

Swimming the Bay for a good cause

Cancer survivor talks about what's really 'tough' > **page 16**

Nudging Alamo toward cityhood

Signature collectors will be out in force

> **page 5**

Vol. III, Number 20 • September 14, 2007

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Fun was had by all at Music Fest

Chris Suter named Alamo Citizen of the Year

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page 14

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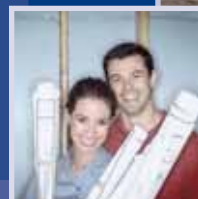
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Streetwise

ASKED AT DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

Q: What do you think is the cause of divorce?



I would have to say infidelity, money and falling out of love. Money is an issue. It makes a relationship more difficult. Falling out of love is also an issue. They get different interests and they become their own person and independent.

Courtney Catterton
employee at The Crown



The first thing is a deterioration in societal values. In my parents' generation, they had a commitment to children and to one another. Now commitment is not much of an issue. Second is that the state and federal government have too many anti-poverty programs that give incentives to single parents. Falling out of love and divorcing is a convenient excuse. Both spouses have to not make that happen.

Bill Gilliam
finance person



Bad communication. Some couples get so busy. They just don't have time to talk. They don't want to talk. Time is a barrier. Our lives are so busy.

Beverly Adair
manicurist



Lack of commitment. Not getting your feelings out on the table. There is a fear that you'll disappoint the significant other or say the wrong thing.

Nick Fullerton
sales



Compatibility. I have friends that are going through a divorce. They just grew apart. One was doing their work and not paying attention to their needs. Another was involved in cheating.

Elaine Buczek
travel agent

compiled by Danville Weekly staff

ABOUT THE COVER

Micro-chipping for animals, as well as vaccinations, will be offered tomorrow at the Emergency Preparedness Fair in Danville, as well as information and kits to help humans in times of disaster. Cover design by Shannon Corey. (Don't worry—Gracie only served as a model; she's really not lost.)

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ People put funny things
in the garbage. ”

— Tim Argenti, general manager of Allied Waste, speaking
at the mayor's coffee last week. See story, page 6

O'Neill Festival offers new features

The annual Eugene O'Neill Festival, a three-day celebration of the playwright, is being held next week, Sept. 21-23. A special feature this year will take place Saturday, Sept. 22, at O'Neill's Tao House, in the west hills of Danville. Guests will gather for cocktails at 6 p.m. in the newly landscaped courtyard, enjoy a gourmet dinner beneath a giant oak tree, and then adjourn to the Old Barn for dramatic interpretations of O'Neill's poems, stories, and music associated with his famous plays, the last six of which were written at Tao House. O'Neill is the only American playwright to receive the Nobel Prize and four Pulitzer Prizes.

The event is a fundraiser for the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, which arranges educational and other activities throughout the year. Reservations, at \$100 per person, may be made at 820-1818. Attendance is limited to 100.

The program, except for the dinner, will be repeated at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 23, with admission at \$30. Call 943-7469 for tickets. Both events include transportation to Tao House; private vehicles are not allowed on the site, which is managed by the National Park Service.

Other festival events include a screening of the movie version of O'Neill's classic "The Iceman Cometh" at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21; an introduction into the life and works of O'Neill at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 22; and a discussion at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, by O'Neill scholars, authorities and actors. These events, all free, will be held in the Danville Town Meeting Hall at 201 Front St. Additional information and updates can be found at www.eugeneoneill.org.

Grand opening for Oak Hill Community Center

The grand opening of the town's new Oak Hill Park Community Center on Stone Valley Road will be held from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13. The new center is located in Oak Hill Park next to Monte Vista High School, and it replaced a smaller structure that held restrooms and a small meeting room.

Contractors recently completed the town's \$4 million, 6,200-square-foot building and its first event was the Contra Costa County Mayor's Conference on Sept. 6. Special features of the center are a 36-inch oak tree in its terrace, a 1,200-square-foot ballroom, an overview of the lake, and a parking lot with 46 stalls.

For more information about the center, call the Town of Danville at 314-3388.

Tri-Valley cities join East Bay communications system

Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore have taken initial steps to join the East Bay Regional Communications System, which comprises public agencies within Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

"The key to a successful response and mitigation of any type of disaster that could impact the Bay region is a coordinated communications system," said Alameda County project manager Bill McCammon.

The system would provide public safety and general government communications for day-to-day operations and serve as an inter-operable system in region-wide emergencies.

The total system cost is estimated at just over \$60 million, and more than \$17 million in federal grants have been secured.

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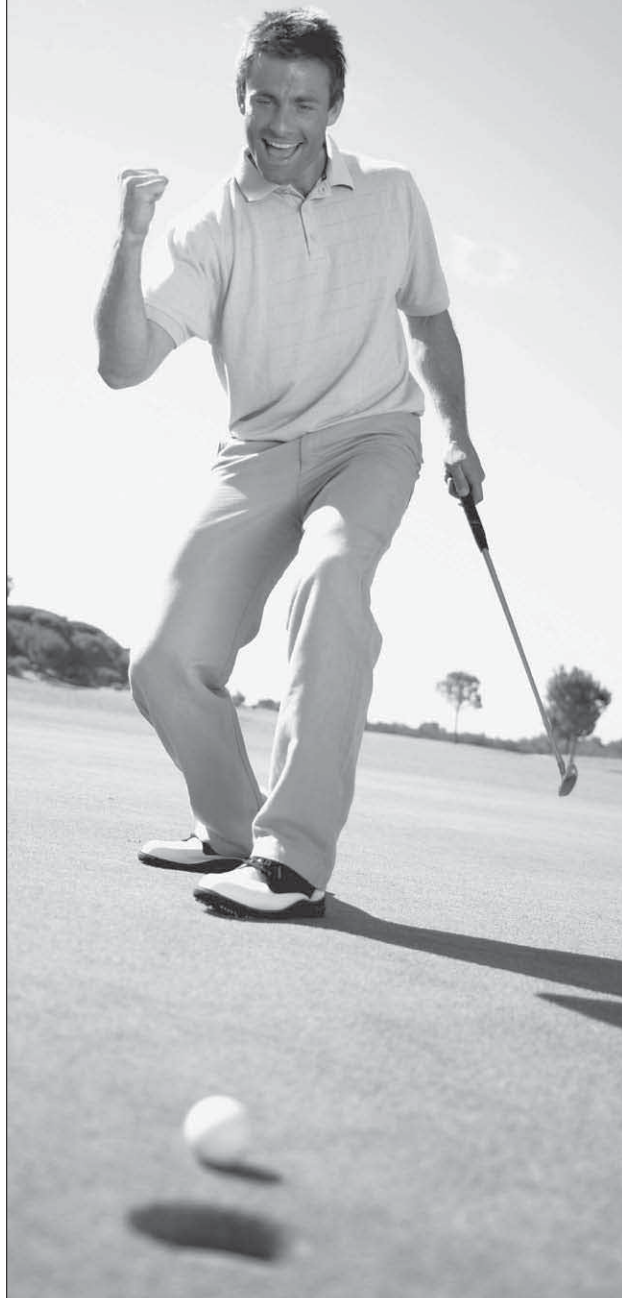
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Alamo petition toward incorporation begins

2,500 signatures needed to apply for study on cityhood

by Natalie O'Neill

The feeling in the air was “rah-rah sis-boom-bah!” for enthusiastic supporters of Alamo’s cityhood last week, as the Alamo Incorporation Movement kicked off its petition launch.

Signature collectors—who set up a booth at the Alamo Wine and Music Festival on Saturday—will now need to gather 2,500 John Hancocks in the next six months. And leaders of the grassroots movement say they plan to do it largely through neighborhood groups.

“It’s like throwing a stone at a pool; the ripples move outward,” said Chris Kenber, spokesman for the Alamo incorporation committee.

Along with the petition circulating at casual neighborhood get-togethers, volunteers plan to leave them at public locations, such as Richard’s Arts and Crafts and Mark Kahn Jewelers. Door-to-door petitioning, along with appearances at

the Danville farmers market and in front of Alamo Safeway are also part of the plan.

The group needs to get 2,500 signatures—25 percent of Alamo voters—but this does not OK cityhood. It is necessary for the Local Agency Formation Commission to conduct a study to determine if Alamo would stand up to the financial tests of running its own government. The Contra Costa LAFCO is a state regulatory commission to prevent small districts and non-viable cities from being created.

At a spirited meeting last week, which was essentially a pep rally for around 80 cityhood supporters, the committee found volunteers and worked on how to convey a consistent message while out in the field.

The meeting was a form of training for volunteers, Kenber said. Energy levels were high, donations were collected, and the message

► Continued on page 9



Randy Nahas verifies the signature of Mary Mahin on a petition to ask LAFCO to consider Alamo for incorporation, at the Alamo Wine and Music Festival on Saturday evening.

DOLores FOX CARDELLI

Danville working to provide affordable housing

Report shows compliance with state regulations

by Jordan M. Doronila

Balancing affordability and affluence remains a challenge in Danville. But town staff and developers have been working together to provide affordable housing.

The Danville Town Council at its Sept. 4 meeting gave its blessing to its annual housing report, which lists affordable and generic residential building activity.

“It’s an ongoing accountability,” said town Planning Chief Kevin

Gailey. “It’s a compliance report. It’s an obligation to the state annually of how we are doing.”

The report covers Danville’s affordable housing projects from 1999 to September 2007, Gailey said. He said developers have built or have secured approvals to build three apartment complexes for people earning a moderate income, which is an affordability category designated by California.

The state designates “moderate income” as between 81 percent and 120 percent of area median income, which is \$58,700 for a one-person household; \$67,000 for two; \$75,400 for three; \$83,800 for four; and \$90,500 for five.

The affordable rental units in town correspond with people earning a median income, Gailey said.

“It’s how they are deemed affordable,” he said.

Sequoia Grove, one of the newest apartments, on Podva Road, has been designed by its developer for moderate income earners in a multi-family zoning area. The builder cannot charge more than \$1,413 a month for a single-person household; \$1,621 for two; and \$1,819 for three.

The town has created specific density land uses for builders to create affordable housing, including 55 residential units behind Navlet’s Garden Center on Camino

Ramon and 34 units on Fostoria Way, Gailey said. Like the Sequoia project, there will be a cap on how much tenants can be charged.

The builder of the Navlet’s center had requested an amendment to the Danville General Plan to change its property from commercial to mixed use; the developer of the Fostoria units asked for a residential use.

“It’s a homerun for the town,” Gailey said. “The town was proactive in getting those sites for multi-family use.”

“You can get affordability by product type,” he added. “They are affordable by design.”

The town was also involved in

building Sycamore Place, a Bridges housing complex for seniors with “very low” to “extremely low income” on Hartz Way. It purchased the land south of the Danville Library, set aside housing money, and worked with Bridges, a nonprofit developer, to build the 78 units around 2003.

“That’s a once-in-a-30-year process,” Gailey said. “We don’t have the funds to do that every cycle.”

Sycamore Place resident Bob Worthington, 72, said he enjoys his home.

“I love it here because I’m a block away from downtown,” he

► Continued on page 9

Bids open for upgrades to Village Theatre

Art Gallery moving downstairs to be accessible; offices going on second floor

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Village Theatre, an epicenter for arts and culture on Front Street in Danville, is being renovated.

The Town Council approved a call for bids to remodel the vacant upstairs space as part of the improvements to the Village Theatre, at its meeting Sept. 4. The town is putting a new roof on the theater, converting the empty area on the second floor into office space, and renovating the restrooms on the first floor, said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo.

Additionally, it is enhancing

the electrical work and expanding the first floor lobby for gallery space to make it accessible on the ground floor.

“We have a need for gallery space for all arts groups and organizations,” said Calabrigo. “There will be a broad range of artists.”

Currently, the Role Players Ensemble Theatre and children’s theater groups regularly use the venue. Calabrigo said the Danville Arts Commission and Arts Stronger Together Coalition, comprising arts groups in the vicinity, plan to feature a variety of artwork.

Calabrigo noted the theater

upgrades are broken up into three phases. He said the roof work and electrical work are phase one; turning the vacant upstairs area into office space is phase two; and the lobby and restroom improvements are phase three. The work, part of the town’s Capital Improvement Program, was budgeted at \$865,000.

“They really needed to upgrade and make (the theater) handicap accessible,” Calabrigo said.

“We are going to free up some space downstairs,” said Steve Lake, town director of Development Services. “This will indirectly lead to improvements in the lobby.”

The roof and electrical work is scheduled to be finished by the end of September.

The Village Theatre, which is recognized as a historical site, is on Front Street along with the Town Meeting Hall, the library, the community center and the Eugene O’Neill Commemorative. Additionally, it is near the Veterans Memorial Building and downtown businesses.

Calabrigo said this cluster of town buildings was fortuitous but has been carefully nurtured and planned.

“It is a nice coincidence,” he said. ■



The Village Theatre on Front Street in Danville is undergoing renovations.

JORDAN M. DORONILA

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Mayors meeting inaugurates Oak Hill facility

Danville Mayor Mike Shimansky (right), Town Manager Joe Calabrigo (middle) and San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commissioner David Bowlby visit at the monthly Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference, held last week at Oak Hill Park Community Center. The Town of Danville hosted the event at its new building at Oak Hill Park on Stone Valley Road, a week after the facility was finished. Mayors from throughout the county attended the event for a total of more than 90 people, including county and city staff. Contra Costa County District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho was one of the speakers. San Ramon will host the conference next month.



