

Halloween adds fun to fall

Little fairies and cowboys parade down Hartz Avenue > **page 18**

Goodbye orchard

Developer gets option to buy acreage off Camino Ramon > **page 5**

Vol. III, Number 26 • October 26, 2007

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PAGE
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Streetwise

ASKED IN DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

Q: What's the most obnoxious word or phrase you hear these days?



I'll tell you one that's over-used in my profession: "I'll be honest with you." It makes you sound like you're lying through your teeth. Like, "You're special, I'll be honest with *you*." I'm a sales manager, so I scream at people on the floor when I hear them say that.

Bob Shalon
general manager



People who ask, "How are you?" and they don't want an answer. If you asked me how I am, I might take up 10 minutes of your time. That's how I am these days.

Glenn Samson
financial advisor



"That sucks." That is a very annoying phrase. It's sexual but it's part of our general vernacular, mostly by younger kids and teenagers.

Barry Zwahlen
real estate agent



"Have a nice day," spoken by a police officer as he hands you a ticket. This is not based on a real life experience.

B. Lynn Goodwin
freelance writer and retired teacher



Something I catch myself saying too much is, "cool." I should come up with something that's less over-used. Anything's better, even "wonderful" or "great."

Dante Marrocco
real estate investor

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY REPORTER

ABOUT THE COVER

Bay Area newspapers had vigorous competition until last year when MediaNews added the Contra Costa Times and the San Jose Mercury to its local news empire. Now we have a diminishing number of diverse voices. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Why is it that we've lost our sense of 'Awe?' ”

—Peace Lutheran Pastor Steve Harms speaking on the upcoming science and religion symposium.
See story, page 8.

Danville to install Front Street crosswalk

The Town of Danville plans to install a pedestrian crosswalk on Front Street crossing from the Danville Public Library to the Eugene O'Neill Commemorative. The Town Council approved including the project in the town's Capital Improvement Program, at its meeting last week.

The brick paving which crosses Front Street at that location was intended for decoration, not as a place to cross the street. However, people continually use it as a crosswalk so the Town Council decided to go ahead and convert it to a real crosswalk for safety.

The project could include a lighted crosswalk system embedded in the pavement; flashing signs, pedestrian barricades, a red curb and "no parking" signage along the west side of Front Street; and handicap ramps. The town will remove landscaping and five street parking spaces to make way for the crosswalk.

Pioneer Art Gallery opens downtown

Been crossing your fingers for more art in Danville? Your wish has been granted—at least temporarily. The old San Ramon Valley Times building on Hartz Avenue downtown is now full of oils, acrylics and pastels and will stay open for the next six months.

Pioneer Art Gallery & Studios, created by the Alamo Danville Artists' Society, opened last weekend as the largest downtown art venue. Sales support the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and local artists.

Visit the gallery at 524 Hartz Ave. from 5-9 p.m. Fridays; 1-9 p.m. Saturdays; 1-5 p.m. Sundays; and 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays.

Corrections

The story Oct. 19 about sexual predators should have said there are 12 sex offenders living in Danville and 1,429 living in the county.

The Oct. 12 story about the Veterans Hall should have said the Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee plans to tear down the current Memorial Building and construct a larger veterans center on the same site.

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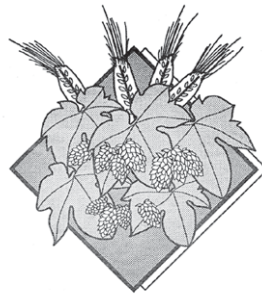
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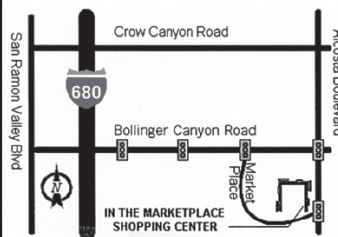
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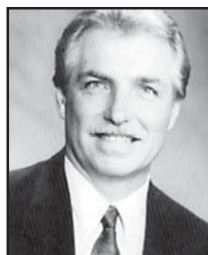
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Vandals targeting Livorna Park

Graffiti hard to remove from concrete walls

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Alamo vandals are proving sloppy graffiti isn't just an inner-city eyesore.

Livorna Park has been inundated with repeated instances of vandalism over the last four months—including spray-painted words on the bathroom of the quiet, semi rural recreation grounds.

"The park has been interesting lately, we now have vandals that are not gophers," said Hillary Heard, senior planner for the Contra Costa County Public Works Department.

County services have been poised, paint brushes in hand, to cover up the offending images. But it's not always as simple as a quick brush over. Location of the graffiti can make for a time consuming

removal process, county staff said. "We got all the graffiti off the inside of the bathroom. We just paint over it. But it's harder to do that with the raw concrete outside," Heard told the Alamo Parks and Recreation Committee last week.

October budget reports show that parks and recreation funds used for vandalism at Livorna Park increased from about \$400 to \$5,400 in the past two fiscal years. That includes general labor services but not county staff time spent working on the issue.

In this case, a secluded backside of the outer restroom wall was damaged.

"If somebody was at the park, they could be tagging there and no

► Continued on page 8

Livery files lawsuit to stop disturbances

Judge rules homeless man must stay 250 feet away

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Managers at the Livery shopping center are hoping a lawsuit will keep a homeless man from drunkenly threatening employees and customers—a disturbance their lawyer claims has been happening repeatedly since May 2006.

A county judge ruled earlier this month that the man, who allegedly "will regularly yell and shout to himself and others" and "spends most of his time in or around the center," must now stay at least 250 feet away.

"There is an order and we hope that it solves the problem," said Livery general manager Nancy Casale. She declined to comment further.

Court records show that Livery lawyer Jennifer Freedman filed

reports indicating the retail location has suffered damages because of the man's behavior. Tenants felt unsafe, and customers had been more or less scared away, she wrote.

The records also detailed that the man was aggressive, showed signs of mental illness, had been publicly intoxicated on many occasions and used offensive language. Police were called several times as a result of the "loud" and "menacing" disturbances.

In Contra Costa County, therapy and medication for the mentally ill homeless population are offered at shelters.

But a combination of few available bed spaces and the fact that over 90 percent of schizophrenic patients go off their medication

► Continued on page 7



Brian Hungerman, Kiersten Bunke and Kira Smith—fourth-graders at Vista Grande Elementary School in Danville—turn acorns into powder using an old mortar found in this area, as they participate in the Museum of the San Ramon Valley's Outreach Program, "An Indian Life Exhibit: The First Families of Our Valley."

Museum program adds speakers who are 'treasures'

Indians and preparing acorns are the focus right now

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Roll out the red carpet. Celebrities are coming.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is beefing up its outreach program by inviting all experts, including celebrities, who have made significant contributions in the area to share their life experiences with children.

"We are just starting," said Betty Joyce, coordinator of the Museum Outreach Program. "It could be anyone who has contributed to the San Ramon Valley and is still breathing—whether it's arts, sports, music."

The Outreach Program has had two major components. One involves teaching fourth-graders from the San Ramon

Valley Unified School District about Indians who once lived in Danville.

This year, the Museum is presenting "An Indian Life Exhibit: The First Families of Our Valley," which began Sept. 29 and will end Nov. 13. Students use old mortars to mash acorns into powder, and listen to docents relate stories of Indians living in the Valley.

The other component has third-graders dress up in 19th century-clothing and visit the One Room School House on Finley Road in the Tassajara Valley in late February.

"In both programs, they have the chance to experience history in another way," said Beverly Lane, museum curator. "Kids like to experience things. It's memorable."

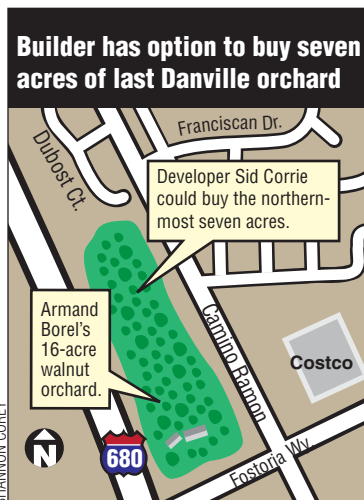
Joyce's third component to the program is called Local Treasures. Last month, Norm Kidder, supervising naturalist at Sunol Regional Wilderness, gave a talk, said Lane. Kidder is considered an expert on the Stone Age.

Joyce noted she has contacted former San Francisco 49ers tight end Brent Jones, who now coaches at Monte Vista High School, to share his personal insights.

Lane said the program is seeking different perspectives, and the speakers do not have to be celebrities. They can be doctors, professors or other professionals.

Joyce said she will do her best to get popular figures.

"I am looking forward to trying," she said. ■



Builder buys options on Danville orchard

Developer plans residential and commercial use off Camino Ramon near Fostoria

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A developer has purchased the option rights to buy nearly half of the last walnut orchard in Danville.

Developer Sid Corrie has the option to buy seven acres on the northern side of Armand Borel's 16-acre orchard on Camino Ramon, across from Costco. He purchased for an undisclosed amount the option in June 2004, and it runs through June 2009, Corrie said. No other buyer can acquire the acres within

this time frame except for Corrie.

If he decides to use his option, Corrie plans to develop the land for residential and commercial use. His company, Corrie Development Corp., is located in Dublin.

Corrie is scheduled to appear at the Danville Town Council meeting Tuesday, Nov. 6.

"He is interested in coming to the town and (giving a presentation) of how he could develop the property under the considerations of the General Plan," said Town

Manager Joe Calabrigo.

Corrie also has the right of first refusal on the remainder of Borel's property. This means if Borel decides to sell the remainder of his 16 acres, Corrie has the right to buy it first.

Borel noted his land is in Danville, but he has a San Ramon mailing address. He said he is OK with the deals.

"I guess," he said.

Many developers have asked Borel, 78, about buying his land.

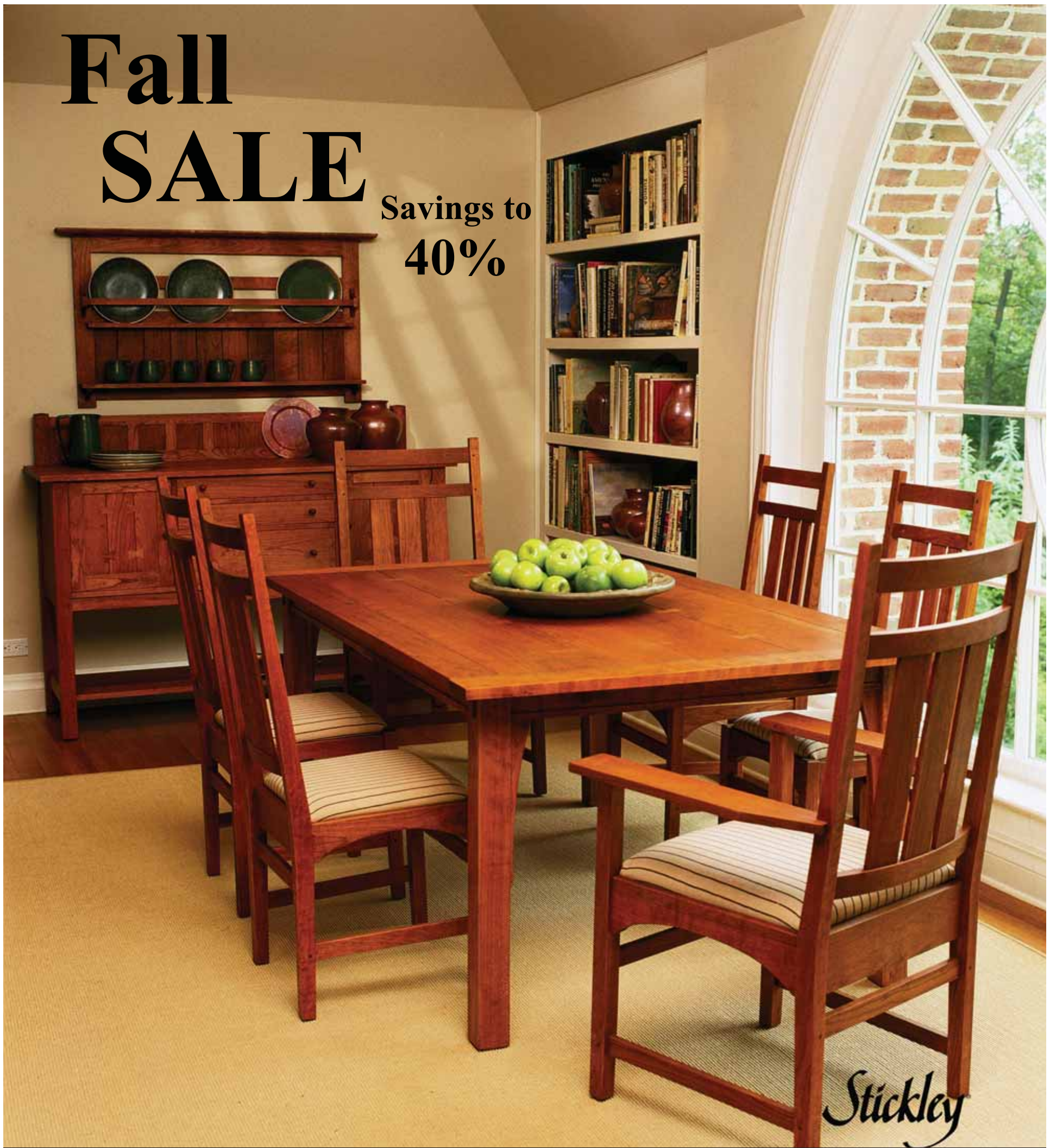
His mother owned the orchard since 1945, and his family harvested walnuts in the fall and sold them to a food distributor. The ranch had horses, and tractors in the barn are now more than 50 years old.

