

## Playing ball for 50 years

San Ramon Valley Little League to celebrate anniversary > **page 14**

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### Rains strain storm sewers

Neighbors want catch basins for Blackhawk Road runoff

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# Danville

## W E E K L Y

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

### Measure J bus plans rolling

Officials focusing on who will run school service

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# Growing Mona Lisa

page 12

A local 'concept artist' charmed Alamo—and I-680 travelers—by creating a masterpiece on the hillside



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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

**Q: What do you most strive for in your life? Accomplishments, security, love, power, excitement, knowledge or something else?**



I guess knowledge. I'm always interested in learning new things. Through knowledge comes better conditions for many if not most. The problems that face society are a result of ignorance. I think we can improve our conditions collectively if we strive to understand and know more in our world.

**Ward Belding**  
*retired from public transportation*



A lot of it is inter-related. If I accomplish something, I am excited about it. Whenever I learn something, I accomplish something. I think love comes and goes with what you are going through in life.

**Erin Vichter**  
*employee at Pete's Brass Rail and Car Wash*



Love first. Excitement second. Everything else comes after that. What's more important than love? If you're going for power, it's a damaged person looking for a replacement for love. Power is not a natural thing to go for as made evident by World War II and everywhere. Love is what it's all about. What are you going to do if love is not in your life? I guess you could go for power.

**Dirk Hamilton**  
*songwriter, musician*



When my kids are happy, I'm happy. I worked in politics and I wanted to have kids. I left the Public Policy Institute of California for my kids. I wanted to do both. It was an adjustment. I guess I always wanted to be a stay-at-home mom.

**Beth Fehr**  
*stay-at-home mom*



Love first. Accomplishment second. Knowledge third. Then excitement. I'm improving my music skills. It's an accomplishment. It's exhilarating and sometimes peaceful. You're in a zone. You let go. Some call it channeling. You just get there. If you've been there, then you can recognize it.

**Don Evans**  
*guitarist*

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

## ABOUT THE COVER

Photographer Kim Komenich captured concept artist Will Ashford and his creation of Mona Lisa in all their glory on an Alamo hillside in 1979 in a picture that ran in Life magazine in July. Mona Lisa was just one of Ashford's "geoglyphs," but it put Alamo on the map and is still remembered fondly by area residents. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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## NEWS DIGEST

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ I think it makes the flow of traffic easier. ”

—Trustee Bill Clarkson about his hopes for school buses to be reinstated, funded by Measure J. See story, page 7.

**Amber Bistro buys Basil Leaf Cafe**

The owners of Danville's Amber Bistro, which is known for its California and Southeast Asian cuisines, purchased Basil Leaf Café, which is right across the street, in December.

The Basil Leaf ownership was selling its restaurant and Amber was eager to purchase the popular Danville Italian café, said Dawn Janssen, who is co-owner of Amber Bistro with her husband Eric. Both Amber Bistro and Basil Leaf are on Hartz Avenue.

“We love it,” said Janssen. “We wanted to continue to keep it being a cornerstone of Danville dining. We wanted to keep it in the family.”

She said they will not change Basil Leaf much. They will consider making improvements and are thinking of adding pizza to Basil Leaf's menu.

“We wanted to keep things as they are,” she said. “It's a successful restaurant. We want to capitalize on that. We want to make sure the regulars are happy.”

**Piepho wraps up her year as head of Board of Supervisors**

District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho's yearlong term as chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors expired this week and District 5 Supervisor Federal D. Glover was elected. Chairmen run weekly meetings, have final approval of the agenda and can approve urgency items, remove items, and have items supplemented on the agenda.

In the past year, Piepho's local accomplishments have included a signal and lane reconfiguration at the Stone Valley Road intersection in Alamo; increased California Highway Patrol on Danville Boulevard, and a year-long traffic and speed study on Danville Boulevard to determine an appropriate speed limit. Additionally, her office set aside money to fund a school resource officer at Monte Vista High School.

**School district ready for kindergarten**

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is holding kindergarten enrollment for the 2008-09 school year beginning this month. Parents of incoming kindergarten students may pick up enrollment packets at their resident school beginning Jan. 22. For information regarding eligibility requirements, important dates, and to determine school of residence, go to [www.srvusd.net](http://www.srvusd.net) or contact the Educational Services Department at 552-2914.

The San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs will hold two free Kindergarten Information Nights with a panel of teachers, parents and curriculum experts discussing the kindergarten curriculum and issues regarding child readiness.

“Kindergarten has dramatically changed over the past five years,” reads the PTA flier. “Children are being asked to do more academically. ... As parents we want you to understand exactly what these expectations are so you can make the best decision for your children.”

The program is being held from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, at Montair Elementary School in Danville, and in San Ramon at Coyote Creek Elementary on Feb. 19. Register at [www.srvcouncilpta.org](http://www.srvcouncilpta.org). Many elementary schools also have their own informational meetings. Call individual schools for information.

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## Vets Hall committee gathering memories

*Past will be featured in the future at the Veterans Memorial Building*

by Jordan M. Doronila

Veterans are gathering photos and memories to preserve the history of the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville.

"We are asking members of the community to come forth with written or verbal knowledge of the use of the building," said John Estes, member of the Veterans Memorial Building Committee. "We want to preserve its historical structure and oral history."

The committee already has a binder that contains photographs of the veterans' hall, some very detailed, taken especially for the preservation efforts.

"We are looking to preserve this building as much as we can," Estes added.

The Historical Preservation and

Artifacts Committee—an arm of the Veterans Memorial Building Committee—is also asking people in the area to share old war photos, documents or memorabilia. The artifacts will be used to embellish the newly rebuilt or renovated Veterans Memorial Building on Hartz Avenue.

"We want to have the history going forward," said committee member Karen Stepper, also a Danville Town Councilwoman. "This is a chance to get all that history together."

War veterans and public officials are planning on either rebuilding or remodeling the old Veterans Memorial Building downtown. They are collecting artifacts for the architect who will integrate the memorabilia in the

► Continued on page 7



The Historical Preservation and Artifacts Committee, (from left) Karen Stepper, John Estes, Del Loewe and Denzil "Mac" McCuskey, go over the collection of photographs taken to preserve the details of the old building as it undergoes rebuilding.

JORDAN M. DORONILA

## San Ramon Valley continues preparing for the 'big one'

*Federal grant of \$45,000 funds emergency training this month designed specifically for earthquakes*

by Jordan M. Doronila

A federal grant will help Danville and its neighboring cities deal with earthquakes, floods, terrorism and other disasters, said town officials.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently gave \$45,000 to train Danville and San Ramon staff to prepare themselves when an earthquake rocks California. The grant will fund an Introduction to Emergency Management course, designed specifically for earthquakes.

"This is the third year we have done this," said Greg Gilbert, town emergency services manager. "The

program is so popular."

The 40-hour course teaches how to respond to earthquakes, collect and analyze data, and follow guidance from the federal and state government agencies during emergencies.

Training will take place at the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District in San Ramon from Jan. 28-31, with people also attending from the Fire District, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Sheriff's Office for Emergency Services. Central Contra Costa Sanitary District and East Bay Municipal Utility District will also participate.

"The opportunity to train with staff, side by side, is invaluable," Gilbert said. "They build camaraderie, and identify tasks and resources and issues on a local level, making them better prepared at an efficient level."

He said staff tests its skills in a fake disaster on the last day of the course.

"It's a full blown drill involving a large earthquake in a simulated city," he said. "It's an assessment."

"You do your best," he added. "The goal is to give you tools and awareness and guidance on how to manage an earthquake. If you can deal with an earthquake, you can manage just about anything."

Instructors from the California Specialized Training Institute will teach the course. Police Chief Chris Wenzel initiated bringing the trainers to Danville a few years ago. He said town staff used to go San Luis Obispo for training, but it is more cost effective if the trainers came to the Bay Area.

The program started three years ago in Danville and San Ramon, and it eventually expanded to Dublin and Livermore. The course at first cost Danville \$32,000.

The \$45,000 grant covers tuition for 79 students, and it was awarded by the Local Super Urban Area Security Initiative of

Homeland Security.

"It took me a number of months dealing with the bureaucracy to figure out how all this stuff works," Gilbert said. "It's like going to the DMV."

"My job is to make sure that we are in compliance and to make sure we are prepared as we can be," he added.

He noted that Danville also was given new and used military equipment to deal with disasters as well as crimes. The equipment includes tape, ladders, lighters and blankets, Wenzel said.

"The military gives all sorts of stuff," he said. "We put it away for a big event." ■



Storms last Friday slowed down drivers with rain and gusty winds near the old Danville Oak Tree on Diablo Road.

JORDAN M. DORONILA

## January storm bashes Danville area

*Emergency crews cope with power outages and fallen branches*

PG&E reported last Friday that 7,600 customers in its Diablo Division were without power, with 174 separate outages, due to the rainstorm that hit the Bay Area that day.

The outages were mainly caused by branches falling onto power lines and customers were out of power for several hours. The Diablo Division includes parts of Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek and Concord, said PG&E spokesman David Eisenhauer.

"Our maintenance crews were out last night helping at a bad accident on the freeway," said Police Chief Chris Wenzel on Friday. "And the power lines (were) falling in Alamo."

Wenzel said emergency crews remained on alert as the Danville area was pelted by storms, which started on Friday and continued over into the weekend, with high winds.

He said crews are managed carefully in storms such as these,

sending some help in nearby emergency situations but keeping them available for situations close to home.

Danville had minor flooding at Cameo Acres off Green Valley Road, and drains and gutters clogging on Camino Ramon, near Costco. A tree limb fell at Hap Magee Ranch Park as a result of the storm, and water backed up on Front Street in downtown Danville.

► Continued on page 6

# Storm sewers strained during deluge

Neighbor wants catch basin to stop Blackhawk Road runoff

by Natalie O'Neill

Pooling and minor flooding in older Danville neighborhoods—aggravated by last weekend's downpour—drove homeowners to the town engineering department to resolve rain accumulation dilemmas this week.

Wet socks, soggy yards and large puddles prompted a handful of phone calls with concerns about storm sewers and gutters.

For Diablo Creek Place resident John Schembri, the problem has to do with a lack of catch basins—the metal grate where rain water is designed to flow from streets.

Whenever it rains, he can expect a 2-foot-wide stream to run from Blackhawk Road in front of his house, to the nearest storm drain, he said.

"If I wanted to cross from my driveway to the street I'd have to step in it," the 20-year resident said. "There is a tremendous amount of water."

Town Engineer Steve Lake said Schembri's problem is not uncommon for a subdivision built in 1978. The street and its adjacent cul-de-sac rest on the border of Blackhawk and have six catch basins and a piping system that is 15 inches in diameter.

"There are occasions where we have storms that are larger than what the system can handle," Lake said.

After a storm system is built, he said, the town rarely goes back and adds to it, aside from maintenance or significant design problems, which typically only occur in systems designed before 1950.

"In the case of a modern subdivi-

sion like Diablo Creek, there's very little work that needs to be done," Lake said. "It has a curb gutter and sidewalk. That gutter is designed to handle those types of flows."

Up to 5 inches deep of rain on occasion is still considered normal, he said; abnormal is when the water raises above the curb.

But Schembri, who lives four houses down from Blackhawk Road, says another catch basin should be added closer to the road to prevent the water from streaming heavily in front of his home.

There is so much water that algae grows on the storm sewer, which causes a slippery safety issue, he said.

"I think they should fix it," he said.

From Jan. 1-8, the town of Danville accumulated 5.93 inches of rain, taken from a measuring station at the Danville Library at 1 p.m. Tuesday, according to the County Flood Control District.

Those were the highest numbers of the 24 county measuring stations and nearly half of the town's total rain accumulation since July. Measuring stations are in areas like Mt. Diablo State Park, Martinez, Orinda and Richmond.

Mayor Candace Andersen said the drain system in the Diablo Creek neighborhood is functioning as it was designed to and that the town had been in communication with Schembri.

"Drainage (problems) are rare—usually it's when we have these big storms," Andersen said.

When Town Council looks into whether storm drain improvements are necessary, members consider if people or property are in danger, if



After Danville's biggest rainfall of the year, a Diablo Creek Place resident wants additional catch basins, like the one shown above, for water run-off, to prevent a two-foot-wide street-stream from flowing in front of his home.

the draining is functioning, if there is anything they can do to improve it, and if changes have occurred since the area was designed.

"As uses of property have changed, you aren't finding the original design as effective as it was," Andersen said.

