

Preserving old Diablo

Historic committee hopes restored home will inspire others > **page 7**

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www.DanvilleWeekly.com

'Animal House' revived for a cause

Greenbrook fundraiser parades through the neighborhood

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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

'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'

Alamo residents speak out against incorporation

> **page 5**



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Friday, October 12

7:00 am: Store Opens
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11:00 am – 4:00 pm: Antique Dreyer's Truck with original driver Ed Archer handing out free samples
Concert Series Drawing Winners Announced
7:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Far Niente and Nickel & Nickel wineries

Saturday, October 13

10:00 – 11:00 am: Kent Family Magic Circus
11:00 am – 4:00 pm: Dreyer's Ice Cream Cart with free Samples
1:00 – 3:00 pm: Clover's "Clo the Cow"
12:00 – 3:00 pm: Wine Tasting and Special Guest Appearance – Meet Winemaker and Owner Paul Hobbs of Paul Hobbs Winery
12:00 – 1:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
2:00 – 3:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
4:00 – 7:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Silver Oak Winery

Sunday, October 14

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
11:00 am – 4:00 pm: Dreyer's Ice Cream Cart with free Samples
12:00 – 3:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Duckhorn Winery
1:00 – 2:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
3:00 – 4:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
4:00 – 7:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Justin Winery

Draeger's Cooking School Events:

Friday October 12th, Saturday October 13th and Sunday October 14th

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Saturday October 13th, 12:00 – 2:30 pm



Tony Gemignani

Tony Gemignani is an eight-time world pizza throwing champion with television appearances that include *The Tonight Show*. He's the Owner/ Chef of Pyzano's Pizzeria in Castro Valley.

Demo – FREE!

Saturday November 3rd, 4:00 – 6:00 pm



Alice Waters

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Saturday November 10th, 1:00 pm



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Q: Which of the seven deadly sins do you most enjoy?



Sloth because I love to sleep. I don't get to as much anymore with my 15-month-old. Lust and gluttony just make me want to go to sleep. So it all goes back to the same thing.

Dan Fernandez
bar manager



Probably greed. It would inspire me to make a lot of money and I wouldn't have to get up at 4:30 every morning and go to work. I'd say it's better than lust because when you have money you can get all the sex you want.

Gary Dorsey
tire serviceman



Lust. Everything else has a negative connotation. Lust is all good. Everyone feels better afterward and people are nicer. I don't want to eat all day or sleep all the time. Once you're done sleeping you just want to sleep more.

Sarah Lane
student/barista



Which one don't I enjoy?

Taylor Vogel
student



Pride. It feels good to have pride in yourself and your family or your girlfriend. But not too much. There's a limit. You don't want to come off conceited.

Arnando Gallegos
food server

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

ABOUT THE COVER

Elliott's 100-year anniversary proves the beloved bar has stood the test of time. So just what's so special about this neighborhood saloon and its cast of regulars? Photo by Natalie O'Neill. Design by Shannon Corey.

Vol. III, Number 23

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Oct. 16th, 23rd, and 30th

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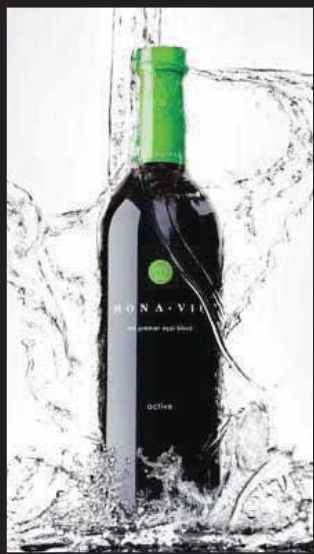
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ She was a little distraught. ”

—Danville Police Sgt. Kevin Daley about the woman who got her rental truck stuck in the US Bank drive-through area. See story, page 11.

Enjoy the Art in the Park this weekend

The Town of Danville and the Alamo Danville Artists' Society (ADAS) are hosting the ninth annual Art in the Park Festival on Front Street in Danville from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this weekend, Oct. 6-7. Sixty artists will feature works in painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics and fine jewelry.

The free event raises money for schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, said Norma Webb, ADAS' festival coordinator. Approximately 3,000 to 4,000 attended last year's festival, which raised around \$12,000. Artists give 10 percent of their sales to the schools.

Webb said people enjoy the event, which is satisfying for the artists who normally work alone.

"They are really tickled and so enthused," she said. "I love it. I'm an artist and I got involved to meet people."

Artists come from all over the Bay Area, with quite a few from Danville, Alamo and San Ramon, Webb said. Painters will showcase visual displays in oil, watercolor and pastel. There will also be color and black-and-white photography. Six jewelers will exhibit hand-tooled silver, bracelets, gemstones and broaches.

I-680 shut down for several hours Wednesday after chemical spill

Interstate 680 was closed in Dublin around 7:40 a.m. Wednesday after a pickup truck carrying swimming pool chemicals overturned on 680 northbound near the 580 interchange. The chemicals were scattered across all lanes of the freeway.

"Chemicals included chlorine and acid," said Officer Scott Yox of the California Highway Patrol.

A hazardous materials team cleaned up the spill, and people were advised to keep their windows closed.

The driver suffered minor injuries and was treated at Valley Care Medical Center in Pleasanton, said CHP Officer Steve Creel.

Danville Library to be closed Monday

The Danville Public Library, 400 Front St., will be closed Monday, Oct. 8, for Contra Costa County Library all-staff training. It will reopen per its regular schedule at 10 a.m. Tuesday. Call 837-4889.

McNerney to host grants conference

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th), is holding a grants conference tomorrow to provide information for organizations about the availability of federal grants. Expert panelists will include business, civic and government leaders from throughout District 11, including the following:

- Michael Elkin, Assistant District Director for Entrepreneurial Development, U.S. Small Business Administration;
- Tom Guarino, Public Affairs Manager, PG&E; and
- Kay Strawder, Regional Women's Health Coordinator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The conference will take place from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 6, at the San Ramon Valley Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. It is free and open to the public.

At 1 p.m., McNerney will hold Congress at Your Corner, designed to allow meet constituents, in the outdoor plaza at Garlex Pizza in Blackhawk.

Passports again needed for Mexico and Canada

On Oct. 1, the State Department reinstated the requirement that U.S. travelers bound for Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda carry a passport. That requirement was temporarily lifted in early June after the State Department mandated passports to visit these regions but was unprepared for the onslaught of passport applications.

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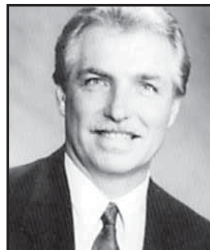
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NATALIE O'NEILL

A pickup truck touting a slogan in favor of an Alamo MAC greeted attendees of an anti-incorporation meeting last week.

Alamo residents speak out against incorporation

No need for change is general sentiment

by **Natalie O'Neill**

The saying “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” summed up the argument old-time Alamo residents used to ignite a formal anti-incorporation movement Thursday night at Alamo Women’s Club.

A turnout of more than 30—the bulk of whom had spent at least 25 years living in Alamo—highlighted a desire to see cityhood efforts squelched. The goal of the meeting was to get input, gather funds, and assign leadership positions.

“I like Alamo just the way it is. We know exactly what we’re going to get from the county, we don’t know what we’re going to get from incorporation,” said Tony Carnemolla, who opened the meeting with a speech.

But cityhood supporters say Alamo does need fixing. It takes too long to make road improvements,

too much Alamo tax money goes to county administrative fees, and traffic control—now done by the California Highway Patrol—could be better. Alamo planning decisions are also better made by people who live in Alamo, they say.

Still, members of the newly born anti-incorporation movement said there’s no point to having local planning control in the form of a city council, when most of the land has already been developed.

“We’re 90 percent built out. What are you gonna control? We’re land-locked by the park, Walnut Creek and the watershed,” said one speaker, Phil Erickson, who added that preventing big houses wasn’t enough to make him want to incorporate.

But future development in the form of subdivisions, privately owned land, “monster houses” and

► Continued on page 6

Danville gets ready to rock this weekend

Downtown offering live music for folks to enjoy after LPGA events in Blackhawk

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Get ready to rock ‘n’ roll when golf balls fly this weekend at Blackhawk Country Club.

Brazilian, acoustic, rock and big bands will play their guitars, beat their drums and sing their songs when people arrive in downtown Danville after the LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge games finish tonight and tomorrow, Oct. 5 and 6.

Discover Danville Association, the Town of Danville and the Danville Area Chamber of

Commerce are sponsoring “Danville Rocks,” a music event to attract tourney attendees to visit downtown.

“I wouldn’t call it a block party but I would call it a celebration of the LPGA,” said Wayne Wickham, president and executive director of Discover Danville.

Town and chamber staff will man a booth during tournament play, handing out fliers and giving out information about what Danville has to offer. The local groups organized Danville Rocks to offer more entertainment for

people downtown.

“The whole goal is to tell people what’s going on and get them downtown,” said Jill Bergman, town economic development coordinator.

Danville Rocks will be from 6-9 p.m. Three bands will perform on Friday and four on Saturday, Wickham said. The musicians will be playing on Hartz, Railroad and Prospect avenues.

Additionally, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley will hold an LPGA event open house on Saturday and showcase a 17-piece big band and a golf history display.

“We want them to come downtown; we want them to eat,” said Melony Newman, president of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce. “We want people to come down and patronize our businesses. That’s for sure.”

The 12th annual Long Drugs Challenge, which is being held at Blackhawk Country Club for the second year in a row, began yesterday, Oct. 4, and ends Sunday, Oct. 7. Qualifying golfers from the Ladies Professional Golf Association will be playing at the event. Lorena Ochoa, the No. 1-ranked female

golfer in the world, will be there, competing with the LPGA’s finest.

The tournament’s purse is \$1.1 million, with \$165,000 going to the winner.

Danville had bands playing in different venues downtown last year also but has upped the ante in promoting the music this year to increase patronage. Bergman hopes the increased promotion will make a difference.

“We wanted to make it fun,” she said. ■

Contact **Jordan M. Doronila** at jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com

Hearing for Windmill Farms

Decision expected in two weeks

by **Natalie O'Neill**

More than 40 Windmill Farms supporters gathered at a hearing Tuesday to send the county health department the message that the open-air market is a clean, safe establishment and isn’t in need of four walls.

Health services employees also made their points, noting bulk food and cut melons are more likely to be contaminated in the market’s outdoor environment. No decision was made Tuesday.

“It could go either way,” said Jason Smith, a 33-year owner of

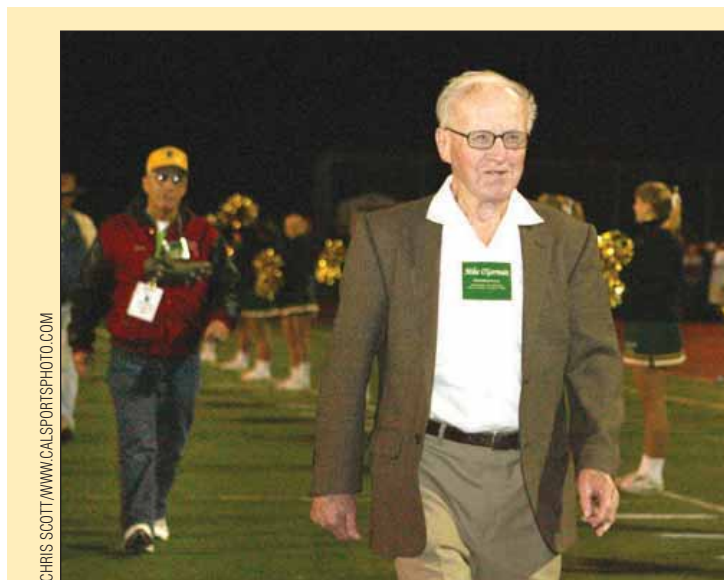
the iconic San Ramon business.