JORDAN M. DORNILLA

Talking' trash at the mayor's coffee

Danville folks get updates on garbage and water

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Garbage and water were two of the topics covered at last Friday's monthly informal coffee hosted by Danville Mayor Mike Shimansky.

"People put funny things in the garbage," said Tim Argenti, general manager of Allied Waste, which provides garbage service in this area. "When we used to go in the back yards, sometimes there would be live chickens in the cans. Once there was an engine block stuffed in."

He said the focus is now on diversion and meeting rates set by the county and the state. Residential recycling is high in Danville, Argenti said, and it goes to a recycling plant in Benicia where it is sorted.

"Styrofoam (which cannot be recycled) is still a big issue," Argenti said. "The whole purpose is to become zero waste."

Last year, Allied Waste tested

a food scraps program in some Danville neighborhoods. Residents were given small plastic cans, which they were advised to keep under their kitchen sinks, fill with table scraps and put into their green waste bins.

"The whole pilot program was a complete flop," said Shimansky, but he noted it was tried during hot weather when the food scraps quickly began to smell and attract vermin.

"A lot of people put the little containers into recycling," Argenti said.

Allied Waste is working on a diversion program for commercial food waste, he said, which is the biggest concern because residents use garbage disposals. Food waste does not decompose in the landfills because it receives no air or light, but a special program would dump it into a huge compost pile with the results sold as fertilizer.

East Bay Municipal Utilities District director John Coleman was

also at the coffee, telling folks about the prospects of a drought after last winter's unusually low rainfall.

"We were asking for a 15 percent cutback in usage between April and October," he said. "That would cushion against having to go to rationing. We've had an 8 percent reduction so we're not meeting our goal."

He said EBMUD is having discussions with other water districts in Northern California about buying water. Also it has entered into a partnership with the Sacramento County Water Agency resulting in the Freeport Regional Water Project, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2010 and will help reduce rationing in drought years from 67 percent to 29 percent. EBMUD is also exploring desalinization, Coleman said.

"If we have to ration at 65 percent," he said, "it would have a \$1.3 billion economic impact" in Contra

➤ Continued on page 7

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High tech health care is costly

John Muir reaches out as it kicks off capital campaign

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Health care has never been so high tech, or so expensive.

Danville Area Chamber of Commerce members toured John Muir Medical Center recently to see the emergency facilities and learn about its five-year expansion plans. John Muir will invest \$800 million in building projects, renovations and expansion of the medical center facilities.

"John Muir's profits are put back into our facilities," said Kimberly Low, capital campaign director after someone asked the difference between John Muir and a for-profit hospital. "We're designed to be a benefit to the community."

The tour began with the emergency room, where patients check into a small lobby and are triaged to gauge the level of urgency. The emergency services director was viewing an X-ray of a hand on a screen while on the phone with someone viewing the identical image, using the Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) funded by the foundation.

"The busiest times are from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday," said Susan Woods, a foundation board member who led the tour.

The emergency room will be renovated in four phases and will expand from its current 22 beds to 44.

John Muir-Walnut Creek is the trauma center for all of Contra Costa, Solano and Marin counties, and handles 1,400 cases per year. The helicopter pad in the parking lot will be moved to the roof as part of the renovations.

The group also toured the Radiation Oncology Department, to learn about the Novalis system, which uses radiation beams to precisely hit on and around a tumor.

"We can beam on what we need to treat," said department manager Margaret Murphy.

She explained that horror stories of side effects from radiation treatments are from decades ago when radiation was applied to large portions of the body rather than pinpointing the cancer cells plus a safety margin.

"We're 100 percent confident treating a tiny target," she noted.

The third stop on the tour was the Cardiac Rhythm Center, where cardioverter defibrillators are implanted. The facility rivals those in university settings and is unmatched in the East Bay, said Margaret Simor, director of clinical operations for John Muir Health System's cardio-



Margaret Simor, director of clinical operations for John Muir's cardiovascular service line, leads a tour from the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce through the Cardio Rhythm Center, which was made possible by unrestricted gifts to the John Muir Health Foundation. "There really is no rhythm procedure we can't do and no reason to go elsewhere," she says.

vascular service line.

The expansion is being funded by bonds, cash on hand and philanthropy, said Health Foundation President Milt Smith.

John Muir Medical Center expansion

- Emergency room will double in size
- Four new trauma suites
- Three more inpatient surgical suites
- 24 new critical-care rooms adjacent to surgery in new patient-care tower
- 15 added private beds in neonatal intensive care nursery

Margins are slim at John Muir, explained Smith. At most hospitals, margins around 2-5 percent are considered to be good.

"At John Muir, we're always shooting for margins of around 5 percent," said Smith.

The surplus is applied to the following year's operating budget.

"John Muir is noted for its quality medical staff," Smith said. "High tech' and 'high touch'—that's what our money is used for. Salaries are about 40 percent of our budget."

"Everything is cleaned within an inch of its life," he also noted, which has a cost.

Payments by insurance companies and Medicare are not necessarily what patients see on their bills, he said. The fees are negotiated between the insurance companies and the hospital.

The five-year expansion at John Muir-Walnut Creek will add 234 new rooms, for a total of 410, including more private rooms, which have been proven to facilitate healing. The neonatal intensive

care nursery will have its capacity increased from 19 beds to 34, with a combination of private and semi-private rooms for critically ill newborns and sleep chairs for parents. Three new inpatient surgical suites will be built for a total of 13, with room for the latest technology.

"A small group of residents and physicians made John Muir happen and now we are ready to take it to the next level," said capital campaign director Low.

The idea behind a community hospital is to offer sophisticated treatments so patients don't have to drive to San Francisco or Stanford, she said. John Muir is being expanded because of the increasing population in Contra Costa County plus to update with the latest medical technology. Also, the original building, from 1965, will no longer meet state seismic standards in 2013.

The John Muir Health Foundation has raised funds from its own board members, employees, physicians, volunteers, auxiliary, community members, foundation and corporations. It is now entering into the Campaign for John Muir Medical Center-Walnut Creek, which is the private support portion of the project.

The five-floor parking garage will be finished this year with 780 spaces, and the groundbreaking for the additional work is scheduled for early 2008. New construction should be finished in late 2010, and remodeling of the existing buildings completed the following year.

John Muir's Concord campus is targeted next for renovation, a \$170 million project. John Muir Health also includes an outpatient center in Brentwood.

To learn more, call the foundation at 947-4449. ■

For awhile EBMUD used five tiers, which he thought was too many.

Coleman also noted that drinking bottled water is an enormous waste of money and resources. He suggested refilling bottles from the tap.

"One bottled water company owned by Coca Cola uses EBMUD water," he said. "We have great water."

He also said that rebates are

being offered up to \$150 for replacing standard six-gallon toilets with 1.6-gallon, low-flow toilets. He said to check out the EBMUD Web site because only brands that have been proven to work well are approved for the rebate.

Shimansky hosts the informal coffees at 7:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month at Father Nature's on Prospect Avenue. ■

Trash talk

► Continued from page 6

Costa and Alameda counties.

He also discussed the three-tier billing system used by EBMUD.

"We used to have flat rates but during the last drought, in the early '90s, we wanted to put in tiers, to put the onus on the users," he recalled.

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Fun for all at Alamo Wine and Music fest

Rotary names Chris Suter as Citizen of the Year

The 25th annual Alamo Wine and Music Festival on Saturday was the biggest that Rotary president Al Makely remembers in the five years he's been involved.

"People really liked our bands," said Makely. "In the afternoon, we had youth bands and the parents enjoyed that."

One highlight of the festival is the announcement by the Alamo Rotary of the Citizen of the Year and this time the honor went to retired Deputy Fire Chief Chris Suter.

"He does it all," said Makely.

Suter has a national reputation in emergency preparedness

and for his role helping out onsite after Hurricane Katrina. In Contra Costa County, he helped develop a mobile system to communicate with other jurisdictions during emergencies, said Makely.

Plus Suter has been instrumental for the last 10 years in putting together the Alamo festival.

"He's involved in all the logistics of the festival," said Makely. "He does all the electricity, the booths, the port-a-potties. And he manages things with the Health Department."

Suter is "local," noted Makely; he graduated from San Ramon Valley High School, was married here, and joined the fire department at 18. He also manages the Alamo Rotary Web site.

Makely said 10 different people were nominated for the honor, many of them multiple times. A committee of five

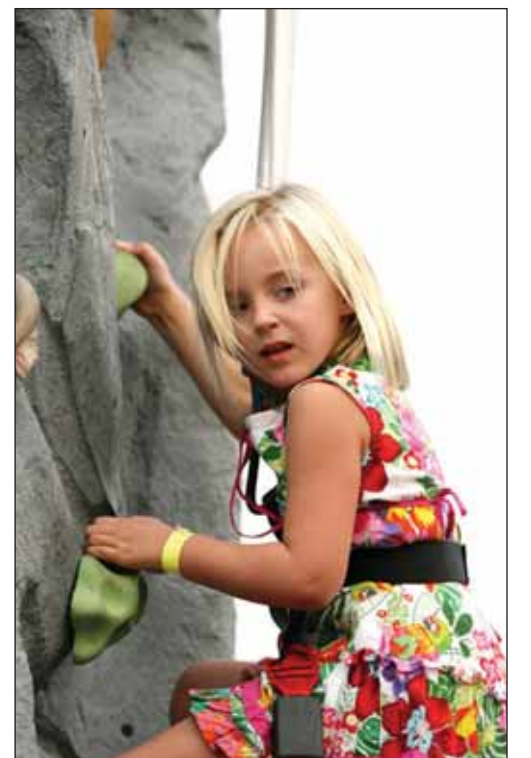
narrowed down the choice to Suter, who also received many nominations.

"Chris is a silent warrior in a lot of ways," Makely said. "He's very, very competent."

Photos by Chris Scott/www.calsportsphoto.com
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Petition

► Continued from page 5

echoed that Alamo should have more representation.

"It's time for us to manage ourselves," said Vicki Koc, former Alamo Parks and Recreation committee member.

But while incorporation advocates are causing a ripple effect, some vocal opponents of incorporation are making waves as well. The problem, they say, is that the plan for how incorporated Alamo would be set up raises too many questions.

For example, the idea of an Alamo town council has been the object of criticism. Some say it will bring about too many rules and others worry that the movement's leaders have their own agendas.

Kenber, a former San Ramon Valley Unified School board member, says city councils have worked fine for Danville and Walnut Creek and they would work for Alamo.

"(A city council) is not exactly an 'out-there' thing to do," he said.

"People don't like government. My argument is, then don't you want it closer to you so can see it?" he added.

Still others have said vital parts of running a city—including taxes and road repairs—have been overlooked in the plan.

These are factors LAFCO will take into account in the study, should the petition pass.

The incorporation committee's goal is to complete the petition by Thanksgiving. From there, the LAFCO process will likely take more than a year and voting

TAKE US ALONG



Sharing a vacation—and the Weekly

Alamo resident Jo Ann Semas (third from left) shares her Danville Weeklies with (l-r) Jim Owens and Linda Lanway of Concord and Ron Poettl from Canada while they enjoy three weeks in Loreto, Baja California, last winter.

wouldn't be until spring 2009.

If the process gets that far, the vote would be the first on the incorporation of Alamo by itself. Efforts to make Alamo a city with Danville or with the entire San Ramon Valley failed in the 1960s and '70s. In total, six efforts to incorporate have occurred since the first was initiated by the Alamo Improvement Association in 1956.

In order for the 2009 vote to pass, more than 50 percent of Alamo vot-

ers would have to support cityhood.

Alamo makes up 5.8 percent of District 3, a statistic cityhood advocates use to note that the area is under-represented by county officials in Martinez. Currently Alamo's planning, parks, roads and police are all handled through the county.

"Alamo is going to change whether we like it or not. The question is: Do we want to manage it?" Kenber said. ■

Housing

► Continued from page 5

said. "I can walk to the library."

"The rent is all in a sliding scale from 20 percent to 40 percent of the market value," he added.

He noted the town and Bridges keep up with the apartments' maintenance.

"I guess you could say management is excellent," he said. "They are just a little strict with the rules."

The town also plans to promote affordable housing downtown. It purchased the Rose Street property and has housing set-aside funds although plans are still being developed.

In addition to all of its building activities, Danville continues to be an active participant in the Tri-Valley Affordable Housing Committee.

Gailey said town staff compiles all the housing data and submits it to the Association of Bay Area Governments.

The state wants all levels of government and businesses to ensure there is enough affordable housing for all Californians, according to a strategic plan by the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

Only 19 percent of California households could afford to buy median priced single-family homes

in November 2004; while nationwide, affordability was 55 percent. Also, the state's population continues to rise and projections are it will gain around 600,000 people annually over the next decade, according to the plan.

Along with other communities,

Danville is following the state's plan.

"It's the cornerstone for all efforts," Gailey said. "We are obligated under state law to develop and approve and implement a housing element as part of our general plan." ■



Jason and the Pres

Danville resident 1st Lt. Jason Steven Giannini, USMC, accompanies President Bush during his surprise visit to Iraq on Labor Day. Giannini, a 2000 graduate of San Ramon Valley High, was the Quick Reaction Force Leader/Security Liaison to the Secret Service for the president's visit.

