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by Monday night > **page 14**

Vol. III, Number 18 • August 31, 2007

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Camp CEO

Execs team with
teens to teach and
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Danville

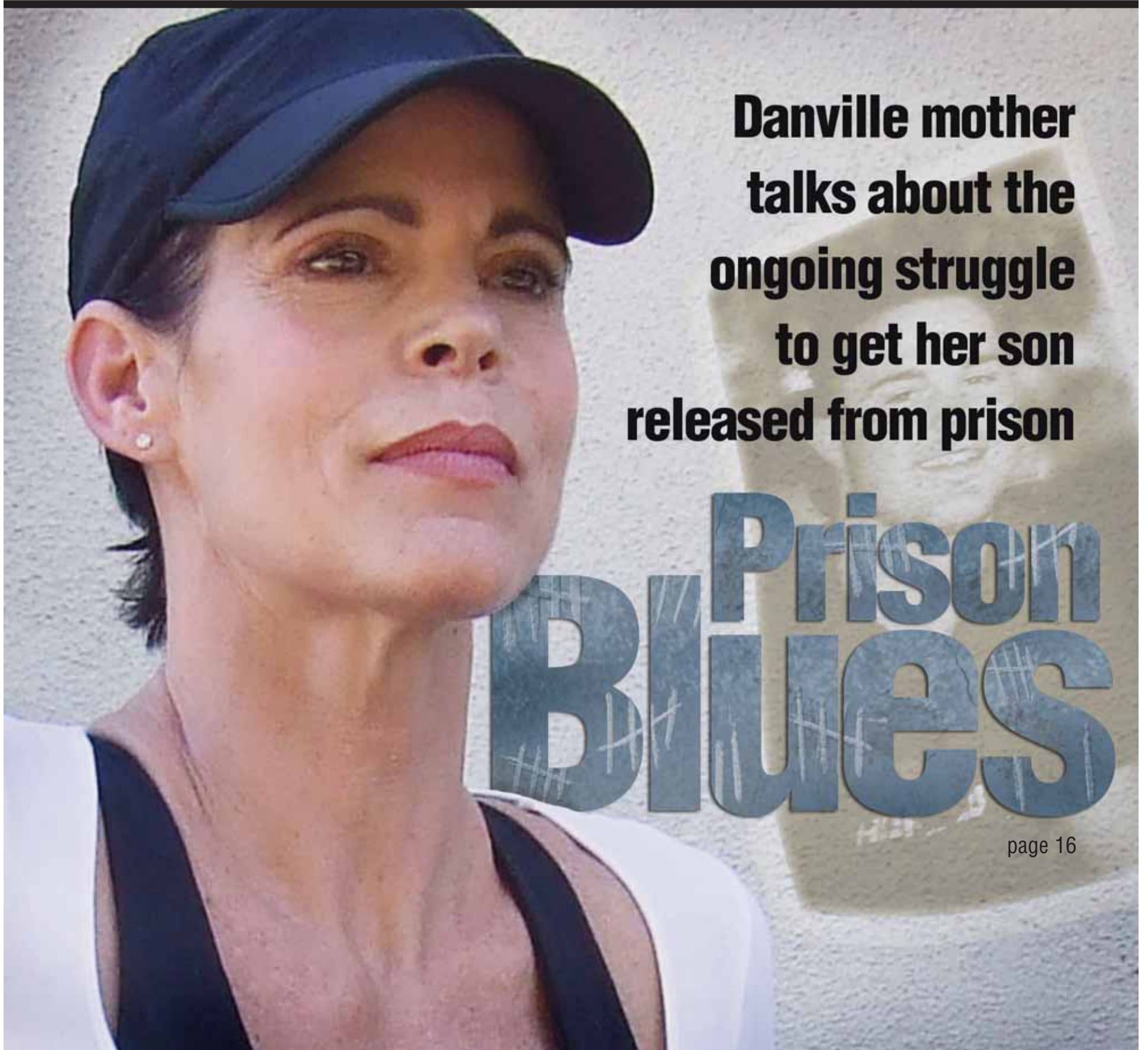
W E E K L Y

Field of dreams must go

Commission denies
permit for backyard
practice field

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**Danville mother
talks about the
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to get her son
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**Prison
Blues**

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Streetwise

ASKED IN DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

Q: This is Labor Day weekend. Do you think Americans work too much?



Most people don't. What's the unemployment rate—4 percent? My friend says if you make a job of finding a job it won't take you very long. The ones who don't want to work don't.

Cliff Schofield
home builder



I think Americans work hard, particularly the poor. Some people get paid too much; some people get paid too little. There is a lot of injustice, but still a lot of opportunity. Overall, I'd say we work harder now than we have ever.

Paul Harris
Realtor



Well, we don't take enough vacation time compared to some parts of the world. In my profession, a lot of Hispanics work circles around us white boys. They tend to do a whole lot faster, more labor-intensive work.

Jon Turney
chef



It depends on the profession, really. I don't feel overworked—I work for myself and make my own hours. "Overworked" implies you're forced into it.

Melissa Craig
graphic designer



Yes, I do if you are generally implying a corporate-type job, excluding me. If you love your job, you don't feel overworked, no matter how much you work.

Travis Fong
foreign exchange operations technician

compiled by Natalie O'Neill

ABOUT THE COVER

Diane Rose made national news when she appeared on the O'Reilly Factor to ask for justice for her son, Brendon, who is serving an eight-year prison term after injuring a man in a fight. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

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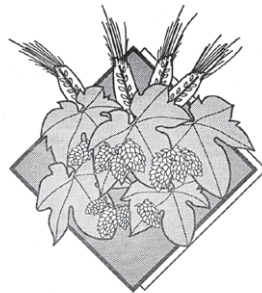
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ If we had closed walls,
what would the difference
be between coming here
and going to Safeway? ”

—Jason Smith, one of the owners of Windmill Farms,
about the county ordering it to become fully enclosed.
See story, page 5.

Bay Bridge closing for the long weekend

The Bay Bridge will be closed in both directions over Labor Day weekend, from 9 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 4, in order for Caltrans to demolish a section of the bridge's upper deck at Treasure Island and replace it with a new roadway.

BART will be running overnight service to selected stations, including Walnut Creek and Dublin/Pleasanton. Ferries will also be running expanded service.

While the bridge is closed, Caltrans is also placing new FasTrak-only lanes at the Toll Plaza, plus performing other maintenance and construction work.

Danville man contracted virus elsewhere

A Danville man who was diagnosed with West Nile virus probably contracted the illness while on a vacation to Canada, according to reports from the Contra Costa Health Services. The man, 75, was the first person in the county reported with the disease this year. He became ill Aug. 4 and was hospitalized but is now recovering at home. Last year eight people in Contra Costa County were diagnosed with West Nile virus and two died from it. The virus is carried by mosquitoes.

“We can't stress enough the importance of making mosquito control part of a family routine,” said Deborah Bass, spokeswoman for the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. She urges residents to clean up standing water in their yards. The district is spraying for mosquitoes, with information at www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us, or call 685-9301.

Degnan named Outstanding Business Woman

Carolyn Cooper Degnan will be honored as one of three 2007 Outstanding Business Women on Sept. 9 by the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Bay Area Council and eWomen-Network at a luncheon to be held at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose.

Degnan, a graduate of Drake University, is a board member of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation and the YMCA. She is also involved with the National Charity League (NCL), San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Danville Area Chamber of Commerce, and is an active patient advocate for the California Lyme Disease Association (CALDA).

As current president of the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce, she provides programs, events and seminars such as the Women's Networking Lunches. Past accomplishments include chairmanship of the Primo's Run for Education. The other two women being honored are Donna Garrison, a Realtor from Pleasanton who is one of the founders of the California Independent Film Festival, and Pamela Torliatt, mayor of Petaluma. For luncheon reservations, call the hotel directly at (408) 453-6200.



Bring questions to mayor's coffee

Danville Mayor Mike Shimansky will host his monthly informal coffee at Father Nature's next week at 7:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 7. Shimansky initiated the get-togethers in Danville in January as a chance to meet with his constituents so they could raise concerns and be get updated on town business. The coffees are free and no reservations are necessary.

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Alamo shooting leaves girl with pellet in thigh

Police looking for clues in assault with deadly weapon

by Natalie O'Neill

A terrified 16-year-old-girl jumped out of her patio chair, clutching her bleeding inner thigh after a shooter fired a pellet gun at her in Alamo last week.

The girl was sipping a smoothie with her friend at The Dog restaurant at 1:15 p.m., when they heard a "pop" and she felt a sting in her thigh. The victim and her mother, who asked that they remain anonymous out of fear she would be targeted again, believe the gun was fired from a passing car.

A surveillance video from the restaurant shows the teenager and her friend chatting one minute, then frantically using napkins to dab at the blood the next.

After the injury, she was taken to Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Walnut Creek, where a doctor determined it would cause more damage to her muscle to remove the pellet.

An X-ray later indicated the champagne cork-shaped lead capsule traveled 2 inches up her thigh and was lodged 1.5 inches deep in her flesh.

"It hurt my heart to see her go through this," her mom said. "I would never want this to kill her spirit."

The shooter didn't appear to have specifically targeted the girl, who had come straight from church, she said. The family is "assuming it's a kid" who doesn't understand how much damage the weapon can do.

"We can only believe it was some random thing. I don't want her to be angry in life," she said.

At this point, the police have no leads to go on, making it difficult to determine if the shot was intentional, Alamo Deputy Elmer Glasser said.

Glare from the afternoon sun makes passing cars difficult to view on the surveillance tapes and there are otherwise no clues or witnesses pointing to the responsible party, Glasser said. There are no records of pellet gun injuries on file with the police department, he added.

"Stuff like this doesn't happen here," he said.

The carbon dioxide-powered gun is capable of causing death and serious bodily injury, and this case is being handled as an assault with a deadly weapon.

Pellet guns, like BB guns, use compressed air to fire projectiles. Most guns manufactured today are

► Continued on page 7



Carol Smith Benavidez, who runs Windmill Farms with her family, prepares for weekend shoppers by unloading and stacking pears.

Health department wants changes at Windmill Farms

Cut melons need four walls, says county health officials

by Natalie O'Neill

Stop by Windmill Farms any day of the week and you'll find an open-air market, run by a jovial family that boasts some of the best produce prices in the East Bay.

Stop by one year from now and you could find an empty lot.

The 33-year-old outdoor market, a beloved symbol of old time San Ramon Valley, may be forced to shut down by next August if it does not abide by a county health department mandate to build four walls and a ceiling. The order comes due to the market's size, the sale of bulk food and cut fruit.

But building a fully enclosed store is an endeavor the Smith family, who has run the market since

it opened back in 1974, says it just isn't capable of financially.

"The No. 1 thing I think about is my parents," said Carol Smith Benavidez, who manages the market. "This is their retirement money. They are 60—what are they going to do if this goes away?"

According to county Director of Environmental Health, Sherman Quinlan, the problem is that Windmill Farms sells foods—like bulk candies and sliced melon—that easily can become tainted in an outdoor environment. The county has been both patient and lenient when working with the farm, he said.

"There's a whole lot more opportunity presented for contamination in the open air. Rodents, insects and birds can make people sick,

and they do," Quinlan said.

But the appeal of the market is that it is open-air, Benavidez explained. Most customers come for the old-fashioned country ambience. In between unloading produce, her brother Jason Smith, stopped to agree.

"If we had closed walls, what would the difference be between coming here and going to Safeway?" he said.

California retail food code, redrafted last year, states that whole produce, shelled eggs and prepackaged foods are the only products permitted to be sold in the open air. Even these foods must be distributed underneath a canvas or tarp.

The family says the business

► Continued on page 6

Enjoy wine and music at Alamo fest

by Natalie O'Neill

Come shake a leg and clink a glass. The 25th annual Alamo Wine and Music Festival, which has come to be known as Alamo's block party, is happening next weekend.

The Alamo Rotary event, set up to raise money for school music programs and local charities, will highlight swingin' 1950s music and dancing under the stars. Before that, high school bands will perform.

Wine tasting, dinner from local restaurants and activities for kids, including a rock climbing wall, will be offered at the family affair.