A decision will be made within two weeks by Health Services Director William Walker.

“His concerns are for the health and safety of the public. I’m sure he’ll be considering the full range of problems and solutions,” said Sherman Quinlan, Director of Environmental Health.

Owners say adding four walls and a ceiling is a venture they can’t afford and so is cutting out bulk food and cut fruit sales. It could shut them down, they say.

During the public comment period, longtime Danville patrons told their stories about what the farm means to their family and the community. ■



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Former coach comes home

Mike O’Gorman, football coach at San Ramon Valley High School in 1957, walks onto the field Friday night with his team from that year who were in town for their 50-year reunion. The Wolves defeated Amador Valley High, 23-13, in the exciting game. Monte Vista also prevailed against Granada, 49-35. For photos of the 1957 and the 1977 teams and football action, visit DanvilleWeekly.com.

Town reviewing plans for south Hartz building

by Jordan M. Doronila

Alamo developer Brad Blake has submitted plans for the vacant building on the 500 block of Hartz Avenue in Danville, which most recently housed the San Ramon Valley Times.

His plans include tearing down the old structure and erecting an 11,000-square-foot two story building. Blake presented the proposals to the Town of Danville last month.

"The design that we have and the tenants we bring will improve the business environment in downtown Danville," Blake said. "It's

consistent with the classic design of downtown Danville."

Blake, a partner of Blake Hunt Ventures, bought the property several months ago, he said. His personal company Blake BNB purchased the building. His plans include tearing down the old structure and erecting an 11,000-square-foot two-story building.

The first floor would house either a restaurant or a retail outlet, which fits into the Danville General Plan for spreading commercial business downtown. The second floor would be used as office space, Blake said.

"I purchased it because I like downtown Danville, and I hope to redevelop the property," he said, noting that buying the property was a competitive process and he secured the purchase after another buyer dropped it.

Town staff and the Danville Design Review Board will now review his plans.

"I hope the approvals would be obtained by the end of this year," said Blake. "It's up to the town."

Blake Hunt Ventures and Castle Companies own the Rose Garden Center, adjacent to Navlet's Garden Center on Camino Ramon at

Sycamore Valley Road. The center's residential portion is owned by Castle. Its commercial section is a joint venture by Castle and Blake Hunt, said town planning director Kevin Gailey.

The Blake-owned building at 524 Hartz Ave. for 12 years was the home of the San Ramon Valley Times, which moved its offices to Pleasanton last year.

A plumber and his family lived in the building during the 1950s, said Gary Soto, a Danville resident since 1944. Next, a sheet metal business took moved in and tore down interior walls. After that, it

was home to the old Valley Pioneer, which the Times then acquired.

Blake co-founded Blake Hunt Ventures, which is based in Danville and has five partners. His company built retail projects worth more than \$200 million over the past five years, and he is developing more than \$300 million of retail and mixed-use, retail-residential projects in the San Francisco Bay Area, Northern California and Utah.

Other projects in the Bay Area include Olympia Place and Plaza Escuela in Walnut Creek, Plaza de San Jose, and Marin Gateway in Marin City. ■

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Alamo

► Continued from page 5

tall buildings are highly possible, said Chris Kenber, Alamo Incorporation Movement spokesman, after the meeting. This is what makes a city council necessary, he said.

"Alamo Plaza is privately owned and has a tremendous risk of being redeveloped," he said. "That's a big deal. Do we want Alamo Plaza to look like a strip mall?"

Speakers at the meeting emphasized they were pleased with the area's police, roads and planning, and some advocated a Municipal Advisory Council—as opposed to a town council—that would advise the county Board of Supervisors.

"It's all the local control we need," said longtime resident Bob Myhre.

MACs are appointed by the district supervisor and allow residents to make recommendations on planning decisions in unincorporated areas. While advice from the MACs are considered, supervisors have the final say.

Members of the anti-incorporation movement said they didn't want to see Alamo become "mod-

ernized," and said keeping it a "small town" without a big commercial district, is their priority.

And supporters of cityhood say they share the same desire.

Most advocates of incorporation don't want to see Alamo's character change, Kenber said.

"On the contrary, (incorporation) offers the best chance of letting Alamo be Alamo," its Web site notes. "By making all our decisions through a locally elected council, it is the Alamo community that decides how we move forward."

An initial financial feasibility study shows that an incorporated Alamo would receive 35 percent of its revenue from property tax, 19 percent from state vehicle license fees, and 11 percent from sales taxes, along with other smaller income, including franchise fees.

The initial study was done by an independent contractor and indicates property taxes would not need to be raised. The study can be viewed at www.alamoinc.org.

Residents at the meeting said, even with the study, they believe taxes will be raised and the burden will fall on the homeowners.

"We just plain can't afford it," said Virgie Jones, a 59-year resi-

dent, who encouraged listeners not to sign a petition that would set forth a second feasibility study, this time by the state Local Agency Formation Commission.

Supporters of incorporation note that if the town can't afford it, then that's what the LAFCO feasibility study will show. Signing the petition is agreeing that the study should be conducted, not necessarily that incorporation should happen.

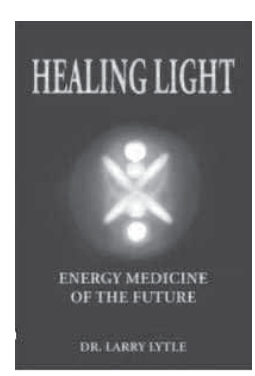
LAFCO is a state regulatory commission that prevents small districts and non-viable cities from being created. The last Alamo incorporation effort was shot down by LAFCO, before a vote could be taken. Back then, it was a county agency and supporters said there was a conflict of interest with the county. It is now regulated by the state.

If cityhood supporters gather 2,500 signatures, the study will take about one year to conduct. If it is approved, a vote will occur, likely in spring of 2009.

To find out more about anti-incorporation efforts, contact Tony Carnemolla at 984-7006. To find out more about the pro-incorporation movement, visit www.alamoinc.org or call Chris Kenber at 838-2296. ■

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DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Bob Tiernan and Jennifer Sokol watch as Melis Vardar cleans off the sign that was in front of the property to encourage a buyer to tear down the historic home and build a mega-mansion. Instead, Tiernan bought the property and lovingly restored it. For more photos, visit DanvilleWeekly.com

Saving more than a home

Historic Preservation Committee hopes Diablo buyers will be inspired by restoration

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Bob Tiernan could be a poster boy for preserving historic homes in Diablo. He was cheered by residents of the exclusive community as he personally led a team to restore Casa Blanca, built in 1925, to its former glory instead of tearing it down and building a modern-day mega-mansion.

"I grew up on the street, one of four boys," said Tiernan, and he'd been exploring the neighborhood since he was 8 years old.

His parents, now in their 80s, still live there and he was visiting them when he spotted the sign in front of 1897 Calle Arroyo: It showed a sprawling super-sized mega-mansion designed to replace the stately old home, which was showing its age but had been elegantly designed for the setting in the 1920s.

Tiernan gazed at the wonderful old estate that he recalled from his boyhood adventures. He checked out the construction and found it

to be sturdy and most of the home salvageable.

"I said, 'I could save this house,'" he recalled thinking.

The reality of the undertaking gave him pause, and he said his mother finally gave him "the gumption and 'kick in the pants' I needed to muster the guts to buy and restore the home to its original 1920s grandeur." Now he speaks with enthusiasm, even love, about quitting his job and assembling the group of contractors and craftsmen the old house deserved. He did extensive research on the era, including watching movies from the 1920s and '30s to check out the background in each scene.

Tiernan threw open the doors of Casa Blanca on a recent Sunday afternoon to show he appreciated those who, while he was in the throes of renovations, passed by and called out encouragement or gave a thumbs-up. Visitors toured the house plus enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres on

the spacious patio with a view of the golf course across the road.

The Diablo Historic Preservation Committee sponsored the open house and charged \$20-\$25 per visitor to benefit its programs.

"We try to educate people about the architecture and the historic treasures we have here, built from 1914 to 1935," said Mugs Freeman, a past president of the committee.

She said a list compiled in 1981 showed 69 historic homes; today only 44 remain. New owners don't always appreciate the historic elements or architectural highlights of an older home and want to tear it down to replace it with a larger one, such as the developer had planned for this lot.

Freeman said members of the Diablo Historic Preservation Committee attempt to convince new owners to at least maintain the street view, even while adding

► Continued on page 9



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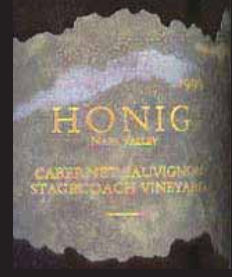
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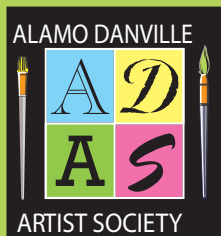
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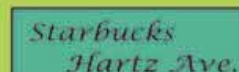


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Gagen McCoy
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Diablo

► Continued from page 7

rooms and wings onto the back. “We try to educate like crazy, and we have awards, the Spirit of Diablo Awards,” she said.

Tiernan pointed out that his renovated treasure, at 2,800 square feet, has everything a newer home can offer—fuel-efficient heating and air-conditioning, internal vacuum, instant hot water heater, remote-control lighting systems, cable, phone and wireless Internet, built-in flat screens and surround sound speakers. The kitchen is state-of-the-art, handcrafted in the style of a 1920s home, with all the appliances hidden behind solid birch doors. This is the only room that has been enlarged but Tiernan retained the charms of the original home, which features make some people think Julia Morgan may be the architect.

All of the interior and exterior doors, windows, screens, hardware and floors have been restored and refinished. The great room has its original specially crafted iron chandeliers and sconces, and the fireplace patina has been honed by decades of heat and flames. The banister rail leading upstairs is the original, Tiernan noted, and did not even need cleaning. An upstairs sleeping porch is also completely original, and he said the previous owners would roll their double bed through the French doors to sleep outside on warm summer evenings.

“I pay my bills out here,” he said, pointing to the wicker furniture.



Weekly visits West Virginia

Bill and Sandra Moody enjoy historic Harpers Ferry in West Virginia with best friends Jeff and Kathy Goldstein, former Alamo residents—and the Danville Weekly.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to travel@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526.

Tiernan has not only restored his home to its original splendor but has added other period pieces to the property. The gas lamps, now electric, were used in the late 1800s in San Francisco. The stones on the patios are from the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco which underwent a renovation last year. Tiernan purchased a total of 2,200 stones and loves to recall their jour-

ney, after being quarried in Ireland, serving as ballast on California-bound ships from 1860-1900.

While searching a salvage yard for a claw-footed bathtub, he came across a portico from a 1918 home in Burlingame. It now welcomes visitors who pass underneath and cross a teak bridge over the creek to walk back in time to the beauty of Diablo 1925. ■



Jeanne Porter of the Diablo Preservation Committee and her husband Bob check in visitors at the open house.



Bob Tiernan points out features on a portico from a 1918 home in Burlingame that now serves as the entry to Casa Blanca.

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Oversized bank deposit

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

A truck became stuck in the drive-through portion of the US Bank on San Ramon Valley Boulevard around noon last Wednesday when the 65-year-old woman who had just rented the vehicle tried to take a shortcut.

The 10-1/2-foot truck became jammed under the nine-foot ceiling of the bank and she came to a grinding halt. Both dimensions were clearly marked, said police.

The "shortcut" resulted in a delay of several hours, as she waited for Public Storage in San Ramon, where she'd rented the truck, to arrive to let air out of the tires and tow the truck forward, said Sgt. Kevin Daley of the Danville Police Department.

