

Danville has indie star

High school 'drama geek' is at home in Hollywood ➤ **page 14**

Gripping teen film to premiere

Pack Foundation effort to prevent drinking and driving

➤ **page 5**

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Danville

W E E K L Y



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That's how the cookie crumbles

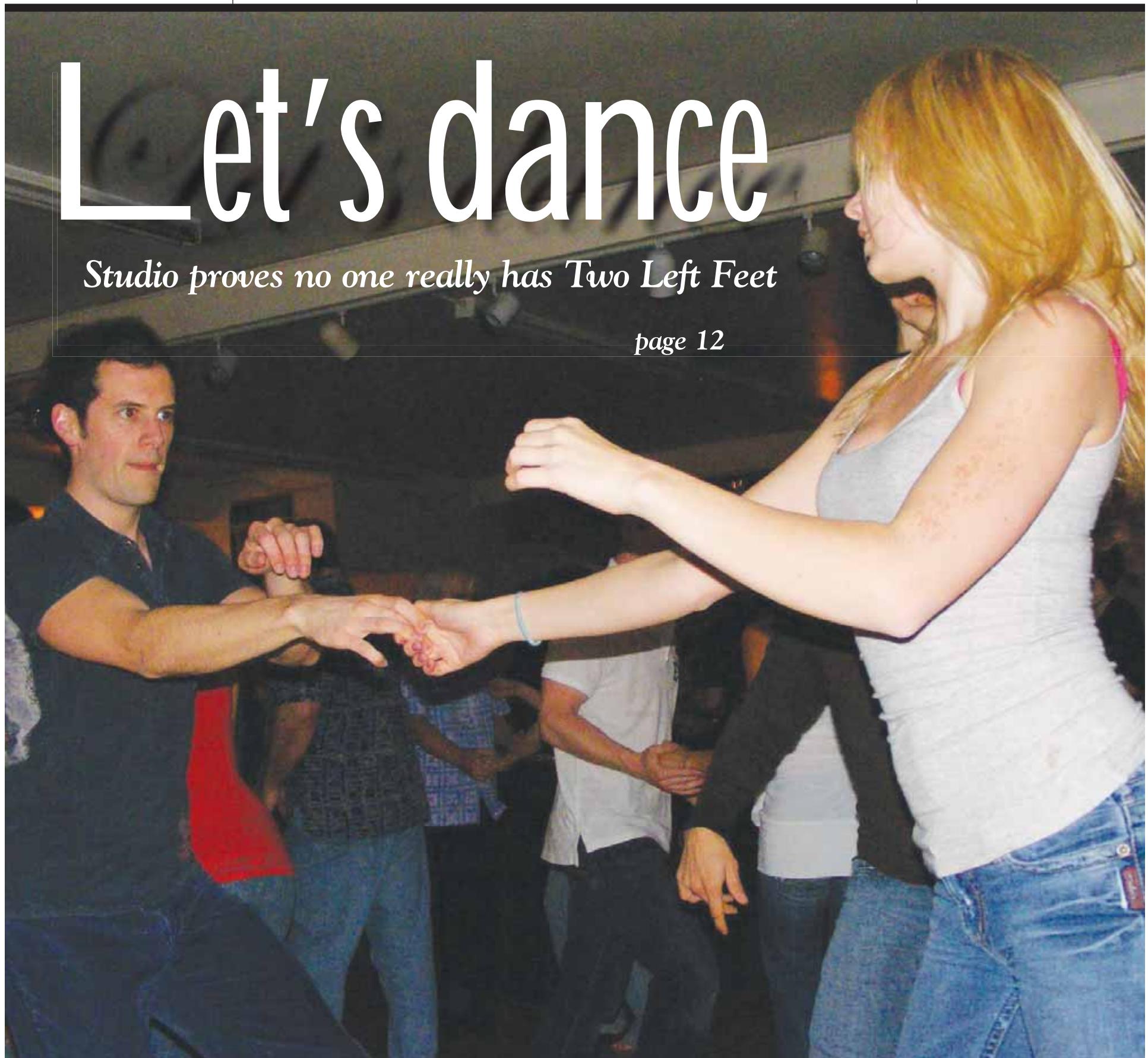
Scouts can't use some favorite sales venues

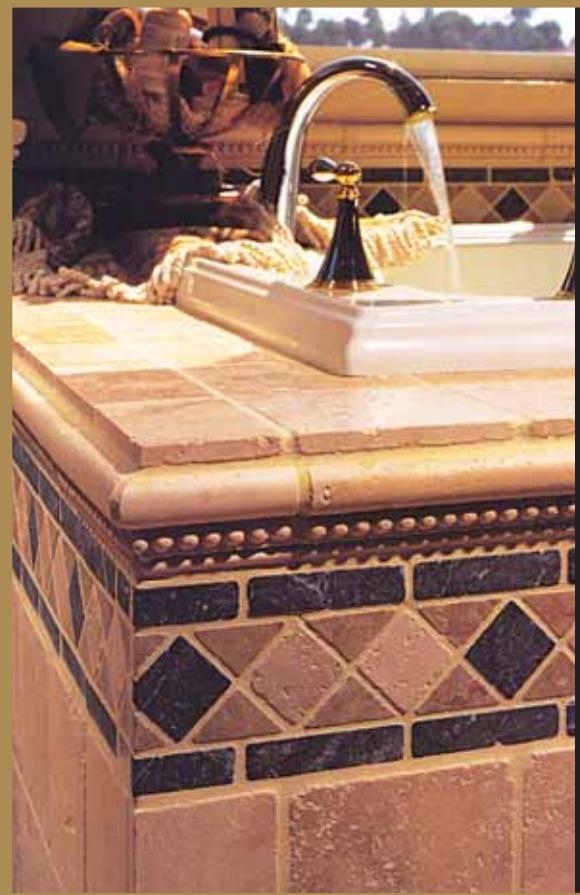
➤ **page 5**

Let's dance

Studio proves no one really has Two Left Feet

page 12





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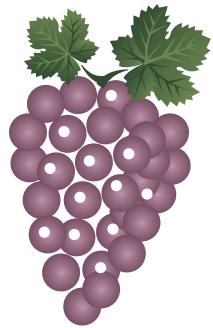
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Q: What's your favorite thing to do in a storm?



Stay home—stay warm—stay safe. And with a storm you've got to have a good wine, or cocktail. As a paramedic, I've stomped around in too many storms, so I just want to stay home, stay warm—and stay safe.

Mike Jacobs
paramedic



Read. I don't like the rain or storms. If I can sit and read, I'm fine. I'll definitely stay in the house.

Susan Woodin
retired school counselor



Probably watch movies, rent a movie. Microwave some popcorn, have soft drinks. For my wife and I and our daughter it's a good bonding time. My daughter's 9 so we pick a movie that's G-rated—nothing too scary.

Jay Magstadt
construction management



I like to stay home and bake. I like to stay dry. I'll make cookies, maybe a pound cake.

Gina Chen
para-educator



In a storm, my kids (ages 4 and 7) and I like to bring blankets into the family room and make a fort. We pretend we're camping.

Michele Beck
Stay-at-home-mom, PTA treasurer

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

What is the biggest misconception people have about teens?
See video of teens answering this question at DanvilleWeekly.com.

ABOUT THE COVER

A couple dances the West Coast Swing, the most popular dance at Two Left Feet studio on Diablo Road. Photo by Meghan Neal. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Pictured: A massive pair of blue and white jars and covers, Kangxi Period. Sold for \$226,000, December 2007

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ He was helpful and funny. ”

—Bob Pack talking about working with Dan Rather on the film, “Graduation Day.”
See story, page 5.

Rakestraw announces
Barbara Walters is coming

Television news anchor icon Barbara Walters will be appearing at Rakestraw Books on Sunday, May 16, to discuss her new memoir, “Audition.”

In “Audition,” Walters shares the story of her life and 40-year career as a television journalist. Often referred to as “the first lady of broadcast journalism,” Walters was the first female network news anchor and program co-host, the star of 20/20, creator of The View, and host of The Barbara Walters Specials.

“As a media celebrity certainly she’s a legend,” said Rakestraw owner Michael Barnard. “She’s a major figure in American media history. She’s a groundbreaking figure as a journalist.”

The book signing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Details are subject to change; call the store at 837-7337 for more information.

The following day, actor Henry Winkler—best known as “the Fonz” from Happy Days—will be at Rakestraw promoting his new series of children’s books.

Rakestraw Books is located at 409 Railroad Ave. in Danville.

Opening on transportation committee

The Danville Town Council is seeking candidates for one position on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee. The term of office is two years, commencing May 1.

This committee reviews the effectiveness of transportation programs and makes recommendations to the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). It meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of every month in Pleasant Hill.

Applications are due March 20. For more information, call the CCTA staff liaison at 256-4720.

Funding for mine cleanup

U.S. Reps. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) and Ellen Tauscher (D. 10th) announced recently that Contra Costa County will receive \$517,000 through the Army Corp of Engineers for the cleanup of the Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine in eastern Contra Costa County.

“Cleaning up this abandoned mine will make a big difference in the health of eastern Contra Costa communities and, ultimately, for much of the Bay Area. After all, runoff into the Marsh Creek watershed eventually ends up in the Bay,” said McNerney.

“The mine cleanup is simply something that needs to be done. Reducing mercury levels washed into the Bay and surrounding communities will contribute to our overall health and that of the environment,” said Tauscher.

Meet the mayor next Friday

Danville Mayor Candace Andersen is hosting her monthly Morning with the Mayor next Friday, March 7, at Father Nature’s Restaurant, 172 E. Prospect Ave. This is an informal opportunity for residents to share their thoughts about town issues and receive a brief update about what is happening in Danville.

The get-together is 7:30-8:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month. Fresh fruit and a cup of coffee or hot chocolate are served at no charge. No reservations are required.

Make the French connection

A group of 40 French students is arriving in Danville from Beziers in the south of France to stay April 11-23. They are coming with teachers who will be responsible for the group.

Students, ages 14 to 18, are looking for Danville area families to host them. They prefer the families have members in high school although stays with families with younger children have also worked out nicely in the past.

This is the sixth year for the group’s visit and many families volunteer again the following year. It is possible to talk to them about the experience. Organizers say one aim of hosting a student is to make a connection for an affordable visit to France to let the hospitality be reciprocated.

For more information, call Kevin Dimler at 820-4309 or e-mail k.dimler@sbcglobal.net. The French teacher can also be contacted for more information: Mme. Martine Causse at causse@wanadoo.fr.

Valley farmer and rancher appearing at Museum

Stop by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley tomorrow, March 1, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and talk to Danville farmer Bill Soto. He grew up in Danville and worked on several farms in the '30s and early '40s. Soto is a 1941 graduate of San Ramon Valley High School and is married to Maxine Mathews, a local girl. He is retired from the plumbing business that he owned based in Alamo, so as a plumber, he contributed to the transition from farming to houses.

On March 8, Valley rancher Gordon Rasmussen will be at the Museum to talk to visitors. Rasmussen has been a farmer and cattleman all his life, based at his ranch headquarters on Highland Road. His grandfather settled in Danville in the early 1900s where the Vista Grande subdivision is today. Rasmussen graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in the 1950s and went on to UC Davis. He was named Livestock Man of the Year by the state Chamber of Commerce several years ago.

These men are appearing in conjunction with the Museum’s current exhibit, “Agriculture, For a Century, the Business of the Valley,” which highlights the period 1850 through 1950, when agriculture was the cornerstone of the Valley’s economy.

It runs through May 10.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is located in the restored Southern Pacific Depot at 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750 or go to www.museumsrv.org.

Corrections The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 837-8300 or e-mail: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

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We are the champs

San Ramon Valley High School girls varsity became the first winter soccer team in 20 years to win three straight NCS championships after beating Foothill High in the North Coast Section final, 2-1, on Saturday night. See story, page 11 and at DanvilleWeekly.com

Property policies take bite out of cookie sales

Blackhawk grocery landlords forbid Girl Scouts to offer their goodies

by Natalie O'Neill

It's going to be harder this year to track down the girls in green.

