, April 6

Baseball: Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 3:45 p.m.

Swimming and Diving: Monte Vista vs. Granada

Girl's Lacrosse: San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.

Boy's Lacrosse: San Ramon Valley at Foothill, 7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, April 6-7

Track and Field: Arcadia Invitational at Arcadia

Saturday-Wednesday, April 7-11

Baseball: Livermore Tournament

Wednesday-Friday, April 11-13

Baseball: San Luis Obispo Easter Tournament

Thursday, April 12

Boy's Lacrosse: San Ramon Valley at Foot-OC, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday, April 12-14

Boy's Lacrosse: SI Tournament

Track and field

Monte Vista's Chris Krychev shattered school and regional records with a 180 foot 9 inch discus throw at the Stanford Invitational on Saturday. His throw passed Monte Vista school records by more than 10 feet and moved him into ninth-place all-time in the region for the event. The senior earned second-place in the boys competition. Only two other high schoolers from the region have thrown farther than Krychev in the last 16 years.

Golf

San Ramon Valley golfers earned a 197-229 victory over Granada at the Poppy Ridge Golf Course on Friday. The win improves the Wolves' record 4-3 EBAL. Monte Vista, which leads the East Bay Athletic league with a 6-1 record also came up with a win last week, beating Foothill 179-188.

Girls Lacrosse

Amanda Nesport and Erin McGillivray scored twice for the Wolves who lost to the undefeated Amador Valley 14-6 last week. San Ramon Valley stands 0-2 in league and 4-5 overall. ■

E-mail photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.

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Rancher cont on the 'lit

by Jordan M. Doronila

No! Go away! His land is not for sale. Not for \$50 million, \$600 million or even \$900 million.

Wealthy suitors have long fancied Armand Borel's 17-acre orchard of blooming walnut trees surrounded by Costco, homes and the I-680 freeway, where cars dash through Danville night and day. Developers have dangled millions of dollars, hoping he would say: "I'll take the money. The land is now yours."

But Borel, 78, refuses to sell the last working orchard in Danville.

"They can go to hell!" Borel proclaims. "It's the last orchard in the Valley."

Town officials agree that Borel's property, which is on Camino Ramon and Fostoria Way, across from the retail complex with Costco and Marshalls, is probably the only commercial orchard left in Danville.

"It's certainly the only one I'm aware of," said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo. "It's like a little island that time forgot."

Before the San Ramon Valley was developed, the Borel family owned the acreage around the Danville-San Ramon border, including where Costco and Marshalls now are situated.

"He and his family are longtime property owners in Danville," Calabrigo said.

Back then, farmers cultivated walnuts, almonds and pears in the Valley, said Ralph Cozine, co-author of "Images of America: San Ramon Valley—Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon."

"I believe it was all a walnut orchard, and it was all viable," Calabrigo said.

Borel was born in 1923 and grew up in Oakland, he said, the only child in his family. He went to UC Davis and studied agricultural engineering. He moved to the orchard, which was owned by his mother's family, in 1945. He also fought in the Korean War in the 1950s.

In the Valley, his family harvested walnuts in the fall and sold them to food distributor Diamond Foods, he said. His ranch had horses and tractors that are now more than 50 years old and still in his barn.

Borel enjoyed outdoor activities such as hunting ducks and deer. Though he has little family living nearby, he has had many friends during his life and still receives holiday cards from loved ones.

Borel has seen many changes in Danville and San Ramon being a rancher for more than 60 years.

"I just put up with it," he said.

In 1985, as development in the area was being planned, some residents on Fostoria Way banded together, hoping to keep Danville rural. But only the 17 acres were preserved.

Borel's 17-acre ranch was reassessed in 1982, after his parents died, at \$5.25 million, based on it being designated for administrative office use according to the general plan. As a result, Borel had legal battles with the Town of Danville and Contra Costa County about being overcharged in property taxes during the late 1980s. In 1990, the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco agreed that the town and the county had no right to charge him high property taxes because his land was designated for agricultural use, which granted him a lower tax rate.

The appellate court ordered the county Assessment Appeals Board to reassess Borel's property and to pay back the overcharged taxes. The court decision entitled him to \$285,000 in back taxes, according to local media reports from 1990.

The court also stated that property value must be determined on the land use and zoning designations at the time.

Borel said he has refused to sell his remaining property because his ranch produces walnuts, which is something he wants. Now, after decades, his orchard continues on, despite his physical disabilities. Borel has a hired hand who tends to his ranch and continues harvesting the walnuts.

"He loves that property," said Danville Planning Commissioner Robert Storer. "That passion for that prop-



The Last orchard in Danville

Continues to harvest walnuts while island time forgot'



Above: Borel's parents and friend stand with their automobile by a redwood tree in the 1950s at Yosemite National Park. Left: Danville rancher Armand Borel's orchard of walnut trees still stands on Fostoria Way, a rural haven amid development.

has never gone away." Mr. Borel is what the valley is all about," Storer added. "He's a hardworking man and had ranches." Storer, who is friends with Borel and interviewed him for an oral history for the Danville Heritage Resource Commission in 2005, believes his orchard is indeed the last in the Tri-Valley," Storer said, noting that his father grew up in a walnut orchard. Storer said Borel's father sold most of the land to developers, leaving Borel with 17 acres. Calabrigo said businessmen turned the acreage into a series of developments in the late 1980s. Storer said Borel was not happy that his father sold the family property. "He was very disappointed," he said. Storer said his two sons worked on Borel's orchard in recent years. "He's an expert in his field of business," Storer said. "His children worked the tractors, lay pipe for water and dammed up the creek, which creates a pond that waters the orchard. "He loves my homemade wine," Storer said. "He's a character. My kids love working with him." Storer noted that there was a dead deer in the orchard and he told Storer's sons to dig a hole and bury it on his property. "He's extraordinary and sharp as a whip," Storer said. "He's involved in every single project that goes on in the ranch, such as ranching, watering, managing trees and farming."



"If I had my wish, I would love to see that walnut orchard remain as a walnut orchard in perpetuity," Storer added. "This is actually something that's part of our history." At some point, his property may be subdivided and sold, Storer said, and it would cost the town too much money to keep the orchard up and running. "It's a shame we are on the verge of losing this special treasure," he said. "He's a very special man that has a special piece of property that he has a vision for." Borel's land is part of the Fostoria Way area, which the Town of Danville has designated as mix of residential and light industrial use, according to its 2010 General Plan. In addition to neighbors Costco and Marshalls, PG&E operates a research facility on Fostoria. The Borel property has been identified as a "special concern area" and has the potential for additional development, according to the general plan.

"The language in the general plan is it is highly visible from the freeway and proximate for residential and commercial use," Calabrigo said, adding that it is a unique property being in the middle of development. Calabrigo said the town does not have money stashed away to keep the orchard running, when asked if the town might want to acquire the property.



Above: Armand Borel, now 78, sifts through old pictures of his family. Left: Armand and his father after a successful day of bird hunting in their orchard.

"The answer would be an emphatic no," he said. He noted there have been people who were interested in acquiring the property. "There is no shortage of suitors," Calabrigo said. "I don't like to speculate with respect to Mr. Borel," he added. "I think the town wants to respect that history and respect his wishes. He pretty much wants to live in peace on his own property and I can appreciate that." ■



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WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Junior Ranger program makes Mount Diablo come alive

by Dolores Fox Giardelli

Want to see a tarantula up close and personal? The Junior Ranger Program might be for you.

"There were a lot of interesting things, like a dead fox with arrows through it," said Maddalena Farinati, 8, who attended the program in the fall when she was 7.

"It was really gross," she explained with enthusiasm. "Indians used to live up there and I think they needed it for food."

"She likes to go out and trek around and look for animals," said her father Davide Farinati, who attended with her. "I think she liked the geology part, too."