Recently, neighbors on La Questa Drive off Diablo Road in central Danville complained and filed a lawsuit against the town about a storm sewer issue on their street, which had been designed in the 1940s. The town settled out of court and completed the project for approximately \$800,000.

"What we get there is water that ponds in front yards and enters garages. That's a serious problem that affects people's livelihood,"

Lake said.

After some research of the Diablo Creek area, he said there is a difference between the La Questa Drive project and what's going on in Schembri's neighborhood.

"I don't want to minimize his issue, because honestly I haven't seen it," he added.

The storm sewer system on La Questa Drive was designed to flow in dirt ditches to the creek. But over the years the ditches have been blocked by trees and landscape.

"Technology wasn't quite as good in the 1940s," said Michael Stella, senior civil engineer for the town of Danville. "It's true of neighborhoods of that vintage—they rely on roadside ditches."

Storm sewers repaired and

upgraded with the town's capital improvement funds and are usually reviewed in the summer months, Stella said. Engineers present projects they deem important and the Town Council prioritizes them.

When engineering storm sewers, developers take into account how much hard surface, like concrete or asphalt, there is in the area compared to soft surface like grass and dirt. Soft surface absorbs rainfall and the more soft surface, the fewer storm drains are needed.

Designers also take into account the slope of the road, elevation of the neighborhood and climate.

"Once the system is designed, we very seldom go back and change it," Lake said. ■

## Feasibility foundation holding fundraiser

Money will go toward study on Alamo incorporation

by Natalie O'Neill

Low-key, but with a high turnout. The freshly formed Alamo Community Foundation is aiming to make its first fundraising event casual but well-attended, organizers say.

The nonprofit group will host a dinner and auction at Round Hill Country Club on Saturday, Jan. 26, to raise money for a feasibility study needed to determine if Alamo is capable financially of becoming a city. It begins at 6:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased for \$125.

"It's kind of got a horsy theme. It's not black-tie, we're trying to keep it low-key and fun," said Ellen Sanchez, who is on the board of directors for the foundation.

"Discover 94507" was the theme chosen for the event,

with the hopes of getting Alamo friends and neighbors to meet, mingle and find out more about incorporation.

"We chose that so Alamo people can get to know each other while they raise money," Sanchez said.

When all is said and done, about \$200,000 over the next year must be raised for the study. The nonprofit plans to hold other events in the future but hasn't yet determined what they will be.

"We're doing it because the studies need to be done and then people can decide for themselves," Sanchez said of incorporation.

A live local band will play, and a variety of salads, a chicken dish, asparagus and lemon tiramisu will be served. Weekend get-alongs, sports tickets and dinners at restaurants will be auctioned off.

The feasibility study will be conducted by Winzler & Kelly, a 50-year-old civil engineering and surveying firm based out of Northern California.

Alamo Incorporation Movement, which supports cityhood in the unincorporated community, will not be fundraising for the cost of the study, said Chris Kenber, spokesman for the organization. AIM is considered a political group—as opposed to a nonprofit—and would be taxed more on the money raised.

Alamo Community Foundation is less than 1 month old and does not yet have an official Web site. Sanchez said they hadn't set a goal for what they hoped to earn at the dinner.

"We are brand new, hopefully we get a good turnout," she said.

To purchase tickets, call Nancy Huseby at 838-1277. ■



Puddles formed on sidewalks and walkways but emergency crews were able to handle emergencies.

## Storm

► Continued from page 5

The signals lights were also down on Camino Tassajara.

There were about three inches of rain on Friday, said Greg Gilbert, town emergency services manager. However, the storm only caused minor damages, and there no evacuations.

"There was nothing huge," said Gilbert. "Everybody was proactive."

Mt. Diablo State Park closed its

gates Friday afternoon. The rain caused mudslides in the park, and trees fell on Summit and Southgate roads. In addition, large rocks tumbled down on Southgate and off Northgate roads. Winds were gusting at 110 miles per hour, said Dan Stefanisko, supervising ranger.

Maintenance crews and rangers cleaned up the debris following the storm. The park reopened Sunday midmorning.

"Public safety was our main concern," Stefanisko said.

—Staff reports

# Measure J plans moving toward school bus service

Officials currently focusing on who will run the bus service and how

by Jordan M. Doronila

Buses may come rolling in again in the San Ramon Valley to relieve traffic.

Transportation staff from Danville and San Ramon are devising bus routes in heavily congested areas in the Valley, said Tai Williams, Danville transportation services director. She recently presented routing strategies to the Town Council and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

"We are building a program that we hope will have a positive impact," Williams said.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority is looking to spend \$40 million over 25 years from Measure J for 19 school buses, which will alleviate traffic in the Valley.

"I think it makes the flow of traffic easier," said Trustee Bill Clarkson, who is on the authority. "It makes it easier for everyone on the road."

So far, the buses will pick up stu-

dents attending Los Cerros Middle School in Danville and Pine Valley Middle School in San Ramon. They will also pick up students attending Tassajara Hills, Green Valley, Walt Disney and Country Club elementary schools. However, the planning is still in its infancy, said Williams.

These schools are in the most congested areas, Williams said, according to a traffic study. Los Cerros and Green Valley are in the Diablo Road corridor, where drivers and pedestrians face a bombardment of traffic. Tassajara Hills faces congestion from cars flowing from Blackhawk's east gate entrance.

At the Dec. 4 school board meeting, trustees questioned what incentive parents would have to use bus transportation that could take up to an hour.

"If I'm a parent, and I need to get my kid on a bus at 7 to be at school at 8, I'm probably going to form a carpool to get them there," said

Trustee Joan Buchanan.

Staff is still developing the bus routes, which need approval from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

Now, transportation officials are deliberating on who will run the bus service and how it will be operated. The plan is scheduled to be finished by late spring.

School buses, which served 270 full-time riders last year, were cancelled by the school board last summer because a small percentage of the district's students were being served. The trustees believed the allocated funds should benefit all students.

The buses served Danville and Alamo students who attended Tassajara Hills, Rancho Romero and Sycamore Valley elementary schools; Stone Valley, Diablo Vista and Charlotte Wood middle schools; and Monte Vista High School.

Measure J was passed in 2004 and is funded by a half-cent sales



FILE PHOTO/JORDAN M. DORONILA

School buses lined the district service yard in school year 2006-07. Bus service was cancelled last summer, due to lack of resources, but plans are being made to reinstall some routes using Measure J funds.

tax to help alleviate traffic congestion with steps such as building a fourth bore through the Caldecott Tunnel. Contra Costa Transportation Authority, which manages Measure J funds, will receive \$1.2 billion over the next 25 years.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority comprises representatives from 19 cities in Contra Costa County. The San Ramon Valley

will get \$40 million from the consortium for student transportation to alleviate traffic.

Staffs from Danville, San Ramon, the School District and the county have been working together on the project. There are more than 25,000 students in the district.

The buses will be a boon for drivers, town officials said.

"We can reduce the demand on the roads," Williams said. ■

## Remodeler wants buyers for discounted solar systems

Gayler Construction of Danville is looking for 250 homeowners in the Tri-Valley who are interested in buying bulk solar energy systems, which would drop the purchase price significantly and take their homes off the energy grid.

"Our team at Gayler Construction wants to offer a way for the homeowners in our area to significantly decrease their dependency on the world's energy resources," said owner George Gayler.

"We know that this 'bulk buy' strategy has worked in other areas of California so we are happy to volunteer our time and energy to bring this to the Tri-Valley area."

Bulk buying solar energy systems have just started taking off as a way to negotiate with local solar energy companies and get a discounted price for installation, he explained.

The first 250 homeowners who sign up for this initiative will get the negotiated discount.

At least five local solar energy companies will be offered an opportunity to bid on this business. Gayler Construction, which specializes in kitchen, bath and whole house renovations, will determine the best proposal based on price, experience and customer service and present it to the 250 homeowners.

Gayler will hold seminars with the details on Jan. 22, Feb. 20 and March 13. For more information, contact Wendy Wallis 820-0185. ■



The committee has photographed old-fashioned details on the Veterans Memorial Building for the architects to study to capture the spirit of the hall in their plans.

JORDAN M. DORONILA

## Vets

► Continued from page 5

new design.

"We want public participation," said Chuck Brydon, committee chairman. "It's not too soon (for veterans) to start writing up their remembrances."

"We want to save all we can," he added.

The building, which is currently used by veterans and the town's senior services, has had many functions since it was built in 1925. It has been employed as a voting center, a dance hall, the library and

even as a courthouse.

"All kinds of things happened here," Brydon said. "There are many people who have met their wives here."

Now, veterans hope to create a lasting building with artifacts telling the story of the vets hall and those who fought for their country. The committee is working with the Museum of the San Ramon Valley on the project, Brydon said.

"Our character is defined by our past and how we came to be there," he said.

To contribute photos and artifacts, call Brydon at 872-1339. ■

## Wanted:

Reporter for the Danville Weekly

### Requirements:

- Degree in journalism or related field
- Experience in newspaper writing
- Curiosity about the world around you – especially Danville and Alamo
- Desire to work hard while enjoying every minute
- Send resume and clips to: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

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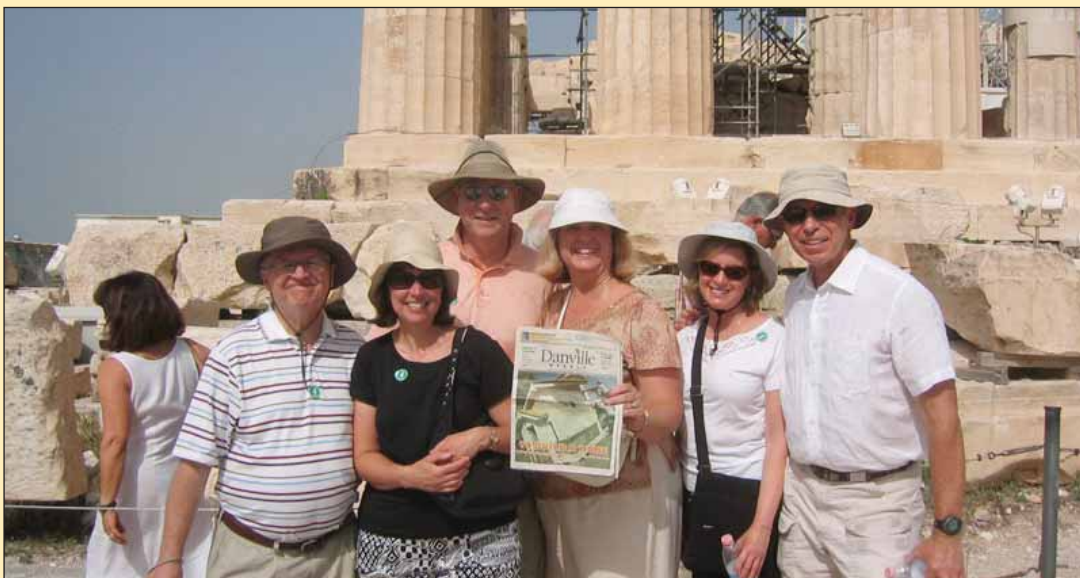
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## Temple to Athena

Danville residents (l-r) Jim and Mary Zellhart, Tom and Maurine Murtaugh, and Kathleen and John Toth—and their Weekly—visit the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.



FILE PHOTO/JORDAN M. DORONILA

High schools from throughout Contra Costa County send participants to Student Days at the Eugene O'Neill Tao House estate in the Danville hills, where they receive professional training in drama, art, photography and writing.

## Reserve now for Tao House student days

*Training will take place in drama, art, photography and writing*

High school students from throughout Contra Costa County are invited to apply to participate in the 2008 Student Days in March. The program offers professional training in drama, art, photography and writing, at the Tao House estate of playwright Eugene O'Neill.

The program is sponsored by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service. It begins March 5 with workshops on art, then continues March 6 with the day devoted to students interested in drama. Workshops on photography will be

held March 12, with writing studied March 13.

This year's faculty includes the following:

- Art: Debbie Koonce, an artist who specializes in landscapes
- Theater: Michael Butler, actor and artistic director of Center Repertory Company in Walnut Creek, and Chad Deverman, actor with California Shakespeare Festival
- Photography: Jose Carlos Fajardo, staff photographer with the Contra Cost Times
- Writing: C.W. Nevius, San Francisco Chronicle columnist; Kathy Moore, writing teacher and

coordinator of the San Ramon Valley Writing and Reading Project; and Erin Phillips, playwright.

Actors Richard James and Kerri Shawn will perform on each of the four days of the program.