Girl Scout cookie season is here, but don't count on picking up your Thin Mints or Peanut Butter Patties outside grocery stores in Blackhawk.

Troops can't get permission to sell at the Safeway on Camino Tassajara or Draeger's in Blackhawk Plaza, due to property owner policies forbidding solicitation in shopping center common areas.

"It's discouraging for them," said Amy Gee, whose 12-year-old daughter Alyssa is in a Las Trampas Association troop. "It's not like they are promoting politi-

cal ideas."

But as it turns out, political petitioning, distribution of pamphlets and other "reasonably exercised" forms of speech are protected by the California Constitution in privately owned shopping centers.

Selling products—even by charitable groups or nonprofits—is not. Many Danville and Alamo businesses allow Girl Scouts to sell simply out of good will.

Scouts must usually get permission from the store manager or property owner, sign a form, and obey standard time, place and manner restrictions.

"We support nonprofits, we just can't allow sales," said Blackhawk Plaza Property Manager Trisha Wilkalis. "It becomes a whole new can of worms."

Giving one community group permission to sell and not another opens the door for too many legal what-ifs, managers say. The decision has to be "global," Wilkalis said.

"They just said if they let Girl Scouts sell they have to let everybody sell," explained Alyssa, who called several businesses to ask permission.

In the Danville area, Girl Scouts find that grocery stores are the best places to set up cookie stands, said Alyssa, who is earning a silver award.

Foot traffic is best at Safeway and people know to look there for cookies, she said.

"Going to Wells Fargo and Longs

► Continued on page 9

Reality-style film delivers message: Don't drink and drive

'Graduation Day' to premiere soon in Danville

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Kelly Garner wanted to remember Graduation Day so he kept his video camera running. Commencement exercises were held and the camera ran; at his friend's house he recorded preparations for the big night out. Then onto the party, where liquor ran freely and the camera rolled on.

The kids staggered outside unable to even locate their cars much less drive safely, and the camera caught it all. When Kelly raced through the intersection at 50 mph and his SUV crashed and overturned, the camera recorded the aftermath, albeit through a cracked lens: the overturned car, the screams of the victims, the rescue crews.

This grim 30-minute film is "Graduation Day," the Troy and Alana Pack Foundation's contribution to drum into teenagers' heads: Don't drink and drive. The reality-style film will premiere March 13 at East Bay Fellowship auditorium on Camino Tassajara.

"We're going to distribute it to 20,000 high schools in the U.S. free of charge," said Bob Pack, executive director of the foundation. "I really believe there are so many other messages being bombarded to kids—peer pressure, someone in Hollywood getting a DUI—I really feel strongly there aren't nearly enough positive messages in education being delivered to kids."

Facing reality

What: Premiere of 'Graduation Day'
Who: Troy and Alana Pack Foundation

Where: East Bay Fellowship auditorium, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville

When: 7-8 p.m., Thursday, March 13

Information: 648-2940

To view film trailer: www.troyandalana.org

Bob Pack and his wife Carmen started the foundation after their children Troy, 10, and Alana, 7, were killed in October 2003 by a driver who was under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The organization's goal is to educate the public about traffic safety and responsibility, and to work toward legislation.

Bob and Carmen Pack were speakers a couple of years ago at a Danville high school Every 15 Minutes presentation, an expensive production that replicates a fatal drunken driving accident and the aftermath, with students taking part.

"After coming home, Carmen and I started talking about the idea for the film," Bob Pack recalled. "Every 15 Minutes programs cost about \$15,000; very few high schools can afford them, and they

► Continued on page 9

Youth to Youth can be very convincing

Through skits, songs and workshops, gathering will explore substance-free lifestyles

by Meghan Neal

It's like reversed peer pressure: High schoolers are encouraging middle schoolers not to take drugs or drink alcohol.

At next month's aptly named Youth to Youth conference, high school students who are committed to a substance-free lifestyle will act as mentors for the middle schoolers attending the event.

"If negative peer pressure can make kids begin to use drugs and alcohol then positive peer pressure should be able to work, too. And it does," said Kim Gallagher, project director at Community Against Substance Abuse, a non-profit coalition.

Youth to Youth is one of the initiatives of the coalition. The program's peer to peer approach has proven to be an effective way of getting the substance-free message out to kids.

"If an 18-year-old comes up to you—and you're 13—and says, 'Stay away from that stuff, man, you don't need it,' that's way more powerful," said Scott Gerbert, programs and grants coordinator for the school district.

The all-day conference includes a keynote speaker, workshops, family groups, a drug panel, skits, a variety show, music and dancing.

Lauren Levenson, a sophomore

► Continued on page 8

Flames engulf old Humburg house in Alamo

Old-timers recall visiting the original family home

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

It wasn't just any house that burned down last week in the Danala Farms neighborhood in Alamo. It was the historic Humburg house, which had been moved to the site some 20 years ago from Orchard Court, where it was built in the 1890s.

"My grandpa built that house," said Danville resident Betty Dunlap. "My maiden name was Humburg."

Even after the house was moved to the 900 block of Danville Boulevard, Dunlap would drop by and talk to the contractor, F.P. Gorski, who was doing extensive remodeling.

"He was trying to restore it to be authentic," Dunlap said. "It just was sad that something like that would go up in flames."

Firefighters responded to a structure fire at 5:19 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 954 Danville Blvd. The house had been undergoing major remodeling and was approximately two months from completion, according to reports from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

The 4,000-square-foot home was 75 percent in flames upon arrival

of fire crews. Three engines, two ladder trucks and one paramedic responded to the call for a total of 20 personnel. The fire was under control by 5:53 a.m.

The man who owns the house and his daughter were staying downstairs during the renovations and they were awakened by the fire. They were able to get out safely, and there were no injuries.

Original structure damage estimates were set at \$1 million and content damages at \$100,000.

Alamo historian Virgie Jones also remembers when the Humburg family lived in the house at 24 Orchard Court. It was built for August Humburg and his bride Alice Annie Stone, as a three-story Queen Anne Victorian after they were married in 1893.

"It was Aunt Annie Humburg's home," Jones said. "They were part of the Stone family; my mother-in-law was a Stone."

The house was moved south on Danville Boulevard in 1989 to Danala Farms, along with another home that went to Gurney Lane. It was owned at the time by John and Barbara Conrad.

"The Conrads served mimosas and donuts on the original location



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

An insurance adjuster photographs the old Humburg house the morning after a fire destroyed 75 percent of it.

before they left," Jones recalled. "It took a long time to move the houses. There were a lot of obstacles."

Jones, 90, said she was in the car directly behind the houses as they traveled down Danville Boulevard.

The Humburg house was originally built with the main floor about a story above the ground, said Dunlap.

"The reason it was built in two stories was in those days the creek overflowed," she explained.

Subsequent owners lowered the house and made the upper portion into rooms.

The other house that was moved was also built by August Humburg, said Dunlap.

"My grandpa built that house on Danville Boulevard and Jackson Way for his mother," she said.

Preliminary reports said the fire may have been caused by temporary electrical equipment being used on the second floor while renovations were being done. ■



The house was built on Orchard Court in Alamo in the 1890s for August Humburg and his bride Alice Annie Stone. Originally the steps led up to the main floor, which was elevated so the house wouldn't flood when the San Ramon Creek overflowed. This photo shows Betty Dunlap's grandmother, Annie Humburg, holding her dad, Lorenz, with her aunt Friederiche nearby.

Downtown high school to get more parking

New three-story building will free up room at San Ramon Valley High

Trustees recently approved San Ramon Valley High School's updated master plan, which includes adding 155 parking spaces on campus.

"It should alleviate some stress downtown," said Trustee Greg Marvel. "We are not annexing land. We are reconfiguring some of the space on campus and squeezing in more parking."

There are currently 388 parking spaces on the school grounds, and 155 parking spaces will be added, making the total number 543, said officials from the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. Residents and pedestrians have complained in the past that student parking has

taken too much space on Danville Boulevard.

The new parking spaces are part of the school's updated master plan, which includes finding a location for the new career-technology facility, erecting a three-story building, and replacing the old large gymnasium. The master plan is funded by Measure A money.

The three-story building will give the school more room.

"It will free up more space for parking space," said Rich Lowell, district director of facilities. "This plan is contingent on the plan of replacing the older classrooms with the three-story building."

The district needs to find more funding to complete San Ramon Valley High's entire master plan, but nonetheless it will move forward in adding 83 parking spaces and completing some of the plan's projects.

Lowell speculated that another bond measure may finance the district's modernization goals. District spokesman Terry Koehne noted that state funds may help with costs.

Lowell said the district revisits its master plan sites every five years to see if they are up to date, and school officials looked at San Ramon's master plan last year.

—Staff reports

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Students hear exchange of ideas

Scholarship competition series hosting speakers for inspiration

by Meghan Neal

Students and members of the San Ramon Valley Exchange Club gathered at the Danville Veterans Hall on Monday evening to hear the latest speaker in the club's scholarship competition series.

To participate in the competition, high school students are invited to come listen to the speakers and then submit essays that could win them scholarships for college. The first, second and third place winners are awarded \$1,000, \$500 and \$250.

"It's a great opportunity for students, not just to get the money award," said Councilwoman Karen Stepper, president of the club. "We think that also the fact that they participated in a forum like this will look good on college resumes."

Five students, Vicki Hsieh, Miso Ghim, Emma Grager, Cameron Lee and Amanda Swenson, came to hear Monday's speaker, District Attorney Bob Kochly.

They sat up front taking notes



MEGHAN NEAL
Emma Grager and Amanda Swenson take notes on a speech by District Attorney Bob Kochly for a scholarship essay competition.

and snacking on peanuts and bottled water as Kochly spoke about this year's competition topic: Understanding the 10th Amendment.

The "Reserved Powers" amendment, which deals with how power is divided between federal and state governments, is a topic Kochly said he was very familiar with.

"Ninety-nine percent of the crimes in the United States are prosecuted by the state, under state law," Kochly explained to his audience. "The federal government saves its resources for cases that it thinks are important or big enough."

Exchange Club, so named for the "exchange" of ideas it aims to promote, is a national service club. The San Ramon Valley chapter was started two years ago by Stepper and is comprised of veterans, business people and government officials in the area.

Stepper said for the competition the club chose local speakers who would be able to talk about "things

that actually happen in our valley, that we think the students can relate to."

As an alternative to writing about the speakers, students can get inspiration for their essays from "Freedom Shrines" in the area. San Ramon Valley High School has a full display, and one is being installed today at Monte Vista High School. There is a smaller shrine at the Danville Public Library.

"We want people to understand them," said Stepper about the documents in the Freedom Shrines. "These documents are so rich with things that people are very familiar with, but not familiar enough to use the principals involved to solve current problems. It's a link between the past and what we do today."

To participate in the essay competition, students must go hear at least three speakers. (The first few speakers were taped for late-joiners.) The next up, Gen. Ron Lowe, will be at the Veterans Hall at 6 p.m., Monday, March 3.

The competition is judged by members of the Exchange Club. The deadline to submit essays is in April. ■

Freedom Shrines

The Freedom Shrines provided by the Exchange Club are displays of famous historical documents like the Bill of Rights, Gettysburg Address, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech or President Kennedy's "Ask not what your country can do for you" inaugural address.

In 1947, shortly after World War II ended, President Truman thought Americans ought to take a moment to reflect on the founding principles of their country. So the government compiled dozens of "documents of liberty" and put them on a "Freedom Train," which toured around the nation.

The idea morphed, over time, into the Freedom Shrines. Authenticated copies of the documents were made in the late 1940s and displays were put up throughout the country.