Mt. Diablo State Park is taking registration for the spring session, which begins April 28 and runs for five Saturday afternoons for children ages 7 to 12 with an accompanying adult.

Each participant receives a Junior Ranger Logbook designed by the California State Parks system for children to follow self-guided activities each time they visit a park.

"The Junior Ranger Program is generally offered as a campfire program," said Danville resident Steve Elliott, a volunteer docent who runs the program. "The difference is that at Mount Diablo, we significantly enhanced it."

Elliott came up with the idea to make a shorter, more intense program so the children could get more out of it.

Due to budget cuts, it was great when Elliott put this program together, said Ranger Jack Duggan.

"We have six rangers and each of us does one of the Saturday sessions with Steve," Duggan said. "In some ways, the rangers are a prop."

"What I've found amazing is the kids who've been in the program are serious about it and tell me about stuff," he added. "They bring a lot to the program."

The program can only accept 15 children; those on the waiting list from last spring filled up another session in the fall.

In the spring they made molds of animal footprints. In the fall, they dissected owl pellets, which are the indigestible particles owls spit up when they are eating, such as tiny bones.

"And there is an archeological kit to learn how to do an archeological dig," Elliott said.

DID YOU KNOW?

CATERPILLARS HAVE 4,000 MUSCLES IN THEIR BODIES. HUMANS HAVE ONLY 639.

Source: California State Parks Junior Ranger Logbook

"The minimum age is 7 so they can write," he explained. "They have to take notes, and make a presentation and a display board."

The Junior Ranger participants choose a field of study—such as weather, water or astronomy—and explore the topic on their own.

"If they select water, they go to a body of water, a creek or a lake, and come back and tell about the plants and animals they found," Elliott said.

He said the program is rigorous, but "age-rigorous." "It's not about getting the right answer, it's about exploring nature," he said.

"What we've discovered is people are really anxious for the opportunity to do something substantive like this," he added. "It's a chance to engage in as much depth as they'd like."

All six members of the Rudolph family attended the program in the fall—mom Karleen, dad Steve, and children Stevie, 12; Madison, 11; Charlie, 8; and Jake, 7. The children were being home-schooled until recently, and Karleen Rudolph said the family has visited many parks across the nation but found this program one of the best.

"The nice thing about it was it has some lecturing, then we would walk around and have an adventure," she said. "It was very hands-on. Then we'd come back and have a craft or make something to reinforce what we'd learned that day."

The family lives by Mount Diablo and rides its horses in the foothills but this program brought them a new love for the mountain and made it come alive for them, Rudolph said.

"The history of the mountain—my kids really absorbed that," she said. "They can tell you how it was formed and who lived there."

Each session began at a different spot, she noted, opening new worlds on the mountain to them.

"My husband and I were looking forward to it as much as the kids," she said.

The visitor's center is a wealth of information, she said, and her family was impressed to see a chart that tracks the growth of Mount Diablo and learn that it expands each year by half an inch.

"It was fascinating stuff," she said. "There was not one ounce of boredom for that many children at that range of ages. It was a wealth of knowledge they'll never forget."

She recommends that people not sign up unless they are free to attend each of the five sessions.

"It's not vital that you know it, but it's a

privilege," she said. "Steve was really awesome."

She said attending as a family made it "all the more magical," plus they met a lot of great people.

In Steve Elliott's pile of thank you notes is one from a girl named Waverly that says: "Thank you for everything you did. I will never look at nature the same."

Davide Farinati agreed.

"It was very well done," he said. "The whole group of kids were very happy."

And about those tarantulas. When they were eating lunch one day,



Volunteer Ranger Steve Elliott leads the 2006 fall Junior Ranger Program through the glories of Mt. Diablo State Park.



JOIN THE JUNIOR RANGERS

WHAT: An outdoor education program with sessions on wildlife, geology, plants, Native Americans, ecology, and more

WHO: Mt. Diablo State Park rangers and a volunteer docent

WHEN: 1-4 p.m., five Saturdays, April 28-June 9

ELIGIBLE: Children ages 7-12 with an accompanying adult

TO REGISTER: Call Ranger Jack Duggan at 837-6129 or e-mail jduggan@parks.ca.gov

COST: Free but park entrance fee is \$6

The Pet Vet says...

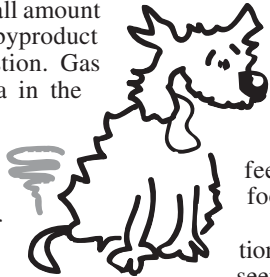
BY DR. HEIDI STRAND



Owning a dog can be a gas

Q. My dog sometimes gets very gassy. Is this normal and what could be causing it? She just turned 1 year old.

A. I have the same problem with my lab mix—he can clear the room at times! A small amount of gas is a normal byproduct of your dog's digestion. Gas forms when bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract break down your dog's food. If the flatulence is really frequent and/or really smelly, there are some things you can try. Most people find that some foods cause their pet to be gassier than others. I can't recommend a specific food since every dog's digestive tract is different. But I would recommend sticking to dry food, buying a name brand, and feeding your dog at least twice a day. If you're going to change foods, switch to one with a different protein and carbohydrate source. For example



if your dog is eating lamb and rice food, buy one with chicken and corn as the first ingredients. Make sure she goes outside immediately after eating, as this is usually when she will need to have a bowel movement, and holding it in can cause gas. Processed treats such as rawhides may contribute to the problem.

And definitely avoid feeding your dog people food!

If none of these suggestions help, or if your dog seems uncomfortable from the gas, or has diarrhea, don't hesitate to consult your veterinarian. Sometimes dogs get an overgrowth of the gas-producing bacteria in their intestines. In that case they will benefit from a course of antibiotics or perhaps a probiotic supplement to replace the "good" bacteria.

Q. I would like to know if having two newly bonded female rabbits (ages 1 and 1-1/2) spayed would be

detrimental to the bonding process?
A. You are very fortunate that your rabbits have bonded—usually females tend to fight with each other after puberty. In fact, if you have not already, you should double-check to make sure they are both females! Spaying them will not affect their bonding. In fact it usually improves social interactions with other rabbits as well as people—this is also true for having male rabbits neutered. Not to mention spaying is important to prevent uterine cancer, which is common in rabbits. It can occur as early as 2 years of age, so you should arrange to have your rabbits spayed soon.

—Dr. Heidi Strand is a veterinarian for the East Bay SPCA in Dublin. She has lived in the Tri-Valley for 10 years with her family and an assortment of four-legged friends. Questions can be mailed to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526; or e-mailed to hstrand@eastbayspca.org.

OF NOTE

Planning for the arts

A community arts planning meeting took place recently at Richard's Crafts in Alamo Plaza, attended by Beth Batchelor, president of the Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art; Bill Carmel, president of the Danville Area Cultural Alliance; and other interested people and artists to discuss plans for a new arts facility.

The Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art is planning art programs including adult and children's classes, paint-our sessions, open studios, art exhibitions, art auctions, fashion shows and public receptions to honor local artists, contributors and supporters. For more information, call Batchelor at 837-5654 or visit www.contracostaafa.org. The next meeting, open to the public, will be at 11 a.m., Friday, April 13, at Richard's.

Grants to help kids love to read

The Rotary Club of Alamo recently presented the third annual Bob and Betty Myhre Literacy Enhancement checks. The use of the funds is restricted to books



The recent meeting of local arts groups included (l-r) Nana-Dictta Grave, Diana E. Busse, Elizabeth Lehrer, Marilyn Mattson, Phil Canville, Mel Smith, Beth Batchelor, Janice Byer, Fred Turner, Dick Del Fosse and Bill Carmel.

and materials that will encourage reading, and to software programs that teach geography. Bob and Betty Myhre want to encourage youngsters to "get off their X-boxes, video games, etc., and to learn the enjoyment of reading."