No one reported the incident to the police but Officer Michael Carson was driving by and noticed the mishap. He stopped and reported back to the station.

"She was a little distraught," said



Oops! This 10-1/2 foot truck became stuck in the nine-foot drive-through portion of the US Bank on San Ramon Valley Boulevard around noon last week on Wednesday.

Daley, who was the sergeant on duty and went to observe the scene firsthand.

He said the driver checked out the inside of the truck, entering through the back, and it appeared undamaged. The bank had a chunk of stucco knocked off and scratches on the ceiling.

Luckily, Daley said, when she'd rented the truck a few hours earlier,

she had also taken out the insurance.

"I've seen trucks stuck on roads underneath freeways and in bank overpasses," said Daley. "I used to work by Sunvalley Mall and I've seen them stuck there several times. Every time they'd do the same thing—let the air out of the tires."

The US Bank manager said the drive-through window has been closed for a number of years. ■

Parents seek equal school upgrades

Measure A funds renovated fields at Greenbrook, John Baldwin, added computers

by Natalie O'Neill

When it comes to school modernization projects, "leveling the playing field" has taken on two meanings.

Greenbrook and John Baldwin elementary began the school year with newly renovated sports fields as part of Measure A, a \$260 million bond, prompting parents to speak up about the importance of equality in district school improvements.

Parents and coaches of children who use the baseball field at Alamo Elementary have been pointing to uneven surfaces and flooding for months, in hopes of getting upgrades. And some feel the school is in need of field repair just as much as its neighboring two Danville elementary schools.

"Sports teams use the field extensively. There have been dryness and divots—kids have twisted their ankles," said Vicki Koc, former Alamo Parks and Recreation Committee member.

Terry Koehne, spokesman for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, said Greenbrook and John Baldwin elementary received the field improvements because portable classrooms—used while building the new schools—damaged the old fields.

"We look at things from a community standpoint. Equity is one of our highest priorities," he said.

In general, sports facilities aren't included in school modernization bonds.

"It's a tough sell to the voters," Koehne explained.

School Board Trustee Joan Buchanan broached the subject of fairness at a September school board meeting, after getting district-wide updates on new equip-

ment, field renovations and facilities for the new school year.

Her concern was that with all of the modernization projects in the past five years, some schools were behind in their technology.

"There's a huge inequity there. Are we going to address that in any way?" Buchanan said.

This is an issue the committee needs to take a look at, she said after the meeting. She also noted that field issues could be addressed with additional funds.

Greenbrook and John Baldwin elementary, which were erected in 1976 and 1968, were entirely rebuilt by fall 2006. New classrooms, computers and furniture came along with the package.

The schools were given top Measure A priority because they had been designed in a pod shape that required students and teachers to walk through each others' class-

rooms. They didn't meet district size and configuration standards.

"We were in dire need when we passed the measure," Koehne said.

The last Alamo Elementary renovation project was completed in 2000, through Measure D, and the school received a new classroom wing and a multi-purpose room—but no sports facility upgrades.

When Measure A passed in 2002, Alamo Elementary was not considered a top concern, when placed next to older facilities with leaky roofs and inefficient layouts. "It comes down to priorities," Koehne said.

The Measure A Oversight Committee, which advises the school board, determines which schools are given measure A funds by visiting the locations, getting feedback from facility managers and engaging in lengthy dialogue with members of the community. ■

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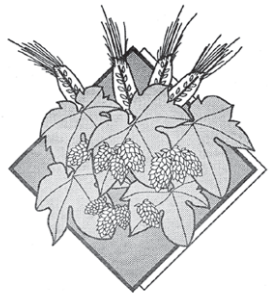
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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Campaigning

Tired of campaigns yet? And we're not even talking about the candidates running for the presidential primaries. We're referring to local politicians tying themselves to popular causes that might pay off in November. That is, a year from November.

Supporters of Alamo incorporation are quite visible, asking for signatures to present their case to the Local Agency Formation Commission to see if a city of Alamo would be viable. Opponents of Alamo incorporation are getting their arguments out there, too. And Windmill Farms has spent the last few weeks getting signatures on a petition to present to the county for permission to remain an open market and continue selling cut fruit and melons.

The Windmill Farms effort seemed like a pretty cut-and-dried campaign for a store to prove its service to the community rather than a political effort. Until Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., District 15) got involved. He stood out on San Ramon Valley Boulevard last week collecting signatures and sporting a big sign that read: "Help Guy Houston save Windmill Farms."

Houston's assembly position is termed out, and he is running for Contra Costa County District 3 supervisor. His signs didn't mention his run for supervisor but what else could have been his intention as he included his name on the signs in the highly visible spot? It was as much a self promotion as when he marches down Hartz Avenue during the Fourth of July Parade, crossing from one side of the street to the other shaking hands of supporters.

We support Windmill Farms' quest to stick with business as usual and are happy to see anyone campaigning for it. And we are glad things are going so well in the state of California that our assemblyman could use his recess to gather signatures for his friends—with his own name in big bold letters.

We support Windmill Farms' quest to stick with business as usual and are happy to see anyone campaigning for it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supports Alamo incorporation effort

Dear Editor:

I am amazed at some letters I have read from other Alamo residents. It seems writers are unwilling to make an effort to improve or even help maintain the quality of life we enjoy in Alamo. Comments like "There are special interests" or "It will cost too much" are poppycock!

We moved into the unincorporated area of Walnut Creek in 1972. At that time Alamo was a very quiet and desirable area, with little traffic. In 1989, we were able to move to Alamo and are glad we did. Have we seen change? Yes! Lots of it and not all good. Have we tried to "lobby" our county representatives for help on various matters? Yes, with virtually no success. The county's re-districting plan in 2001 virtually "disenfranchised" us.

Other writers talk about the "increased costs." Yet they have no idea whether incorporation is viable or not. I am supporting the incorporation movement because it is being done responsibly. First, a study to confirm that "city-hood" is viable and fiscally responsible, and if so, then a "vote" by all registered voters after the facts are in.

I believe Alamo residents are

far more qualified to determine Alamo's needs, no matter who the county supervisor is, since their responsibility is to all residents of the district, then to the county as a whole, not Alamo.

We need to focus on how we can help make Alamo a better place to live. It's good now, but we need to ensure it stays that way or even make it better. I have talked with several residents in other small communities in our county and none of them has said, "Gee, I wish we hadn't incorporated." In fact all of them are happy they did. So I am asking my friends to support the incorporation process so we, too, can be "masters of our own destiny."

Bob Connelly, Alamo

Facts about Alamo

Dear Editor:

Honest disagreement over the merits of Alamo incorporation is a normal part of the democratic process. However, that disagreement should be based upon facts, not misstatements like those in Robert Myrhe's letter to the Weekly last week.

An incorporated Alamo will generate an operating surplus each year for the first 10 years, according to the independent study available to anyone on the AIM Web

site (www.Alamoinc.org). We will not be FLAT BROKE (Myrhe's capitals).

We will not have to hire a new police force or buy police cars if we contract for police services with the county like Danville has for over 25 years. But it will be our police force under our control.

Anyone who reads the study will see immediately that sales taxes are not the principal source of revenue for an incorporated Alamo. Property taxes are 35 percent of the total, vehicle license fees are 19 percent and sales taxes, at around \$1 million per year, are 11 percent. This vehicle license fee revenue isn't available to us or the county today—it is only available to incorporated cities. Danville and San Ramon get it, Alamo doesn't.

For reasons that are unclear, the small number of opponents of incorporation don't want a more detailed study to be done to confirm the facts—what are they afraid of?

Please sign the petition to initiate the LAFCO study and let's have a debate based upon facts, not upon scare tactics and factual misstatements.

Barbara Munkner, 35-year Alamo resident

Guest Opinion

BY ROY S. BLOSS

Alamo reaches for self rule

Launching a ballot for creation of a new city is no grade school task. First, ballot writers must minutely define the proposed city's boundaries to include the maximum Yes votes and shut the door on the No's.

Money ranks next. The various sources of tax funds must add up to a budget to pay the new city's expenses and be convincing to the county's Local Agency Formation Commission where sharp eyes can dampen the whole scheme. Getting past LAFCO signals when the work really starts. Organizing a campaign, recruiting advocates willing to stop playing golf or cutting their lawns, raising campaign money, and guaranteeing every voter is personally contacted and given literature makes creating a new city a sweatshop job.

Take my word for it. I was co-chair of the 1973 Alamo cityhood campaign, and was one of five elected city councilmen to the city that wasn't elected. This was the last attempt of four planned but only three actual elections for Alamo's incorporation, dating back to 1964.

In 1967, when the Danville area was included (before Danville had its own city election) the proposed city's name would have been "Danville," but cityhood lost by 966 votes. Most of these self-government efforts were pubescent, as I suspect were meeting the early clearance rules of LAFCO, though in 1973 it took several visits to LAFCO to convince the agency that Alamo's incorporation of everything south of Walnut Creek to the Alameda County line was the right dog to own. Voters didn't agree: 5,178 said Yes; 6,623 voted No.

It doesn't take a college education to understand that this nearly half-century of voter negativism centers on one concept. Alamo residents may not cringe at the cost of self-government, although it is usually sold with an informal promise of no tax increase, but the majority of them are denunciatory of the feel of more government interference with their peaceful half-acre existence. So the big sell this time is to convince residents that when Alamo becomes a city they will be dealing with elected and staff officials who are friendly neighbors, taking over from the regimented staffers in Martinez who get their paychecks from the county, not from where they are laying down the law.

Is cityhood a deceitful promise of a blue sky? Not if we cast an eye to our nearby neighbors, Danville and San Ramon, where citified success is amply evident to the most casual drive-through

visitor. What we're talking about here is changing the hard-line rule of the county for the more sympathetic help of incorporated self rule. Example: County informants estimate there are about 15 or 20 rights-of-way easements granted and built by developers

What we're talking about here is changing the hard-line rule of the county for the more sympathetic help of incorporated self rule.

in Alamo to move excess water flow to primary drainage facilities. Developers lined these rights-of-way with a thin layer of concrete, presumably without county specification. Over the years this cheap construction has seen serious cracks in the concrete and water leakage, and the easements become filled or partially blocked by an accumulation of mud, weeds and leaves. Who is responsible for cleaning up these messes? Not us, the county says; the supervisors have created no budget for it.

Frankly, I've come to think of incorporation as a free insurance policy—insurance that the mounting costs of county government and the pressures of population growth will play minimal political damage in the town I've called home for half a century. There are two ways to acquire this insurance policy. Incorporate. Or be annexed to Danville.

There are already backers of this second option. One is Robert Myhre, whose property runs between the Iron Horse Trail and Danville Boulevard. His principal point: City infrastructure would already be provided by a proven record of successful local government. He, too, has been around here for a while, a half century or more.

One can easily see the gravitational influences of Danville. Our shoulder-to-shoulder communities are the archetype of similarity, assuring a happy marriage, which would not be the outlook if, say, Danville's coffee-drinking society that fills the sidewalks at noontime were asked to merge with the fast-growing, commercial-industrial San Ramon city to the south. Of equal importance is the political punch that annexation would gift to both communities. No longer separate small towns but now a good size city, its voice would be louder in Martinez, even in Sacramento, when dealing with refractory agencies.

The difference in incorporation and annexation is like a comparison of seeing an independent doctor-specialist or going to a hospital with a hundred doctors. You can be treated well both places but the hospital can treat more complaints you should have known but didn't. Which is not to say Alamo has an unknown rash of problems, but the insurance policy we're being asked to buy offers a bigger payoff if it's issued by Danville.

Annexation doesn't mean the loss of Alamo's name, its post office or its ZIP code. Geographically, maps would show the increased boundaries of Danville but also the name Alamo. A good example of this is Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County. Incorporated in 1987, Santa Clarita comprises four separate towns—Newhall, Valencia, Canyon Country and Saugus—all continuing to have their own post offices and ZIP codes. If you ask a resident of Santa Clarita where he lives, he answers with the name of his local community, not Santa Clarita.