Applications are available from the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. Call 820-1818 or go to [www.myspace.com/eugeneoneill](http://www.myspace.com/eugeneoneill). They must be submitted by Feb. 15.

Since Student Days began in 1991, more than 1,600 students have participated. The program is funded in large part through a grant from the Charles and Shirlene Clark Family Foundation of Lodi. ■

# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Letters live on

Is the written personal letter a thing of the past? I remember learning in grammar school the correct way to write a letter and the practice letters I sent. Pen pals were a popular fad in my day. I had two—one a distant cousin in Iowa and the other a friend of hers—but the relationships never really took off.

I wrote a story a few years ago about a Pleasanton woman who, for a Girl Scout project when she was 11, in 1944, began to write to a Dutch girl living in Rotterdam. How different their two worlds must have been. They continued to write through the years, sharing everyday tales of growing up, getting married and having children, and eventually visited each other. The woman died in March, so it was a total of 62 years of letter writing.

Last year when both my son Pepe and my daughter Zoe were home for Christmas, they enjoyed reading old letters of mine. These were letters I'd written to my parents while I was living overseas. When I lived in Jeddah for four years, my father was sales manager at a printing company in San Jose and he had my correspondence bound in three attractive red volumes—"Letters from Saudi Arabia"—with an introduction he wrote. He had given me 5-1/2 by 8-1/2 inch stationery to use. He retyped letters I wrote to my sister, and he added news clippings, too. Pepe especially loves these volumes because they chronicle his years from ages 3 to 7. I like to remember the shifting sand dunes outside the city, and the call to prayers from the corner mosque that awakened us each morning.

My father was retired when our family later moved to Bangkok but he kept my letters in a box labeled "Letters from Dolores." I'd brought it home some years ago, stuck it into a guestroom closet, and forgotten about it. But Pepe spotted it last year, and he and Zoe enjoyed reading the letters, reliving their childhoods, and seeing our move to Bangkok through my eyes as shared with my parents. And we'd forgotten all about our pet mynah birds.

These days, of course, most correspondence is done through e-mail and telephone calls, which are now affordable. How I wish we'd had e-mail when Pepe came back to the States from Bangkok to go to Stanford. We tried to call but this was before cell phones and we only managed to reach his roommate. They didn't get along; Pepe's only comment about him was: "He makes his bed every

day." I faithfully wrote to Pepe every week or so and he wrote back wonderful, long, detailed letters—about twice a year.

I'm glad my friends who give an annual New Year's party still craft a clever invitation each year, create one for each invitee, and leave it at our door. The old-fashioned invitation is so gracious and welcoming.

Now Pepe lives in Berlin, but thanks to e-mail and instant messaging it sometimes feels like he's in the next room. When he writes long e-letters, I print them out and save them. I talk to Zoe, who is in San Diego, frequently on the phone as well as keeping in touch via brief e-mails but we'll have nothing to read in later years.

Invitations also have gone electronic. Many don't use regular e-mail but go through [www.evite.com](http://www.evite.com), which is pretty slick, but not very personal. With e-vite, we not only know who else is planning to attend but what they have to say about it. I was invited to a tamale party last year and, reading the comments, I learned that the party was more about tequila than tamales. Count me in! But I'm glad my friends who give an annual New Year's party still craft a clever invitation each year, create one for each invitee, and leave it at our door. The old-fashioned invitation is so gracious and welcoming.

I assume love letters are still being written the old-fashioned way, but that might be my age showing. Affectionate e-mails are nice, but I don't see how they can replace a love note stuck in a pocket or a snail-mailed card or letter that shows the handwriting of the loved one and actually was once held by him/her. (I'm reading "Love in the Time of Cholera"—perhaps it's altering my perceptions on romance and love letters.)

I know kids write to our troops overseas so I guess they still learn to write letters in school. But do they still have pen pals—or are they now e-pals?

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli  
can be e-mailed at  
[editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com).

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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Voting changes**

Two things in recent years have changed elections in California dramatically. One is the movement toward absentee balloting. The other is that voters who “decline to state” their political affiliation can now vote in primaries.

Before 1978, registered California voters needed medical or out-of-town excuses to vote absentee. But the tides have turned, with election boards recognizing the cost savings of absentee ballots. In 2001, a law made it possible for any Californian to register as a permanent absentee voter, and last year the program was renamed “vote-by-mail.” The state’s vote-by-mail numbers rose from 24 percent in the November 2000 election to 41.5 percent in the statewide election six years later.

County elections officials began mailing ballots to permanent vote-by-mailers on Monday, 29 days before the Feb. 5 primary. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the February primary is Jan. 29. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. close of polls on Election Day.

The fastest growing portion of the California electorate is those registered as “decline-to-state,” which was at 19.33 percent Dec. 7, up from 16.28 percent in January 2004.

Until a little more than 10 years ago, the disadvantage in declining to state was not being eligible to vote in the primary elections. In 1996, Proposition 198 changed primaries to be open so all voters could vote for any candidate; however, this was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court because it “violated a political party’s First Amendment right of association.” Now decline-to-state voters can vote in a party’s primaries, if that party allows such voting in that specific election.

In the Feb. 5 primary, the Democratic Party is allowing votes from those who declined to state because, according to its spokesman, a lot of these voters “tend to have Democratic ideals and values.” The hope is they will become invested in the Democratic candidates and vote for them again in November.

The Republican Party is not letting decline-to-state people vote for its candidates Feb. 5, reasoning that the presidential primary chooses delegates to the Republican National Convention so they should be chosen by party members. It will allow decline-to-state voters to cast Republican ballots in the June primaries.

As of Dec. 7, nearly 6.6 million Californians were registered Democrats; 5.2 million, Republicans; and nearly 3 million declined to state.

The most important thing to remember is Californians must register to vote for the Feb. 5 election by Jan. 22. Then, remember to vote.

As of Dec. 7, nearly 6.6 million Californians were registered Democrats; 5.2 million, Republicans; and nearly 3 million declined to state.

**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](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**



Greg Fish, in 1973, catches a sailfish during a quiet moment on his eventful trip crewing on the 28-foot Sunrace.

**Sailing memories**

Dear Editor:

Your article “Passage to New Zealand” really struck a cord with me. I enjoyed reading about the challenges and bravery of Andre Lay and his trip to New Zealand. And, it reminded me of my own youth and personal need to continuously explore.

When I was age 20, I also took a nine-month trip on the high seas traveling from Redwood City down the Pacific Coast, through the Panama Canal, and into the Caribbean with my college soccer coach who was on a sabbatical and had purchased a 66-foot twin diesel for the trip. In Panama, I then changed crew onto a small 28-foot sailboat to learn how to sail and came back up to Cabo San Lucas in Baja and then sailed over to Hawaii—a 24-1/2 day sail. I was so eager to get off, I rented a bike in Lahina and rode it all the way to the Seven Sacred Pools past Hana where I would someday propose to my wife.

Like Andre, I have many similar memories including being hit by lightning, traveling through hurricane winds, loss of engines, sharks, killer whales, navigating by stars and sun (the days before GPS), and learning to live with

strangers in a very small confined space. I am sure that Andre will remember this trip as vividly as I still remember mine 34 years later. I hope he also has lots of pictures as what few I still have (before the digital age) I treasure.

*Greg Fish, Danville*

**ONLINE READER POLL**

Give your opinion at  
[www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

**Will you cast an absentee vote for the Feb. 5 California presidential primaries?**

**Results from last week:**

Are there overbearing parents on the sidelines at kids' games?

✓ **Absolutely:** 59.65%

**Never:** 10.53%

**Sometimes:** 29.82%

**Total votes:** 57

**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](mailto: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.



# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Car crash reveals drugs

Police arrested a 40-year-old woman for allegedly carrying drugs after driving her silver truck into another car at Denny's in Danville earlier this week.

Jennifer Rieboldt, 47, of Concord, reportedly was caught carrying a bag of methamphetamine by police after she hit a car while driving into

Denny's parking lot on Camino Ramon at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 7, said police Sgt. Dan Hoffman.

Police also discovered she had an outstanding warrant for a misdemeanor.

She was arrested on charges of breaking a health and safety code, Hoffman said, and she was taken to Martinez Detention Facility.

—Jordan M. Doronila

## POLICE LOG

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

### Sunday, Dec. 30

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Hartz Ave. and School St. at 12:23 a.m.
- Vehicle blocking roadway, arrest, on Crow Canyon Rd. and El Capitan Dr. at 1:58 a.m.
- Drunk in public on Crow Canyon Rd. and El Capitan Dr. at 2:42 a.m.
- Grand theft on Brookside Dr. at 9:26 a.m. and 10:28 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Camino Ramon at 3:25 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Molitas Rd. and Richard Lane at 3:56 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 31

- Petty theft, shoplift, on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 10:53 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on oone Ct. at 11:18 a.m.
- Vandalism on Midland at 12:57 p.m.
- Petty theft on Railroad Ave. at 5:36 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 1

- Fireworks disturbance on El Cerro Blvd. and Turrini Dr. at midnight
- Fireworks disturbance on Woodranch Cir. at 12:06 a.m.
- Vandalism on Center Way and Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:38 a.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on El Capitan Dr. at 1:23 a.m. and 1:40 a.m.
- Vandalism on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 1:44 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Santiago Ct. at 4:41 p.m.
- Commercial burglary on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 7:23 p.m.
- Vandalism on Kendall Lane at 9:37 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 2

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Hartz

- Ave. and Linda Mesa Ave. at 2:50 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Gatetree Dr. and Richard Lane at 2:27 p.m.
- Battery on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:47 p.m.
- Vandalism on Magee Ranch Rd. and Sunhaven Rd. at 5:44 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Front St. at 6:03 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 3

- Petty theft on Town and Country Dr. at 6:28 a.m.
- Vandalism on Cameo Dr. at 7:19 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Old Orchard Dr. at 7:37 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Joaquin Dr. at 8:34 a.m.
- Petty theft on Contada Cir. at 8:36 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Silverwood Ct. at 2:59 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Greenbrook Dr. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 7:40 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 4

- Accident, major injuries, on Diablo Rd. and northbound I-680 at 5:41 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Montego Dr. at 7:26 a.m.
- Petty theft on Merrilee Pl. at 8:53 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Crow Canyon Rd. and St. George Rd. at 1:19 p.m.
- Vandalism on Timberview Ct. at 2:51 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 5:15 p.m.
- Petty theft on Ashley Cir. at 5:18 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Morninghome Rd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:51 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 5

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:53 a.m.
- Vandalism on St. Norbert Dr. at 8:09 a.m.
- Petty theft, vehicle parts, on northbound I-680 on ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:46 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 10:05 a.m.
- Petty theft on Cambridge Ct. at 11:09 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:35 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 2:24 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 2:39 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:53 p.m.

### Deaths, Weddings and Births

are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or e-mailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

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Please include a contact name and telephone number. Forms can be found on the Weekly's web site: [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com). Photographs are welcomed, print copy or e-mailed jpeg.

The Weekly reserves the right to edit information for space and format considerations.

## OBITUARIES

### Sherry Treadwell

Sherry Treadwell, a successful real estate broker with Blackhawk Real Estate for 14 years, passed away Nov. 5 from cancer at the age of 53. She was a resident of Lafayette, an active member of the community, and co-chairwoman of the San Francisco chapter of the American Cancer Society, working tirelessly to raise money to fight this dreaded disease.



She was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and moved to California in 1985. Sherry graduated McMasters University in 1977 with an undergraduate degree, and went on to get her master's degree in Environmental Studies at York University in Canada.

She is survived by her husband Mark; stepdaughter Leslie Reimers; several cousins; and her best friend Maxie, a black lab.

A memorial service was held Nov. 30 at Blackhawk Country Club. Contributions are requested in her name to the "Susan G. Komen for the Cure." Call (888) 888-3317 or go to [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org).

### William Carr Curtis

William Carr Curtis, M.D., the father of local newscaster Mark Curtis, died Dec. 21 at the age of 82. He was a resident of Elm Grove, Wis.

He was born Dec. 27, 1924, in Streator, Ill., to Dr. William Edward and Josephine Corrigan Curtis. He attended Marquette University and Marquette Medical School, graduating in 1947 as a Doctor of Medicine at the age of 22. He served two tours of duty in the U.S. Navy, then practiced general medicine in Wauwatosa from 1949 to 1975. He was a driving force in the development and construction of Elmbrook Memorial Hospital and instituted its 24-hour/day emergency department facility, the first in the county. From 1975 to 1989, he served as corporate medical director of Briggs & Stratton Corp.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Beth; is survived by his wife, Helen; seven children, Bill (Terry), Tracy, Michael (Sandie), Mark (Kathi), Tierney, Taurey (George Boxhorn), Tyler (Tom Murphy); and four stepchildren: Mary Ames, Liz (Chuck Wenzler), Jenni (John Vetter) and Kate Trecker; and many grandchildren, step-grandchildren, special grandchildren and nephews and nieces.