It will be held 2-11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Alamo Plaza.

"Alamo has a small town feel, everybody knows everybody. This reinforces that idea," said rotary member Diane Barley, who has helped set up and organize the event for years.

Food selections from Forli's, Faz and El Balazo restaurants will be offered for dinner, and the wine samples will come from California vineyards. Anyone who wants to meet and mingle in the name of bettering the Alamo community is welcome.

The night is also known as a time to recognize an Alamo citizen of

the year, someone who goes above and beyond to make the area a better place.

Last year, the event raised over \$10,000 for Alamo Elementary, Rancho Romero Elementary, Stone Valley Middle School, Monte Vista High School, San Ramon Valley High School and Lucille Mauzy School.

Dinner will be from 5:30-8 p.m. and then the Cruise Tones will take stage to play late '50s tunes, followed by the Sun Kings, a Beatles tribute band. Tickets for dinner are \$17, available at the event.

For more information or to buy advanced tickets, contact Al Makely 820-6847. ■



JORDAN W. DORONILLA

The first 'first day of school'

Kindergartner Ben Hester, 5-1/2, shares a smile with his mother Janice Hester as he enters Alamo Elementary School on his first day of school Monday, Aug. 27. The 2007-08 school year officially began Monday for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.



Stop & Shop



SIDEWALK

**Sept.
7, 8 & 9
10am
to
6pm**

SALE

Windmill Farms

► Continued from page 5

has been at the same capacity since 1985 and they are wondering: Why the tough crackdown now?

In the city of San Ramon, where development has swelled in the last 10 years, the Smiths suspect their real estate has something to do with the strong enforcement.

"They want the land," Benavidez said. "Their interest is in developing the area ... (but) we can't prove it."

But the county's intention, Quinlan insists, is not to shut the shop down. It's to keep potentially hazardous food practices from hurting people.

"We are just trying to protect the food selling," he said. "We'd be neglecting our responsibility."

The reason the county is making the mandate now has more to do with a redevelopment and rezoning period the city of San Ramon has been undergoing, county staff speculated. Since the zoning dictates what standard the market needs to meet, the health department likely held off on enforcing the law until it was determined.

After catching wind of the mandate, longtime customers in the Valley have launched a small movement with the family to get the health services ruling reversed. Customers are circulating a petition and contacting county officials.

"This place is the next best thing to going out in the field and picking it yourself," said Larry Gagnon, a long-time patron, who says the market represents rural values. He has bought his Christmas trees from Windmill Farms and says it has the fairest prices around.

Customers and owners say farmers markets are allowed to be set up in the open air and so should they.

The long and short of it, however, is that both the state and the county view farmers markets very differently from Windmill Farms. First, farmers markets are temporary—set up to run a few hours at a time. And second, the purpose is to give farmers the independence to sell their goods without going through a retailer.

In this case, Windmill Farms is the retailer, Quinlan said.

As far back as 20 years, county health inspection records of Windmill Farms show no serious health violations or shut downs. There were complaints about rodent sightings documented in 2001, from an anonymous source, but further investigation by the environmental health division showed there was no evidence of rodents.

"If we'd had numerous complaints, I'd understand.

Measure A can finance projects

*No new bonds may be needed
in foreseeable future*

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Money continues flowing to finance school facility projects in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

District officials said there is enough money from Measure A to finish the designated projects, including San Ramon Valley High School. Measure A, a \$260 million bond, was approved by residents in 2002 to renovate school facilities.

"There's no shortage of funds," said Margaret Brown, assistant district superintendent of facilities. "There's plenty to complete the projects."

Using Measure A, the district has upgraded and remodeled several schools, including John Baldwin and Greenbrook elementary schools, which opened with new facilities last year. Green Valley, Live Oak, Montevideo, Rancho Romero and Vista Grande elementary have seen major additions and improvements. The district has spent \$200 million on schools thus far.

"I think the public ought to be proud of what we have done with their money," said Trustee Paul Gardner.

The district has built a new library at San Ramon Valley High, a commons area, a music chorus room and a video production facility. Measure D, a \$75 million bond passed in the late 1990s, funded the school's new performing arts center and two classroom wings.

Brown said San Ramon Valley High will get a new two-



A petition, kept at the checkout stand, has been signed by customers who say they would hate to see the store close on a technicality.

But we've always had a clean working environment," Benavidez said.

Quinlan, who has been inundated with phone calls from the farm's supporters in the past two weeks, says there is a possibility the county could permit whole fruit stands be wheeled outdoors. Potentially hazardous foods like sliced fruit and bulk food would remain in the enclosed retail store.

"I think that's pretty liberal," he said. "If they got their (remodeling) plans going, we would work with them."

Bulk produce and cut fruit account for about 25 percent of the business sales, owners say.

A grandfather clause tied to food and retail code states that markets opened before 1985 can continue operating as they always have, assuming the menu hasn't changed. The Smiths argue that no products have been added since 1985, while Quinlan says their menu has indeed expanded over the years.

"We've been here since there was nothing. We're an icon—my ambition is to keep the legacy going," Benavidez said.

To read the health department's response to frequently asked questions about Windmill Farms, visit www.cchealth.org. To sign the petition, visit the market at 2255 San Ramon Valley Blvd. ■

Contact *Natalie O'Neill* at noneill@danvilleweekly.com

story classroom and a career tech building with Measure A money. Additionally, the district will demolish the school's auto shop to create space for parking and build a new quad outside the administration office.

She said the district has budgeted \$32 million for the current projects. Brown noted improvements done during the school year take a long time.

"We have to build around students," Brown said.

Brown said staff, town officials, students and other community members met this month to discuss San Ramon Valley High's master plan, and she has been meeting with them since May.

"It's an excellent process," Brown said. "It might be slow, but it's thoughtful. It involves the stakeholders."

She recalled several ideas were raised but if the proposals were not planned for Measure A funds, there is no money for them.

An aquatic center, which is not a Measure A project, is also being planned at the high school, with funds being raised by the Danville Aquatic Steering Committee. It is still doing fundraising for an additional pool although the district has set aside money to repair the school's existing pool, and to modernize the gymnasium.

Most of the Measure A projects, including at San Ramon Valley High, are scheduled to be completed by 2010. The district also plans to work on Stone Valley Middle School in Alamo.

Brown said in the distant future, the district might have to issue another bond to continue upgrading campuses and technology. But there is enough money for the time being. ■

Field of Dreams dashed

Planners deny permits for practice field built without OK

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Danville Planning Commission on Tuesday night unanimously denied a permit for David Lowe to keep the 18,000-square-foot sports field he built for his kids, overlooking a cluster of homes on Alamo Springs Place and El Alamo in Danville.

He erected it with a 14-foot fence on a major ridgeline without town permits or approval, and residents living below his property say it is a glaring eyesore.

"It was thoughtless," said Planning Commissioner Robert Storer. "You give the impression that the Town of Danville doesn't care."

Lowe said he spent hundreds of thousands of dollars building the turf field on a parcel next to his home on his 2.3-acre property. It has a 14-foot tube and netting fence around the perimeter, mobile light poles and retaining walls, and a batting cage.

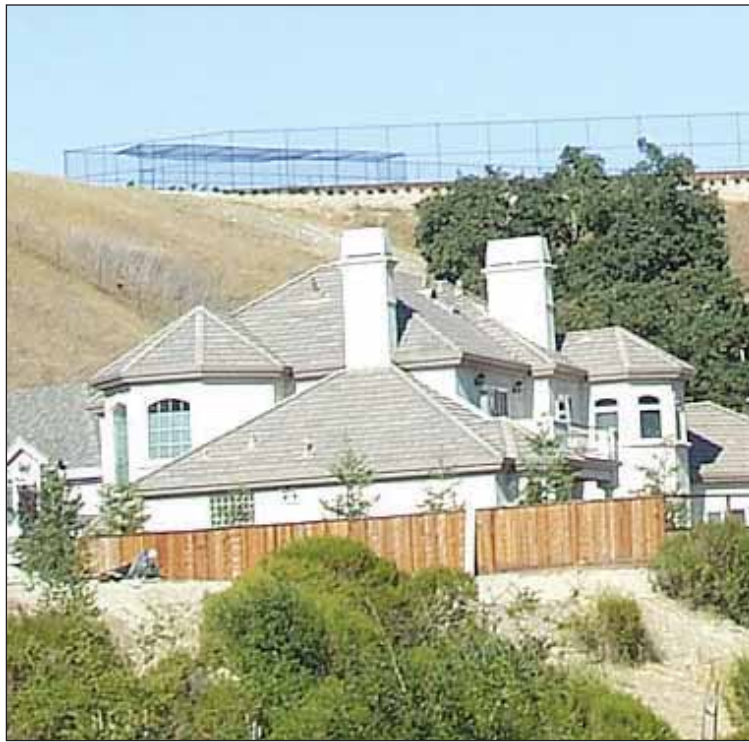
Permits should have been issued to build the retaining walls, 14-foot fence and for the electrical work. Erecting fences beyond six feet must have permits. Additionally, the town's scenic hillside and major ridgeline ordinance prohibits development within 100 vertical feet of a major ridgeline, said Town Principal Planner David Crompton. The town may grant exceptions for homes but does not allow other structures on ridgelines.

Lowe, a team manager for the San Ramon Valley Little League, built the field for practice for his son and his team of 10 boys.

When Lowe was building his field in January, a building inspector posted a stop-work-order after a neighbor called the town. But in that month, he did little grading and the stop-work-order was revoked, Crompton said.

However, he continued to finish the field. Neighbors complained that the boys on the field made noise; the fences blocked their view; and the retaining walls may cause drainage problems. Crompton said at the meeting there were no serious drainage issues regarding the walls.

"I think there was a blatant disregard for other people," said El Alamo resident John Blatter. "We are not against baseball. We are against the way it was done."



Fences for an 18,000-square-foot turf field built by David Lowe for his children are visible on the ridgeline behind homes, which caused his neighbors to complain.

Lowe expressed regret at the meeting.

"We apologize to our neighbors and friends," he said. "I take full responsibility."

"This play area is for our children and our friend's children," he added, noting that he wanted to take part in his son's life. "It's not worth the attention."

His wife, Connie, echoed his sentiment.

"We feel sorry that we have angered our neighbors to such a degree," she said. "We are trying to do anything to reach a compromise."

The Lowes proposed extensive planting and landscaping to hide the fence and said he would lower it to six feet. David Lowe said he would work with the town on other ideas, and said he had thought no permits were needed to build his field.

Lowe worked with the Planning Commission when he built his home on a ridgeline in 1996 so Commissioner Lynn Osborn said he had knowledge of the process.

Despite Lowe's offer to compromise, the commissioners said no.

"Frankly, I'm not interested in mitigating a darn thing," Osborn said. "There is a disregard for the work-stop-order."

"It's a poke in the eye," said Commissioner Steve Condie.

Lowe has three options, said Crompton. He can remove the fence or lower it to six feet and remove or modify his retaining wall; he can make an appeal to the Town Council; or he can go back to the Planning Commission with a revised plan. ■

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com

Busing to Monte Vista will stop

Developer commitment ended with Dougherty Valley High

by Jordan M. Doronila

Trustees expressed their sorrow last week at their Tuesday school board meeting to San Ramon residents for informing them abruptly in July that bus service was canceled to Monte Vista High School from Dougherty Valley for juniors and seniors.

"I apologize to you and the audience for the difficulties you now have to face," Trustee Greg Marvel said.

The district sent a letter in May to Dougherty Valley residents saying bus service to Monte Vista would still be operational for upperclassmen, even after Dougherty Valley High School opened for freshmen and sophomores. At the time, district officials were under the impression the developer would continue to fund the bus service. However, Shapell Homes was only obligated to provide bus service until Dougherty Valley High opened.

District officials sent a letter in July to parents informing them about the bus cancellation. But trustees did not know the letter was sent until after the fact. In the letter, parents were informed they could subsidize busing for each student at \$1,345.50 a year, and the district said it would need a commitment of 60 students per route to make it work.