Giannini sent pictures home to his folks, Karyn and Steve Giannini, with a little note, saying, "Very impressive." He will return to Cherry Point, N.C., in early October and then will come home to Danville when he gets leave, said his mother. "You can bet that we will be throwing one big WELCOME HOME PARTY!!!!" Karyn Giannini said.

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



No life without death

Maggie Metcalf stopped in her tracks at the poignant scene: A client in her 90s, freshly bathed and dressed, sat comfortably in her living room chair, singing hymns.

"It was one of the sweetest things," said Maggie. "She was happy as a clam."

Maggie is a volunteer with Hospice of the East Bay, which was founded in 1977 to help people cope with life-threatening illnesses. Hospice has social workers, chaplains and highly trained volunteers, and takes a team approach to help clients at the end of their lives.

"Most people are pretty happy, actually," Maggie said. "I suspect that your priorities change, you get rid of excess baggage. At least that's what most people do."

Hospice helps people accept death as a natural part of life, Maggie said, to look at it as a growth experience and to reach closure.

"I've been around someone in labor and my feeling is it's just as much work to go out of the world as to come in," Maggie said. "Our society has a real problem accepting death as part of life, but it's a natural part. We would not have life if we didn't have death."

Maggie, 54, moved to Danville from San Diego in 1983, and worked as a cardiac nurse until she decided to stay home with her children, who are now 21 and 19. About seven years ago, she acted on her desire to volunteer with Hospice.

At the beginning, the Hospice situation is new to everyone.

"Families can be pretty stressed out, but everything falls into place in the long run," Maggie said.

She visited one "wonderful, beautiful woman" for more than a year and would take her on rides.

"We had a lot of fun," Maggie recalled. "She said she was sliding into death with a glass of champagne in her hand."

Hospice volunteers have a large support system. One man jumped in alarm every time Maggie entered his room in a nursing home. After talking to a Hospice social worker, Maggie realized no one had put on his glasses and she was entering on his blind side. When she walked to him in a big circle, he was happy to see her.

A flower shop donates a big bouquet to Hospice once a week and they pull a name out of a hat. Maggie says she loves to deliver the flowers to someone in a nursing home—as she walks down the hall, residents ask about the types of blooms and reminisce about their own gardens.

Maggie also has worked in Anna's Program for women with breast cancer.

"These women tend to be pretty mobile but they may have limitations because of consequences of treatment," she said. "Oftentimes I will take them shopping or to appointments."

Hospice helps people accept death as a natural part of life, Maggie said, to look at it as a growth experience and to reach closure.

She also may help them sort out the papers they've been putting into a drawer and do other practical things, like cleaning out the refrigerator.

Hospice has a program for children, Care for Kids, and a bereavement program. Volunteers also work in its Bruns House, which has six private rooms.

The training for volunteers is extensive and continues with monthly meetings.

"There is a ton of stuff to read for background in addition to the presentations," said Maggie. "I still review my binder from time to time."

Maggie would stay busy without her Hospice work; she is co-vice president of the California Watercolor Association and is preparing for its 39th annual national exhibition at the Presidio Officer's Club. She also likes to garden and to read, and just finished the last Harry Potter book.

But she'd been wanting to volunteer with Hospice ever since she earned her degree in nursing.

"All those times I worked in the hospital, I was so busy. Now I have time to sit and talk, and hold a hand—it's wonderful stuff," she said.

Hospice of the East Bay is beginning another training session Sept. 26. Besides patient support volunteers such as Maggie to provide companionship and practical assistance, Hospice is looking for fluency in Spanish, licensed hair stylists, massage therapists, handymen, notaries and bereavement support volunteers. Call 887-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
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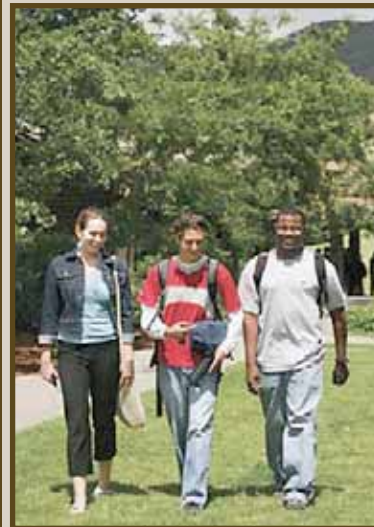
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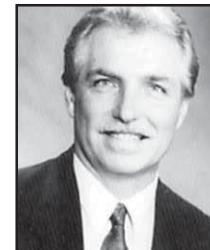
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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Spotlight on seniors

The Danville Senior Services program debuted last week after two months of planning. Yes, it was a mere two months since the town had passed its 2007-08 budget, with \$346,888 allotted for senior services. Town staff is to be commended for putting the new program into place with such efficiency.

It was only 11 months ago, in October 2006, that a vocal group of seniors began to complain the town wasn't doing enough for them. They argued that while Danville took care of its youths with sports fields and recreation programs, and even its dogs with its special parks, seniors did not have the programs offered in adjacent communities.

Town officials decided they first must find out what the majority of senior residents want. The Needs Assessment Survey of residents over the age of 55, plus a sampling just over 50, was completed in April; it concluded the

top desires were for a centralized facility for senior recreation, increased programming and a dedicated staff member. Research showed senior centers are used by the seniors mostly between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., so the town concluded one of its existing facilities could be converted during these hours. After much discussion, the town decided on the Veterans Memorial Building.

A program coordinator was hired full time, and she worked hard along with others on the town staff to put together the classes and activities outlined in the new Silver Streak newsletter. On Sept. 4, the Danville Senior Services program premiered at the Vets Hall. The town is to be commended for its quick response to the senior demands with its expanded program. Danville may not have built a brand new impressive building for the seniors, but it did put together a great program and is providing a place for them to call their own.

Guest Opinion

BY U.S. REP. JERRY MCNERNEY

New tax law benefits Danville business women

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet in Danville with a group of women small business owners from the Tri-Valley and the greater Bay Area. The types of businesses varied widely, from engineering and communications consulting to eco-conscious private air charters. Yet what united all of them was determination, a commitment to innovation and excellence, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

These women are rightfully proud of their accomplishments and contributions to our region's economy. I am proud to report that with my strong support, the U.S. House has worked to celebrate their tenacity and perseverance by passing several pieces of legislation to aid small businesses.

The Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2007 provides \$4.8 billion in tax credits and incentives to small businesses throughout the nation, and the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007 will decrease fees associated with and increase the number of available lenders for certain types of Small Business Administration loans.

During our meeting, Catherine Smith, the president of World Class Charters here in Danville, remarked on her tremendous tax burden and other difficulties she has encountered. As small busi-

nesses like Catherine's continue to create two-thirds of the new jobs in our nation, it's clear that efforts to aid small business people, like those that I have supported, are overdue.

The Small Business Tax Relief Act provides necessary new incentives for business owners to focus on growth and expansion, and removes some of the antiquated penalties that previously existed in the tax code.

Rather than penalizing success, the Small Business Tax Relief Act rewards small businesses as they expand by allowing them, under many instances, to keep the same tax benefits they enjoyed as a smaller business.

The law extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit through August 2011. This credit is vital because it encourages management to hire economically disadvantaged workers, including disabled veterans.

For many businesses, purchasing new equipment or replacing old machinery is a costly affair that rips into profits. That's why the Small Business Tax Relief Act increases the amount small business can deduct from their taxes and the number of businesses that can take the deduction for new capital invest-

This new tax law will help local industry keep its edge over the competition. Married couples jointly owning a small business share the wonderful successes of a small business venture, but all of the risks as well. This new law ensures that each spouse receives credit for paying Social Security and Medicare taxes.

The federal government should be in the business of fostering growth among America's small and family owned businesses. Small businesses are a leading job growth engine, especially here in the innovative economy of the Tri-Valley.

We should do all we can to encourage small business growth and expansion because as our small businesses grow stronger, so do the communities in which they reside and the workers they employ. By enacting the Small Business Tax Relief Act into law, we have decreased the burden that small businesses here in the Bay Area face.

As your representative in Congress, and former small business owner myself, I will continue to advocate on behalf of our region's small business owners.

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., Pleasanton) represents the 11th Congressional District.

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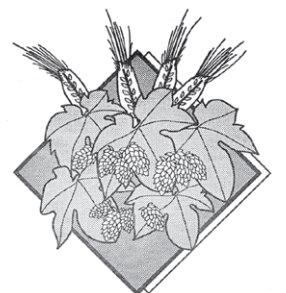
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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

OBITUARIES

Susan G. Crozier (DiCarlo)

Susan G. Crozier (DiCarlo), a former resident of Danville, passed away Aug. 21 at the age of 58 after battling cancer for three years.

She was born and raised in San Jose, and graduated from James Lick High School. She continued her education at San Jose State University, where she met and married Bill in 1970. She had a "passion for fashion" and managed Joseph Magnin's department store and also worked as a buyer for Macy's. She also loved cooking and traveling. The couple lived two years in Tokyo and several years in Southern California before settling in Danville for 20 years,

where she entered the real estate profession. When they retired in 2002, they moved to Scottsdale, Ariz.

She is survived by her three daughters, Megan Newman (Ryan), Cristina, and Emily; her father Carl DiCarlo; sisters Diane DiCarlo-Turner, Karen Rixman (George), and Laurie DiCarlo; brother Jack DiCarlo; nieces and nephews; family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, William (Bill) George Crozier Jr, last year on Aug. 16.; and her mother, Raffaella DiCarlo.

Services were held at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville on Aug. 27. A memorial service is also being planned in Scottsdale. In lieu of flowers, donations are being accepted for

"Hospice of the Valley," 1510 E. Flower Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014.

Janet Louise (Shuler) Miller

Janet Louise (Shuler) Miller, 72, passed away peacefully due to complications from lung cancer, at her home in Danville on Aug. 17 with her husband and son beside her.

She was born May 24, 1935, and was a native of Toledo, Ohio, graduating from Waite High School. She had been a resident of Danville since 1971. Some of her achievements include president of the Danville-Alamo Newcomers Association, Kaiser Hospital volunteer, honored volunteer for the Coast Guard

Auxiliary and award winning Cub Scout leader. Her favorite activities included traveling the world, playing cards, skiing, hiking, camping, crafts, watching movies, and just being with her husband, family and friends. She also had a strong Catholic faith. Her favorite expression was, "I just love my life."

She was a loving wife to Ron; devoted mother to sons Jeff, Tim and Steve; daughter Suzanne; mother-in-law to Jamie, Laura, Michele and Dave, wonderful "Jan-Jan" to 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial Mass and reception were held Aug. 25. Donations may be made in her memory to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568-3151.

peacefully at age 94 on Aug. 25 after a long, active life.

She was born July 5, 1913, at Granite City, Ill. She was married for 73 years to her husband Charles and spent much of her life raising four children in Tulsa, Okla. She worked and sang in the choir until retirement at the First Presbyterian Church. For the last 10 years she lived in Danville.

She is survived by her husband Charles; sons William C. and John P.; daughters Dr. Marilyn Miller and Kathleen Beard; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces. She is also survived by sister-in-law Gladys Berry, wife of her late brother Thomas.

Her life was celebrated at a memorial service at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel in Danville on Sept. 3. Contributions in her memory can be made to Hope Hospice.

Mary Claudia Berry McQuade

Danville resident Mary Claudia Berry McQuade, passed away

POLICE BULLETIN

Wildfire blackens 10 acres in Tassajara Valley

A wildfire fried 10 acres of grass on Johnston Road in the Tassajara Valley, east of Danville, last week on Wednesday, Sept. 5. Four firefighters suffered minor injuries. Residents living on Johnston called the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District at 10:45 a.m., said Battalion Chief John Viera.

Twelve engines, two water tenders, tank trucks, two air tankers, one helicopter and one air attack plane responded to the call, with assistance from Cal Fire.

Approximately 50 firefighters were at the scene. They used hose lines, hand tools and foam to stop the fire. The blaze threatened six homes on Johnston Road, but there were no residents hurt and

their properties remained undamaged, said Viera.

Four firefighters suffered minor injuries, including a laceration and knee wounds. One firefighter was taken to the hospital. Fire personnel quickly quelled the fire, leaving swathes of black on the high slopes.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation, Viera said. Air danger is high in the grassy areas when the weather has been hot and dry.

Residents in the San Ramon Valley and regions further north and south could not even see Mount Diablo through the haze, although Viera said this was probably due to a fire burning in Plumas County, which burned more than 12,000 acres. Another fire was also burning in Henry W. Coe State Park east of Morgan Hill.