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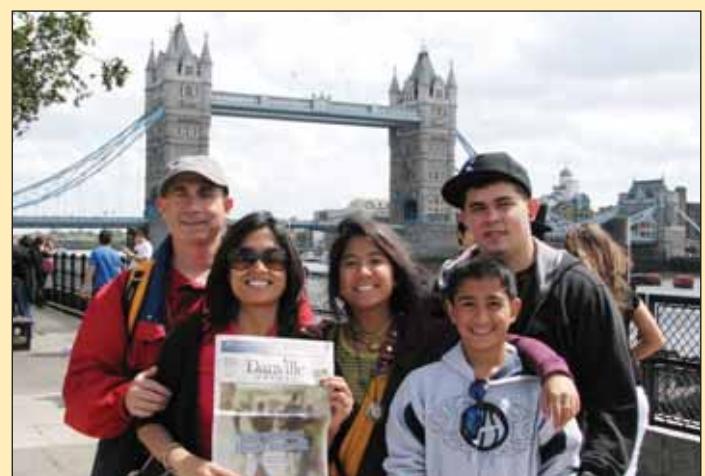
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TAKE US ALONG



London bridges

Danville residents Mark and Gladys Riserbato and their children Courtney, Michael and Chase catch up on their hometown reading at the Tower of London last June to celebrate two high school graduations. Congratulations on your graduations—and your good taste in reading.



Beach fun includes the Weekly

Paige (left) and Lauren Gerhart check out what's happening back home in Danville before returning to building sand castles, collecting seashells and walking to the tide pools while on vacation at Newport Beach last spring with their parents Kathleen and Steve.

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Police alert merchants to counterfeit bills

Spring and summer are the season for fake money

by Meghan Neal

If you throw down a \$100 bill to purchase, say, a soda, it's probably not surprising when the retail clerk stops and checks to make sure your bill is real. But what about \$20 bills? Should they be getting checked now too?

"If it's a \$20 bill, the chances of it being counterfeit are much greater than if it's a 50 or 100," said

Alamo Sheriff's Department Cpl. Elmer Glasser.

The most common form of counterfeiting, he said, is when people take \$5 bills and alter them to look like 20s.

Danville police Chief Chris Wenzel said counterfeiting is one of the issues that businesses need to be aware of. At last Thursday's Discover Danville Association meeting police handed out pamphlets on how businesses can avoid falling victim to such crimes.

Wenzel said that while counterfeiting does happen in the area, it's

not widespread. Incidents of the crime are "streaky" and inconsistent. Counterfeiting season is in the spring and summertime, when folks start to do more shopping, he said.

When a counterfeit bill is passed, the shop owner loses out not only because they've just given away a product for free, but also because they often give the "customer" change in cash for the fake money.

Wenzel said employees usually don't catch the fake bills right away but will notice later when they're counting the cash from the day. Then they have to think back to try and figure out who gave it to them.

And sometimes the bills aren't caught at the store level at all. Glasser said that \$20 bills or smaller in particular aren't usually discovered until they reach the bank.

Business owners and managers will usually educate their employees about how to spot counterfeit money. One popular method is to use a marker, called a counterfeit

bill pen.

"They're trained to scratch the bill—run the pen across the face—and if the bill is counterfeit it turns one color, and if it's real it turns another color," said Glasser.

Another technique is to look at the watermark on each bill. When the bill is held up to a light source, the watermark should match the picture on the front of the bill.

"If the face doesn't match the watermark or the watermark doesn't match the face, it's counterfeit," said Glasser.

The Treasury Department is constantly coming out with new bills, redesigned with additional features that aim to make them harder to replicate.

Wenzel said these new features make it about 10 times harder to make counterfeit money nowadays than it used to be. But even still, it's not difficult to do, he said.

"I think the federal government has made every effort to make the bill harder to photocopy or coun-

terfeit," said Wenzel. "But there are still ways around what they've established."

Which doesn't mean people should try it at home: Counterfeiting is a very serious crime. It's considered forgery, a state offense, and moreover there's a separate federal offense for counterfeiting. Both crimes are felonies.

Glasser advised people who think they have accidentally been given a fake bill to go to their local bank to make sure. Retailers who come across fake bills should keep them, try not to touch them, and call their local law enforcement.

He said it's important that each and every counterfeit crime is reported, so that police can track patterns.

Danville police discussed counterfeiting at a crime prevention meeting held a few weeks ago. Police are trying to take a proactive approach to crime prevention, by helping educate the public about various crimes in the area, Wenzel said. ■

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Y2Y

► Continued from page 5

at San Ramon Valley High School, has been involved with Youth to Youth since first attending the conference three years ago. She said the event has a strong impact on the middle schoolers who go.

"The whole conference in general leaves the kids with a strong message of 'This is what you can do without doing drugs' and 'Here are the terrors that drugs can cause in your life,'" said Levenson. "A lot of people don't want that to happen to them."

So is substance abuse really a big problem in the area?

"Fortunately, at the middle school level, our numbers are fairly low," said Gerbert, referencing an anonymous survey taken in October of more than 5,000 students in the district.

The survey showed that about 12 percent of seventh-graders and 34 percent of ninth-graders had consumed a full drink of alcohol. About 4 percent of seventh-graders

had tried marijuana and about 3 percent had smoked a cigarette.

By the 11th grade, alcohol usage went up to 59 percent, according to the survey.

Gallagher said the San Ramon Valley has always had a slightly higher usage rate than the state and national averages, especially when it comes to alcohol use.

The 11th-graders surveyed claimed high stress levels as their main reason for drinking—taxing milestones like taking the SATs and college applications occur during that year, Gerbert pointed out.

"The academic stress level is higher in our community," he said. "It's not a discussion of 'are' you going to college, it's 'where are' you going to college. In our community that stress level is amped up a little bit."

As the survey numbers show, substance use isn't exactly prevalent among middle school students, and Gallagher said this can pose a challenge for getting parents to encourage their kids to attend the conference.

"They think, 'Oh, my kid isn't exposed to this,'" said Gallagher.

But the point, she said, is to prepare the youths to be able to make tough decisions about substances even before the issue comes up.

"We don't wait to get a cavity to start to brush our teeth," she said. "We don't wait for a toddler to stick a fork in a plug to say, 'Oh no, you shouldn't be doing that.' We prepare for everything else in our lives. Why wouldn't we prepare for this too?" ■

Choosing to be substance-free

What: San Ramon Valley Middle School Youth to Youth Conference

Who: Sixth through eighth grade students

Where: Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Road, San Ramon

When: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, March 8

Cost: \$45

Register: Registration forms are available at any middle school or online at srvcasa.org.

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‘Graduation Day’

► Continued from page 5

are very time-consuming, a two-day event.”

Since he is a USC alumnus, Pack approached its graduate school of film and talked to the dean about his proposed project. Two students stepped forward to volunteer—producer Rebecca Brown and director Andrew Gallery. They hired actors to play the teenagers and other characters.

“We shot it reality style so they could see, ‘Hey, that’s exactly what we do and that could be the consequences,’” said Pack.

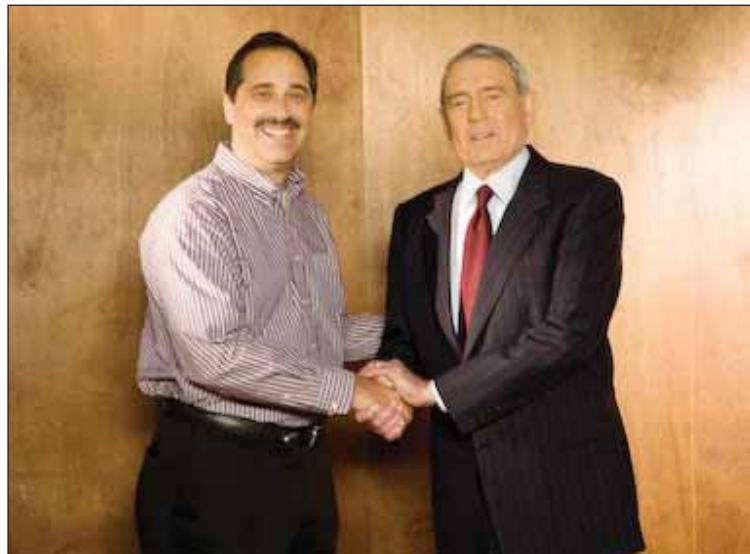
They filmed the movie last April in Southern California and edited it during the summer. Because they presented the video documentary style, they knew they needed a host, preferably someone well-known.

“We thought of some names and started making phone calls to New York anchor types,” recalled Pack. “Rebecca talked to different people, and we got a call back from the agent for Dan Rather.”

They set up a conference call with Rather to explain their idea.

“He said it was a neat project and said, ‘I’ll jump on board,’” said Pack. “We had to work out a script for him that he could read and approve, and then we set up a date to film.”

Pack, the film crew and actors flew to New York, rented a studio



COURTESY PACK FOUNDATION

Bob Pack thanks Dan Rather for his part in “Graduation Day,” a reality-style documentary that shows the horror of possible consequences when drinking and driving.

and created a set, and had just one day, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., to work with Rather.

“He was helpful and funny,” said Pack, who was relieved when Rather arrived 10 minutes early, despite the snow. “He wanted it to turn out good.”

The Pack Foundation is partnering with Scholastic, which publishes and distributes children’s books and other educational materials, to hand out the film. Bob Pack is working with a Danville company to package it effectively, to tell schools how to use it and why.

The Pack Foundation Web site will have posters that schools can

download to promote the film, and Myspace is going to create a “Graduation Day” Web page, said Pack.

“I’ve been contacted by a bunch of schools in the area and a couple have talked about having evening showings so seniors could come in with their parents,” he said.

He noted this would open lines of communications in families.

Pack is pleased with the film, and said he, Carmen and their 21-month-old daughter Noelle will be at the premiere.

“It’s been a year-and-a-half project,” Pack said. “We’re glad to see it come together.” ■

Cookies

► Continued from page 5

is not as desirable,” her mom Amy echoed.

So when Alyssa and her fellow Girl Scout Jessica Kuelz were told they couldn’t sell at the Blackhawk grocery store locations, the girls were nervous they wouldn’t have enough popular places for cookie sales. Most of the good spots around town were filling up fast.

Safeway NorCal Manager of Public Affairs Sherry Reckler said if Safeway owns the property, then all the Scouts have to do is meet with a store manager, sign some papers and comply with a few rules.

But if a landlord owns the property—like in the case of the Safeway on Camino Tassajara—the situation is a little more tricky.

“That’s a harder route to go,” Reckler said.

Many property owners strive to keep their policies about sales consistent. And they have concerns about shopping centers getting clogged.

The company allows community groups like Girl Scouts and Brownies to sell, along with charitable organizations. Commercial retailers are not permitted.

“I’d want to tell them ... we wouldn’t do any harm or anything,” Alyssa said.

Blackhawk property owners reviewed a 1980 Supreme Court case called Pruneyard Shopping



FILE PHOTO

Brownies sell cookies in front of Trader Joe’s in Danville two years ago. Landlords are becoming stricter about allowing such sales, and the Scouts will not be selling at Trader Joe’s this year.

Center V. Robbins when determining their own policies about what to permit in their common areas.

The Supreme Court ruled that peaceful publicly expressive behavior does not infringe on the shopping center owner’s rights. It would be much more difficult, however, to make a case for the right to sell merchandise on someone’s private property.

Approximately 70 percent of the proceeds from Girl Scouts cookie sales stay in the local Girl Scouts Council, while the rest goes toward paying for the product at cost, according to the Girl Scouts Web site.

The Las Trampas Association of Girl Scouts includes over 120 troops and will be selling cookies Feb. 29, March 1-2, 7-9 and 14-16.

Cookie sale locations include Lunardi’s, Peet’s Coffee, Lucky, Starbucks on Hartz Avenue and Wells Fargo in Danville. In Alamo they will be available at Longs Drugs and Safeway, and in Blackhawk at Starbucks on Crow Canyon Road and Chamois Car Wash.

“I commend them for sticking it out,” said Amy Gee.

For more information on cookie locations, visit www.cookiefinder.com. ■

Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Hey, Fido, what’s happenin’?

Wouldn’t it be nice if your dog could just tell you why he’s in a funk? Is he sad about something, or not feeling good?

Well, pets are continually sending signals to their owners and we just have to try to understand them, animal communicator Barbara Martin informed the Kiwanis Club at its luncheon last week.

“We are intuitive beings and animals are, too,” Martin said. “We think of a friend, then we’ll get an e-mail from them, or a phone call or run into them. We send out thoughts.”