Alamo's growth since the last incorporation vote has been less startling, about 30 percent, and all living in upper income homes. Which is not to say we don't have troubles. It took three years to get the county public works department to put the tiny Andrew P. Young Park in the town's center in condition to install a memorial plaque for a dedication ceremony. Outranking that complaint is the uncertainty we have in the county's authority to decide zoning and land use applications filed by local developers. I spent three hours one night auditing the public meeting of the Redondo Beach Planning Commission whose recommendations were passed on to the city council. Despite some split votes, the city's interests, not the county's, dominated the proceedings.

It was a valuable lesson. The negativism in Alamo's past incorporation efforts was a misunderstanding of the role local decision making plays in local society. The closer Alamo can get to home rule—either as an independent city or annexed by Danville—the better opportunity it has to perpetuate the special qualities of our life here in the friendly, beautiful and comfortable community of Alamo.

Roy S. Bloss is a 52-year resident of Alamo; 1973 co-chairman of San Ramon Valley's campaign to incorporate as a city; author of numerous history books; co-founder in 1975 of San Ramon Valley History Society; and president of Association for the Preservation of Danville Boulevard.



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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE LOG

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

Wednesday, Sept. 26

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on St. George Rd. at 8:07 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, at U.S. Bank on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:43 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Gerbera St. at 12:40 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:50 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:54 p.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 12:58 p.m.
- Battery on Danville Blvd. at 1:14 p.m.
- Felony hit-and-run on northbound I-680 on ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 6:52 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Midland Way at 9:21 p.m.
- Identity theft on Cambrian Way at 9:45 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:25 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 27

- Auto burglary on Westfield Cir. at 7:44 a.m.
- Petty theft on Verde Mesa Dr. at

- 8:29 a.m.
- Identity theft on San Ysidro Ct. at 10:25 a.m.
- Identity theft on Cambrian Way at 12:16 p.m.
- Vandalism on 500 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:45 p.m.
- Vandalism on Waterman Cir. at 4:54 p.m.
- DI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Holbrook Dr. at 9:46 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and southbound I-680 at 11:59 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 28

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on southbound I-680 onramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:27 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 2:37 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Brookside Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:26 a.m.
- Identity theft on El Dorado Ave. at 10:51 a.m.
- Felony embezzlement on La Gonda Way at 2:20 p.m.
- Petty theft on E. Linda Mesa Ave. at 3:13 p.m.
- Vandalism on Town and Country Dr. at 5:29 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 9:40 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Alegre

POLICE BULLETIN

Cocaine, drinking lead to arrest

Police arrested a 21-year-old man for allegedly being drunk in public, and they also suspect he snorted cocaine, outside a new nightclub in Danville last week, said police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Officer Anthony Maldonado and Sgt. Dan Hoffman caught Travis Tunney of Walnut Creek behaving under the influence in Blend's parking lot on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, at 1:50 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 23. They made contact with him after being informed by a caller that Tunney was acting odd, Craig said. They stopped him to see if he had symptoms of being intoxicated.

Police said the suspect was los-

ing his balance and had a white powdery substance inside his nostril. Tunney combated the officers as they conducted their investigation, reports said. A short struggle ensued but the police subdued and handcuffed him without anyone getting harmed.

Tunney continued to fight as he was taken into custody, attempting to head butt the police and kicking the car window, according to reports. Police interviewed him further, and the suspect admitted to snorting cocaine early in the evening. They took him to Martinez Detention Facility.

"These are serious situations that can escalate into someone getting hurt if they are not handled correctly," Craig said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

Ct. and Paraiso Dr. at 10:37 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 29

- Suspicious subject, arrest, on Verona Ave. at 2:26 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Tassajara Ranch at 8:09 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and

Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:06 a.m.

- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Ambience Way at 6:14 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Green Valley Rd. and Verde Mesa Dr. at 8:57 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Sherburne at 10:04 p.m.

OBITUARIES

John Ruskin Thornberry

John Ruskin Thornberry, 85, a resident of Danville since 1969, died Sept. 23. He most recently lived at Lorvin care home.

He was born March 3, 1922. He was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and retired from Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Co. He served in the U.S. Army and was a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member in the Purdue Alumni Club, the VFW, the American Legion and spent 20 years as a scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America, and achieved a Life Master in duplicate bridge. His hobbies included dancing, stamp collecting and volleyball.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Phyllis; by his son Tracy; his son David and wife Vicki; his daughter Linda Heasell and husband Gary; his daughter Diane Stockwell and husband Phillip; and seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held Sept. 29 at Christ Community Church in San Ramon. Donations may be sent in memory of John Ruskin Thornberry to Kaiser Permanente Hospital-Hospice, 200 Muir Road, Martinez 94553.

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Check it out

At least once a week I find myself at the Alamo Safeway checkout, a good chance to observe others as well as restock my cupboards. I witnessed something recently that I can't get out of my mind. The woman ahead of me never stopped talking on her cell phone as she unloaded her basket of groceries and had them scanned. After the total came up, she pulled out a credit card, swiped it, signed the charge slip the checker held out for her, and wheeled out her groceries. All without interrupting her conversation. What bothered me was that she conducted the entire transaction without even making eye contact with the clerk.

It was tempting to run after the customer, demand her attention, and inform her that the clerk was not a robot, as she'd treated her, but a person. But instead I turned to the clerk, who was looking rather unhappy.

Does that happen often? I asked her. Are customers frequently so engrossed in their own lives and conversations that they can't even look up from their conversations to smile and acknowledge her, much less mouth "Thank you"? She said she gets a few each day like that, but the ones that really bug her are those who only look up to say they want help out. At least this woman bused her own groceries.

Ah, cell phones. For all their convenience, they've produced new and improved ways to be rude. My husband was at the Department of Motor Vehicles the other day and said a man was talking so loudly on his phone that business actually came to

a halt. The man was arguing with his lawyer about making payments to his ex-wife, and since he was talking at such high volume, everyone began to chime in. "I think you should pay her," one person advised. Others mimicked his demand for a meeting. Yet others began to talk to one another about the subject—conversations about alimony swept through the floor of the DMV.

It was tempting to run after the customer, demand her attention, and inform her that the clerk was not a robot, as she'd treated her, but a person.

Then there's BART where many people want to use the dead time to call someone although phone reception is intermittent. The general manager of BART has appealed to everyone to please be courteous with cell phones while riding the trains, including setting the ringers on manner mode so they don't all begin ringing at once when the train enters a wireless area. Plus he asks people to remember that everyone may not wish to hear their conversation. It's even been suggested that BART have one car per train that is cell phone-free. A friend of mine just returned from Japan and noted that on the Shinkansen, the high speed

train, he was impressed to see that passengers went in between the cars with their cell phones so they wouldn't disturb their fellow passengers. Such a concept!

But back to Safeway. As much as I sympathized with the clerk who was treated as less than human, I must also say there are times that I, as a customer, have been ignored while the checkers talk to each other. What time are you getting off? How was your weekend? etc., as any co-workers might do except in this case there is a customer standing right there—me. But at least they turn to me at the end, and say, "Thank you, Mrs. Ciardelli. Did I say it right? Have a nice day." I always respond that, yes, they said it right, whether they did or not. (I think it would be easier, for all of us, if they went back to the generic "Ma'am." You, Mrs. Jones, may not understand.)

But usually the clerks do focus on the customer: Did you find everything all right? No? Jason, please run and find a quart of peanut oil for this customer. And some seem to enjoy their jobs and their customers. Just as some customers act as though the interaction at the checkout stand is the highlight of their day. Put down the cell phone and live in the moment. I find the interaction can be pleasant—and informative. Did you know that some shoppers spend more than \$1,000 at one crack buying groceries?

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

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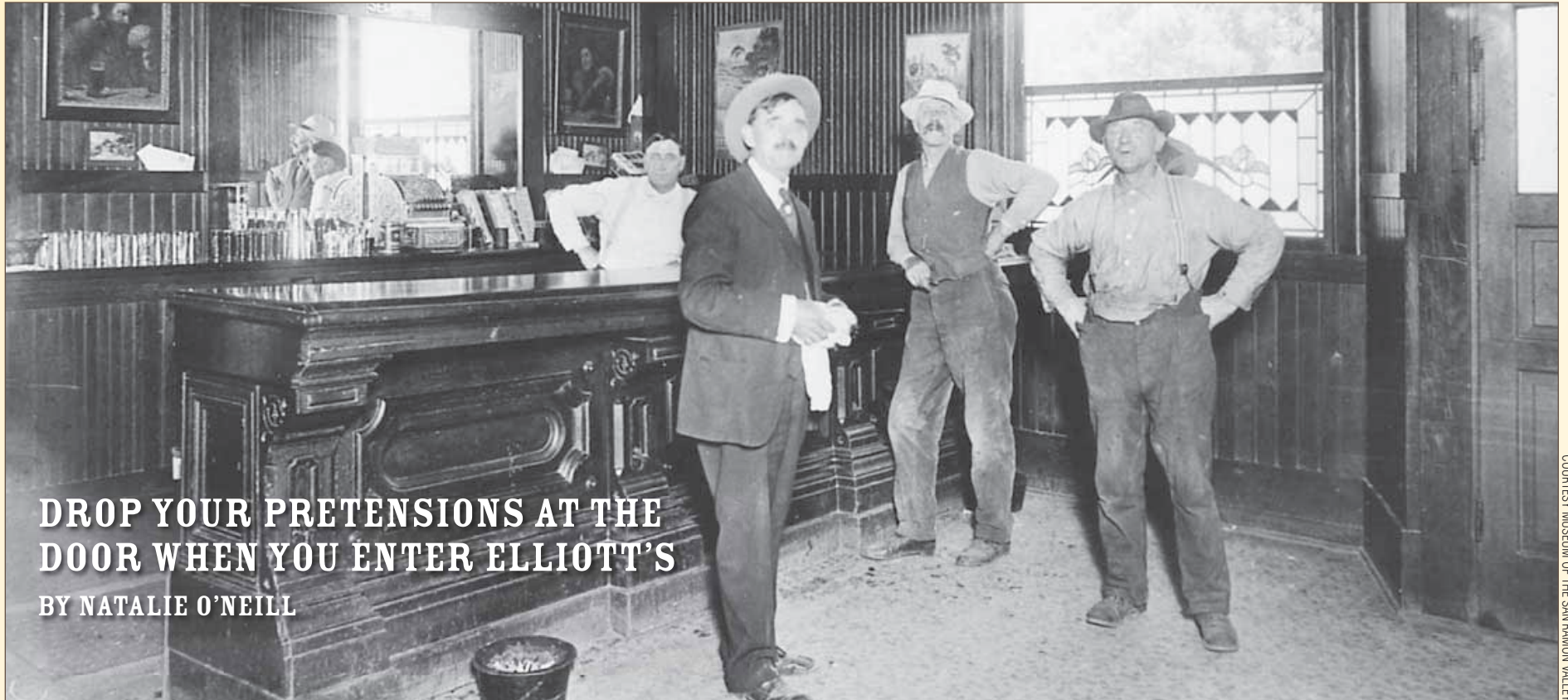
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CENTURY OF SALOONIN'



DROP YOUR PRETENSIONS AT THE DOOR WHEN YOU ENTER ELLIOTT'S
 BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Original owner Hiram Elliott wouldn't turn the saloon into a speakeasy during prohibition, so the bar became an ice cream parlor in the 1920s.



Elliott's was called Eagle Bar until the 1920s and today the sign is a landmark on Hartz Avenue. It's frequented by war vets in the early afternoon, a blue collar crew in the evening, and singles at night.