—Jordan M. Doronila

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Sept. 2

- Party disturbance, at El Capitan and Mustang drives, at 1:23 a.m.
- Vandalism on Dove Creek Ln. at 7:02 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Brush Creek Pl. at 9:27 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Fostoria Way at 1:15 p.m.
- Vehicle blocking roadway on Gil Blas Rd. at Lomitas Dr. at 7:56 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Larkwood Cr. at 8:08 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Love Ln. at Veda Dr. at 8:42 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Garden Creek Pl. at 10:34 p.m.
- Party disturbance on La Gonda Wy. at 10:42 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 3

- Disturbance and threats on Diablo Rd. at 12:42 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances, arrest, on Fountain Springs Cr. at 2:44 a.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, at Dolphin Dr. and Hideaway Ct. at 10:24 a.m.
- Grand theft on Greenbrook Dr. at 11:02 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Ocho Rios Dr. at 11:44 a.m.
- Petty theft on Fountain Springs Cr. at 12:46 p.m.
- Driving under the influence (DUI), misdemeanor on Alamos Dr. at 3:39 p.m.
- Music disturbance at Ackerman Dr. and Castanya Ct. at 6:55 p.m.
- Fireworks disturbance at Glen Arms

and Laurel drives at 8:14 p.m.

- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, at El Pintado Rd. and La Gonda Wy. at 9:44 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 4

- Defrauding innkeeper on Camino Ramon at 12:07 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Diablo Rd. at 6:28 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Cameo Dr. at 10:43 a.m.
- Grand theft on Tuscany Wy. at 11:01 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Indian Home Rd. at 4:14 p.m.
- Petty theft on Rubicon Cr. at 4:27 p.m.
- Vandalism on McCauley Rd. at 4:55 p.m.
- Battery on La Gonda Wy. at 5:01 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with major injuries at Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

- Disturbance on El Dorado Ave. at 9:39 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 4:34 p.m.
- Miscellaneous burglary on Midland Wy. at 4:42 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Diablo Road at 5:31 p.m.
- Music disturbance on La Gonda Wy. at 9:11 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 6

- Noise disturbance on Fostoria Cr. at 1:40 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 10:18 a.m.
- Felony embezzlement on Linda Mesa Ave. at 10:51 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Del Amigo Rd. at 11:26 a.m. and at

1:22 p.m.

- Disturbance, unwanted guest, on Hartz Ave. at 12:27 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 2:40 p.m.
- Investigation, arrest, at northbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:51 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with major injuries at Podva Rd. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:13 p.m.
- Petty theft, bicycle, on Valley Creek Ln. at 4:43 p.m.
- Hit and run, misdemeanor, on Stone Valley Rd. at 5:08 p.m.
- Disturbance, fight, on West Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:29 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 9:49 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 7

- Vandalism on Cross Bridge Pl. at 8:22 a.m.
- Hit and run, misdemeanor, on La Gonda Wy. at 2:22 p.m.
- Service to citizen, arrest, on La Gonda Wy. at 5:31 p.m.
- Animal cruelty on Hartz Ave. at 7:34 p.m.
- Missing adult on Borica Ave. at 10:59 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 8

- Disturbance, fight, on Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:15 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on Stetson Dr. at 8:47 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Crow Canyon Rd. at 7:15 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Contada Cr. at 10:16 p.m.
- Music disturbance at Country Hills Ct. and Woodranch Cr. at 10:23 p.m.

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When pets go

Get latest safety technology at dis

St. Doug DeVries runs a remote control-sized wand across a lost pup like she's a six-pack of Coke at the supermarket. Swiping the collarless dog from head to tail, the animal services official hopes the scanner will pick up a frequency.

If the pup has a microchip implanted under her skin, a code will pop up and she'll be joined with her owners in a few hours. If she doesn't, after three days, she could be sold or put to sleep.

When it comes to the canine or feline member of the family, animal services officers are sending a clear message: Don't take any chances.

Collars just don't cut it, says Tracey Stevens-Martin, humane education program manager for Contra Costa County Animal Services. If your pet shows up at a shelter with no identification, the chip could mean the difference between it living or dying.

"Animals lose collars like people lose items," she explains.

Injecting your animal with a rice-sized chip—a pet safety trend that's quickly catching on—may be the solution to the missing pet problem, she says. It works like this: The chips are embedded under the animal's skin between the shoulder blades, using a sterile applicator that causes the animal about as much pain as a shot. The owners must then register the microchip, providing contact information in case the dog or cat runs away or gets lost.

Should the animal be brought to a shelter or a clinic, workers can scan the animal and use the code to get



Ron Delucchi explains how electric and gas service could be affected in a disaster, at the PG&E display at last year's Emergency Preparedness Fair.

in touch with the owner. The procedure, which will be offered at Danville's Emergency Preparedness Fair, usually runs about \$20-\$80. At the fair, microchipping and vaccinations will cost \$20.

"It's a small price to pay for a lot of love," Stevens-Martin says.

Carrie Delbonta, clerical supervisor for county animal services, remembers one particular black cat—lost from a Concord home and found in Danville—who was returned to her owners after six years of being away, thanks to the chip. Tick Tack, a domestic cat who was lost in 1997, started hanging around a Danville home in 2003.

A kind Danville man was in the habit of feeding her for a few weeks, but then took her into animal services.

That's when they scanned the cat and called the family to let them know the whereabouts of their long lost feline.

"They were shocked," Delbonta recalls. "They assumed the cat had died."

As fate would have it, the family had moved on to another pet, who had died just one week before the phone call. The whole thing seemed meant to be, Delbonta said.

For pet owners interested in the procedure, it's offered at veterinary clinics, the East Bay SPCA and Contra Costa Animal Services, and at-home kits can be purchased at pet stores, although they are not as common.

"One woman was able to reunite with her cat after six years," says DeVries, who makes phone calls to pet owners informing them of their found pets.

Most often, pets go missing when their owners vacation or leave town. Animals tend to look for their loved ones and get lost in the process, animal services officers say.

"If familiar faces aren't there, it's a pet's instinct to go looking for their families," Stevens-Martin says.

That's the most typical lost pet story, but officers hear about all kinds of strange cases. In one instance, a West Coast cat hopped a cargo train and made it all the way to Boston, where a microchip blew his East Coast cover, Stevens-Martin recalls. Animal services scanned the pet and found its home to be thousands of miles away.

The largest, most looming reason for the general public to invest in the chip, however, has more to do with what people would rather not think about: emergencies. The No. 1 reason people should get their pets chipped is in preparation for natural or manmade disasters, Stevens-Martin says.

"If familiar faces aren't there, it's a pet's instinct to go looking for their families."

—Tracey Stevens-Martin, humane education program manager for Contra Costa County Animal Services

In the midst of Hurricane Katrina, for example, thousands of pets were left behind and lost. Hundreds of people even refused to leave, despite treacherous conditions, because they didn't want to ditch their furry friends.

"People didn't want to evacuate because they didn't want to abandon their pets," says Greg Gilbert, Emergency Services Manager for the town of Danville.

Looking forward, animal advocates are working on an initiative called "No Pets Left Behind" that would set up animals in shelters in times of crisis. But in order for these emergency shelters to be efficient, the chipping is crucial, they say.

Today, about 9 percent of microchipped pets are reunited with their owners in the country annually. And some cities are now considering making the chips, which went mainstream in 2004, mandatory.

But even with high pet reunification rates, there are still



DOLORES FOX CARDRELL

Signs on trees and stop signs, such as this one on Roundhill Road at Stone Valley Road, are the old-fashioned way to find lost pets. Microchips are much more efficient.

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by Natalie O'Neill

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ches in the system. The technology has only recently emerged, there is no universal product. This means, chips implanted early do not always match up when it counts.

Several companies push to become the major provider of the rapidly growing product, the lack of compatibility causes anger and sadness for some families.

"It has been a problem in the past," Stevens-Martin says. "Because of technical advances, there's always something coming up with something bigger and better. It would be nice if everybody would stay universal but the market is competitive."

There are three major brands of microchips that vary in frequency from 125 to 134.2 kilohertz. Low frequency chips don't always pick up on the high ones and vice versa.

In 2005, Congress directed the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service to work on universal compatibility and progress has been made in the past two years.

The two largest companies that dominate the market, AVID and HomeAgain—are set up to sense a pet's presence, but cannot pick up on one another's chips.

Problems occur when people forget to register their pets or fail to update their contact information when they move out of state or change phone numbers.

With a few more hurdles to jump, the system works more often than it fails. With nearly one out of every five dogs lost or stolen each year, animal services officials say the vast majority of lost pets with microchips returned safely to their owners.

“One woman was able to reunite with her cat after six years.”

—Sgt. Doug DeVries, who makes phone calls to pet owners informing them of their found pets

Who knows where the trend will go from here? In northern California are finding that, lately, equestrians have been requesting that their horses get chipped.

Those at the forefront of the technology have even convinced parents just may start chipping their kids. It's a little Big Brother, but animal services officials see it being that far from reality.

Recently, the British Broadcasting Network reported on a woman who planned to have their 11-year-old girl microchipped with a tracking device in order to prevent her from being abducted. While human beings are another, far more controversial issue entirely, the point is to keep those loved ones safe, Stevens-Martin says.

And, these days, dogs and cats are part of the family. "I would recommend it. It's sad to know a loving animal will not be returned home," she says.

Microchipping and microchipping will be available from 9 a.m.-noon, tomorrow, Sept. 15, for \$20 at the Emergency Preparedness Fair at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Old Orchard Road. The fair runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ■

A fair to prepare

If the clowns and the free steak lunch aren't enough to get you and your family to the San Ramon Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair, planners have a few more tricks up their sleeves.

The whole idea is to make people want to get ready for natural and manmade disasters by showing them a good time, says Greg Gilbert, Emergency Services Manager for the Town of Danville. "We know people don't want to think about the worst. It is human nature. ... But what's the alternative?" he said.

That's why the fair—the biggest of its kind in Northern California—is offering a family fun day of engaging exhibits where people will enjoy learning about being prepared, he said.

A live fire demonstration, free 72-hour food and equipment kits for the first 300 people (one per family), child finger printing and pet microchipping make it more than just a dull seminar on how to stay safe. The fair will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Old Orchard Road from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., tomorrow, Sept. 15. The Town of Danville, San Ramon Valley Unified School District, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District and the city of San Ramon are putting on the event. Police and fire vehicles and ambulances will be on site for curious kids, along with Red Cross, Animal Services, PG&E and child safety demonstrations. Quick and easy tips on how to get ready for local disasters, including bolting shelves for earthquakes and strapping down water heaters, will be part of the exhibits. There will also be a "dunk tank" for the police chief. "(Preparing) is not that hard to do, and it's inexpensive," Gilbert said.

The fair will cover all aspects of emergency preparedness, including flooding, fire, earthquakes and more. Currently, fewer than 20 percent of Californians are ready if a disaster were to occur. If just 2 percent of people are injured moderately in Contra Costa County in the next big earthquake, the impact on hospitals would be unmanageable, say organizers.

So why not take one day and learn how to prevent those injuries? You might just have some fun in the process, Gilbert said. ■

Keep a stock of non-perishables for emergencies.



Kits to last 72 hours in an emergency contain drinking packs, a high energy bar, a blanket, a 12-hour light stick, a first aid kit and candy. Kits will be \$10 at the fair tomorrow.



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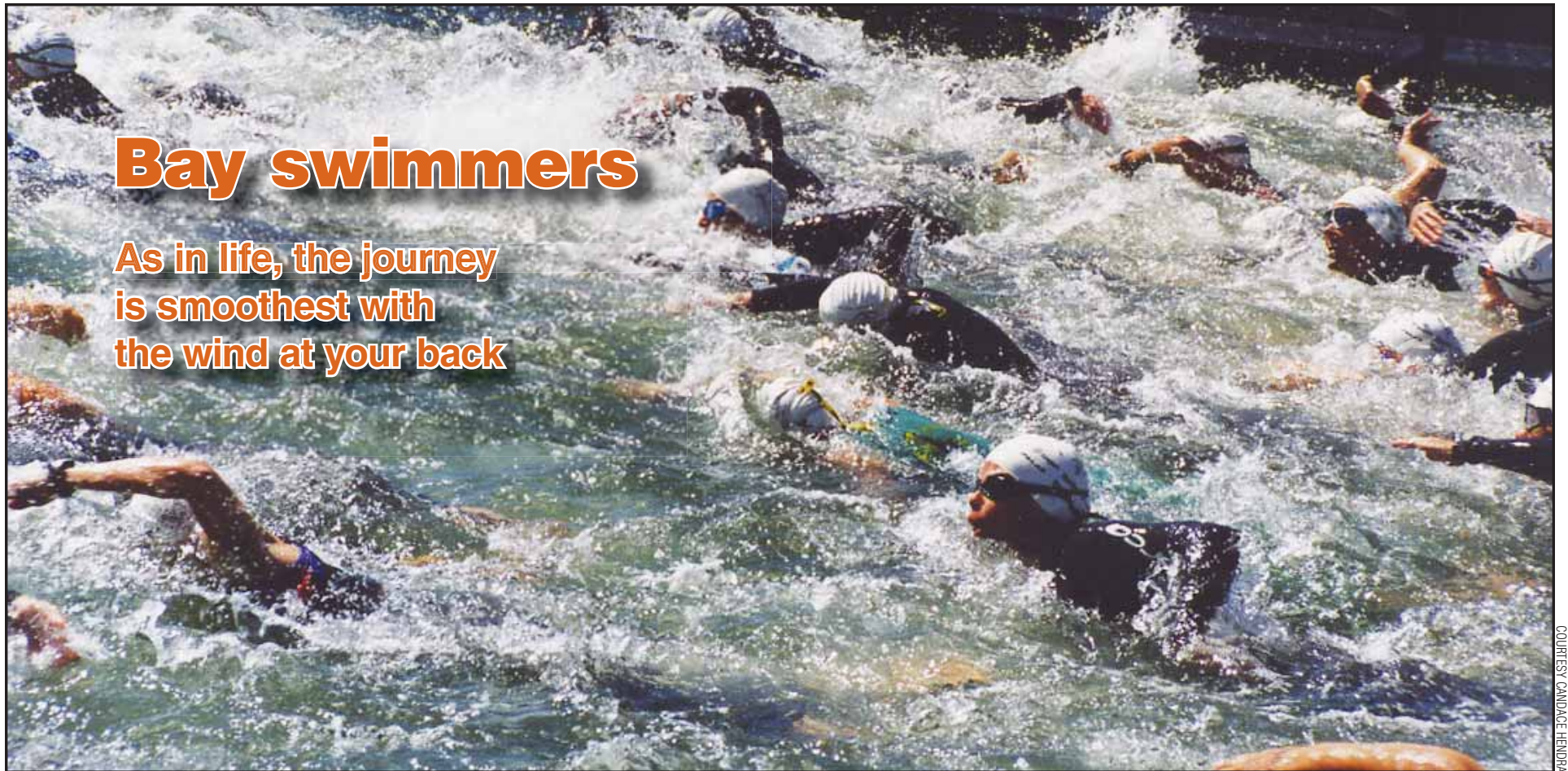
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Bay swimmers

As in life, the journey is smoothest with the wind at your back

Swim Across America team members brace the chilly waters and strong currents of the San Francisco Bay to raise funds for children's cancer facilities at UCSF.