With our animals, we might come home from work and get busy fixing dinner, notions flitting through our brains. One of these thoughts might be: “I’ll take the dog for a walk.” The dog perceives it and gets excited. Then we get busy and forget about the walk. Poor dog! No wonder he’s sad.

“Animals are talking to each other all the time,” Martin said, meaning domesticated animals. “They don’t understand why we don’t talk back to them.”

They understand our emotions, and they definitely know if it is a weekday or a weekend when they will get more attention.

If they send us thoughts—like, let’s take a walk!—and we aren’t paying attention, they may (1) go to sleep, (2) get out the leash, or (3) act out. And this is when people call Martin.

“I’ve gone through lots of training with other communicators,” she said, and she’s helped thousands of pet owners. “I facilitate the conversation for you.”

She works mainly with dogs, cats and horses, and said she is 90 percent accurate.

She told the story of an 8-year-old Danville lab that seemed depressed; also he was taking the pillows off the living room couch each day and carrying them through his dog door and out into the back yard.

“For 45 minutes, I talked to the animal,” Martin said. “They had three sons and one had left. The animal thinks he died.”

The family gives Martin all the information ahead of time and then before a telephone appointment, she goes into a meditative state and communicates with the animal. She sees their thoughts in words and pictures. This dog also asked: What happened to his toys?

Martin told the family to explain to the dog that the son was only away at college and would be returning. And it turned out the family had remodeled and put the dog toys into the garage, so they

made them accessible once again. They also began to walk the dog once a day. At last report, the dog was only disturbing the pillows once a month.

“Animals are talking to each other all the time. They don’t understand why we don’t talk back to them.”

—Barbara Martin,
animal communicator

Martin said it is important for us to keep our animals informed when we go on vacation—tell them in sunsets when we’ll return—and about changes in our lives that affect them. She has worked with abandoned horses and dogs and says horses are the saddest when being moved. If you adopt an animal, be sure to say, “My intention is we’ll always be together.” Dogs love to be walked every day and to be touched. And dogs and cats want a fresh bowl of water every day.

“Animals are super loyal,” Martin noted. They don’t tell her family secrets such as if a divorce may be in the works.

One family called for help with their poodle who kept defecating in the teenage daughter’s room, or right outside if they closed the door.

“It turns out there was a problem,” Martin said. “The parents were in denial. The 16-year-old was depressed and sad—these were unspoken things—and there were dangerous things she was up to.”

Martin remembers working in the computer industry in the mid-’90s and hearing Bill Gates predict to a disbelieving audience that in five years everyone would put their Web addresses in their ads. She now predicts that in five years, animal communication will be a household phrase. It is soon to become a “field of study” at some universities although scientists are finding it harder to accept, she said.

“Keep an open mind,” Martin advised the Kiwanis members after lunch at Round Hill Country Club. “Your animals will appreciate it. They deserve the opportunity to talk.”

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Homework vs. family time

Some parents in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District have been instrumental in the formation of a Homework Task Force. The group includes parents, teachers and staff, and it is charged with reevaluating the district's homework policy.

The debate comes up when children are too stressed and busy with their homework to enjoy family time. Some parents also observed that often homework seems to be busy work, with no redeeming value, and questioned whether this contributes in any positive way to their children's education.

Students, and their parents, will become less frustrated with homework if it truly helps the learning process. Teachers should verify its importance by evaluating the finished assignments rather than just checking off their completion. Also teachers must be sure students understand the assignment so they and their parents aren't frustrated as they try to figure it out.

The district already includes these points in its homework policy, directing teachers to provide "homework of high quality and reasonable quantity" and to give students "timely feedback concerning homework which has been returned." Perhaps the problem is in the implementation of the policy; maybe some teachers find this part of the policy is unrealistic for them, time-wise.

Other things are not in the policy and should be addressed. For one, the guidelines should direct teachers to coordinate assignments so students are not overwhelmed on any one night. Also, while homework seems a sensible way to establish good study habits, is this assumption correct? Do students need to enter college with this skill ingrained or will they learn it along with the other skills of independence, such as eating, sleeping and going to classes without being monitored?

Now that technology keeps a world of information at our fingertips, we must constantly reevaluate the educational process itself. What does it mean "to learn" in 2008? What do our students need to be taught to secure their futures? The most important thing is to keep our students engaged in learning. How best can homework help with this goal?

The most important thing is to keep our students engaged in learning.

YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homes/jobs balance is circular

Dear Editor:

Bravo for your excellent editorial on the threats facing Tassajara Valley ("Bit by Bit," Feb. 22). Your editorial covered many of the important points about the attempts to pave over the last bits of open and agricultural space we have.

In addition to the points you raised, we should consider whether we want the type of growth that is proposed. Without even considering the unthinkable breach of public trust that the subversion of the urban limit line represents, we can quickly see through the illogical claims that more housing is needed to accommodate the growth of the area.

The growth of the area is actually fed by residential development, so the argument made by developers and county officials that new development is needed to balance jobs is illogical on its face and utterly circular.

But more important, what happens when the Tassajara Valley is paved over and developed and there is no more open space to develop? The answer is that we are left with, as you described, a "stucco forest" and the qualities that used to make this area so attractive will have been destroyed.

Let's not be lured into the same disaster that is now playing out around the country (and even in our own back yard, in the Central Valley), where residential development was allowed to spread unchecked and entire neighborhoods of unsold and foreclosed upon homes have become ghost towns or, worse, breeding grounds for crime.

There are plenty of homes in this area already. There is nothing wrong with obeying the will of the voters, respecting the balance between human needs and preservation of the environment, and standing firm in the face of those who would permanently destroy the character and health of this area for a quick, and illusory, buck. In fact, there's a lot of honor in doing so.

Marc Greendorfer, Danville

Police volunteer speaks out

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the Letter to the Editor (Feb. 22) entitled "Scary cover photo." I am one of those volunteers working with the Danville Police Department. I was amused with the words describing what we do to assist our police: "Issuing firing arms to posse members" and "providing fantasy camps for adults."

The volunteers that work with the Danville Police Department, all 11 of us, are not cops and do not want to be cops. What do we do? Clerical functions such as attending the front desk, routine the automotive fleet

to assure readiness, participate at community functions such as the Devil Mountain Run, Primo's Run, Tree Lighting Ceremony, situations that require traffic control, school events such as bicycle safety rodeos, Stranger Danger class discussions, etc. And yes, periodic patrols through our town to assess safety violations or conditions that need the attention of the regular force.

As for the "The Academy." This is an opportunity for everyone to see what the Police Department does in their community, how the officers are trained and what they do. It is not a training facility for volunteers, as was mistakenly portrayed. These academies are conducted all over the country.

Yes, the volunteer group does get to visit incarceration facilities, firing ranges, the communications center, and participate in classes beneficial to assisting the department.

Is it cost effective? Yes. The department does provide a uniform, and that's it. The volunteers, on average, contribute a minimum of 16 hours of service per month. For most, many more. For me, it's a privilege to be a part of this organization and to be contributing to the community. I would encourage all to consider attending the next "Academy" and gaining a better understanding of just what it does to serve the Town of Danville.

Bob Gross, Danville

33 years of preschool

Dear Editor:

"What preschool do you go to?"

"Methodist!"

The small, friendly Alamo school at the back of San Ramon United Methodist Church on Danville Boulevard, known as "Methodist" to parents, continues its tradition of 33 years, offering developmental learning in a nurturing setting.

This year the school has adopted a new name, "United Methodist Preschool," to reflect its connection to the United Methodist Church, though the parents still call it just "Methodist." Children, ages 2 years 9 months to 5 years, benefit from small-group classes of same-age children, as well as cross-age groupings for choice activities. The outdoor setting by the creek, nurturing teachers, academic readiness activities, and the involvement of church members in supporting the preschool have caused the school's standing in Alamo to grow.

Director Kelley Cochran invited the community to celebrate that reputation in an Anniversary Open House earlier this month. Families reunited with former teachers and reminisced over photo albums.

The preschool still has openings for fall enrollment, so for further information or to enroll, please call Kelley Cochran at the United Methodist Preschool at 837-2788.

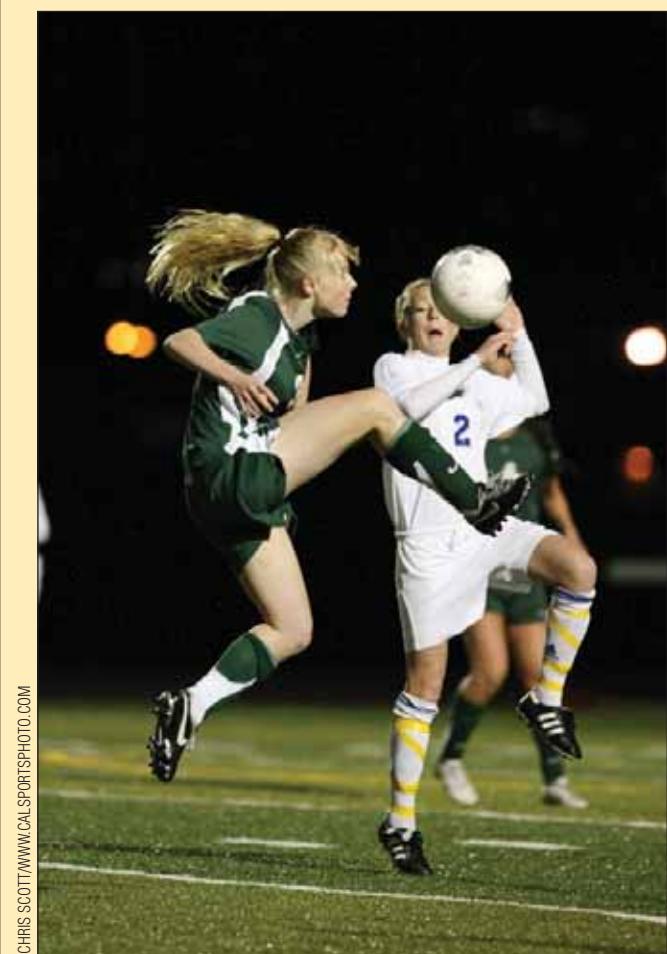
Heather Hammer,
Associate Pastor

Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

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.



Wolves 3-peat on soccer field

Goalie Natalie Johnston displays the championship plaque while Head Coach Mark Jones waves the banner as the Lady Wolves become the first winter soccer team in 20 years to win three straight NCS championships. San Ramon Valley beat Foothill High in the North Coast Section final, 2-1, after a hard-fought match that went to double overtime and penalty kicks. At left, Jillian Armstrong shows championship play.

The Wolves, who have become accustomed to starting their season as underdogs, have thrived on the challenge under Coach Jones. This is his third year as varsity head coach.

SRV beat Monte Vista in the 2007 championship match, 2-0, and won the 2006 title against Foothill, 1-0. See more photos at DanvilleWeekly.com

PREP SCHEDULE

Feb. 29-March 1

Wrestling

State Championships at Rabobank Arena, Bakersfield, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, March 4

Golf

Monte Vista at Granada, 3 p.m. at Las Positas

San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 3 p.m. at Crow Canyon

Men's Volleyball

Monte Vista at Amador, 6 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Monte Vista vs. Cal High

San Ramon Valley at Granada

Baseball

San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5

Baseball

San Ramon Valley at Deer Valley, 3:30 p.m.

Softball

San Ramon Valley vs. Freedom, 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 6

Golf

Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 3 p.m. at Round Hill

San Ramon Valley at Granada, 3 p.m. at Poppy Ridge

Men's Volleyball

Monte Vista at Cal High, 6 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Monte Vista vs. Livermore

San Ramon Valley at Cal High

Softball

San Ramon Valley at Newark, 4 p.m.



Blasting through the championship

Mother Nature showed no mercy Saturday afternoon at the California State Cup Championship game between the U-13 Mustang Blast girls and the U-13 CV Chilipepper's girls. Amid buckets of rain and swirling winds, both teams pushed for possession of the ball, with the Mustang girls prevailing with a final score of 4-0, an exciting finish to a season of 64 games. The girls move on to Hawaii to represent Northern California at the Regional Competition.