Still, after decades, his orchard has continued producing, despite his physical disabilities. Borel has hired someone who tends to his orchard and continues harvesting walnuts. ■

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

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Let the lights shine

PG&E installing new streetlights in Danville

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Town of Danville is partnering with PG&E to install approximately 500 new streetlights in neighborhoods along Camino Tassajara.

The town is taking out its old wooden streetlights, and PG&E is replacing them with new aluminum ones, said Steve Lake, town development services director. The lights will be installed on the north side of Camino Tassajara from Sycamore Valley Road to Old Blackhawk Road. The deal saves money for the town, Lake said.

"In the long run, we don't have to do streetlight maintenance," he explained.

The new streetlights have tear-drop decorative fixtures. PG&E began installing them in September, in an effort to help Danville address the safety concerns posed by the older poles.

"The newer streetlights are more energy efficient, more reliable and emit less light pollution," said Bruce Mosley, PG&E director of maintenance and construction.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

PG&E workers install new aluminum streetlights on Wood Ranch Circle in Danville last week. PG&E has struck a deal with the town where it would take care of installing approximately new 500 streetlights in Danville, as well as maintain them.

The town anticipates the work being finished by the spring. Once the new streetlights are installed, PG&E will own, maintain and operate them. In the past, Danville had to pay for the streetlights' upkeep.

There are approximately 3,200 lights in Danville. The town owns 1,400, and PG&E owns the rest. Under the new deal, PG&E will put in around new 526 lights, replacing

ones previously owned and maintained by the town.

The replacement work in Danville is part of a larger, system-wide effort to replace any hazardous "center-bore" streetlights. These older wooden streetlights were installed in the 1970s and 1980s. Moisture, lawn mowers

► Continued on page 8

Livery

► Continued from page 5

within a year, makes mentally ill transients a troublesome county social issue—even for upscale bedroom communities like Danville.

Currently, about 25 percent of the single adult homeless population suffers from some form of severe and persistent mental illness, according to the most recent National Coalition for the Homeless report.

The same document notes there are not enough "community based treatment services" and affordable housing to accommodate Americans who are disabled by their mental disorders.

In Danville and Alamo, transients are often found passing through on the Iron Horse Trail and are usually off their medication, police officers say.

California civil code grants injunctive relief—as in this case—when a person's property is injuriously affected or personal enjoyment is lessened by a nuisance.

While this case affected the public by interfering with shoppers' and employees' well-being, the most common grounds for injunction cases are private disturbances.

The defendant didn't attend the most recent court hearing and could not be reached for comment. Court documents filed in September 2007 show a request for a restraining order. But to date it is unclear whether the man is even aware of the lawsuit.

Should the behavior persist, he risks a fine of \$1,000 and jail time. ■



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Science meets religion

Symposium to address bridging the two disciplines

by **Natalie O'Neill**

A shooting star. The fleshy green patterns of a leaf. The stillness of the ocean before a storm.

When it comes to these natural phenomena, some people think "God" and other people think "Science." At Peace Lutheran Church in Danville, it doesn't have to be one way or the other.

The church will host a science and religion symposium called "Must Science Be Atheistic?" at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28. And the laws of nature are only part of what could help bridge theology with biology, cosmology or physics.

Peace Lutheran Pastor Steve Harms says like religion, observing science creates a wonderment and appreciation for the universe.

"Why is it that we've lost our sense of 'Awe'? Without it, human beings can't thrive. To stand aghast and say, 'Look at what I'm a part of'—that's a critical thing our world needs, to delight in this gift of life," he said.

Harms explained that scientific patterns, theory and hypothesis are given meaning when accompanied

by dialogue about God to give the data context.

He noted one scientific conclusion which suggests that, had the earth been located only 10 miles closer to the sun, life on the planet would have burnt up. The same conclusion shows that, had earth been only 10 miles further away, life would have essentially frozen, he said.

It's discoveries like this, for example, that give us gratitude and praise, he said.

"This is the way mystics have been speaking for thousands of years," he said, noting another theory that everything is in a constant flux. "They just came to it through another practice—prayer."

Dr. Ted Peters, professor of systematic theology at Pacific Lutheran Seminary, and Dr. Robert Russell, founder of the Center for Theology and Natural Science, will also speak at the free event.

"Our intelligence is a profound gift," Harms said. "We are beings of inquiry."

The event will be held at the church, 3201 Camino Tassajara. For more information, call 648-7000. ■



NATALIE O'NEILL

Graffiti on the back of the restrooms at Livorna Park appears to read "Love" in red, orange and blue paint, followed by two girls' names. It is difficult to remove from the rough concrete wall.

Vandals

► Continued from page 5

one would see them," said Marie-Jeanne Parsons, chairwoman of the committee.

In July, a copper sign that read "Livorna Park" was ripped from its mounting plaque. And before that, profanities were engraved in the play structures.

"It's an ongoing problem. They go in and etch unmentionable words in the kids' play areas," said committee member Nancy Dommies.

County staff reported that even

with the overall vandalism flare-up, it has cooled down since school started. This leads committee members to believe it's teenagers doing the dirty work.

"It's saying something. Maybe kids think it's funny to destroy public property," Parsons said.

While graffiti as an art form has gained popularity among urban and even suburban teenagers, the public tends to frown on defacing public property in the name of tagging. The general sentiment is that spray paint art should be admired in galleries—not on phone booths, park bathrooms and bus stops.

The graffiti at Livorna Park appears to read "Love" in red, orange and blue paint and is followed by two girls' names.

Committee members speculate Livorna Park has had the most vandalism because there are few houses nearby and it has two points of entry, making it easier to get away with the act.

County Public Works personnel have "gotten to know the Sheriff's department very well" when working on preventing vandalism at the park, Heard said.

"We clearly have a problem," Parsons said. ■

Streetlights

► Continued from page 7

and weed eaters have combined to erode the base and stability of these poles.

"They are reaching the end of their lives," Lake said.

He said the town began negotiating its deal with PG&E 18 months ago, and it was also considering a county proposal to take care of rundown streetlights. However, that proposal has been put aside,

said county officials. The town opted to go with PG&E.

Some county residents were dissatisfied with PG&E, and the power company met with the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on Monday to discuss improving its service.

"We are going to do a better job in maintaining streetlights," said David Eisenhower, PG&E spokesman.

Danville is pleased with the deal, Lake said.

"We are now going to really have nice streetlights," he said. ■





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TAKE US ALONG



Kyoto Protocol—not

Danville resident Mike Heller said he doesn't think much of the Kyoto Protocol but was open to visiting the train station with his Weekly during a trip to Japan in the spring. His wife Sandy was distracted by the nearby shops when the photo was being taken.

Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Hurt people hurt people

Did you know babies will sleep with their eyes open if there is violence in their home? It's a survival mechanism.

This was just one sad fact I learned at the Rebuilding Lives luncheon last week hosted by Stand! Against Domestic Violence. Keynote speaker Linda Chamberlain, a family violence consultant, said when she started in the business 15 years ago, it was thought babies were too young to know what was going on when the parents had an abusive relationship.

"The reality is, the kids are living it," Chamberlain told the crowd of 300 at the Concord Hilton. "We realized these babies know they are not safe. They are reacting to their environment."

Studies now show that repetitive trauma rearranges brain cells in babies. Although they are born bursting with potential, Chamberlain said, the brain focuses on survival at the expense of the part of the brain responsible for bonding and problem solving. She noted the best programs connect a child in need with a healthy adult to stop the child from growing up and perpetuating the destructive behavior.

Devorah Levine, manager of the county's Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative who received the Rollie Mullen Award for her work, said the women who take the courageous step to leave their violent situations are ending the cycle.

"These women are our silent heroes," she said.

One of these heroes, Evelyn Connell, took the stage. She is the mother of five, with 13-year-old twins still at home, and her soft sobs filled the room as she told her story: Her father died when she was 3, and her mother remarried when she was 6. When she was 8, her stepfather began to molest her and it continued until she left home before finishing high school. She drank and took pills to soothe her pain, went from one bad relationship to another, and had three children with different fathers.

"I thought I needed a man to validate me," Connell said. "I lived on impulse."

Then she met Ken. Cocaine complicated their lives and turned him into a violent person, she said. They cleaned up their act, and he was helpful and considerate when she was pregnant and the twins were born.

"But after one year, he started doing drugs again," she said. He also began to bully her, once almost killing her by holding a pillow over her face. At a party for the twins' third birthday, he became violent. "He broke my spirit," she said. "I became more and more isolated."

When the twins were 5, she called the Stand! crisis line for the first time. She called many times during the next five years but hesitated to leave Ken because she thought she would have nowhere to go after an emergency stay.

When the twins turned 10, the family took a vacation to Tahoe that turned into a nightmare. "Kenny spent all his time in the casino gambling and getting drunk," she said. He returned to the room and became abusive, but when security came to the room and asked if everything was OK, "I lied and said yes." The turning point came when Ken began to tell the children their mother was a bad person.

The county's domestic violence crisis hotline receives about 12,000 calls each year. The hotline number is 1-888-215-5555.

"I left, with just the luggage I'd left for the vacation with," Connell said. "I called the Stand! hotline and they put us up at a motel, then brought us to the shelter. I was not afraid for the first time."

She and the twins stayed at the shelter for eight weeks, and she received a restraining order against

Ken. She took every class and counseling opportunity she could to learn how she could better her life. She turned 50 during this time.

"My kids started to flourish," she said. "They felt safe and secure. And they loved their therapy sessions." She also bonded with others in the program.

"I got into transitional housing and continued to work hard to get healthy," she said. She earned her high school General Equivalency Diploma and the very next day registered at Diablo Valley College, she said, which brought a standing ovation from the audience.

She is proudest that she broke the cycle for her children.

"Kelsey will not let herself be abused, and Kyle will not be an abuser," she stated emphatically.

CCTV will air the Rebuilding Lives luncheon at 1 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5, and at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14. Check out Stand's Web site for ways to make donations. Let's stop the cycle so babies can sleep securely at night, with both eyes closed.

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

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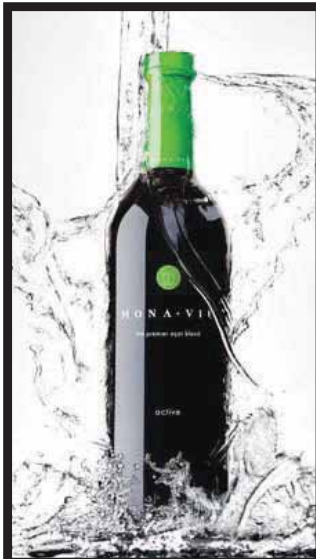
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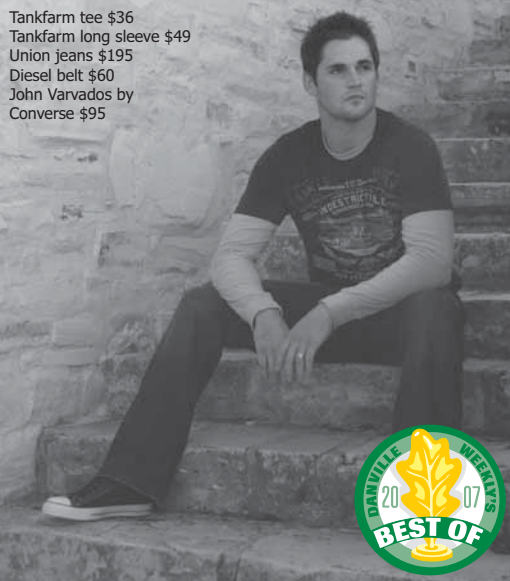
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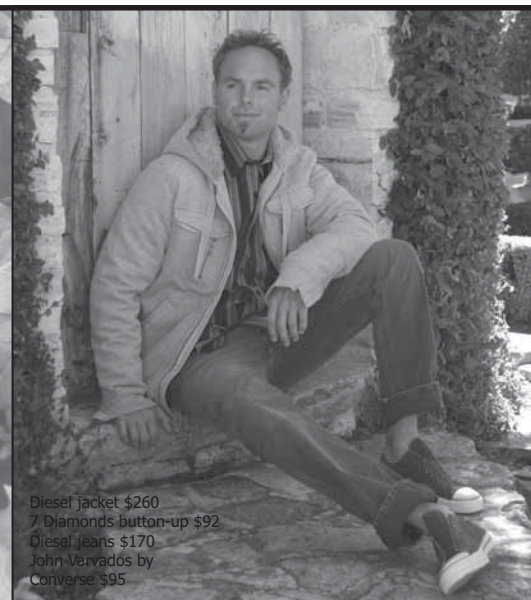


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The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

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

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

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

If it ain't broke...