The trustees also approved a policy in June saying the district would no longer pay for bus service because its limited financial resources should be spent on all the students, as opposed to the handful who used the bus service.

San Ramon residents affected by the discontinued Dougherty Valley bus said they are unhappy paying for subsidies. They also said annulling the bus service means more time spent in traffic.

"It's 30 minutes in traffic," said parent Brian Schmidt, at the meeting, attended by 10 to 20 people. "I wish there were more parents vocalizing this."

Marvel said he wanted to discuss the busing issue because he was unhappy the district didn't inform the board before it sent the letter.

"I'm more disturbed about the process of how the decision was made than the decision itself," he said.

Board members said it was an unfortunate mistake.

"I don't think the administration tried to mislead us," said Trustee Bill Clarkson.

"I think the board really needs to be copied on all letters," said Trustee Rachel Hurd.

Marvel wanted the board to vote on the issue but his fellow trustees said that would be inefficient, divisive and give residents a false sense of hope. The majority of board members said they would vote against it.

"I wish we could afford it," said Trustee Paul Gardner. "We, the district, never promised free busing. The developers did."

San Ramon residents asked for suggestions and some given were to talk to Shapell; to ask if students could stay in at school when classes end; and for parents to brainstorm for solutions.

"We have to do something," said San Ramon parent Christy Sykes. ■

Pellet

► Continued from page 5

177 caliber and can be loaded with either spherical BBs or sharper pellets. In these pistols, the damage done depends on the shape and weight of the projectiles, along with other factors, like distance from the target.

Although fatalities from pellet and BB guns are rare, an 18-year-old boy in Guam died earlier this

month as a result of a pellet gun wound. The pellet was fired through his lungs and heart—puncturing his aorta. The police reports showed the death was caused by a single shot.

In this Alamo case, the 16-year-old and her family find themselves feeling simultaneously thankful and outraged.

"It could have made her blind or hit her neck. People who say pellet guns are no big deal are wrong," her mom said. Ultimately, they feel oddly lucky, she explained.

The teenager took time off from soccer, school activities and her job to recuperate and is still adjusting to the idea of having a pellet in her leg for the rest of her life. She lost her father when she was young and she knows what it's like to overcome emotionally traumatic experiences, her mom said.

"I want don't this to be a sob story ... I want my daughter to be able to have a smoothie on a Sunday and not worry something is going to happen to her." ■





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BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Let's lunch



Has the word "lunch" always been a verb? I don't know but that's my favorite usage.

The verb is not at all the same as the noun. The noun "lunch" means a meal in the middle of the day. A boring sandwich. A metal lunchbox with a thermos. Necessary nutrition.

But "lunch" as a verb is California cuisine, perhaps a spinach, radicchio, and frisée salad with toasted pinenut vinaigrette, roasted red peppers, marinated red onions, feta cheese and Moroccan olives. (I stole that idea right off the Bridges menu.)

Lunching is a leisurely activity; if the weather is nice, it's done outdoors. It is most enjoyable with a friend, perhaps after a morning of shopping. Although a workday lunch, if not leisurely, is certainly a nice break.

Who remembers the three-martini lunch? Businessmen used to indulge in these, and the phrase still refers to a long, working lunch although without the martinis. According to Wikipedia, the literal three-martini lunch became extinct for several reasons: More emphasis on fitness; an increased criminalization of alcohol misuse; executives these days don't have time for leisurely lunches; and there is a social stigma attached to daytime drinking.

I was surprised to read that Jimmy Carter is credited with the demise of the three-martini lunch; when he ran for president in 1976, he said the working class was subsidizing the "\$50 martini lunch," since wealthy executives were writing them off as business expenses. Incumbent President Ford, who was running against Carter, gave the other side: "The three-martini lunch is the epitome of American efficiency. Where else can you get an earful, a bellyful and a snootful at the same time?" Anyway, in 1986, a law passed limiting the meal-expense deduction to 80 percent; in 1993, it became 50 percent.

I have lunch on the brain because as I walk through downtown Danville in the beautiful summer weather, that's what I see: Women lunching. Men lunching. Women and men lunching together. Women lunching with their mothers. I had an aunt who lived in San Francisco, and when she was in her "golden years," she and a friend occasionally would come out to Walnut Creek on BART and I'd pick them up and we'd all go out to lunch. My husband always thought it seemed odd for a person living in San Francisco to come to the East Bay to go to a restaurant but that was not the point. The point was to have a nice visit over lunch—plus it was an outing for the two older women.

My sister took me out to lunch for my birthday last Saturday. No,

it's not my birthday; we were two months late. A meal makes a perfect present because it's not only a monetary treat but also a celebration. Although I don't think we mentioned my birthday. Except when she paid the bill and I said, "Thank you," and she said, "Happy Birthday." Frankly, at our age we'd rather ignore birthdays. But not lunch.

It's about relaxation and pampering yourself. It's about getting away from your desk, something I need to do more.

Tomorrow I'm lunching with three friends from high school whom I haven't seen in years—a sort of reunion lunch. Yikes! Perhaps dinner and dim lights might be better in this case. I won-

der if they'll look better than I do? I know it doesn't matter. But, still...

Remember the movie "Private Benjamin"? Goldie Hawn, a wealthy young widow enlists in the service after a recruiter promises her the "new Army" with private rooms, condos and yachts. When she is tromping around in the mud, wearing fatigues and Army boots, she wails, "I wanna wear my sandals! I wanna go out to lunch!"

I hear you, Goldie. Although I am a big fan of lunching, the reality is I usually eat at my desk. I might still enjoy every bite, depending on what it is, but lunching is not just about the food. It's about relaxation and pampering yourself. It's about getting away from your desk, something I really need to do more. Especially with so many restaurants a five-minute walk from our Diablo Road office. I hereby pledge to get away from my desk and go enjoy a good lunch more often. If you see me lunching alone, be sure to say hello.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
can be e-mailed at
editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.



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TAKE US ALONG

Aloha, Alamo

Zachary and Sarah Pfeiffer of Alamo visit Kona, Hawaii, in March with their parents Jill and Christian Pfeiffer and, of course, their Weekly. The highlight of their trip was snorkeling next to sea turtles.

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Staff Reporters

Jordan M. Doronila

Natalie O'Neill

Sports Writer

Rachel McMurdie

Contributors

Geoff Gillette

Beverly Lane

Jacqui Love Marshall

Katharine O'Hara

Gregory Peebles

Heidi Strand

Christina Straw

ART & PRODUCTION

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BUSINESS

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Circulation Manager

Bob Lampkin

How to reach the Weekly

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100
Danville, CA 94526

Phone: (925) 837-8300

Fax: (925) 837-2278

Editorial e-mail:

Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

Calendar@DanvilleWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

mhantos@DanvilleWeekly.com

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Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com

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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Our scenic highway

Ever notice the California golden poppy signs on I-680? They mean it's an officially designated Scenic Highway, under the state's program of the same name that began in 1963. The goal of the program is to preserve the natural beauty of California.

Interstate 680 was designated scenic in two stretches. The first, from Mission Boulevard in Fremont to the Alameda-Contra Costa County line, is a 20-mile segment. Its brief description is: "This well-placed freeway features wooded hillsides and valleys."

The Contra Costa stretch that goes through Danville and Alamo is 14 miles long and ends at the Highway 24 interchange in Walnut Creek. It received its Scenic Highway designation Oct. 22, 1982, and is described: "This suburban freeway provides views of 3,849-foot-high Mt. Diablo."

Our stretch of scenic 680 is up for evaluation before the end of December since it was last reviewed in 2001. Development along the corridor could affect the designation, depending on how significant the visual impacts are, according to the Caltrans.

Assessments include three visual concepts:

- Vividness—Is the landscape memorable?
- Intactness—Are the views free from intrusions? No more than one-third of a proposed scenic highway can be impacted by major intrusions.
- Unity—Are intrusions in visual harmony with the natural landscape?

Danville has one remaining undeveloped section visible from the freeway, south of Sycamore Valley Road, adjacent to San Ramon Valley Boulevard. The Elworthy project is being planned for this former ranchland, 96 units on 12 acres between Fountain Springs Circle and Midland Way. The remainder of the 459-acre parcel is being purchased by East Bay Regional Park District.

The Scenic Highway designation is not just to recognize beautiful highways, it is to encourage local governments to preserve the natural scenery. We trust the Danville development will fit the guidelines, using natural landscaping, wide setbacks, and colors and materials compatible with the environment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep skyline clear

Dear Editor:

Regarding development in the Valley, I believe that enormous properties should be clear of the skyline, especially in the skyline rich Tassajara Valley. It is a special place.

I first came to Danville in 1986, and I fell in love with it. It's been a love/hate relationship. I mean, me being a single man with no kids and non-college educated, but I see the appeal of being a resident here, lucky enough to be living on the Iron Horse trail, to boot! It's just a very nice, if somewhat conservative, place.

And by god, I SAW what they did to the Dougherty Valley! I used to love driving through there with the flat landscape sprinkled with charming homes. I would imagine

I was driving through the English countryside, during the fall months. Not anymore!

An infamous dictator once said: "Give me two weeks, and you won't recognize your towns!" Well, land developers don't use weapons, they use bulldozers!

Peter Villalobos, Danville

Thanks for the info

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for the 2007-2008 informative yearly magazine, info Danville. It is easy to see the enormous amount of effort that your staff put into this publication. It has a wealth of information concerning the area for all the residents of the San Ramon Valley. I will be using it as a great reference source.

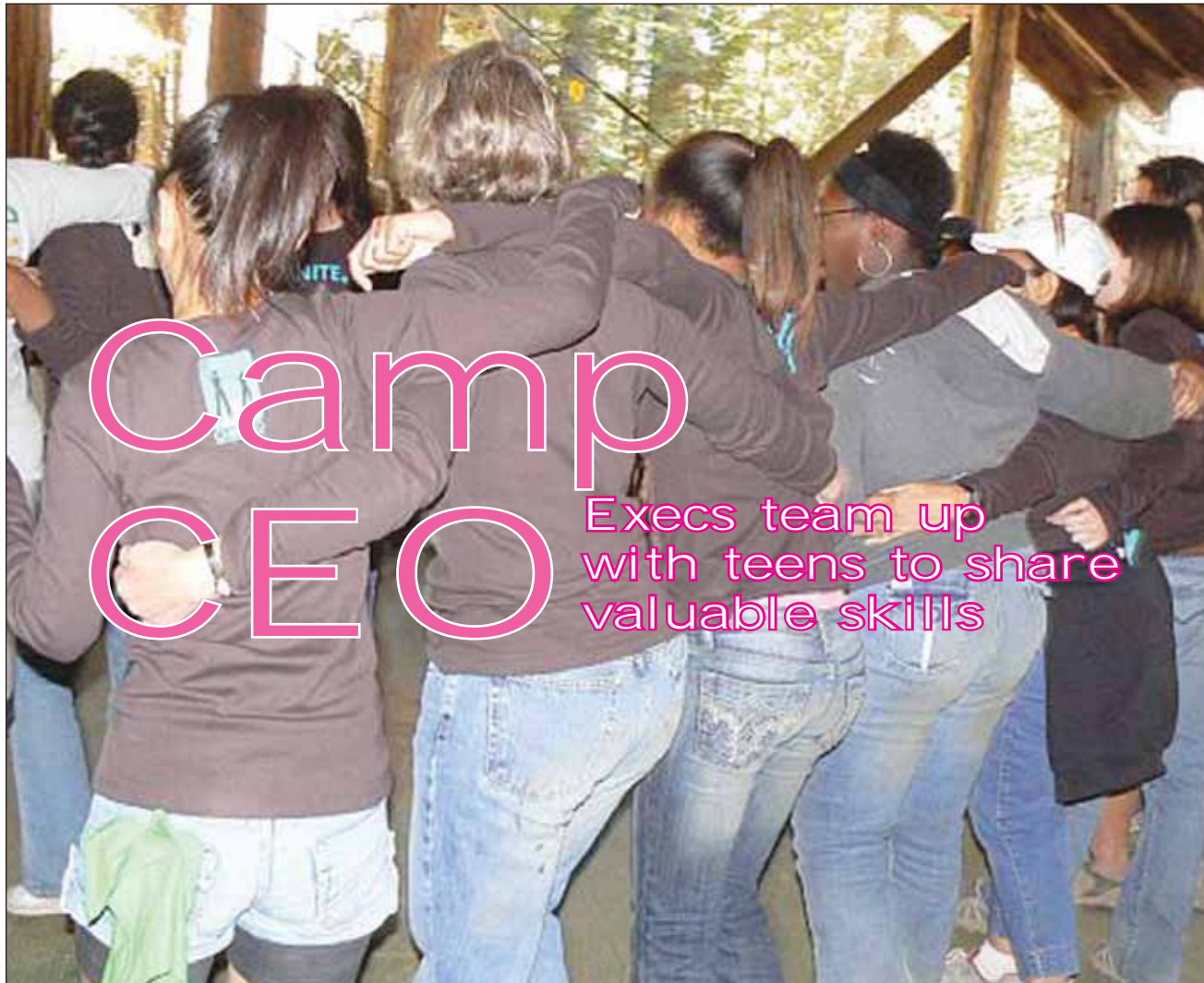
Betty Joyce, Danville

YOUR TURN

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Camp CEO

Execs team up with teens to share valuable skills



The girls practice team building at Camp CEO, which pairs high school girls with high-up female executives from the Bay Area to teach the girls skills to be successful in life and the professional world.