Checks in the amount of \$1,000 each were presented Feb. 23 to Alamo Elementary School—principal Beverly Tom and librarian Marci Wehrley; Rancho Romero

Elementary School—principal David Gold and librarian Linda Mailho; and Stone Valley Middle School—principal Shaun McElroy and librarian Irma Volenec, at the Rotary's luncheon at Round Hill Country Club.

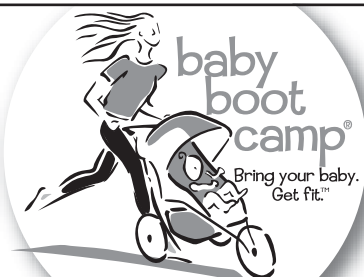
This was the third presentation of the Myhre Literacy Grants to the three named schools. The total grant is for 17 years in the amount of \$1,000 each for a grand total of \$51,000.

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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

The Bear Flag Revolt —a California view

by Beverly Lane

Pioneers love to tout the 1846 Bear Flag Revolt in California history and, of course, the bear flag is now our state flag. The Bear Flag events of June and July in Sonoma have been romanticized in many California stories.

But there is another perspective of the revolt, the view of native-born Californians. In their eyes the events were instigated by a bunch of drunken louts, and the role of the Great Pathfinder Capt. John C. Fremont was a disgrace.

During the 1840s, Americans migrated gradually to Mexican California, and 1846 saw a huge influx of adventurers and families. In May of 1846 the Mexican American War was declared. Even before that news reached California, several American immigrants and Fremont's "scientific" expedition clashed with native-born Californios and stirred up the waters.

Rosalia Vallejo Leese was present in Sonoma during the revolt and saw her husband and brothers



The historic California Bear Flag, as photographed in 1890, was raised at Sonoma on June 14, 1846. It was in the possession of the Society of California Pioneers during the 1906 Great Earthquake and Fire, and was destroyed. The flag was adopted by the 1911 California Legislature as the State Flag.

imprisoned by the Bear Flaggers. In a newly translated oral history, she describes a band of "rough looking desperadoes, many of them runaway sailors" who were "wearing on their heads caps made with the skins of coyotes or wolfs... with shoes only to be seen on the feet of fifteen or twenty among the whole lot."

She talks about "a piece of linen about the size of a large towel" painted (with) a red bear and a lone star" being hoisted on a flag staff in the Sonoma town square. The men took her keys and ransacked the storehouse "where were deposited provision and liquor sufficient to feed two hundred men during two years."

Fremont appeared a few days after the revolt began. Mrs. Leese said, "It is fair to presume that John C. Fremont, the man who had planned the wholesale robbery of California, though an officer of the United States army, was afraid to compromise the honor of his government if his party pursued their thieving operations under the flag that lovers of liberty throughout the world hold dear, hence his reason for resorting to the adoption of a flag unknown to civilized nations."

She said that, when Mexican troops were expected in Sonoma, "Fremont changed his shining uniform for a blue blouse, put away his hat and wrapped his head with a common handkerchief—he adopted this fantastic style of dress for the purpose of avoiding recognition. Is this the conduct becoming a brave man?"

Jose Maria Amador had a similar reaction, both to Fremont and to the revolt. In his "Recollections," he recalled that John Fremont and his troops came to the Rancho San Ramon in 1846, taking many of Amador's best horses and, when Amador objected, sent the message that "he would pay me for them

with an ounce of lead from every rifle in his troop."

The Bear Flag Revolt was a disaster from Amador's point of view. Even 30 years later, you can visualize his horror: "A force of adventurers fell upon Sonoma and seized the plaza without resistance. They made prisoners of Coronel Mariano G. Vallejo, Capitan Salvador Vallejo This force carried a flag on which was painted a bear with a star and some red bands, as it was explained to me. I never saw it. This Bear Flag was looked upon in California as that of a mortal enemy. It inspired grave apprehensions as to the purposes of those who flew it."

To be fair, several people in California such as American Consul Thomas Larkin knew there were frontier filibusterers floating around the region. But he had no way to control them. Fremont's precise orders have never been clarified, although his arrogance and propensity to ignore orders have been well documented, both in California and in the Civil War.

So from June 14 to July 9, 1846, the Bear Flag flew over Sonoma's main square. When Commodore John D. Sloat arrived as a formal American military representative, he raised the American flag in Monterey on July 7 and replaced the Bear Flag in Sonoma with the American banner on July 9. Mrs. Leese never forgot the turbulence of those weeks and chose never to learn English, the language of the Bear Flag ruffians.

Sources: *Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz, "Testimonios"; Jose Maria Amador, "Recollections"; Andrew Rolle, "History of California"*

—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."

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Blades of Glory ★★

Will Ferrell is skating on thin ice. The Saturday Night Live alum has long embraced absurdist comedy (think "Anchorman" or "Talladega Nights"), often with hilarious results ("Old School" is a personal favorite).

Not this time. Although Ferrell does supply most of the film's intermittent laughs, the ridiculous concept and poor execution put "Blades" at the bottom of Ferrell's otherwise winning resume.

Two celebrated male figure skaters child prodigy Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder of "Napoleon Dynamite") and "lone wolf" Chazz Michael Michaels (Ferrell) are at the pinnacle of their profession. The two very different men are heated rivals, a discord that culminates with a violent melee at the World Championships. The embarrassing clash gets both skaters banned from the sport for life—and MacElroy disowned by his greedy adopted dad.

Flash forward three-and-a-half years. MacElroy works the ice-skates department of a shoe store while Michaels drunkenly performs for a children's ice show. Things perk up when MacElroy's self-professed stalker (Nick Swardson) finds a loophole in the skating rulebook. MacElroy can return to competition in pairs' figure skating, and who better to team with than his one-time rival? Soon MacElroy and Michaels are making nice and training under MacElroy's coach (Craig T. Nelson) in hopes of winning championship gold.



Michaels is a riotous anti-skater. The out-of-shape showboat is a sex addict and a lush—a far cry from the figure-skater stereotype we've seen on ESPN. And Ferrell plays the role with gusto, never once taking the character seriously. Heder, on the other hand, offers little in the laughs department. Sadly, the young performer isn't a very dynamic actor. Most of his portrayals seem a mere variation on the role that made him famous in "Napoleon Dynamite." Ben Stiller (one of the film's producers) or Owen Wilson would have been smarter casting choices.

Ferrell fans will find flashes of hilarity in "Blades," but DVD is a better outlet for these silly skaters.

Rating: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, language, a comic violent image and some drug references. 1 hours, 33 minutes.

—Tyler Hanley

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Calendar

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Author Visit

"Walking 18 Holes With Tiger" Booksigning Danville residents MJ and ML McColgan will be signing their book, "Walking 18 Holes With Tiger" from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at Barnes and Noble, in Jack London Square. MJ is a 3-time National Special Olympics Golf Champion, a 6-time Northern Californian State Champion and San Francisco Hall of Famer. Call (510) 914-0646 or email lmccol3525@aol.com.

Fine Art of Pinstriping and Rockin' Down the Highway Blackhawk Museum will present "Fine Art of Pinstriping" with Herb Martinez and "Rockin' Down the Highway" with Paul Grushkin from 10:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors and children under 6 and active military personnel are free. Call 736-2280.

Herb Martinez and Paul Grushkin Blackhawk Museum will host Herb Martinez and Paul Grushkin from 10:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville. Admission will be charged. Call 736-2280 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

Careers

Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers B2B Power Exchange will host a lead group from 8-10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 17, at Marie Callender's, 1101 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$40 for nonmember, including breakfast; prepay by the Friday prior to the event. Call 201-3410.

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.

Clubs

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 552-9733.

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club This club is open to new and long-time women residents of Alamo and Danville interested in making new friends in the area. Their Prospective Member Coffee is held the fourth Thursday of the month, and a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday. Call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvilnewcomers.com.