Regular Jim Lennon jokes with bartender Ruthie Nelson during the weekday cocktail hour, where draft beers are an unheard of \$2.50.



Current owner Dale Stockbridge chats with one customer about the bar's quote book, which contains funny and outlandish one-liners from staff and patrons from over the years.

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THE AFTERNOON BARFLIES WERE TURNING OUT TO BE A BUNCH OF STRAIGHT-TALKING, WISE-CRACKING BLUE COLLAR JOES. JUST THE WAY ELLIOTT'S BARTENDER RUTHIE NELSON

LIKES 'EM. A mixed bag of proud old war vets, hard-skinned curmudons and familiar friendly faces put the male-to-female bar at where it typically stands on a Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Men: 15, Ruthie: 1. Looking up from the tonic she was mixing, the no-nonsense bartender—who's an ex-Marine herself—caught a regular on his way out.

"Are you leavin' me?" she said, with a big warm smile. A nod.

"Oh, you're breakin' my heart." Ruthie and her throng of loyal daytime guys are one of many casts of characters Elliott's Bar, which is turning 100 this year, has hosted over the last century.

Ruthie's our favorite. Nobody messes with Ruthie," explained Bob Harris, who comes by in the afternoon during the week.

The old-fashioned saloon has a reputation for being a hangout for "good old boys," a seedy little joint—especially during the daytime—that sticks out against Danville's pristine downtown image. But when you're on Ruthie's clock, you're treated like you're family, she said.

Sure, it can be a big, drunk, unruly family, but regulars fear that for every inch of grittiness there's just as much camaraderie and respect.

According to Harris, at Elliott's you check your snobbery at the door.

"This town is foo foo," he said. "People walk around with their noses up in the air. In (Elliott's) there's a roofer standing next to a judge, or the mayor sitting next to a carpenter. And everybody's getting along."

Owner Dale Stockbridge says this is exactly what keeps people coming back.

"It's a no-pretences kind of atmosphere. You can come and be yourself," he said, mixing a stiff screwdriver for a member of his small after-lunch crowd.

Stockbridge, who's known for being both surly and sweet, took on ownership in 1995 and is quick to set the record straight about what Elliott's is and isn't.

"It's a saloon, not a "dive." It's a bar that likes sports, not a "sports bar."

"I've seen sports bars that are just plastic," he said, explaining the difference.

"There's certainly nothing plastic about Elliott's. The venue, which is largely wooden, has hardly changed physically in the past 100 years. It's authentically Old West in its style.

"People think just because it has been here so long that it's seedy, where the bad element hangs out. It's not. Men come in here and they are welcome," Stockbridge explained.

His remark about women wasn't out of left field, either. In fact, a recent write-up on Elliott's in a local paper bashed the bar, stressing the need for a woman's touch.

"This had locals at the watering hole seething for weeks. And some still seem bruised by the whole ordeal.

"We don't like reporters around here," said one regular—Ruthie's husband—to this reporter, with a straight face and a hint of irony.

Apparently in her article, the reviewer referenced some of the signs that hung in the bar as decoration, in order to show it's a boys club. The signs could have been interpreted as funny or offensive, depending on your taste. They were old and faded, if a bit off-color, Stockbridge said.

"One sign in particular joked that "women are tolerated" and was hung by the previous owner, a female. The sign has since been removed but was followed by a clutter of other ones with jokes and slogans that, while not exactly "C...," give patrons a good laugh from time to time.

At Elliott's, the signs are a reminder that it's the kind of place where folks don't scare easily. People tell it like it is, without pussy-footing around subjects. In the same light, nobody flinches at an intermittent four-letter word or is bothered much by teasing as a form of affection.

"You get the feeling Ernest Hemingway or Charles Bukowski would have enjoyed a stiff drink at a place like this.

Although old-timers recall Danville's claim-to-fame Eugene O'Neill being the life of the party in the late '30s,

historians say the playwright was sober when living at the Tao House, where no liquor was allowed. It was most likely his son, Eugene O'Neill Jr., who was making the appearances at Elliott's.

As for what's changed over the years? "It's just new faces," Stockbridge says.

Today, customers and employees explain there are several different groups that frequent the bar.

"There's three different shifts to this drinkin' factory," Ruthie said.

First there is the early shift, with typically retired men and war veterans, or "cranky old bastards" as one customer put it. Evidence of a strong vet following hangs on the wall in the form of a sticker that reads, "Give war a chance."

Then comes the cocktail crowd around 3 p.m., mostly hard-working blue collar guys celebrating the end of a workday. This is a jeans and T-shirts, Budweiser type of pow wow.

After that, there's the night scene. Depending on the evening, this can be a complete transition. There are more singles, women and often young people home from college. There's more music. And more shots.

On this particular Tuesday afternoon, however, there was hardly a raucous word in the room. A few jokes bounced back and forth. Beers were sipped. Some sort of sports game was on T.V.

Between a frequent "What-can-I get-you-honey?" from Ruthie, the conversation turned to the tepid subject of wood staining, when one regular summed up why patrons adore the bar so much.

"Everybody knows everybody," regular John Musante said. Then a pause. "This place is special."

Seems some of the wisecracking straight-talkers had a soft side after all—at least when it came to reminiscing about their favorite neighborhood watering hole. ■

A fabled past

If there's one thing Elliott's has, it's a past. And, oh, the stories.

The bar was originally called Lawless Saloon and was bought by Hiram Elliott, a horse jockey, in 1907. Back then, it was called Eagle Bar and was on Front Street until it moved to Hartz Avenue around 1915.

"Hiram did buy land there from his father-in-law John Hartz. It's altogether possible that the elder Hartz helped him get those properties," said Beverly Lane, a San Ramon Valley historian.

After Hiram passed away, Elliott's was supervised by his widow Tillie. Her sons Duane and Gordon worked seven days a week behind the bar.

Rumor has it, Tillie was a stickler. She lived in a house that would now be behind Primo's restaurant and, before development in Danville, she could see the saloon from her doorstep. If Duane and Gordon turned off the lights of the bar too soon "she'd either be on the phone or down here" to make sure they didn't close early, current owner Dale Stockbridge said.

During prohibition, the family kept the business alive by turning it into an ice cream parlor, as opposed to selling liquor out the back as some saloons did.

In 1925, the bar was a popular spot for volunteer firefighters, as it was just a hop and a skip from the fire station on Hartz.

Over the years, Stockbridge has heard stories about this scene.

"The fire alarm would go off and the place would clear out. They would leave their drinks and their money at the bar and go fight the fire. When they came back, everything would be how they left it," he said.

Patrons used to ride their horses to the bar and one man was even arrested for trying to ride his horse drunk. Police took him away, but let the horse—who knew the route home—go free, Stockbridge said.

The Elliott family sold the bar to Vera Hutchison and Tony Clien, a former Oakland Raider, in early 1977, according to "Historical Persons and Places in the San Ramon Valley" by Virgie Jones. This was three months after the current owner started working there as a bartender. It was no surprise to see members of the football team hanging around Elliott's in the 1970s. It was the mid 1970s when the hours were extended from around 8 o'clock until 2 a.m.

Since then, the bar has picked up popularity, in part due to the extended hours and its transition into a popular nightlife meeting point for singles in the Valley.

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Danville hosts 'Animal House' parade



Jim Garrahan pushes his wife Julie in a shopping cart, recreating one of the more memorable scenes from the 1978 movie classic, "Animal House," for a fundraising effort to support Greenbrook Elementary School.



Jonelle Teevans, Perry Teevans and Lea McSweeney lead the parade along St. Helena Drive in the Greenbrook neighborhood.



Partygoer Scott Jordan arrives in full toga ensemble.



The "Deathmobile" thunders into the neighborhood.

Famous John Belushi role reprised for school fundraiser

Story and photos by Geoff Gillette

There are a lot of things one might see on any given night on St. Helena Drive in the Greenbrook Neighborhood of Danville. A parade, complete with prom queens, togas and a "Deathmobile," doesn't usually fall on that list.

But such was the case when a group of Greenbrook Elementary School families held an "Animal House" party as part of a fundraising effort to support the school.

Last spring, six families banded together to offer a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be a part of John Landis' classic comedy, right in their own neighborhood. The party created some of the highest bidding of the night during the school's annual auction and once it was sold, the planning got under way.

It all culminated on a Saturday night in September when the families who bought the party arrived at the Gamma Beta Rho Sorority house (actually the home of Greg and Kelly Sharkey). The "pledges" all had to wear beanies and go through hazing before taking part in the Faber College Homecoming Parade.

Lea McSweeney, one of the planners, went throughout the neighborhood in the days beforehand and left fliers for the residents, asking them to help make the parade special by coming out and waving at the group as it marched by. So on Saturday night, several dozen residents were out on the sides of the

road for the event. It was an extraordinary effort, which even featured members of the Charlotte Wood Middle School music program providing a marching band to complete the scene.

Of course the icing on the cake was the appearance of the Deathmobile. A black Suburban decorated with fangs and towing an actual float. Those familiar with the movie will remember that the float held an occupant. Dennis McSweeney filled in for the late John Belushi as Bluto Blutarsky, popping out of the cake-shaped float in full pirate regalia and leading the partygoers into the "cafeteria" of the Delta House.

"It was a great night. There were lots of costume changes, and some surprises," said Lea McSweeney. "I think everybody had a lot of fun. It was fun for us to do it."

While this group of party planners—which also includes the Letts, Simonich, Esch and Teevans families—has earned quite a reputation as throwing the party to bid on at the school's annual auction, the Animal House party was very likely their swan song.

"A lot of our kids have moved on to Charlotte Wood, so we're going to have to start doing things there," said McSweeney.

Looking around at all of the toga clad people laughing and chatting in front of her "frat house" she laughed and said, "But we are definitely going out with a bang." ■



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Stupendous stews

After months of hot sun and clear skies, rain is in the making. Cooler and shorter days are not far behind. As the fall season approaches, my culinary instincts turn to soups and stews. They are hearty meals and the perfect dishes "to warm your insides," as my grandmother used to say.

I often wonder who discovered caviar as a delicacy ... or foie gras. I ponder what culinary explorer created sushi or tabbouleh? What conditions led to Yorkshire pudding or lemon meringue pie? What ingenuity led to cheese soufflé or pancakes? I'll leave those questions to future columns but stews ... I get stews. Stews were obviously created by a woman—a woman trying to use up all the leftover, less-than-fresh-picked vegetables, or a woman trying to improve the flavor of some tough, smoke-dried bear, tiger or buffalo meat. As for my theory about the evolution of stews, history shows that stewing dates back 8,000 years or more. Recipes for ragouts or stews of various types are found in one of the oldest cookbooks in French; lamb and fish stews are found in a cookbook from fourth century Rome.

Technically, a stew is a batch of ingredients that has been cooked in water or a water-based liquid, and

then served without being drained, pureed or mashed. Ingredients may include any combination of vegetables (potatoes, beans, etc.), fruits (such as peppers and tomatoes), meat, poultry, sausages and seafood. Besides water, wine and food stock are commonly used. Herbs and seasonings add flavor to the mix and sometimes thickeners are used. Stews are usually cooked at low temperatures (i.e., not boiled) to allow flavors to marry.

"The distinctions between stew, soup, and casserole are fine ones," according to Wikipedia. "The ingredients of a stew may be cut into larger pieces than those of a soup and retain more of their individual flavors; a stew may have thicker liquid than a soup, and more liquid than a casserole; a stew is more likely to be eaten as a main course than as a starter, unlike soup; and a stew can be cooked on either the stove top or in the oven, while casseroles are almost always cooked in the oven, and soups are almost always cooked on the stovetop." Sounds reasonable to me.