A ropes course presents a fun physical challenge to help the girls set goals at Camp CEO.

by **Natalie O'Neill**

They have seen more handguns than horses. They have thrown more punches than sweet sixteens.

Teenage girls in rough parts of Richmond, Oakland and San Francisco are geographically just a couple of gas-gallons away from Danville. But in these sometimes threatening urban environments, their lifestyles are a vast stretch from the suburbs, says mentor Robin MacGillivray.

That's why the Danville executive began Girl Scout's Camp CEO four years ago—to give teenagers who have grown up in these shaky places a long weekend in a positive, supportive environment.

The camp pairs the high school girls with high-up female executives from the Bay Area to teach them the skills to be successful in life and the professional world. The lessons are taught using fun outdoor activities.

"Their environments can be very scary, violent and threatening. We thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to give them positive role models?'" said MacGillivray.

The executives teach teenage girls how to set goals, problem solve and work as a team, using rock-climbing, horseback riding and high ropes courses.

One girl, who had never been on a horse, was terribly frightened and couldn't get past her fear, MacGillivray remembered. But then the two began brainstorming about what might make her feel more comfortable and confident.

"She said, 'I think I can do it if you walk beside me,'" MacGillivray said. And with a

mentor by her side, she was able to do it.

"It was a really triumphant moment for her," she said.

Think this has nothing to do with the professional world? Think again.

These are just the type of problem solving and communication skills that are crucial to succeeding in a career, said MacGillivray, who is the president of Business Communication Services for AT&T West.

Another girl conquered her fear of heights by planning a strategy around climbing a telephone-pole sized structure. Others set goals, using an artificial rock climbing wall.

At Camp CEO, positive encouragement is the name of the game.

"We tell them, 'Don't think you can't succeed—because you can!'" MacGillivray said.

For some of these girls, who have low expectations for themselves, a little support can go a long way, she said.

The 40 chosen to take part in the sleep-away camp have shown potential at their schools but tend to lack the opportunity



Danville executive Robin MacGillivray suits up for the outdoors at Camp Sugar Pine during Camp CEO.

or the motivation. They just need a little extra "something," she said.

"They just need a nudge," she explained.

Since high school "shining stars" usually already have a strong support group, mentors don't invite the girls who are already excelling to the camp.

In the same light, they don't choose the girls with behavioral or social issues—just the ones who are on the fence. The ones with potential.

Aside from physical activities, the adults had a chance to bond with the girls while beading. It was a quiet time that prompted intimate conversations, and the teens opened up about their lives.

Girls would ask the executives questions about jobs and college and would tell them about school, family and friends.

"I was surprised to hear how much violence is in their schools," MacGillivray said.

The executives were trained to not take on the position of a social worker or a therapist—but to just listen. They were, however, a wealth of knowledge when it came to choosing careers.

"Robin is very high up (professionally) and she's very well versed in business," said Jamie Fishler, who does public relations for Girl Scouts.

Most of the time, however, the girls didn't ask for specific recommendations on how to get into job fields but explored possibilities for what careers would be the best for them and why.

Much of the time was spent just talking to them about their interests and passions. Some of the girls were in foster care and on the brink of being set out into the job field on their own—with no family safety net.

"It was weighing on their minds," MacGillivray said.

The girls taught the executives a thing or two, as well—about what it's like to be a teenager in 2007.

"I don't have any daughters, so this is my opportunity to hang out with teenage girls," said MacGillivray, who is 50-ish.

When it comes to giving advice on how to climb the corporate ladder or gain success in the professional world, MacGillivray shies away from offering any particular plan of action.

In her mind, the definition of "successful" has more to do with the "wholeness of your life" than the title of your job, she says.

"I always tell people that the main thing is to keep the 'main thing' the main thing," she said.

A weekend away in an encouraging outdoor environment is just one important "nudge" toward that success, she said. ■

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BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Super-duper school snacks

It's that time again ... back-to-school planning and prepping. School lunches are one of those daily, recurring tasks for parents and kids. But repetitive does not have to mean boring and bland.

Still, day after day, it can be a challenge to create healthy, interesting and tasty brown-bag meals. The lack of time and competing activities often make parents revert to prepared meals and pre-packaged snacks. Keep those lunches more appealing and healthier by livening them up with additions of kitchen-made treats.

To help in your lunch planning, consider:

- If you buy pre-packaged foods, check ingredient/nutrition labels to see what your children will be consuming:

- As labels list ingredients in order of relative percentage, avoid foods that list high levels of sugar, fructose, artificial flavorings and colors, etc., before any nutritional ingredients.
- Seek foods in which nutritional levels add up to be worthy of the calories involved.

- Identify your favorite healthy options among pre-packaged foods, then supplement them with your own options. Make a list of everything and tape it to the refrigerator door to help create variety in lunch-box meals.

- Make large quantities of home-cooked treats and freeze them in plastic bags and containers in small quantities. Defrost in the refrigerator before adding to lunches.

- Let your children help in snack cooking and lunch preparation. Their involvement in the tasks should reduce complaints about the meals.

So remember—keep it healthy, delicious and diverse. Treat your children to appetizing mid-day lunches and afternoon snacks and they'll reward you with all-day vigor and smiles!

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.

Peanut Butter & Jelly Cookies (makes 2 dozen)

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup natural creamy peanut butter
1/4 cup dark corn syrup
3 Tbsp butter or stick margarine, softened
1 large egg
2 tsp vanilla extract
1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour
2 Tbsp cornstarch
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 cup granulated sugar
Cooking spray
1/4 cup grape or other flavored jelly or jam

1. Beat brown sugar, peanut butter, corn syrup and butter/margarine with a mixer at medium speed until well blended. Add egg and vanilla; beat well.

2. Lightly spoon and level off flour into dry measuring cups; combine flour with cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda and salt, stirring well with a whisk. Add flour mixture to sugar mixture; beat well.

3. Cover; freeze until firm, about 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

4. Shape dough into 24 balls; roll in granulated sugar. Place balls 1 inch apart on baking sheets coated with cooking spray.

5. Press thumb into center of each cookie, creating an indentation. Spoon about 1/2 tsp. jelly into the center of each cookie.

6. Bake for 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool 2 minutes on pans.

7. Remove from pans, and cool completely on wire racks.

Note: Natural peanut butter (from ground peanuts with no added sugar) is the best choice for these thumbprint style cookies; it adds a strong peanut flavor and helps the cookies hold their shape better during baking.

One-Pot Chicken Noodle Soup (makes 4-5 cups)

1/2 tsp olive oil
1 cup chopped onion
1 tsp dried oregano
1 garlic clove, minced
6 cups chicken stock, divided
2 cups diced peeled baking potato
1 cup chopped celery
1 cup (1/4-inch-thick) sliced carrot
3 cups chopped cooked chicken
2 cups chopped spinach
1 tsp salt
3 oz uncooked medium egg noodles (about 1-1/2 cups)
2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp black pepper

1. Heat olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion;

sauté 3 minutes. Add oregano and garlic; sauté 30 seconds.

2. Add 5-3/4 cups chicken stock and potatoes. Bring to a boil; reduce heat, and simmer for 15 minutes until the potato is tender. Mash potato in stock mixture.

3. Add celery and carrot; bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the chicken, spinach, and salt; bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 3 minutes.

4. Add noodles; bring to a boil and cook 5 minutes. Combine 1/4 cup stock and flour in a small bowl; stir well with a whisk. Stir flour mixture into soup; simmer 3 minutes. Stir in pepper.

Mom's Kitchen Karamel Korn (makes about 12 cups)

Cooking spray
1 cup packed dark brown sugar
1/2 cup light colored corn syrup
1/3 cup butter
1 Tbsp light molasses
1-1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt

12 cups popcorn (popped without salt or fat)

1. Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Coat a large jelly roll pan with cooking spray.

2. Combine sugar, corn syrup, butter, and molasses in a medium saucepan; bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook 5 minutes, stirring once. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla, baking soda, and salt. Place popcorn in a large bowl; pour sugar mixture over popcorn in a steady stream, stirring to coat.

3. Spread popcorn mixture into prepared pan. Bake for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

4. Remove from oven; stir to break up any large clumps. Cool 15 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. Let the popcorn cool completely before storing; stays fresh in airtight container for up to 1 week.

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Presenting the Past
BY BEVERLY LANE



Silas and Susanna Stone

Silas and Susanna (Ward) Stone came across the country from Iowa in 1853 with their son Albert Ward Stone. Usually the trip to California was a young person's search for gold and a new life, so the elder Stones brought some mature leadership to the community. Silas was a trustee for the Union Academy and was known as the local alcalde, a Spanish term for mayor.

SAN RAMON VALLEY: ALAMO, DANVILLE AND SAN RAMON BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZINE



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

ADHD diagnosis not to be taken lightly

The high number of children diagnosed with attention disorders in recent years has led several experts to question whether they are an epidemic sweeping today's youth, or simply a question of over-diagnosis. Approximately 4 million children in the United States ages 3-17 (7 percent) were diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in 2005, according to a recent report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); of these, boys were more than twice as likely as girls to be diagnosed with the disorder.

ADHD is a chronic behavioral and developmental disorder primarily characterized by inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity, and is often discovered during childhood or adolescence, but sometimes not until adulthood. CDC lists symptoms as distractibility, forgetfulness, losing things, organizational issues, excessive talking, fidgeting, often interrupting or intruding on others, impatience, etc. Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), the only name for the disorder before 1994, refers to those who experience the same symptoms as ADHD, but do not have the hyperactivity aspect.

Some teachers who observe even slight inattentiveness or over-activity in their students are advising evaluation for ADHD and many times push for prescribed medication. However, it is simply unrealistic for any parent or teacher to expect a typical, vivacious 7-year-old boy, or energized high school football player for that matter, to sit still and quiet in a desk for six to eight hours a day. With this narrow perspective of how youths should behave, many doctors may pass off other attention issues (due to visual, auditory or motor difficulties), or even perhaps essentially normal behavior, as ADHD, due to pressure from various sources (parents, teachers, etc.). It is important to remember that young children are, after all, supposed to wriggle and run around to a certain extent, and that each and every individual develops at a different rate.

Because ADHD symptoms closely parallel symptoms of other mental illnesses such as depression or bipolar disorder (which can grow worse without treatment), it may be difficult and time costly to correctly diagnose the disorder. Many times ADHD prescription medicines are incorrectly prescribed and can actually detract from treating the true, underlying condition.

The drug methylphenidate, the generic name for a group of amphetamines that includes Ritalin and Concerta, has been at the forefront of controversy in recent years, as other drugs in the same category

include cocaine, morphine, opium and methadone, and side effects can include anxiety, heart palpitations and increased blood pressure. Thus, taking these medications could result in especially disastrous effects if a child does not actually have ADHD.