COURTESY CANDACE HENDRA

by Natalie O'Neill

Sure, swimming with sharp-toothed tiger sharks is scary—but it's no chemotherapy, says Danville's Candace Hendra.

Hendra, a 54-year-old survivor of ovarian cancer, will brave the dark, icy San Francisco Bay for a 10-mile relay swim Sept. 30 to raise money for children's cancer facilities. And while she expects the swim will be pretty tough, ever since her diagnosis, her definition of "tough" isn't quite what it used to be.

Tough is having toxic chemicals pumped through your veins. Tough is when your long brown hair falls completely out.

The gifted athlete had virtually perfect health up until an unrelated emergency hysterectomy one year ago. At that time, doctors located a tumor on her ovary. During chemotherapy, she would show up to the treatment center sporting her Boston Marathon jacket, focused as a starting player.

"I used to address my chemo like it was an athletic event," she remembers.

It wasn't until she got through her first few sessions that she learned, at least for her, getting pumped up wasn't nearly as beneficial as learning to relax.

After that, when therapy time rolled around, she would picture herself submerged in ocean water in order to soothe her nerves. Hendra, a licensed social worker who counsels disabled and emotionally distressed kids, would think about the gentle squawk of seagulls and the feeling of water rolling over her back. And it was calming.

"I closed my eyes and thought of swimming," Hendra says.

Flash forward to today and she doesn't have to close her eyes any longer. She and five other Danville area swimmers are training for Swim Across America, a relay that takes her team of 10 from Pier 9 to AT&T Park in order to raise money for children's cancer facilities at UCSF.

The swimmers will each jump from a boat and take turns swimming for 20 minutes until the final stretch, where they will all plunge into the water and finish the last yards together. The team is hoping to raise \$10,000 for the event.

While she was recovering, Hendra told herself that if she made it, the fundraiser would be one of the ways she would "give back." The swim gave her something to look forward to, back when everything seemed to be going wrong.

"I figured they would yank out my uterus and three weeks later I would be back on board," she says. "But they found tumors and I thought, 'Crap—I'm gonna die.' I was totally and utterly shocked. Then it was absolute and utter despair."

As if that wasn't enough for one person to endure, her husband Gregory was diagnosed with appendix cancer just months later.

Now, Gregory will undergo his last chemo treatment six days before she takes "the plunge." As things begin to start looking brighter for the couple, Hendra says ultimately the experience has been "an energizer." A hard day of work doesn't seem so bad these days and she's constantly aware of how lucky she is to be able-bodied.

"I feel like my mission on this planet is not done yet," she says. "This was tough enough on me—and I am tough. For a kid to have to experience this is hard to

conceive."

Swim Across America, which has raised \$18 million for cancer nationally, began in Nantucket 21 years ago and has since grown into a major fundraiser in Boston, Chicago, New York and San Francisco.

It is dedicated to raising money and awareness for cancer research, prevention and treatment. The swims take place in the Boston Harbor, Lake Michigan, the Hudson River and the San Francisco Bay. Last Year was San Francisco's first event and 50 swimmers raised more than \$100,000.

"To see San Francisco from sea level—it's gorgeous," says Hendra, who also has done an Alcatraz swim. "You need good strong swimming skills and, frankly, courage."

Aside from the chilly temperature, the toughest part of swimming in the Bay, she explains, is the unpredictable ocean currents.

If you are luckily enough to catch the wind at your back, as in life, it's a smooth journey. But when the current flows against you—and it will inevitably—it can be like trying to "swim against a wall," she says.

For Hendra, the Bay swim is a lot like overcoming cancer.

"You set small goals, you celebrate victories and when you get past the finish line—you kiss the ground," she says.

To pledge money to Hendra's team, visit www.active.com/donate/sanfran07/chendra or reach her 831-0918. Other Danville, Alamo and Blackhawk participants are Kim Bruce, Rebecca Sol, Lisa Werner, John Jeha and Maury Blackman. ■

Contact Natalie O'Neill at noneill@danvilleweekly.com



COURTESY CANDACE HENDRA

Candace Hendra was used to the hardships of running marathons but her fight against cancer taught her the meaning of "tough." She will swim the San Francisco Bay relay Sept. 30 with her team from Swim Across America.



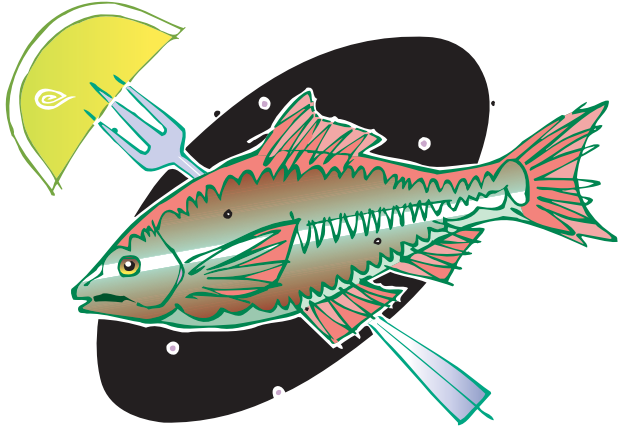
Something fishy in the kitchen?

by Jacqui Love Marshall

In my commitment to eat healthier, I've been cooking more fish these days. The benefits of eating fish are numerous and fairly well known but they bear repeating. Most fish provide high levels of protein with little calorie or saturated fat content, substantial levels of the "good" fats like omega-3s and a range of vitamins (e.g., B's) and minerals (e.g., phosphorus, magnesium). The omega-3 fatty acids are essential for human health but they cannot be made by the body; they must be obtained from the foods we eat. Moreover, fatty fishes are loaded with helpful DHA, a member of the omega-3 family.

We've all heard fish referred to as "brain food" and there's truth to that rumor. According to the George Mateljan Foundation's Web site, The World's Healthiest Foods: "An exciting, fairly recent development is the realization that omega-3 fats have the potential to help slow cognitive problems such as Alzheimer's disease and age-related cognitive decline. Also, people who have sufficient levels of omega-3's (especially as

compared to omega-6 fats) seem to have less depression and suicide risk, as well as less aggression. In one study, giving prison inmates this type of fat (plus vitamins) reduced aggressive behavior by a third in a mere two weeks."



Per health experts, two weekly servings of fish can lower total cholesterol, lower the bad cholesterol, and raise good cholesterol levels. Three weekly servings of fish can lower the risks of heart disease and stroke by 14 percent. Regular healthy servings of fish can lower or control high blood pressure, build immunity, protect against deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, lower risks of prostate and other cancers, and help fight obesity,

eye diseases and childhood asthma. A miracle food? Maybe, maybe not, but all these benefits point to better health so why not cook and serve more fish to your family?

My favorite fish choices are wild salmon, small lake trout and Alaskan halibut. They are the healthier varieties as they are generally more free of mercury and other contaminants than other varieties. (Note: As I've mentioned before in other columns, always ask the grocer where exactly their fish came from and when it arrived at the store.) All are quite tasty and hold up well on a grill but can be pan-fried or baked. One easy way to serve these fishes are to add a vegetable (asparagus, green beans, baby bok choy, etc.) and a salad or grain (couscous, polenta, etc.) and you've got a wonderfully appealing and healthy meal. But don't stop there ... fish is so versatile that the cooking/serving possibilities are endless! Here are three of my newest favorite recipes. I hope you will try at least one.

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.

RECIPES

Fennel-Coated Pan-Fried Halibut (serves 4)

4 5-oz. fillets of Alaskan halibut with skin removed
1 Tbsp. fennel seeds, toasted and ground
Salt and pepper to taste
1 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1. Grind fennel seeds with a spice grinder or mortar and pestle until they are a coarse powder. Season the halibut with salt and pepper to taste and coat fillets with the ground fennel seeds.
2. Heat a large skillet to medium heat; add butter and olive oil.
3. Add fillet pieces to the skillet and brown on each side for 3-5 minutes, depending on thickness, until just cooked through. Ideally, serve immediately.

Smoked Trout and Grapefruit Salad (serves 4 as entree, 8 as side dish)

1 head butter lettuce (about 10 oz.)
8 oz. smoked trout
1/2 small red onion, quartered lengthwise and thinly sliced
2 ruby red grapefruits
1 egg yolk
3 Tbsp. brown rice vinegar
1/4 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. paprika
1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise and chopped into small pieces
1/3 cup flax oil
1/2 bunch fresh chives, cut into 1/4-inch lengths
1. Tear lettuce into large bite-size pieces. Wash and spin dry; place in a large bowl.
2. Remove skin from trout and discard. Break trout into bite-size pieces and add to lettuce along with the red onion.
3. Cut away grapefruit peels and white pith, exposing flesh. Carefully remove segments from the membranes and set aside. Squeeze 3 Tbsp. of juice from the membranes, strain and transfer to a blender. Add egg yolk, vinegar, salt, pepper, paprika and chopped vanilla bean. Puree on high speed until all ingredients are thoroughly blended. With the blender running, slowly add the flax oil. Once emulsified, strain into a small bowl, removing any vanilla bean debris.
4. Add about 3/4 of the dressing to the lettuce mixture and toss thoroughly. Add grapefruit sections and half the chives. Toss gently and divide among plates. Garnish with remaining chives and serve the remaining dressing on the side.

Grilled Salmon with Garlic and Baby Bok Choy (serves 6)

1 2-1/2 lb. wild salmon fillet with skin intact
1 Tbsp. Asian sesame oil
2 large garlic cloves, minced
1 Tbsp. minced, peeled fresh ginger
6 baby bok choy, halved lengthwise
2-1/2 Tbsp. sake
1/8 cup soy sauce
1. Heat an outdoor grill to medium high heat. Overlap two large pieces of heavy-duty foil; place salmon in the center along longest sides.
2. Rub salmon with sesame oil, then sprinkle with salt, pepper, garlic and ginger.
3. Arrange bok choy around salmon. Drizzle fish and bok choy with sake and soy sauce.
4. Fold foil to wrap food; seal well. Transfer to grill, using a rimless baking sheet. Cook until salmon is just turning opaque, about 25 minutes. Transfer package to countertop, opening foil slightly and let stand at least 10 minutes, or up to 45 minutes.
5. Peel away foil and transfer salmon and vegetables to a large platter. Squeeze lime juice over all and serve with extra lime wedges. A California Pinot Noir makes a great wine complement.

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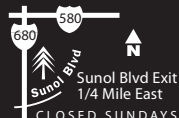
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A movie review of what's

NOW SHOWING

By Joe Hanley

Shoot 'Em Up

★★

Rating: R for pervasive strong bloody violence, sexuality and some language.

Run Time: 1 hour, 33 minutes

Clive Owen must be on a baby kick. The intense British actor follows up last year's riveting "Children of Men" with another film in which he protects a newborn child.

But the difference is behind the scenes. Whereas "Children" was helmed by acclaimed Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón, "Shoot 'Em Up" is directed by unproven auteur Michael Davis, whose last effort was a widely unseen schlock horror film called "Monster Man." Rescuing an infant is an admirable character trait, but Owen will likely wish he had hired a babysitter this go around rather than waste energy on an absurd actioner and its inexperienced director.

The quirky opening shows promise: Carrot-munching Mr. Smith (Owen) sits at a bus stop as a pregnant woman hastens by while being stalked by a gun-toting brute. Smith's conscience apparently gets the best of him as he rescues the threatened woman and helps deliver her baby, all while engaged in a gunfight with an array of leather-clad creeps led by spectacled villain Hertz (Paul Giamatti). But a stray bullet leaves the woman dead and the newborn in Smith's care.

Smith soon finds that his inadvertent adoptee is at the center of a conflict between a presidential hopeful who plans to implement strict gun laws and the firearms aficionados who stand to lose from his inauguration. The sharp-shooting Smith finds help from Donna (Monica Bellucci), a lactating prostitute (yes, you read that correctly) whose unexpected motherly instincts prove invaluable.

