

Making a movie of a local hero

USS Hornet provides set
for 'Rescue Dawn' > **page 17**

Vol. III, Number 14 • August 3, 2007

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Under construction

Alamo Chevron
getting new pumps,
maxi mini mart

> **page 7**

Danville

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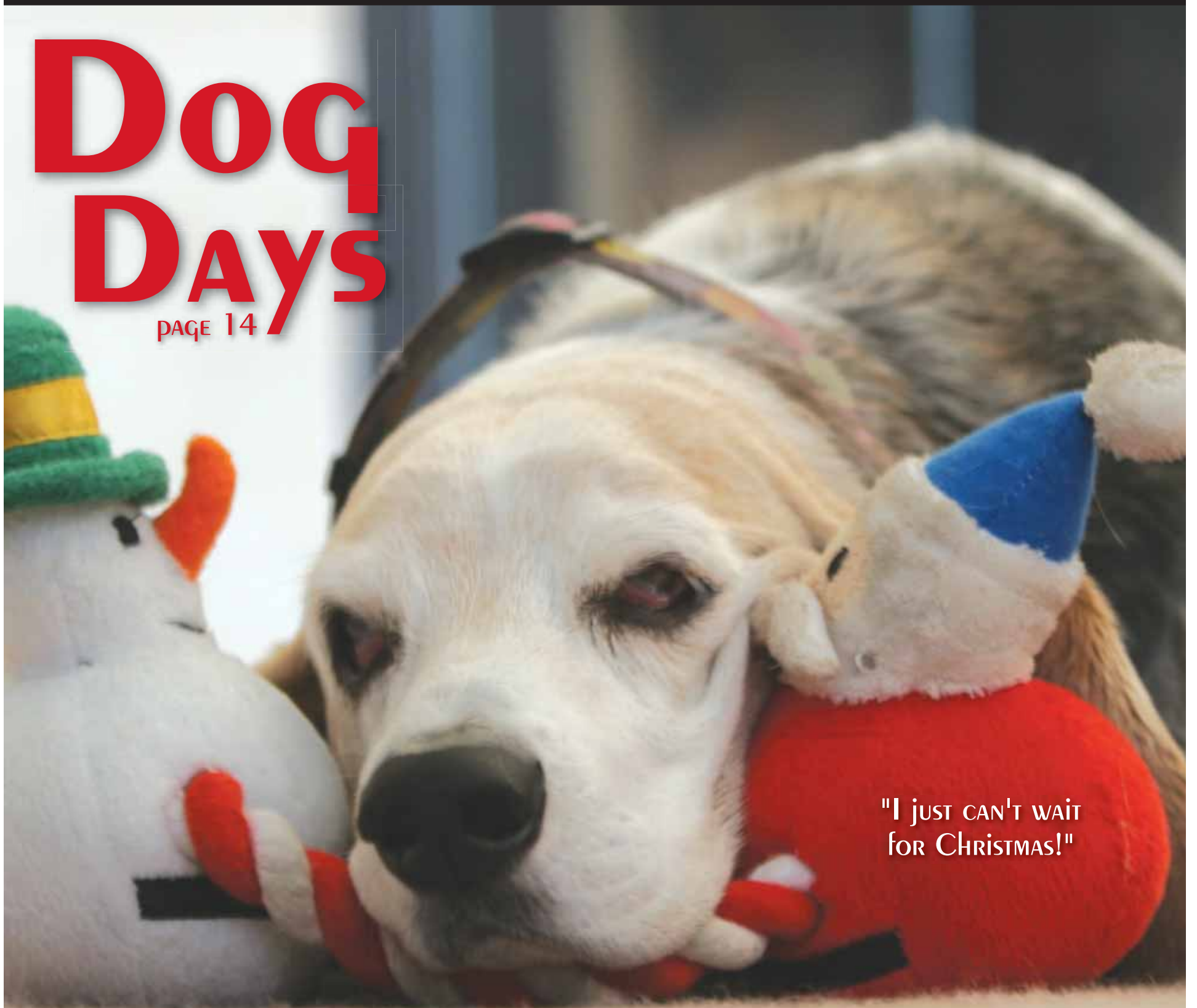
Ridgeline home gets reprieve

County judge rules
Danville must
reassess house plans

> **page 5**

DOG DAYS

PAGE 14



"I JUST CAN'T WAIT
FOR CHRISTMAS!"

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Q: Why are the Harry Potter stories so popular?



It has a defined level of good and bad. They can tell who is good and bad. Good triumphs at the end, eventually.

Mary Glenn
retired



Because they are brilliantly written. These are not children's books. They are pieces of literature drawing on classical references in arts and culture. It catches you immediately. It's not just about hope but about the classic story between good and evil. When you find that you are unable to take anymore, you reach into yourself and see what you are made of.

Elizabeth Johnson
president of the Friends of the Danville Library's monthly book sales



When I first read them, I pretty much was the same age as Harry Potter. It seems it could happen to you. It feels like I could be going to the wizard's school. There are so many fantasy books but Harry Potter is special. The characters are special.

Dana Ries
student at San Ramon Valley High School



I think it appeals to the baby boomers' kids and their parents and that covers so many people. It appeals to both. That covers a lot of the population. It's escapism.

Deborah Ries
homemaker



It makes people use their imagination. They have to think outside what goes on in their everyday lives.

Jim Flanagan
teacher

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

ABOUT THE COVER

The winner of the Danville Weekly pet photo and caption contest is Marion Kohte, who captured her dog Clouseau on film during the holidays and read his expression to say: "I just can't wait for Christmas!" Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. III, Number 14

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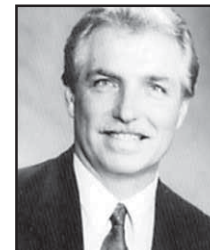
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ You could hear the crackling fire. ”

—Pat Rickey, a resident of Magee Ranch, which had 11 acres burn on the adjacent hills Sunday. See story, page 5.

McNerney leads trip to Iraq

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) led a bipartisan, all-freshman Congressional delegation on a trip to Iraq last weekend, leaving Washington, D.C., on Friday evening.

“It’s one thing to read about the situation and hear from others who have been, and quite another to see and experience firsthand the reality of the situation,” McNerney said. “After visiting Iraq, I still strongly support implementing a reasonable timetable to begin withdrawing troops. I believe that is the only way to give the Iraqis the incentive they need to step up and take control of their country.”

In Baghdad, delegation members met with Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Embassy staff. The following day they headed to Ramadi, a city west of Baghdad, to meet with the 11th Iraqi Army Division in East Baghdad. Later that day, the group met with Barhem Saleh, Iraq’s Deputy Prime Minister.

“In meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Saleh, we had a frank discussion,” said McNerney. “I told him that Iraqi leaders must take responsibility for their country.”

McNerney ate dinner with California soldiers from the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division, and noted, “The soldiers I met with were in good spirits and committed to their mission but are ready to be back with their families in California.”

On Sunday, the delegation flew to Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany where they met with wounded troops and other U.S. military leaders.

Also on the trip were Republicans Mary Fallin of Oklahoma, Dean Heller of Nevada, and Peter Roskam of Illinois; and Democrats Keith Ellison of Minnesota and Tim Mahoney of Florida.

County has District 3 openings

District 3 County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho has announced openings for Danville and Alamo residents on the following county committees: Mosquito and Vector Control District; tenant seat for the Mobile Home Advisory Committee; Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board; and the Emergency Medical Care Committee

Applications are due Aug. 15. For more information, call 335-1900.

Save Mount Diablo keeps eye on Weapons Station property development

Save Mount Diablo urges residents to be aware of what is happening at the 5,100-acre former site of the Concord Naval Weapons Station. After annexing the acreage, Concord’s original plan included 13,000 new homes. This development plan would fragment open space, block potential recreational corridors, and destroy wildlife habitat, including Mt. Diablo Creek, according to Save Mount Diablo. The group supports creating a new regional park and a buffer along the station’s western boundary as an urban linear park and wants to protect Mt. Diablo Creek by a buffer on the west and by the regional park on the east.

Concord is seeking public input at a workshop from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle. Save Mount Diablo urges attendance to show support for balancing development with open space. Reuse plan alternatives will be presented to the Concord City Council at its meeting Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Corrections The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 837-8300 or e-mail: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com



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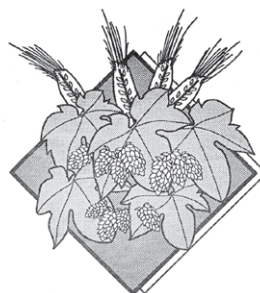
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Danville must reconsider ridgeline house plan

Judge rules that council was wrong to deny developer's plans

by Natalie O'Neill

A county judge ruled last Friday that the Town Council must reconsider approving a house that would mar one of Danville's most sweeping ridgeline views.

The court found the council didn't have enough evidence to deny plans for the 7,124-square-foot house off Lawrence Road on a major hillside crest in Danville. Council members must now take another look at the application, knowing the court's verdict.

"If there's no new evidence, that generally means they are going to have to change their decision," said Robert Ewing, town attorney.

In November, the council rejected plans for the lot, which is off Camino Tassajara, noting that building the residence would "result in the loss of the scenic view of the ridgeline and the sense of identity the area imparts."

The council members pointed to a hillside ordinance that cites development shouldn't interfere with the natural character of the hillsides. And the Planning Commission suggested the residence be moved downward, to a lower section of the 10-acre parcel.

► Continued on page 9

Sex with a twist

Aroma will attract male moths to end unwelcome invasion

by Jordan M. Doronila

Twist ties with an attractive aroma may eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth species in Danville, said state agriculture specialists, and stop them from damaging crops and plants.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture will start installing the twist ties Monday in residential areas where there have been sightings of the moth. The twist ties are like thick shoelaces and have a light wire. They will be tied to places like fences and tree branches on Danville properties.

► Continued on page 10



The hillside fire at Magee Ranch moved quickly right behind the homes on Leaffield Road while firefighters fought it on the ground and from the air.



Air tankers and helicopters helped fight the fire, with the air tankers dropping orange fire retardant.



Firefighters cover every inch with water to make sure the fire is extinguished.

Fire burns 11 acres in Magee Ranch

Hillside is victim of tomato plant protection gone awry

by Jordan M. Doronila

A fire burned 11 grassy acres off Leaffield Road in the Magee Ranch neighborhood in Danville in the early evening Sunday. The damaged acreage included private land near Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space.

The fire was started when a 15-year-old boy detonated a gopher bomb to protect his tomatoes from being eaten by gophers and squirrels in his back yard, said Battalion Chief Mike Brown of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

"He purchased a gopher bomb—it creates smoke," said Brown, noting the boy wanted to put it in a hole. "Unfortunately, it caused a fire."

Firefighters arrived after receiving the call at 5:10 p.m., Sunday, July 29. Approximately 15 fire engines, four air tankers, and two helicopters were called, and a total of 90 people responded, he said.

The air tankers released orange retardant and the helicopters released water on the blaze. Firefighters hosed water and foam

on the fire. It was contained around 6 p.m., Brown said.

Brown said 25 homes—each of them worth \$2 million—were threatened by the fire. However, no one was injured and no homes were damaged. Although, there were some pastures that were burned.

Neighbor Pat Rickey and his 6-year-old daughter Cara saw the flames burning.