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

Bay Books Book Club San Ramon Bay Books hosts two book clubs reviewing different books. The first club meets at 7 p.m., the second Tuesday of every month; the second book club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, both meeting at the San Ramon store, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 855-1524.

Business Development Network BDN is a group of professionals that

share resources and develops business through relationships. It meets 7:45-9 a.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Denny's, 807 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call Bonnie at 648-0222.

Business Network International The Danville Chapter of Business Network International, a world-wide networking organization that focuses on helping local businesses grow through building strong networking relationships, meets at 7 a.m. every Friday at Denny's Restaurant on Camino Ramon. For information, call Glenn Polanco at 831-3372.

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

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

Danville 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 Ave., 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.danvillerotary.org.

Danville-Alamo Garden Club

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Walking with Tiger
Danville residents MJ and ML McColgan will be signing their book, "Walking 18 Holes With Tiger," from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at Barnes and Noble, in Jack London Square. MJ is a 3-time National Special Olympics Golf Champion, a six-time Northern Californian State Champion and San Francisco Hall of Famer. Call (510) 914-0646 or email lmccol3525@aol.com.

Danville-Alamo Garden Club will host its monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 12, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Guest speaker will be local landscape designer, Yanker-Hansen, who will talk about "Landscaping for Floral Arranging." Call 837-4904.

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 Diggers Dance Club The Diablo Diggers Dance Club meets five times a year for dinner and dancing 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 Networking Group Come join this dynamic team of business professionals to network and promote your business at 7:30 a.m., every Tuesday at Father Nature's restaurant on Prospect Avenue in Danville. For information, e-mail Coach2Excel@aol.com.

Diablo Valley Quilters Guild Diablo Valley Quilters Guild meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Our April 18th guest speaker is Sally Collins. Guests are welcome. For more info, call Sharon at (925)820-1588 or visit www.diablovalleyquilters.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 View Toastmasters This chapter meets from 7:55-9 a.m., every Tuesday, at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. Novice and veteran speakers meet to develop speaking skills. Guests are welcome. Call Josh Taves at 791-2233.

eWomen Network Accelerated Networking Luncheon The eWomen Network holds its monthly accelerated networking luncheon from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Contact Claire at 648-3105 or clairesheperdson@ewomennetwork.com.

Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley This club meets at noon, monthly on the second Wednesday, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. The program features guest speakers and business networking. Guests are welcome with reservations. Call 275-2412 or visit www.srvexchangeclub.org.

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

Gnome Science: & Societal Effects Tri Valley Democratic Club will host Dr. Elbert Branscomb who will be speaking about synthetically creating and engineer life at 7 p.m., Monday, April 16, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. This event is free. Visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club The Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club is a place to learn, share and discuss. It meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month, at 3223 Crow Canyon Road, second floor Conference room, San Ramon. Call 397-2093.

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.

Leads Group for B2B Business Developers This group meets from 7:45-10 a.m., every third Thursday at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. The cost for members is free, \$40 for non-members. Call 201-3410.

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

Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group Get questions answered, solutions for problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of every month, at the Alamo Safeway Community Room. For information, call 837-1111 or 829-5501.

Pleasanton DeMolay This Pleasanton chapter of DeMolay is an organization for young men between the ages of 12-21. They meet at 7:30 p.m., the first and third Tuesdays of every month at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. For information, contact Ken Valarlo at 455-8586 or raptors2@comcast.net.

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Denny's, 803 Camino Ramon, Danville. For information, visit www.pca.org/dia.

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

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club San Ramon Newcomers Club will host a Welcome Coffee for new members where you can hear about the different member activities from 10 a.m.-noon, Monday, April 16. The coffee will be held at a private residence, call 560-0403.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Luncheon Join new and established residents of San Ramon, Danville, Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore for a box lunch at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, April 19, at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Call 735-3508.

San Ramon Valley Rotary Club This club meets for dinner at 7 p.m., every Wednesday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Guests are welcome. The club offers a great way to make new friends while making a difference in your community. Call Bill at 838-9110.

Tri-Valley Writers Association This club exists to inform, educate, and have fun and is open to anyone interested in the craft of writing. The club meets at 11:30 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Contact Steve Workman at 485-1011 or skworkman@aol.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75 The organization meets every second Thursday of the month at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Mac McCuskey at 837-2740 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

Blackhawk Country Club Dinner Concert Danville Community Band presents the Blackhawk Country Club Dinner Concert at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 15, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. For tickets, call 736-6500.

Contra Costa Wind Symphony Contra Costa Wind Symphony will host Paraguayan harp and violin artist, Carlos Reyes, at 8 p.m., Sunday, April 15, at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$18 for general admission, \$15 for seniors and \$12 for students. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

Early Music Concert Las Positas College will host the Farallon Recorder Quartet in concert from 7:30-10 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at Las Positas College Library, 3033 Collier Canyon

Rd., Livermore. General tickets are \$15, \$5 for students. Call 424-1209 or visit www.lpclearlymusic.org.

Early Music Series Las Positas College will host its second annual Early Music Series with the Farallon Quartet at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at Las Positas Library, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore. Call 424-1554 or visit www.laspositascollege.edu.

Jesse Winchester Community Concerts presents Jesse Winchester, a world-reowned singer-songwriter, at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and children. Visit www.communityconcerts.com or www.jessewinchester.com.

Events

Cupid Pre-Dating Cupid.com will host a pre-dating event, it's a fun and easy way for busy singles to meet from 6:30-10 p.m., Monday, April 23, Vic Stewart's, 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$35, \$39. Call (408) 849-4749 or visit www.predating.com.

Eighth Annual Blackhawk 500 Blackhawk Plaza presents the eighth annual Blackhawk 500 starting at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, April 21, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Family members are free with an uniformed scout. Call 736-2277 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

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

Fifth Annual Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive More than 80 youth service groups will be collecting non-perishable items from single-family residences in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville and Alamo. The Food Drive will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 21, rain or shine. All donations go to local food pantries. Call 998-6513.

Fourth Annual Antique Road Show Blackhawk Museum Guild presents the fourth annual Antique Road Show from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, May 20, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Items will be verbally appraised for a donation of \$15 per item. Proceeds will benefit the Museum's Children's Education and Transportation Fund. Call 736-2280.

How to Get Out of Iraq Rabbi Michael Lerner and Congressman George Miller will discuss "How to Get Out of Iraq: Rethinking the Foundations of American Foreign Policy" from 7-9 p.m., Monday, April 9, at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Cost is a \$10-20 donation. Call 933-7850.

Spring Indulgence Bring the family for a great day of fun at Spring Indulgence from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at the Danville Livery, at Sycamore Valley Road West and San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-7070.

SRVHA April Potluck Here is your chance to clean out your tack trunks and tack rooms. Bring your clean equestrian items for the raffle sale, larger items for the silent auction at 6 p.m., Friday, April 13, at Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Bring a potluck dish for 8, drinks included. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Call (510) 504-0038.

Vineyards, Hills and Pathways of Stephen Sanfilippo This showcase will feature Alamo resident Stephen Sanfilippo's art of vineyards, hills and pathways from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., April 7-30. The public can meet Stephen at the opening reception on from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St., Pleasanton. This event is free. Call 846-6015 or visit www.stephensanfilippo.com

Exhibits

'Treadmill' Mural Bedford Gallery and Walnut Creek Arts Commission present "Treadmill" by Josh Keys, which is a mural painting dedicated to Susan Booth, on the Locust Street Parking Garage, adjacent to the Dean Leshar Center for the Arts. Visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

Lindsay Wildlife Art Exhibits Lindsay Wildlife Museum will host a collection of art exhibits including: Origami Animals by Alamo resident Robert Lang will be displayed until April 29; Birds in Art until May 5, all at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 935-1978 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Paved Paradise Bedford Gallery has received a grant for a Contra Costa Youth Exhibition entitled "Paved Paradise" which will run June 10-July 22, with an opening reception on Sunday, June 10. Call 295-1417 or visit www.bedfordgallery.com.