"They will carry not only their dreams to this event, but the dreams of their soccer peers, friends, family and community," said Rebecca Rader, publicity.

Team members are (back-front, l-r) Coach Rob Vandevanter, Coach Pat Uriz, Coach Lance Feldman, Stephanie Amack, Hannah Koski, Morgan Idso, Amy Harioka, Alyssa Alarab, Shelby Cota, Rachel Hamilton, Lynsey Hromatko, Kimberly Low, Coach Doug Norvelle, Katie Tao, Reilly Parker, Serena Lee, Bethoney Ritter, Rachel Feldman, Katelyn Rader, Alexa Vandevanter and Kerianne Hunt.



Fury wins State Cup

The Mustang Fury U-12 girls defeated rivals MVLA Lightning, 2-0, to win the State Cup Championship in Division 1 soccer. Top scorers were Dana Outcalt, Kat Hupke; assists, Rayan Takemoto, Chelsea Arnold; top defensive players, Madi Castelein, Ashley Christensen, Jessica Gillespie. The Fury heads to Hawaii in June to compete in the Far West Regionals.

Team members are (l-r) Assistant Coach Fritz Scharff, Head Coach Ashley Iorio, Jamie Speros, Dana Outcalt, Jessica Gillespie, Makenna Kummer, Ashley Christensen, Sarah Peterson, Kat Hupke, Melissa Lewis, Chelsea Arnold, Assistant Coach Pat Uriz; (front) Allie Dutto, Zoey Bauman, Erin Donnelly, Alyssa Herwatt, Madi Castelein, Rayan Takemoto, Erika Perez.

Story and photos
by Meghan Neal

The students in the beginner West Coast Swing class stepped One, Two, Three and Four, Five and Six. One, Two, Three and Four, Five and Six—while a smooth R&B song played in the background.

"Imagine your body is a glass of champagne," the instructor coached. "You don't want it to spill over!"

One, Two, the men guided their partners past them, right hands gently cupped together. Three and Four, the ladies spun around to face the men again. Five and Six, and repeat.

"Now don't pull us," the instructor cautioned the men. "Just get us started. We know where we're going."

The step, called the left shoulder pass, is one of eight basic moves that make up West Coast Swing—the most popular style at Two Left Feet dance studio.

"We're known worldwide," said Randy Krul, who has owned the studio with his wife, Stephanie, for eight years.

Regulars proudly agree, explaining that people from all over the state and even the country travel to the Danville studio to dance the West Coast Swing.

This is particularly true on Friday nights, which is "the" night at Two Left Feet. Once the classes end, the studio erupts into an all-out dance party that lasts until 2 a.m. and often attracts up to 200 people, said Krul.

"It's like a party without being drunk," he said. "They get off on the music. They get off on the dancing."

Last Friday night the studio was replete with festive colored lights hanging above the mirrors, refreshments in the back (no alcohol), and

couches, chairs and benches where the dancers caught their breath between songs.

Krul sat coolly in a big chair by the front door of the studio, DJing the event and chatting with people as they ambled in throughout the evening.

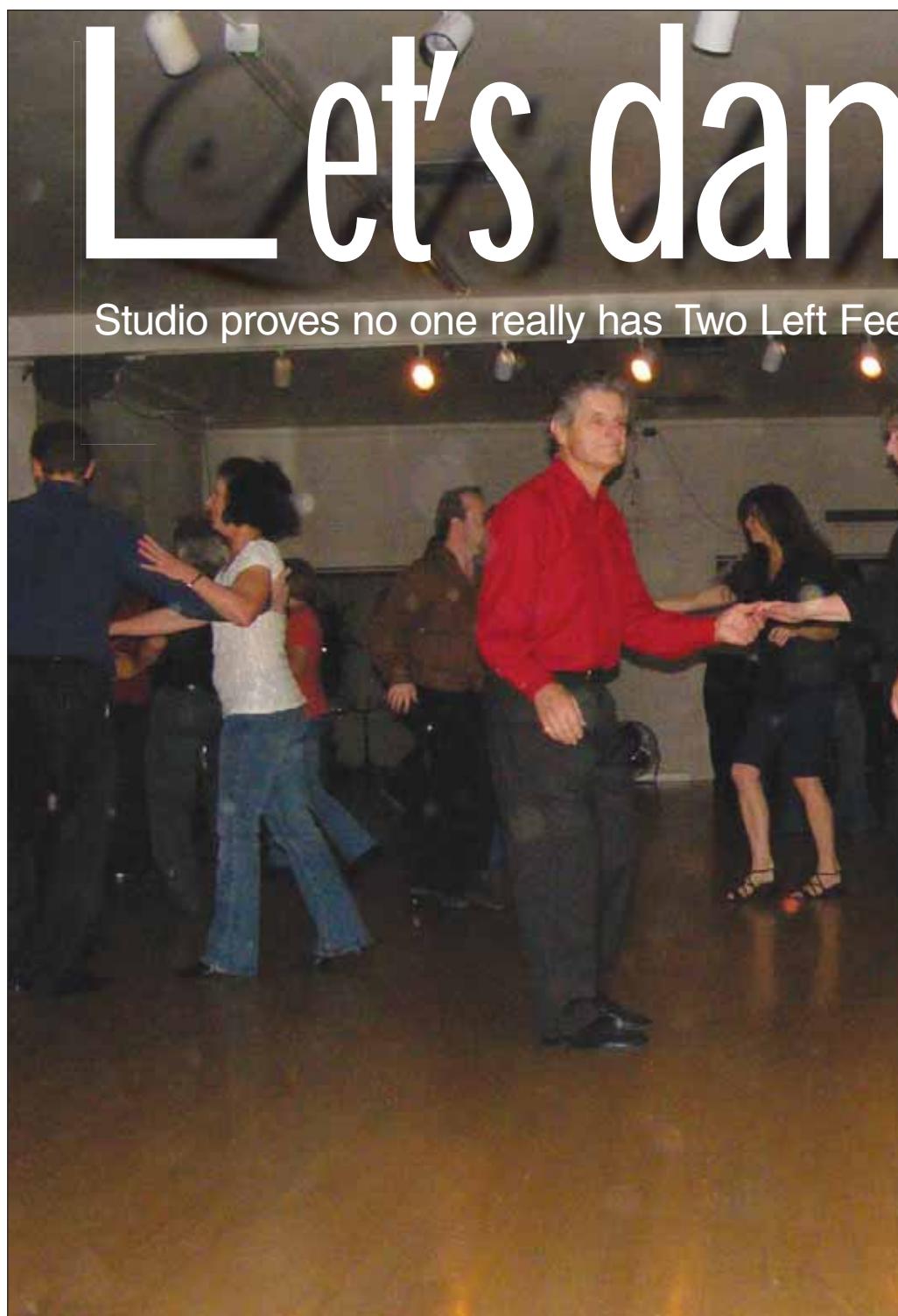
He and his wife never intended to open a studio, he said. "It just happened."

They started teaching a couple nights a week, in bars mostly, but the bar owners weren't too happy with the setup since the dancers hardly ever bought alcohol. So in the early 1990s, the couple opened Two Left Feet, originally on Hartz Avenue, and six years afterward they moved to the current location on Diablo Road.

West Coast Swing

"West Coast Swing is one of the most creative dances, said Kari Mashburn, who's been dancing at Two Left Feet for 10 years, and helps teach the country two-step on Tuesdays. "In no other dance do you really make stuff up."

But before the dancers can get creative, learning the basic steps of the dance can be challenging. There are eight separate patterns to learn even at the beginner level—as opposed to just one in East Coast Swing, the dance's more-popular counterpart.



Partner dances such as the West Coast Swing are like having a conversation on the dance floor. "Once you learn partner his wife, Stephanie."



On Friday nights, the dance party at Two Left Feet goes until 2 a.m. and can attract up to 200 people. Refreshments are nonalcoholic—the fun is in the dancing.

Let's dan

Studio proves no one really has Two Left Feet

"If you've never danced before it can be a little challenging," said Krul, adding that he usually recommends East Coast Swing for beginners.

East Coast Swing is what most people think of in the "Swing Era" of the 1930s and 1940s—that big band music, girls being swung around the men's sides or through their legs or over their heads, limbs a-flailing all over.

But the movements in West Coast Swing are more subtle. It's a "slotted dance," meaning the two partners are confined to a small, defined space on the dance floor. The man stands in the center of the slot and "gets out of the way" as his partner travels back and forth through it.

"It's a lead-and-follow dance," said Krul. "It's really a smooth, intricate dance."

Steps aside, there's another important aspect that makes the dance unique, and that's the music. Be it hip hop, jazz, country, R&B or even top 40 songs—in West

Coast Swing, pretty much anything goes.

Choice of 12,000 tunes

Krul, the master DJ, sat at his computer selecting the evening's playlist song by song.

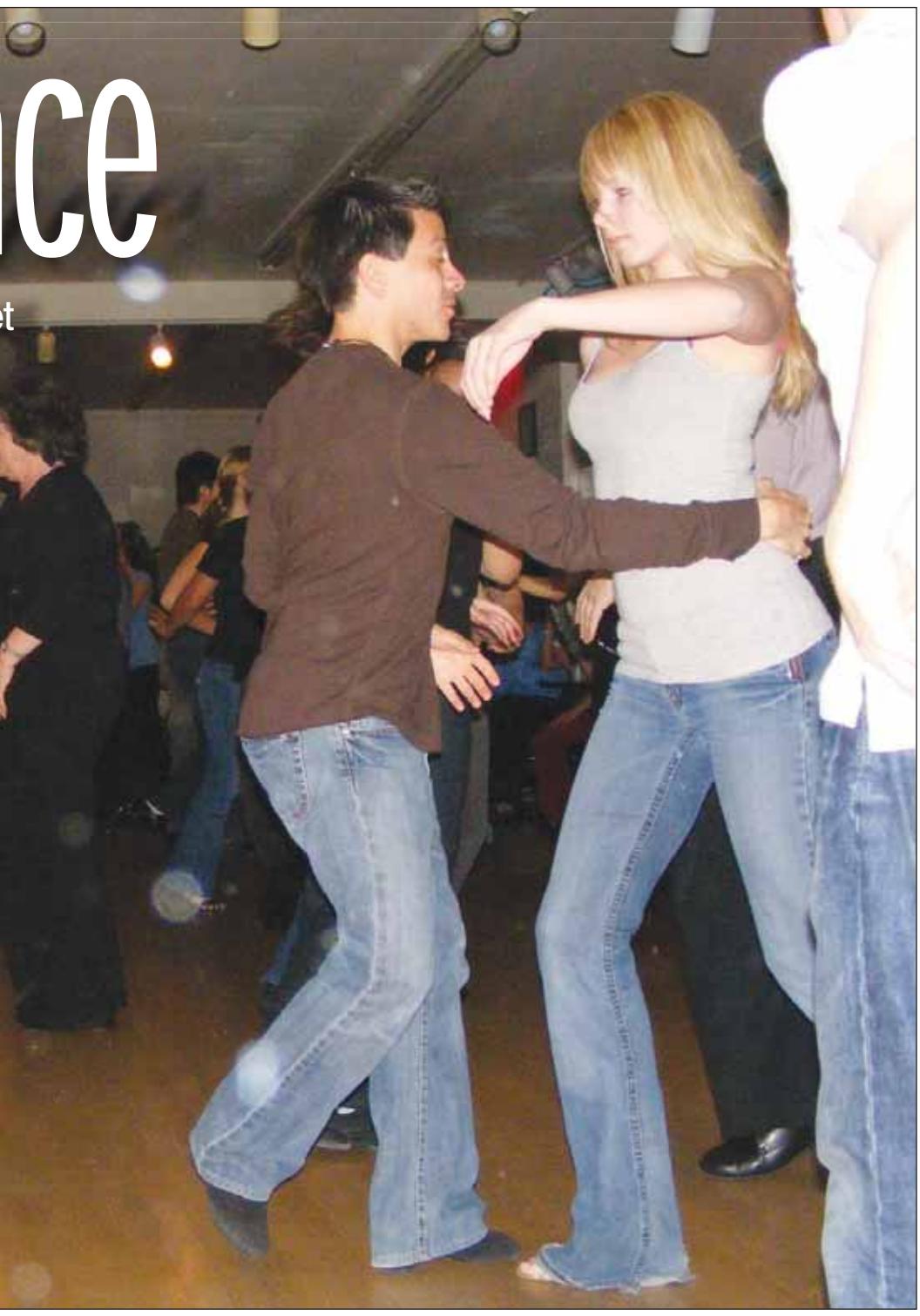
"With each song comes a different dance, a different mood," he said.