### Charles 'Chuck' Cadden

Danville resident Charles "Chuck" Cadden passed away Nov. 24 after a

long battle with renal cancer.

He lived in Newtown, Conn., until 1972, and he served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He received his B.S. in Materials Engineering in 1979, and an MBA and M.S. in Materials Engineering in 1981 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in N.Y. He worked in Indiana prior to joining Sandia National Laboratory in 1993, where he enjoyed a 14-year career in Materials Science on Brazing Research. In 1998, and 2001, he was presented with the AWS Robert Peaslee Award, a highly regarded honor in the field of brazing.

His interests outside of work revolved around his family and he was very active in the Danville community. He coached for many years with the Mustang Soccer League, Danville Little League and Diablo Scorpion Lacrosse.

He was a beloved husband to Michelle for 24 years and devoted father to Kate, a student at Diablo Valley College, and Patrick, a freshman at San Ramon Valley High School. He has one surviving brother, Peter, a resident of Massachusetts; and was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Helen, and his sister Patricia. A memorial service was held Dec. 17 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in San Ramon. Donations can be made to The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek 94597. A college fund has been set up for his children at Washington Mutual Bank, 661 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville 94526; Account No. 443-6049301.

### Anthony (Tony) Olanrewaju Fashoro

Anthony (Tony) Olanrewaju Fashoro, a resident of Danville, died suddenly Nov. 30 at his home at the age of 48.

He was a Nigerian American who came to San Francisco from Nigeria 30 years ago. A graduate of San Francisco State University, he was a software engineer working for himself at Bene Technologies and Fash Microsystems. He lived in Danville for 17 years. Friends remember he was always willing to help, whether it was with their computer or homework.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 24 years, Tina Fashoro; by his parents, Femi and Olaitan Fashoro; a 23-year-old son, Yomi Fashoro; daughters, Lola (21) and Tope Fashoro (12); his brother and sister-in-law, Yomi and Yemi Fashoro; nephews, a niece, a mother-in-law, cousins, in-laws and friends.

A Wake Keeping/Visitation was held Dec. 13 with funeral services Dec. 14 at East Bay Fellowship and interment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Donations may be made to Tony Fashoro Memorial Fund, Wells Fargo Bank, 3402 Camino Tassajara, Danville 94506, Account No. 9296074652.

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## 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.



## Winter Turf is winning turf

Mustang Internazionale player Garrett O'Neil (at left) dribbles the ball downfield at last weekend's Winter Turf Invitational in a game against Placer United Gold that was won by the Mustangs, 2-1. In the same game, JJ Koski (top) fights for the ball.

Megan Gansey (right) of the girls U13 Mustang United 13 goes head-to-head against the goalie in an effort to score against the Bay Oaks Gold/Speed Demons, but nonetheless Bay Oaks prevailed, 3-0. The U-13 Mustang Blast Girls brought home a

"Shutout" First Place Championship Win, after facing three aggressive opponents.

Everyone at the Mustang Soccer tournament—players, coaches, volunteers and fans—endured cold, high level winds with icy pelts of rain.

"Despite the weather conditions, it was an honor to play for the community and to be able to share our new soccer complex with family, friends and peers," said soccer fan Rebecca Rader. "A special thanks to not only the director of the Winter Turf, but to all of the dedicated volunteers that made this event happen."

**For more photos, go to DanvilleWeekly.com.**



## Dynamite—with trophies to prove it

The Mustang Dynamite U11 Bronze team won the District Cup championship over the Dec. 1-2 weekend, defeating the Mustang Tornados, the San Ramon Rush, and then winning the championship game against the Mustang Mavericks. Celebrating are (top, l-r) Coaches Mark Westgate, Shannon Blankenship, head coach Kari Doolittle, Rob Riccio; (second row) Raquel Dixon, Taylor Barker, Carly Kruger, Shannon Nesbit, Ally Madgett, Hannah Westgate; (third row) Bridgette Venezia, Karen Lindow, Peyton Riccio, Bailey Blankenship, Megan Oliveira; (bottom) Taylor Nixon, Maddy Taylor, Jenelle Doolittle, Marissa Gutierrez and Sophia Nadji.



## Going for the gain

Michael Williams, a fourth-grader from Sycamore Valley Elementary, finds a hole in the defense for a 10-yard gain. Michael and his team, the Wolves, are part of a YMCA flag football league that helps kids get some exercise and have fun while learning good sportsmanship and basic football skills.

## PREP SCHEDULE

### Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 10-12

**Women's Soccer**  
Monte Vista at Nike/Red Bull Nolan Showcase in Texas, 8 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 11

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Livermore, 7 p.m.

**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 5:45 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 12

**Women's Soccer**  
San Ramon Valley at Foothill, 2 p.m.

### Wrestling

San Ramon Invitational at San Ramon Valley, 9 a.m.  
Monte Vista at Albany High, 7 a.m.

### Monday, Jan. 14

**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Arroyo, 4 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 15

**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Foothill, 7 p.m.

**Women's Soccer**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Monte Vista, 5:45 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 16

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.

### Men's Soccer

Monte Vista vs. San Ramon Valley, 5:45 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 17

### Women's Soccer

San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 5:45 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Granada, 5:45 p.m.

### Wrestling

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

### Friday, Jan. 18

### Men's Basketball

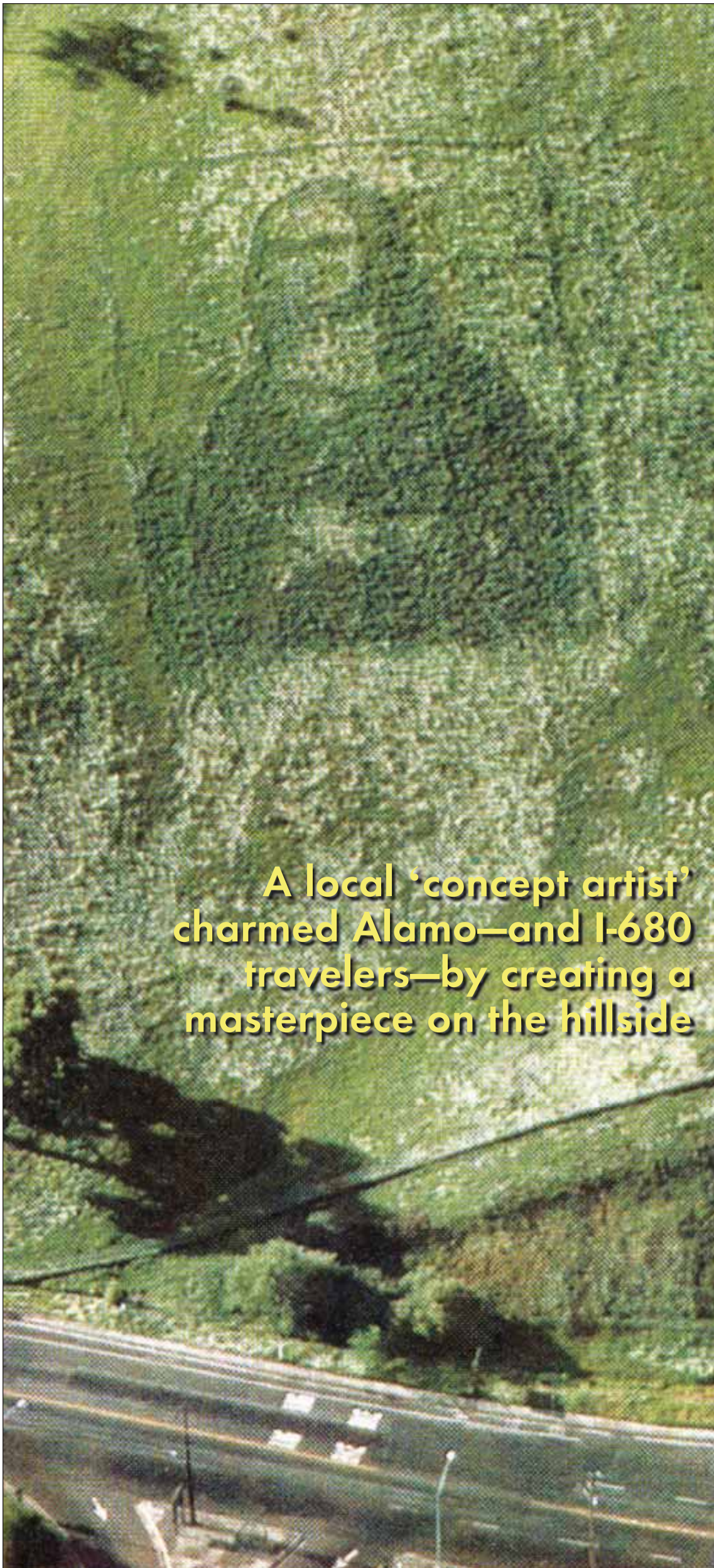
Monte Vista at Amador, 7 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Monte Vista vs. Amador, 7 p.m.

### Men's Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Granada, 5:45 p.m.



**A local 'concept artist' charmed Alamo—and I-680 travelers—by creating a masterpiece on the hillside**

# Growing Mona Lisa

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

**A** couple dozen workers—artists, architects and biologists—gathered for the January predawn at the Alamo Café almost 30 years ago for a project. They'd been chosen for their strong leg muscles. And they'd been sworn to secrecy.

This was the crew handpicked by concept artist Will Ashford, then 31 and a resident of Diablo, to bring art to life in 1979. The art was Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa, perhaps the best-known painting in the world. The medium was fertilizer, discriminately placed on the wild hillside grasses off Interstate 680 and Stone Valley Road.

Ashford had previously grown the words "green" on the hillside and "landscape," he recalled recently.

"I'd done art out of words. Now I'd do art out of art," Ashford said. "It was the next obvious step."

He had already walked the hillside, marked relevant points, and made a map. He'd also arranged with rancher Hap Magee to graze his longhorns elsewhere. Then Ashford had chosen friends and acquaintances with strong backs and sturdy leg muscles to do the labor with him—carrying almost 800 pounds of fertilizer up the steep hill to spread at designated spots.

Although his mom and step-dad, Lynn and George Cockrill, catered the event, even they didn't know what the result was going to be. They had to wait for spring like everyone else.

"My mother was my guide," said Ashford. "She used to ride to Concord every day, and she would call me and say, 'I can't see anything.'"

As spring approached, the fertilized grass grew longer and darker. The enigmatic Mona Lisa slowly began to emerge, then one day she reclined on the hillside in all her glory, smiling demurely upon Alamo, clearly visible to those riding south on I-680. She was the talk of the town and the delight of commuters.

"People started to

heard it on the radio.