Owen brings a palpable charisma to the role of Smith, and his magnetic performance almost

makes "Shoot 'Em Up" worth the headache. Smith is an enjoyable and enigmatic character. He does the things most of us only dream of: When an inconsiderate driver wildly swerves his luxury car between lanes without a turn signal, Smith simply runs him off the road. The chemistry between Owen and Bellucci is excellent as well.

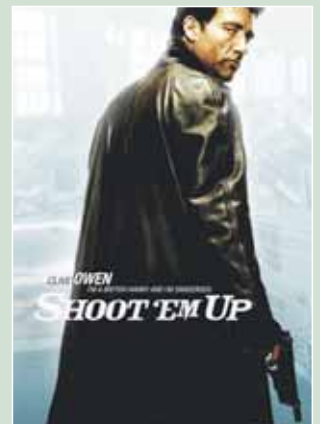
Giamatti, though, is badly miscast. The "Sideways" actor is jovial and has possibly the least menacing persona in Hollywood. When Hertz is lecturing a cartoonish group of thugs—all of whom wear virtually the same black outfit—his speech is about as intimidating as a run-in with a bunny rabbit.

The nearly non-stop action scenes are punctuated with loud rock music that could make even Beethoven eager for ear plugs. And the term "suspending disbelief" hasn't been this apropos since Democrats watched President Bush take the oath of office. Although the screenplay is at times clever and tongue-in-cheek, the absurd scenarios and forced one-liners reveal writing that is built on gimmicks.

Testosterone-driven teenage boys will hoot and holler, but "Shoot 'Em Up" is ridiculous and riddled with blood and bullets.

—Tyler Hanley

For more movie reviews or local show times, go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com



OF NOTE

9-year-old fills the pantry

Andrew Kocins, 9, a student at Green Valley Elementary held a food drive in August and collected 569 pounds of nonperishable food from his neighbors in Magee Ranch. He delivered the items to the Food Bank in Concord, which took several trips.

"It was the largest single donation of food by an individual to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano," said his mom, Ellen Kocins.

She said he plans to hold more food drives in the future.

Goodies for Marines

The Sweetshots girls youth basketball club conducted its annual summer camp series dubbed "Monday Night Madness" recently. Each camper was asked to bring an item or money to donate to troops stationed in places of conflict around the globe, to be handled by Project Marine Care, run by Danville resident John Wintersteen. This year \$500 and four boxes of goods were collected at Monday Night Madness.

"While most of our packages go to Marines and Navy Corpsmen, we also ship to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Seabees any time a request comes in for them," said Wintersteen. Call him at

John Wintersteen of Project Marine Care is surrounded by girls from the Monday Night Madness basketball camp.



Andrew Kocins, 9, donates nonperishables he collected to the Food Bank, with his sister Kate.



The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

Locker shock at SRVHS

by Katharine O'Hara

With two weeks down and 36 to go, the school year—and summer countdown—has officially started. Whether freshmen entering high school for the first time, or those returning for yet another year, San Ramon Valley High School students have been met with some significant changes this school year, but none more enraging than the major change regarding assigned lockers.

The high school has decided to strictly implement assigned lockers this year, something it's done in the past, but—as far as I can remember—never really enforced. In past years, students have ignored their locker assignment and claimed lockers with their friends in a location convenient for getting to their classes. This year, the school is requiring students use their assigned lockers, and to cutting off the locks placed on lockers someone else is assigned. Approximately 70 slips have already been issued requesting locks be cut off.

However, this new rule has caused significant problems and outrage among students. The switch has not been easy, and several phone calls from enraged parents have resulted. Because of the way lockers have been dealt with in the past, many students have been reluctant to move lockers away from their friends, and possibly into an inconvenient place. When students are actually willing to move and try to put their lock on their assigned locker, a lot of times someone else's lock is already there.

In addition, seniors—who one might think would have priority in this type of situation—were not

even assigned lockers. Though it is possible for seniors to receive an assignment from the administration, available spots are sparse and inconvenient, many on the top or bottom row.

"I think this is just a ridiculous situation. SRVHS students have always enjoyed the freedom of choosing our own lockers, and it has made our school unique from, say, Monte Vista, where students have always been assigned lockers," said SRVHS senior Jillian Armstrong. "Having an assigned locker makes it hard for students to have a set place to meet their friends, seeing as the school is so big, and their locker might be far from where their classes are."

According to Phyllis Roach, an assistant principal at SRVHS who explained the purpose behind this change in policy, this problem is only a one-time deal.

"Several years ago, we used to assign lockers because, for security reasons, it is best to know whose stuff is where. This year, we realized we needed to go back to that policy, but unfortunately, because of construction, a block of lockers were knocked down and we didn't have quite enough lockers to assign all students," said Roach. "We figured that because seniors don't always use lockers (some seniors use their cars to store books), we wouldn't assign seniors lockers and just let those who wanted a locker request one."

However, it must be noted that to presume seniors would use their cars as lockers is unrealistic due to the fact students are not allowed to access their cars or even enter the school parking lot at any other point during the school day aside from lunch, and students may need

to use their lockers between each class. Additionally there are not even enough spots in the parking lot to accommodate seniors, even if every senior carpooled with another. And those students who tried to apply for parking spots complained of rude administration, ridiculously long lines, and extreme, unrealistic hours.

"I had to wait for an hour and a half after school to turn in my paperwork. The only other opportunity to do this was in 10 minutes at brunch," said one senior. "It was also extremely frustrating to work with the administration, who wouldn't hear students out who may have had an exceptional situation."

As far as the whole locker situation goes, it seems communication was the major issue. Students were not notified of the new policy until the first day of school, and though the decision was made months ago, unrealistic assumptions were made in formulating the decision.

"It's just one of those things where you realize the flaw after you make the decision," said Roach. "We didn't get the information out soon enough to the community. Next year this won't be a problem because construction will be finished and we'll have a brand new set of additional indoor lockers for students to use."

Hopefully this explanation will provide upset students and parents with a better understanding of the school's decision, and in the future better communication will take place between administration and students regarding any change affecting them on campus.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a senior at San Ramon Valley High School. E-mail her at ohara5@comcast.net.

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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



Oldtime gathering included Grange leaders

Pioneers gathered at Cox's Grove around 1890 and stopped for a picture: (l-r) Albert W. Glass, Joe Lewis (?), Milton Larabee, William Meese, Levi Maxcy, Edward McCauley, Samuel Ramage, Lee Parker (?), Edward Shuey, Albert W. Stone, Samuel More, Charles G. Goold, John P. Chrisman, Myron W. Hall, David Glass, William Z. Stone, Nathaniel Howard, Robert O. Baldwin, James O. Boone, William Cox, George McCamley, Elisha C. Harlan. These names were provided by Ida Hall.

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

Calendar

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

Art

ADAS Art Demonstration Alamo-Danville Artists Society's free monthly program will present award-winning painter Bill Cone sharing his insights and techniques from 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9, free, at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Dessert & refreshments served. Call Wanda Kemper at 691-5030 or visit www.adas4art.org.

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.

Classes

Living Life on the Autism Spectrum San Ramon Parks and Recreation will host "Living Life on the Autism Spectrum" parent and

family series from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, Oct. 4 and 11, at San Ramon Parks Dougherty Station Library, San Ramon. Cost is \$99 for residents or \$125 for non-residents. Call 973-3253 or e-mail scastillo@comcast.net.

Clubs

AAUW Membership Brunch Danville-Alamo American Association of University Women (AAUW) Membership Brunch will be held from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 15, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$30. Prospective members are welcome. Call 736-8399 or visit www.aauw-da.org.

Alamo Women's Club Alamo Women's Club will host a new member "Open House" with a buffet luncheon from noon-2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. This event is free. Call 837-6548.

B2B Power Exchange B2B Power Exchange, a leads group for people who sell to corporate decision makers, is meeting from 8-10:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 20, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin and 8-10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, at Marie Callender's in Walnut Creek. Non-members pay \$40, which includes the cost of breakfast. Preregister; attendance is limited to 20 people. Call Chris Pareja at 201-3410

San Ramon Valley Republican Women Hoover Institution Senior Fellow Dr. Abraham D. Sofaer will address the San Ramon Valley Republican Women from 6-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 25, at Crow Canyon Country Club, on "The Impact of International Terrorism on the 2008 Presidential Campaign." Cost is \$30. This is the annual Barbara Olson Memorial Meeting. Call Roxanne Lindsay at 837-6253. Visit www.srvwf.org for more information.

Sewing Day American Sewing Guild will be making fun pillow cases with approximately 10-20 youths from the church and Girl Scouts, ages 10-15, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave. The completed pillow cases will be donated to various foster agencies. Call Cynthia Wheeler at 754-1230 or visit www.asgwalnutcreek.org.

Tri-Valley Democrats The public is invited to hear Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (18th District) talk about her first months in the Legislature, from 7-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 17, at the IBEW 595 Union Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Call Ellis Goldberg at 831-8355.

Events

Business Showcase Food and Wine Event Danville Area Chamber 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.danville-cachamber.com.

Complete Works of Shakespeare Smith Center Presents! Shakespeare from 8-10 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28, at Ohlone College Jackson Theatre, 43600 Mission Blvd. in Fremont. It's an irreverent and hilarious comedy sensation - Monty Python, Marx Brothers, & Mad Magazine all rolled into one. Contact boxoffice@ohlone.edu; cost is \$25.

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.

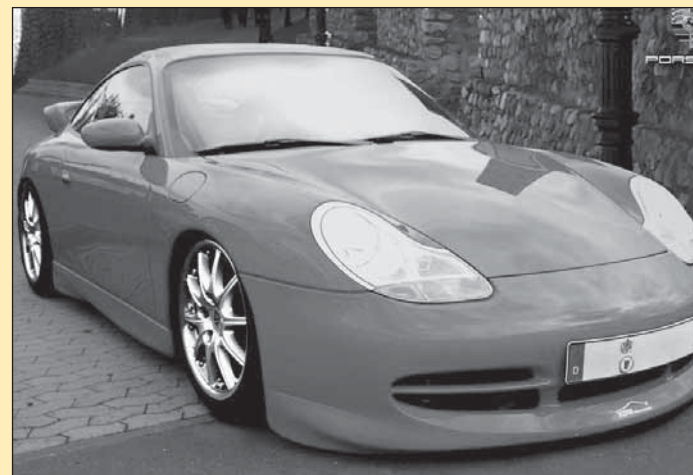
Diablo Valley Quilters Quilt Show Diablo Valley Quilters Guild is holding its 2007 Quilt Show, with more than 200 quilts on display, vendors, a boutique, demonstrations and catering by Sigi's. Featured quilt artist is Freddy Moran. Admission \$8, good for both days, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 22-23, at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan. Call 820-1588 or visit www.diablovalleyquilters.org.

Dog Adoption Faire Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is holding a Dog Adoption Faire from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. A professional dog trainer will be available to evaluate dogs. Dog adopters receive three FREE training classes, collar and leash. Cat adopters receive Goodie Bags. Free hotdogs & drinks. Call Sue James at (408) 202-6708

Emergency Preparedness Class Danville Women's Club will host an Emergency Preparedness Class, presented by the San Ramon Valley Fire Department, at its luncheon at noon, Thursday, Sept. 20, at its Clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa. Guests are welcome. Call 837-7528 for a reservation.

Eugene O'Neill Festival Eugene O'Neill Foundation and the Park Service will host the Eugene O'Neill Festival Friday-Sunday, Sept. 21-23. The three-day celebration will include a gourmet dinner, dramatic interpretations of O'Neill's works and music. The dinner starts at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22. Cost is \$100 per person and reservations are required, call 820-1818. Other events are fee. Visit www.eugeneoneill.org.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Calling all Porsche fans

Come and participate by showing or viewing exquisite Porsches of all years and styles at the Diablo Region Porsche Concours d'Elegance 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.

Patriots and Heroes Week USS Hornet Museum will host Patriots and Heroes Week from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 11-16, at USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave, Pier 3, Alameda. Firefighters, rescue and law enforcement staff and military personnel will receive complimentary admission. General admission is \$6-14. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit www.hornetevents.com.

San Ramon Open-Mic San Ramon Park and Recreation will host an open-mic night at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Show your family-friendly talent. This event is free. Call 973-3373.

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.

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 has an exhibition of Ethel Selberg's scrap quilts on display until Sept. 23, at the museum, on Railroad and Prospect avenues. 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.

'War Made Easy' Videos for Peace presents "War Made Easy: How Presidents & Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death" from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free, but donations are accepted. Call 933-7850. "War Made Easy" exposes a 50-year pattern of government deception and media spin that has dragged the United States into one war after another.

Fundraisers

Annual Boosters Gala Mt. Diablo Region YMCA will host its 27th annual Boosters Gala from 6:30-10:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 19, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Cost is \$150 per person, \$250 per couple or \$1,200 table of 10. Proceeds benefit the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign. The night will include Oakland Raider waiters, silent and live auctions, hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Reservations are due by Oct. 5. Call 692-2345.