Like soups, stews are very forgiving, which means you can be creative in the proportion of ingredients and mix of combinations you use. That allows for a lot of culinary license to create your own

recipes, something a cook loves to do. The key to great stews is allowing them to simmer for sufficient time for any meats to get tender and for the flavor of all the ingredients to emerge and blend well.

So, as the cool weather comes upon us, try one of my stew recipes. Online is an all-time favorite of cooks everywhere, a classic Brunswick stew; the other is below, a relatively new addition to my recipe library. While you're at it, try serving your stew in individual bread bowls. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the built-in complementary bread.

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 jlovemarshall@yahoo.com.

Creating a Bread Bowl

- Start with a crusty, round bread, e.g., sourdough, French, etc. Use one large bowl for a family or individual bowls per person.
- With a sharp, serrated knife, slice off top of bread from top to about 1 inch down. Gently cut around the edges of the bottom section, leaving about a 1-inch border on bottom and sides.
- With hands, remove chunks of bread and set aside for eating with meal. Voila!
- Ladle in soup or stew just before serving.

RECIPES

Savory Autumn Stew (serves 4)

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 12 oz. hot Italian sausage, cut into small chunks
- 12 cipollini or pearl onions, peeled
- 1-1/2 cups canned crushed tomatoes
- 3 cups homemade chicken stock or low-sodium organic chicken stock, skimmed of all fat
- 1 handful of herbs, e.g., thyme, oregano, rosemary
- 1 large (about 2-1/2 lbs.) butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into

- 1-inch pieces
- 3 carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 3 parsnips, cut into 2-inch sticks
- 1 fennel bulb, halved, cored and cut into 1/4-inch thick slices
- 12 brussel sprouts, trimmed and cut in half
- Salt & freshly ground pepper
- 1. Heat oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook sausage, stirring until it breaks into smaller pieces and is no longer pink, 7-10 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon and set aside.
- 2. Retain 2 Tbsp. of the rendered fat;

- raise heat to medium high. Add onions and cook, stirring, until golden, 6-8 minutes. Add tomatoes, stock, herbs and simmer over medium heat until the liquid begins to thicken, 18-20 minutes.
- 3. Add the sausage, squash, carrots, parsnips and fennel; cover and simmer over medium high heat until the vegetables are tender, 8-10 minutes. Add brussel sprouts and cook, covered, about 5 minutes more.
- 4. Uncover and cook, stirring occasionally until stew thickens, about 10-15 more. Season with salt and pepper to taste; serve hot.

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A movie review of what's **AT THE MOVIES**

The Brave One

★★

Rating: R for strong violence, language and some sexuality.
Run Time: 2 hours. 2 minutes.

Jodie Foster's fierce, Oscar-worthy performance isn't the big surprise in Neil Jordan's revenge thriller. The two-time Academy Award winner ("The Silence of the Lambs," "The Accused") has a career of astonishing work, bringing an intelligence to challenging roles that place her in jeopardy.

But remember this? John Hinckley was obsessed with Foster and "Taxi Driver," the 1976 movie in which she played a teenage prostitute. Emulating Travis Bickle's plot to assassinate a presidential candidate, Hinckley bought a cheap pawnshop gun and shot six rounds of bullets at President Ronald Reagan in 1981, wounding press secretary James Brady. How ironic that Foster would agree to play a female version of Robert De Niro's lonely man. Her Erica Bain in "The Brave One" is Travis Bickle—but without the context that encourages viewers to question whether vigilante killings are the work of a sociopath or a hero.

The movie is a masterwork of craft, manipulating viewer emotions and pushing buttons to elicit unthinking responses and unabashed bloodlust. Screenwriters Roderick Taylor, Bruce A. Taylor and Cynthia Mort could not have created a more sympathetic character than radio host Erica Bain, who mesmerizes listeners with her poetic "Street Walk" stories of New York, the safest big city in the world. A vicious attack in Central Park leaves her fiancé (Naveen Andrews of television's "Lost") dead and her so badly wounded that she becomes a shell of her former self, a stranger walking among the living. Foster's voiceover narration reveals her character's innermost thoughts, and the actor brings likeability and smarts to the role of victim. The result? Instant, vicarious identification with the protagonist.

Viewers think what Erica thinks. Viewers see what Erica sees. Philippe Rousselot's camera pulls us into Erica's fearful frame of mind like no other movie. Tilted angles and jangled camerawork accompany her every hesitant step as she wills herself down the narrow hall of her apartment building toward the front door that opens to mean streets. Flashbacks of the attack, stylized to look like the video footage taken by one of the muggers, never leave her thoughts—or ours.

So when Erica buys a gun illegally for protection and kills a man in self-defense, who would object? When the Big Apple's finest can't find her attackers or when she waits seemingly forever for help at a police station, who can't feel her frustration? As Erica turns into a "Death Wish"-style judge, jury and executioner, Neil Jordan's ("The Crying Game") assured direction positions the viewer with her for every trigger pull of that 9mm automatic pistol.

More disturbing is the depiction of NYPD detective Mercer (Terrence Howard of "Hustle and Flow"), a good cop who strikes up a friendship with Erica while trying to catch the vigilante killer.

To this day, director Martin Scorsese and screenwriter Paul Schrader disagree about whether Travis Bickle's killing spree defines him as saintly or sick, and the ambiguous ending of "Taxi Driver" encourages viewers to ponder issues ranging from gun control to justice. "The Brave One" only panders to base instincts.

—Susan Tavernetti

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

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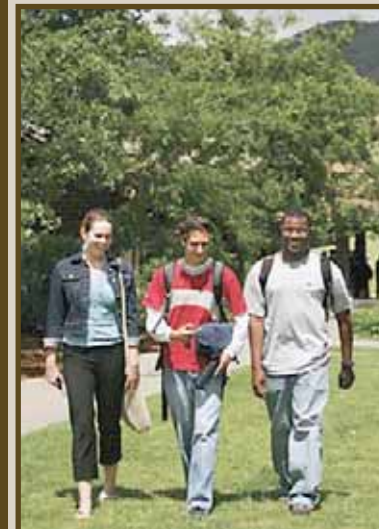
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The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

Giving drug offenders a second chance

Teenagers' use of drugs and alcohol has always been a concern of parents and school administrators. Determining the appropriate methods of punishment for these infractions, however, is not always certain. The San Ramon Valley High School administration and athletic director, along with parents in the community, recently came together in a lunchtime roundtable discussion requested by the PTSA Healthy Choices Team to review the school's and district's new direction of disciplinary measures regarding students' illegal alcohol and drug use. The purpose of the new policy: "to empower teens to make healthier choices."

Until recently, each high school in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District had its own way of dealing with violations of the Code of Conduct. This year, all the high schools in the district along with the district office are in the process of drafting a new protocol of discipline to be more on par with one another.

"We need to move toward consistency between schools, using uniform language between all four high schools," said Scott Gerbert, Program and Grant Coordinator for the district.

The SRVUSD Code of Conduct (currently in place at all local high schools) outlines expectations for co-curricular and extracurricular activity participants, including a minimum GPA of 2.0, minimum attendance on days of events, and, most notably, abstinence from

tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug and steroid use.

The district aims to take the direction of progressive discipline, allowing students who have broken the code to have a second chance in order to make the situation a learning opportunity.

The new plan mandates that instead of being automatically kicked off an athletic team for a first offense, the student will continue practicing with the team, face a three-week suspension from games, and must display appropriate behavior, including no tardies or unexcused absences. In addition, first-time offenders must promptly attend three counseling sessions with an approved therapist that will be paid in full by the school in hope that the student and the family will move forward themselves with further treatment.

For a second offense (if committed during the season of a sport), the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of his or her high school experience.

"The second time we're not looking at, 'I made a mistake.' We're looking at, 'I have a habit,'" said John Raynor, athletic director at SRVHS.

Those who commit infractions in the off-season, however, are not subject to school discipline. This has upset parents who are disturbed that their children play sports with other students who, for example, wear probationary ankle bracelets for an off-season or off-campus offense.

As explained at the meeting, the SRVHS administration feels the penal system has already in a sense made sure the offender is safe and able to reenter the system and participate in school activities, and that the reason a student may wear such a bracelet is really none of the school's business. Though the school does not get involved when alcohol and drugs are used off campus (contrary to policy in the past), it is important for students to remember that they represent their high school both on and off campus.

The concept of giving students a second chance is definitely an important one. It is not surprising (and some may argue, not even detrimental), for a student to experiment with using various substances in high school. Teenagers make mistakes—it's part of growing up, learning, and moving on. By providing a second chance, schools allow their students the opportunity to learn from their mistakes without feeling completely discouraged. Though some undoubtedly strict disciplinary measures are in fact taken, the school does not at all consider a student a lost cause, and works toward helping the student make healthier choices in the future.

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

OF NOTE



A goodbye salute to Sam

Sam Abbott's friends held a memorial "salute" for him Sept. 15, including (l-r) Mac McCuskey, Hal Strunk, John Goerl, Nate Greene, Herb Johnson, Lee Halverson and Vern Neller. Proceedings were directed by VFW Commander Tony Carnemolla and Chaplain Hugh Keith. Speakers included Karen Stepper, David Miller, Tom Hawkins, Nate Greene (a fellow aircraft engineer) and his son Doug.

They said Abbott, 85, was a light-hearted part of the coffee group,

always ready with a joke that was tongue in cheek, plus always ready with an opinion about Danville. He was a stalwart worker on the Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee of San Ramon Valley and loved to tell war stories, including to students in the Exchange Club History Club. More than 100 people attended the memorial.

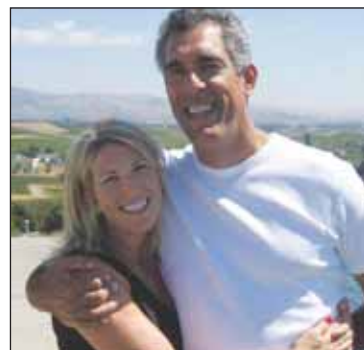
Danville residents launch winery

After years of planning and development, Damian Rae Winery in St. Helena has officially been launched

by Danville residents Sharol and John Tarabini. Damian Rae wines are handcrafted and available in limited quantities.

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Calendar

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

Art

Alamo-Danville Artists' Society

This club will continue its art exhibit of local paintings through mid November, at the Danville Town offices. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, at 510 La Gonda Way, Danville.

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

Aladdin and His Lamp of Life Role Players Ensemble Theatre will hold an audition for "Aladdin and His Lamp of Life" at 2 p.m., 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.

Clubs

Alamo Women's Club Federated

The club meets on most Wednesdays at its clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd. It

holds a business meeting and tea the second Wednesday at noon; meets for Mah Jong at 10:30 a.m. the third Wednesday; and holds a luncheon with program at noon the fourth Wednesday. For information, call 552-9733.

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club

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

Danville Mid-day Referral Group, BNI

Danville Mid-day Referral Group, a chapter of Business Network International, meets from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., every Wednesday, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Call Eric Samuels at 946-1400.

Danville PM Toastmaster Club

#1785 The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com.

Danville Rotary

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

Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary

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

munity and the world. Call Scott at 743-8449.

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region

This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Calendar's, 1101 S. Calif. Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's, 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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

San Ramon Valley Rotary Club

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

Events

Contra Costa Coin Show

Diablo Numismatic Society will host the Contra Costa Coin Show from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13 and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Holiday Inn, Concord. General admission is \$2, children under 12 years old are free. Call 351-7605 or visit www.diablocoinclub.org.

Danville Fall Crafts Festival

Event for the entire family! Danville Area Chamber of Commerce presents the 16th annual Danville Fall Crafts Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 20-21, in downtown Danville. The day will include high quality art and crafts exhibits, Halloween parade, kids activity area, Scarecrow Alley, street and stage entertainment, great food, fine wines and microbrews. Call 837-4400.