Travelers started to

Luckily there were

"I was at the time

there were a few

'Has this been

They told me

Highway Patrol

of the Mona Lisa

Pulitzer Prize

Ashford on the

ed, and took the

"Just One Minute

in May, and it

in its Sunday

When Ashford

Monroe on the

Weltwoche

Marilyn

scattering seeds

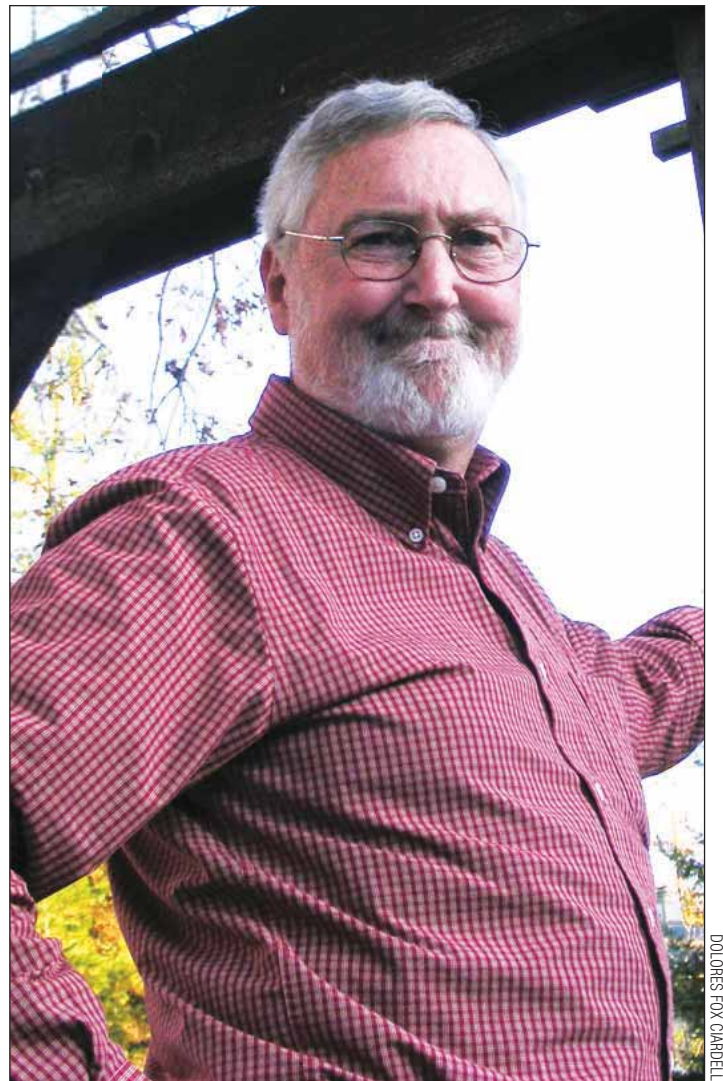
Ashford said

re-creation of

Diablo County

Ashford's "Mona

drawing." The



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

# Mona Lisa

cycle racers among them—gathered in  
st 30 years ago to execute a special  
gs as well as for their ability to visual-

aw it and knew what it was,” Ashford said. “And they  
he radio. Traffic helicopters noticed it.”  
were pulling over on the freeway to get a better look.  
re was less traffic back then.  
the Alamo Café one day having coffee with friends and  
two CHP guys,” Ashford remembered. “I asked them,  
en a pain in the butt for you guys?”  
d him they liked the rendering, and the California  
ntrol was using it as a reference point—“north or south  
na Lisa”—so Ashford introduced himself as the creator.  
prize-winning photographer Kim Komenich posed  
the masterpiece, grass up to his knees and arms extend-  
an overhead shot that appeared in Life magazine as its  
ore” photo in July. The National Enquirer had a feature  
the London Times ran a story about Ashford and his art  
y Times magazine the following February.  
Ashford subsequently created Andy Warhol’s Marilyn  
the same hillside in 1983, the Swiss magazine Die  
ran a feature.  
was, again, art about art. The birds contributed by  
eed that resulted in yellow flowers for Marilyn’s hair,  
d. He heard through friends that Warhol knew about the  
and approved.  
country ran a story in June 1986 with photographs of  
geoglyphs,” explaining he said the term means “earth  
hat was the year that Ashford created one of his favor-

ites, a sunburst, on another 21-acre parcel. Ashford is quick to credit Chevron with providing all the fertilizer—ammonium sulfate—that he needed for his geoglyphs.

Will Ashford was ingrained in the community long before his Mona Lisa sprouted. His stepdad George Cockrill was the butcher at the old Acree’s Grocery on Hartz Avenue that closed in 1964 and even today people tell Will they used to stop in for a free hotdog on their long walk home from school.

Ashford graduated from San Ramon Valley High in 1966, and is remembered for the light show he produced at its stadium when the British rock band, the Yardbirds, performed. After graduation, he worked on his artistic endeavors, but they did not provide exemption from the draft and he found himself in basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas, the next year.

During a pickup football game, a fellow recruit fell on him and broke his foot so Ashford was delegated to paint battalion crests in the dayroom for the guys just back from Vietnam. When assignments were given out after basic, Ashford was designated an Army artist while the others went on to advanced infantry training.

He was stationed in Hawaii at the U.S. Army Headquarters of the Pacific, where he pursued another of his passions: surfing. When his commanding officer got wind of his hobby, he ordered him to befriend the natives as they surfed together.

“I was a surfer for the Army,” Ashford recalled with a laugh. Eventually he returned to the Danville area.

He said he has always been an artist, but being an artist has not always been a good thing.

“I kept fighting it, looking for something more stable,” he said.

He worked as a builder for awhile, and in the 1980s he constructed a home on Elsie Drive off El Cerro Boulevard in Danville. His wife Carol Ashford taught at Charlotte Wood Middle School and San Ramon Valley High. For many years, Will focused on raising their son Ryan, who now works in Southern California as a producer and actor. In the mid 1990s the family moved to Calistoga where Carol was principal at the high school.

They now divide their winters between the home they built in Calistoga and an apartment in Lafayette where Carol is associate principal at Acalanes High. Summers are spent in Italy, where Will enjoys the national pastime of bicycling, another passion that also sees him pedaling up Mount Diablo in the Mountain Challenge each fall to benefit Save Mount Diablo.

Lately, Ashford has been traveling around the country installing the Red Bull insignia at sporting events sponsored by the energy drink.

“I’m doing my best to make it art,” he said. “The images are not mine but the process is mine.”

He designs wine labels, and created a logo for concert promoter Bill Graham, which is still used, as well as the popular California Pedaler design.

In much of his art, words are prominent. He is dyslexic, which was the seed for his fascination with words.

“Other things compensated,” he said. “I have a gigantic visual memory.”

He loves making puns.

“Words have always held a mystery for me, this thing called words, and my inability to hold onto them,” he explained. “I’d find a word that has the ability to define itself and would create that thing.”

For instance, in 1976 the University Art Museum in Berkeley asked him to do an art piece in its entrance patio.

“I said I could do the word ‘wet,’” he recalled.

He arrived with what looked like a bucket of paint. He masked the word “wet” in a 5-foot by 12-foot patch and painted over it with what looked like water.

“I let it dry and left,” he said, “and they must have thought, ‘OK, that’s that.’”

“I didn’t tell them it wasn’t paint,” he recalled. “The first year it rained, everything else got wet, but ‘wet’ stayed dry.”

He had painted the word with water repellent.

He also laid a canvas on a floor in a public building in San Francisco with a slightly raised area forming the word “dirt.” As people walked across it, the dirt collected, forming the word “dirt.” He entered this piece in the seventh annual Bay Area Regional Graphic Competition.

“Mine was the oddest of all the prints,” he said.

“I feel propelled to do these things,” said Ashford. “Mona Lisa is a perfect example.”

He said he has gradually come to understand what art really is, and there is a different definition of art for every person; he himself defines art as an artist.

“What do I call good art? That which brings about the notion of thought that hadn’t been there before, because of the originality, the original thought,” he said. “The idea is art ... Philosophers to me are great artists.”

“Art is always a self-portrait of the creator,” he added.

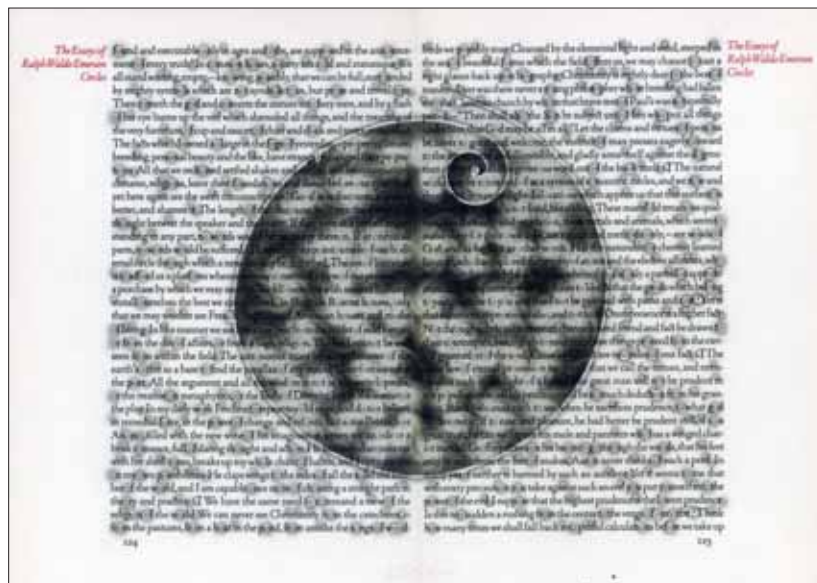
He said he had perfected his ability to draw by the time he was out of high school. But he realized even then that “art is that which is beyond the eye.”

His creations grow inside him, as if in an incubator, he said, and only some come to fruition. He doesn’t mind that much of his art, such as his Mona Lisa, is temporary.

“When it’s done, it’s finished,” he said. “I look forward—to the piece I’m going to be allowed to do next.”

Future projects might include geoglyphs of surfers riding hillsides that have the forms of a wave. He’d also like to sow the entire San Andreas Fault with mustard seed, so people can see the danger in vivid yellow.

“Getting to do art is the biggest thing for me,” said Ashford. ■



Will Ashford, now nearing 60, has spent a lifetime creating art, much of it in public places. His re-creation of Mona Lisa on an Alamo hillside in 1979 garnered national and international publicity.

Andy Warhol’s “Marilyn” was a 200-foot by 300-foot installation created by Will Ashford off I-680 and Stone Valley Road in February 1983. Ashford heard through the grapevine that Warhol approved of the art imitating his art.

Will Ashford takes a printed page and contemplates it until patterns become clear to him. Sometimes he builds new words out of parts of other words as well as patterns, as shown here in a piece titled “Emerson’s Circle Essay.”

Will Ashford now travels all over the country re-creating the Red Bull energy drink logo at sporting event venues, including December’s Last Man Standing off-road motorcycle race. Although he did not design the symbol, he has done others, including the California Pedaler.

# MORE than just BASEBALL

San Ramon Valley Little League celebrates 50 years of teamwork

by Natalie O'Neill

To George Olson—the first president of the San Ramon Valley Little League—a baseball dugout isn't just a place for the team bench. To him, the term is more literal.

"The dugouts were actually dug out," he said, remembering days spent with other fathers fixing up a small field for their sons on Love Lane in 1958.

February marks the 50th anniversary of the Little League, which started as just four teams put together by a group of dads who wanted a local spot for their kids to play ball.

To have a league, they needed a field. So they started by leveling the ground, growing some grass, and building a backstop—a project that took them about two months.

"It was the most beautiful field you've ever seen," said Olson. "There were trees hanging over the bleachers and you could sit in the shade. We all pitched in—we had a lot of people with a lot of energy."

With a field like that, the league quickly caught on. As Olson remembers, it was

just as fun for the parents as the kids.

"I'd rush home from work because the games started at 6. ... It ate up a lot of our social lives. In fact it was our social lives," said Olson, who grew up swinging bats on a sandlot.

In the past half century, the San Ramon Valley Little League has won the national championship three times, competed in a world series against Taiwan, and has earned over 120 flags from district, sectional and regional tournaments.

"The part that's truly amazing is how well the league has done competitively. Statistically, it's almost impossible," said Bill Hooper, who lives in Alamo, coaches and is the president of the Northern California Regional Little League.

The league now hosts 60 teams and more than 700 boys, ages 5-16, in Danville and Alamo. With over 7,400 Little Leagues

► Continued on page 16



San Ramon Valley Little League All Star Team players Jeff Saenger and Erik Johnson celebrate their victory at the 1978 National Little League Championship in Williamsport, Pa., with a hug while team manager Bill Ross rejoices.

ROSS MCKENON



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

## Culinary artistry begins with kitchen fitness

Happy New Year, fellow epicureans! The New Year brings resolves and resolutions to insure we successfully attain our goals. With witnesses nearby, we vow to eat less and exercise more; we promise to get a solid jumpstart on key projects and aspirations. From a culinary perspective, it's no different. My every-January mantra is: "Put your kitchen in tip-top shape for a year of great cooking!"

To yield the best results from your culinary efforts, think of your kitchen as a studio for creating artisan meals ... a crafter's workshop for producing consistently high-quality, healthy dishes. Among pantry and frozen foods, cookware, utensils, appliances and other supplies, things come undone, fall apart, wear out or get old. Like any well-honed workshop, your kitchen needs an annual (at least) tune-up, compete with re-organizing and re-freshening.

We're not talking a major make-over or renovation, we're merely suggesting that you treat your culinary investments with a little worthwhile attention to get your culinary year off to a delectable start. One of my gifts this holiday was a cookbook by Monique titled "Skinny Cooks Can't be Trusted." While there may be a pinch of self-ish truth to that particular wisdom, I do not adhere to the saying: "A Clean Space is the Sign of a Sick Mind." To the contrary, the culinary concept of "mise en place" (translation: everything in place) affirms that organization and preparation are essential to good cooking.