Another controversial motive behind ADHD diagnoses is that the College Board offers students extra time and other accommodations on the SAT for those with learning disabilities. Many feel it is easy for those diagnosed to use an ADHD diagnosis to their advantage, and sometimes only at their convenience. Additionally, I have heard of numerous instances at my own high school of kids selling ADHD medication for recreational drug use.

Misdiagnosis in a sense absolves children of the responsibility to change their behavior (if they do not truly suffer from the disorder). Mistakenly associating behavior with ADHD excuses inappropriate behavior as acceptable and uncontrollable, and doesn't encourage changes in those who are capable of it.

Numerous adjustments can be made within the classroom that can accommodate students' varying learning styles, eliminate hazardous misdiagnosis and unnecessary prescription medication, including: modification of the classroom setup, more kinesthetic activities, and more project-based learning.

While misdiagnosis is a prevalent issue, proper diagnosis and treatment of ADD and ADHD can also be beneficial in a teenager's life. A San Ramon Valley High School senior (who requested anonymity) describes her own experience with taking Concerta to control her symptoms of ADD, which she was diagnosed with at the end of her freshman year.

"I saw a psychologist who asked

me a lot of questions, eventually diagnosed me with ADD, and recommended I give medicine a try to help me focus in class," she said. "I had never been able to focus before I went on the medication, which helps me out a lot."

The only side effects she complains of are difficulties sleeping if taken too late.

"People are typically surprised to hear I have (ADD). Since I don't have ADHD, people can't really tell, but might think I'm just a little out of it sometimes," she added. "As a child, before I found out, everyone just thought I was a little bit of a zoner."

When asked if misdiagnosis of ADHD is a danger to kids who don't actually suffer from the disorder, the teen replied, "It's not an imminent danger, but I think it can definitely affect how kids view themselves."

"I don't take Concerta that frequently anymore, and definitely won't as an adult. I will probably take it for taking tests in college, but I've become aware that I can achieve my goals and survive day to day life without it," she concluded.

Instead of grouping all fidgety kids with short attention spans into the ever-expanding ADHD category, it is important that children and teens with suspect behaviors undergo extensive evaluation so their unique issue is properly identified and treated, whether it be ADHD or any other disorder, and so those who truly have ADHD can receive the treatment they need.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a senior at San Ramon Valley High School who spends her free time going to concerts, enjoying her friends, and playing the piano. E-mail her at ohara5@comcast.net.

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by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Danville mother talks about the ongoing struggle to get her son released from prison



Prison Blues



On the outside, Diane Rose hasn't changed much in the last three years. She's still incredibly fit, with short black hair, liquid brown eyes and a big, kind smile.

On the inside, she has come to terms with a mother's nightmare: Her son Brendon, now 23, has been in state prison since May 2003 for "assault in which great bodily harm occurs," after a drunken college party brawl turned ugly. Brendon, seeing his twin brother Adam being assailed, pulled off one attacker, punched him, then kicked him when he was down. The following spring, Brendon pleaded "no contest" and was sentenced to eight years in state prison (see sidebar).

"I've been pulled into a world I couldn't possibly imagine," says Diane, who lives in

Danville and works as a personal trainer.

She's seen her 18-year-old son arrested 10 days after the fight; she's been in court when he was sentenced after his lawyer advised him to plead "no contest"; and she's visited him regularly in two different prisons.

"He walked over to a rose bush, picked a rose and handed it to me and said, 'This is for you. I want to thank you so much for what you do for me.' Two days later, they took him away."

—Diane Rose, recalling one of her last days with Brendon before he went to prison to begin an eight-year sentence.

The family tragedy caught national attention on July 31, when Diane appeared on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor TV show along with actor Robert Duvall, who promised to do what he could to bring the case to Gov. Schwarzenegger's attention. After the segment aired, SaveOurRose.com, a Web site dedicated to Brendon's cause, had more than 3,200 new hits; some people added their names to a petition to get Brendon freed or left messages of hope and prayers. Some copied e-mails they'd sent to the governor.

Diane and her two sons had met Duvall a few years ago while visiting her good friend's father, whose property is near Duvall's Byrnley Farm in Virginia.

"He invited us to go on a set of a movie in L.A., just before Brendon was sentenced," Diane says. "The movie was 'Kicking and Screaming.' He's a wonderful man, funny and witty in person."

"We didn't talk about the trial," she adds. They were still hopeful Brendon would receive probation.

But visiting Duvall on the set helped build their relationship.

Two years after Brendon

Diane Rose talks about the anguish of having her son Brendon in prison and her hopes for his release; above, Brendon Rose at age 19.

went to prison, an evidentiary hearing was held, in June 2006, to go over the facts of the case but the judge denied Brendon's request for a trial by jury. That's when Diane went to her friend in Virginia and asked for help.

"He talked to Robert Duvall, who said he wanted to help," says Diane.

She is hoping Duvall and his friend actor James Caan, who is also interested in the case, can bring it to Schwarzenegger's attention and get a commutation of the remaining sentence.

"It could be commuted to time served," Diane says, "which was three years on May 10."

Some people have told her she wasn't emotional enough on the TV show, she says, but after viewing it several times she decided she was pleased with the presentation.

She says she tried to portray passion without anger.

"I needed to be clear. I needed people to see this is real, not just a mother saying, 'My poor baby,'" she says.

She talks about their last outing

Two days before his sentencing, Diane and Brendon went out together to talk over everything, then she drove him back to his home in Pleasanton, where he lived with his father.

"He walked over to a rose bush, picked a rose and handed it to me and said, 'This is for you. I want to thank you so much for what you do for me,'" she recalls. "Two days later, they took him away."

She cries softly as she remembers this incident and says this is not the heart of the cruel person they insisted he was when they sentenced him to eight years in prison.

"That's his heart and his spirit. I can still see it," she says, adding about his part in the fight: "This was someone in a situation who reacted."

She talks about the trial

"I think about it all the time," she says. "I'm frustrated more than anything else. Frustrated that I have to fight so long and so hard and to realize that the sequence of events can happen to anybody."

"I feel like I'm in a bag, trying to get out, and there is no hole," she explains.

She and her ex-husband Ken, who at the time was a car salesman, hired Alameda County attorney Jack Noonan, paying \$25,000 for his services.

"He didn't do his job," she states flatly. "He should have sent us to a Santa Clara County attorney."

Noonan said he consulted a physician who told him the victim's head injuries were caused when Brendon kicked him. So Noonan advised Brendon to plead no contest. In the evidentiary hearing last year, it came out that the doctor was a gynecologist. Nonetheless, the judge denied Brendon's request for a trial by jury.

Does the punishment fit the crime?

The events of the college brawl during Spring Break on March 22, 2003, were fuzzy even at the time. But they would dramatically alter the lives of Brendon and Adam Rose, 18-year-old twins who had graduated the previous June from Amador Valley High in Pleasanton, and their parents Diane and Ken Rose.

It was the wee hours of the morning, near Santa Clara University. Brendon, who was attending Las Positas College, had gone to visit friends and check out the party scene. His twin brother Adam, who was home from University of Oregon, arrived with other teens when Brendon called to say a fight was brewing and he might need help.

A melee did ensue and Adam recalled that three or four guys jumped him. Brendon pulled off one, a 21-year-old from Gilroy named Jed Bober, and punched him. Bober fell, striking his head on the pavement. Then—in an act that was to be scrutinized for years to come by family, attorneys and judges—Brendon kicked him in the head.

Bober was injured badly enough for police to investigate although questions remain whether he was injured by the fall, by friends carrying him into their apartment and dropping him, or by the kick. Ten days later, police arrested Brendon at his Pleasanton home and he was booked on attempted murder. Seven months after the fight, the grand jury indicted him on two counts of battery with serious bodily injury and one count of assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury.

Diane and Ken Rose hired attorney Jack Noonan to defend Brendon. Noonan advised him to plead “no contest,” telling them he would probably receive probation, the Roses recalled. Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Diane Northway extended the hearing date from April 23 to May 10 to wait to hear from Brendon’s probation officer.

“The report was scathing,” Ken Rose said in June after the hearing. “It said he was self-centered, non-remorseful and has all his family and friends in Pleasanton fooled.”

Diane Rose said this report was written after the probation officer spent one hour with Brendon. She

said it contains more than 60 discrepancies plus things were misinterpreted. For instance, when Brendon said he couldn’t wait for the hearing so he could get on with his life, the probation officer found it callous. Diane Rose feels the interview should have been recorded so someone else could review it.

Members of the community appeared in court to vouch for Brendon’s character and to refute the report’s conclusions while others wrote letters, including teachers, coaches, a police officer, two fire chiefs and a psychologist.

“These were all people whose lives this kid has touched and who know him very well,” said Diane Rose.

Bober’s family lobbied just as hard for a tough sentence. Jed had gone into a coma, with swelling that put intense pressure on his brain. He had spent a month in the hospital and, at the time of the hearing, was still suffering from headaches, some visual impairment, and a loss of the sense of smell.

Noonan came to court without the notes he and Brendon had assembled a few days earlier, so Brendon unexpectedly had to take the stand. The judge kept questioning him about the punch to Bober’s face, the kick, and the intervening amount of time, Diane and Ken Rose said. Brendon, totally unprepared, did not know how to answer.

Judge Northway sentenced Brendon to three years in prison with an additional five years mandated by the state Legislature because of the bodily injury, Deputy District Attorney Bud Porter explained. This added up to an eight-year sentence, with the possibility of parole after six years 10 months.

“People may disagree or have walked away with a bad feeling, but they ... need to have all the information the judge did before forming opinions about the system,” Porter said a month after the decision.

The Rose family never denied Brendon deserved to be punished. But they continue to be outraged by the length of the sentence.

“It’s not about Brendon being responsible,” said Diane Rose. “He knew he deserved consequences, but not this.”

“I’ve learned that one person, the judge, had way too much power,” says Diane. “The prosecutor had too much power.”

She talks of her visits to Brendon in prison

Diane has visited Brendon at two state prisons, going through security checks where guards decide seemingly at whim whether they approve of her clothes or if she must spend precious time rummaging through a trailer of spare clothing and changing, hoping to pass muster.

Brendon was first brought to San Quentin; then he was held at the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi before being transferred to Ironwood State Prison, near Blythe. It’s a nine-to-13 hour drive, depending on the traffic, Diane says.

“Between Ken and myself, and his brother, he gets a visitor at least once per month,” she says. “The time and cost is huge.”

After making the ride on Friday afternoon and night, Diane will rise at 4 a.m. to go to the prison, be cleared for entry, and waiting at 8:30 a.m. to spend as much time as possible with Brendon in the visitor’s area. They eat from vending machines, and the cool room provides Brendon relief since the air conditioning does not work in the old gymnasium where he’s housed with 120 men.

“He wants to keep busy,” Diane says. “He’s taking responsibility for what’s been handed to him. He’s proud and says, ‘I don’t want anyone to feel sorry for me. I want to do the best I can while I’m here.’”

He works at prison jobs whenever he can, for 13 cents an hour, she says. Sometimes Diane sends him money. Both of these incomes have 55 percent taken out to go toward restitution damages of \$153,000 that Brendon was ordered to pay the victim, with interest accumulating while he’s in prison.

“I’ve learned to appreciate things in life—my freedom,” Diane says. “I have found out who my friends

truly are. I’ve been so blessed and I’m so grateful for their support.”

“Brendon has learned to appreciate things like a hug—and being able to go into a room by himself,” she adds.

She talks about the future

Life has gone on for the Rose family. Adam withdrew from University of Oregon to move back home and is finishing his bachelor’s degree in business at Cal State East Bay. He also is working as a personal trainer, sometimes side by side with Diane, as well as coaching football at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton and working for his dad who is now in the trucking brokerage business.

Brendon has completed some correspondence courses but found it was difficult to study in the prison atmosphere plus most colleges require the Internet. He has been studying Spanish on his own.

“Some wonderful people donated money for a guitar,” Diane says. “He tries to get along as best he can.”

“He has a passion for the arts. He draws, he has paper and pencils,” she says. He hopes to attend the San Francisco Academy of Arts and become a graphic illustrator.