"You could hear the crackling fire," Rickey said. "My daughter started crying. She had never heard a fire. The fire got close to the back yards on Leaffield Road."

"This was quite an excitement around the neighborhood," he added. "Everyone was quite concerned. The neighbors were congregating together."

Rickey said the rescuers arrived quickly.

"I was impressed with the response time," he said.

Brown noted the fire district and Cal Fire will not charge the responsible boy or his parents for fire suppression charges. Also, the Danville Police Department will not press charges against the teenager.

"My guess is that he will have a stern talking to," Brown said. "It could've been worse." ■



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Demolition began last week at the Chevron gas station in Alamo and the rebuilding is scheduled to be completed by November.

Gas station undergoing upgrade

New improved Alamo Chevron will reopen in late November

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Drivers looking to refuel along Danville Boulevard in Alamo will have their local Chevron station back in late November.

A complete remodeling of the station began last week, which will include a convenience store more than six times the size of the previous mart. New gas pumps, lighting and a layout that encourages efficiency will also be part of the improvements.

"It's a knockdown and rebuild—it's going to be a completely new station. Hopefully it will become more convenient," said Janli Degenhardt, community relations specialist for Chevron.

The previous pumps, which were about 30 years old, will be upgraded for safety, environmental impact and to help customers fill up more quickly.

Chevron worked closely with Alamo Improvement Association and was receptive to recommendations from local planners, said Preston Taylor of AIA.

"We're really pleased with how cooperative Chevron has been," he said.

Initially the gas station was planned to run diagonally to Danville Boulevard, but AIA members had concerns the layout would expose unattractive sides of surrounding buildings. Alamo residents believed the structure wouldn't mesh well with what already existed, AIA

members said.

Chevron builders then went back to the drawing board and came up with a design that runs perpendicular to Danville Boulevard. The goal was to deal with community input thoroughly, Degenhardt said.

"We want to make sure we address community needs," she said.

Currently, the station site is a fenced-off area with large dug up patches, mounds of dirt and construction equipment.

While the gas pumps may be completed before the convenience store, the company has decided to open both sections of the station at the same time Nov. 20. Blocked off areas and ongoing construction is enough of a safety risk to hold off on the opening, Degenhardt said. ■

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Weekly visits Bonaire

Nancy and Tom Morris and Janet Tsui (right) catch up on hometown news while visiting Bonaire, an island in the Netherlands Antilles, in January.



African mission

Dave and Brody Leubkeman and their Weekly pause a moment at the airport in Nairobi, Kenya, returning from a mission trip organized by Eternity Minded Ministries to the country of Burundi.



Fun in Honduras

Charlene and Paul McCurdy pose with the owner of their hotel, Udo, who is holding the Danville Weekly, while visiting Copan Ruinas, Honduras, last November.



Wintering in the Virgin Islands

Dana, Dave, Ryan and Connor LaBuff of Danville, shown at Jost Van Dyke, brought the Weekly along when they rented a 44-foot sailboat in the British Virgin Islands in January.



Hallo auf Deutschland

Jim D'Addario, a member of the infamous Sycamore Lawnmower Brigade, visits Heidelberg, Germany, where he enjoys his Weekly by the river Neckar, which he said ranks right up there with San Ramon Creek.

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Republicans plan runs for state Assembly in 2008

Candidates may change plans if Houston runs again

by Jordan M. Doronila

San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson will bring local needs to the forefront in Sacramento if he gets elected to the California Assembly next year, he said.

"It's about connecting those dots," said Wilson, 60, about state legislatures connecting with their constituents. "I will be in Sacramento to represent everyone."

Wilson, a Republican, plans to run for Assembly District 15, which includes Alamo, Danville, San Ramon, Livermore, Walnut Creek, Brentwood, Discovery Bay and part of Pleasanton. Assemblyman Guy Houston, who currently represents District 15, will be termed out in 2008.

A measure proposed for the Feb. 5, 2008, primary ballot, if approved, extends the term limits of state Assembly and Senate members by another four years.

Wilson's term as mayor expires in November, and he will seek reelection this year, he said. If the proposition passes and Houston decides to stay in the Assembly, Wilson will step aside and retain his mayoral seat.

Houston is considering running for the 11th District U.S. Congressional seat, which is currently held by Democrat Jerry McNerney.

Other candidates running for the

state Assembly on the Republican ticket are Joe Rubay of Alamo, Judy Lloyd, Robert Rao and Scott Kamena. They gathered at a candidates' forum barbeque Saturday, July 23, in Walnut Creek.

Wilson said his main goals in the Assembly would be meeting community members and listening to their needs. Working together with constituents and understanding and resolving issues such as transportation, education and water are also in his plans, he said.

Additionally, pushing for more school equalization funds for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, making a fiscally responsible state budget, and continuing to develop regional relationships and strengthening disaster preparedness are his priorities, he noted.

Wilson has served as mayor for five years and has been a San Ramon resident for 30 years. During his tenure, he has been heavily involved in San Ramon's growth and development.

"It's going to be fun," Wilson said. "I'm the only elected official that has the charge of running a city to go up and knock on doors, and I interacted with everyone in Washington."

"I have a foundation," he said.

Similarly, Rubay, 47, a Monte Vista High School graduate, feels he can make a difference in Sacramento. He currently owns a

real estate appraisal business with his brother Kenneth called Rubay & Rubay on Diablo Road in Danville.

"My hobby is politics and helping out," Rubay said.

He was a participant in former U.S. Rep. Bill Baker's election campaign and former Gov. Pete Wilson's reelection bid. He also has served on several committees for the Contra Costa County Republicans,

the finance election committee for former state Assemblywoman Lynn Leach, and as an alternate delegate at the Republican's presidential election conventions.

If Rubay is elected, one of his goals is to make the state spend within its means.

"As CPA and a small business owner, I think I have a lot of skills in this area," he said. "We need to live within our means and try to cut down unnecessary spending."

In addition, getting more school equalization funds for the School District, streamlining earmarked funds for education, pushing more for a market approach to stop global warming, and creating smaller and personal health clinics for patients are ideas he hopes to explore as an assemblyman.

"I will work with the governor on more ideas that are more market and individually based than government based," said Rubay. ■



San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson

Ridgeline

► Continued from page 5

But SkyVilla—the company developing the ridge—says landslides and poor soil make the ridgeline location the safest, most feasible spot for building on the parcel. In court last Friday, SkyVilla's attorney argued that building in the town's preferred location—below the ridgeline—would necessitate an even more artificial hillside appearance.

"There would be an extraordinary amount of construction (at the lower hillside) ... It would be utterly unlike the way it currently looks," said David Bowie, SkyVilla's attorney.

Taking this into account, it's not really a decision based on the town's ordinance, he said.

Robert Combs, who serves on the Danville Planning Commission, said the lower hillside location is the lesser of two evils.

"It's going to look artificial no matter what. There's no great plan," he said, considering the property's slope and soil make it very difficult to build on.

"It's a tough piece of land," Ewing said.

What frustrated some members of the Planning Commission, Combs said, was that the company never earnestly explored other parts of the property for building.

"They had a beautiful drawing for the ridgeline but the drawings



Jeff Britton, manager of SkyVilla, points toward Mount Diablo from his 10-acre property off Camino Tassajara in east Danville where he hopes to build a residence.

for the other properties were amateurish and designed to look horrible ... It was obvious what they wanted," he said.

Jeff Britton, the manager of SkyVilla, who has been pushing for approval for years, did not return phone calls by press time.

As of last August, the Planning Commission had reviewed the building application four times. They encouraged Britton to explore three sites, on the top, middle and lower hillsides of the property.

During last week's ruling, the judge looked at past staff reports, geotechnical reports and testimony from an expert civil engineer, before making the decision to invalidate the town's resolution.

"The judge found the burden was

on us to have substantial evidence," Ewing said.

The ongoing approval process has been time consuming and expensive and is part of a trend in Bay Area planning, Bowie said. Before the 1980s, building residences generally had to meet objective guidelines—like specific height or length regulations—but now guidelines are also based on aesthetics and other subjective elements.

From here, the council will meet with the city attorney and the application that has been pending will go before the Town Council in September, Ewing said.

"I think it's important to preserve the ridgeline for future generations," Combs said. ■

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prevent costly collisions

Danville police installing devices to keep deer from path of patrol cars

by Jordan M. Doronila

A few years ago, Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel spotted a cute deer as he drove his blue 1986 Toyota at twilight in Lafayette. But suddenly it sprinted at him, hitting his car and then running away.

"It was like a predator coming at me and then it scurried away," Wenzel said. "I was so mad. I could barely get out of my car. The thing caused \$1,500 damages to my car. My corner light was damaged. My front fender was crushed."

To stop potential collisions with deer, he is considering buying deer whistles for the Danville Police Department's fleet of 13 cars. A deer whistle is a sonic generator mounted on cars to help prevent collisions with deer, according to traffic safety experts. The device

produces an ultrasonic sound, relying on the animal's acute sense of hearing.

"It's a chief prevention," Wenzel said. "This area has a ton of deer around. We are protecting the taxpayers' money."

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," he added.

Collisions between deer and police cars do not happen often in Danville, Wenzel said. Although he did recall when he was police chief in Orinda that one of his officers was hit by a deer, which caused \$7,800 in damage. He noted police used whistles in the past but moved away from them. At times, the weather broke the plastic devices, which may have not been replaced.

"It's something we used to do," he said.

However, studies from the University of Wisconsin and Washington State University said that deer whistles have not necessarily decreased collisions between patrol cars and deer.

Wenzel said he has seen these findings.

"We are finding conflicting things," he said.

Nevertheless, the Police Department's chief financial officer will study how the purchase of whistles factors into the budget, Wenzel said. The cost of each whistle is approximately \$10.

"My philosophy is that we are looking into this," he said. "If it saves one vehicle from being damaged, it's worth it." ■

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at jdoronila@danvilleweekly.com or 837-8300.

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District names new principals

John Baldwin, Rancho Romero and Del Amigo will start classes under new leadership

Students, parents and staff members from four schools in the San Ramon Valley will greet new principals when they arrive for the first day of school Aug. 27. The San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board of Education recently announced the selection of the following four new principals:

- Darlene Hale, John Baldwin Elementary School
- Hope Burtner, Rancho Romero Elementary School
- Lucy Daggett, Del Amigo High School
- Michelle Cooper, Iron Horse Middle School

"I am excited to have the opportunity to work with such a skilled and enthusiastic group of school leaders," said Superintendent Rob Kessler.

Darlene Hale, the new principal at John Baldwin Elementary School in Danville, has 26 years of experience as a K-12 administrator and classroom teacher, as well as a college professor. She has been an elementary school principal since 2002 in the Oak Park and Conejo

Valley unified school districts, and holds a masters degree in music education from California State University, Fullerton. Hale replaces Claudia Carbonell Bensley, who is working in the district's program for students learning English.

After several years as an assistant principal and administrative intern in Oakley and La Mesa, Hope Burtner takes over as principal at Rancho Romero Elementary School in Alamo. She replaces David Gold, who recently accepted a position in another district. Burtner received her administrative services credential and a masters degree in educational administration from Chapman University, and is currently working toward a doctorate degree in educational leadership from St. Mary's College in Moraga.