Alamo Boulevard, you say? The name change from Danville Boulevard for the part of the road that passes through the community of Alamo seems to be the latest attempt by District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho's office to keep Alamoans from moaning. But hopefully everyone will recognize the name change as the bit of bureaucratic nonsense it is.

Piepho's south county field representative recently put forth the suggestion to make the name change, at a meeting of the Alamo Community Council, which includes leaders from various organizations with a vested interest in Alamo. None of the attendees took the suggestion too seriously. She said afterward that some residents had made the suggestion.

To make the change, 90 percent of residents and businesses on Danville Boulevard would have to vote in favor of it. And that is just the start. If the change went forward,

everyone in the community would have to pay for the cost of changes, from stationery to business cards to new street signs.

The name change would be a waste of time and money. And if it succeeded, it would interfere with the historical name of

a road that does indeed lead to Danville. In the 1800s, the road was known as the Martinez-Mission San Jose road and Alamo was midway between the two places. Alamo and Danville residents have a love for their shared road that manifested itself in the Boulevard of Trees project, which resulted in 300 trees being planted along a three-and-half-mile stretch from 1987-2005.

The supervisor and her staff may feel the name change would add identity to Alamo but the residents say this is the least of their problems. End the cut-through traffic, especially the speeders, and they'll be happy. If and when Alamo incorporates, this might be an issue for the new government to tackle. If and when anyone wants the change.

Alamo already has plenty of identity.

"The name change would be a waste of time and money. And if it succeeded, it would interfere with the historical name of a road that does indeed lead to Danville."

YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deal with real issues

Dear Editor:

I will be the first to say I appreciate our close-knit community, superb schools and parks, family values and the occasional novelties of living in Alamo. But when I read last week's article about "Alamo Boulevard," I wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry.

What an irresponsible agenda item being deliberated when today, our local government, even at micro levels, should be discussing real issues like the condition of our environment, traffic, etc. Shame on us for even thinking "Alamo Boulevard" should be on anyone's radar screen.

Diane Stevenson, Alamo

Piepho suggested name change

Dear Editor:

Thank you for Natalie O'Neill's continuing excellent coverage of Alamo issues. About the County-suggested re-naming of Danville Boulevard to Alamo Boulevard (in Alamo), however, I remember the discussion at the October Alamo Community Council meeting a little differently than her report. I don't recall that Supervisor Piepho's staff said that Alamo residents had asked the County to look into the possibility of a name change, but rather that the Supervisor was offering the idea to Alamo. (Editor's Note: The supervisor's representative said after the meeting that residents had asked county staff about the name change.)

While I appreciate Supervisor Piepho's offer as a gesture of recognition of Alamo interests, I don't think a name change is a good idea, nor did the other Alamo attendees at the ACC meeting. The idea came as a big surprise to us, given that a change would require all Danville Boulevard addressees—business and residential property owners—to foot the costs of updating their addresses (consider the advertising costs for business owners!). And, if locals were to request the change, costs of all new street signs (\$200 to \$800 each) would have to be borne by Alamo donations.

Danville Boulevard through Alamo has a proud heritage of interest and preservation by both Alamo and Danville property owners. Surely that heritage is best honored by the continued use of Danville Boulevard's given name.

Smitty Schmidt, Alamo

Vet center could teach about war

Dear Editor:

Regarding plans for a new veterans' center to replace the old

Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Danville:

Services to veterans of war are appropriate, but celebrating war is not. To create a veterans' center to provide services is important, but it is also important that such a center be a center for peace and education about war.

Veterans, in their service, performed to keep themselves and their comrades alive. All veterans know that there is no other cause in war. Any veterans' center should have the primary educational function of teaching the waste of war to all our citizens, especially our young people.

It is time to learn: "WAR, what is it good for? Absolutely nothing!"

*Hal Bailey, Alamo,
66th Engineers, 18th Engineering
Brigade, Vietnam, 1967*

Litter worse in Danville

Dear Editor:

I have lived in, or been near Danville since 1960. The litter has gotten worse, especially the last couple of years. The two Starbucks and San Ramon Valley High School are very bad. I don't understand people who think the city is their personal trash can because they can't seem to find a trash can.

The worst offenders are cigarette smokers, who lack the discipline to quit the lousy habit and then throw the cigarette anywhere but an ash-tray or similar receptacle.

Hopefully some more people will get involved with keeping the city clean, before it becomes Oakland or Richmond.

Tim Robertson, Danville

ONLINE READER POLL

Give your opinion at
www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Should the Alamo portion of Danville Boulevard have its name changed to Alamo Boulevard?

Results from last poll:

Does Danville spend too much time and money trying to protect its ridgelines?

No: 78.79%

Undecided: 9.09%

Yes: 12.12%

Total votes: 33

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

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Woman presents fake check to Wells Fargo

Police arrested a woman for allegedly trying to cash a counterfeit check last week who had an outstanding warrant for prostitution, said Danville police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Jalilah Bass-Brown, 20, of Oakland, tried cashing a counterfeit business check for \$3,680 at 5:15 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Wells Fargo Bank on San Ramon Valley Boulevard in Danville, police said. The teller noticed something odd with the check, which was in the name of a business that frequents Wells Fargo, and took it to the back for further review, reports said.

The teller and bank manager compared the check with others from the business and found the latest check had several important items missing. They determined the check was fraudulent and called the police.

When police arrived, Bass-Brown was still waiting at the window. Craig said Bass-Brown told them she received the check from a friend who owed her money and claimed she did not know the check was a fake. She said her friend dropped her off at the bank and never came back, Craig added. But when police asked about the friend, Bass-Brown was unable to share any details about him.

"There were a lot of 'I don't knows,'" Craig said. The police said they found discrepancies in her story and arrested her on charges of possessing a counterfeit document. They also found she had an outstanding warrant for prostitution and delaying a police officer from doing his duty, reports said.

Craig noted that Wells Fargo did a commendable job and prevented the suspect from victimizing other banks.

—Jordan M. Doronila

POLICE LOG

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

Tuesday, Oct. 16

- Boat burglary on Wild Flower Ct. at 1:08 p.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 1:14 p.m.
- Public nuisance, arrest, on Old Creek Rd. and Tunbridge Rd. at 2:20 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 4:09 p.m.
- Possession of counterfeit bill, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 5:34 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Oak Ct. at 5:46 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on 2600 block of Camino Tassajara at 7:18 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Railroad Ave. at 7:45 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Railroad Ave. at 8:22 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

- Vandalism on Skylark Ct. at 6:44 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Skylark Ln. at 7:33 a.m.
- Petty theft from building on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 8:52 a.m.
- Vandalism on Surrey Ct. at 12:08 p.m.
- Grand theft on La Questa Dr. at 12:36 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:56 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. and Rose Ave. at 1:48 p.m.
- Petty theft on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 4:47 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 6:48 p.m.
- Vandalism on Lyon Ct. at 10:13 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:07 a.m.
- Grand theft on Glenhill Ct. at 7:22 a.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Del Amigo Rd. at 9:52 a.m.
- Battery on Sycamore Cir. at 10:56 a.m.
- Burglary on Blackstone Dr. at 1:06 p.m.
- Petty theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:09 p.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 4:10 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and northbound I-680 on ramp at 11:48 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 19

- Credit card fraud on Glen Ct. at 8:57 a.m.
- Unknown problem, arrest, on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 1:44 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 7:03 p.m.
- Battery on Harlan Dr. at 9:15 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on I-680 on ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:44 a.m.
- Identity theft on Cross Bridge Pl. at 5:17 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 7:51 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on W. El Pintado Rd. and southbound I-680 off ramp at 10:50 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Love Ln. at 10:59 p.m.
- Unknown problem, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:14 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Jean Hellsten

Danville resident Jean Hellsten passed away Oct. 6 at the age of 84.

She was born May 6, 1923, in Long Island, N.Y., and has resided in the Danville area since 1970. She served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was involved in her church and community in New York and in California. A member of the Peace Lutheran Church in Danville for the last 15 years, she was active in women's circles, prayer lines and in hospitality services.

She is survived by her children, Nancy Schuster of Long Island, N.Y., Phyllis Maxwell of Antioch, and Philip Hellsten Jr. of Danville (aka Starman, often seen at Starbucks and around town); six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Jean's Life was held Oct. 12 at Peace Lutheran Church.

John Strother Wright

John Strother Wright, a native and resident of Danville, died Oct. 12 at the age of 56. He was born July 30, 1951, the son of Nelson and Pat Wright. He attended Monte Vista High School.

He passed away at the home he built, due to complications from ALS. He was a graduate of UC Berkeley and was a successful real estate broker and developer for more than 30 years. He served on the Danville Planning Commission and helped with town business for 10 years. He also enjoyed fly-fishing, hunting and tinkering with his vintage Ferraris.

He is survived by wife, Kimberly; five children: John Clayton, Casey Joseph, Samuel Thomas, Erin Marie, and William Nelson; two siblings, Jim and Linda Wright; one niece, Tricia; and Blue, his English setter and close companion.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated Oct. 20 at St. Isidore Church in Danville. Donations may be sent to ALS Association by e-mail, or to 27001 Agoura Road, Suite 150, Calabasas Hills, CA 91301.

WEDDINGS



Amory Trace Foreman & Martin Brindley Gutierrez

Amory Trace Foreman and Martin Brindley Gutierrez were married Sept. 8 at her grandparents' back yard in Escalon.

Amory is the daughter of Rhonda and Perry Foreman of Concord. She graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in Concord in 1998 and received a bachelor's degree from Cal State University East Bay in June 2007. She is employed as the office manager at the Danville Weekly.

Martin is the son of Hilda and Alfred Gutierrez of Mission Viejo. He graduated from Santa Teresa High in San Jose in 1995, and is employed as a salesman at Video Only in Dublin.

The couple honeymooned on a cruise to Mexico and are making their home in Pleasanton.

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BIRTHS



Jackson Riley Minor

Jackson Riley Minor was born at 4:42 a.m., Monday, Oct. 15, at Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek, weighing 9 pounds 7 ounces, to Shannon Stepper and David Minor. He is the first grandchild of Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper, shown shortly after his birth.

Calendar

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

Art

ADAS Pioneer Art Open House ADAS Pioneer Art Center, newly opened at 524 Hartz Ave., Danville, is now operating Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. It features different artists and will have a reception Saturday, Nov. 3, for Danville artist Phillip Hellsten. Call 820-2050.

Porcelain Art by Eugenia Zobel Wente Vineyards Estate Winery will host a Porcelain Art exhibit by Eugenia W. Zobel from Oct. 31-Nov. 29, at Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. The gallery is open during normal business hours. An artist reception will be held from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4. Call 443-7266 or visit www.eugeniastudio.8m.com.

Clubs

Danville-Alamo Garden Club Danville-Alamo Garden Club will host their monthly meeting from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Speaker Rosalind Creasy will speak to the group. This event is free. Call 837-4904.

Valley Stitches Guild This club will host Jean Cacicedo, a nationally known textile artist, at 10 a.m., Monday, Nov. 5, at Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodworth Lane, Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$5 for this meeting; annual memberships are \$25. Call 947-5817.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75 The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month, at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit www.vfw.org.

Events

Healing the Children of Abraham Beth Chaim Congregation will host Eliyahu McLean and Ghassan Manasra for a special gathering on "Healing the Children of Abraham" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 6, at Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Donations will benefit the work of Jerusalem Peacemakers. Visit www.jerusalempeacemakers.org.

Home Decorating with Karen McCullough American Sewing Guild will host Karen McCullough who will inspire for design and implementation of difficult window coverings from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, Social Hall, 1543 Sunnyside Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Visit www.asgwalnutcreek.org.

Monster Bash on USS Hornet Is the USS Hornet haunted? Bring the whole family and find out from 7:30 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 27, at USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. Advance tickets are \$20, \$10 kids; tickets will also be sold at the door. The night will include music, costume prizes, children's area, haunted tours and The Haunted Hospital. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit www.uss-hornet.org.

Tour of the Alamo Cemetery Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host a tour of the Alamo Cemetery at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, meeting at the front gate of the Cemetery located at the end of El Portal near La Gonda Way in Danville. This tour is free, but donations are welcome. Call 837-3750.

Veterans Day Communities of San Ramon Valley are invited to honor all of our military service veterans at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Performing Art Center, San Ramon Valley High School, 5011 Danville Blvd., Danville. Individuals wishing to display their Memorabilia should contact Tony at 932-4042 or 820-5747.

Exhibits

Folk Art Demonstration Worthington Gallery West will host Jesus Sosa Calvo who will demonstrate the carving and painting of his figures and animals from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday Oct. 27, at Worthington Gallery West, 739 J Main St., Pleasanton. This event is free. Call 485-1183.

Robin Purcell Art Watercolors by Robin Purcell will be on exhibit at the Wente Vineyards Tasting Room during October. Call 648-0971 or visit robinpurcellpaints.blogspot.com.