Farmers Market

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

Goodwill Tour

North Korean National Tae Kwon Do Demo Team will host their first-ever United States Goodwill Tour from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 7, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. The day will include martial arts and cultural performances. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for children 12 and under, children under 5 are free. Call (408) 605-6450 or visit www.golighthouse.com/goodwill.

Public Disposal/Recycling Event for E-Waste

Electronic Waste Management will host a free Public

WEEKEND PREVIEW



ART IN THE PARK

Enjoy Art in the Park this weekend

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. More than 60 artists will exhibit at booths in the park including watercolor, oil, acrylic, clay work, photography, jewelry and glass. Activities will include live music, face painting, children's hands-on art and more. Admission is free. This event raises funds for grants to art teachers in the San Ramon Valley School District. Call 828-9170 or visit www.adas4art.org.

Fundraisers

Diablo Ballet at Barnes & Noble

Support the Diablo Ballet by shopping at Barnes & Noble from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at Barnes & Noble, 1149 S Main St., Walnut Creek. A percentage of every sale made with a special Bookfair voucher will be donated to Diablo Ballet's PEEK Program that offers in-school dance education curriculum and free dance performances to students and families in under-served areas. Call 943-1775 or visit www.diabloballet.org.

EcoDay 2007

Drop off your old computers, TVs, cell phones, household batteries, prescription glasses, hearing aids, confidential papers (bankers box size) packages from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Learn about water conservation at 10:30-11 a.m., with Lana Reichick. Paper Shredding is \$10 per box. Call 878-5200.

Gypsy and Me

Role Players Ensemble Theatre will host "Gypsy and Me" from 7-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at Sycamore Club House, 635 Old Orchard Lane, Danville. Cost is \$50. Proceeds will benefit the Role Players Ensemble Theatre program. The night will include a viewing of Gypsy Rose Lee's home movies presented by her son, Erik Lee Preminger. Call 820-1278.

Light The Night Walk

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

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.

Disposal/Recycling Event for E-Waste from noon-5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 5 and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 6-7, at Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill. Call (866) 335-3373 or visit www.noewaste.com.

Robin Purcell Art Reception

Watercolors by Robin Purcell will be on exhibit at the Wente Vineyards Tasting Room during October. A reception will be held from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 7, in the Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. This event is free. Call 648-0971 or visit robinpurcellpaints.blogspot.com.

Exhibits

The First Families of Our Valley

Museum of the San Ramon Valley presents "An Indian Life Exhibit: The First Families of Our Valley" until Nov. 13, at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Museum hours are 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m., Saturday. call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsv.org.

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Reach The Peak Danville resident, Chris Hopkins, will be riding his unicycle to the top of Mt. Diablo at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, meeting at the south gate at Mt. Diablo. Donations are encouraged and will benefit Limbs For Life Foundation. Call 451-7287 or visit www.chrisandlisahopkins.com.

That's Amore! Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will host "That's Amore" from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Robert Livermore Center Courtyard, 4444 East Ave. Cost is \$60. Proceeds benefit the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. The night will include carnival booth games, dinner, raffle drawing, and silent and live auctions. Call 456-0529 or visit www.tvr.org.

Vista Grande October Rocktober, Danville Vista Grande will host "October Rocktober" from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Vista Grande Elementary, 667 Diablo Rd., Danville. The fall carnival will include games, food and fun! Admission is free; game tickets are three for \$1. Call 552-3516.

Health

Free Health Fair San Ramon Regional Medical Center will host a free Health Fair from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 6, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. Check up on your health with free health screenings. Fasting is recommended, but not required. Screenings on a first come, first served basis. Call (800) 284-2878 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

John Muir Health Foundation Festival John Muir Health Foundation will host a health festival that will include food, music, kids' entertainment and other free assessments from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 947-4449.

Nutrition and Cancer Treatment Learn to maximize your nutrition during and after cancer treatment from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Learn what to eat, even when you don't feel like it, ways to hydrate and get your specific nutritional issues addressed. Call 933-0107.

Taking Control of Your Health Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host a presentation by Dave Becker called "Take Control of Your Health" from noon-1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce offices, 777 Peters Ave. This event is free and open to the public. Call 846-5858 or visit www.pleasanton.org.

Holiday

8th annual Animal Lover's Boutique Feline Medical Center will turn its lobby into the 8th Animal Lover's Boutique, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, at Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd.,

Pleasanton. Proceeds will benefit the Valley Humane Society's Just Like New fund. Call 846-2512.

Kids and Teens

Book Signing with Michael Hoeye Rakestraw Books will host children's author, Michael Hoeye, from 10 a.m.-noon, Monday, Oct. 29, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. He will be signing his latest Hermux Tantamoq Adventure, "Time to Smell the Roses." Call 837-7337.

Henna Art for Teens Friends of the Danville Weekly will host Darci Vasudev during a night of henna art including its history and culture at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This event is free, but registration is required and will start on Oct. 1. Call 837-4889.

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer School-age children can participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

Lectures/ Workshops

Catholics@Work Breakfast Event Cancer Survivor, Terry Healey, will speak on "Lessons Learned in Life Are Gifts" from 7-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Visit www.catholicsatwork.org.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Group The Wellness Community will host a 12-week workshop for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, until Jan. 23, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Parent Education Workshop Seven Hills School will host a lecture on "Raising Healthy Children in Challenging Times" with Robert Evans, Ed.D. from 6:45-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9, at The Seven Hills School, 975 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek. Admission is \$15; educators admitted free. The public is welcome. To register, visit www.sevenhillsschool.org.

Rolls Royce Lecture Hear wonderful stories about John Harris' Rolls-Royce, the 'Guacamole Ghost' from 10:15 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 students and seniors. Call 736-2277.

The Lebed Method Join other cancer survivors for a six-week series focusing on total body exercise set to music

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Now We're Cooking 148 E Prospect Ave., Danville, 743-1212, www.nowwerecooking.com	Best Assemble Your Own Meal Store
Original Sin 145 E Prospect Ave. # 201, Danville, 838-3207, www.originalsinundies.com	Best Lingerie Store
Pinkies Nail Salon 508 Sycamore Valley Road W, Danville, 743-9000, www.pinkiesnailsalons.com	Best Manicure / Pedicure
Professional Skin Aesthetics 551 Hartz Ave., Danville, 820-7546, www.professionalskinaesthetics.com	Best Medical Spa
Richards Arts & Crafts 225 Alamo Plaza, Alamo, www.richardsartsandcrafts.com	Best Hobby / Craft Store
Summit Financial Group 2010 Crow Canyon Place # 120, San Ramon, 866-7800, www.summitfingroup.com	Best Financial Planner / Estate Planner
Tao Sports 462 Hartz Ave., Danville, 831-3188, www.taosports.us	Best Martial Arts Studio
The Pet Nanny 932-5833, www.petnannymarlene.com	Best Pet Sitter
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from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Thursdays, until Nov. 9, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Literary Events

Children's Author Day Polka Dot Attic will host a Children's Author Day from noon-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Polka Dot Attic, in the Danville Hotel Courtyard. Seven children's authors and illustrators will read books. This event is free.

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.

Two Cities, One Tale Residents of Danville and San Ramon are coming together to read "Locked Rooms," by Laurie R. King until 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.

American Art Dance Lois Flood will perform "Reminiscence: American Art Dance of Isadora Duncan" from 2-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4, at Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Call 736-2277.

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

"Defiance" Set on a US Marine Corps base in North Carolina in 1971, two officers, one white and one black, are on a collision course over race, women, and the high cost of doing the right thing. The play runs Sundays and Thursdays, Oct. 25-Nov. 25, at Playhouse West, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$26-30. Call 942-0300 or visit www.playhousewest.org.

Actors Benefit Performance Ruthless! The Musical "Ruthless!" a hilarious musical that parodies *The Bad Seed*, *Gypsy*, *All About Eve* and others at 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11, at Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10. Proceeds will benefit the cast. Call 820-1278 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

Hank Williams: Lost Highway Center Repertory Company presents a musical story of the legendary Hank Williams,

"Lost Highway" until Oct. 6, at Center Repertory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$14-38. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrc.org.

Political Notes

Obama Volunteer Meeting Please join other CD11 volunteers to discuss campaign strategy and volunteer opportunities for presidential candidate Barack Obama from 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 15, at a private residence in Danville. Call 837-7096.

Support Groups

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

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

Newly Formed Proactive Group for Women Support Group for FIBRO, CFF and Chronic Pain meets 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. Call 234-5621 or e-mail dsashby@msn.com.

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

Volunteering

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

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

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



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PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 5

Football

San Ramon Valley at Granada, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

Women's Golf

San Ramon Valley at Foothill, 3:30 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Dougherty, 3:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis

San Ramon Valley at Amador, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.

Water Polo

San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

San Ramon Valley vs. Dougherty, 6 p.m.
Monte Vista at Amador, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Women's Tennis

San Ramon Valley at Berkeley, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 11

Women's Golf

San Ramon Valley at Dougherty, 3:30 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 3:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis

San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

Water Polo

San Ramon Valley vs. Cal High, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 3:45 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 6 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 12

Football

San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 7 p.m.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Girls golf takes to the hill

Monte Vista High School girls varsity golfer Sara Banke drives a ball facing San Ramon Valley High last week at Round Hill Country club. The Mustangs prevailed, 223-310.



Winning in a Fury

The Division 1, U12 Girls Mustang Fury soccer team captured the 2007 Blues Cup Championship on Sept. 1-3 in Irvine, defeating Force SC, 3-0; Las Vegas 2-0; and tying West Coast FC, 0-0; and Utah SPARTA, 2-2. In the semis, the Fury con-

trolled possession and scored early in the second half to edge out the always tough San Diego Surf. The finals pitted the Fury against West Coast FC, and the Fury controlled possession defeating their opponents 1-0 in a game where temperatures reached 113 degrees. Team members are (back, l-r) Coach

Ashley Iorio, Kat Hupke, Erika Perez, Jessica Gillespie, Alyssa Herwatt, Dana Outcalt, Ashley Christensen, Makenna Kummer, and Coach Fritz Scharff, (front) Erin Donnelly, Jaime Speros, Madi Castelein, Melissa Lewis, Allie Dutto, Chelsea Arnold, and Sarah Peterson. Not pictured: Zoey Bauman and Rayan Takemoto.