Primo's Run for Education Be sure to register at www.primosrun.com for the half-marathon race or 5k race and family fun walk. When you register, select your school of choice and help raise money for it. Start time depends on which race you sign up for. Event is 7:30-11 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 14; cost \$20-\$60. Register at www.primosrun.com. Volunteers are also needed.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Series Coldwater Creek, Inc. will host a fundraising event for the

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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, 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.

Hip Resurfacing Surgery Seminar San Ramon Valley Regional Medical Center is presenting orthopedic surgeon John Knight discussing hip replacement surgery for younger, active adults that involves resurfacing the hip bone. The new technique conserves more bone by removing the rough damaged hip surface and replaces it with a durable high carbide cobalt chrome. The free seminar is 7:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26. Reservations are required; call (800) 284-2878.

Laughter Yoga Laughter yoga uses exercises that lead to real laughter, especially when done in a group. The group will meet from 10-11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients, their families, and friends. Call 933-0107.

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

Holiday

Yom Kippur Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) holds Secular Humanistic Jewish observance of Yom Kippur at 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22. Program of music, poetry and readings. TVCJ is welcoming to non-traditional and intermarried families. E-mail CulturalJews@aol.com.

Kids and Teens

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.

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.

YMCA Youth Teeball YMCA will host youth teeball for children in preschool through first grade on Saturdays, Sept. 29-Nov. 3. Introduce your child to America's pastime and join them on the field while they learn the basics of baseball. Call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org. 925-831-1100.

Lectures/ Workshops

Living with Advanced Breast Cancer Tiffany Svahn, MD, will present this workshop to 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.

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

Danville Library Book Club Danville Library hosts a book club that meets at 11 a.m., on the second Thursday of every month, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Future book selections are: Locked Rooms by Laurie R. King, Oct. 11; The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri, Nov. 8 and The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory, Dec. 13. Call 837-4889.

First Wednesday at the Library Friends of the Danville Library will host First Wednesday at the Library "Treasures of Venice: Food, Culture and Magic of Murano" at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 3, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 820-3125.

Poetry Weekend Enjoy a weekend of poetry while discussing "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," by Coleridge, and poetry by Robert Hass, D. H. Lawrence, Shakespeare, Billy Collins, Robinson Jeffers and others from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 10-11, at Westminster House, 512 Hemme Ave., Alamo. Cost is \$150, including lodging, meals, books, and a party. Call (408) 353-6340.

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.

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

On Stage

"Match the Joke" Mixer Mudd's Restaurant will host an 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.

"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.

Remembering Eleanor Roosevelt Danville Library Foundation and J&L Center Stage present scenes and readings from the original play, "Remembering Eleanor," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 24, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Sports

Cycling Fair and Demo Day Cyclepath presents a Cycling Fair and Demo Day from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at Pleasanton Ridge, Foothill Road Staging Area. Test ride more than 100 bikes, visit with representatives from local cycling clubs and learn about trends in road and mountain riding. There will be gear giveaways and a raffle. Call 485-3218.

Volunteering

Nike Club Run SF The Nike Club Run SF training series is a fifteen-week program designed to pre-

pare 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.

Primo's Run for Education Be sure to register at www.primosrun.com for the half-marathon race or

5k race and family fun walk. When you register, select your school of choice and help raise money for it. Start time depends on which race you sign up for. Event is 7:30-11 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 14; cost \$20-\$60. Register at www.primosrun.com. Volunteers are also needed.

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Gymnast wins at judge's cup

Heather Hovander of Danville won her Level 6 Mid-Age Group Session at the 2007 Northern California Gymnastics Judges Cup held Aug. 24-26 at Sacramento State University, against gymnasts from throughout Northern California. Heather, the daughter of Darrell and Denise Hovander, trains at Diablo Gymnastics in San Ramon, which Levels 4, 5 and 6 squads placed third. Heather finished the four gymnastics events—bars, beam, floor and vault—with a total score of 36.2. She needed higher than a 9.0 on her final event, the beam, to win and garnered a 9.175 to finish first on that event and pull out the highest All-Around score.



Eagles soar at Devil Mountain tourney

The Mustang U12 Eagles placed third at the 27th annual Devil Mountain Soccer Tournament held Sept. 1-2 in Danville. The Eagles were 3-1, defeating teams from Walnut Creek, Modesto, and Folsom, with the 12 Eagle goals scored by eight different players. Team members are (front, l-r) Melissa Freemon, Phoebe Ritter, Stephanie Aurelius, Jessica Schwartz, Olivia Schikora, Mariah Kitchin, (back) Team Manager Greg Schwartz, Ali Kitchin, Gabby Franklin, Sarah Luther, Madison Laird, Taylor Partin, Emma Sol, Brit Geary, Head Coach Lee. Not pictured: Kate Berry, Amanda Saunders, Assistant Coach Paul Freemon.



Watch out for Stampede

The Mustang Stampede U12 girls went undefeated in the Tiburon Mill Valley Fall Kick Off the weekend of Aug. 25-26. The four games included three shutouts for a combined 18 goals and allowing only one goal against them. Stampede is coached by Annette Lance and Ted Lawrence; team members are Sydney Lance, Alina Sinclair, Kendall Andres, Devyn Holiday, Grace Reckers, Hailey Landman, Sydney Biekert, Emily Evans, Madison LaRocque, Alexa Sheldan, Noelle Vleisides, Katrina Irej, Mellissa Lawrence, Elizabeth Whisler and Emily Biekert.



Another Mustang victory

The U12 Mustang Hotspurs won the Mustang Stampede tournament at home during the Aug. 24 weekend. The team, with coaches Jason Annicchero and Lance Glossup, shut out opponents in all four games, handily beating San Juan in the final game 4 to 0.



Midfielder Andy Li helped the Hotspurs keep the ball out of the defending half of the field and feed the offense. Strong play up front from David Griffith helped the Hotspurs to score 13 tournament goals. Forward John Wayland tallied a score for the Hotspurs to seal the victory against Marin Fusion in the third game of bracket play. Midfielder Doug Strazza rallied the team scoring by finding the net early in the third and the final games.



Sharks fight fiercely for win over United

Jacob Clark (front) and Kevin Trisko battle for the ball as the U15 Boys Division III Mustang Sharks coached by Ziad Tleimat beat Pleasanton Ballistic United 5-1 in their first league game.

The United were able to score in the first minutes of the game, but the Sharks quickly took control of the game, answering back with two consecutive winning shots by Spencer Kitchin—the first with an assist by Jordan Giusti and the second on free kick outside the 18-yard line. The third goal also came from a Sharks center half back, Mikhail "Tree" Torru, with an assist by Zuheir Tleimat to finish out the first half.

The Sharks continued to keep the momentum on offense during the second half with a breakaway by Jordon Giusti with an assist from Zuheir Tleimat and a goal by Jacob Clark with the help of Casey Sbrana's well placed corner kick to bring their goal count to 5. The Sharks outshot their opponents during the first half 10 to three and an incredible 20 to seven during the second half.

The Sharks benefited tremendously from some key defense by Stephen Armstrong, Derek Morefield and Matti Ruetman with goalkeeper Vikram Ravi making several remarkable saves.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 14

Football San Ramon Valley vs. San Leandro, 7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 14-15

Women's Tennis Logan Tournament at Union High

Saturday, Sept. 15

Cross Country DLS/CAR Nike Invite at Newhall Park

Monday, Sept. 17

Women's Tennis San Ramon Valley vs. Piedmont, 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Women's Golf San Ramon Valley vs. Dougherty, 3:30 p.m.

Monte Vista at Amador, 3:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis San Ramon Valley at Granada, 3:45 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

Water Polo San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

Monte Vista at Livermore

Thursday, Sept. 20

Women's Golf San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 3:30 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 3:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

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

Water Polo San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 3:45 p.m.

Monte Vista at Dougherty, 3:45 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21

Football San Ramon Valley at Washington, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Castro Valley, 7 p.m.

Women's Tennis San Ramon Valley at Miramonte, 3:45 p.m.

SPORTS DIGEST

Cougars capture national title

The Danville-based SportStrong Cougars captured the AAU Girls Basketball fifth-grade national tournament crown with a stunning victory over the West Virginia Thunder by a score of 41 to 31. The national title culminated a spring and summer season where the girls had a combined record of 40-4 and won numerous leagues and tournaments.

The team, in preparation for nationals, routinely played and defeated teams of older girls all year. Head coach Vince Romeo praised the play of his entire team during the tournament, including Taylor Partin-Majerus of Danville.

SRVHS looking for lacrosse coach

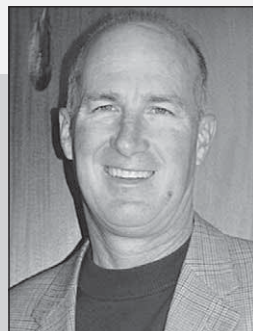
The sports department at San Ramon Valley High School has a vacancy for a Varsity Women's Lacrosse Coach/Program Coordinator, starting Feb. 5 for the spring season.

The high school is located at 501 Danville Blvd. in Danville. Inquiries and interested candidates may contact athletic director John Raynor at jraynor@srvhs.org or 552-3005.

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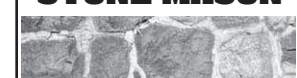
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Real Estate

805 Homes for Rent

Danville, 4 BR/2 BA
We are a wonderful family that is
looking for a house to rent near Vista
Grande Elementary. If you know of a
property that is available or will be
available soon, please contact Rick
at 510-329-1417 or reply to email
esparks@pacific.edu. Thanks.

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1975/month

815 Rentals Wanted

Wonderful Family Needs Housing
We are a professional couple with a
wonderful 4 year old and a second on
the way! We need a 4 BDRM in Danville
(preferably near Vista Grande Elementary
School). If you have a property available
or know of one coming up in the next
3-6 months, please call Rick at 510-
329-1417 or email esparks@pacific.
edu. Thank you.

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Bright And Cheery Home!, 3 BR/2 BA
- \$535,000

Stunning Single Story!, 4 BR/3 BA
- \$1145000

www.williamsteam.net/ Gorgeous Home
With Carriage House! - \$1,689,000

www.williamsteam.net/ Great Duet!, 3
BR/2.5 BA - \$459,950



Danville, 3 BR/2.5 BA

Beautiful Home in downtown Danville.
New carpeting, plantation shutters and
Italian ceramic floors in this 3 bedroom,
2 1/2 bath, 1492 sq ft home in charm-
ing Stonybrook. Walk 5 minutes from
your cobblestone driveway to dining,
shopping and the Iron Horse Trail. Large
decked yard with fountain, backs to
wildlife creek and walking path to the
Danville library. Top rated schools and
easy access to all Bay area commute
corridors. The good life in Danville is
waiting for you!

Danville, 5+ BR/3.5 BA - \$1289000

Dublin, 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$495,000

Great Home! Must See!, 3 BR/2 BA
- \$535,000

OPEN HOUSE - PLEASANTON
6384 Alford Way, Sun 12-4
4 Bd/2 Ba - New Upgrades
(925) 989-7962 for info

Pleasanton, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$399,960

Walk To Downtown Pleasanton!, 1 BR/1
BA - \$310000



**830 Commercial/
Income Property**

OFFICE SPACE/PLEASANTON
Office space available in Pleasanton professional office building. Great location with plenty of parking! Approximately 500 sq. feet, with central air/heating, alarm system, and like new with recent new painting and carpeting. Rent is \$825.00/mo. All outside maintenance, garbage, and water included. Utilities paid by renter. For further information or to see space, please e-mail request with phone number for return contact or call: 925-462-2600

Retail SubLease
Downtown Pleasanton Retail-10 mos Sublease w/opts 3K+ sqft prime Main St loc \$4876/mos MSG 925-487-4707

**840 Vacation
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20 Acre Ranch Repossessions.
Near booming El Paso, Texas. \$14,900, \$200 down/\$145 monthly. (10%/225 months) Roads, surveyed, References. Free maps/pictures. Sunset Ranches. 1-800-544-2877. (Cal-SCAN)

A Rare Find New Mexico.
Lake Access Retreat - 20 acres - \$29,900. Priced For Quick Sale. Incredible setting, including frequently running Pecos River, views and diverse topography. Limited availability. Excellent financing. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

Absolute Steal - Arizona Ranch
Liquidation. 36 AC - \$59,900. Perfect for private retreat. Endless views. Beautiful setting with fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Offered by AZLR 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Arizona land Liquidation!
Near Tucson, Football Field Sized Lots. \$0 Down/ \$0 Interest, \$159/mo. (\$18,995 total). Free Information. Money Back Guarantee! 1-800-682-6103 Op #10. (Cal-SCAN)

Arizona's Best Bargain
36 acres - \$49,900. Nature calls! Eureka Springs Ranch, near AZ's wine country & charming Wilcox. Incredible views, rolling topography, abundant wildlife. EZ terms. Offered by AZLR. ADWR report avail. Call 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

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and Mobile Homes with warranty for \$18,900. Information, Floor Plans, and photos online at www.FactoryExpoHomes.com (Cal-SCAN)

Central Montana Land Bargains
40 AC with Pond- \$89,900 160 AC- Elk Meadows- \$139,900 160 AC with New Log Cabin- \$189,900 640 AC w/ Beautiful Log Camp- \$649,900 Unbelievable Views, 350 Class Elk, Huge Muleys & Whitetails, Great Pheasant & Grouse Hunts. "By far the best land investment opportunity in the West." Call Western Skies Land Co. 888-361-3006 or visit www.MontanaLandAndCamps.com (Cal-SCAN)