Del Amigo High School in Danville, the district's continuation high school, welcomes Lucy Daggett as its new principal, replacing Carol Adams, who moved to another school district. Daggett has been a guidance counselor in the Pittsburg Unified School District

for 16 years. She holds an administrative credential from California State University, East Bay, and a masters degree in counseling leadership from St. Mary's College.

Michelle Cooper comes to Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon after spending five years as principal at Diablo View Middle School in Clayton. She holds an administrative services credential and a masters degree in educational administration from Chapman University. Cooper replaces Kirby Hoy, who opened Iron Horse in 1996, and recently was appointed as a director of secondary education at the district level.

"They all have extensive experience in other school districts, and I am confident that all four of our schools will benefit greatly from their leadership," said Kessler.

The district received at least 20 completed applications for each position. The hiring process included application screening, reference checks and two sets of interviews that involved parents, teachers and other school and district staff. ■

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Twist ties

► Continued from page 5

"It depends on what is available," said Jay Van Rein, spokesman for the CDFG.

The ties contain pheromone, which is the scent given off by a female moth to male moths when it is ready to mate. Department officials will place hundreds of the ties to confuse male moths and stop them from mating. Eventually, there will be no eggs and the moths will die off, agriculturalists hope.

"It's such a new thing," Van Rein said. "This is one of the most environmentally sensitive materials that we have used in eradication. There really isn't any impact on any other insects because the pheromone is

specific to this moth."

Oakley and Napa started using the ties a few weeks ago, Van Rein said.

The moth has been trapped in Danville in the north area around the Remington loop; west of I-680 and Sycamore Valley Boulevard; south of the Greenbrook Drive overpass; on Fountain Springs Circle; and south of El Cerro Boulevard and Adobe Drive.

Members of the state agriculture department, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Agricultural Commission held an informational meeting from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at Danville Town Meeting Hall.

The Light Brown Apple Moth came from Australia and has spread to New Zealand, New Caledonia,

Hawaii and the British Isles. From Hawaii, it has traveled to California, said District 3 County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho. It was recently discovered in several places in the Bay Area.

California's diverse range of agriculture and natural plant life makes the state highly susceptible to exotic pest invaders such as this moth. The insect feeds on and damages plants and trees of a wide variety.

More than 250 plants are at risk of being attacked, including pear, citrus, peach, avocado, oak, willow, walnut, pine, eucalyptus, roses, jasmine, strawberry, table and wine grapes, berries and other ornamental shrubs, bushes and trees. ■

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Parking lot danger

Auto fatalities may be rare in parking lots, but fender benders are not. The accident in front of Trader Joe's last week involving an 82-year-old man did take place while he was allegedly under the influence of alcohol so, hopefully, it is an exception. But this parking lot is one of the most congested in the area, with several businesses designed for customers who will only stay a short while—the post office and Starbucks to name two. And its pedestrians are not only the people from the cars but during certain times of the day include students from nearby San Ramon Valley High School.

The Lunardi's parking lot involves a sharp right turn to enter from the driveway at Church Street to the lot while drivers are pulling out their vehicles directly into the line of traffic. Luckily there are safer entrances to this lot if cars are approaching south on Railroad Avenue and can turn in a half block before the supermarket. The lot on the south side near Peet's is almost as congested as the lot at Trader Joe's.

The Alamo Safeway shopping center lot is blessedly large but that brings its own problems as vehicles tend to speed down the open passages. Many drivers instead of parking in the first available space often cruise the lanes directly in front of Safeway until they find a close spot. Frustration can mount if that spot has a shopping cart sticking out into it.

Parking lots have always been prime places for accidents, with folks backing in and out of parking spots, and pedestrians all over the place. With the advent of sports utility vehicles, they have become truly dangerous—especially for those not driving SUVs. In a large lot, parking on the edge may be the answer: People can avoid driving the hazardous route, plus get some exercise. In a small lot, there aren't many choices.

Parking lots have always been prime places for accidents, with folks backing in and out of parking spots, and pedestrians all over the place.

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the editor

at Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

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.

Submit Letters to the Editor of up to 250 words to editor@DanvilleWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Danville Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Incorporate Alamo or not?

Dear Editor:

Would Alamo incorporation be advantageous or would disadvantages outweigh the benefits? Alamo is presently administered by the county and although this is not perfect, residents know what to expect. County services are in some aspects superior to those the Town of Alamo could afford, specifically road improvements, maintenance, parks and permit processing. Proponents of incorporation are proceeding to analyze numerous components, centering on preliminary estimates for revenues and expenditures as formulated by the firm of Economic and Planning Systems Inc.

Concerns arise with the planned space of 3,000-4,000 square feet for a town hall and speculation that a town manager with a small staff could administer town affairs. A realistic administration would consist of a receptionist with lobby space; town manager with assistant; town attorney with an assistant; accounting personnel and financial officer; town engineer; building department; planning department; public works manager; building and public works inspectors; purchasing agent; parks and recreation; town council and planning commission; records storage; and conference room. Also needed would be maintenance facilities with offices and storage yard, and facilities for meetings. At this time, Danville's largest expense is its Police Department with an annual cost of \$6 million per year. In Alamo, we have the Sheriff's Department performing an excellent job.

Concerned residents of Alamo are forming an ad hoc committee to study and analyze the effects of incorporation. Its intent is to participate in a positive manner, and it remains to be seen if incorporation will or will not be approved by residents. Alamo is a small community and revenue from large businesses or large corporations are non-existent. If incorporation should succeed, residents will be assessed for more revenue to live up to standards of incorporation. And let's not forget that with incorporation comes more rules and regulations, ordinances and resolutions.

Tony Carnemolla and John Goerl, Alamo

Meetings of interest

Dear Editor:

On Tuesday, July 24, events occurred at two local meetings of general interest to Danville residents. During the day, the last item of the

Open Session of the County Board of Supervisors Meeting authorized a General Plan Amendment Study (GPA) for a 770-acre development outside the urban limit line, along a hazardous bending section of Camino Tassajara on either side of Finley Road, known for drivers proceeding at speeds greatly above the legal limits. The 4-1 vote (Supervisor Susan Bonilla demurred) was meaningless, as state law requires a GPA study be conducted if the developer requests one.

In a related item prior to the GPA, the supervisors, at the urging of Alamo and Diablo residents, agreed not to disband, for now, the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission. I believe regional planning commissions, which are more knowledgeable of local wishes, should be established all over our county, and the County Planning Commission abolished. Our District 3 Supervisor, Mary Piepho, a resident of Discovery Bay, although somewhat fiscally conservative, has little knowledge of San Ramon Valley issues and voted for the GPA and has tried to abolish the San Ramon Valley Planning Commission.

Tuesday evening, the Danville Planning Commission voted unanimously to refer the Beth Chaim Congregation's plans to place three temporary modular buildings to the Design Review Board at some indefinite future date. The commission didn't understand the modular buildings were needed to teach Hebrew to grades 4-7 in evenings before Jewish high holy days in September.

Ralph Hoffmann, Danville

ONLINE READER POLL

Give your opinion at
www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Were you surprised to read that there are homeless people in Danville and Alamo?

Results from last week:

Does the community suffer (traffic/pollution) when the district doesn't provide busing to school?

No: 16.67%
Undecided: 12.5%
Yes: 70.83%
Total votes: 24

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

Transitions

OBITUARIES • BIRTHS • WEDDINGS

Caralee Anne Marquardt

Danville resident Caralee Anne Marquardt, 49, passed away peacefully on July 1 surrounded by family and friends.

She was born June 29, 1948, and raised in Piedmont. She attended Corpus Christi, Holy Names High School, and later graduated from both the University of Hawaii with a bachelor's degree in education, and Holy Names College with a master's in education. She taught at Los Cerros Middle School in Danville and will be remembered for her thoughtful generosity, warm hospitality, and contagious sense of humor.

She is survived by daughters Mindy and Monica; sisters Kathleen (Joe) Schoennaer, Becky (Brad) Klemm, Mollie Beam, and Tina (Louis) Carpio; brothers Dan, Shawn, and Darren (Lisa) Bonnington; six grandchildren; and 24 nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville on July 7 with burial immediately following at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette. Mourners were invited to dress in islandwear.

Lawrence 'Al' Hedstrom

Lawrence "Al" Hedstrom, who formerly resided in Danville, passed away the evening of July 4 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Dec. 22, 1931, in Donna, Texas. He graduated from Kansas University with a degree in economics and became a regional sales manager for Standard & Poors. He opened the Northwestern United States sales territory for the company in Seattle, then moved to the San Francisco office where he worked until he retired in 1993. He also was a world-class jazz clarinetist, making his clarinet debut at age 6 when he played a solo version of "America" for the governor of Kansas. He went on to play first chair clarinet in the high school band while still a sixth-grader. He continued playing at a professional

level well into his retirement years. He was also a standout tennis player representing Kansas University in many competitions. He continued to enjoy the game playing at a high level while a member of Round Hill Country Club. He and his wife Patty moved from Danville to Lincoln, Calif., in 2002.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 43 years, Patty Hedstrom; two daughters, Laurie (Steve) Kinsella of Brentwood, and Mrs. Alice (Steve) Sawdey of Livermore; and three granddaughters. Services were held for him July 12 at Oak Park Hills Chapel in Walnut Creek.

Jean Lewis Miller Jr.

Jean Lewis Miller Jr., a resident of Danville, died July 1 in Danville at the age of 76.

He was born in New Jersey on July 7, 1930, and raised in Southern California. He graduated from Monrovia High School, attended Pasadena City College, and graduated from UCLA with bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He was a member of the UCLA Varsity Crew for three years and was honored as outstanding oarsman and crew captain. He served in the Naval Reserves eight years, concurrent with college and subsequently while working as a teacher and wrestling coach. He worked for a short period for Avnet and Hughes Aircraft as a data programmer, then found his passion in developing and owning restaurants, leading a successful entrepreneurial career spanning four decades.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Anita; by his four sons, Mark (Stephanie), Doug (Melanie), Tim (Diane) and Mike (Gina); and nine grandchildren. A memorial service was held July 14 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. The family suggests donations in J. Lewis Miller's name to UCSD Wiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, 8950 Villa La Jolla Drive, Suite C-129, La Jolla, CA 92607-0948, or donate online at health.ucsd.edu.