“It’s my goal not to be bitter or angry any more,” Diane says. “Last year was tough, and the year before was tough.”

She says her physical line of work has helped keep her balanced. After the twins were born, she wanted to get toned and acquire strength using diet, weight training and cardiovascular workouts, so she hired a personal trainer. She loved the physical and mental sense of well-being so she pursued the field of personal training herself. Also the flexible hours were perfect while rearing her two little boys. Now, at 55, she specializes

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► Continued on page 18



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Prison blues

► Continued from page 17

in women in her age bracket.

"I have great clients," she notes. "They've been very supportive."

Diane now is optimistic for several reasons. There are plans to transfer Brendon to the California State Prison in Solano, which is located in Vacaville. She thrills to think of Brendon living closer plus she'll be able to visit him often. Also she is hopeful that the efforts of Bill O'Reilly and Robert Duvall might bear some fruit.

And Brendon's new attorney, Steven Gruel, who specializes in appeals, has submitted the case to the state Supreme Court.

"The work that was done before was not as thorough as it should have been. There was not a reasonable medical analysis done," says Gruel.

The new motion is based on a document from a neurologist who says it is medically probable that the injuries to the victim were not caused by the kick.

"The kick," Diane says. "It's always been about the kick."

"I myself was a former federal prosecutor for 16 years in San Francisco, prosecuting organized crime and white collar, the worst of the worst," says Gruel. "Granted there was an altercation. Granted Mr. Rose should be punished for his role in it. But one of the objectives for justice is to make sure the punishment fits the crime. In this instance, I think it is a severely overreaching punishment for this particular matter."

He found the O'Reilly Factor exposure fabulous.

"The appearance helps draw attention to the fact that there are real life events, tragedies, that do occur that affect and continue to affect a lot of people. It shows it

can happen to your son, your loved one, just as easily," he adds.

"My hope is to have the case as it exists looked at by not only the courts but the executive branch, which is the governor," he continues. "I'm contacting the governor's office pretty much on the heels of the O'Reilly show and asking to see if the governor is interested in doing a commutation, not a pardon. It says, basically, you've done enough time for this crime."

Diane says other parents in similar situations have contacted her for advice.

"Do your homework, face to face and on the Internet," she says she tells them.

"It's been great for me to help educate them," she adds.

The last three-plus years have been surreal, she says. She strives to remain strong and not be bitter, but even when Brendon is free she plans to keep asking questions about the justice system that need to be addressed. Why does one judge have so much power? Why are other people sentenced to less prison time, even when their victims die? Why was the judge able to award restitution at a criminal procedure, which, Diane says, was unprecedented?

Meanwhile part of her is imprisoned with Brendon on the Arizona border.

"I pray every day for his health and safety," she says. ■

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Calendar

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

Art

Bay Area Landscapes Exhibit A collection of Bay Area landscape paintings by the California Watercolor Association featuring Danville resident Robin Purcell's "September in Sunol." The art will be on display from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday, until Sept. 2, at Filoli, 86 Canada Rd., Woodside. Call 648-0971.

Ninth Annual Art in the Park Alamo Danville Artists' Society and the Town of Danville will host the ninth annual Art in the Park from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 6-7, at the Town Green, 400 Front St., Danville. Over 60 artists exhibiting in their booths in the park including watercolor, oil, acrylic, clay work, photography, jewelry and glass. Admission is free. Call 828-9170 or visit www.adas4art.org.

Auditions

'Bus Stop' Role Players Ensemble Theatre is hosting auditions for "Bus Stop" at 7 p.m., Sunday-Monday, Sept. 16-17. Actors need are 3 females, ages 17-50, 5 males ages 20-60. Ethnic actors encouraged. Be prepared to read from script. Call 820-1872 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

Aladdin and His Lamp of Life Role Players Ensemble Theatre will hold auditions for "Aladdin and His Lamp of Life" at 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 23 and Saturday, Oct. 6. Roles that are available are 4 males ages 18-50 (one role in drag), 6 females ages 14-25 and 4 boys and girls ages 5-8. Prepare 24 bars from an up tempo song, and be dressed to move. Accompanist provided. Call 820-1278 for location.

Author Visit

Local Authors at Rakestraw Books Rakestraw Books presents the Wednesday Writers of Oakland, a group of local women who meet to write about their lives, loves and unexpected adventures. They will meet to discuss "Something That Matters" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 25, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. This event is free. Call 736-8399.

Concerts

Concert in the Hills Series Enjoy the last free concert during the Concert in the Hills Series featuring Native Elements at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at CSUEB, Concord Campus. Bring a picnic and short lawnchairs or blankets. No dogs or glass. Call 602-8654 or visit www.concertinthehills.com.

Events

9-11 Remembrance Service Remember those that were lost on 9-11 at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, at San Ramon Memorial Park, on Bollinger Canyon Rd. at San Ramon Valley Blvd. San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson will give a welcome speech and there will be speakers, scouts, bagpipers and an essay contest with cash prizes for students. Call 275-2412.

Alamo Music and Wine Festival Alamo Rotary Club will host the 25th annual 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.

Business Showcase Food and Wine Event Danville Area Chamber

WEEKEND PREVIEW



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

of Commerce will host the Business Showcase Food and Wine Event from 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Cost is \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call 837-4400 or visit www.danvillechamber.com.

CCC Master Gardener Garden Walk Six unique gardens will be included in the CCC Master Gardener Garden Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, in Lafayette, Orinda, Walnut Creek and Martinez. Early registration is \$15; \$20 after Aug. 31. Call 672-2315.

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.

Diablo Region Porsche Concours d'Elegance Come and participate by showing or viewing exquisite Porsches of all years and styles from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16, at Heather Farm, 301 N San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and judging begins at 10 a.m. Cost is \$20 per car for judgment; \$5 for display only. Call 371-2258.

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

Funfair Family Day Bedford Gallery will host a Funfair Family Day from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Activities will include creating your own self-portrait, making sock puppets and more. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Call 295-1417 or visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson will start the Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101

admission is \$6-14. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit www.hornetevents.com.

SRV Emergency Preparedness Fair Come to the San Ramon Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at 566 Old Orchard Rd., Danville. View displays from SRV Fire, Danville Police Department, Search & Rescue, Animal Services and more. Free 72-hour Emergency Kits to the first 300 guests. Call 314-3368.

Synergy Research Institute Essay Contest Synergy Research Institute will host an essay contest for students ages 8-18 in regard to the items that are wrong in the "Inconvenient Truth" (book or movie) until Sept. 5. Entries should be not longer than one page and should be sent to: Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon 94583 or ako9@yahoo.com. Prizes include: 1st place, \$25; 2nd place, "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming" by Christopher Horner; 3rd-8th place, "A Challenge to Journalists Who cover Global Warming" by Senator James Inhofe. Winners will be announced on Sept. 5.

Walking Tours of Historic Danville Museum of the San Ramon Valley hosts walking tours of historic downtown Danville at 6:15 p.m., every third Friday through October with Karen Stepper and at 10 a.m., every second Saturday, through October with a museum docent, meeting in the front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750.

Exhibits

Quilts Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host an exhibition of Ethel Selberg's scrap quilts which will be on display until Sept. 23, at the museum, on Railroad and Prospect avenues. Quilting demonstrations are from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25 and Sept. 8. Summer hours are 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Aug. 19-Sept. 23; regular hours are from 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday; extended hours are from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22 and from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 23. Call 837-3750.

Film

'Private Life of Sherlock Homes' San Ramon Library will host a viewing of the 1970's "Private Life of Sherlock Homes" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20, at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Refreshments will be provided. Call 973-2850.

Fundraisers

Light The Night Walk Light the Night Walk is the Society's annual walk held at 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Civic Park, Walnut Creek. Walkers raise money for blood cancer research and patient education and support. Teams walk together in twilight holding illuminated balloons. Proceeds benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Call (415) 625-1107 or visit www.lightthenight.org/sf.

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

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Series Coldwater Creek, Inc. will host a fundraising event for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Series from 4-6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at Coldwater Creek, Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton and from 5-7 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16, at Coldwater Creek, Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. Shoppers will receive a 10% discount off of all merchandise which will be donated to the Komen Foundation. Visit www.coldwatercreek.com or www.komen.org.

Health

African Drumming Circle Join Patricia Frame and experience this fun way to get "good vibrations" from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20,

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at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. No rhythmic or musical ability is required. This event is free for cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107.

Free Summer Immunization Clinics Axis Community Health will offer a free immunization clinic for children from 9-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at Axis Pleasanton Clinic, 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Clinic is 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.

Low Vision Workshop Low Vision workshop will provide information to those that are affected by macular degeneration or other low vision conditions from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 8, at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave. This event is free. Call (408) 739-1846.

Holiday

Rosh Hashanah Tri-Valley Cultural Jews holds a Secular Humanistic Jewish New Year celebration of music and readings, followed by the traditional apples and honey; honeycake and challah at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12 at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Cost is \$10 for non-members 13 and over; free for members and under 13. Call 485-1049.

Kids and Teens

Horseless Carriages Blackhawk Museum will host a family funshop "Horseless Carriages" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The funshop is drop-in

for children ages 3-10 and is free with museum admission. Call 736-2277.

Jewish Culture School Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host "Introduction to Jewish Culture School," twice-monthly Secular Humanistic Sunday school, from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Sept. 9, at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Intermarried and non-traditional families welcomed. Call 485-1049 or visit www.tri-valleyculturealjeews.org.

Masks and Mime Danville Library and Eliot Fintushel presents "Masks and Mime" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. Program is suited for children ages 5 and up. Call 837-4889.

Princeton Review SAT Strategy Session Danville Library will host a Princeton Review SAT Strategy Session from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Registration is

required and will begin on Sept. 15; call 837-4889.

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer School-age children can participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

YMCA Flag Football YMCA will host flag football for children in second through fifth grade on every Sunday, Nov. 11-Dec. 16. Teamwork and sportsmanship go together with passing, catching and play execution. Call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

YMCA Indoor Soccer YMCA will host an indoor soccer league for children in preschool through third grade every Saturday, Nov. 10-Dec. 15. Great for all levels; non-competitive, 5-a-side league focuses on fun and fundamentals. Call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

YMCA Lacrosse YMCA and Stick School, LLC will host lacrosse for children in grades 1-5 on Saturdays, Sept. 29-Nov. 3. The league is recreational, co-ed and non-contact for children with little or no experience. Call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Hope Hospice End-of-Life Workshop Hope Hospice will host a 8-week End-of-Life workshop from 6:30-9 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 10-Oct. 29, at Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite C, Dublin. Cost is \$75 general; \$120 with CEU's. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

Living with Advanced Breast Cancer Tiffany Svahn, MD, will present this workshop will cover the latest treatments for advance (metastatic) breast cancer from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Making the Most of your Money Danville Library will host Ken Aslanian-Williams in a seminar on "Making the Most of your Money" from 7-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 17, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Risk-Taking and the Teen Brain Danville Library will host Dr. S. Alex Stalcup who will discuss the teen brain in regards to judgement, impulse control and sensitivity to social influences from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27, Danville Community Center, Valley Oak Room, 420 Front St. Call 837-4889.

The Truth Behind the Mortgage Industry IndyMac Bank and Keller Williams Realty will host a seminar about the "Truth Behind the Mortgage Industry" from 10 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Sept. 9, at Commonwealth Title, Walnut Creek. This event is free with an RSVP; call 543-3831.

Update on Ovarian Cancer Treatment The Wellness Community will host a workshop on the latest in

treatment options for women dealing with ovarian cancer from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Literary Events

Two Cities, One Tale Residents of Danville and San Ramon are coming together to read "Locked Rooms," by Laurie R. King from Sept. 17-Oct. 29. A free copy of the book is available at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. or at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Call 837-4889.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a New Best Friend Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit its Web site at www.tvlar.org.

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

Recycle for Breast Cancer Recycle for Breast Cancer is open seven days a week accepting free dropoffs for computers, monitors, cell phones, laptops, servers and TVs, at 31 Beta Ct., Suite C, San Ramon. Call 735-7203 or visit www.recycleforbreastcancer.org.