The Essential Landscape Grand opening of Deer Ridge Vineyards in Livermore includes unveiling of Stephen Sanfilippo and Tom Taneyhill's recent work which is open from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., every Wednesday-Sunday, until Oct. 28, at Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. Call 683-4804 or (866) 561-0838.

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.museumsvr.org.

Fundraisers

Care Package Drop Zone The East Bay Chapter of Blue Star Moms will be collecting donations for their annual Christmas Care Packages

to deployed troops from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, at Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton. For a list of items they are collecting, visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

March of Dimes March of Dimes will host the 29th annual day of golf on Monday, Oct. 29, at Olympic Club, San Francisco. Call (415) 217-6363 or visit www.marchofdimes.com/ca.

One Warm Coat Golden Hills Brokers are collecting clean, reusable coats and jackets to give to those in need in Oakland until Nov. 15. Coats may be dropped off at Golden Hills Brokers, 3223 Crow Canyon Rd., Suite 110, San Ramon. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 216-4590.

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.

Operation Christmas Child Bay Area residents will be able to drop off shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies and personal items for Operation Christmas Child from Nov. 12-19, at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call (800) 383-1459 or visit www.samaritanspurse.org.

Kids and Teens

Bippity, Boppety Move! Blackhawk Museum will host a family funshop "Bippity, Boppety Move!" from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Funshops are drop-in activities for children ages 3-10 years old and are free with museum admission. Call 736-2277.

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.

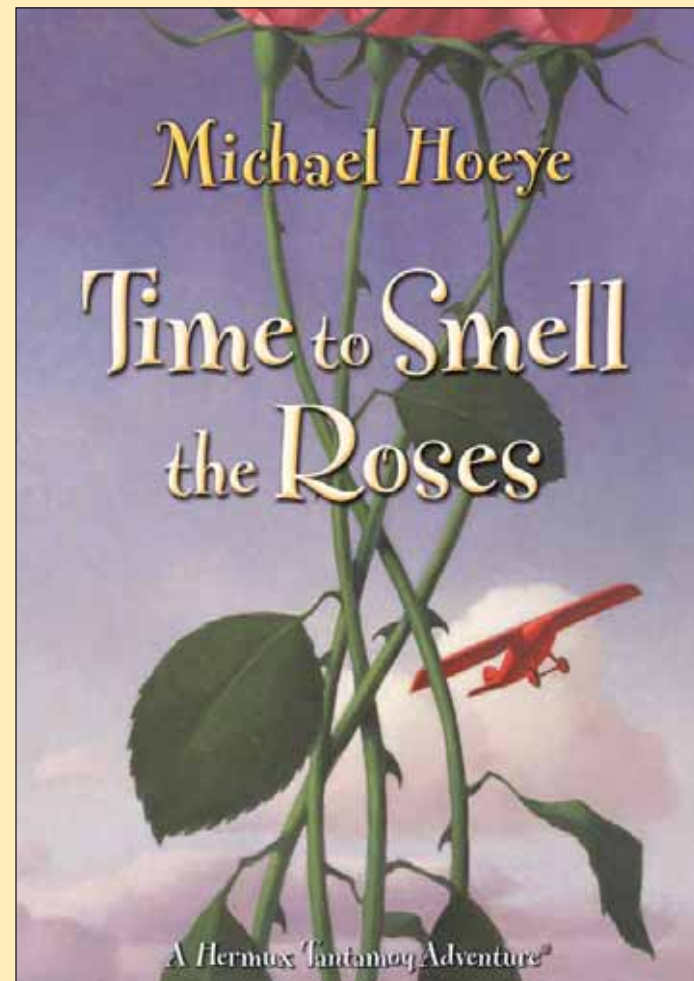
Children's Storytimes Danville Library hosts storytimes for children of all ages held until Nov. 14. Mother Goose Time for children ages from birth to 24 months is at 10:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays; Toddler Storytime is for children ages 25 months to 3 years old at 11:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays and Preschool Storytime is for children 3-5 years old at 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Lectures/ Workshops

A Science and Religion Symposium Have you ever wondered if science and religion had a connection? Come to "Must Science be Atheistic? A Science and Religion Symposium" at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free, but donations are accepted. Call 648-7000 or visit www.peacejourney.org.

Borrow Smart, Retire Rich The truth about today's mortgage and real estate markets will be discussed from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 30, at Lafayette Veterans Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. This event is free and refreshments will be served. Call

WEEKEND PREVIEW



PIC: PATTI PUBLIC RELATIONS

'Time to Smell the Roses'

Rakestraw Books will host children's author Michael Hoeye, who is doing a book signing for "Time to Smell the Roses" at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 29, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

208-8235 or visit www.freedompoint-group.com.

Creative Expressions This workshop is for cancer patients, their families and friends and allows the opportunity to express yourself including use of collage, foil tooling and watercolor from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Special Focus on Colorectal Cancer Learn about newest approaches to treating colorectal cancer with the advanced and innovative treatments from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Participants will learn effective strategies to manage side effects and live well with colorectal cancer. Call 933-0107.

Literary Events

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

First Wednesday at the Library Friends of the Danville Library will host another First Wednesday at the Library at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Marsha Holm will speak on

"Rebels with a Cause: An Introduction to San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art." 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

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.

An Adoption Faire East County Animal Shelter will host an Adoption Fair from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. The day will include a costume parade, free advice from a dog trainer, free drinks and hot dogs (from 1-2 p.m.). Dog adopters receive three free professional dog trainings classes, plus a leash and collar; cat adopters will receive a goodie bag. Call (408) 202-6708 or visit www.tvr.org.

One Warm Coat San Ramon Valley Rotary Club is hosting its 12th anniversary of One Warm Coat until Dec. 15. They are collecting coats, sweaters and blankets for men, women, children and infants in clean and good condition. Drop-off points include: Diablo Lodge,

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950 Diablo Rd., Danville; Curves, 9500 Crow Canyon Rd., Danville; Moda Mi, 140E Prospect Ave., Danville; Pascal's French Oven, 155 Railroad Ave., Danville; ReMax Accord, 313 Sycamore Valley Dr. W., Danville; Heritage Bank, 387 Diablo Rd., Danville and Oscar's Jeweler, 15 Alamo Square, Alamo. For information, contact Elizabeth Forth at 820-4077; Dany Gregory at 838-9110 or Mark at 552-9900.

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, until Nov. 25, at Playhouse West, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$26-30. Call 942-0300 or visit www.playhousewest.org.

'Bye, Bye Birdie' Local youth will present "Bye, Bye Birdie" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 1-3, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 655 Old Orchard Dr., Danville. Admission is free, but donations are suggested and will be donated to the Wheelchair Foundation. Call 831-3027 or e-mail byebyebirdiedanville@yahoo.com.

'Ruthless!' the Musical Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Ruthless!" the Musical at 8 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, and at 2 p.m., Sundays, until Nov. 3, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$20-25; \$15 for students and groups of 10 or more. Call 820-1278.

'Wigged Out!' Hair on Stage (formerly Victoria's Hair on Stage) presents "Wigged Out!" playing Nov. 10-June 21, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The box office is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) or visit www.wiggedout.org.

The Mousetrap Center REPerory Company presents "The Mousetrap" with different showtimes until Nov. 17, at Center REPerory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15-40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

Seniors

Free Flu Shots for Older Adults San Ramon Regional Medical Center is offering free flu shots to adults ages 65 and older from 9-10 a.m., and for adults 50 years and older from 10 a.m.-noon, Friday, Nov. 9, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. No reservations will be taken and will be offered as supply lasts. Call 275-8230.

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

Seniors Halloween Masquerade Ball Town of Danville will host the Seniors Halloween Masquerade Ball from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Front St., Danville. Cost is \$4 for residents, \$5

for non-residents. Costumes are not required, but encouraged as there will prizes for the funniest, most original and scariest costumes. Call 314-3400.

Seniors Program Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall Lounge will host a senior drop-in program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday, at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Front St., Danville. Activities include playing cards and board games, visit with friends and meet new people. Call 314-3400.

Volunteering

Anna's Program Hospice of the East Bay is asking for volunteers to help with Anna's Program, a program which provides support to women diagnosed with recurrent breast cancer. Volunteers

provide companionship and practical assistance. To apply, call 887-5678 and ask for the Volunteer Department or e-mail volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley You can make a difference by volunteering your time and talents to our "hands-on" philanthropic programs that serve children, young adults and seniors in our local communities. Please join them for an Informational Coffee at 9:30 a.m., Monday, Nov. 5, at 2711 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 934-0901.

Peace Corps Danville Library will host a information session on how to become a volunteer in the Peace Corps service from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889 or visit www.peacecorps.gov.

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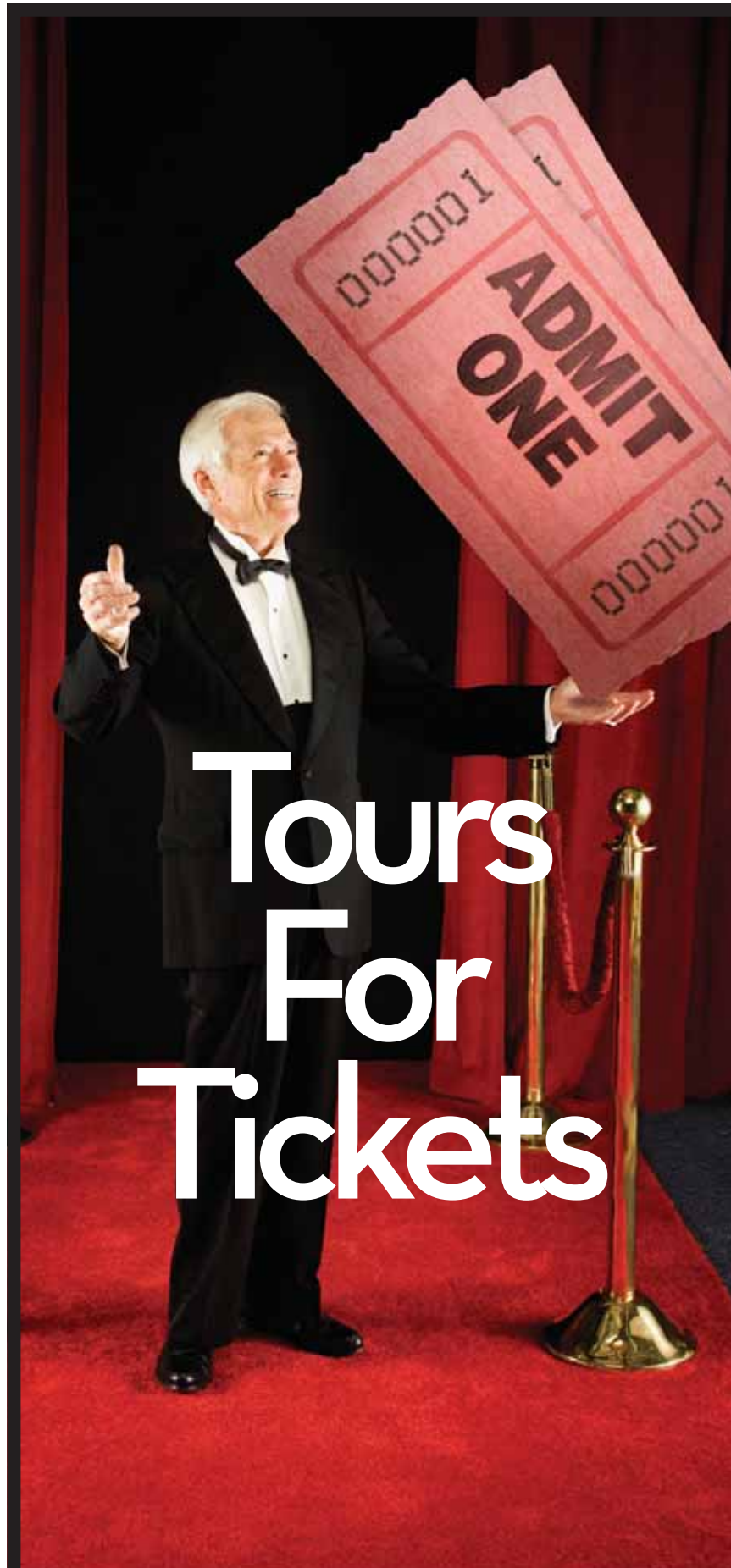


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BREAKING the news MediaNews and

by Sam Chapman

Industries facing unprecedented financial pressures and massive consolidation are not unusual in today's global marketplace. One particular industry, however, has a unique niche in the broader world. It's an industry upon which the very health of our democracy may depend.

Newspapers.

A variety of observers are sounding an alarm about the cost to our society of the diminishing number of diverse voices and declining quality of journalism. Some are offering radically different visions for the future of journalism:

- Professor John McManus of San Jose State University believes that newspapers are the "nervous system of democracy" and that the decline of newspapers and news coverage is a civic version of the debilitating disease ALS, leading to a paralyzed democracy.
- Sonoma State's Peter Phillips argues that "media consolidation is creating a new form of censorship in the United States and undermining democracy in the process."
- Stanford professor Ted Glasser says it's time to consider entirely new models; we should stop saying we have to accept the realities of the marketplace. He says we need to ask a different question: What kind of journalism do we need and what kind of conditions do we need to sustain it?