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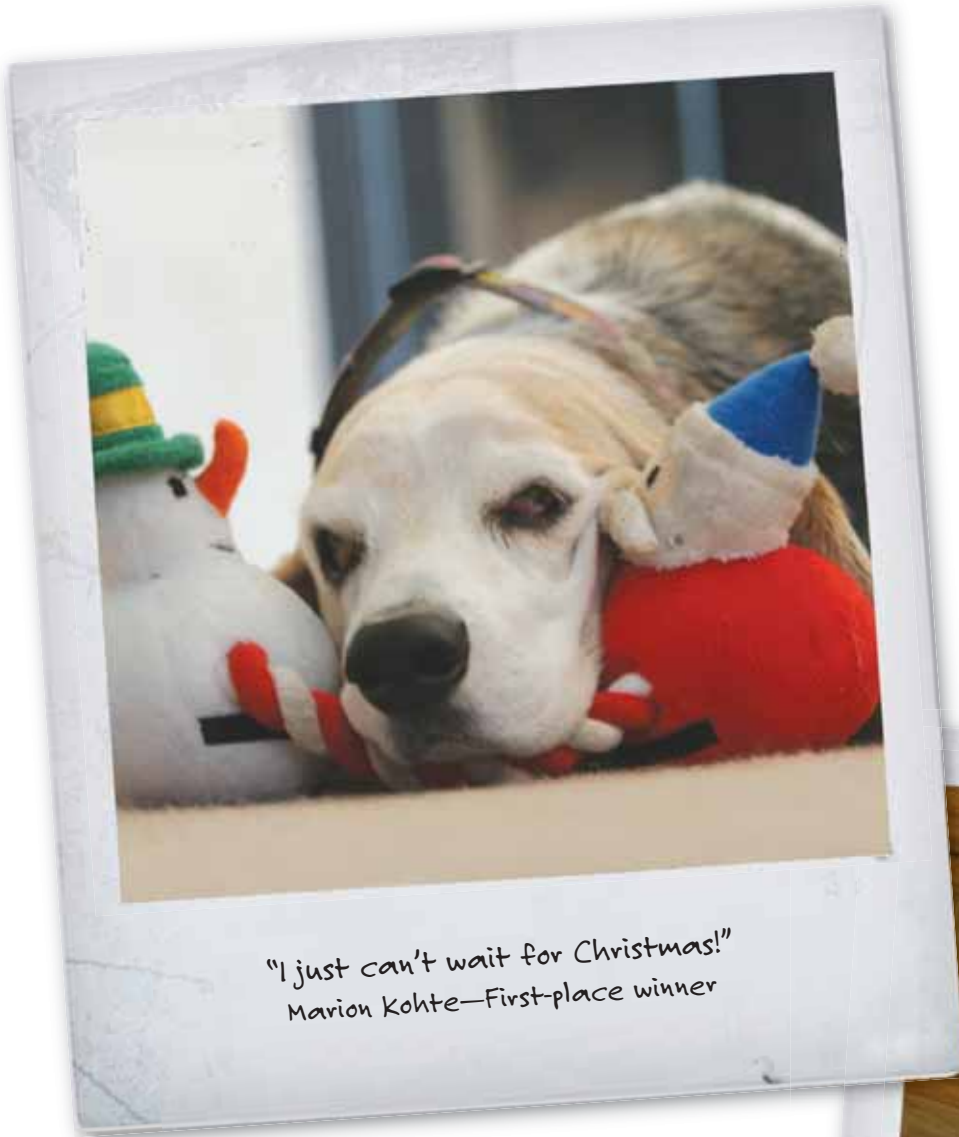
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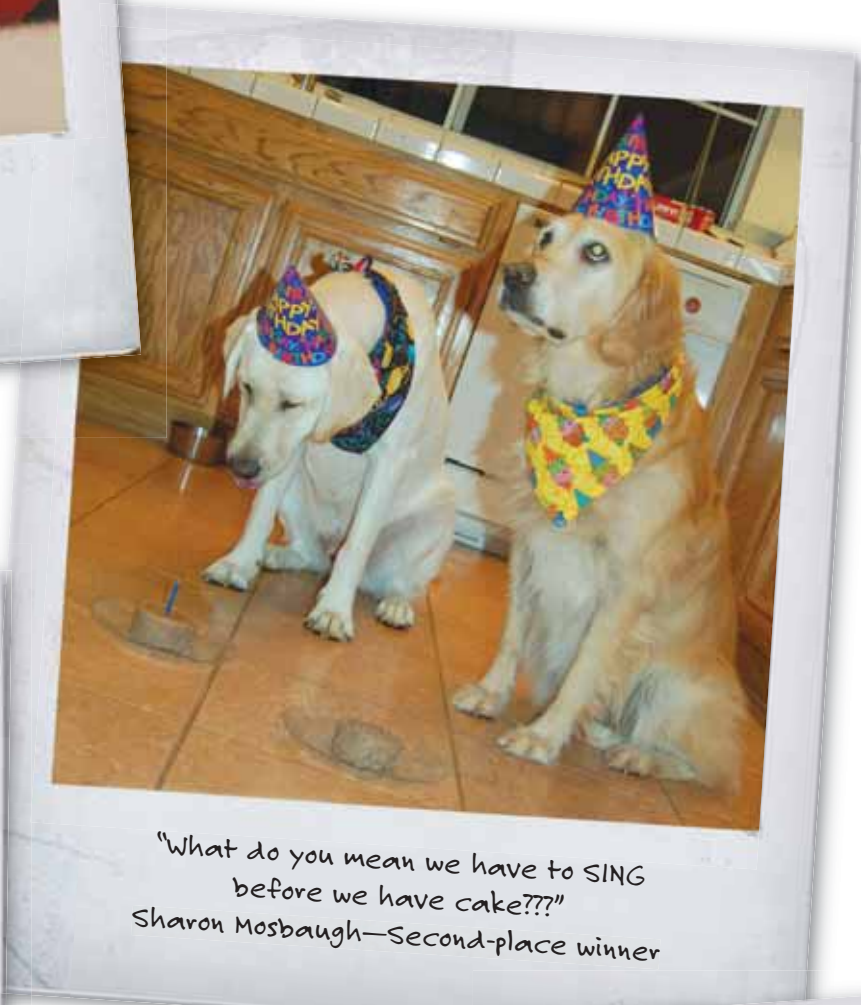
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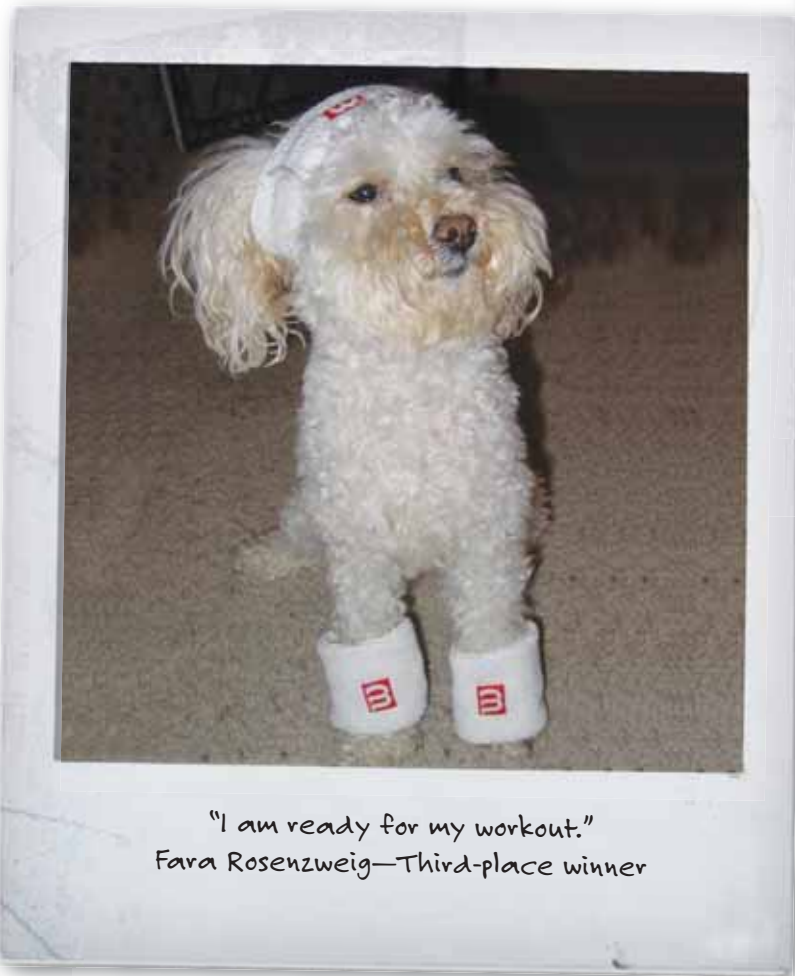
"I just can't wait for Christmas!"
Marion Kohte—First-place winner



"What do you mean we have to SING
before we have cake???"
Sharon Mosbaugh—Second-place winner



"I think I



"I am ready for my workout."
Fara Rosenzweig—Third-place winner



"...and that, son, is where puppies
come from."
—Tom Cushing

DANVILLE WEEKLY READERS PUT THEIR PETS ON PARADE

It's the dog days of summer, but the Danville Weekly's Pets on Parade contest entries featured dogs, cats, rats and a host of critters.

Readers were asked to submit their pet photos along with a clever caption. Entries were judged by the Danville Weekly staff based on quality of photo, and creativity and appropriateness of the accompanying caption.

Marion Kohte of Danville was awarded first place for a photo of her dog Clouseau with his stuffed snowman and Santa, pining away for Christmas. Marion will receive a gift basket provided by Pyrenees Pets, 3440 Camino Tassajara, in Blackhawk.

Sharon Mosbaugh of Danville received second-place honors for a photo of Sally, a golden retriever, and Sug, a Labrador, getting ready to celebrate a birthday. Sally and Sug are service dogs at Montair Elementary in Danville. Sharon will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

Third-place went to Fara Rosenzweig for her photo of Lady donning workout gear. Fara will receive a \$10 gift certificate.

Honorable mentions went to the following entrants: Tom Cushing; Carol Emery; Leslie Graham; Marilee Headen; R.J. Ojibway and Jim Coletti; Ruth Ann Pearson; Waid McNabb; Julie Ngim; Deborah Raleigh; Jennifer Romano; and Geri DeVibiss.

S



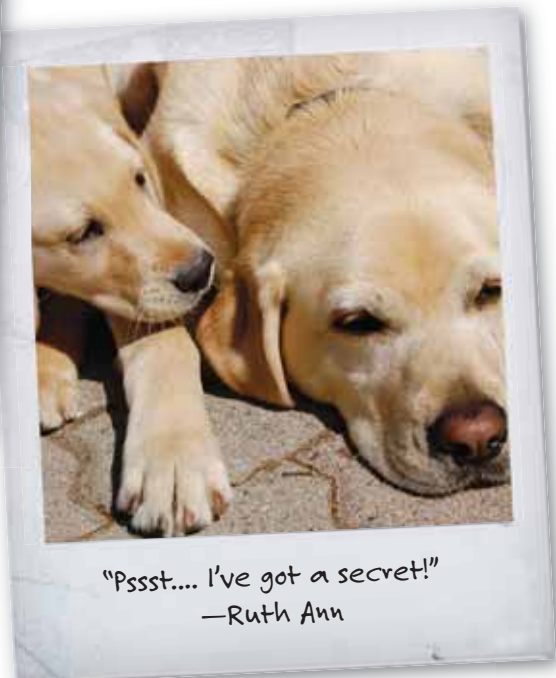
"I prefer my litterbox."
—Carol Emery



"Let's take a rest."
—Marilee Headen



"I don't hate me because I'm beautiful."
—Deborah Raleigh



"Pssst.... I've got a secret!"
—Ruth Ann

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War drama filmed aboard USS Hornet chronicles life of local Vietnam aviator



Controversial Film Director Werner Herzog and his crew shoot a scene for their movie "Rescue Dawn," which is about U.S. pilot Dieter Dengler surviving his escape from enemy troops in Laos during the Vietnam War.

by Jordan M. Doronila

Dieter Dengler survived by eating rats, rice, snakes and bamboo shoots after escaping enemy troops in Laos during the Vietnam War in 1966.

The passionate U.S. pilot didn't realize the immense life struggle he would face when he embarked for a mission in Vietnam from Alameda Naval Air Station, which is now the site of the USS Hornet.