On Stage

"Match the Joke" Mixer Mudd's Restaurant will host a unique comedy show, "Match the Joke" mixer from 6:30-8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at Mudd's Restaurant, 10 Boardwalk, San Ramon. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Women are given cards with joke setups and men are given cards with joke punchlines. Call 264-4413.

'Peter Pan' Diablo Light Opera Company presents "Peter Pan" from Aug. 31-Sept. 29, at Leshar Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$17-38. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

'Talking With' Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents a black box production of "Talking With" at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Sept. 7-8 and 14-15, at Danville Town Meeting Hall, 210 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Call 838-2296 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

Hank Williams: Lost Highway Center Repertory Company presents a musical story of the legendary Hank Williams, "Lost Highway" from Sept. 6-Oct. 6, at Center Repertory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$14-38. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

Night at the Improv San Ramon will host another "Night at the Improv" from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, 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. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.sanramonimprovu.com.

Seniors

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.

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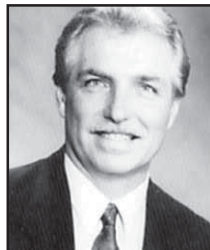
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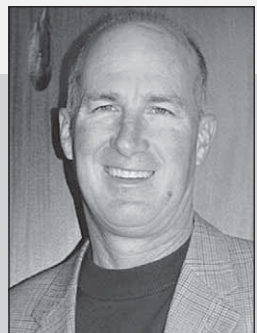
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Laugh Club Research has shown increased levels of endorphins, neurotransmitters, immune system cells, and decreased levels of stress hormones. This club meets at 10:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$1 facility use fee and is open to the public. Call Fred Turner at 216-4590.

Prime Time Prime Time for seasoned citizens meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. Activities include line dancing, English handbells, ceramics, wood carving and more. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$4. Rides are provided by County Connection Link for \$3.50 round trip; call Gloria at 837-5229. For information, call 820-6387.

Support Groups

Alamo Women's CODA Meeting Co-Dependents Anonymous (CODA) is a fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is to develop healthy relationships. The group meets from 1-2 p.m., Mondays, at United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Visit www.sfbaycoda.org or www.coda.org.

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

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

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

Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery is a forward-looking and balanced Christ-centered recovery program for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the program starts at 7 p.m., every Friday, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Childcare available for ages 5-11. Call 736-5100 or visit www.eastbayfellowship.org.

ClutterLess Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. Join the group at their meeting from 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays, at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Dr. Optional \$2-5 donation. Call 297-9246 or visit www.clutterless.org.

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.

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 Support Group for FIBRO, CFF and Chronic Pain meets 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. Call 234-5621 or e-mail dsashby@msn.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 Montgomery St. Call Gordon at 899-3117 or visit www.foodaddicts.org.

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

Volunteering

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.

Bedford Gallery Guild Bedford Gallery is a program which offers many enriching volunteer opportunities and behind-the-scenes activities of the gallery. Join them for a Volunteer Recruitment Day from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 24, at Bedford Gallery Guild, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Call 295-1418.

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.

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

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

Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art The academy seeks new volunteers and members to help with tasks ranging from bookkeeping to recruiting instructors. The group meets

noon-1 p.m., the second Friday of the month at Richard's Art & Craft Store, 225 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call Beth Batchelor at 837-5654.

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

Handbell Choir Seeks Ringers The Agape Ringers are seeking teens and adults with musical backgrounds to rehearse from 7-9 p.m., Thursdays, in Danville. For information, call Margaret at 837-6371.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum Docents are needed to lead class tours, teaching children and others about our important connection with wildlife and the world we share. No experience needed. Call 627-2444 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Museum of the San Ramon Valley The Museum of the San Ramon Valley welcomes volunteers and has a current need for greeters who give three hours one day a month to welcome visitors to the museum, register their attendance, and give them an introductory tour of the Waiting Room and the Museum Store. Call Carmen Curtis at 837-9781 or the museum at 837-3750.

Nike Club Run SF The Nike Club Run SF training series is a fifteen-week program designed to prepare runners for the Nike Womens Marathon or Half Marathon from 7-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 21. Volunteers are needed for aid stations to set up tables with water and Gatorade. Call (415) 331-4139 or e-mail nikeclubrunsf@gmail.com.

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

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer or a Foster with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Orientations are held from 1-2:30 p.m., the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month, at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Registration is not required to attend the orientation; cost is a \$10 optional donation. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tv-ar.org.

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

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

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CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Blocked shot halts Stampede

The goalie from the San Juan Lightning 95 Blue from Sacramento blocks a shot against

Austin Lonestar, No. 7, from the Mustang Celtics on Sunday night's U13 championships at Sycamore Park of the 2007 Mustang Stampede Tournament. The Celtics lost in the last 10 seconds of overtime, 4-3.



Grizzlies win in Cooperstown

The NorCal Grizzlies, a select travel team of baseball players from throughout the East Bay, went 21-1 to win the 96-team Cooperstown 12U National invitational tournament the week of Aug. 11-16. "Never Give Up" echoed through-

out the Cooperstown Dreams Park after the NorCal Grizzlies found themselves down by four runs in the top of the sixth inning of the championship game against the No 4-seed Hard 90 Rival of Roseville. Not only did the Grizzlies find a way to tie the game 8-8 in the sixth but they added three more runs in the top of the seventh to claim the Championship, 11-8.



Tornados in Newark

The Mustang Tornados U11 girls placed second at the Newark Referee Classic on Aug. 18-19, with (front, l-r) Taylor Cuenin, Shelby Cooke, Katrina Palumbo, Natalie Elam,

Madison Engelhart, Regan Leach, Shelby Silva; (middle) Katelyn Krommenhoek; (back) Coach Mike Cooke, Madeline Rabago, Stephanie Pritzkow, Maya Felten, Hannah Smith, Aimee Squires, Hannah Perrien, and Assistant Coach Frank Squires.

Madison White breaks record in backstroke

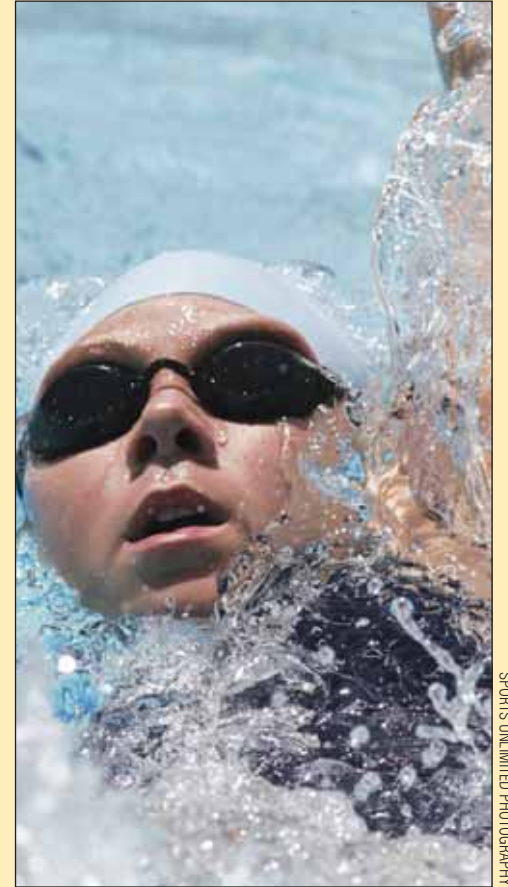
Madison White of the USA Sharks Swim Team, broke the girls 100 backstroke Western Zone's 9-year record for ages 11-12 at the championships Aug. 7-11 in New Mexico. White captured the second-place High Point award, and received a special trophy designed and handmade by Mashelia Whitehorse of the Navajo Indian Tribe.

Madison competed earlier at the Far Western Championship in Concord and broke the 100-meter backstroke Far Western record and a 10-year 200-meter backstroke Pacific Swimming record. She tied the High Point award with Chelsea Chenault of the Terrapins. At the Spring JO's short course she won the High Point award.

One of Madison's most memorable moments was when she was the lead off for the 200 Medley Relay at the Santa Clara International Meet, which claims to have the 800 best swimmers in the world, including one of Madison's favorites, Natalie Coughlin. At this meet, Madison broke the 100-yard girls 11-12 Pacific Swim backstroke long course record.

"When they announced my name, I was very excited that I had broken the record," said Madison.

Her coaches are Dan Cottan and Ethan Hall. She began her winning streak at the age of 6 when she won the backstroke events at the Contra Costa County Championship Meet. ■



SPORTS UNLIMITED PHOTOGRAPHY

Madison White is breaking girls 11-12 records with her backstroke.



United U19 captures tourney

The Mustang Boys U19 Tri-Valley United defeated Laguna Barcelona 2-1 in the Bob Fowler Tournament championship game Aug. 19. After a scoreless first half, Ryan Vanderlip fired in a goal off an assist from Brenden Hawke. Barcelona answered back with a goal that led to overtime. With one minute left in double-overtime, Cole White delivered on a PK shot and Mustang took the lead and the win.

In pool play, the opposing teams were shut out by the outstanding defense of Jack Gedney, Sam Gervolino, Chris Lim, Zack O'Neill, Eric Wyne and goalkeepers Jeff Chavez and Miles Spafford.



A Magic Blast

The Mustang Blast U-13 Girls won the Magic Cup hosted by the Central Valley Youth Soccer League over the weekend of Aug. 25-26, despite tough competition and two of their players being on the injured reserved list. The battle to the championship included besting Alliance FC Crystals, 8-0; CV Revolution, 3-0; CFC Flame, 3-0; and CV Chili Peppers, 1-0. The Blast wants to send a special thought to the CV Chili Pepper's goalie for a quick recovery with her broken arm.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Alert resident notices women casing cars

A 40-year-old woman helped foil potential burglaries on Morninghome Road in Danville last week, said police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Kelly Tulchinsky, 28, of Danville and Jeana Guevara, 18, of Martinez were looking into cars on Morninghome Road on Friday morning, Aug. 24, police said. They began to work separately but they carried receivers to inform each other if they saw cops, according to reports.

A 40-year-old woman living on Morninghome Road saw the suspicious activity and called the police at 11:45 a.m. Police arrived in the area and caught the two suspects.

Police found stolen property in Tulchinsky's car, a 1995 green Ford

Thunderbird, including computer parts and a humidifier, which had been taken from Dublin, and a pipe for smoking drugs. The computer parts and the humidifier are worth around \$500, Craig said.

Tulchinsky was arrested on charges of possession of stolen property and violation of probation for carrying a controlled substance. Guevara was arrested on charges of being under the influence of drugs, Craig said.

Police took them to Martinez Detention Facility.

Craig noted the resident's call helped the police immensely.

"This call resulted in two good arrests that could've resulted in several burglaries in broad daylight," he said. "We want more of these things to happen."

—Jordan M. Doronila



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POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Aug. 19

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Joaquin Dr. at 12:57 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 20

- Vandalism on Summerside Cir. at 7:10 a.m.
- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 7:50 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Merano St. at 8:10 a.m.
- Vandalism on Meese Ct. at 8:51 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 9:26 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Valley Creek Ln. at 9:29 a.m.
- Identity theft on Joaquin Cir. at 9:46 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Diablo Rd. at 9:57 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:47 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Merano St. at 12:38 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Fontaine Ct. at 2:03 p.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on El Pintado Rd. at 4:25 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Linda Mesa Ave. at 6:43 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 2:51 a.m.
- Vandalism on Monte Carlo Way at 8:51 a.m.
- Grand theft on Camino Ramon Pl. at 10:52 a.m.
- Petty theft on W. El Pintado Rd. at 11:39 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on 400 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:51 a.m.
- Petty theft on W. El Pintado Rd. at 12:30 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Catherine Houdlette Marks

Catherine Houdlette Marks, a Danville resident, died peacefully at home Aug. 9.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Robert T. Marks; her children William Ernest Marks and Laurie Marks; her mother, Ann Houdlette Bates; and her sister, Heide Livingston.