The Sword and the Cross The Museum of the San Ramon Valley presents "The Sword and the Cross" exhibit running until May 5, at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Admission is free to the museum, but donations are appreciated. Hours are 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsvr.org.

Film

"Encounter Point" Screening Videos for Peace will show a documentary, "Encounter Point," from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, at Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free, but donations are accepted. Call 933-7850.

► Continued on page 24

Fundraisers

Flea Market and Tack Sale SonRise Equestrian Foundation is hosting a flea market and tack sale from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at 352 La Questa Dr., Danville. Proceeds will benefit SonRise Equestrian Foundation. Donated items will be accepted from 4-8 p.m., Friday, April 20, call Cal at (510) 305-7164.

Hats Off America Third Annual Casino Night Hats Off America will host their third annual Casino Night from 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, April 21, at The Sycamore Clubhouse, 635 Old Orchard Drive, Danville. Cost is \$40, reservations are required and guests must be 21. Proceeds will benefit Hats Off America. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

March of Dimes March of Dimes will host numerous events to provide funding for saving babies from birth defects and mortality including: WalkAmerica on Saturday, April 28, at Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton; Signature Chef's Event on Thursday, Sept. 20, at Palace Hotel, San Francisco; 29th annual day of golf on Monday, Oct. 29, at Olympic Club, San Francisco. For information, call (415) 217-6363 or visit www.marchofdimes.com/ca.

Nia Dance Earth Day Celebrate Earth Day by learning about Save Mt. Diablo and enjoying a fun afternoon of

Nia, a "fusion" fitness class based on dance and the martial arts from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, April 22, at Renaissance Club Sport, 2805 Jones Rd., Walnut Creek. Suggested donation is \$20 (tax-deductible). Proceeds will benefit Save Mt. Diablo. Call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

Personal Sanctuaries Garden Tour Personal Sanctuaries will host the second annual Garden Tour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 18-19, in the Danville and Alamo areas. Advance tickets are \$25, \$30 at the door. Proceeds will benefit UCSF Breast Cancer Research. The event will include a silent auction and tea party, and there will be a book signing with Susan Vreeland at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 19. Visit www.personal-sanctuaries.blogspot.com. 10-4 p.m. \$25 advance purchase/\$30 day of event

Private Shopping at Pottery Barn Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. will host a private shopping event from 6:30-9 p.m., Sunday, April 22, at Pottery Barn, 1480 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$25 each, or \$100 for a package of five tickets. Proceeds will benefit Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. Call 284-3740 or visit www.jloeb.org.

Trip to Oliver Ranch Sculpture Park Bedford Gallery will host a trip to Oliver Ranch Sculpture Park which includes 2 1/2 hour walking tour followed by a wine and picnic lunch from



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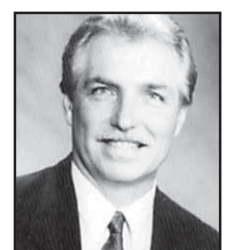
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8 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, May 5, meeting at Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$100. Proceeds will benefit the gallery's exhibits and programs. Call 295-1418.

Health

Chi Kung Class The Wellness Community will host Chi Kung class for cancer patients and their caregivers from 9:30-10:45 a.m., Tuesdays, until Aug. 8, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Comfortable clothing and socks are a must. Call 933-0107.

World School Free Seminar World School of Massage will offer a free seminar called "Breast Health: Lymph Loving!" from 4:30-6 p.m., Tuesday, April 17, at World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave., Pleasanton. Call 461-2533 or visit www.worldschoolmassage.com.

Holiday

Eggstravaganza Town of Danville will host Eggstravaganza from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 7, at the Community Center, 420 Front St., Danville. Call 314-3400.

Kids and Teens

Free Online Tutoring Available Contra Costa County Library is offering free homework help from expert online tutors to students grade 4-12 and beginning college from 1-10 p.m., Monday-Friday, at <http://ccclib.org>

Mother/Daughter Spa Event Pure Girls presents a Mother/Daughter Spa Event from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, April 15, at Pure Girls, 660 Main St., Pleasanton. The day will include a spa etiquette overview, free skin care analysis and a free manicure or pedicure. Cost is \$49 per pair. Call 485-4380.

When Mom or Dad has Cancer School-age children can participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 14, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Reservations are required, call

933-0107.

YMCA Activities The San Ramon Valley YMCA hosts a number of activities including Adventure Guides/Princesses, Adventure Trailblazers, Youth Basketball, Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer for children of all ages. For information, call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

Lectures/Workshops

Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Cancer patients and their families and friends can learn how Chinese Medicine can be complementary to cancer treatment from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, April 10, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Registration is required, call 933-0107.

EBIG Start Ups/VCS SIG 'Practice Your Investor Pitch' Are you an entrepreneur looking to raise angel or VC funding? Get 10 minutes to practice your pitch and get expert VC feedback from 6:30-9 p.m., Monday, April 9, at Crown Plaza Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. Cost is free for members, \$10 pre-reg, \$20 at the door. Visit www.ebig.org.

Mindful Chi Gung Cancer patients and their families and friends can experience the ancient practice to be aware of your body from 3:30-5 p.m., Thursday, April 12, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Registration is required, call 933-0107.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer This 12 week workshop is for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment and will help them address the emotional and physical issues that surface after diagnosis from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 12-July 17, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Nutrition and Cancer Treatment Cancer patients and their friends and family can learn to maximize nutrition during and after cancer treatment from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Seven Deadly Sins of Compensation A presentation will focus on companies' seven problem areas of compensation, from 7:30-9 a.m., Wednesday, April 11, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St.

in Dublin. Cost is \$30 members/\$50 non-members. Call (415) 291-1992 or e-mail nchra@nchra.org Dublin. <http://www.nchra.org>

Stress Reduction and Guided Imagery Help those with cancer and their caregivers focus and relax the mind and body to experience relief from negative emotional states from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, April 19, at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas, Suites A and B, Pleasanton. Call 933-0107.

The Environment: Should We Care? San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will host community seminars titled "The Environment: Should We Care?" at 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Biodiversity, April 10, Future Energy Resources, April 17 and Global Climate Change, April 24, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call 837-5243.

Time Management for You and Your Office Learn how to use your brain-style to set up computer and paper management systems from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at Courtyard Marriott, 18090 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$69 for members, \$97 for non-members. Call 855-3205.

Literary Events

Humor Essayist Beth Lisick California Writers Club will host Beth Lisick, author of "Everybody Into the Pool" at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 14, at Hungry Hunter Restaurant, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for nonmembers. Call 376-3631 or visit www.mtdiablowriters.org. Hungry Hunter Restaurant, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. (925) 376-3631. <http://mtdiablowriters.org>

Library Book Discussions The Book Discussion Group has chosen books for 2007. 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.

Weekend at Asilomar San Francisco Great Books Council will host a Weekend at Asilomar to feature twentieth century literature from April 14-15, at Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove. Cost is \$236 to \$446 depending on choice of accommodations. Registration is now open, but space may be limited; call (916) 761-7349 or visit www.greatbooks-sf.com.

Live Music

Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers are known for their new style of blues in a concert at 8 p.m., Friday, April 13, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civictartickets.org.

Miscellaneous

Energy Primer for Kids A copy of The Energy Primer for Kids 25-page booklet is available from Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583. Donation are graciously accepted to offset Global Hot Air propaganda. Call 837-7612.

Free Computer Instruction The Danville Library is offering free computer instruction on Word, Excel, Powerpoint or the Internet by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit the Danville Library Information Desk or call 837-4889

Recycle for Breast Cancer Recycle for Breast Cancer is open seven days a week accepting free dropoffs for computers, monitors, cell phones, laptops, servers and TVs. Located inside Saf Keep Storage, 200 Purdue Rd., #1018, San Ramon. Call 735-7203 or visit www.recycleforbreastcancer.org.