Dengler survived and lived to tell the tale. Famous and controversial German director Werner Herzog worked with the trustees of the USS Hornet to film "Rescue Dawn," a docudrama about Dengler's story, on the battleship. Trustee Bob Fish, a Danville resident, said the film, which opened last Friday, stays true to Dengler's experience.

"It's very close to the actual real thing," said Fish, who served as a U.S. Marine Corporal.

The film chronicles the true experiences of U.S. Naval Aviator Lt. Dieter Dengler flying from the USS Ranger aircraft, which left Alameda in December of 1965. The ship was heading into a secret combat mission off the coast of Vietnam, near Laos. He was shot down on his inaugural mission and held captive in desperate jungle conditions, but eventually escaped after several months, overcoming great adversity.

After the service, he moved to the Bay Area, worked in the airline industry, and retired in Marin County where he died in 2001 from Lou Gehrig's Disease, ALS.

Fish noted Dengler's story expresses the power of the human spirit.

"His is an exceptional story of the human will to live. Several people were killed and captured," Fish said. "Many people would've given up."

Although, he added that translating the actual intensity of war into film is difficult.

"You're scared," he said. "It's all about 'now.' It could be their last moment on earth. I don't buy war movies. (The films) bring too much intensity."

Directors shooting film and television are nothing new to the USS Hornet. Fish said the director of the Hollywood action film "Triple X"—starring muscular actor Vin Diesel—was shot on the ship, with 75-100 crew members working on it.

"It was the whole freaking ship," Fish said. "It was controlled chaos."

He also said the producers of hit TV show "Fear Factor" did stunts on the ship.

Fish found his experience with director Herzog to be more intimate. The director expanded the

scope of his shooting as Fish gave him a tour of the Hornet, giving him insight of how to "flesh in" the life of a naval aviator.

"He's very passionate," Fish said. "He's passionate about exploring characters. He's intense. He's a perfectionist."

"He's very hands-on with a small crew," Fish added, noting that he knew what an entire scene was supposed to look and feel like. "He's very involved. He knew what he wanted to capture."

Also, Fish said working with Christian Bale, who plays Dengler, was enjoyable.

"Christian Bale was delightful," he said. "During the moments when they were shooting scenes, he was very professional and focused on his work. But in between he was happy to chat with our museum volunteers and other folks who happened by."

"He's just a regular guy," he added.

Fish said Hollywood film and television producers who want to incorporate Naval elements in their work often contact the U.S. Navy Department's movie industry arm. Department officials then make recommendations on what facility works best for Hollywood and for the Navy.

The level of access to military facilities for Hollywood has been

reduced because of Sept. 11, said Fish. Still, Herzog and the Hornet trustees found common ground in 2005.

Fish said Dengler flying from the same homeport as the Hornet and then choosing to live in the Bay Area after his mission were

army during World War II. His grandfather was declared a political enemy of the Nazis for being the only citizen in his town who did not vote for Hitler.

Dengler wanted to become a pilot after seeing an Allied aircraft flying over his town from his bed-



Werner Herzog, USS Hornet Museum Chief Operating Officer Ralph Johnson, and actor Christian Bale.

two important signs that Herzog's project was worth their time.

Additionally, Fish said he enjoyed the German filmmaker's other works, "Fitzcarraldo," "Grizzly Man," and "Little Dieter Needs to Fly." Local San Francisco actors, such as Brad Carr, were hired to play Dengler's flight team.

Dengler grew up in Germany with his mother and brothers but did not know his father, who was killed while serving in the German

room window in World War II. At 18, he went to New York and then signed up for the U.S. Air Force.

In Alameda, he was part of the VA-145 squadron. They were nicknamed the "Swordsmen."

Fish said he is looking forward to seeing the Dengler in "Rescue Dawn."

"I want to see the Hornet on the big screen," he said. ■

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at jdoronila@danvilleweekly.com



Summer days are salad days

by Jacqui Love Marshall

In the hot-weather season, we're all looking for ways to keep the kitchen cool—grilling outdoors, picnics in the park, eating out, etc. And there's a proven method to our practices. According to Wikipedia: "During the Middle Ages, after eating mostly salted meats and pickled vegetables all winter, people would be 'salt-sick' and looked forward to spring greens. Popular history asserts that peasants ate more salads than lords, and were the healthier for it." We may not be salt-sick these days, but summer seems like the perfect time to "lighten up" our cooking and eating patterns, while eating healthy foods.

A refreshing salad is the ideal dish for a hot summer day and the good news is there are no fixed rules for salad-making—whatever you like in combination is OK—and there is plenty of room for your culinary imagination to play. In the U.S., salads are mainly eaten as palate-teasers before the entrée. In European countries, salads are often served after the entrée as palate-refreshers. In other countries, they are eaten alongside the entrée. And, increasingly, salads are eaten as the main meal. When you mix a great combination of leafy greens, other ingredients and dressings, you can create a hearty, healthy meal that satisfies everyone's hunger.

Salad Greens

When I was growing up, iceberg lettuce was practically the only green used in salads. Today, you can find fresh greens of every kind at your local grocer or farmers market. Mild greens include Spinach, Boston, Iceberg, Butter, Leaf, Bibb, Cabbage and Romaine. Spicier greens include Arugula, Radicchio, Broccoli Rabe, Dandelion Greens, Belgian and Curly Endive, Watercress, Mache and Escarole. I suggest building your salad on a base of mild greens, then adding in other greens and herbs for variety and flavor. My favorite combinations are Arugula, Romaine and Cilantro; Boston, Mache and Radicchio.

Select the freshest, crispest greens available. Place greens in a plastic bag in the refrigerator crisper until ready to use. Just before preparing a salad, wash the greens in water until clean; use a salad spinner to dry the leaves, avoiding overcrowding the spinner so leaves don't bruise. Serving your salad in a chilled bowl or plate will help keep greens cool and crisp.

Salad Additions & Toppings

Here, the possibilities are endless, and when making a hearty salad as the main dish, the possibilities only increase. Experiment with your family to determine their favorite combinations. Here's a list to get you started:

Protein: Chicken, Beef, Lamb, Fish, Seafood, Soy, Egg, Bacon

Veggies: Avocado, Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Carrot, Cauliflower, Corn, Cucumber, Fennel, Jicama, Mushrooms, Onions, Peppers, Potatoes, Radishes, Scallions, Sprouts, Squash, Tomatoes

Fruits: Apples, Cranberries, Grapefruit, Grapes, Mango, Peaches, Pears,

Cheeses: Blue, Goat, Gorgonzola, Gruyere, Parmigiano-Reggiano

Herbs: Basil, Chives, Cilantro, Dill, Parsley

Other: Almonds, Capers, Croutons, Olives, Raisins, Walnuts, Seeds (sesame, sunflower, etc.)

Hint: Place soft cheeses (e.g. goat, feta) in the center of salads; harder cheeses on the edge of the salad. Add porous ingredients (e.g. nuts,

croutons) just before serving to avoid them absorbing too much water from other ingredients.

Salad Dressings

Add salad dressings just before serving, unless required for a specific recipe. Otherwise, the dressing could cause your lettuce to wilt or become soggy.

Serve your salad in a bowl about twice the size of your salad. Pour a small amount of dressing and toss thoroughly to coat each piece. Starting with a modest amount prevents the salad from getting drowned in dressing; individuals can add more as desired. For best seasoning, always grind fresh salt and pepper over the salad just prior to eating.

Here's a classic, perpetually-tasty vinaigrette, which can be varied in many ways by changing the vinegar or adding herbs, lemon juice, ginger, mustard, etc.: 2 cloves garlic, 1/2 cup vinegar (white, balsamic, cider, champagne, sherry, port, etc.), 1-1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard, 1-1/2 cups extra-virgin olive oil, 1/4 cup chopped red onion or shallots, 3/4 tsp. salt, 3/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper. Mince garlic in food processor. Add all other ingredients except the olive oil and process. With processor going, slowly add oil until emulsified, season to taste with salt and pepper. Yields 2-1/2 cups which lasts, refrigerated, up to one week.

So, if you haven't been taking advantage of salad meals for summer days, there's still time to enjoy them.

Jacqui lives in Danville with her pug, Nina Simone, and volumes of cookbooks and recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at jllovermarshall@yahoo.com.

Salad tips

- Always keep several kinds of fresh greens on hand but use them while crisp!
- If some ingredients require cooking, cook them earlier in the day and refrigerate until needed.
- Keep supplies of your family's favorite salad ingredients on hand. As appropriate, divide certain ingredients into salad portions and freeze in baggies.
- Try foods that your children don't generally like in a salad to cultivate a taste for them. Those pieces can always be picked out.
- If family members prefer different dressings, keep small containers of everyone's favorites with their names on them. Empty bottled water containers are perfect.

Rescue Dawn

★★★

Rated: PG-13 for some sequences of intense war violence and torture. 2 hours, 5 minutes.

Some stories are good enough to tell twice. The extraordinary experiences of German-born Dieter Dengler, a U.S. Navy pilot shot down over Laos and taken prisoner during the Vietnam War, bear repeating. But truth is stranger and sometimes better than fiction. Werner Herzog's fascinating 1997 documentary, "Little Dieter Needs to Fly," surpasses this dramatized version of the harrowing survival tale.

From "The Deer Hunter" to "Rambo: First Blood Part II," the POW imprisonment-torture-and-escape genre delivers white-knuckle suspense through tightly plotted scripts and hyperspeed, push-your-buttons editing. Neither is at the core of Herzog's art-film aesthetic. His fictional films such as "Aguirre: The Wrath of God" (1972) and "Fitzcarraldo" (1982), which comprise about half of his 50-plus oeuvre, tend to be character-driven. The camera follows his standard roster of outcasts, capturing them in long takes and allowing their speech and movement to set the languid rhythms that mark his work. At his best, Herzog yokes their inner struggles to the isolated landscapes that they inhabit, creating a tone both mystical and tinged with madness. At worst, actors wander about like zombies in "Heart of Glass" (1976) or contribute to the dullness of "Where the Green Ants Dream" (1984).



Fortunately, the writer-director convinced Christian Bale to cast off his Batman cape and take the demanding lead role. Bale bears a passing resemblance to the real-life Dengler, who lived in Marin County before dying of ALS in February 2001. He plays the role pragmatically, a no-frills guy with an iron will and indomitable spirit that can't be broken by starvation, a beehive tied to his head or water torture administered by Laotian guards. Although not as physically emaciated and hollow-eyed as in "The Machinist," the actor delivers another intense turn as a person pushed to his physical and psychological limits.

But Steve Zahn's performance as a fellow American captive is most haunting. Although weary after years of incarceration and wary of Dieter's plan to escape down the Mekong River to safety in Thailand, he follows him faithfully into the monsoon-drenched, snake-infested jungle.

"Rescue Dawn" feels like a POW procedural that only picks up steam during the prison escape attempt and later close encounters with the enemy. Surprisingly, Herzog doesn't try to replicate the dream-like visions that Dieter relates in the documentary, such as the undulating jellyfish that the survivor describes near-death as resembling. Without a semblance of Herzog's signature mysticism or an ounce of insightfulness, the film becomes an unremarkable retelling of a remarkable true-life story.