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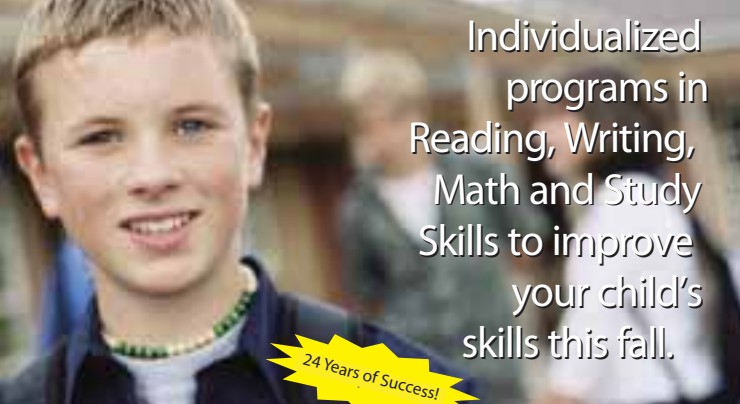
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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1ST TIME OFFERED. New Mexico Ranch Dispersal. 140 acres - \$99,900. River access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,500' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ Terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-354-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

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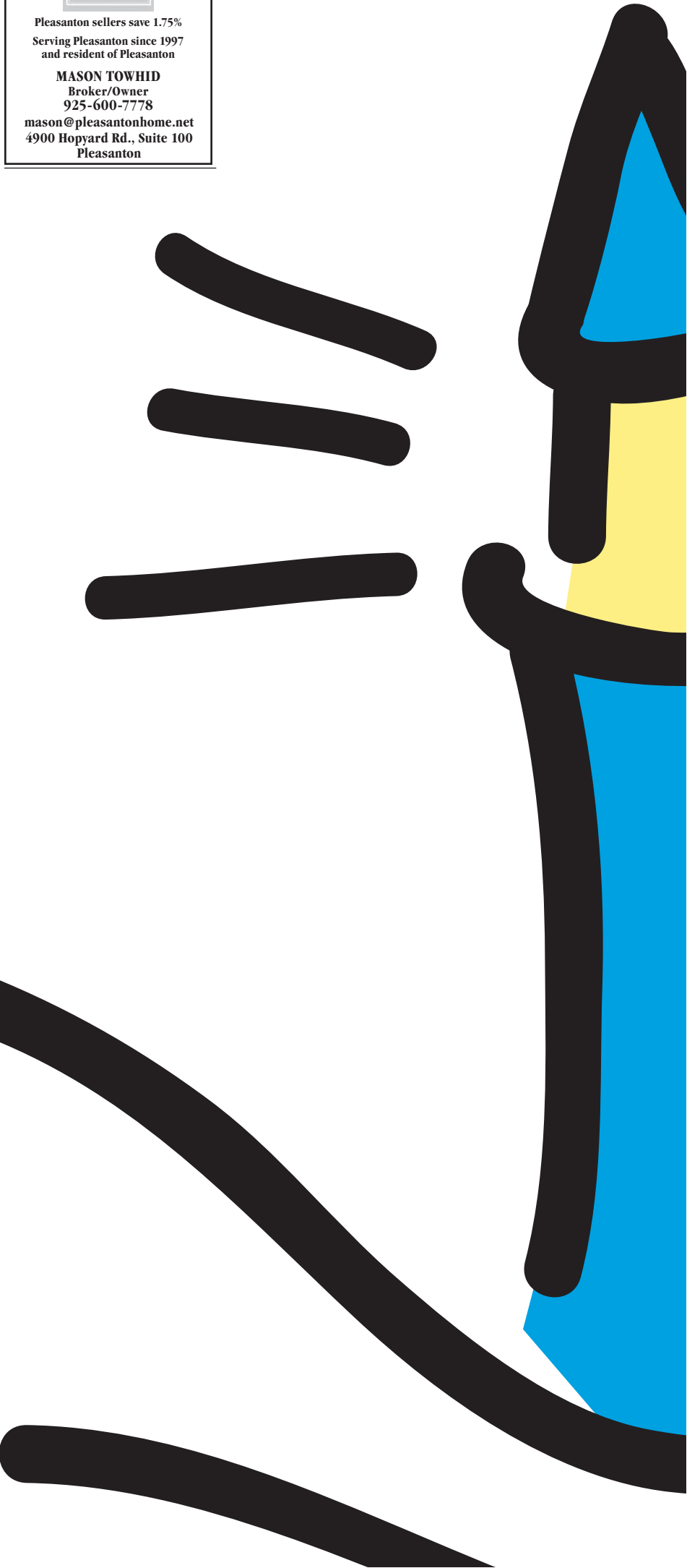
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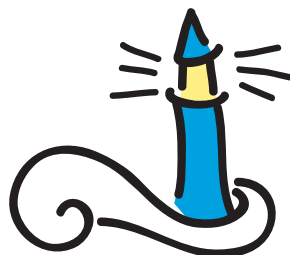


PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Neville

This 1-1/2-year-old, neutered male tabby housecat is a beauty. He has sleek, brown fur with a big, beautiful white bib and white paws. And look at those expressive eyes. Neville is affectionate, playful and 12 pounds of action! Neville gets along well with other cats and enjoys playing with toys and climbing his cat tree. Neville (# 10667) is available for adoption at the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin; open Wed. and Thurs. from 1 to 8 p.m., Fri. through Sun. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 479-9670 or visit www.eastbayspca.org.



Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 12	Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$1,245,000	Lowest sale reported: \$373,500	Lowest sale reported: \$165,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,300,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,330,500	Highest sale reported: \$3,190,000
Average sales reported: \$1,272,500	Average sales reported: \$818,625	Average sales reported: \$644,250

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2007

Alamo

462 Crest Avenue Prudential Relocation to P. Robinson for \$1,245,000

101 Post Road Brown Trust to R. Sufi for \$1,300,000

Danville

3044 Fostoria Circle Morgan Stanley to S. Gurson for \$373,500

726 Genoa Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to T. & P. Tang for \$1,159,000

848 Griffon Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to P. Polce for \$1,330,500

108 Menton Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to R. Gorantla for \$856,500

117 Menton Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to L. Huang for \$842,500

1456 Menton Street Seller(s) Name Not Available to S. Parthasarathy for \$1,070,000

1311 Monterosso Street Seller(s) Name Not Available to P. & J. Chahal for \$1,262,000

75 Normandy Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to L. & J. Sovero for \$783,500

740 Pelican Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to G. Duarte for \$608,000

269 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to A. Blazhiyevskiy for \$466,000

270 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to S. Chiu for \$502,000

106 Westfield Circle Seller(s) Name Not Available to Robert Trust for \$570,000

Walnut Creek

1616 2nd Avenue B. & H. Hills to G. Hess for \$600,000

3851 Arbolado Drive Seller(s) Name Not Available to B. & E. Sadur for \$1,235,000

1213 Clover Lane M. Sallomi to S. & M. Thomson for \$700,000

113 Crosby Court #1 Fairways 340 Limited to J. Lightfoot for \$220,000

2455 Deer Valley Lane D. & L. Moore to Barber Trust for \$3,190,000

3073 Grey Eagle Drive Reckler-Smith Trust to K. & L. Burr for \$1,160,000

1122 Juanita Drive Seller(s) Name Not Available to T. Smith for \$830,000

2114 Magnolia Way E. Willoughby to D. Minnigerode for \$650,000

3035 Mayhew Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to R. & L. Leonard for \$400,000

490 North Civic Drive #104 G. Delcampo to D. & B. Lopez for \$295,000

for \$295,000

310 North Civic Drive #303 Seller(s) Name Not Available to Z. Amiryar for \$340,000

2720 Oak Road #132 J. Freels to P. Barich for \$352,500

2590 Oak Road #251 G. Reed to D. & E. Johnston for \$465,000

2598 Oak Road #283 Seller(s) Name Not Available to D. Miller for \$475,000

2598 Oak Road #289 R. Peck to J. Hogan for \$436,000

1869 Olmo Way V. Dondero to C. & K. Butcher for \$400,000

1887 Olmo Way Seller(s) Name Not Available to K. Bournazos for \$445,000

8 Terra California Drive #1 Peterson Trust to T. & J. Allison for \$380,000

941 Terra California Drive #1 Seller(s) Name Not Available to C. Barthold for \$750,000

1860 Tice Creek Drive #1350 Seller(s) Name Not Available to Stamper Trust for \$165,000

1182 Walker Avenue #121 Paulson Limited to H. & T. Cardaris for \$410,000

2564 Walnut Boulevard #114 Seller(s) Name Not Available to K. Camargo for \$275,000

DANVILLE WEEKLY OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms

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

2052 Pebble Dr. \$1,899,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 586-5456

5 Bedrooms

4055 Stone Valley Oaks Drive \$2,399,300
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 463-2000

BLACKHAWK

3 Bedrooms

35 Sugar Pine Ln. \$1,148,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

6 Bedrooms

5483 Blackhawk Dr. \$3,495,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-2239

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms

120 Montair Ct. \$1,695,000
Sun 2-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 672-2499

114 Heritage Park Dr. \$655,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 200-5026

1362 Fountain Springs Cir. \$759,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4046

344 Casablanca St. \$825,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-7866

396 St. Norbert Dr. \$869,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4049

4 Bedrooms

668 Park Hill Rd. \$1,389,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4123

441 Scout Pl. \$999,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 457-4551

246 Abigail Cir. \$999,999
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 451-7287

5 Bedrooms

23 Campbell Pl. \$1,499,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

251 Montair Dr. \$2,099,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 285-1582

405 Skycrest Dr. \$990,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

SAN RAMON

2 Bedrooms

108A Norris Canyon Pl. \$417,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

6213 Lakeview Cir. \$629,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165

124 Cortona Dr. \$759,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-9799

3 Bedrooms

202 Plumpointe Ln. \$624,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

2721 Moet Ln. \$750,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

918 Springview Cir. \$750,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

3250 Vera Cruz \$810,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 858-3829

4549 Sweetgale Dr. \$849,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

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

440 Hampton Ct. \$949,000
Sun 1-5 Intero 855-4096

4 Bedrooms

3106 Tewksbury Wy. \$1,080,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 336-6377

721 Bowen Ct. \$1,095,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 984-3992

88 Shaw Pl. \$719,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

2444 Talavera Dr. \$749,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 977-8965

6820 Aberdale Cir. \$815,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

2212 Maidenhair Wy. \$819,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 734-5000

6820 Aberdale Cir. \$825,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

3161 Wrangler Rd. \$836,000
Sun 1-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

27 Rainbow Bridge Ct. \$849,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653

2463 Canyon Lakes Dr. \$864,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

1182 Bellingham Square \$868,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-2239

8075 Briar Oaks Dr. \$884,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

154 Sussex \$975,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165

4025 Canyon Crest Rd. W. \$999,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

5 Bedrooms

901 Regency Ct. \$1,329,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3337

5343 Cypress Hawk Ct. \$2,399,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 786-3396

25 Cree Ct. \$969,000
Sun 1-4 Empire 217-3108

WALNUT CREEK

1 Bedrooms

60 Iron Horse Ln. \$519,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 487-2629

2 Bedrooms

2583 Oak Rd., #A \$469,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 876-7089

1690 Parkside \$515,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165

3 Bedrooms

1806 Cannon Dr. \$479,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4087

DUBLIN

1 Bedrooms

3718 Finian Wy. \$469,500
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411

2 Bedrooms

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

3 Bedrooms

11750 Silvergate Dr. \$618,888
Sun 2-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 202-5508

4513 Peacock Ct. \$798,500
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

4 Bedrooms

3227 South Bridgepointe \$1,059,000
Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC 997-2411

8333 Creekside Dr. \$1,100,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

10894 Inspiration Cir. \$1,450,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 398-0234

7788 Woodren Ct. \$699,888
Sun 1-4 Re/Max- Marta Miranda 600-0698

11631 Manzanita Ln. \$729,000
Sun 1-4 Tri Valley Brokers 743-8333

5 Bedrooms

3120 Colebrook Ln. \$1,195,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 785-1586

PLEASANTON

2 Bedrooms

5116 Orsini Ct. \$612,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3889

3 Bedrooms

6386 Shorewood Ct. \$650,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

3590 Florian St. \$699,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3889

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

4002 Moselle Ct. \$779,000
Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3859

4 Bedrooms

1397 Whispering Oaks Wy. \$1,059,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 846-6500

307 Brianne Ct. \$1,249,000
Sun 2:30-5 Century 21 Mission-Bishop Real Estate 699-9508

4816 Funston Gate Ct. \$875,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3859

5 Bedrooms

5725 Ohana Pl. \$2,097,500
Sat/Sun 2-5 Alain Pinel 846-6500

1774 Paseo Del Cajon \$850,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 586-5456

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

748 Lido \$599,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 ReMax / Accord 997-8001

4 Bedrooms

2648 St. Helena Ct. \$1,249,582
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 525-0116

6608 Tiffany Cmn. \$569,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8322

766 Catalina Dr. \$799,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 487-1427

5 Bedrooms

5679 Dresslar Cir. \$879,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 398-6706

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* Source: As ranked for 2006 by *Inside Mortgage Finance* (Feb. 2, 2007), Copyright 2007.

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