San Ramon Valley High School 40th Reunion Attention Classes of 1967, 1968 and 1969! San Ramon Valley High School will hold a 40th High School Reunion on Saturday, Aug. 11. For information, Carol Stewart-Pierovich at 820-4628, Mike Miles at 938-0806 or Stephanie Brown-Myers at 837-0539.

Valley Parent Preschool Open House Valley Parent Preschool will host an open house from 12:30-2 p.m., Friday, April 27, at Valley Parent Preschool, 935 Camino Ramon, Danville. All families interested in our 2007-2008 classes are welcome to tour the school and meet the director and staff. Call 837-5401.

On Stage

"The Music Man" Diablo Light Opera Company presents "The Music Man" at 2 p.m., April 14-29 and at 8 p.m., April 6-May 5, at Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. General admission tickets are \$32-38,

seniors are \$31-36 and students are \$26-31. Call 943-7469 or visit www.leshercenter.org.

'Wigged Out!' Victoria's Hair on Stage has opened its doors for "Wigged Out!" which runs until June, at Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$38. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469).

Bingo! Center REP presents "Bingo!" with times ranging from 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 2:30 p.m., through April 21, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$14-38. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

Company Contemporary Ballet Performs 2007 Spring Repertoire Company C Contemporary Ballet presents Antony Tudor's Dark Elegies, Paul Taylor's 3 Epitaphs, and Charles Anderson's Hush and Firebird from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Adult tickets are \$15, \$20, \$25, children under 12 years old and students are \$10, \$15, \$20. Call 708-0752 or visit www.compnycballet.org.

Eugene O'Neill Playwrights' Theater Performances Eugene O'Neill Playwrights' Theater at Tao House presents "This Is Not My Life" at 3 p.m., starting May 6 and "Now I Ask You" at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 20, at the Old Barn at Tao House. Call 820-1818.

Sondheim's Putting It Together Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Putting It Together" at 8 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m., Sundays, April 20-May 12, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$18-24, \$15 for groups more than 10; purchase tickets at www.villagetheatreshows.com, call 314-3400, or visit the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St.

Recreation

Intermediate Bike Ride Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay will host a ride to Rock City through the Dan Cook Canyon at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 7, meeting at Monte Vista High School Parking lot. Call (510) 229-0023.

Intermediate Bike Ride (Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay) Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay will host an intermediate bike ride at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, April 21, meeting at MDSP Mitchell Canyon Staging Area, south end of Mitchell Canyon Rd., Clayton. Rain cancels. Call 202-9133.



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Lindsay Wildlife Museum

Galapagos Trip Lindsay Wildlife will go back in time to the famous Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) while hiking, swimming, and more from May 3-13. Cost is \$3,795 per Lindsay Wildlife Museum member double-occupancy. Call 935-1978, ext. 430 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Mangini Ranch Hike Join John Mercurio will lead a hike on Mangini Ranch, including some of Galindo Creek starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 14, meeting at Lime Ridge open space, Concord. The hike is about three hours; rain cancels. Call 947-3535.

Morgan Territory Ridge Tops Sierra Club will celebrate the hills of spring and explore Bob Walker and Highland Ridges during wildflower season from 10:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 15, meeting at Morgan Territory Reg. Pres., main lot. One-way hike with car shuttle at trailhead; carpool will meet at 9:30 a.m., at Walnut Creek BART. Rain cancels. Call (510) 525-2110.

Young Canyon Hike Join Save Mt. Diablo steward, Burt Bogardus, on this moderate hike to admire wildflowers on the serpentine meadow on Young Canyon at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 7, meeting at the Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Rd. Call 947-3535.

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 \$12 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. Cost is \$1 facility use fee and is 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' Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

Valley Oak Respite Center Activities for Seniors Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities,

from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1936 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. The cost is \$25 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040.

Spiritual

Alamo Women's CODA Meeting Co-Dependents Anonymous (CODA) is a fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is to develop healthy relationships who meet 1-2 p.m., every Monday, at United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd, Alamo. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and loving relationships. Visit www.sfbaycoda.org or www.coda.org.

Mother's Day Retreat San Damiano Retreat invites mothers to the annual Mother's Day Retreat from 4 p.m.-11 a.m., the weekend of May 11-13, at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. The theme is "Lessons & Graces of Motherhood." Cost is \$190 private room, \$160 shared room. Call 837-9141 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

Sports

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

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

Danville Tennis Club The Danville Tennis Club meets 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9-11 a.m., Saturdays for drop-in tennis at San Ramon Valley High School. This free co-ed club provides play for 4.0 to 5.0 and very strong 3.5 level players. See information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/danvilletennisclub>.

Learn Tennis, Get Free Racquet Learn to play tennis in six hours and receive a free Dunlop Tennis Racquet. Sponsored by the United States Tennis Association, new classes start the first Monday of each month, from 6:30-8 p.m., at San Ramon Valley High School. The cost of six hours of group lessons is \$100 per player. Lessons taught by former world ranked tennis professional/30-year coach. To register, call Brett, USPTA P-1 at 833-2460.

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.

Walnut Creek Tennis Club WCTC is a free, co-ed tennis group for single adults of all ages and levels (primarily 2.5-3.5). It plays drop-in tennis from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays and Sundays at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek (S. Main). See information at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/wctc/>.

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

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

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

Clutterers Anonymous 12-Step Meeting This group is for people who are suffering from hoarding and cluttering who want beauty and serenity in their homes and lives. They meet from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Thursday, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2491 San Miguel Dr., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$2-3 after the first meeting. Call 285-7165 or visit www.clutterersanonymous.net.

ClutterLess Self Help Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue and you are not alone. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Monday (except holidays), at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Dr. Donations of \$2-5 are graciously accepted. Call 297-9246 or visit www.clutterless.org.

ClutterLess Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Monday (except on a holiday) at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246.

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

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

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

Man to Man Prostate Cancer San Ramon Regional Medical Center offers "Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group" from 7:30-9 p.m., the second Tuesday of every month, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building, West Day Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Call 933-0107.

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

Parkinson's Support Group The Tri-Valley Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo provides peer support from 10a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of every month, at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

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

San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support A new and proactive group for FIBRO, CFS, CFIDS and Chronic Pain meets from 7-9 p.m. every other Monday in Danville. This group is positive, informative that meets to help each other to be better advocates. Call for location and information at 234-5621.

SRV Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, under-eating and bulimia. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Call Gordon at 899-3117 or visit www.foodaddicts.org.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's Disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of each month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

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 home-bound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

Bedford Gallery Guild The Bedford Gallery Guild is looking for volunteers to donate time at the art gallery in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the

Arts. No prior art knowledge required. Contact Susan Helms at 837-0716 or sjhelms1@prodigy.net

Blackhawk Museum Docent Training If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! Call 736-2280, ext. 238.

Bringing Back the Native Garden Tour Bringing Back the Native Garden Tour needs volunteers Saturdays, April 28 and May 5. Volunteers will be rewarded with free, private tours of beautiful native gardens. For information, call (510) 236-9558 or visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

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

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

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

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

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.

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa This organization is looking for volunteers to help serve in East Contra Costa County. Positions open are: men and women to provide companionship and practical support for terminally ill patients and families, licensed hair stylists and certified massage therapists. Call 887-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospicecc.org.