How Big is 40 acres?
Come find out! 40 acres - \$39,900 Just outside Moses Lake, Washington. Beautiful land with captivating mix of rolling hills and occasional rock outcroppings - must see. Offered by a motivated seller. Excellent financing offered. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

Land Liquidation.
Developer Retiring. From \$1100 per Acre. Electricity - Gravel Roads - 80 Acres - State of Wyoming. Low Down - Will Finance. NO Credit Check. Call Bob - Owner. 1-925-210-0560. (Cal-SCAN)

Montana Land & Cabin Sale
40 AC Country Road- \$69,900 40 AC with New Cabin- \$99,900 160 AC- \$99,900 640 AC- \$900/ACRE! Beautiful views, trophy elk and deer, lots of water, great bird hunting. Ideal location. Owner financing available. Call Western Skies Land Co. anytime 888-361-3006 or visit www.WesternSkiesLand.com (Cal-SCAN)

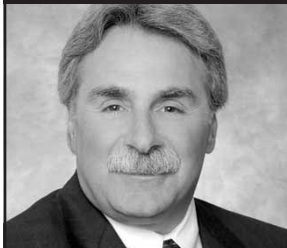
New to market.
3-5 ac Ranch Homesites, starting at \$39,900 outside Ruidoso, New Mexico. Located 30 minutes outside Ruidoso. Affordable living with no compromises. Stunning land, hard surfaced roads, municipal water, adjacent to golf, convenient to all Ruidoso has, but more affordable, bigger & prettier.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

Priced for quick sale
Nevada 5 acres - \$19,900. Beautiful building site with electric & county maintained roads. 360 degree views. Great recreational opportunities. Financing available. Call now! 1-877-349-0822. (Cal-SCAN)

Southern Colorado
5 Acre Homesites \$59,900. Grand Opening Sale September 15th & 16th. Gated community, underground utilities, 1,100 acres of open space, spectacular mountain views. Great primary/ secondary home. Recreation galore! Call Today for appointment! 1-866-696-5263 X 2560. (Cal-SCAN)

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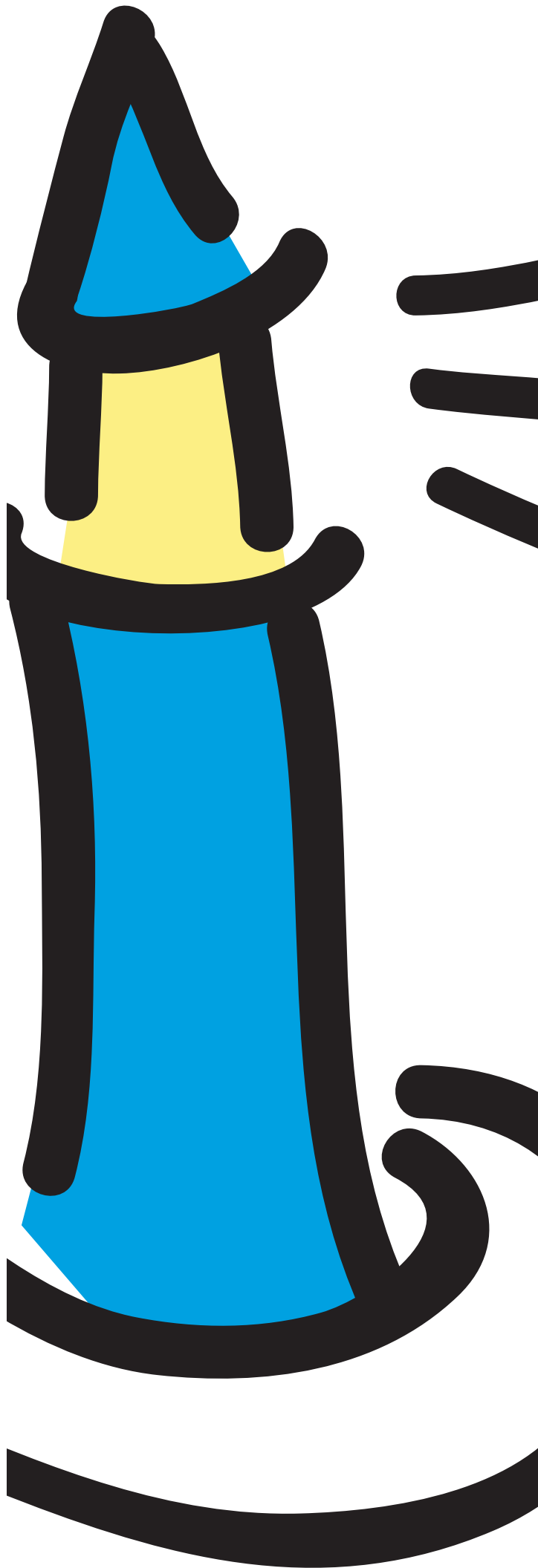
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Pet of The Week



Chipper Tipper

Meet Tipper, an all around great cat! Tipper is a 1-1/2 year old female housecat who likes to cuddle and enjoys lap time. She was found at an apartment complex with a litter of kittens and she was a wonderful mom to them. Tipper is now spayed and ready to enjoy some pampering of her own. Tipper lived in foster care for some time and she gets along well with other cats and with dogs. Tipper is looking for an indoor-only home where she can provide companionship in a safe environment. Visit Tipper (pet # 6429) at Valley Humane Society, open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, 3670 Nevada St., Pleasanton. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane-society.org.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2007

Danville

201 Alviso Court Fitzgerald Trust to G. & C. Skledar for \$1,125,000

130 Bridgeside Circle S. & K. Lineberry to B. Hilp for \$700,000

658 Bridgewater Circle C. & M. Javorski to T. & L. Smith for \$1,087,000

3491 Cashmere Street B. & D. Tastor to D. & J. Kidson for \$1,195,000

633 Condor Court South Point Inc. to D. Brown for \$538,000

63 Feather River Court Murray Trust to R. Villarreal for \$935,000

3332 Green Meadow Drive David Trust to Jasper Trust for \$1,050,000

801 Griffon Court Shapell Industries to C. & B. Maggio for \$1,039,500

1601 Lawrence Road Rees Trust to Dresser Trust for \$900,000

754 Liquidamber Place K. Gillman to R. Ellis for \$1,525,000

2411 Marsanne Street Lennar Homes to J. Shi for \$1,280,500

1447 Menton Street Lennar Homes to J. Park for \$1,136,500

147 Merano Street Cartus Financial to J. & E. Collins for \$1,198,000

257 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to K. & M. Tabrizi for \$466,000

1820 Rioja Street KB Homes to V. & J. Au for \$880,500

3563 Shadow Creek Drive Sirva Relocation to S. Chou for \$1,049,000

17 Tennis Club Drive Arens Trust to R. & M. Field for \$1,140,000

225 Tim Court H. & B. Hilp to D. & E. Ward for \$1,397,000

100 Tivoli Lane K. Lim to K. Chambers for \$685,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2007

Source: California REsource

Danville

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$466,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,525,000
Average sales reported: \$1,018,650

Diablo

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$1,550,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,550,000
Average sales reported: \$1,550,000

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$320,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,485,000
Average sales reported: \$768,647

900 Trebbiano Court Lennar Homes to B. & C. Pyon for \$1,046,000

Diablo

2067 Alameda Diablo Lai Trust to Tenir Limited for \$1,550,000

Walnut Creek

61 Aleman Court J. & T. Deemer to T. & S. Greenway for \$1,045,000

1315 Alma Avenue #454 G. & S. McManus to A. Huron for \$580,000

973 Dee Court R. & C. Hamilton to J. & J. Brescia for \$875,000

25 Las Lomas Way R. Earl to I. Sabry for \$830,000

11 Lorie Lane Chahin Trust to A. Marsh-Flores for \$725,000

2011 Magnolia Way C. & S. Cheng to T. Matson for \$825,000

363 Masters Court #1 Fairways 340 Limited to K. Brekke for \$478,000

310 North Civic Drive #407 C. Piva to J. Redding for \$442,500

450 North Civic Drive #501 M. Rimkus to L. Lew for \$384,000

904 Palmer Road Farzaneh Trust to L. Trenbath for \$875,000

2937 Ptarmigan Drive #1 Auld Trust to M. & C. Glantz for \$320,000

1633 Rockspring Place R. Pola to Plumb Trust for \$1,120,000

2671 Saklan Indian Drive #4 Huffman Trust to J. & J. Craig for \$730,000

1840 Tice Creek Drive #2342 Laboyteaux Trust to M. Connelly for \$627,500

587 Timberleaf Court Mestman Trust to T. Madge for \$1,485,000

48 Valla Court P. MacChia to C. Cussimano for \$715,000

2546 Via Verde Bacher Trust to Herrington Trust for \$1,010,000

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

2 Bedrooms

1496 Pine Tree Ln. \$1,150,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-5700

172 Alamo Square \$599,000
Sun 1-4 RE/MAX Accord 209-1131

206 Alamo Square \$699,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-4300

3 Bedrooms

18 Creek Tree Ln. \$862,000
Sun 1-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4134

46 Vista Ln. \$1,385,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 672-2499

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

4 Bedrooms

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

5 Bedrooms

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

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

BLACKHAWK

3 Bedrooms

937 Redwood Dr. \$1,199,000
Sun 2-5 Intero 325-9215

3661 Country Club Terrace \$2,198,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 998-1818

4 Bedrooms

101 Oakridge Dr. \$1,349,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 586-5456

34 Magnolia Pl. \$1,799,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 648-5346

5 Bedrooms

3357 Deer Hollow Dr. \$2,499,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 817-9079

6 Bedrooms

5483 Blackhawk Dr. \$3,450,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-2239

5 Bedrooms

531 Riviera Pl. \$849,900
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 487-6211

4 Bedrooms

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

1050 Vista Pointe Cir. \$835,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4128

2061 Bent Creek Dr. \$835,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4127

5 Bedrooms

300 Rubicon Valley Ct. \$1,049,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 977-5120

3071 Sorrelwood Dr. \$1,333,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-2239

3 Bedrooms

914 Arrowhead Terrace \$589,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 487-2629

4 Bedrooms

18 Ambleside Ct. \$1,050,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 998-1818

441 Scout Pl. \$1,099,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 413-1068

101 Castleford Cir. \$1,115,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4046

1143 Cheshire Cir. \$1,189,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 998-1818

300 Rassani Ct. \$1,949,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 980-4816

300 Romae Ct. \$1,989,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-4300

2800 Finley Rd. \$2,700,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 200-2917

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

5 Bedrooms

405 Skycrest Dr. \$1,029,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

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

5 Bedrooms

405 Skycrest Dr. \$1,029,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

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

5 Bedrooms

3120 Colebrook Ln. \$1,225,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 785-1586

5 Bedrooms

3120 Colebrook Ln. \$1,225,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 785-1586

5 Bedrooms

4121 Amberwood Cir. \$484,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 980-1012

2444 Heatherlark Cir. \$559,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-9832

3 Bedrooms

1134 Kottinger Dr. \$534,950
Sun 1-4 Olde Towne 426-9122

474 Vineyard Terrace \$619,000
Sun 2-5 Hometown GMAC 413-1912

3637 Touriga Dr. \$724,950
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

4 Bedrooms

1839 Begonia Ct. \$1,080,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

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

1306 Stony Brook \$1,315,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

3944 Fairlands Dr. \$795,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

4 Bedrooms

1839 Begonia Ct. \$1,080,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

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

1306 Stony Brook \$1,315,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

3944 Fairlands Dr. \$795,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

WALNUT CREEK

1 Bedrooms

320 North Civic Dr. # 319 \$209,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 997-1994

60 Iron Horse Ln. \$539,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 487-2629

2 Bedrooms

1690 Parkside \$524,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165

1353 Alma Ave. # 253 \$675,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 998-4220

1315 Alma Ave. # 153 \$697,500
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 998-4220

2 Bedrooms

1690 Parkside \$524,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165

1353 Alma Ave. # 253 \$675,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 998-4220

1315 Alma Ave. # 153 \$697,500
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 998-4220

3 Bedrooms

11750 Silvergate Dr. \$619,999
Sun 2-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 202-5508

4 Bedrooms

6136 Shadow Hill Dr. \$738,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 323-7938

5 Bedrooms

3120 Colebrook Ln. \$1,225,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 785-1586

5 Bedrooms

3120 Colebrook Ln. \$1,225,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 785-1586

5 Bedrooms

4121 Amberwood Cir. \$484,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 980-1012

2444 Heatherlark Cir. \$559,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-9832

3 Bedrooms

1134 Kottinger Dr. \$534,950
Sun 1-4 Olde Towne 426-9122

474 Vineyard Terrace \$619,000
Sun 2-5 Hometown GMAC 413-1912

3637 Touriga Dr. \$724,950
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

4 Bedrooms

1839 Begonia Ct. \$1,080,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

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Sat/Sun 1-4 Century 21-Diane Sass 699-9508

1306 Stony Brook \$1,315,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

3944 Fairlands Dr. \$795,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

4 Bedrooms

1839 Begonia Ct. \$1,080,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley 519-9080

307 Brianne Ct. \$1,289,000
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5 Bedrooms

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