Ground zero: The Bay Area

Rupert Murdoch's purchase of the Wall Street Journal garnered much national attention recently, but the Bay Area is truly at ground zero for the developments that have prompted fears about newspaper consolidation.

The Bay Area media landscape has changed fundamentally in just the last couple of years—and the new dominant player on the scene is

Dean Singleton's MediaNews. Only two years ago the three major daily papers in the Bay Area were the San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News and Contra Costa Times, with its local San Ramon Valley Times edition (the Chronicle being owned by the Hearst Corp., the latter two were owned by Knight Ridder). The Denver-based MediaNews owned the Oakland Tribune, the San Ramon

In total, MediaNews owns 57 daily newspapers and some 120 non-daily publications in 13 states and is the fourth largest newspaper company in the country.

Valley Herald, the Tri-Valley Herald and a number of smaller papers. Bay Area newspapers competed with each other for news coverage and advertising. There weren't as many independent voices as, say, 20 or 30 years ago, but there was still vigorous competition.

Then in 2006, Knight Ridder, under pressure from stockholders, sold its Bay Area

properties. The deal resulted in almost every daily newspaper in the Bay Area being owned by MediaNews.

The Contra Costa Times Web site links to a list of 31 other MediaNews newspapers in Northern California alone, and that list doesn't include the weeklies it owns in the same area. Its holdings in Southern California are also extensive. In total, the company owns 57 daily newspapers and some 120 non-daily publications in 13 states and is the fourth largest newspaper company in the country.

On July 28, MediaNews announced a consolidation of the news operations of all its East Bay papers (as well as the San Mateo County Times and a number of weekly papers) along with accompanying staff cuts. MediaNews' East Bay publisher John Armstrong said the consolidation will "eliminate wasteful redundancies, streamline management and redirect staff and resources to our interactive services and other priorities, such as watchdog journalism."

John Bowman, former executive editor of the San Mateo County Times, had a different take about MediaNews' entry into the Bay Area—and this was before the recent talk of staffing cutbacks: "They're way past the point of diminishing returns, of penny-wise and pound-foolish ... Thin staffs provide less volume of news, less investigative and less enterprise stories ... Copy desks are so thinly staffed that they are making an incredible number of errors. These errors are in the headlines and (photo captions) so they are glaring. They are the kind of errors that destroy our credibility."

Faced with the prospect of deteriorating news quality, Bowman submitted his resignation after a 31-year career in the news business.

The one remaining major Bay Area paper not a part of MediaNews is the Chronicle. However, the Hearst Corp. contributed \$300 million to help finance the Knight Ridder/MediaNews deal (via middleman McClatchy publishing company) and in return received a 30 percent interest in non-Bay Area holdings of MediaNews. Hearst and MediaNews have been discussing consoli-

dating and cooperating in various operations, but were put on hold pending an antitrust lawsuit filed by former San Francisco political consultant Clint Reilly. The suit, which challenged the unprecedented consolidation, was settled shortly before trial last spring.

Stanford professor Ted Glasser says we need to ask: What kind of journalism do we need and what kind of conditions do we need to sustain it?

San Rafael resident Dan Fost has had a unique perch from which to view these developments—he was a reporter for the Marin Independent Journal for many years when it was owned by Gannett, before spending nearly a decade as the Chronicle's media columnist. He decided to leave the paper in August to become a freelance journalist. He says the Chronicle staff never could figure out why Hearst would subsidize Singleton's purchase of the Mercury News and Contra Costa Times and wonders whether the Reilly lawsuit prevented a consolidation of the Chronicle into the same media empire.

Fost believes there is still a lot of talent at the Chronicle, which has been directed by editor Phil Bronstein to focus more on journalistic crusades to solve civic ills and "master narratives," such as "Green Living" that cut across the Bay Area and to which almost any story can be tied. Fost observes that Singleton is clearly excited by the prospect of being able to sell the whole Bay Area in one ad buy, but laments that

MediaNews papers in the Bay Area



For more information on media consolidation:

Grade the News: www.gradethenews.org

Media Alliance: www.media-alliance.org

Project Censored: www.projectcensored.org

The Project for Excellence in Journalism's annual State of the Media report can be found at www.stateofthenewsmedia.org/2007/sitemap.asp

Also see Free Press at: www.freepress.net/content/about

Media Reform Information Center: www.corporations.org/media

Columbia Journalism Review: www.cjr.org/index.php



...but as long as the presses can be protected, we may trust to them for light." —Thomas Jefferson

and the seismic shift in Bay Area newspapers

"newsrooms always get the worst of the deal." He says when he worked for Gannett, news staffing was not lavish—but it's even much smaller now with MediaNews. What makes him the saddest is that, on the whole, there are fewer people in journalism holding fewer people accountable—which can't be healthy for our society and our democracy.

UC Berkeley law professor Stephen Barnett says it's "shameful that the U.S. Justice Department has walked away" from applying antitrust laws to the Bay Area consolidation. He says there are many other cities with examples of newspaper consolidation, but he can't think of any other area of similar size where the consolidation extends so far beyond the central city through the suburbs. He notes that "enforcement of antitrust laws is generally weak, and it has been super weak for newspapers because of their political clout."

News perspectives: And then there was one...

Neil Henry, a journalism professor at UC Berkeley and author of "American Carnival: Journalism under Siege in an Age of New Media," says the Bay Area has suffered more than most areas and that when fewer and fewer organizations own and deliver the news, it can't help but be harmful for democracy. What we need is a variety of sources. He points out that when we had a dozen independently owned papers covering a major story, there might be a dozen perspectives. Now, with MediaNews, they only need one reporter covering the story.

Henry covered Africa for the Washington Post between 1989 and 1993 using telexes and a 15mm camera. In those days all major television networks had bureaus in Africa, as did major newspapers and news services. Today there is no American television or cable network based on the continent. Coverage is limited to the New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times and some news services that can be counted on one hand. Henry points out that we are experiencing a great paradox



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of wonderful new tools and a dazzling array of information available on the Internet, but those who contribute the substance—journalists—are dwindling and endangered.

Award-winning media critic Ted Glasser says the Bay Area's media consolidation is emblematic of a larger problem and leads to three things: fewer journalists; homogenization of coverage (with the same story appearing in multiple newspapers); and journalism as an institution in our society ends up being the one institution that's not covered well by the media.

Glasser says the picture is not improving and the further we head down this path the more the story needs to be covered—and the less it is. That's the paradox.

Don't expect Bay Area daily newspapers, virtually all of which are a part of the deal, to make much of an effort to cover it—which is exactly the nature of the problem it raises.

Show us the money

While there has been minimal local coverage of consolidation, daily newspapers in

general have been especially tuned in to the story of their own financial plight and have covered it as a major story in recent years. Daily newspaper readership is down mostly because younger adults are increasingly getting their information online or from sources other than newspapers.

The circulation of daily newspapers is dropping across the country, down more than 11 percent from 1990 to 2005. The local dailies are prime examples. The San Francisco Chronicle recently topped the list of 20 major dailies in percentage circulation decline, dropping 15 percent between March 2005 and March 2006, according to Editor and Publisher. The next largest decline was The Boston Globe at 8.5 percent.

Paid circulation declines coupled with decreased advertising revenue have clouded the future of daily newspapers. Craigslist and other online competition have drastically cut classified advertising revenues, which had been the major profit center for most daily newspapers. Much other advertising is also shrinking or moving online. The value of daily

newspapers as businesses has also declined. The stock of the McClatchy Co., owner of the Sacramento, Fresno and Modesto Bees and other media holdings across the country, was recently downgraded to junk bond status by Standard & Poor's ratings service.

MediaNews' Singleton was quoted in his own Denver Post on Aug. 14 as saying that while advertising dollars may be falling away from large metropolitan dailies, newspapers with circulations between 20,000 and 250,000 are thriving. His perhaps overly rosy big-picture view isn't echoed locally. A July 20 memo linked from the San Francisco Peninsula Press Club Web site, written by one of his top executives, John Armstrong, tells another story. Reporting financial results for the Bay Area News Group-East Bay, which includes the Alameda Newspaper Group, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, Armstrong says revenue fell \$21.3 million, or 8 percent from the prior year, and operating profit dropped \$4.5 million. Three-fourths of the decline came in advertising sales.

Armstrong spoke this month at the San Ramon Valley Exchange Club about the changing world of newspapers as their advertising revenues are lost to the Internet. As a necessary cost savings, he'd recently announced in the paper, the Times had to discontinue the popular format of its weekly TV section as well as reducing its Sunday Perspective to four pages. A reader responded that the Times should focus on quality and the rest will take care of itself.

"I wish it were that simple," Armstrong said. "Quality may not be enough to carry the day."

He said MediaNews was merging the news staffs from its combined papers to produce quality news coverage, including watchdog journalism. But he didn't say what the lack of competition would do to the product.

The former "Valley" section in the Sunday

► Continued on page 16

Tales of two journalists

Two Bay Area journalists who worked for respected Knight-Ridder newspapers and who both have an obvious love for journalism have serious concerns about the future of local journalism in the MediaNews era.

Elisabeth Rubinfien worked for the San Jose Mercury News, most recently serving as metro editor, in charge of city and local coverage, for 12 years until she left in July. She saw the news staff decline from about 400 staff to around 200 and experienced the first year of MediaNews ownership. During Silicon Valley boom times she says the paper saw itself as being one of the best, certainly best in its size category. When its parent Knight Ridder dissolved in the McClatchy-MediaNews sale, many were sad to lose such a venerable and respected organization and "there was sadness that journalism in America would lose a national voice." This was particularly true because MediaNews in the Bay Area was not as respected as Knight Ridder. However, Rubinfien said there was a window when it looked like MediaNews might invest in "local."

"Dean Singleton talked about being positioned well to help define what the future of newspapers in the morning would be," she says.

While feelings were mixed, the dynamic process was

an "exciting prospect." Maybe he would invest online in a big way. What they saw, Rubinfien relates, "was six months of hands-off followed by six months of cutting another 15 percent and shifting some resources to online. The contraction was at a point where they had to cut some local news gathering to do other things. Shifting resources is not investment."

Prior to the MediaNews purchase, Knight Ridder was already viewing foreign and national news as "commodity news" that can be obtained from the New York Times, the Washington Post or other sources. Readers can go to Web sites for the London Times, Al Jazeera or other sources. "While that's not untrue, it's dissembling," Rubinfien says. "If papers start believing what they are saying, close foreign bureaus and lay off staff, it will not be easy to re-create that capability."

Rubinfien sees MediaNews as doing a similar thing, only on a more local and regional level in the Bay Area. "The goal of newspapers has always been to produce something for everyone—watchdog journalism, fine writing, entertainment."

That said, sometimes you see decisions made that create a drift one way or the other. The Mercury News had devoted page three to a feature called "In Depth," which looked more closely at important issues. It recently eliminated "In Depth" in favor of a more chatty features and entertainment-oriented page. The paper had already cut special sections such as "Perspective," "Science and Health" and "Religion and Ethics."

"If you are supposed to be part of the process

that exposes commodification and you are doing it yourself, you are part of the problem," Rubinfien points out.

A Knight Ridder colleague who worked in Contra Costa County and did not want her identity known says that what concerns her is that there is such a need for government watchdog journalism because the public needs and wants to know what's going on in the community. She hopes that more community newspapers will take up the task of covering city councils and schools "to keep the news out there because we're not going to get it from MediaNews." She says we're also not getting serious investigative reporting. The Contra Costa Times once had a four-person investigative team that was dismantled as a luxury it couldn't afford.

Rubinfien believes that the wonderful thing about a newspaper is that it helps build community. There is a "serendipity of exposure," which connects people on issues that they wouldn't search for on the Internet. While the Internet is a fabulous tool, its function is different from newspapers. She says she has great respect for the process that goes into news gathering with its many layers of checks and balances. It produces a reliable final result, something she doesn't see as the case with one person writing on the Internet.

Breaking news

► Continued from page 15

Times now uses the broad-reaching label of "East Bay." The lead story of the East Bay section Sunday, Oct. 21, was a ZIP code change in Discovery Bay; other stories on the front page were from El Sobrante, Walnut Creek and Livermore.

MediaNews president Joseph Lodovic told Bloomberg News last week that Singleton plans to cut costs by combining operations such as newsgathering. He cited copy editing as part of the process that could be done from a central site, but didn't mention work overload or lack of knowledge about subjects in other locations.

Where daily newspaper journalism is headed is unclear. Reports appear almost daily regarding cutbacks in newsroom staffs across the country. Major papers have cut back foreign bureaus as well as in their back yards. The San Francisco Chronicle announced May 19 one of the biggest cuts of any newspaper in the country. It planned to cut 25 percent of its newsroom staff by the end of the summer—100 positions from a staff of 400. The San Jose Mercury News has cut its newsroom staff by about half over the last seven years. The Chronicle has a poignant tribute to departed staffers called "Colleagues Remembered" on its Web site. Publisher Frank Vega said that revenue from advertising and other sources wasn't keeping pace with the cost of running the paper.