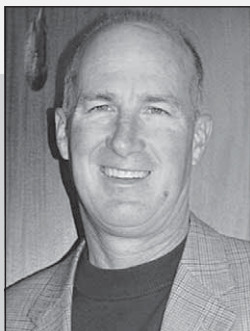
—Susan Tavernetti

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The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

Slow down, enjoy your food —and your life

by Katharine O'Hara

After a laborious day of shopping at Broadway Plaza a few weeks ago, I entered a popular Chinese fast food restaurant in a desperate search for a bite to eat to satisfy my hunger pangs. However, what I found was quite the opposite: The facility was of less than satisfactory condition, the chow mein was burnt, the pork ribs were more fat than actual meat, and the orange chicken contained a meager amount of chicken (if any at all—surely not enough to give the dish its name) inside the sugar coated dough balls that accounted for a majority of the dish.

On the ride home, out \$15 and still hungry, I began ruminating about the deplorable fast food situation in our country. I don't think anyone expects a gourmet meal when they walk into a fast food restaurant, but it seems these fast food moguls have pushed poor quality too far. Still, there is a reason fast food restaurants feel they can get away with selling overpriced "food" of the lowest possible quality: the consumer.

The fast food consumer settles for poor quality food and doesn't bother to question the origin of its ingredients, buying and shoving more grease-saturated, chemically infused product into his mouth.

Luckily, organizations like Slow Food International have come out of the woodwork seeking to "help people rediscover the joys of eating and understand the importance of caring where their food comes from, who makes it and how it's made." The 80,000-member organization established by Carlo Petrini in Bra, Italy, in 1989 holds events to encourage families to grow their own foods, introduce local products and provide hands-on learning about food for multiple communities worldwide.

"A nod to the contrast with fast food values, Slow Food is a reference to living an unhurried life, beginning at the table," the Slow Food Web site boasts.

"Slow Food believes the enjoyment of excellent food and drink should be combined with efforts to save the countless traditional grains, vegetables, fruits, animal breeds and food products that are disappearing due to the prevalence of convenience food...We believe that everyone has a fundamental right to pleasure and consequently the responsibility to protect the heritage of food, tradition and culture that make this pleasure possible."

During my own trip to Italy at the start of summer, I was pleasantly surprised by the relaxed, low-key, and cheery atmosphere of the towns I visited. Food is the core of the Italian lifestyle, and meals are generally healthy and provide a time for family, togetherness, laughing and relaxation. The concept of "fast food" is virtually non-existent

aside from the occasional (largely American populated) McDonald's.

My experience staying with an aunt in the Italian countryside was especially satisfying. All our meals were home-cooked and every ingredient was purchased from a local market, or picked from a neighbor's garden. I came away with the general feeling that the Italian people have a genuine care and interest in the food they put in their bodies; they don't just eat for the sake of eating, but rather to engage in a savory experience with their loved ones.

As the Slow Food Manifesto justly states, "We are enslaved by speed and have all succumbed to the same insidious virus: Fast Life, which disrupts our habits, pervades the privacy of our homes and forces us to eat Fast Foods." The manifesto encourages, "Let us rediscover the flavors and savors of regional cooking and banish the degrading effects of Fast Food."

In America, everything about our lives is rushed. Our schedules are stuffed full and we leave no time to actually enjoy the activities we partake in—especially meals. The fast food phenomenon, which has taken hold in this country in preceding decades, strips many of the opportunity to enjoy quality food made from real, natural ingredients, and only further encourages our out-of-control lifestyles. Many families seldom eat dinner together, kids cramming unhealthy fast food or leftovers from a Tupperware container down their throats as they shuffle from piano lessons to soccer practice. However, I think we're missing something—something the Italians figured out a long time ago—that food is an experience to savor and enjoy.

I can't help but attribute the cheery, generally better mood of the Italian people to their eating better quality food made from natural and more nutrient rich ingredients.

As Jack Challem, author of The Food-Mood Solution states, "The quality and quantity of the nutrients available in our food go a long way toward determining our emotional resiliency and stability...As we've become more dependent on convenience and fast foods, which are loaded with sugars, refined carbohydrates and empty calories, we've neglected the well-being of not just our bodies, but also of some very complex mood machinery that resides within it."

Challem continues to describe how the food we eat affects different mechanisms in the human body, "all of which determine how well we respond to the stresses and demands of daily living," something essential to surviving in a stressful and fast-paced society.

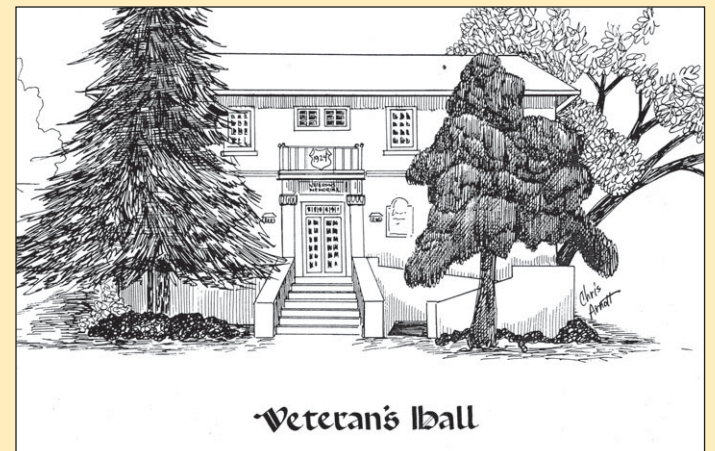
It is important we make an effort now to reverse the rushed and unhealthy habits of the current generation by educating the public about the benefits of a slower, more relaxed (and healthy) lifestyle, starting with something as simple (or complex) as the food we eat. Events like the Danville Farmers Market are crucial in encouraging people to seek out nutritious, organic, local options for their food items in order to achieve this.

For more information about Slow Food and local events, you can visit www.slowfoodusa.org.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a senior at San Ramon Valley High School.

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



—Veteran's Hall

A restored Veterans Hall—1978

This drawing of the Veterans Hall by Chris Arnott appeared in a local calendar produced by the Valley Pioneer for 1980. Notice the new handicapped ramp, which was added when the Hall was restored in 1978.

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM

Art

Alamo Danville Artists' Society

This club will display their paintings at local businesses and 10% of all sales will be donated to the local schools. The Danville and Alamo businesses include: Danville Town Offices, 510 La Gonda Way; Marcello's, 515 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville; Bagel St. Cafe, 316 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville and in Alamo Plaza. Call 939-1278.

Carny Art: The Circus and Carnival Bedford Gallery will celebrate the mystery of the circus and carnivals in an exhibit of artworks from contemporary artists. A sideshow-themed reception with live music, performances and the Lil' Ju Ju Pinball Museum from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Admission is \$3. Call 295-1416.

Clubs

Alamo Cribbage Club The club plays cribbage for fun. It meets at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 284-7044 or e-mail almoy1@prodigy.net.

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

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.alamodanvil-lenewcomers.com.

Chinese American Senior Center

This is club for seniors and meets from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., every Monday and Tuesday, at the Alamo Women's Clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd. Activities include cultural diversity classes and activities. Anyone who would benefit from the classes and activities is invited. Call 831-9988.

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

Danville Job's Daughters Job's Daughters is an international organization for girls between the ages of 10-20 with Masonic heritage who like to have fun and make friends. The group meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd. Call 829-8505.

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 as their guest to learn the contribution you can make as a Lion. For information, call 984-1541.

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 Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Call Eric Samuels at 946-1400.

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-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.

Delta Nu Psi Delta Nu Psi provides packages to troops in the War Zone. The group collects donations before the third Friday of every month in front of Longs Drug Store in Alamo and before the third Saturday at Lunardi's in Danville. It puts together the packages on the third Wednesday of every month. For information, e-mail Alicia at deltanupsi@comcast.net.

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

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

Diablo View Toastmasters AM Afraid of public speaking? Loose your fears and develop communication and leadership skills by meeting with the Diablo View Toastmaster from 7:55-8 a.m., every Tuesday. Call 838-9163 or e-mail marie@mmwi.com.

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. Call 984-9658.

Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley This club meets at noon,

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Mic Gillette Jon Smith Project to rock in Danville

The Town of Danville will feature Mic Gillette Jon Smith Project playing rhythm and blues from 6-8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 4, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road, as part of its Music in the Park Concert Series. Zydeco Flames will perform its Cajun sounds on Saturday, Aug. 18. These concerts are free. Call 314-3400.

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.

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.

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 Varallo 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 Marie Calendar's, 1101 S. Calif. Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's, 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. 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 Luncheon

San Ramon Valley Newcomers invites you to their monthly luncheon with guest speaker, Dr. Elaine Ashby, MD, at 11:45 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 13, at Forbes Mill, Danville. For reservations, call 735-3508 or visit www.srvnc.com at Forbes Mill in Danville.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club

This club provides support, information and friendship for mothers of any number of multiples meeting every second Tuesday of every month, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. R/T discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.; roundtable discussion is open to all current and prospective members from 7:30-9 p.m., hosted by a TWIN mom member. Dads and babies welcome! Call 948-0004 or visit www.tvmotc.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75

The organization meets every third 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

'Hollywood' The long-running star of The Phantom of the Opera, Franc D'Ambrosio, will perform Hollywood from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 12, at the Leshler Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$22-27. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

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22nd Annual Music in the Park
Town of Danville will host the 22nd annual Music in the Park Concert Series from 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Mic Gillette/Jon Smith Project (Blues/R&B) Aug. 4 and Zydeco Flames (Cajun) Aug. 18. These concerts are free. Call 314-3400.

Alamo Parks and Recreation Summer Concert Series
Alamo Parks and Recreation will host its Summer Concert Series featuring Pan Extasy (Reggae and Caribbean Sounds) from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, August 10, at Livorna Park, 801 Livorna Rd., Alamo.

Concert in the Hills Series
Come and enjoy a free concert during the Concert in the Hills Series with the opening act at 7 p.m. and the main act at 8 p.m. Saturdays, until September, at CSUEB, Concord Campus. Joni Morris on Aug. 11 and Native Elements on Sept. 8. Bring a picnic and short lawnchairs or blankets. No dogs or glass. Call 602-8654 or visit www.concertinthehills.com.

Events

24th Annual National Night Out
National Association of the Town Watch will host the 24th National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 7, at different neighborhoods throughout the area. Officers will visit registered block parties to answer questions and hand out goodies to kids. Call 314-3355.

Alamo Block Party
Alamo Rotary Club will host the 25th annual Alamo Block Party and Alamo Music and Wine Festival from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at Alamo Plaza in Alamo. Activities will include fun for the kids in the afternoon, youth bands all day and fun for all in the evening. Proceeds will benefit Alamo schools music programs. Visit www.alamore.org.

Create New Works at Danville Estate of Playwright O'Neill
Bay Area artists are invited to create new works 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Oct. 3-6, at the Tao House. Cost is \$5 per day. Reservations are required, call Bill Carmel at 820-1818 or visit www.eugeneoneill.org.

Danville Livery's Summer Nights
Danville Livery will host Summer Nights from 6-9 p.m., Thursdays, Aug. 9 and 16, at the Livery and Mercantile, Danville. Enjoy reptile shows, line-dancing, hula hooping, music entertainment and more. Visit www.danvillelivery.com.

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

Five Poets Laureate to Read
Pleasanton's new Poet Laureate, Martha Meltzer, will host a reading with guest poets from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5, at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Cost is \$5 or free for students. Call 931-5350.