Epicure offers you a "boot camp" assessment and work-out plan for your kitchen fitness. Spend a couple days early on in 2008 assessing your epicurean domain and taking a few important steps to get your land-based galley in order.

### The pantry

- If you read Epicure last January, perhaps you dated your 2007 canned and shelf foods with a marker so you would know what to keep/discard this January. Regardless, check all pantry dates for expiration, discard items as necessary and date-mark all saved items this year.
- Check your staple supplies—flour, oils, vinegars, sauces, spices—and discard anything that you know was open but not used in 2007. Consider the benefit of restocking your cupboard with a few newly purchased staples, for less than \$25.

### Fridge/freezer

- Most frozen foods older than one year have lost their taste and/or



nutritional value. Unless it will render you totally foodless or wreak havoc on your morals (those starving children overseas), consider discarding anything in your freezer that you can no longer identify or can't remember when you bought.

- Whatever is kept should be date-marked and brought to the forefront of the freezer. Better yet, make a list of the remaining frozen foods and augment your freezer list as you purchase more. Aim to use (or discard) the older foods first.

### Stove/oven

- This is one of the critical tools of your artistry. Is everything in sound working order? Perhaps your stove is begging for a minor part or two? Contact your local appliance dealer to provide a temperature accuracy check for your oven; request a service check from your utility company.

### Cookware & bakery

- If well cared for, quality cookware will last for a long time. However, some extra elbow-grease cleaning and polishing will help them serve you well.
- Sometimes we hold onto a well-worn pot or pan for pure sentimental value, though it is of minimal value. If you've got six fry pans, consider retiring the oldest ones.
- Discard pans and bakeware that have rusted or no longer get completely cleaned. They can retain smells and tastes that compromise your dishes.
- January and February sales may provide a less painful way to replace a few pieces at bargain prices.

### Appliances & tools

- If you have a utensil or tool in your kitchen drawer that you don't

even recognize, e-mail me. I'd love to tell you about it so it will get used!

- Cart your favorite knives to your local grocer for sharpening service, which most large grocers offer. After a year of labor, they (and you) deserve some sharp edges.
- Evaluate the major cooking appliances you own. Should something be upgraded or replaced? Consider purchasing a top-of-the-line item with one or two neighbors and sharing it cooperatively.
- If you are not using a particular appliance or tool that you couldn't live without a year ago, ask why/why not, then either donate/sell or re-commit to use it in the new year.

### Countertops

- If you've got a too-tiny kitchen like me, counter space is prime real estate. Stuff "creeps" onto counters without us realizing it. Scan your counters to see what is taking up precious space and move non-essentials back to their cabinet locations.
- Challenge creature-of-habit behavior. As a "rightie," I just realized that my spoon rest was positioned on the wrong side of the stovetop. Scan placement of counter-top items and consider moving items around for greater access or efficiency.

### Cookbooks & recipes

- Where are those resources anyway—close at hand or buried on a shelf in the library? Peruse your favorite cookbooks and pull one or two out to remind yourself why it was such a smart purchase in the first place. Select a couple of never-made recipes to try soon.

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

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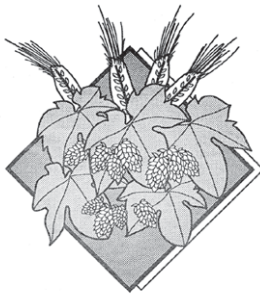
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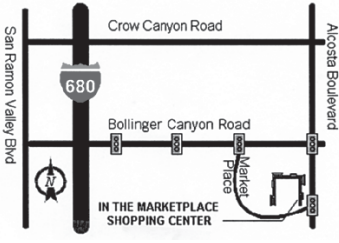


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# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



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

## Alamo's old Henry Hotel

The Henry Hotel was built by the Howard brothers in 1858, named for one of the owners, Henry Hoffman. The hotel was an important Alamo landmark for nearly 100 years and served as a boarding house and the post office.

The hotel was located on the southeast corner of Danville Boulevard and what is today Alamo Square Drive. At that time it was the corner of Danville Boulevard and Stone Valley Road, which was re-routed and enlarged in the early 1960s when the freeway went in.

The hotel was dismantled in 1954 when a gas station was built in its place.

## Baseball

▶ Continued from page 14

in the country, winning nationals is an honor most teams never even come close to.

A 50-year anniversary dinner celebration for the league will be held Feb. 1 at Diablo Country Club, and teams from throughout the years will gather for reunions. Local baseball great Tony La Russa, who now manages the St. Louis Cardinals, will speak and be available for autographs.

For Little Leaguers in Alamo and Danville today, baseball isn't about hitting a ball with a bat. It's about feeling—often for the first time—what it's like to have people depend on you, Hooper said.

"It's having to be on time or getting your homework done so you don't let down the rest of the team. That's the part that translates to life," he said.

And being in the team environment helps kids take a swing at some of life's curveballs, said current league president Pat Oswald.

"It's not always easy growing up," Oswald said. "Maybe your parents divorced or you had a bad day at

school. But your team is still there and you get to go out and sniff the grass and feel the sun on your face."

Being part of a team teaches children the importance of setting goals and following through with commitments, he said.

"It helps them figure out what direction they want to go. You establish something out of reach and you strive for it," he said.

Since the league restricts the population base to 20,000, the boundaries have changed with the growth of the San Ramon Valley. The original boundaries would now include Danville, Tassajara Valley and Canyon Creek Little Leagues.

In the Danville area, parents still make baseball a priority, Oswald said.

In that way, not much has changed in 50 years.

"There's something in the water out here," he said.

Eventually the Love Lane field was made into a school bus parking lot for San Ramon Valley High School, but the diamond still served 10 years as the league's first stomping grounds.

"It was a memorable time. It became part of our lives—it just took off," Olson said. ■

## Celebrate the League

**What:** San Ramon Valley Little League Anniversary Dinner

**Where:** Diablo Country Club

**When:** 6 p.m., Friday, Feb. 1

**Cost:** \$55 for adults; \$30 for children 12 and under

**Guest speaker:** Tony La Russa will be available for autographs at 5:30 p.m.

**Information:** Contact Bill Hooper at (510) 446-7244.

## The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

## Dangers of the SAT

The SAT—taken 1,465,744 times in 2006 alone—has no doubt become a household name, and lies at the root of stress and hysteria for most teens (and their parents) on the college bound track. Colleges and universities have used the test as an admissions tool since 1926, as it is a more accurate predictor of collegiate academic success than are simply grades. According to the College Board, the SAT—now an empty acronym—aims to test the critical thinking skills necessary for students to be academically successful in college.

In choosing which standardized test to take, students basically have two options: to take the SAT, which is most commonly chosen on the coasts, or its close competitor, the ACT, which is the more popular choice in the Midwest and South. Many students find that if they don't perform well on one test, they usually do better on the other.

The test was first developed in 1901 by Carl Brigham as a way to supposedly get rid of test bias between people of differing socioeconomic backgrounds. However, since the 1970s the SAT has received large criticism for various reasons, primarily for creating race-based and socio-economic bias. African Americans and Latinos both score consistently lower on the SAT than do Caucasians. Additionally, in a Washington Post article released early last year, the president of Sarah Lawrence College, Dr. Michele Toleda Myers, in defense of the school's SAT-optional policy, claimed that the SAT "did much to bias admission in favor of those who could afford expensive coaching sessions."

Sarah Lawrence College, along with 280 of the 2,083 four-year colleges in the United States, and 24 of the top 100 U.S. liberal arts schools (as ranked by U.S. News

and World Report), has joined the SAT Optional Movement, eliminating SAT scores as a requirement for admission. Bates College, one of the first schools to jump on board, has published a series of studies regarding the outcome of implementing the policy for more than two decades. The studies revealed a mere 0.1 percent difference in graduation rates between those who submitted SAT scores and those who did not, and non-submitting students averaged only .05 points lower on their collegiate GPA than did submitting students. The study, which proved SAT scores obviously predict less than previously supposed, prompted a movement of other liberal arts schools to follow suit in the early 2000s.

The test could very well be an irrelevant measure of future academic success. After all, the SAT does not reveal anything about a person, their ability to work hard, or their other gifts or talents; it merely evaluates a student's ability to take the SAT—a skill one can hone should they have the financial resources to afford a preparation class or personal tutor.

Extensive preparation for the test has become the norm, especially in affluent suburban communities like Danville and Alamo where most students can afford these options. Students feel inclined to take the SAT at least two or three times, and some spend months prepping. When SAT results come out, scores dictate the topic of conversation for several days—kids are distraught or excited about their scores, and everyone wants to know the score of the person next to him. Then, the mania dies down until the next month's scores are revealed, and the cycle repeats.

It seems SAT hype starts as early as middle school today. However, the hysteria surrounding the test only serves to distract kids from focusing on more fruitful endeavors

like their passions, hobbies, and even school studies—efforts that will be regarded (perhaps even more heavily than the SAT) in the college admissions decision.

As former University of California president Richard Atkinson said in his 2001 speech to the American Council on Education, "overemphasis on the SAT is distorting educational priorities and practices ... and can have a devastating impact on the self-esteem and aspirations of young students." Atkinson's remarks were made in hopes of pushing an SAT-optional policy on the UC system, which in its entirety receives over 90,000 applications yearly.

Despite the movement to phase out the SAT, many feel that the test is a necessary, consistent and nationally recognized way to maintain high standards in the country's institutions of higher education, and most universities have no plans to eliminate the SAT requirement. Still, schools are gradually deemphasizing the importance of SAT scores, weighing other factors like GPA, essays and extracurricular activities more heavily in the admission decision.

It is important to recognize that in overemphasizing the importance of SAT scores, we are on the way to creating a dangerous society: one that places more value on supposed genetic intelligence than on personality, achievements, talents, creative endeavors, and personal success and happiness. As Florida State University admissions chief John Barnhill said, and what we all must remember: "The SAT doesn't measure heart."

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

## OF NOTE

### Chevron gives money for science programs

Chevron Corp. recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Contra Costa County Regional Occupational Program, which will be used to create courses in science, technology and engineering at four county high schools.

"Funding Contra Costa County ROP is a viable solution to bolstering high school students' academic skills in science and mathematics, and fostering the creative inquisitive nature of students that can lead to science-related professions," said Joseph A. Ovick, county Superintendent of Schools.

ROP is working with principals to develop new science programs at two new high schools, Dougherty Valley in San Ramon and Heritage

in Brentwood, as well as at El Cerrito High School and Walnut Creek's Northgate High. New programs include introduction to engineering, robotics engineering technology, environmental science and analytical forensic science.

The money will also be used to expand the ROP career guidance support to high school career centers.

The Contra Costa County Office of Education runs the ROP, which provides classes to approximately 12,000 students and 10 adult school sites in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. ROP is funded by the state and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. For more information, visit [www.cocoschools.org/stsvcs/rop.html](http://www.cocoschools.org/stsvcs/rop.html).

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### DEES HELPS PATIENTS

#### LOSE 100's of POUNDS SAFELY AND FAST

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](http://www.GoCleanse.com/docdees).



# Calendar

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

## Art

**Surf and Turf** Pioneer Art Gallery presents "Surf and Turf" which runs from Jan. 18-27, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. A reception will be held from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19, at the gallery. Call 356-2841.

**Suzanne D'arcy** Alamo-Danville Artists Society will host oil painter, Suzanne D'Arcy, who will share her insights and techniques from 7:15-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Danville Congregational Social Hall, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. This event is free. Refreshments will be served. Call 691-5030 or visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org) or [www.suzannedarcyart.com](http://www.suzannedarcyart.com).

## Auditions

**'School for Scandal'** Role Players will host auditions for "School for Scandal" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. and at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Oak Hill Park Community Center, Danville. The theatre is looking for 11 males, ages 25-60 (may be double cast) and five females, ages 20-60. Prepare classic monologue and be familiar with play; British accent required. For an appointment, call (510) 865-4740. Call back will be on Feb. 9.

**Youth Music Festival Auditions** Solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, are needed for a performance at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 15., at the Amador Theater, Pleasanton. Ages 18 and under are welcome from 6-9 p.m., Jan. 17-22, at Amador Valley High School Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Rock bands are not included. Audition appointments are required; call 931-5353.

## Author Visit

**Penny Warner and Simon Wood** Bay Books will host Penny Warner, author of "The Official Nancy Drew Handbook," and Simon Wood, author of "Paying the Piper," at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25, at Bay Books, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call 855-1524.