An example of what's happening in the industry is contained in a statement from publisher David Hiller of the Los Angeles Times, the daily paper generally regarded as best in the West. The April announcement said the Times would offer voluntary buyouts in hopes of cutting its staff of 2,625 by up to 150 employees. Revenue

for the Times and related units dropped 4 percent in the first quarter, compared to the previous year.

"The fact is we have to take actions to keep staffing in line with the revenue picture, which currently is falling in the core print business," wrote Hiller. "Up to 70 jobs could be cut from the newspaper's news operations, which would bring the newsroom staff to roughly 850. The Times news operation employed about 1,200 when the paper was purchased by Tribune Co. of Chicago in 2000."

In May the LA Times announced an additional cut of 57 more newsroom positions. Two consecutive Times editors, Dean Baquet and John Carroll, had resigned rather than preside over additional staff cuts.

Newspapers are dead! Long live newspapers?

Some popular wisdom has most print newspapers folding in the near future and news shifting online. Many in the blogosphere are already waving goodbye. There is one particularly troubling problem with that. If you trace the source of most serious news online, it generally leads back from Google or Yahoo! or sites such as <http://Digg.com> to newspapers. One survey of 100 bloggers found that 59 said their primary source of information is newspapers. Another 19 said their primary source is other bloggers. So 78 percent of bloggers get their information from newspapers or other bloggers. Of the remaining 22, it's unlikely that much of what they produced was original news. Rather, it's generally opinion and reaction in response to the news.

Newspapers, to compete with online sources, are transforming themselves into "information" companies and increasingly reporting news, when it happens, online. According to the Newspaper Association of America, more than 59 million people (37.3 percent of all active Internet users) visited

newspaper Web sites during the second quarter of 2007, a 7.7 percent increase over the same period a year ago. However, with a few exceptions, the revenue to support online newspaper sites still largely comes from print. No one has figured out how the brave new world of multi-platform information providers can produce enough revenue, presumably from online advertising, to ensure the survival of serious journalism.

At the same time that daily newspapers are hemorrhaging due to online competition, they are feeding the beast that is devouring them. MediaNews, Hearst and McClatchy announced in April of this year that

MediaNews sales to come from the Web by 2012; it is currently 7 percent.

Anyone for a game of monopoly?

McManus, who has been the primary force behind "Grade the News," a project focused on examining the quality of news delivered by Bay Area media, believes that as newspapers decline, we suffer a loss of civic vitality. Staff in government departments who had been accustomed to reporters hanging around, begin to cut corners because they operate in the dark. He says the public is not upset because it is not aware.

"Media consolidation is creating a new form of censorship in the United States and undermining democracy in the process."

—Peter Phillips, associate professor at Sonoma State University and director of Project Censored

they were joining with Yahoo! Inc. and other leading U.S. newspaper companies in a "definitive agreement that expands a growing partnership combining the newspapers' unmatched local news and advertising reach with the technologies and audience of Yahoo!" Most of the newspapers will feature Yahoo!'s HotJobs online employment listings. There's clearly an element of schizophrenic behavior here.

The question these companies must be asking themselves: "Do we join them and share some revenue—even if it's not enough to keep us going—but risk providing enough content to allow them to continue their growth which undermines our basic business?" The trend is clearly toward joining, which may be based on the theory that "if we don't, someone else will, and we won't share any of the revenue."

Bloomberg reported that Dean Singleton wants 20 percent of

What's happening, McManus points out, is that investigative and enterprise reporting suffers and news becomes more public relations and entertainment driven. As an example, he did an examination of the Mercury News coverage of the "finger in the bowl of chili" story and says it ran for 33 days from the day it broke to the day Anna Ayala was arrested. It was in the paper every day and on the front page 11 times. Iraq made page one once, and that was a human interest story.

McManus is author of the book "Market-Driven Journalism: Let the Citizen Beware?" in which he argues that the formerly revered practice of news reporting for the public interest is being superseded by the corporate driven "commodification" of news, treating it like any other product. He served as an expert witness in the Reilly lawsuit challenging the McClatchy-Hearst-MediaNews deal and believes that

Reilly succeeded in exposing and delaying the Bay Area consolidation but didn't stop it.

He says MediaNews argued to the Bush Justice Department that it shouldn't stop the acquisition because news is no longer a monopoly of newspapers. Television, radio and the Internet provide a wealth of different sources for news. While this argument has surface validity, McManus's response is "name some." With minor exceptions, no solely Internet-based sources are really reporting on your local community.

Peter Phillips, an associate professor at Sonoma State University and director of Project Censored, argues that "Media consolidation is creating a new form of censorship in the United States and undermining democracy in the process." He describes a system where fewer than 10 major media corporations now dominate the U.S. news and information systems. Ninety-eight percent of all cities have only one daily newspaper and these are increasingly controlled by huge chains.

"Censorship in the United States today is seldom deliberate, but rather comes under the heading of lost opportunities," said Phillips. "Mega-merged corporate media are predominately interested in the entertainment value of news and the maintenance of high audience viewing/reading levels that equate to profitable advertising sales. Non-sexy or complex stories tend to receive little attention within these corporate media systems."

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Lowell Bergman has a more critical perspective on the current state of Bay Area journalism. A UC Berkeley professor (and one who has focused on the national picture), Bergman has pointed comments about a variety of local media operations and sees the news gathering public interest function as what's in jeopardy:

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"The people who are running the Chronicle have lost sight of why they're running a newspaper."

• Dean Singleton: "He's into making money. He's like Murdoch."
 • Local TV: "Most local stations in San Francisco are making 30 percent profits." Federal FCC licensing standards at one time required more serious reporting. "The FCC now says that what's in the public interest is whatever the public is interested in."

The future is unwritten...

What does the future hold? McManus says one positive is that the value of news is continuing to increase. Our society, environment, economy and institutions are undergoing major changes due to new technologies and other forces. Knowledge remains a key to power, and its shelf life grows ever shorter. And with the global economy and global wars, we need information from even more distant places and we need updates more frequently. It's paradoxical that the most reliable source of the information we need about technologically driven changes is becoming a victim of the very technology it covers. McManus sees a rough five to 10 years as we transition to a more decentralized system of news gathering and reporting involving information accessible on a niche basis with micro-payments by the story or through specialized subscriptions.

Bergman believes that "sooner or later" a Bay Area Web site will emerge "where people go to find out what's going on. Something will happen, and there is no place riper than this area because it's been underserved (with serious journalism) historically."

Fost points to online magazines Salon and Slate (now owned by the Washington Post) as evidence that quality journalism can happen online and thinks there is a lot of potential, but sees a conundrum. The press is mentioned and protected as an institution in the Constitution, but is run largely as a for-profit enterprise whose first interest is to make a buck for shareholders. Fost would like to see the nonprofit world step forward and suggests Mother Jones and the Center for Investigative Reporting in the Bay Area as nonprofit examples. The risk is corporate sponsorships and attacks from the right (which Public Broadcasting has experienced), so the model is not perfect. He hopes the Chronicle can hold on long enough to do something great online but has a concern about a potential spiral of cutting content (the substance of its news and features) leading to fewer readers leading to fewer ads, leading to cutting more content.

Henry suggests that maybe the profit model for delivering news is out of date and points to the BBC (publicly funded serious journalism) as a successful, different approach.

Glasser says there are lots of people who recognize the problem in academia, but journalists are reluctant to talk about it in the context of national policy because of fear of government control. "It's a real fear, but I don't see the state as an enemy. National Public Radio

provides the best radio journalism, and we forget how well it (government funding) has worked there."

The situation demands a better, more imaginative vision than we have had, says Glasser. We need to look beyond models of market-based journalism that have defined us for the past 200 years. We need to understand journalism in the

The press is mentioned and protected as an institution in the Constitution, but is run largely as a for-profit enterprise whose first interest is to make a buck for shareholders.

same way we define other public resources such as schools, museums or libraries. We allow librarians to make independent judgments about what books to put in a library.

It has everything to do with the news agenda and the mosaic we need in a multicultural society, Glasser says. We have to stop saying we have to accept the realities of the marketplace. Our country has the opportunity to provide a leadership role and take a serious look at alternatives to market-based journalism.

Thomas Jefferson's concept of democracy was that in a society where a free and diverse press could write whatever it chose—while there would be abuses, exaggerations and inaccuracies—truth would ultimately emerge from an open marketplace of ideas. Newsbills and various forms of print from 200 years ago were more about the content—about conveying and advocating ideas—than about generating profits for enormous companies. Today that

model has been largely turned on its head.

Knight Ridder (the newspaper company credited with the best, most objective coverage leading up to the Iraq invasion) dissolved because it was a publicly held company facing pressure from a major investment company stockholder. Others are in similar circumstances. Even the New York Times, which because of its two-tier stock structure has been somewhat shielded from such pressure, faced a protest from stockholders at its annual meeting in April led by a Morgan Stanley analyst. Daily newspapers, faced with Internet-related financial pressures, are rapidly joining electronic media and increasingly becoming small cogs in large corporations that consider news a product. This creates a formula for less meaningful news coverage and a society that is deprived of the serious, thoughtful and diverse information and views that Jefferson must have had in mind when he played a major part in crafting our democracy and enshrining protection for the press in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Free, diverse, alert and seriously engaged media can provide the information and analysis needed to avoid realizing Elbert Hubbard's view of democracy as "a form of government by popular ignorance."

For serious journalism to triumph, consumers must demand quality and be willing to pay for it.

Perhaps George Bernard Shaw's view is more appropriate: "Democracy is a device that insures we shall be governed no better than we deserve." ■

Sam Chapman is publisher of the Pacific Sun, a Marin County weekly newspaper that is part of the independent and locally owned Embarcadero Publishing Co., the parent company of the Danville Weekly and four other community newspapers. Dolores Fox Ciardelli contributed to this story.

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Halloween fun on parade

Smiling children wearing colorful costumes frolicked in a Halloween parade on Hartz Avenue during the Danville Fall Crafts Festival on Saturday morning.

Danville Police Officer Trevor McGinnis led the parade, which began at Faz restaurant. The children and their parents marched along Hartz Avenue and the artist vendor tents, circling back to the restaurant. Some of the shop owners on Hartz handed out candy and other goodies as the children went trick-or-treating in their costumes. Kiddies also rode a train and crowded around ruffled scarecrows on School Street.

—Jordan M. Dornilla



Casey Jones the train engine chugs up and down School Street with young riders aboard.



Three costumed children hold hands to walk in the Halloween parade on Hartz Avenue during the Danville Fall Crafts Festival last Saturday.



This peacock, aka Kaitlyn Ishikawa, 1, strutted her stuff in the costume parade.



Two young friends—one princess and the other a fairy—skip together down the parade route.



A gleeful girl masked as a fairy carries her magic wand.



A mother and her children, one clothed in army attire, enjoy the Halloween parade.

The Wine Guy

BY GREGORY PEEBLES



2005 Clos de los Siete

by Michel Rolland
(Mendoza, Argentina)
(Lunardi's Market—Danville,
\$18.99)

Michel Rolland, legendary and controversial winemaker, is a tremendously busy man. His consulting firm, headquartered in Bordeaux, works with over 100 wineries located in roughly a dozen countries. The firm's client list includes some of the luxury wine industry's premier names: Chateaux Belgrave and l'AngÈlus, Casa Lapostolle, Harlan Estate and my personal fave from Napa Valley, Rutherford's Staglin Family Vineyard. No doubt, Monsieur Rolland is a globetrotter and trendsetter (Wine Enthusiast magazine's "Winemaker of the Year" in 2000).

Michel conceived Clos de los Siete in Argentina's mountainous Mendoza growing region. Seven ("siete" in Spanish) French-owned vineyards nestled in the Andean foothills north of Luján de Cuyo provide all the fruit necessary for this 50,000 case project. It's definitely a full throttle red not for the weak of heart. The '05 vintage is 50 percent Malbec (Argentina's flagship varietal), 30 percent Merlot, 10 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Syrah. The wine is big and hearty, like Argentina itself.

It's massive in color; so ink



black and dense, one can clearly see their own reflection in the wine. In the immortal words of the late Harry Caray, Chicago Cubs hall-of-fame announcer, "Holy cow!"

The nose is equally bountiful. Aromas of anise, blackberry, plum, cassis and Bordeaux-like earthiness abound. A bit of green vegetal quality is detectable also, but nothing too overt to spoil the experience.

Rolland loves to slather young red wine with plenty of new oak. Clos de los Siete is no exception. The bouquet fully demonstrates his philosophy: forward and refined essences of cedar, cocoa powder, cinnamon, coffee and vanilla.

One's palate is flooded with young, tight tannins. Give this bruiser another year of bottle age, but not much more. Michel's wines tend to be extremely high in fruit intensity and relatively low in acid. In other words, I think his

wines show best a year or two after release and, depending on the specific property, for an additional five or seven years afterward.

Each varietal contributes significantly to the blend. Malbec with its burly tannin structure and flavor of blackberry provides the broad base. Merlot contributes the necessary soft, plummy roundness. Cabernet Sauvignon adds even more black fruit nuances and chewy tannin. Syrah lends spice, red fruit and roasted meat qualities.