Remembrances can be sent to Hospice of the East Bay, or Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Anita Gale

Anita Gale, formerly of Alamo, passed away Aug. 16. She was born Nov. 27, 1931, to Carleton and Helen Anderson. She was married to James L. Gale for 58 years and was the mother of Stephen, Kathleen, Paul, James, Jean, Peter, David, John and Timothy. She had eight grandchildren and may nieces and nephews. Her family remembers that she "baked the best chocolate chip cookies and made really good tamale pie."

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Podva Rd. at 12:48 p.m.
- Petty theft on Quintrera Ln. at 12:59 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Fostoria Way at 2:36 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Valero at 3:08 p.m.
- Vandalism on Mission Dr. at 3:32 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 3:45 p.m.
- Petty theft, bicycle, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:03 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

- Petty theft on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 9:14 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Fostoria Way at 11:09 a.m.
- Vandalism on Manchester St. at 11:14 a.m.
- Auto burglary on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:35 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 2:17 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Boone Ct. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:12 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Green Valley Rd. at 4:43 p.m.
- Vandalism on Boone Ct. at 4:44 p.m.
- Vandalism on Rockport Ct. at 7:28 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, at Peets Coffee at 11:20 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on northbound I680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 2:52 a.m.
- Petty theft on Versailles Ct. at 9:20 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 9:28 a.m.
- Vandalism on Lyon Ct. at 12:15 p.m.
- Petty theft on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 3:53 p.m.
- Grand theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:06 p.m.

- Drunk in public on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 5:14 p.m.
- Drunk in public on El Dorado Ave. and Sonora Ave. at 5:34 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on 3500 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:20 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 24

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:06 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Podva Rd. at 9:23 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Morninghome Rd. at 11:44 a.m.
- Identity theft on Matadera Cir. at 1:00 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and McCauley Rd. at 6:33 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Old Blackhawk Rd. at 6:50 p.m.
- Petty theft on Morris Ranch Rd. at 8:42 p.m.
- Identity theft on Midland Way at 9:37 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 26

- Vandalism on St. Patricks Dr. at 11:16 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Sycamore Valley Rd. at Valero at 2:26 p.m.
- Battery on Crow Canyon Rd. and Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 2:59 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 7:56 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Old Orchard Dr. at 8:06 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on northbound I-680 on ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:25 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Livorna Rd. and Miranda Ln. at 10:03 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Boone Ct. at 10:15 p.m.
- Fight disturbance, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:57 p.m.

WEDDINGS

Amanda Carter & Matthew Anderson

Amanda Carter and Matthew Anderson were married July 28 at Blake's at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek.

Amanda is the daughter of Maria and Ken Carter of Walnut Creek. She graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1995, and received a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University in 1999 and a teaching credential in 2000. She is currently a second grade teacher in the Dublin Unified School District.

Matthew is the son of Margo and Evan Anderson of Walla Walla, Wash. He graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1997, and from Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., in 2001. He works in Network Security at Chevron in San Ramon.

The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and make their home in Dublin.





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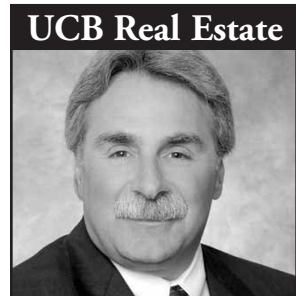
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3-5 ac Ranch Homesites, starting at \$39,900 outside Ruidoso, New Mexico. Located 30 minutes outside Ruidoso. Affordable living with no compromises. Stunning land, hard surfaced roads, municipal water, adjacent to golf, convenient to all Ruidoso has, but more affordable, bigger & prettier. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-417-2624. (Cal-SCAN)

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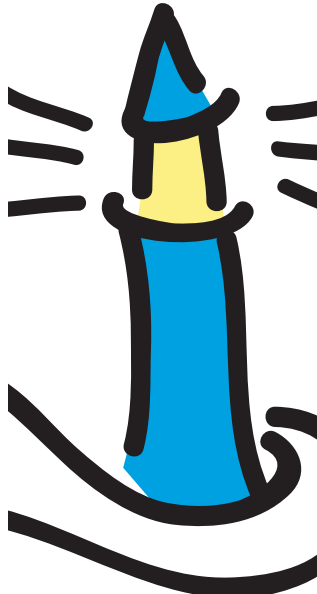


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HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during July 2007

Alamo

160 Camille Court P. & K. Kelley to Schwarz Trust for \$1,600,000
36 Kensington Court Crane Trust to T. Mayer for \$1,330,000
2657 Lunada Lane R. & R. Travallini to M. & K. Henderson for \$1,575,000
3136 Lunada Lane J. & L. Bodine to N. Burks for \$1,265,000
300 South Avenue Ripepi Trust to J. & D. Clouse for \$2,350,000
3 Wing Set Place R. & J. Darby to G. & M. Hart for \$1,975,000

Danville

40 Barcelona Court A. & A. Massi to M. & M. Shah for \$935,000
14 Brightwood Circle Schwarz Trust to B. Ewin for \$950,000
2769 Deer Meadow Drive Rice Trust to A. & M. Leeker for \$1,695,000
311 Fontaine Drive T. & A. Wilson to R. Thomas for \$790,000
197 Franciscan Drive K. Patel to T. Campbell for \$875,000
200 Gamay Court KB Homes to H. Guo for \$875,000
333 Karelian Street Shapell Industries to P. Cheng for \$465,500
359 Karelian Street Shapell Industries to D. Duong for \$502,000

79 La Velle Court F. & K. Cognato to A. Brown for \$825,000
1912 Mantova Street KB Homes to M. & A. Antiniw for \$1,073,500
1919 Mantova Street KB Homes to D. Cox for \$1,007,000
2435 Marsanne Street Lennar Homes to Won Trust for \$1,242,000
325 Paraiso Drive S. Lovoi to B. & M. Helstad for \$1,175,000
204 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to J. Majors for \$465,500
208 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to E. Vanpuffelen for \$502,000
221 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to N. Li for \$466,000
224 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to H. Kuo for \$501,500
1527 Peters Ranch Road D. MacDonald to J. Perkins for \$799,000
1838 Rioja Street KB Homes to M. & C. Lewandowski for \$961,000
155 Rubicon Circle D. Davis to R. & M. Reynolds for \$500,000
40 Sarah Court Castle Principles to T. Acosta for \$1,050,000
104 Tivoli Lane R. & C. Hout to T. & C. Adams for \$745,000
903 Trebbiano Court Lennar Homes to A. Patra for \$1,186,000

909 Trebbiano Court Lennar Homes to A. Jones for \$1,155,500
912 Trebbiano Court Lennar Homes to D. & J. Davis for \$1,111,500
915 Trebbiano Court Lennar Homes to M. & J. Sinicropi for \$1,173,000
8 Willowmere Road K. & L. Ching to R. & L. Devlin for \$1,299,000

Walnut Creek

1308 Arkeil Road K. Perea to J. & K. Spicer for \$755,000
335 Beacon Ridge Lane J. & A. Hink to B. & S. Simpson for \$770,000
2130 Cactus Court #3 Roberts Trust to G. & S. Yarworth for \$495,000
1149 Caitlin Park Karaglanis Trust to J. Lad for \$829,000
1820 Cannon Drive G. Manion to M. Morrissey for \$515,000
1874 Holland Drive J. Morton to R. & A. Glasgow for \$475,000
944 Juanita Drive A. Reed to C. Aguilar for \$650,000
477 La Corso Circle Mungin Trust to M. Lee for \$675,000
531 Lily Street Stone Trust to E. & K. Wright for \$865,000
16 Mariposa Way N. Dooley to S. & T. Dondanville for \$900,000
430 North Civic Drive #410 A. Kashani to B. Dinyari for \$305,000
1261 Oakshire Court R. Haddad to C. & S. Hansell for \$855,000

DANVILLE WEEKLY OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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4 Bedrooms
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5 Bedrooms
2618 Danville Blvd. **\$1,550,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 RE/MAX Accord 209-1131

BLACKHAWK

5 Bedrooms
3401 Deer Ridge Dr. **\$2,549,000**
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 988-1818

DANVILLE

2 Bedrooms
152 Westfield Cir. **\$587,500**
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2600

3 Bedrooms
120 Montair Ct. **\$1,695,000**
 Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 672-2499

4 Bedrooms
553 Verona Ave. **\$1,385,000**
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 457-4551

423 Sutton Cir. **\$684,900**
 Sun 1-4 Prudential 858-4384

20 Cannes Ct. **\$998,500**
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2600

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

5 Bedrooms
881 El Pintado Rd. **\$2,595,000**
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4115

60 Casablanca St. **\$997,000**
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 998-1818

SAN RAMON

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

4 Bedrooms
401 Kevin Ct. **\$649,000**
 Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker 785-9373

DUBLIN

3 Bedrooms
7476 Tamarack Dr. **\$639,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 998-7990

PLEASANTON

4 Bedrooms
900 Roselma Pl. **\$3,399,000**
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1621 Hopyard Rd. **\$849,000**
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30
 Cashin Company Realtors 650-948-8050

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5 Bedrooms
5679 Dresslar Cir. **\$899,000**
 Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 398-6706

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Read Joe and Nancy's Real Estate Column in Alive East Bay Magazine



Priced at \$849,850

This sought after Danville Station home features four bedrooms, three full bathroom neutral carpeting throughout, remodeled granite kitchen, open airy floor plan, bedroom and bathroom downstairs, volume ceilings, private court location adjacent to walking paths and greenbelt!

- 4 Bedrooms
- 3 Bathrooms
- One bedroom/ bath downstairs
- Volume Ceilings
- Open airy floor plan
- Custom Blinds
- Recessed Lighting
- Spacious granite kitchen to living area
- Formal Dining
- Wooded court location
- Next to walking trails
- Extra storage in garage
- Top rated schools
- Excellent Value!!

For a private showing call Pam



The House Sold Name

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ALAMO

Gated Neighborhood \$6,500,000

New estate with 9500+/-sf on over 1.5 level acres! Extensive use of crown moldings & wainscoting, triple edged granite, water-cut marble & more. 6-car garage.

Pamela Schmidt & Sharon Dare 925.855.4018



BLACKHAWK

Elegant Mediterranean Gated Estate \$3,999,000

One of Blackhawk's largest lots: 1.8+/-acres. Perfect for entertaining w/dramatic entry, 5bd, 5.5ba, separate guest apt w/great room & FP. \$500K in upgrades.

Andrea Marcoulis 925.830.3999



DANVILLE

21+ Acre Estate - Priced To Sell!

Exceptional value for amount of acreage and quality of home. Fabulous remodel, gated entry, easy access to Regional Park.

Ralph Sessa & Julie Long 925.858.5233



BLACKHAWK

Just Listed in Blackhawk \$1,895,000

Beautiful 4bd + large bonus room, 3ba home with 4475+/-sf of light, bright and open one story living with upstairs bonus room. Corner lot.

Suzanne Gardner 925.577.4165



ALAMO

Entertainer's Delight! \$1,550,000

Executive home with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, extensive hardwood floors, attention to detail. Private yard with patios, lawn, pool & spa.

EJ Simpson & Nancy Benvenuto 925.360.8300



ALAMO

Remodeled Home-Separate Guest House \$1,349,950

Single story w/3bd plus library, 2531+/-sf, located behind privacy walls & 2 gated driveways. 2-full baths and one-half bath/laundry room combo. Pool & spa.

Ju Dee Bell & Dennis Harvey 925.855.4022



DANVILLE

Great Opportunity \$1,265,000

Remodeled 4bd, 2ba on over one-half flat acre. 2400+/-sf, granite kitchen, beautiful in-ground pool with room for guest house & tennis court.

Michael K 510.612.8008



BLACKHAWK

Golf Membership Available \$1,199,000

Fabulously updated 3bd, 3ba, over 2800sf of luxurious living on the 18th fairway of the Lakeside Course. Huge gourmet kitchen. Pristine!

Vance & Sue Smith 925.325.9215



DANVILLE

Shadow Creek Beauty \$1,189,900

4bd, 3ba, beautifully remodeled kitchen w/granite & custom cherry cabinets, remodeled baths, 3 fireplaces, 3-car garage.

Lisa & Greg Doyle 925.855.4046

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

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

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Danville, CA 94526
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