**Terry Healy** Danville Library will host Terry Healy, author of "At Face Value: My Triumph Over a Disfiguring Cancer" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. The publication is a memoir of his experience with cancer. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

## Civic Meetings

**Danville Parks and Leisure Services Commission** The Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

**Danville Planning Commission** The Commission meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

**Town Council Meeting** The Danville Town Council normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

## Class Reunions

**Monte Vista High School 20 Year Reunion** The Monte Vista High School Class of 1987 is seeking members for its 20 year reunion. The reunion is planned for February 2008. To receive your invitation, e-mail [monte\\_vista\\_1987@yahoo.com](mailto:monte_vista_1987@yahoo.com).

## Classes

**Oil Painting Class** Stephen Sanfilippo will teach an oil painting class weekly from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays or from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Mondays, until April 30, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Includes demo, hands-on and critique and is open to all skill levels in oil medium. Each class is \$25. For registration and supplies information, visit [www.stephensanfilippo.com/workshops](http://www.stephensanfilippo.com/workshops).

## Clubs

**Alamo Women's Club** This club will host Millie Greenberg who will speak about the empowerment of women at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Call 837-6548.

**Alamo-Danville Artists' Society** Alamo-Danville Artists' Society (ADAS) host monthly meetings featuring well-known guest artist demonstrations on the second Tuesday of every month. This meetings are free and open to the public. This society also hosts Art in the Park and Open Studios to raise funds for art programs in the San Ramon Valley area schools. Visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org).

### Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club

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

**Amador Valley Quilters** This club will host its January meeting with guest speaker, Leora Raiken, a fiber artist from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Leora will conduct a workshop the following day. Visit [www.amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://www.amadorvalleyquilters.org).

**Blackhawk Republican Women** This group will host their monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Rd., Danville. Guest speaker is Holly Swanson, author of "Set Up & Sold Out, Find Out What Green Really Means." Cost is \$20. Reservations are required by calling 820-6452.

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

**Danville Lions Club** The Danville Lions Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Brass Door Restaurant, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Join as their guest to learn the contribution you can make as a Lion. For information, call 984-1541.

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

**Danville PM Toastmaster Club #1785** The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit [www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com](http://www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com).

**Danville Rotary** The Danville Rotary meets at noon every Monday at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, visit [www.danvillerotary.org](http://www.danvillerotary.org).

**Danville Women's Club** This club will meet at noon, Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa. Luncheon will be followed by a discussion by Rakestraw Books on current books of interest. Guests are welcome. For reservations, call 837-7528.

**Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary** The Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club meets for breakfast at 7 a.m., every Tuesday at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Join them for great fellowship and make a difference in your community and the world. Call Scott at 743-8449.

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

**Diablo Bonsai Club** This club will meet for a lecture on "How to Approach the Art of Bonsai" from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Call 937-4216.

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



ROLE PLAYERS ENSEMBLE THEATRE

## Preview the 'Bus Stop'

Role Players Ensemble Theatre will host an Actor's Benefit Preview and discussion of William Inge's "Bus Stop" at 8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Admission is free, but donations to support the production are requested. "Bus Stop" will premiere Jan. 18 and run until Feb. 9. Tickets are \$15-25. Visit [www.danvilletheatre.com](http://www.danvilletheatre.com).

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

**Diablo View Toastmasters AM** Afraid of public speaking? Loose your fears and develop communication and leadership skills by meeting with the Diablo View Toastmaster from 7:55-8 a.m., every Tuesday, at 111 Deerwood Rd., San Ramon. Call 838-9163 or e-mail [marie@mmwi.com](mailto:marie@mmwi.com).

**Grandmother's Club** Grandmothers of all ages meet for lunch at 11 a.m., on the second Friday of every month, at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. If interested, contact Fran Britt at 743-4026.

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

## Concerts

**California Symphony Presents Joyce Yang** Van Cliburn Silver Medalist Joyce Yang reunites with the California Symphony at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27. and at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$39-59. Call 280-2490 or visit [www.californiasymphony.org](http://www.californiasymphony.org).

## Events

**2008 O'Neill International Conference** Scholars and devotees of Eugene O'Neill will come together at the 2008 O'Neill International Conference held from June 11-15, at the Tao House, Danville. Registration is now open; contact Diane Schinnerer at 828-0659 or [dmdds@aol.com](mailto:dmdds@aol.com).

**East Bay Lock and Key Dance Party** Come and enjoy one of the most fun and innovative singles

nights out from 8 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Jan. 18, at the Radisson Hotel Ballroom, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Cost is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call 945-8340 or visit [www.lockandkeymatch.com](http://www.lockandkeymatch.com).

## Exhibits

**Contemporary Warrior: Modern Day Tomb Soldiers** Bedford Gallery will host "Contemporary Warrior: Modern Day Tomb Soldiers," an exhibit of ceramic figures by Chinese artist, Wanxin Zhang, Jan. 13-March 9, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. An opening reception is from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13, featuring Chinese musicians and dancing dragons. Admission is \$3; free for members. Call 295-1416 or visit [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org).

## Fundraisers

**5% Community Giving Day** Whole Foods Market selected the Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network (HMN) as the recipient for their 5% Community Giving Day from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at Whole Foods Market, 100 Sunset Dr., San Ramon. Five percent of the day's net sales will be donated. A gift basket will be raffled. Call 518-1648 or visit [www.holisticmoms.org](http://www.holisticmoms.org).

**Annual Crab Feed** Come and support a great cause at Outdoor Adventure Faire's Annual Crab Feed at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$25 for children or \$350 for a table of ten. Menu includes garlic bread, salad, pasta, crab and dessert. The night will include live music and silent and live auctions. Call Jim at 820-3874 or Pete at 719-1950.

**Book Sale** Friends of the Danville Library will host a book sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19 and noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Proceeds will benefit Friends of the Danville Library. Memberships for the Friends of the Danville Library will be available at the door. Call 837-4889.

### Advertising Sales Account Executive

The Danville Weekly is seeking a Sales Account Executive to join our growing team. This position is responsible for driving revenue growth in our print and online editions by proactively prospecting and qualifying potential new advertising accounts; handling incoming leads for designated territory or category; and meeting revenue targets.

A background in media sales is a plus. The successful candidate will have a proven sales record, excellent organization and communication skills along with a strong ability to build and foster client relationships. If you can develop strategic creative briefs, marketing plans/proposals and are comfortable making cold calls and prospecting, send a cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: Mary Hantos, advertising sales manager, [mhantos@danvilleweekly.com](mailto:mhantos@danvilleweekly.com); The Danville Weekly, 315 Diablo Road, Ste. 100, Danville, CA 94526; or fax to 925-837-2278. EOE; drug-free workplace.

**Danville**  
WEEKLY

**Crab Feed and Silent Auction**

Youth Homes Auxiliary will host its annual Crab Feed and Silent Auction at 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, at Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$320 for a table of eight. Proceeds will benefit programs for Youth Homes Auxiliary. To purchase tickets call 935-4531; to donate silent auction items call 930-7803.

**Family Pancake Breakfast** San Ramon Senior Foundation will host a Family Pancake Breakfast from 9-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 13, at San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$3.50 for adults; \$2 for children 12 years and under. Proceeds will help support activities for seniors. Call 973-3250.

**Oscar Party** Town of Danville will host an Oscar Party at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Proceeds will benefit the Danville International Children's Film Festival. Tickets go on sale Jan. 28; call 314-3400, visit the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. or www.village-theatreshows.com.

**Health**

**Achieving Healthy Weight Loss**

Danville Library will host a workshop on "Achieving Healthy Weight Loss" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Dr. Nathalie Bera-Miller will discuss the key ingredients of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. Call 837-4889.

**African Drumming Circle**

Drumming has been shown to boost immune system functions and metabolism. Join Patricia Frame and experience this fun way to get "good vibrations" from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

**Mindful Chi Kung** Chi Kung is a moving meditation that integrates mind, body and spirit to enhance health and strengthen the immune system. Learn about this system from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107.

**Kids and Teens**

**"Peter and the Wolf"** Jim Gamble's Puppets interpret Prokofiev's favorite classic "Peter and the Wolf" from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18. Call 931-5361 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

**'Amore, Amore!'** Blackhawk Museum will host "Amore, Amore!" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Children will learn about what St. Valentine, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and some automobiles have in common. This event is a free drop-in with paid museum admission. Call 736-2277.

**Hidden Homes Preschool Class** Enroll now for the Hidden Homes Preschool Class from 10-10:45 a.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 22-Feb. 12, at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. Pre-registration is required; visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

**When Mom or Dad Has Cancer** School-age children participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

**Lectures/ Workshops**

**Beginning Enneagram Workshop**

The Enneagram is an ancient system for uncovering our personal and unique paths to God. Explore the positive aspects of our personalities to achieve the highest levels of human and spiritual development from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$95; including lunch. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

**Couples and Cancer** Come with your partner for a group discussion on the impact of cancer on relationships from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Share struggles, solutions, issues and insights to support your relationship during and after cancer treatment. Call 933-0107.

**Lebed Method: Focus on Healing**

This workshop is a six-week series of a total body exercise set to music from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Jan. 17-Feb. 21, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. It helps you regain and maintain range of motion, relieve pain, and reduce the risk of lymphedema from any kind of cancer. Call 933-0107.

**Managing Stress in Your Life**

Danville Library will host a workshop on "Managing Stress in Your Life" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Discussion will include current research, unique ways to deal with stress and ideas for coping. Call 837-4889.

**U.S. Tour of Duty: The Iran Talks**

Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, Tri-Valley CARES, Peace Action West and Lamorinda Peace and Justice Group will host Scott Ritter and Jeff Cohen who will speak on "U.S. Tour of Duty: The Iran Talks" from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Cost is a suggested donation of \$5-\$20. Call 933-7850.

**Understanding Clinical Trials**

Learn about clinical trials, what they entail and how to find them for your type of cancer from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Local clinical trials will be discussed. Call 933-0107.

**Literary Events**

**Applications Available for Student Days**

High school students in Contra Costa County are invited to apply to participate in the 2008 Student Days, a program that offers professional training in drama, art, photography and writing, at the Eugene O'Neill's Tao House in Danville. The program begins on March 5 with workshops

on art; March 6 will focus on drama; March 12 with workshops on photography, and March 13 with workshops on writing. Applications are available by calling 820-1818 or visiting www.myspace.com/eugeneoneill; applications are due by Feb. 15.

**Century House Reading Series**

Century House will host guest poets, Dane Cervine and John Rowe, from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 3, at Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. An open mic segment will follow with poets of all ages who will be invited to read a favorite or original poem of 40 lines or less. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$5. Call 931-5350.

**Miscellaneous**

**Blood Drive** Hats Off America will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13, at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Donor identification is required prior to donating blood. For an appointment, visit www.beadonor.com or call 855-1950.

**On Stage**

**'Nixon's Nixon'** Center REPeratory Company presents "Nixon's Nixon" at various times, Jan. 31-March 1, at Center REPeratory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15-40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

**'Wigged Out!'** Hair on Stage presents "Wigged Out!" playing until 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.

**Company C Contemporary Ballet** Company C Contemporary Ballet will perform repertoire by David Parsons, Antony Tudor, Alexandre Proia and Artistic Director, Charles Anderson at 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25, at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$25 for students and seniors. Visit www.companycballet.org.

**Free preview of 'Bus Stop'** Role Players Ensemble Theatre will host an Actor's Benefit Preview and discussion of William Inge's "Bus Stop" at 8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. The play continues through Feb. 9. Admission is free, but donations to support the production are requested. Visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

**Late Nite Catechism** San Ramon Performing Arts presents "Late Night Catechism" at 2 p.m., Sundays, until Jan. 27, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$25. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

**Twelfth Night** Front Row Theater presents "Twelfth Night," regarded as Shakespeare's greatest comic achievement, at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 18, at

Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$9 for youth and seniors. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

**Seniors**

**Bridge** Seniors meet to play bridge from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every Friday at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Experienced players only. Cost is \$1. Reservations are required. Call Jerri Kaldem at 837-6283.

**Danville Senior Citizens Club** The club meets from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. New members are welcome. Membership is \$12 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

**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 Program** Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall Lounge hosts 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.

**St. Isidore's 'Young at Heart'** Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m.; bring brown bag lunch from until August, beverage, fruit and dessert are provided. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

**Spiritual**

**Family Candlelight Rosary** St. Isidore Church will host a Family Candlelight Rosary at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25, at the church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Singing sensation, Diana Nagy, will be the soloist. A dessert reception and babysitting will be provided. Call 552-8002 or visit www.st-isidore-danville.org.