As a whole, this is a very interesting, fairly priced red worthy of your attention. It incorporates rustic, bold flavors with world renowned winemaking pedigree and refinement. Think of Clos de los Siete as a cross between a strong, rugged but lovable cowboy like Bonanza's "Hoss" Cartwright and a sophisticated city slicker like Frasier Crane.

Where should "Hoss" and Frasier dine with this wine? A top-notch steakhouse, of course (Dr. Crane and his black American Express card pick-up the tab...). Clos de los Siete begs to be enjoyed with a medium-rare Porterhouse or New York strip, baked potato, onion rings and grilled asparagus.

Let your palate be the judge...

Have comments or questions about wine? Gregory Peebles, wine industry professional and East Bay resident, can be contacted at caledoniawine@sbcglobal.net.

The Pet Vet says...

BY DR. HEIDI STRAND



Helping kids say goodbye to pet

Q. We have a golden retriever who I'm afraid we may have to put to sleep soon due to arthritis and old age. We've actually been putting it off because of our children. How do I keep them from being traumatized by losing their best friend?

A. Deciding to euthanize your pet gives you much more control over your children's grief than a death where you have no control, such as your pet being hit by a car. You can choose when to say goodbye to your pet and properly prepare your children for the loss. You didn't say how old your children are, but that is an important factor in how they react to a pet's death. Here are some general guidelines:

- It is important not to trivialize a pet's death, as it is usually a child's first experience with death and loss. You should be prepared to answer their questions honestly and openly. It's best not to deceive children, even young ones, about what is happening. Avoid euphemisms that can be confusing, like "put to sleep" or "passed away." Explain euthanasia in age-appropriate terms. Your veterinarian can help explain the

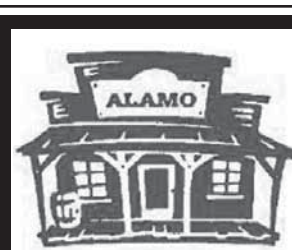
process and assess whether older children should attend. Older children may choose to be present, but make sure that they are completely informed about what is going to happen. In my experience, children are most traumatized when they are pressured either to make a decision about whether or not to euthanize the pet, or to watch the procedure when they really don't want to.

- Younger children often need reassurance that they did not cause the pet's illness or death. They may also ask questions about their parents' or their own death. They should understand that feeling bad about their dog's death is completely normal. On the other hand, sometimes children do not appear to be grieving initially. Their minds are still processing what has happened and they will likely revisit the issue in the future. Do not rush to replace the deceased pet until the family has had time to come to terms with the loss. Don't avoid talking about the pet to try to spare your children sad feelings. Talking about the pet—and even crying—can help greatly with the healing process.
- Help your children memorialize their

pet. Memorials can take the form of scrapbooks, journals, poems, stories, videotapes or goodbye ceremonies. A simple shoebox can be decorated and serve as a memory box with photos, dog tags, toys, and other things to remember your pet. Consider an engraved plaque, or planting a tree or flower over the grave.

- Often parents have difficulty talking to their children about death. We don't like to see our children in pain and grief. Don't hesitate to bring in outside support if you need to. Teachers, school counselors, family therapists and members of the clergy can be very helpful.
- While losing a pet is always very difficult, you may find this a unique opportunity to teach your children about your family's religion or beliefs concerning life and death. It can be a wonderful consolation for your children to realize that they will never really lose their best friend, because he will be with them in their hearts and memories forever.

—Questions can be mailed to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526; or e-mailed to hstrand@eastbayspca.org.



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Golfing in China



TJ Mc Colgan arrives in Shanghai for the Summer World Games with his parents Mike and Linda.

Special Olympics golfer TJ Mc Colgan of Danville attended the 2007 Summer World Games in Shanghai from Oct. 2-11 with his parents Linda and Mike where, they reported, the people opened their hearts and organizational skills to make it extremely "special."

"The newspapers here have front page as well as a special section covering the events every day," reported Mike Mc Colgan. "We played golf at the best course in Shanghai and it was very interesting."

"The games are another inspirational experience that we can add to our 'rich memory bank,'" he added.

Tassajara Valley 4-H



National 4-H Week was Oct. 7-14 and the Tassajara Valley 4-H wants to promote its club in this community.

"Well, 4-H is a great way to make new friends, be part of a great organization, and learn about new projects like beef, cooking, arts and crafts, cake decorating, cavies, horse, goat, photography, poultry, rabbit, small engine, sheep, sewing, swine, and vet science," this year's president, Nick Winterhalder, wrote in an e-mail. "The most important thing is that 4-H is a community of young people who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills."

This year's officers are Winterhalder, a junior at De La Salle High School; Vice President Monica Riley, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School; Secretary Chris Riley, a freshman at San Ramon Valley; Treasurer Kendyl Schultze; Reporter Natalie Schneider; and Activity Leaders Peter Riley, Dennis Riley and Sommer McCann. The Sergeants of Arms are Dominic Ferrante, a junior at De la Salle, and Mark Heavey, a junior at Monte Vista High School.

The Tassajara Valley 4-H Club meets on the second Monday of each month at Tassajara Hills Elementary School in Danville. More information can be obtained from Laura Vaughn at 683-3114; e-mail her at laura@lauravaughn.com.

Class of '57 returns to SRVHS

The San Ramon Valley High School classes of 1957 held its reunion recently, kicking off the weekend's festivities with a gathering and din-



Enjoying their 50th SRVHS reunion are (l-r) Roger Schulte, who was principal in 1957; French teacher Sharlee Elsworth; Sally Yeager Gibson, chairwoman of the reunion; and Jim Cozens, Dean of Boys in 1957 and principal for 12 years.

ner Friday evening with 76 graduates and guests hosted by Janet Willford's Leadership Class. Then they attended the football game, and the former players were called out onto the field one-by-one at halftime.

The Reunion Dinner was held Saturday evening at the Pleasanton Sheraton, with 140 graduates and guests; on Sunday, 80 attended a picnic at Osage Park. Each graduate received a 50th reunion yearbook with 90 pages of biographies and photos, produced by Lyn Read, who only attended SRVHS her freshman year but still felt very attached to the school and her Alamo classmates. Also Lloyd Fisher created an assortment of DVDs and CDs that included eight hours of music from the '50s and photos from the yearbooks.

Athletic Hall of Fame



San Ramon Valley High School Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes six new inductees, (l-r) John Raynor, Ed Le Cara, Rob Heidger, Mike Campbell and Jeff Kopp. Missing is Tina Brown.

Earlier this month, San Ramon Valley High School inducted six new members into its Sports Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by the school's Alumni Association. The new inductees are:

- Tina Bowen, class of '96, who played four seasons as a cross country and track and field athlete; she was named All League for four seasons in a row;
- Mike Campbell, class of '78, who excelled at every sport he played in high school, including baseball, basketball and football, and continues his interest in sports as a volunteer;
- Edward Charles Le Cara, class of '91, a four-year varsity wrestler, a three-year varsity starter as a full-back and linebacker on the football team, and a four-year varsity shot-putter and discus thrower;
- Rob Heidger, class of '87, a two-time varsity basketball player plus he played volleyball for eight years for the Association of Volleyball Professionals, including at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney;
- Jeff Kopp, class of '90, played linebacker and offensive tackle for two years, garnering many honors, and excelled at varsity track and field; and
- John Raynor, who was honored for his contributions to the SRVHS athletic program where he has been since 1987.

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

Gold and the Harlans of San Ramon (part 1)

Nearly 160 years ago, gold was found in California, a discovery which transformed the rural Mexican hinterlands into a booming state. On Jan. 24, 1848, a diarist in Coloma wrote, "this day some kind of mettle was found in the tail race that looks like gold."

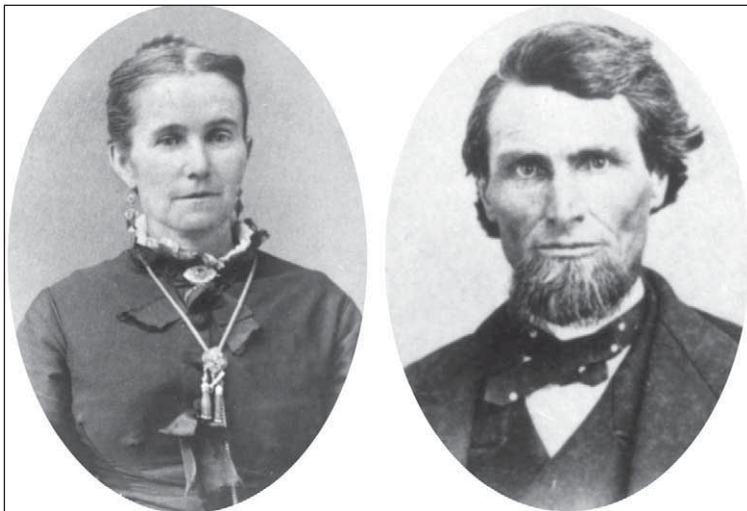
Gold fever gripped the population, emptying Alta California's cities and changing California forever. In the span of a year, the pastoral days of Hispanic culture were ended as the energetic and chauvinistic Americans came to mine and stayed to settle. San Ramon Valley pioneers were part of it all.

Some, like Mary and John Jones, Joel and Minerva Harlan, Leo and Jane Norris, William and Mary Lynch, and Jose Maria Amador were already in California when gold was found. Others, including Andrew and Dan Inman, Albert Stone, R.O. Baldwin, William Meese and Felix Coats, came to California for the gold.

Our best stories about the early gold rush involve the Harlan family because of its links to Peter and Elizabeth (Jane) Wimmer, who were in Coloma that cold Jan. 24th. The Wimmers came to California because Joel Harlan's father talked them into it. George Harlan had always possessed a touch of wanderlust, and when he read Lansford W. Hastings' book "The Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California," he decided to leave Michigan and strike out for the West Coast. His nephew, Jacob Harlan, wrote that George "declared that as soon as the harvest was over and his grain sold, he would sell his farm and leave for California."

A real apostle for the move, George brought his family and extended family along. According to his daughter, Mary Harlan Smith, he also "hunted up his (ex) brother-in-law Peter Wimmer who had moved to Missouri and persuaded him to join our party with his family." When George's sister died, Peter was widowed and he had remarried Elizabeth Baiz. Two first cousins, Jacob and Joel Harlan, were teenagers on that trip and called the Wimmers' "Aunt Jane" and "Uncle Peter."

The large Harlan-Young party (the other family contingent was headed by Samuel C. Young) arrived in California in 1846, barely escaping the early Sierra storms which sealed the fate of the Donners. The story of this trek is told in Jacob Harlan's



Minerva Fowler Harlan and Joel Harlan were pioneers who came west to California on a wagon train led by Joel's father in 1846.

book, "California, 1846-1888." Once in California, the Wimmers stayed at New Helvetia (later Sacramento) while the Harlans moved to the Bay Area.

Capt. John Sutter of New Helvetia had been looking for a better sawmill location for years. Finally, on Aug. 27, 1847, he signed a contract with James W. Marshall to erect and operate a sawmill at Coloma, about 45 miles from the South Fork of the American River. Marshall hired Wimmer as assistant, 13 Mormons and some local Indians.

Marshall and 16-year-old John Wimmer left the fort Aug. 28 to select the specific site for the mill and were soon joined by Wimmer's father Peter, Jane and the younger children. Jane Wimmer cooked for the crew, in addition to caring for her family.

Histories tell us James Marshall discovered some pieces of gold in the river as he inspected the progress of the mill work. Several tests were applied to the metal, including boiling it for hours in a solution of lye which Jane Wimmer was using to make soap. Jane had come from mining country and had panned for gold as a girl near Auraria in Georgia. Later she said that her son had brought her a nugget. "I said, 'this is gold, and I will throw it into my lye kettle, and if it is gold, it will be gold when it comes out.'"

A letter from Peter Wimmer to the Harlan boys told about his work on the sawmill and said their son had discovered the first gold. He wrote that the news was out, even though Sutter had tried to keep it

quiet. According to the letter, Sutter, Marshall and Wimmer had taken the precaution of calling the local Indians together and leasing 12 square miles of land around the mill from them.

No matter who found the first gold, news of easy riches at the surface of the American River spread quickly in California and beyond.

Sources: Jacob Harlan's "California 1846-1888," Anne D. Amerson's "Jennie Wimmer Tested Gold in Her Pot," Mary Ann Harlan Smith's "Recollections of a Pioneer Mother."

Beverly Lane, a longtime Danville resident, is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon."

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Dr. Robert Dees, DC of Canyon Chiropractic Family Health and Wellness Center which is located at 2570 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite A-106, San Ramon, has helped countless patients over the past two decades regain health and vitality. Assisted by his associates, Debbie Dominguez and Sue Perry, Dr. Robert Dees, DC has created a well respected family practice whose purpose is to help as many people as they can live healthy, drug free lives.

What makes their office so unique is the fact that they have been successfully helping patients not only with excellent chiropractic care, but are also helping their patients look good, lose weight and change their lives.

In the past, Dr. Dees' patients have lost a cumulative of over 100 pounds and over 100 inches on this scientifically designed nutritional cleanse program. "This is not a diet but a cleanse," explained Dr. Dees.