West Coast Swing can be danced to almost any music in 4/4 time, the most common musical timing, which means just about all songs from all styles are on the table.

"There are some purists that say you should only dance to swing music," said Krul. "But my theory is: whatever makes it fun."

Krul said he's happy to take requests, but with a library of over 12,000 songs just for West Coast Swing, he can't play everything.

A typical night might range from classics like B.B. King, to newer music like Fergie. A smooth, crooning jazz song will come on,



dancing you never want to go back to freestyle," says Randy Krul, who owns Two Left Feet studio in downtown Danville with

followed by a country twang. Krul said he'll gauge the mood of the crowd to decide which songs to put on, or choose ones that haven't been played in a while.

Sometimes the new songs get overplayed, like Usher's "Yeah!" or Gwen Stefani's "The Sweet Escape," said Krul. But playing these popular songs is one thing that attracts the younger dancers to the studio.

"We mix it up, and that's why they like it."

And the kids aren't the only ones who like it.

"I'm gonna be turning 50, but I know the music of the teenagers," Mashburn happily pointed out. "I'm not stuck in what I grew up with."

Come to meet people, stay to dance

The reason most people originally visit Two Left Feet is because it's a great way to meet people, said Krul.

"We got a lot of couples that meet dancing," he said. "Most people come here as singles. Most singles learn to dance because they want to meet somebody. Then they get the bug, and they come for the dancing."

He said the classes work well as an ice breaker. Since the partners rotate, everyone gets to know each other and get comfortable. So once the post-class dance party starts, you're not facing a room full of strangers.

"I met my girlfriend here," Joel Hale said while waiting for a class to start.

Hale said he started dancing three years ago when his daughter got her driver's license.

"All of a sudden my evenings were free."

His kids started dancing, too, and now it's something the family can do together.

"It's not like a singles group or anything like that, where every-

one's trying to meet someone and there's a lot of pressure," said Krul. "People get to know each other through the dancing."

An adamant enthusiast for partner dancing, Krul said he's "bored" with freestyle dance—such as people do at clubs alone or with friends.

"Once you learn partner dancing you never want to go back to freestyle," he said. "Partner dancing is a real conversation going on."

However Krul did concede that partner dancing isn't as "cool" with the youth these days.

"It's a cultural thing," he said. "Before World War II, it was the cool thing. But not now."

Hale, a software engineer by day, said his favorite thing about dancing is "you're working with a team to accomplish an aesthetic goal." He laughed at himself and added, "Is that too technical sounding?"

Two Left Feet does offer some freestyle classes, like hip hop and jazz. But the studio's main focus is on partner dances.

Krul said that people are often scared to take that first lesson; dancing with somebody else, particularly if you've never met, can be intimidating. But after the first class, they get hooked.

"Then there you go," he said. "You've found something to do!"

Learn to dance

Two Left Feet offers lessons in West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, hustle, salsa, country two-step, hip hop, jazz, night club two-step and ballroom dancing. There are also private lessons available.

The ballroom dancing classes often attract couples who are preparing for a cruise, or are sick of sitting out the dances at weddings and parties, said Krul.

In the same vein, couples engaged to be married will sign

up for classes to prepare for their wedding. These are usually private lessons.

Krul said he can't stand it when couples call a few days before the wedding thinking, "How hard can it be?"

"Dancing has nothing to do with the feet," he said. "It's body movement."

Most of the instructors at Two Left Feet are part-time, and not professional dancers. But there are some pros who teach at the studio.

Arjay Centeno and Melissa Rutz are famous in the West Coast Swing world. When they're not teaching classes at Two Left Feet, the award-winning couple travels around the country and abroad, dancing and conducting workshops.

"The pros help people to see the really good dancers, so they have something to strive for," said Mashburn. "Something to inspire them."

Centeno teaches hip hop on Tuesdays, and Rutz teaches jazz dance on Wednesdays. They also teach an intermediate/advanced West Coast Swing class together.

"Teaching is different than knowing how to dance," said Krul. "Knowing how to dance is only one-fifth of it."

The rest, he said, is in the social, personal aspects of teaching. And, of course, patience—especially with beginners.

"You can't make everybody perfect right away," he said. "But most people don't want to be perfect. They just want to be good enough."

Good enough for what? To have a good time.

Two Left Feet offers lessons seven nights a week, at 194 Diablo Road in Danville. Drop-in classes are \$13 per person.

You don't need to bring a partner. ■



People often decide to take a dance class to meet people, but end up getting hooked on the dancing. It's not a singles group although folks do get to know each other through dancing.

INDIE STAR

High school 'drama geek' now stars in roles as 'quirky best friend'

by Natalie O'Neill

Hal B. Klein was sitting on a Napa hillside in the sunshine when it hit him: His job rules.

The 32-year-old emerging indie film actor was waiting in between takes on the set of the recently released film "Bottle Shock," a story about the early days of California winemaking. And it occurred to him that hanging out is part of his job description.

"You spend most of your time sitting around waiting," he said of being an actor. "Sometimes it's just sitting on a hill. Or talking to (actor) Bill Pullman about robots."

Klein, a self-proclaimed San Ramon Valley High School "drama geek," just rubbed elbows with some of the country's most brilliant independent film directors, actors, cinematographers and screen writers at Sundance Film Festival, where the film was screened in late January.

"Bottle Shock" focuses on a traveling British vintner and a struggling California winemaker during the infamous 1976 blind Paris tasting. The film is based on a true story and simultaneously embraces and pokes fun at wine snobs.

"It's a love letter to the wine industry, to wine and the culture around it," Klein explained.

The movie received mixed reviews at Sundance, but has been praised for its breathtaking cinematography and smart humor. Variety magazine even called it "a peppy and quite deliberate crowd-pleaser."

In the movie Klein plays what he calls a "cellar rat." His character hangs around the vineyard owner's son Bo and is more into partying than tasting tannins.

"He's a bad influence...He's sort of like the bad devil on his shoulder," Klein said.

He's been cast in the role of several similar "off-center" characters including many in the realm of the "the quirky best friend."

The film stars actors Bill Pullman and Alan Rickman and is written and directed by Randall Miller, whose most recent films include "Nobel Son" and "Marilyn Hotchkiss Ballroom Dancing & Charm School" with Danny DeVito and Marissa Tomei and featuring Klein in a smaller role.

"He's a real actor's writer," Klein said of the director, who began as an actor. "He's able to speak to actors

in a way that relates to them."

When Klein was 14, his family moved from the East Coast to Danville because "Dad was a tech guy" and wanted to be near the Silicon Valley. At first, things were a little awkward, he said.

"I was the really strange new kid from New York," he remembered.

He didn't have any friends going into high school. He talked and acted differently.

"(Kids) would be like, 'Dude, say 'coffee,'" excited to hear his accent.

So he'd say the word with his New York dialect—"kwafee"—and the other 14-year-olds would get a kick out of it.

Eventually he got into theater at the high school and found his niche.

"Doing drama at San Ramon—that's why I'm here now," he said.

From there, he studied theater arts at UC San Diego and was accepted for a summer intensive program at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, which he began the day after college graduation.

Afterward, he moved to New York where he worked in regional and children's theater and a handful of off-Broadway productions. Then he was on to the prestigious London Academy of Music and Arts in 2001.

But soon he realized that film work kept taking him to Los Angeles. So he took some training to convert his theater method of acting (which needs to reach even the couple in the back row) to the more subtle film approach.

"It's a totally different medium. You're not performing, you're talking to the person next to you," he said.

Moving to L.A. was much more pleasant than Klein expected. Coming from Northern California, he'd heard all of the nasty stereotypes about the city.

"In general, we have a stereotype



Hal B. Klein goofs around on the set "Killer Movie," a film about a reality television show that goes awry.

that it's all snobs and plastic faces and whatnot," he said. "It's the tourist misconception."

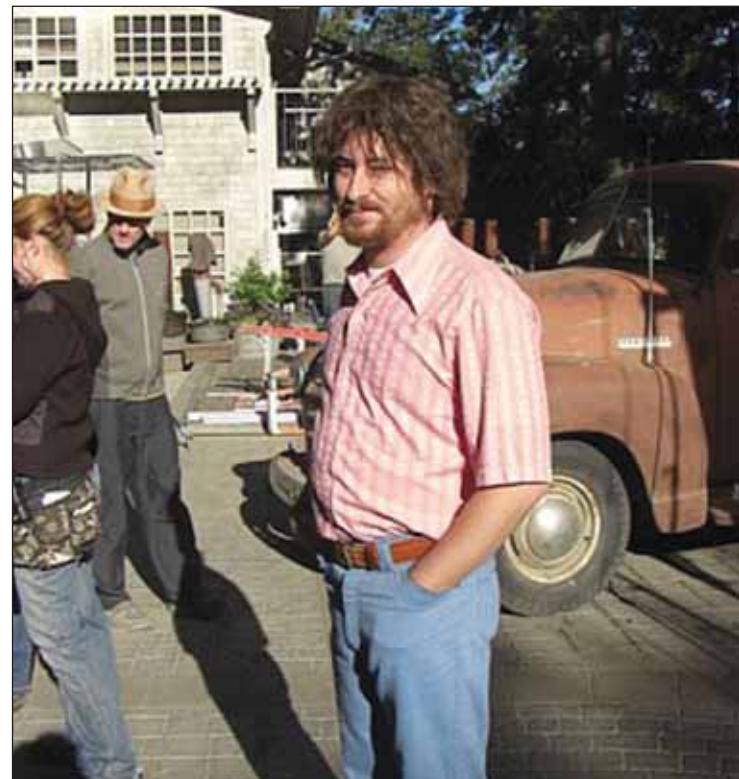
To avoid people who do fit into that category, it helps to find a group of true friends and stick with them, he said.

He now lives with his Italian greyhound Lucy and is working on a cooking show called "This Man's Kitchen," which has not yet aired. A new flick he acted in called "Killer Movie," about a reality television show that goes awry, is also in production.

On the set of "Bottle Shock," back in northern California, 12-14 hour days were standard. Much of the filming was done outside during sunrise and sunset hours, when cinematographers could catch some of the golden light that makes landscape scenes crisp.

For indie actors like Klein, those hours spent waiting around in between shooting are nothing like the Hollywood "glitz and glamour" he'd heard about while living in Danville. But that was fine by him.

Hanging on a hillside up north, Klein said, is just as good. ■



Klein describes his character in "Bottle Shock" as a "cellar rat" who would rather party than cherish fine wine.

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

Village Theatre History (Part 2)



The Village Theatre as we know it was completed in 1913 as a Social and Fraternal Hall, using the old Grange Hall as the second story.

After World War II the old social hall at 233 Front St. found new life when Heaton Randall bought it and opened a first run movie house. People had been going to movies at Walnut Creek's El Rey Theater in the '40s, so they loved having movies closer to home. Randall had experience running a movie theater and kept the place lively. There were Wednesday night special films featuring the Three Stooges and W.C. Fields, live music, games like "name that tune" and prizes for game winners.

Two huge calico cats lived in the theater and old-timers remember them well. Once the loges were installed, the cats would lounge on the railing and block people's views in the front row. They would also cruise around and settle on likely laps. Mel Whalin said the cats were fed nothing but filet steaks by Mrs. Randall. "They used to scare people in the theater who weren't familiar with them with sudden leaps into the patron's lap."

On Saturdays kids came from all over. For a quarter they were entertained all afternoon. Joseph Harker, who lived next door to the Veterans Hall, said it was the parents' way of keeping kids out of their hair. He recalled horror films: "If you were a boy your Macho was always being tested. If you were so scared of a film you would go down into the lobby where all the girls would have already gathered, because they had the sense not to watch something that scared them in the first place."