Guided Walking Tour of Walnut Creek Art
The Bedford Gallery will host 45-minute walking tours of Walnut Creek's prime public art works on the second Saturday from June-October, meeting at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$5, including a free pass to the Bedford Gallery. Call 295-1417.

Hot Summer Nights
Danville Merchants' Association will host the Hot Summer Nights car show from 4-9 p.m., Thursdays, Aug. 9 and 23, on Hartz Ave., Danville. Staging is at San Ramon Valley High School, 140 Love Lane, Danville. There is a \$10 entry fee. Call Tony at 820-5750 or David at 437-3649.

Monte Vista Cross Country Alumni Run
The second annual Monte Vista Cross Country Alumni run against the current Cross Country team is from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 11, at Oak Hill Park, on Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Prizes and refreshments will be provided. Call 831-9551 or visit www.eteamz.com/mvxc.

Second Annual Summer Benefit
Pyrenees Pets will host their second annual Summer Benefit from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 4, at Pyrenees Pets, 3440 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Help raise money for abandoned and homeless animals and enjoy lots of food, music and activities. Proceeds benefit ARF. Call 648-7387.

Exhibits

America's Love of the Automobile
Worthington Gallery West will host "Pin-ups and Pinstripes" exhibit with the 25th anniversary of the Goodguys Rod and Custom Association's hot rod and custom car event from 6-8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 24, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthington-gallerywest.com.

Fundraisers

Garage, Garden and Boutique Sale
Helping sick or injured animals during the "Just Like New" garage, garden and boutique sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at 4510 Entrada Court, Pleasanton. Proceeds will benefit Valley Humane Society and the Just Like New Fund. Call 846-2512.

The Mother Bear Project
Knit This, Purl That, seeks knitters and crocheters who want to participate by purchasing an inexpensive pattern from The Mother Bear Project to provide teddy bears to needy children. The first meeting is from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 8. Call 249-9276 or visit www.yourknittingplace.com.

Health

Chi Kung Class
The Wellness Community will host a 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.

Free Summer Immunization Clinics
Axis Community Health will offer free immunization clinics for children from 9-11:30 a.m., Saturdays, Aug. 4 and Sept. 8, at Axis Pleasanton Clinic, 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Clinics open to Tri-Valley families who are low income, uninsured or on Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records, and income and insurance information. Call 462-1755.

Open Gym
Town of Danville is offering Adult Open Gym from 7:30-9:15 a.m., Saturdays, and High School Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Sundays, both at Los Cerros Middle School Community Gym, 968 Blemer Road, Danville. Discounted pass cards are \$4 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3386.

Kids and Teens

Construction: Tractors and Trailers
Blackhawk Museum hosts "Construction: Tractors and Trailers" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 19, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This funshop is for children ages three and 10 years old. This event is free with museum admission. Call 736-2277.

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>

Third Annual Family Night
Discover Danville Association will host the third annual Family Night "A Night for Wizards" from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 16, in historic downtown Danville. The night will include games, music, crafts, entertainment and a scavenger hunt. Visit www.discoverdanvilleca.com.

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

Nutrition and Cancer Treatment
Learn to maximize your nutrition during and after cancer treatment like learning what to eat, ways to hydrate and get your specific nutritional issues addressed on Saturday, Aug. 3, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients and their friends and family. Call 933-0107.

Jumpstart Your Weight Loss

Jumpstart Medicine offers a medically supervised weight loss program individually designed for men and women looking to lose weight safely and quickly. On average, our patients lose 2 to 5 pounds per week over the course of 12 weeks. Most patients feel great, have no cravings, and stay highly motivated due to quick results which they can see and feel.

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Patient and Healthcare Advocacy Learn how to get the most from your healthcare team, including coaching for office visits, helping your care providers to work together, and resources for dealing with billing and insurance issues from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 11, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients and their friends and family. Call 933-0107.

Freedom Point Join us and discover how to reach your Freedom Point which will teach you how you can pay off your home in ten years or less from 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 15, at Lafayette Veterans Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. This event is free. Call 208-8235.

What's New in Breast Cancer Treatment The Wellness Community will host a seminar on the latest breast cancer research including advances in treatment from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30, at Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite A and B, Pleasanton. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

Miscellaneous

The Energy Primer for Kids The Energy Primer for Kids is a 25-page booklet of simple facts pertaining to current energy issues and is useful for adults that are evaluating energy related claims of politicians. For a free copy, write to Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583. A speaker is available for groups wishing to hear about the global warming propaganda. Call 837-7612.

On Stage

'Grease' Diablo Light Opera Company presents "Grease" with eight different performances until Aug. 5, at Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center, 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill. Tickets are \$15 for general admission

or \$12 for seniors. Call 798-1300.

A Night at the Improv! San Ramon Improv U will host "A Night at the Improv!" from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 11, at Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. The show is unrehearsed, unscripted, and created on the spot with the help of audience participation and suggestions. Cost is \$8. Visit www.SanRamonImprovU.com.

The Golden Follies A sparkling high energy song and dance revue featuring senior performers ages 57-83 will strut their stuff at 1 and 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 19, at Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$25. Call 829-1666 or 803-9020.

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. Experienced players only. 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 This club will be on a summer break until Sept. 11. This club meets 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. Activities include classes, speakers and day trips. 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.; bring brown bag lunch from until August, beverage, fruit and dessert are provided. 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 Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The cost is \$30 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, ext. 53.

Sports

14U Sun Devil Baseball Club Try-Outs Sun Devil 14U Baseball Club will host July and August try-outs for the Fall 2007 Season from 9 a.m.-noon, every Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday, July-August. Roster spots will fill up quickly. Call (831) 710-0507 or visit <http://eteamz.active.com/AlamoSunDevils14Utravelclub>.

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

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

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 683-2460.

Support Groups

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.

Find Help For Addiction! Problems with drug or alcohol addiction in a loved one? Don't know whom to turn to for help? Contact Drug Rehab Resource for a free confidential consultation to find the help you need. Call (866) 649-1594 or visit www.drugrehabresource.net.

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 838-1837 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.

Newly Formed Proactive Group for Women A newly formed proactive group for women who have

Fibromyalgia, CFS, CFIDS and chronic pain are inviting others to share in the latest research, medicines, doctors and many other ways to cope. The group meets from 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Tuesday. For information, email heidaiannen@hotmail.com.

Overeaters Anonymous The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. There are many different groups that meet at different times and places, visit www.dvig.org.

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.

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, undereating and bulimia. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomerly 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

Animal Fosters Urgently Needed Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) is looking for short-term fosters for dogs, puppies, cats and kittens. ARF will provide the food, supplies and vet care; all you need to do is provide the love. Call 296-3173 or visit www.arf.net.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

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.

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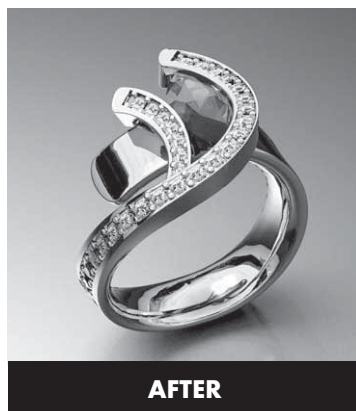
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Hamm qualifies at U.S. Junior Amateur Championships

Jeffrey Hamm of Danville, a graduate of Monte Vista High, had a busy golf week, participating at the 60th U.S. Junior Amateur Championships at the Boone Valley Golf Club in Augusta, Mo. He played 36 holes to qualify for match play and then won his opening match, 5 and 4 over JJ Spaun of San Dimas. Hamm's run ended late last week in a 3 and 2 loss to Anthony Paolucci of Dallas, Texas, in the round of 32.



KEITH PETERS



It's been a battle

The Danville Little League 12-year-old All Stars worked their way to becoming the District 57 Champions for 2007 during the last month and a half, not losing a game through the tournament, defeating Dublin American, San Ramon National, San Ramon Valley and Pleasanton American. They beat San Ramon Valley in the Championship, 5-2. After winning the district, the team went on to play in the Sectionals, defeating Hillsborough by battling back from an 8-0 deficit to

score nine runs with two outs in the bottom of the fourth to win 10-8; and Union City National, losing 3-2 in the bottom of the seventh and two outs when Thomas Sperbeck hit a walk-off 2-run homer. The team ended up losing in the sectional Championships to Tracy National. Team members included: (front, l-r) Jake Nobriga, Dylan Christensen, Alex Maestre; (back) Conner Kelly, Austin Lonestar, Josh Fowler, Thomas Sperbeck, Zach Argiros, Nick Garlieb, Matt Fowler, Matt Turner, coach Jeff Turner, manager Randy Christensen and coach Paul Lonestar.



Go, Mustang Blast 2007

The U-13 Mustang Blast Girls brought home a championship win for the Mustang families, friends and community from the San Ramon Valley Cup Tournament recently. With a few new players and a solid base of veteran players, they all came together and played as one, according to team reports.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

57 defeats 67 for section championship

District 57's Danville All Stars won the 9-10-year-old Section 3 Championship defeating District 67's Northgate 14-4 at Pleasanton Sports Park last week on Tuesday evening.



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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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135 Group Activities

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Local CO-ED REC softball team, with various ages and skill levels, seeks Pleasanton women or couples to join us WED nights starting in AUG. We play hard, but it's mostly about the beer and having a good personality. Contact Gus: 650-520-0351 or gmaning@assaytech.com

Stress/Pain Management Strategy

140 Lost & Found

Found- Black Cat
Black cat found behind Gene's Market, Pleasanton on July 29. Call 461-1618.

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Livermore, 22 Rollingstone Common, 8/04/07-9am-3pm

Pleasanton, 4761 Mason St, Sat Aug 4, 8-1
Furniture (TV armoire, bookshelves, desk), baby and kids stuff, household items

Pleasanton, 4856 Wingate Drive, August 4th 7-1

Pleasanton, 7387 Hillsdale Drive, Aug 4 & 5, 9am - 4pm
Moving Sale. Everything must go. Bedroom, dining, living room & patio furniture, rugs, household furnishings.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Beatles Record - \$2000 OBO

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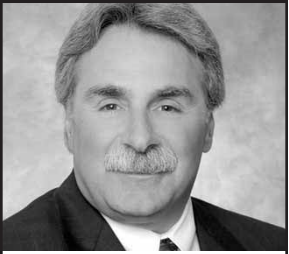
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Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bedroom available! HUD, Reposs, REOs, etc. These homes must sell! For Listings Call 1-800-425-1620 ext. 3241. (AAN CAN)

Roommates.com
All areas: Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

890 Real Estate Wanted

Host Foreign Student/\$890 month

Host an International Academy Student for the 2007-2008 School Year. We are currently recruiting energetic host families for our International Students who will be attending Quarry Lane school during the 2007-2008 academic year. If you are able to provide housing for one of our students, please contact Heather Clay, East Bay Coordinator of ISP Homestays (International Student Placements) at 925-997-2005 or heather@isp-homestays.com. Monthly stipend to hosts is \$890 per month. Hosts are asked to provide private room and meals for the student.