Hospice and Palliative Work at Bruns House Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa Bruns House In-Patient Hospice is looking for volunteers to fill two- to four-hour shifts during the weekdays and weekends. For an application, call 887-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospicecc.org.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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220 Computers/ Electronics

Stereo Color Zenith TV 21inches, - 15

WINDOWS VISTA Home Basic - \$140

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Understanding Your Credit Score
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Library RSVP (800)-348-5780 x7772
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Livermore, 2 BR/2 BA - \$499,950
San Ramon, 2 BR/2 BA - \$459,000

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San Ramon, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$714,000

**830 Commercial/
Income Property**

Medford, Oregon
\$379,000. Corner triplex. Two buildings. 1, 2, 3 bedrooms. Zoned for 2 additional units. BTDD. Rents \$2,400/month. Remodel. Professional permitted. Todd 1-503-784-3101. (Cal-SCAN)

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Arizonas Best Bargain
36AC - \$59,900. Perfect for private retreat. Endless views, beautiful setting w/fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Call AZLR 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Wyoming Ranch Dispersal
35 acres - \$59,900; 75 acres - \$108,900. Snow-capped mountain views. Surrounded by gov't land. Abundant wildlife. Recreational paradise. Low taxes. EZ Terms. Call Utah Ranches, LLC. 1-888-703-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**850 Acreage/Lots/
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1st time offered
40 acres - \$39,900; 80 acres - \$69,900. Near Moses Lake, WA. 300 days of sunshine. Mix of rolling hills and rock outcroppings. Excellent views, private gravel roads, ground water and easy access! Financing available. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

Colorado Trout Stream
acre \$28,000! Good access, beautiful mountain canyon. Trout fishing on property. Special getaway place. \$500 down, \$350 monthly. (10%/128 mos.) Owner 1-806-376-8690. (Cal-SCAN)

Fish Lake Valley, NV.
A bargain! 10ac Trout Stream \$59,900 (Abuts BLM). Eastern slope of White Mtns. Within looming presence of Nevada's highest peak and range. Snow covered year round. Providing cool, clean water that feeds the Rainbow Trout Creek which borders the entire back boundary. One of a kind! Inspiring, must see! Call 1-877-349-0822. (Cal-SCAN)

Gorgeous Southern
Colorado Ranches. 35+ ACRES from only \$36,900! Spectacular mountain views, rolling fields. Tele/ Elec, Cable, Internet available. Perfect for horses, recreation or relaxation! Call today! 1-866-696-5263 x2502. (Cal-SCAN)

New Mexico
FIRST Time Offer. Adjacent to Lake Sumner. 10 acres - \$29,900. Rare river-front property in NM. Incredible setting, including frequently running Pecos River, views and diverse topography. 5 minutes to Recreational Lake. Limited number of small ranches. Excellent financing. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760 or visit www.RiverRanches.net. (Cal-SCAN)

Western New Mexico.
20 acres \$49,990. Scenic region, tall trees, views, wildlife, borders BLM, electricity. Horseback riding, hiking, hunting. Perfect for ranch, getaway, or retirement. 100% financing. Call 1-866-365-4122. (Cal-SCAN)

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Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bedroom available! HUD, Repos, REOs, etc. These homes must sell! For Listings Call 1-800-425-1620 ext. H107. (AAN CAN)

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Pet of the Week



Sweet Leah

Leah is a very affectionate Calico housecat whose previous owner passed away and left her in the loving care of Valley Humane Society. But as everyone knows, there's no place like home, and Leah is looking for a new person to love. Leah is 8 years old, spayed, de-clawed and purrs all the time. Leah has never lived with dogs, but she gets along well with other cats and she loves people. Leah is looking for an indoor-only home where she can engage in her favorite pastime—cuddling. For more information about Leah, call Valley Humane Society at 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumanesociety.org.

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during March 2007

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 7	Total sales reported: 17	Total sales reported: 28
Lowest sale reported: \$1,330,000	Lowest sale reported: \$452,000	Lowest sale reported: \$199,500
Highest sale reported: \$3,350,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,284,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,875,000
Average sales reported: \$1,797,143	Average sales reported: \$1,010,059	Average sales reported: \$716,071

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Alamo

- 2436 Alamo Glen Drive** Silva Relocation to P. Muller for \$1,555,000
- 4 Ashford Court** Cartus Financial to S. Ware for \$1,675,000
- 40 Camino Monte Sol** CMS Group to J. & E. Sipin for \$3,350,000
- 3024 Oakraider Drive T.** McAllister to G. & L. Wood for \$1,330,000
- 18 Saratoga Court** A. Bichara to J. & H. Scherman for \$1,435,000
- 119 Sugar Creek Court** Payne Trust to A. & L. Delmatto for \$1,820,000
- 130 Virginia Court** A. & L. Ratcliffe to D. Nelson for \$1,415,000
- ### Danville
- 330 Borica Place** D. & C. Reno to M. & V. Schaezler for \$910,000
- 1614 Colchester Street** S. & M. Fesai to C. & B. Majewski for \$1,180,000
- 35 Diablo Way** Rhodes Trust to S. & A. Eichten for \$930,000
- 2020 Fostoria Circle** Pohan Trust to H. & E. Kim for \$452,000
- 2248 Genoa Street** Lennar Homes to J. & T. Courtney-Soper for \$1,058,000
- 14 Hillview Court** Silva Relocation to S. Anderson for \$1,275,000
- 2426 Marsanne Street** Lennar Homes to F. & G. Javier for \$1,233,500
- 2434 Marsanne Street** Lennar Homes to S. & C. Kerwick for \$1,277,000
- 4 Ramon Court** Monkey Business Adventures to S. & K. Palsa for \$915,000
- 948 Richard Lane** J. & K. Halliday to J. Dubitzky for \$1,120,000
- 124 Rimini Court** Lennar

- Homes to J. Im for \$1,284,000
- 187 Roan Drive** Mustion Trust to R. Nandwana for \$875,000
- 531 Silver Oak Lane** Bush Trust to Volberding Trust for \$821,500
- 389 Squirrel Ridge Way S.** Strange to J. & A. Polley for \$975,000
- 84 Stowbridge Court** W. & S. Amato to G. & E. Kackman for \$1,005,000
- 33 Turrini Circle** J. & P. Wilkinson to J. & T. Milich for \$1,250,000
- 400 West Camino Arroyo** J. Hitcher to P. & S. Ashburn for \$610,000

Walnut Creek

- 1595 1st Avenue** L. Hempfling to C. Kerfeld for \$650,000
- 66 Alberta Terrace** G. Edwards to C. Scelfo for \$1,700,000
- 1315 Alma Avenue #451** Alpine at Alma Development to K. Gonsalves for \$393,000
- 1743 Carmel Drive #18** H. Johnston to G. Quiroz for \$350,000
- 2432 Casa Way** Chang Trust to S. & M. Rewal for \$742,000
- 2560 Cedro Lane** D. & J. Long to A. & E. Cruz for \$886,000
- 1291 Clover Lane** Nalley Trust to Valley View Development for \$570,000
- 1884 Countrywood Court** Z. & J. Simic to G. Chang for \$603,500
- 101 Kinross Drive #8** Smith Trust to J. & L. Medel for \$283,000
- 213 Masters Court #3** Fairways 340 Limited to M. Passerine for \$366,000
- 201 Masters Court #4** Fairways 340 Limited to B. Wright for \$335,000
- 227 Masters Court #4** Fairways 340 Limited to D. Brzovic for \$430,000
- 355 Masters Court #4** Fairways 340 Limited to J. Merritt for \$399,000
- 381 Montecillo Drive I. & W.** Kitmacher to W. Rosenblatt for \$1,340,000
- 490 North Civic Drive #305** C. Jongens to R. Bello for \$225,000
- 410 North Civic Drive #505** R. Bethke to E. Tokuyama for \$347,500
- 738 Old Stable Place** R. & E. Bettis to A. & S. Hieke for \$1,565,000
- 528 Persimmon Road** B. & J. Vanderkelen to River Trust for \$770,000
- 586 Pimlico Court** W. Knel to M. Nagnoor for \$580,000
- 2545 San Carlos Drive J. & J.** McNeerthney to R. & C. Edejer for \$710,000
- 1941 Skycrest Drive #5** J. McMann to G. Brian for \$257,000
- 2141 Stewart Avenue** Mathis Trust to C. Waud for \$885,000
- 2010 Strand Road** R. Libby to D. & I. Danilovich for \$1,875,000
- 30 Summit Circle** D. & W. Long to Y. Moe for \$825,000
- 626 Terra California Drive #1** Trapani Trust to A. Granger for \$667,500
- 1860 Tice Creek Drive #1418** Stamper Trust to Turner Trust for \$199,500
- 1751 Tice Valley Boulevard** R. & L. Dovia to A. Matlin for \$490,000
- 1817 Wales Drive** Stevenson Trust to Gross Trust for \$1,606,000