Horror became real in 1964 when 44 people were killed after a Pacific Air Line flight from Reno to San Francisco crashed in the Tassajara Valley east of Danville near Tassajara Road. A distraught passenger evidently shot both pilots.

The crash was remembered by Valley residents very clearly. Bill Ketsdever of the Valley Pioneer wrote "A Morning Of Horror,"

which reported on the grisly scene: "red streaks in the grass" and "bits and pieces of torsos ... humans who less than two hours before were capable of breathing, talking, laughing." He admitted at the article's conclusion that, had he known what was there on the hillside, he would not have gone to the site.

Mel Whalin's small funeral home on Front Street, the San Ramon Valley Chapel, was just south of the Village Theatre and took charge of the remains. Refrigerator cars were placed in the parking lot between the chapel and the theater, all victims were identified, and, after deciding against a mass cremation, caskets (paid for by Pacific Air) were delivered to relatives. Whalin worked 50 hours straight, assisted by Frank Scott and several other deputy coroners. He said, "There was an unused wing on the south side of the theater building and I used it as an autopsy room for a couple of weeks." He said bodies were never stored in the building and the room was later removed.

Nathaniel Blumenfeld bought the building in 1969, brought it up to code, and reopened it as a movie theater. One room in the hall held old fraternal articles as well as a skeleton which pranksters would pull out and set up in different places in the theater. Other owners in the '70s were Charles Boening and Robert and Betty Love. Double features were still shown, including Woody Allen movies in the late '70s.

By 1980 the building had become the sanctuary for the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, the Zion Fellowship. A nursery for babies was set up downstairs. The church held Sunday School classes next door in today's Town Meeting Hall.

Finally, in 1987, the Town of Danville decided to purchase the building and, after a short discussion about tearing it down for a parking lot, renovated it for pub-

lic use. Volunteers rallied to paint and work on the theater. Donations were raised by the community, which supplemented town funds. The theater was brought up to code, patched up and painted, and new chairs were purchased. In 1989 the Village Theatre Gallery, run by the Danville Area Cultural Alliance, opened on the second floor to wide acclaim. Changing art exhibits featuring local artists were mounted regularly until 2007.

A local theater group, the Role Players Ensemble, has partnered with the town to present plays in the Village Theatre since 1991. Town recreation programs, films, music, dance, O'Neill plays and, since 2004, the Danville International Children's Film Festival have kept the building hopping. A room was added on the west to provide some backstage spaces and permanent theater seats were installed. In 2008 plans are in the offing for more renovations which will put town staff upstairs, upgrade the bathrooms, and enlarge the lobby area for art shows on the first floor.

In 1988, Danville historian Irma Dotson said that "it's always been the center building of the town." Located midway between the library, community center and O'Neill Commemorative and the historic downtown and restaurants, the Village Theatre definitely contributes to Danville's valued sense of history.

Sources: John Mustard, "101 years old, the theater is full of history and legends," *Tri-Valley News*, Jan. 10, 1975; Jennifer Balboni, "Village Theater project regains life," *San Ramon Valley Times*, Dec. 30, 1988; Joseph Harker Memories (2007), Valley Pioneers, museum archives.

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

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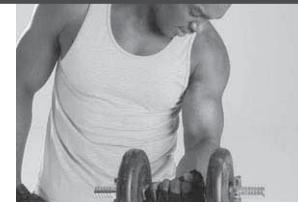
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The Wine Guy

BY GREGORY PEEBLES



Season of baseball and white wine

**2005 Trou de Bonde
Pinot Blanc**

**Bien Nacido Vineyard,
Santa Maria Valley**

Bella Vino—Danville, \$19.99

Spring is just around the corner. With it comes the beginning of two great seasons: baseball and white wine. Use this annual awakening from our winter slumber to prepare for that exciting first pitch at your favorite ballpark and to investigate some noteworthy white wine alternatives. While it's no World Series MVP, Trou de Bonde's Pinot Blanc has the pedigree and goods to be a starter on anyone's opening day roster.

Clay Brock, co-owner of Trou de Bonde with wife Karen, is a fixture in the Central Coast viticulture and winemaking scene. A transplanted Napa Valley native having spent several years at both Edna Valley Vineyards and Zaca Mesa working heavily with Burgundian and Rhone varietals, Mr. Brock is now specializing in Alsace's "work-

**BIEN NACIDO
VINEYARDS®**

horse" varietal—Pinot Blanc. This '05 vintage is only their second release and a very nice option to medium bodied Chardonnay.

Trou de Bonde is truly blessed with an exceptional, prestigious source for its Pinot Blanc. The Miller family, owner of the extensive Bien Nacido Vineyards (over 600 acres in total with a proportionately small handful dedicated to Pinot Blanc), also sells Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah and Merlot to several of California's ultra-premium and luxury tier producers: Ambullneo, Au Bon Climat, Steele, Gary Farrell, Hitching Post, Longoria and Testarossa to name only a few. Bien Nacido Vineyards epitomizes the best Santa Maria Valley has to offer.

Dazzling gold and luminous, polished brass colors are aglow. Grab your Ray-Bans, you may need them.

A sweet bouquet of vanilla and

spice strikes first due to its maturation in French oak barrels, 15 percent new. Afterward, pronounced aromas of pear, melon, lemon grass and a touch of fresh-cut fennel fuse together adeptly with Alsace-like petrol and minerality. Admirable complexity.

The texture is slick and viscous. Besides serving to jump start one's palate, its ample acidity enlivens angular flavors of snappy pippin apple and quince.

"Clean" and "steely" best describes the finish. Discouragingly, a bit too short as well.

Trou de Bonde's Pinot Blanc is a textbook spring and summer quaffer which would drink favorably with lighter picnic or tailgate party faire. Even at \$19.99, it's good stuff.

Play ball! Let your palate be the umpire...

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



BY DR. HEIDI STRAND

The Pet Vet says... Stop that jumping dog

Q. How can I get my 7-month-old puppy to stop jumping on my company and me? She is always excited to see us and jumps all over. What should I do?

A. It's a common problem—your dog loves people so much she wants to knock them over! The worst thing you can do is to banish her to the back yard, because then she will never learn how to behave properly. The trainers at our shelter recommend that you make sure no one is allowed to pet the dog unless she has all four feet on the floor. If she jumps up, don't reward the behavior by giving her attention. Even reprimanding her or pushing her away is still giving her attention.

Let your family and friends

know that if she jumps, they are to turn away from the dog. Give her a sit or down command. Once she is sitting, and only when she is sitting, give her all the attention she wants. If she jumps up again, start all over. You may even have to have one person hold the dog's leash under their foot, so she is physically unable to jump up, while the other person practices getting her to sit for attention.

A good game to discourage jumping up is the "airplane game." Have the dog sit. Hold a piece of food or treat up in the air over her head and bring it down slowly. If she tries to jump up for it, pull it away. She is only given the treat when she does not jump up. Make sure to give

her a verbal reinforcement, such as "down" that she associates with staying put.

It takes a lot of work on your part, and some help from your friends, but you really can train her not to jump. If you need more detailed help, there is an excellent selection of dog training books at www.dogwise.com.

—Dr. Heidi Strand is a veterinarian for the East Bay SPCA in Dublin. She has lived in the Tri-Valley for 10 years with her family and an assortment of four-legged friends. Questions can be mailed to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526; or e-mailed to hstrand@eastbayspca.org. Her column runs every other week.

OF NOTE



Leading the Pledge

Girl Scout Troops 30623, 32142 and 32422 joined together to lead a Town of Danville council meeting in a Flag Ceremony. Pictured are (back, l-r) Mayor Candace Andersen, Rachel Underwood, Haley Lindberg, Paige Selbach, Samantha Londynsky; (front) Sophia Nunes, Maya Nebres, Than Graff.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Band's Visit

★★★

Rating: PG-13 for mature themes

Run Time: 1 hour, 29 minutes. In Hebrew, Arabic and English with English subtitles.

Ethnic tensions take a backseat to human kindness in this charming Israeli indie.

The Alexandria Police Ceremonial Orchestra is stuck. Invited to perform at the opening of an Arab Cultural Center, the orchestra unexpectedly finds itself stranded in an Israeli desert town with little money, no lodging and no transportation.

The band's leader (Sasson Gabai as Tewfiq) is a proud man



who insists that his group of law enforcement musicians conduct themselves with propriety, even when faced with the disdain of a motley assortment of locals led by sultry café owner Dina (the gorgeous Ronit Elkabetz).

When Dina offers to put the band up for the night, divvying them up between neighboring homes, Tewfiq struggles to maintain decorum but has no choice but to accept.

That solitary evening is the backbone of this sweet and poignant import that speaks understated volumes about Israeli-Arab relations. The fish-out-of-water card is played with dignity and wit as racial intolerance is sidestepped in search of a comfortable middle ground.

Dina and Tewfiq embody the emotional core, cautiously constructing a gentle bond based on shared hurts and histories. Underscored by a profound and almost painful sense of longing.

Imagery is striking—the darkly handsome, uniformed in powder-blue Egyptians set against the stark Israeli countryside, an unforgetting landscape that speaks to Middle Eastern hardship and more deeply to the cultural divide.

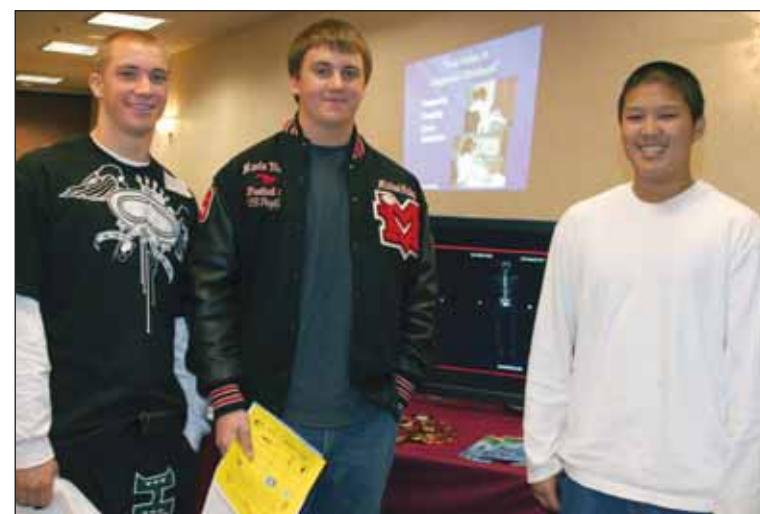
Sweet moments—a ragtag dinner table chorus of "Summertime" and a dulcet trumpet solo of Chet Baker's "My Funny Valentine"—work wonders but edge perilously close to cute.

Dialogue is spare, in turns tender and awkward yet always with an eye toward the universal language of hope.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

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

OF NOTE



Monte Vista High School ROP sports medicine class members (l-r) Ray Roach, Mike Dailey and C.J. Bascamonte attend the County Health Fair.

County Health Fair for students

Education, health care, and health care organizations came together Feb. 2 to present a conference for more than 450 Contra Costa County high school students with interest in the fields of health, health care, and bioscience. The annual Contra Costa County Health and Bioscience Career Fair was held at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon.

The majority of attending high school students are currently enrolled in bioscience and health-care ROP and School-to-Career programs provided by the Contra Costa County Office of Education. Such programs include sports medicine, emergency medical training, nursing, medical front office, and biotechnology. During the fair, the students participated in workshops and were able to meet directly with local health-care-related exhibitors.

Calendar

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

Art

'The Other' Pioneer Art Gallery will host "The Other" exhibit with pieces on display that represent modern interpretations of abstraction, and are reflective of Pollock, Klein and others until March 22, at the gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. A reception will be held from 3-7 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at the gallery. Call Noel at 831-1069 or 528-9000.

Author Visit

Kim Addonizio California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch will host Kim Addonizio, author of "The Philosopher's Club" and "Jimmy & Rita" and "Tell Me," from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 15, at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, including lunch. Call 296-0447 or visit WWW.TRIVALLEYWITERS.COM.