Pre-foreclosure help
We can Help your pre-foreclosure situations- Call for help today 925-600-8076

fogster.com



Pet of The Week



Big Dog

This sweet natured Rottweiler mix named "Big Dog" has a big heart and a big appetite. He has an easy-going personality and he loves treats. Big Dog knows basic obedience and he enjoys being with people. He doesn't appear to be particularly bothered by other dogs. For more information about Big Dog (pet #71508), visit him at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

fogster.com



fogster.com

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2007

Alamo

21 Bolla Avenue J. & J. Lessman to C. Coronado for \$1,275,000

10 Golden Ridge Lane P. Smith to C. Edwards for \$1,275,000

150 La Serena Avenue Garibaldi Trust to S. & T. Singer for \$1,525,000

1521 Ramona Way T. Ferreira to M. & B. Allen for \$1,110,000

105 South Jackson Way C. & P. Houston to P. & C. Seagrave for \$1,250,000

Danville

3444 Cashmere Street Shapell Industries to B. & L. Matejka for \$1,050,000.00

3464 Cashmere Street Shapell Industries to D. & M. Akaba for \$811,500

3468 Cashmere Street Shapell Industries to M. Lim for \$999,500

3472 Cashmere Street Shapell Industries to Y. Hu for \$1,050,000

1735 Cottswald Street KB Homes to D. & H. Sheppard for \$893,500

2229 Deer Oak Way C. & T. Olsen to E. & M. Bauer for \$1,600,000

782 Diablo Road Harrison Trust to E. & A. Stein for \$870,000

4065 Eagle Nest Lane Bell Trust to R. & C. Mannebach for \$1,236,500

25 Estrella Place R. & V. Whitfield to J. Stemke for \$1,140,000

215 Gamay Court KB Homes to S. Lindblom for \$949,500

224 Gamay Court KB Homes to Chahal Trust for \$893,000

229 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to M. Park for \$502,000

41 Rainbow Circle R. Fuller to Crowder-Stelly Trust for \$600,000

1837 Rioja Street KB Homes to J. Hammond for \$978,500

1110 Shady Creek Place A. Kimball to R. & K. Hunt for \$664,500

662 Sun Tree Court Walinski Trust to Lee Trust for \$1,110,000

147 Sunhaven Road Prudential Relocation to M. Lax for \$1,617,000

315 Tuscan Court Roen Trust to R. & V. Dutto for \$1,649,000

Walnut Creek

2115 Cactus Court #7 Dyniewicz Trust to Siebert Trust for \$380,000

267 Castle Hill Ranch Road Lunsford Trust to D. Bell for \$1,215,000

1796 Castle Hill Road Coon Trust to D. Lowell for \$1,380,000

191 Glen Court Cox Trust to G. & J. Bustamante for \$1,270,000

2900 Hurlstone Court F. Toledo to B. & M. Dejager for \$1,002,000

740 Laurel Drive O. Nebres to M. Padilla for \$1,185,000

1427 Los Vecinos Saucy Trust to D. Puts for \$585,000

205 Masters Court #3 Fairways 340 Limited to V. Stoneridge for \$320,000

416 Nob Hill Drive Oconnell Trust to Graham Trust for \$825,000

340 North Civic Drive #307 Zimmerma Trust to S. Sayeed for \$315,000

2576 Oak Road #207 S. Dietschy to D. Paul for \$473,000

829 Rosewood Court C Cubed Construction to T. & M. Bronstone for \$1,350,000

649 Terra California Drive #4 L. Hunt to Lien Trust for \$460,000

4033 Terra Granada Drive #6B Rubright Trust to Ehrman Trust for \$225,000

1840 Tice Creek Drive #2302 Link Trust to Curry Trust for \$650,000

3193 Wayside Plaza #23 E. Mohn to L. Lewis for \$319,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2007

Alamo

Total sales reported: 5

Lowest sale reported: \$1,110,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,525,000

Average sales reported: \$1,287,000

Danville

Total sales reported: 18

Lowest sale reported: \$502,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,649,000

Average sales reported: \$1,034,139

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 16

Lowest sale reported: \$225,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,380,000

Average sales reported: \$747,125

DANVILLE WEEKLY OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to: www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate

ALAMO

3 Bedrooms

1374 Danville Blvd. \$699,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 989-8920

4 Bedrooms

46 Vista Ln. \$1,445,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 672-2499

3079 Stonegate Dr. \$2,080,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 510-612-8008

BLACKHAWK

3 Bedrooms

35 Sugar Pine Ln. \$1,170,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

6 Bedrooms

5077 Blackhawk Dr. \$2,650,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

DANVILLE

2 Bedrooms

109 Westfield Cir. \$589,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 648-5353

152 Westfield Cir. \$619,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2600

3 Bedrooms

6024 Condor St. \$599,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

306 Camino Arroyo E. \$639,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

4 Bedrooms

20 Cannes Ct. \$1,049,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2600

441 Scout Pl. \$1,199,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 457-4551

663 Bourne Ct. \$1,299,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4035

668 Park Hill Rd. \$1,397,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 699-7004

5950 Bruce Dr. \$3,998,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

317 Ranger Pl. \$869,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 980-5453

407 Triomphe Ct. \$998,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-0717

5 Bedrooms

24 Campbell Pl. \$1,499,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 672-2499

29 Meadow Lake Dr. \$2,998,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

6 Bedrooms

102 Sonora Ave. \$1,698,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 397-4390

DIABLO

5 Bedrooms

2540 Caballo Ranchero \$3,998,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

SAN RAMON

2 Bedrooms

9024 Craydon Cir. \$289,950
Sat 12:30-4:30 UCB 580-4524

108A Norris Canyon Pl. \$385,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

610 Joree Ln. \$567,900
Sat/Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 314-4803

3 Bedrooms

2428 Millstream Ln. \$649,950
Sun 1-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

4549 Sweetgale Dr. \$874,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

1465 Allannmere Dr. \$949,950
Sun 1-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

4 Bedrooms

116 Amaryllis Cir. \$654,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 200-2602

3407 Lanai Dr. \$879,000
Sun 1-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4108

27 Rainbow Bridge Ct. \$899,900
Sun 2-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

DUBLIN

2 Bedrooms

4934 Hibernia Dr. \$499,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4125

3 Bedrooms

7754 Millbrook Ave. \$560,000
Sat 1-4 Erickson Financial Services / Bret Erickson 408-221-0375

7781 Firebrand Dr. \$578,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 200-2602

4 Bedrooms

2977 Glen Abbey Pl. \$1,250,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 858-4198

8333 Creekside Dr. \$Call for price
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

5 Bedrooms

5402 Blackstone Rd. \$1,030,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA-Michele Castillo 998-0382

3120 Colebrook Ln. \$1,275,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 209-8099

5627 Applegate Wy. \$914,900
Sun 1-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

PLEASANTON

2 Bedrooms

225 Rachael Pl. \$448,000
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 699-2133

3 Bedrooms

5308 Brookside Ct. \$575,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3850

474 Vineyard Pl. \$639,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 413-1912

4641 Jefferson \$749,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

503 Saint John St. \$789,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

4 Bedrooms

307 Brianna Ct. \$1,289,000
Sun 1-4 Century 21-Diane Sass 699-9508

2421 Romano Cir. \$1,649,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6298

6869 Inglewood Ct. \$729,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

5520 San Jose Dr. \$789,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 398-0234

3730 Crofters Ct. \$864,000
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 200-7210

1621 Hopyard Rd. \$879,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Cashin Company Realtors 650-948-8050

5 Bedrooms

668 Abbie St. \$1,649,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 413-1912

7138 West Woodbury Ct. \$1,670,000
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 730-4006

8335 Regency Dr. \$1,885,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - Louise Davis 426-3834

5725 Ohana Pl. \$2,195,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 846-6500

1290 Via Di Salerno \$2,599,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6298

4141 West Ruby Hill Dr. \$3,049,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6298

1774 Paseo Del Cajon \$950,000
Sun 1-4 Century 21 784-9463

1774 Paseo Del Cajon \$950,000
Sun 1-4 Century 21 784-9463

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

1378 Peachetree Cmn. \$484,500
Sun 1-4 Better Homes 963-1565

1103 Hollyhock St. \$549,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 200-2602

4740 Kimberley Cmn. \$559,000
Sun 1-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

367 Lee Ave. \$569,950
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 339-3077

1548 Calle Del Rey \$629,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 200-2602

4 Bedrooms

2176 Crossroads Pl. \$1,195,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - Louise Davis 426-3834

6608 Tiffany Cmn. \$589,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8322

5348 Hillflower Dr. \$620,000
Sat 1-4 Re/Max 828-7799

420 Jackson Ave. \$743,000
Sun 1-4 Century 21-Diane Sass 699-9508

5 Bedrooms

2903 Cabrillo Ave. \$599,000
Sat 1-4 Ed, Hometown GMAC 455-7045

J. Rockcliff



REALTORS

THE EAST BAY'S PREMIER
REAL ESTATE COMPANY.



ALAMO

Stunning New Estate **\$6,500,000**
Incredible 9500+/-sf residence w/extensive molding & trim, custom stone work & detail. 5bd, 5-full/3-half baths, 2 bonus/game rooms, wine room, more.
Pamela Schmidt & Sharon Dare **925.855.4018**



BLACKHAWK

Huge Price Reduction!! **\$3,495,000**
Extensive limestone detail. Master suite down plus 5bds upstairs. Volume ceilings, game room, library, dramatic kitchen, wine cellar. Circular driveway, 4-car, pool, spa
Mike Fay **925.838.2239**



DANVILLE

Gorgeous New Construction **\$3,150,000**
Mediterranean custom on nearly one acre, 4bd, 5-full/2-half baths, 5-car garage, library, wine room, mud room, huge great room & kitchen.
Julie Whitmer **925.997.5120**



DANVILLE

Fantastic Value in Magee Ranch **\$1,515,000**
Great floor plan with guest suite on separate level, master suite w/attached office/sitting area. 4bd, 3.5ba, 3-car garage. A real gem!
Carol Erbert **925.736.1666**



DANVILLE

Absolutely Stunning **\$1,499,000**
5bd, 5ba, loft, bonus/retreat off master. Over \$400K in upgrades. Gourmet kitchen w/hand-painted mural, butler's pantry and so much more.
The Khrista Jarvis Team **925.855.4065**



DANVILLE

Huge Price Reduction **\$1,495,000**
Autumn Creek's finest. 5bd, 4.5ba shows like a model. 3-car garage, full au pair quarters w/ kitchenette, 3929+/-sf on one-quarter acre.
Mike Townsend **925.788.6155**



DANVILLE

Beautifully Remodeled and Expanded **\$1,399,000**
And reduced! 4bd, 3ba with loft. Open floor plan, master on first floor. Spacious landscaped yard backing to open space. Situated on .35+/-acre lot.
Catherine Kaufer **925.586.5456**



DANVILLE

Gorgeous 2001 Construction! **\$1,046,850**
Excellent location with no rear neighbor! Beautifully upgraded home w/separate formal LR, DR, FR plus upstairs bonus room. Hill views!
Chris & Lisa Hopkins **925.855.4014**



DANVILLE

Bellevue Beauty **\$998,950**
Spacious 4bd, 3ba home on quiet court. Open floor plan, new granite slab kitchen, remodeled master bath. 1bd/1ba down. 3-car garage.
Steve & Lisa apHugh **925.736.0717**

Walnut Creek
1700 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

Orinda
89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Blackhawk
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Pleasanton
5075 Hopyard Rd., #110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500



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J. Rockcliff

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