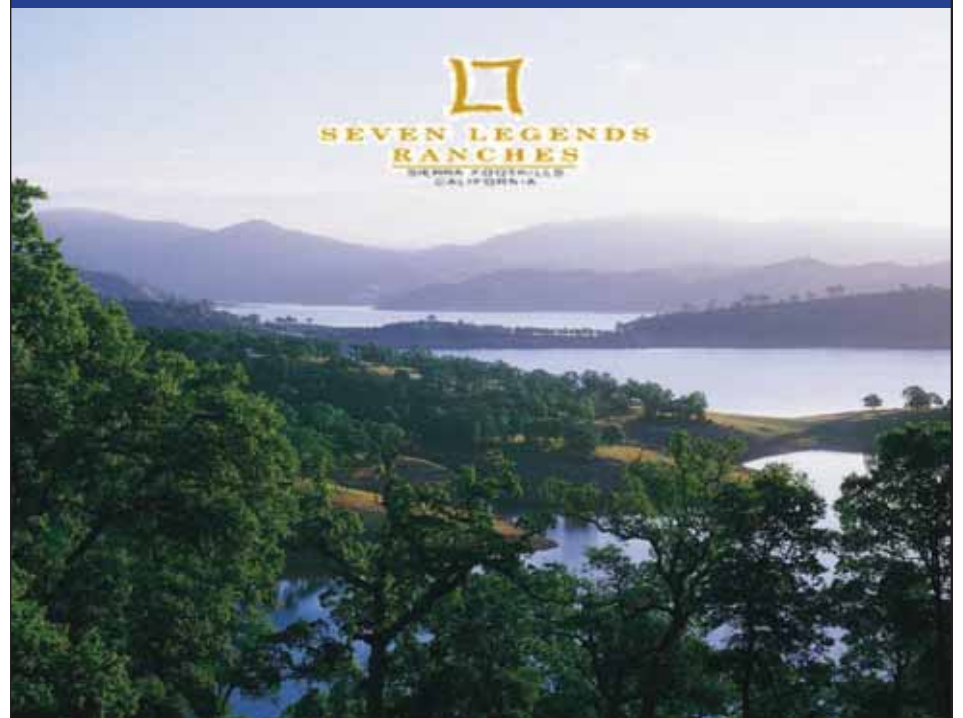
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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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3 Bedrooms
162 Lawnview Cir. \$559,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4118
141 Lomas Dr. \$799,000
Sat 1-4 Intero 855-4123

4 Bedrooms
1135 Blue Spur Cir. \$1,169,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Grand View Realty 408-629-0359

San Ramon

3 Bedrooms
20 Terraced Hills Cir. \$709,000
Sat 1-4 Intero 855-4161

5 Bedrooms
106 Rodriguez Ct. \$1,278,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 707-333-6640
2826 Bethany Rd. \$1,499,000
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4112
2390 Avalon Wy. \$1,249,000
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4112

Walnut Creek

2 Bedrooms
18 Iron Horse Ln. \$579,900
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 487-2629

Dublin

2 Bedrooms
7528 Oxford Cir. \$519,950
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Keller Williams 397-4167

5 Bedrooms
5836 Turnberry Dr. \$1,999,988
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

Pleasanton

3 Bedrooms
4070 Francisco St. \$649,000
Sat 1-4 Remax Accord 888-454-1010

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Just Listed... Blackhawk...



Wonderful single story on cul-de-sac in the Country Club with over 3700 sq. Ft. 4 bedrooms 3.5 baths with a loft perfect as a game room or office. Huge gourmet kitchen. Newer stainless steel appliances, granite counters & center island. Large eating area. Hardwood floors. Slider leads to side yard patio. Additional solarium off family room perfect place to relax & enjoy the backyard. Free form pool & spa with newer solar heating. Large grass area plus separate play area for kids. Newer roof, new dual air conditioning units & heater. 3 car garage with lots of storage plus additional parking...This is a must see. Listed at \$1,849,000.00

Westside Custom in Danville



Elegant, "one of a kind" home with exceptional views of Mt Diablo from most every room in the house. This 4605 sq. ft. finely crafted home was rebuilt in 2002 on a private 1.01 acre lot with-in walking distance to downtown Danville. Ancient oak tree sets the ambiance for this 4 bedroom 4.5 bath home plus large bonus room. Exceptional lighting by artist Christina Spann of Oakland. Built on steel A-frame with no internal walls in main living area. Brazilian cherry hardwood floors throughout. Finished 3 car garage with lots of additional parking. Magnificent entertainers kitchen with 2 Miele dishwashers, 2 sub zero dual temp wine refrigerators 2 ovens plus 48" stainless steel Dacor range with 6 gas burners. Slab granite counters built-in Sub Zero refrigerator. Call today for your private appointment.... Listed at \$3,550,000.00

Safreno Way ~ Pleasanton ~ \$1,699,000



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ALAMO

Premier Vintage Acres \$6,750,000
Stunning traditional w/5 bedrooms, 5-full/3-half baths, 6-car garage. Quality, detailed marble & millwork surpassed by none.

Pamela Schmidt & Sharon Dare

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BLACKHAWK

Gorgeous Blackhawk Estate! \$2,295,000
Spacious floor plan with large kitchen/family room combo. Very large, open foyer. 4 large bedrooms plus library, 4 baths. Pool, spa, built-in BBQ.

Julie Whitmer

925.997.5120



DANVILLE

Brand New Construction \$2,675,000
2.72+/-acre view lot w/fantastic views of Las Trampas and surrounding hills. Beautiful 5bd, 4ba, with chef's kitchen opening to family room and pool site.

Mark Traikoff

925.855.4115



DANVILLE

City Close-Country Quiet \$1,875,000
Almost 2 acres of prime property. Country charmer with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, lower bonus room, updated and remodeled throughout. Approved for horses.

John Lopes & Gina Cefalu

925.998.8262



DANVILLE

Hilltop Country Estate \$1,749,000
Reduced over \$140K! Over 1 acre horse property with all the conveniences and charms of downtown Danville. 5bd, 3.5ba, new carpet & paint, views!

Khrista Jarvis

925.855.4065



ALAMO

Totally Remodeled-Westside \$1,495,000
4bd, 3ba, slab granite in kitchen, wood & travertine floors. Many French doors, all new windows, new master bath. Beautiful grounds.

The McDougall Team

925.672.2499



DANVILLE

Diablo Highlands Country Estates \$1,479,500
Over 4100sf of gracious living space w/4bd, 3ba, huge bonus room. Lovely back yard w/solar heated pool & spa, mature redwood & fruit trees.

Rachel Knight

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DANVILLE

Absolutely Stunning! \$1,099,950
Updated throughout w/fresh paint, new carpet, beautiful hardwood floors, new tile in baths/laundry. 4bd, 3ba, 3-car garage. Priced to sell!

Lisa & Greg Doyle

925.855.4046



DANVILLE

Single Level-Bettencourt Ranch \$1,019,950
4bd, 2ba, 2442+/-sf on one-quarter+/-acre. New paint, flooring and fixtures. Cozy brick fireplace. Quiet, secluded, private.

John Fischer

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