The program not only peels off the fat, it increases a person's energy, lean muscle mass and improves mood and focus. This is why famous author John Gray (Men are from Mars women are from Venus) highly recommends this program.

The Cleansing Program is composed of organic nutrients and is based on a scientific formulation that works synergistically as a system.

The body stores dangerous impurities in fat tissue as a way of diluting and neutralizing them, keeping impurities away from vital organs. If you gently remove the impurities, the body no longer needs to hold onto fat and you turn the body into a "fat burning" machine.

"What we have seen in our patients is nothing short of miraculous" explained Dr. Dees. "One of my patients, who is currently on the cleanse, reported that he has lost 40 pounds in four weeks, another lost 7 pounds and 12 inches in just four days. Results may vary. In a recent study participants averaged a weight loss of 7 lbs at the completion of the first 9 Day program. This is not a starvation diet or a fast, but a fully nutritionally balanced program." The program is doctor monitored, safe and effective.

"Everyone needs to cleanse to avoid the effects of impurities from food and the environment," said Dr. Dees. "Especially thin people who store them in the liver, kidneys and vital organs."

To find out more about this program, contact Canyon Chiropractic at 925-867-1414 for our next workshop on this amazing program or go to www.GoCleanse.com/docdees.



Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE



JEFFREY S. WELI

Head shot to victory

Mathew Kaplan at left watches as teammate Kyle Cuenin of Sonic Boom gives a head shot to the ball Saturday in a game against the Spartans, coached by Bob Rueckert, in the U14 Boys White Plus. Sonic Boom, coached by Jim Zygutis, won 3-2.



Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 26

Football

San Ramon Valley at Freedom, 7:30 p.m.
Monte Vista at Amador, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 27

Water Polo

San Ramon Valley at De La Salle

Women's Volleyball

San Ramon Valley Tournament at San Ramon Valley High School

Tuesday, Oct. 30

Women's Tennis

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

Women's Volleyball

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

Wednesday, Oct. 31

Water Polo

NCS First Round

Thursday, Nov. 1

Women's Volleyball

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

Friday, Nov. 2

Football

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

Golden victory for Tornadoes

The U-11 Mustang Tornadoes took first place at the Golden Gate Tournament played on the polo fields in Golden Gate Park recently with (front, l-r) Katrina Palumbo, Shelby Cooke, Stephanie Pritzkow, Kat Klass, Regan Leach, Natalie Elam; (back) Assistant Coach Frank Squires, Aimee Squires, Maddie Rabago, Maya Felten, Hannah Perrien, Hannah Smith, Katelyn Krommenhoek, Taylor Cuenin and Head Coach Mike Cooke.

Look out for the Avalanche

The Avalanche won the Saddleback Tournament earlier this month in Danville in the White-plus division of U12 girls. Team members are (top, l-r) Coach Bob Nelson, Coach Bill Warnken, Katelyn Belson, Noelle Ruese, Marina Velo, Madison Chambers, Coach Jose Velo; (middle) Kendall Kessler, Annie Reyes, Aly Cunningham, Haley Anderson, Cami Warnken, Samantha Londynsky; (front) Courtney Ashoo, Casey McCracken, Whitney Johnson, Paige Wells and Hanna Student.



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INDEX

- **BULLETIN BOARD**
100-155
- **FOR SALE**
200-270
- **KIDS STUFF**
330-355
- **JOBS**
510-585
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
600-690
- **HOME SERVICES**
700-799
- **FOR RENT/
FOR SALE
REAL ESTATE**
801-860

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Bulletin Board

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Holiday Boutique

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Pleasanton, 7258 Valley View Ct
Garage Sale, SAT, OCT 20, 8:30-1:30
Possibly more neighbors to join—
Almost new Radiant Top elec. kitchen
stove & a used elec. kitchen stove with
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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 2201 Goldcrest Circle, Oct. 27th 8-2
GARAGE / SAMPLE SALE
Saturday Oct. 27th 8-2:00
2201 Goldcrest Circle
Pleasanton (Between Valley and
Black) No junk! Small Appliances,
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set, plus much more miscellaneous
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Pleasanton, 3277 Flemington Court, Oct 27 10-3

Antiques, old tools, books and more
from the 30's

Pleasanton, 4142 Francisco St, Oct 27&
28, 9 - 3:00 p.m.

Pleasanton, 5565 Corte Sonora, October 27, 2007, 8-1
Patio Furniture, Men & Womens
Clothing, Men's Cowboy Boots,
Bedding, Home Decor items. 2001
Acura 2-door coupe for sale.

Pleasanton, Cheshire Court, Sat Oct. 27 8-12
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October 27 Cheshire Court Pleasanton
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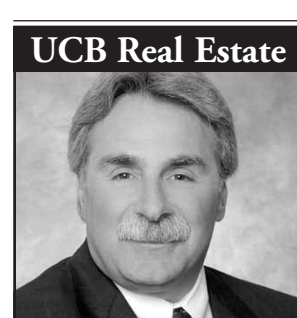
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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2007

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 24	Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$849,000	Lowest sale reported: \$502,000	Lowest sale reported: \$247,500
Highest sale reported: \$1,450,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,950,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,382,000
Average sales reported: \$1,149,500	Average sales reported: \$935,750	Average sales reported: \$719,265

Homes Today



BY JOE COMBS

Alamo Real Estate: Third Quarter Review

If you have been watching television or reading the big time newspapers, you are probably wondering if your home is worth what you paid for it. Unfortunately, the doom and gloomers are reporting on a national real estate market that isn't particularly relevant to any local market, let alone ours. Unlike candy bars and computers, the Real Estate market is local in nature and what is happening in Dayton, Ohio, has no bearing on the value of your home in Alamo. You just can't buy a Dayton home on the Internet and have it shipped to Alamo or vice versa.

Let's take a look at single family home sales in Alamo and see how things are shaping up through the end of the third quarter. Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! More Alamo single family detached homes have sold in 2007 (Jan. 1-Sept. 30). I bet you don't hear about that on the nightly news (not a surprise). In 2006 a total of 121 homes sold while in 2007 a total of 143 homes have sold. That's an 18 percent increase in unit sales year on year. Average sold price in '06 was \$1,775,114, and in '07 it was \$1,730,719. That's roughly a 2.5 percent drop in average price. Average price paid per square foot also dipped slightly (-2 percent) from \$524 in '06 to \$515 in '07. A market adjustment perhaps, hardly a meltdown! The price of oil varies more than this on a monthly basis, so it just doesn't seem to be quite as bad as the folks in the media want us to believe. Prices in the Alamo market have risen more than 50 percent during the past five years, so a 2.5 percent give back seems pretty small in comparison. If you bought a new car last year, it's probably worth 25-30 percent less than you paid for it.

During the first quarter of '07 a total of 49 homes sold in Alamo, compared to 54 in 2006 for a 10 percent decrease in unit sales. They sold on average at a square foot price of \$497 in '07 compared to \$532 per square foot during Q1 of '06 or about 7 percent cheaper on a square foot basis. Admittedly, these numbers at the beginning of the year don't look so hot, but as the year progresses some changes begin to occur. So read on!

During the second quarter of '07 unit sales were 42, significantly more (23.5 percent) than the 34 reported in '06. Interesting, price paid per square foot in Q2, 2006 was \$531 while in the second quarter of 2007 it was lower by roughly -1 percent at \$526 which was actually \$2 per square foot higher than was paid in Q1 '06 and \$11 dollars more than was paid in the first quarter of '07. Go figure!

During the third quarter of '07 a total of 52 sales were reported in Alamo. This compares to just 33 sales in the first quarter of 2006. That's a whopping 57.5 percent increase in unit sales quarter on quarter. Average price paid per square foot works out to be \$1 less in 2007 at \$522 a square foot, however, average purchase price increased from \$1,757,530 to \$1,829,666. Hold the phone! That's a 10.4 percent increase in average price paid over the previous year. Median price for the quarter also increased from \$1,499,000 to \$1,575,000 for a 5 percent increase in median price. Could this represent an increase in confidence, a market bottom or an inexplicable anomaly? Only time will tell.

At the time of this writing there are 103 homes in Alamo listed as Active or Pending sale. Ten of the 103 homes are listed as pending. Average list price for the 93 Actives is \$1,997,251 while the average list price for the 10 Pending sale is \$1,506,700. That's a huge spread of 32 percent. On average, 16 Alamo homes have sold per month in 2007 which means the market is carrying 5.8 months worth of inventory. It will be interesting to see how the fourth quarter plays out, so you won't want to miss a single column.

To receive a copy of our annual Alamo Market Review including the complete detail, please send an e-mail to joecombs@thecombsteam.com and place Alamo Market Review in the subject line. No e-mail, no worries; call me to arrange delivery, 989-6086.

Data presented in this column is based in whole or in part on data supplied by the Contra Costa and Alameda MLS service and other quoted sources. Joe and Nancy Combs, Remax and the MLS service do not guarantee the accuracy of this information.

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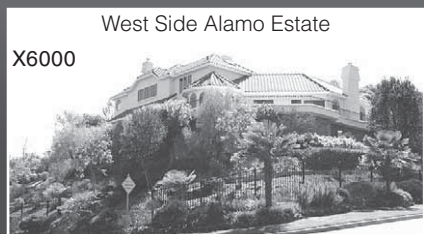
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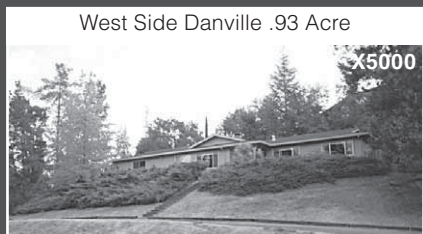
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196 Bolla Ave. \$1,895,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 337-3333

BLACKHAWK

4 Bedrooms

29 Chestnut Pl. \$1,975,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3353

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms

2134 Presidio Ct. \$574,950
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 510-910-3864

4 Bedrooms

5353 Old School Rd. \$1,999,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3353

423 Sutton Cir. \$644,950
Sun 1-4 Prudential 858-4384

5 Bedrooms

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

SAN RAMON

2 Bedrooms

9024 Craydon Cir. \$265,000
Sat 1-4 UCB / Brian Wright 417-7138

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

3 Bedrooms

421 Pinenut Ct. \$649,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

119 Landsdown Loop \$726,000
Sat/Sun 12-4 iStar Real Estate 784-8624

4 Bedrooms

148 Enchanted Wy. \$649,900
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

4325 Canyon Crest Rd. W. \$999,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

DUBLIN

3 Bedrooms

4482 Chancery Ln. \$619,000
Sun 1-4 Tri-Valley Realtors 270-9000

6560 King Way \$650,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Molz Real Estate 846-8416

4513 Peacock Ct. \$778,900
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

4 Bedrooms

4340 Foxford Wy. \$875,000
Sun 12-3 Hometown GMAC 337-2989

3227 South Bridgepointe Ln. \$899,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 858-5400

5 Bedrooms

5336 Signal Hill Dr. \$1,125,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 858-5400

5017 Colebrook Ct. \$1,259,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 858-5400

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

PLEASANTON

1 Bedrooms

68 Peters Ave. \$353,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 398-0234

2 Bedrooms

4309 Krause St. \$615,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

3 Bedrooms

844 Division St. \$1,225,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Investment RE 963-0569

3193 Montpelier Ct. \$719,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 922-1575

4332 Diavila Ave. \$739,000
Sat 1-4 Re/Max 847-8900

3459 Park Pl. \$879,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 918-2045

4 Bedrooms

681 Saint John \$1,069,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

748 St. John Cir. \$1,029,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 519-3534

3302 Prairie Dr. \$1,125,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

307 Brienne Ct. \$1,249,000
Sat 1-3:30 Century 21 Mission - Bishop Real Estate 699-9508

1714 Equestrian \$1,425,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

1325 Stone Canyon Ct. \$1,669,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

3705 Ashwood Dr. \$775,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 462-7653

7355 Jaybrook Ct. \$793,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

1530 Ridgewood Rd. \$819,000
Sun 1-4 UCB / Brian Wright 417-7138

6828 Corte Salcedo \$819,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000

2025 Raven Rd. \$950,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

2518 Larrieket Ct. \$965,000
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 872-8286

5 Bedrooms

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

LIVERMORE

1 Bedrooms

1085 Murrieta, # 335 \$274,325
Sat 11-3 Hometown GMAC 963-8800

2 Bedrooms

1526 Portola Ave. \$339,950
Sat 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000

3 Bedrooms

6490 Aspenwood Dr. \$639,950
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 200-4130

2552 Regent Rd. \$749,950
Sat 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000

4 Bedrooms

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

575 Brookfield Dr. \$645,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 455-7020

2329 Rapolla Cmn. \$719,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

420 Jackson Ave. \$727,272
Sun 1-4 Century 21 Mission-Bishop Real Estate 699-9508

4052 Emerson Dr. \$799,950
Sun 1-4 Tri-Valley Realtors 270-9000

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



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Peter Johnson

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Cory Slattengren

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Production Assistant; Team "Black"
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