**Martin Luther King Convocation for World Peace** An interfaith peace service with speakers from Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian traditions will take place at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, at the Wesley Center, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The public is invited to pray together and work for peace. Call 837-5243.

**Retreats with Paula D'Arcy** San Damiano will host Paula D'Arcy for two retreats Jan. 25-27 (Silent Spirituality) and Jan. 29-31 (Mid-Life Workshop), at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$220 a private room; \$190 for a shared room. Call 837-9141, ext. 315 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

**Support Groups**

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

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

**Danville TOPS** The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m., every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870.

**Volunteering**

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


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

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So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 35,000 readers, and unlimited free Web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

#### \$8 Prescription Eyeglasses.

Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, Highindex, UV protection, antiscratch lens, case, lenscloth for only \$8. Also available: Rimless, Titanium, Children's™, Bifocals, Progressives, Suntints, ARcoating, etc. <http://ZENIOPTICAL.COM> (AAN CAN)

#### Do You Have Bad Breath?

We can help. Send for our FREE GUIDE to revolutionary new treatment. THERABREATH OFFER-C 1750 N Highland Hollywood CA 90038 <http://WWW.STOPHALITOSIS.COM> (AAN CAN)

#### Pregnant? Considering Adoption

Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

#### Writers Wanted

The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://aaj.aan.org>. You may also email us at [altacademy@northwestern.edu](mailto:altacademy@northwestern.edu). Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN) Betty L. Rannels, MFT Pain Mgmt

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Parenting & Attachment, BLR, MFT

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MUSIC CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

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Piano. Grace 510-352-0546

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### 155 Pets

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One female chocolate dapple, nine weeks old, AKC registered, all shots given. \$800 Call 209-613-7457



### 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

#### Autos Wanted

\$1,000 Gift. Donate Car! IRS Deduction, Any Condition, Lost Title OK, help Kids. Espanol 1-888-548-4543. (Cal-SCAN)

#### Donate Vehicle

Running or not accepted! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatments, Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

#### Donate Your Car

Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research and Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy and Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

Pace Arrow 1989 Motor Home - \$13,000OBO

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 2166 Goldcrest Circle, Sat, Jan 12, 8:30 - 2

Pleasanton, 2777 Calle Alegre, Jan. 12, 9:00 - 1:00

Pleasanton, 3649 Dunsmuir Circle, Jan 12, 9-2

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89

Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39

Hood's Sarsaparilla bottle - \$28

Olympic Pins - \$3

partylite birthday cake - \$30.00

Precious Moments 1979-2000

Radio Flyer pumpercar - \$50 OBO

### 240 Furnishings/Household items

Beige leather loveseat and chair - \$550

Candles - \$15

Custom Coffee Table - \$300

Sewing Machine, Viking Designer 2 - \$1,950

Signed Print - \$7

Whirlpool Washer & Dryer - \$250.00

### 245 Miscellaneous

#### STEEL BLDGS

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Up to 50% off. Can erect,

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3 youth disneyland costumes - \$60.00

Beautiful Silver Fox Fur Coat - \$1999

Craftsman table saw - \$75 obo

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Lose Weight Fast - \$164.95

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Lose Weight Fast - \$164.95

### 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

Jr. Golf Clubs - "Red Zone" - \$75



### 345 Tutoring/Lessons

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High school math tutoring, also SAT I, ACT, and SAT Subject Matter Math II exam. One-on-one only. Former teacher, California credential. 925-462-3807

### 355 Items for Sale

disneyland youth costumes



### 420 Healing/Bodywork

#### REIKI

Energy work to promote healing, relieve pain, create a meditative state. Great for cancer patients. Messages MAY be received from the other side. \$70 hr. 925/699-4403.

#### The Feldenkrais Method

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### 450 Personal Growth

#### Individual/Couples Counseling

Feel better about yourself and your relationships. Dublin/Hayward offices Amy Greenberg, MFT 925 989-9826

### 455 Personal Training

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### 500 Help Wanted

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#### Part Time Real Estate Admin Assistant

Pleasanton agent looking for part time assistant. Flexible hours, no benefits. Typically 10 to 30 hours per week. Requirements: Ability to type, some knowledge of computers including MS word/excel, pleasant personality, strong organization skills. Prefer local applicants. Real Estate experience is nice, but not essential. Pay \$15 - \$20 per hour to start.

Fax a letter of introduction and/or a resume (not required) to (925) 396-6180

### 550 Business Opportunities

#### All Cash Candy Route

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#### Bartenders Needed:

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#### Cool Travel Job!

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#### Data Entry Processors Needed!

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#### Government Jobs

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#### Help Wanted.

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#### Home Refund Jobs!

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#### Post Office Jobs Available.

Avg. Pay \$20/Hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid Training, Vacations. PT/FT. 1-866-616-7019 USWA (AAN CAN)

### 560 Employment Information

#### Attn:Drivers.

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

**Danville, 1 BR/1 BA**  
Private master suite in townhouse. Close to Blackhawk Plaza. Rent includes utilities, maid service every two weeks, shared garage, washer and dryer privileges. Females only please. Must not be allergic to cats. please call Becky 925-648-7308.

**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**  
Danville, 3 BR/2 BA - \$789000  
Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1375000

**DON'T MISS THE BOAT!**  
Buyers and Investors  
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up to **25% Below Market Value**  
**925 / 872-1601** CB

Pleasanton, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1275000  
San Ramon, 4 BR/3 BA - \$999999

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Washington. Old Farm Liquidation. River access and views. 6ac. - \$49,900. 15ac. old farm building - \$89,900. Gorgeous land and setting. Limited available. EZ Terms. Call WALR 1-866-836-9152. (Cal-SCAN)

**Bulk Land Sale**  
40 acres - \$39,900. Moses Lake, Washington. Priced for quick sale. Beautiful land, interesting topography, good views and setting, abundant wildlife. Surveyed on maintained road. Financing available. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

**Closeout Sale**  
36 AC - \$29,900. Price is drastically reduced by motivated seller. Beautiful setting with fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Eureka Springs Ranch is offered by AZLR. ADWR report avail. Call 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

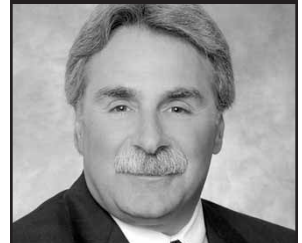
**New Mexico Sacrifice!**  
140 acres was \$149,900. Now Only \$69,900. Amazing 6000 ft. elevation. Incredible mountain views. Mature tree cover. Power and year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

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**PET OF WEEK**



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

**A home for Holly**

Holly, an adult, spayed female orange housecat looks content while enjoying some quiet time at Valley Humane Society. Holly is a sweet cat whose owner could no longer care for her after moving into an assisted living facility. Holly is rather shy and she prefers a sedate lifestyle. In her previous home, Holly lived with a dog and other cats. If you have a quiet household and you would like to have a loving companion to share the couch, visit Holly at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. It's open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wed. through Sun. Call 426-8656. Also see www.valleyhumanesociety.org.

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2007

### Danville

- 2036 Colmar Street**  
KB Homes to P. Kaur for \$1,000,000
- 830 Griffon Court** Shapell Industries to Z. Deng for \$880,000
- 84 Laurel Drive** CWABS 04-Ab2 to L. Perry for \$300,000

### Walnut Creek

- 1570 3rd Avenue** Gottermeyer Trust to O. Abdelmalek for \$655,000
- 1201 Alta Vista Drive #107** J. Matson to J. Duchi for \$495,000
- 1965 Cactus Court #1** Roberts Trust to M. Shields for \$440,000
- 1465 Carriage Drive** FJS Limited to R. Simoni for \$368,500
- 1310 Creekside Drive #302** Iron Horse Place Limited to L. Duson for \$415,000

- 1310 Creekside Drive** Iron Horse Place Limited to S. Young for \$525,000
- 1481 Marchbanks Drive #4** J. Scharnikow to S. Gavigan for \$275,000
- 1655 North California Boulevard #121** Trinity Avenue Limited to M. Mayberry for \$535,000
- 360 North Civic Drive #405** D. Schleske to M. Gaddis for \$290,000
- 410 North Civic Drive #502** HSBC Mortgage to J. Balovich for \$222,000
- 410 North Civic Drive** M. Silva to N. Hansen for \$295,000
- 2734 Oak Road #101** S. Abaco to G. & W. Turner for \$296,000
- 2520 Ptarmigan Drive #2** Hall Trust to J. Howard for \$330,000
- 3136 Rossmoor Parkway #3** Goranson Trust to Gallagher Trust for \$430,000
- 1653 Skycrest Drive #14** Walker Trust to Vanboeschoten

- Trust for \$475,000
- 1309 Skycrest Drive #7 D.** Kendrick to J. & P. Quiggle for \$240,000
- 5357 Terra Granada Drive #2B** Smith Trust to Mckern Trust for \$410,000
- 3330 Terra Granada Drive #4A** Barney Trust to Richardson Trust for \$482,000
- 2562 Walnut Boulevard #56** D. & V. Nordahl to L. Squaglia for \$267,500
- 121 Warwick Drive** US Bank to G. Loquellano for \$715,000
- 3183 Wayside Plaza #101** P. Meeker to C. McKechnie for \$329,000
- 3183 Wayside Plaza #303** J. Short to K. Yung for \$315,000
- 606 Whippoorwill Court** Terwin Mortgage to S. & A. Knapp for \$729,000

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2007

Danville	Average sales reported:	\$222,000
Total sales reported: 3	\$726,667	Highest sale reported: \$729,000
Walnut Creek	Total sales reported: 23	Average sales reported: \$414,522
Lowest sale reported: \$300,000	Lowest sale reported:	
Highest sale reported: \$1,000,000		

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### DANVILLE

4 Bedrooms		
<b>842 Matadera Cir.</b>	<b>\$1,282,888</b>	
Sat/Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	260-2508
<b>200 Alicante Pl.</b>	<b>\$1,325,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	855-6410
<b>7 Stirling Dr.</b>	<b>\$1,625,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	RE/MAX Accord	963-7428
6 Bedrooms		
<b>39 Green Gables Ct.</b>	<b>\$1,899,000</b>	
Sat/Sun 1-4	Prudential CA	858-4198

### SAN RAMON

4 Bedrooms		
<b>2212 Maidenhair Wy.</b>	<b>\$729,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Prudential CA	734-5061
3 Bedrooms		
<b>4631 Sandyford Ct.</b>	<b>\$549,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker	336-1108
4 Bedrooms		
<b>10762 Inspiration Cir.</b>	<b>\$1,028,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	251-1111
<b>6974 Prince Dr.</b>	<b>\$649,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Tri-Valley Realtors	270-9000

### PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms		
<b>1306 Stony Brook</b>	<b>\$1,275,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley	519-9080

<b>1037 Hometown Wy.</b>	<b>\$749,900</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	251-1111
<b>2031 Inverness</b>	<b>\$998,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley	519-9080
4 Bedrooms		
<b>1397 Whispering Oaks Wy.</b>	<b>\$1,049,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	846-6500
<b>964 Piemonte Dr.</b>	<b>\$2,099,950</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	251-1111
<b>3662 Fairlands Dr.</b>	<b>\$640,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	339-3077
<b>946 Madeira Dr.</b>	<b>\$879,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Allied Brokers	846-3755
<b>5802 Arthur Dr.</b>	<b>\$949,950</b>	
Sun 1-4	Prudential CA	734-5061

5 Bedrooms		
<b>5725 Ohana Pl.</b>	<b>\$1,999,995</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	846-6500
<b>1565 Hopyard</b>	<b>\$869,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel-Kris Moxley	519-9080
<b>2655 Calle Reynoso</b>	<b>\$960,000</b>	
Sat/Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	251-1111
<b>1023 Sycamore Creek Wy.</b>	<b>\$1,899,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	RE/MAX Accord	963-7428

### LIVERMORE

4 Bedrooms		
<b>6608 Tiffany Cmn.</b>	<b>\$569,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Hometown GMAC	963-8322
<b>1657 3rd St.</b>	<b>\$625,000</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	583-1121
<b>4293 Bellmawr Dr.</b>	<b>\$799,900</b>	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	583-1121



**Danville - \$1,625,000**  
**7 Stirling Drive**  
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**1023 Sycamore Creek Way**  
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Represented the Buyer



Merano Street, Danville  
\$955,000  
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A beautiful hand-painted fresco imported from Rome, Italy provides the perfect backdrop in the living room. The custom stair railing is made of hand-forged wrought iron with an antique brass top rail. Most of the flooring downstairs is hand-scraped and hand-distressed mahogany.

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