Laurie Todd Laurie Todd, author of "Fight Your Health Insurer and Win," will host a workshop on how to deal with health insurance issues from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, March 15, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Learn how to advocate for yourself. This event is free for cancer patients and their families and caregivers. Call 933-0107.

Manil Suri Rakestraw Books will host Manil Suri, author of "The Death of Vishnu" and "The Age of Shiva," at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, March 2, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

Terry Healey Danville Library will host Terry Healey, 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.

State of the Town Luncheon Town of Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will host the State of the Town Luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 5, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$35, pre-registration is required after Feb. 20. Call 837-4400.

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.

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 and critique; is open to all skill levels in oil medium. Each class is \$25. For registration and supplies information, visit www.stephensanfilippo.com/workshops.

Clubs

Alamo Rotary The Alamo Rotary meets at noon every Wednesday at Roundhill Country Club, 3169

Roundhill Road. Call Mark Kahn at 837-3262.

Alamo-Danville Newcomers Club This club is open to new and long-time residents of the surrounding areas. If you are interested in making new friends, learning more about the area or getting involved in various activities, call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvilnewcomers.com.

Amador Valley Quilters This club will welcome quilt artist Rose Hughes, who will present her "Raven Wisdom" lecture from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Rose will conduct her workshop, "Color Magic," the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Diablo Bonsai Club This club will host a lecture and workshop on "Windswept Style" from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, at Heather Farm Garden Center, upper room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Individual attention will be given to those interested in the art of bonsai. Call 937-4216.

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.

Kiwanis San Ramon Valley The San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo. Meetings include networking, lunch and a guest speaker. For information, visit its Web site at www.kiwanis-srv.org or call 244-1227.

Mt. Diablo Branch, California Writers Club Meredith Maran, veteran journalist and best selling nonfiction author, will give a workshop on "How to Produce a Saleable Nonfiction Book" from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 8, at Hungry Hunter Restaurant, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, including a full continental breakfast. Call 838-9060.

Porsche Club of American, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Callendar's, 1101 S. Calif. Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. at Strizzi's, 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

Valley Stitchers Guild This guild will host guest speaker Andrea Serrahn, from the Rockridge boutique Serrahn, at 10 a.m., Monday, March 3, at Faith Luthern Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$5 for the meeting; annual membership is \$25. Call Marie at 947-5817.

Concerts

'Jazzed About Pets' Craig Chaquico will perform at the Valley Humane Society's "Jazzed About Pets" at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 1, at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$85 per person. Proceeds benefit the Valley Humane Society. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

'One Planet, One Heart, One Song' Danville Girls Chorus presents "One Planet, One Heart, One Song" at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 15, at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, 9015 S. Gale Ridge Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 14 years old. Call 837-2624.

Gospel and Classical Benefit Concert Outdoor Adventure Faire will host Angelique Lucia, who was the lead in "My Fair Lady," at a benefit concert at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 15, at Rolling Hills Community Church, 1565 Green Valley Rd., Danville. This concert is free, but donations will be accepted to support Outdoor Adventure Faire. Call 820-3874 or visit www.christkidsports.org.

Silicon Valley Houserockers

Silicon Valley Houserockers with special guests will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 15, at the Wesley Center, Alamo. Tickets are \$35 for gold circle seating, \$20 for general admission and \$18 seniors and students. Proceeds benefit Community Violence Solutions. Call (510) 237-0113 or visit www.cvsolutions.org.

Sounds of the Sixties Danville Community Band will host "Sounds of the Sixties" at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 2, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Concert is free with paid museum admission which is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. Visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

Events

Barn Dance Forest Home Farms will host a Barn Dance from 6-8:30 p.m., Saturday, May 17, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Come and check out the farm, learn a little history and participate in some good, old-fashioned barn stomping. Soft drinks and light finger food will be served. Admission is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Call 973-3284 or visit www.sanramonhistoricfoundation.org.

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Come and enjoy a free garden tour at the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, May 4. Registration is required in order to receive a guidebook, which contains garden addresses, maps and directions. To register, visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

Cowboy Poetry San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association will host "Cowboy Poetry" social dinner at 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 14, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members. Reservations are required by calling Heidi Koch at 743-1576. A cowboy good time is assured.

Eighth Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance Irish-American Culture Club will host the eighth annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance starting at 6 p.m. with no-host cocktails, Irish buffet dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing from 8-11 p.m., Saturday, March 15, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$50 for members, \$55 for non-members. Advance reservations are required by March 3; mail check to IACC Dinner-Dance, Jim Noel, 55 Kermine Ct., Alamo. Call 830-1084.

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

Spring Plant Sale Ruth Bancroft Garden will host a Spring Plant Sale from 9-11 a.m. for members only and open to the public from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., April 5-12, at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1500 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek. Visit www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.

Tour of the Blackhawk Museum Blackhawk Museum sponsors a docent-led tour of the museum's Renowned Exhibitions at 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The tour is free with admission. For information, call 736-2280.

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, until March 9, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Call 295-1416 or visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



WWW.TERRYHEALEY.COM

Author tells tale of disfiguring cancer

Danville Library will host Terry Healey, cancer survivor and author of "At Face Value: My Triumph Over a Disfiguring Cancer," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, in its Mt. Diablo Room at 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

spirit to enhance health and strengthen the immune system. Come and learn how to meditate from 2-4 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients and their families and caregivers. Call 933-0107.

Medicare Seminar HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) will present a free seminar "Welcome to Medicare" from 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. The seminar will cover Medicare A, B, C, and D, how to supplement Medicare and when and how to buy a drug plan. This workshop is free. Call 275-8230.

Fundraisers

'Wigged Out' for Hats Off America Come and see "Wigged Out" for a laugh benefiting a great cause at 9 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds benefit Hats Off America. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

American Girl Fashion Show Golden View Elementary presents an American Girl Fashion Show at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, at Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$45. Proceeds benefit Golden View Elementary. Call (800) 299-0972 or visit www.eastbayfashionshow.com.

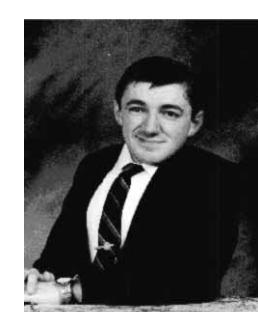
Crab Feed and Silent Auction San Ramon Valley High School Softball Program will host a Crab Feed and Silent Auction from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, March 1, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Tickets are \$35. Proceeds benefit the San Ramon Valley High School Softball Program. Enjoy live music, silent auction, crab dinner, a raffle, door prizes and dinner. Call 389-1828.

San Ramon Senior Center Breakfast San Ramon Senior Foundation will host a breakfast from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday, March 9, at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children 12 years and younger. Proceeds benefit activities and variety of programs to enrich the lives of seniors. Call 973-3250.

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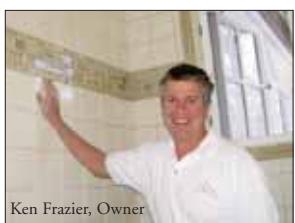
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CALENDAR

Kids and Teens

Eighth Annual Blackhawk 500

Blackhawk Museum will host Mt. Diablo Silverado Council Cub Scout's Pinewood Derby Blackhawk 500 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 12, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. There will be races, car design competitions, treasure hunts, crafts and food. Call 736-2277.

Free Online Tutoring Available

Contra Costa County Library is offering free homework help from expert online tutors to students grade 4-12 and beginning college from 1-10 p.m., Monday-Friday, at <http://ccclib.org>

Read Across America with the 'Cat in the Hat'

Danville Library will host Read Across America with the 'Cat in the Hat' at 4 p.m., Monday, March 3, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. The event will include Dr. Seuss stories, games, activities, hand-outs and surprises. Suitable for children 3-7 years old. Call 837-4889.

Winter Story Time Sessions

Danville Library will offer story times until March 5, in the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. Mother Goose Time is for children ages birth-24 months, at 10:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays; Toddler Time is for children ages 25 months-36 months, at 11:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays; and Preschool Time is for children 3-5 years old, at 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays. Caregivers must attend with children. Call 837-4889.

YMCA Activities The San Ramon Valley YMCA hosts a number of activities including Adventure Guides/Princesses, Adventure Trailblazers, Youth Basketball, Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer for children of all ages. For information, call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

Youth to Youth Middle School

Conference Community Against Substance Abuse (CASA) will host the 14th annual Youth to Youth Middle School Conference from 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$35 with pre-registration, \$45 at the door. 6th-8th grade students will enjoy keynote speakers, workshops, teenbuilding activities, lunch, dinner and dance. Call 743-3059, ext. 328 or visit www.srvcasa.org

Lectures/Workshops

'The Wonderful World of Modern Pinstriping'

Blackhawk Museum will host Herb Martinez, author of "Herb Martinez's Guide to Pinstriping" from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 1, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This event is free with paid museum admission. Call 736-2277 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

3D Animation Friends of the Danville Library will host Steve Klitzing, writer and former U.C. Berkeley professor, at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 13, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. He will offer a look at 3D animation techniques, tools and demonstration. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

911 Earth Seminar

Construction is looking for 250 homeowners who are interested in buying bulk solar energy systems. The company will host the last "911 Earth" seminar on March 13. For information, call Wendy at 820-0185 or visit www.gaylerconstruction.com.

Baby Massage Diane Marroquin will lead the first of a two-workshop series in baby massage for parents with babies 0-10 months (pregnant women may sign up and bring a doll to practice) from noon-1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 6, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This workshop is free but registration is required by March 5; call 837-4889. Bring a baby blanket, toy and a diaper. The second workshop will be lead by Jessica Salam on Thursday, April 10. Call 837-4889.

toy and a diaper. The second workshop will be lead by Jessica Salam on Thursday, April 10. Call 837-4889.

Free Educational Real Estate Meeting

Marshall Reddick offers free educational club meetings that show you all necessary tools in achieving financial independence through real estate purchasing nationwide. The next meeting is from 5-9 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, at Shadelands Arts Center, 111 North Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free.

Healing Power of Music Studies have shown the benefits of music in managing chronic pain, anxiety and treatment fears. Join two of the most experienced musicians in the area of music and healing from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

Neck, Back and Shoulder Relief

Discover how to relieve the nagging discomfort of pains in the neck, back and shoulders from 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, March 18, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. You will learn simple self-help techniques for relieving the buildup of tension from chronic illness or caregiving. This event is free for cancer patients and their families and caregivers. Call 933-0107.

Power of Dreams Dreams can be messages from our subconscious. They can help to heal and teach us about past, current, and future situations so they can be integrated. Cancer patients, their families and caregivers may attend a workshop from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, March 1, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Includes video segments, discussion and dream sharing. Call 933-0107.

Running Your Business On Christian Values

Catholics@Work will host John LaBriola, founder and president of Lighthouse Training, speaking on the power of "Christ-Centered Selling" from 7-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Call 389-0704.

When a Parent Shows Signs of Memory Loss Eldercare Services will host a workshop on "When a Parent Shows Signs of Memory Loss" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. The workshop will look at memory loss in the elderly and ways that adult children can cope, help and seek assistance. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer

A program for families with school-age children when a parent has cancer. Each workshop has an activity-based group for children where they can identify feelings and learn coping skills. The group meets from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Literary Events

First Wednesday Program Friends of the Danville Library, Town of Danville and the Kiwanis of the San Ramon Valley present "Paris and her Painters" from 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, at the Danville Community Center, Valley Oak Room, 420 Front St. Kay Payne, chief docent with the SF Fine Arts Museums, will present a visual journey to Paris, seen through the eyes of impressionist and academic painters. This event is free. Call 837-4455.

Miscellaneous

Adoption Faire East County Animal Shelter will host an adoption faire from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at the shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. A dog trainer will be on-site to give expert advice and help evaluate and modify dog behavior. Adopt a dog and receive three free private dog training classes, dog bed, leash, collar and a bag of Science Diet dog food.

PET OF THE WEEK



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Looking for a loving companion who needs you as much as you need her? Meet Lily: an 8- to 10-year-old housecat who has spent the last couple of years roughing it as a homeless castaway. A leg injury led Lily to her current foster home where she was allowed to heal and show her loving personality. Lily is an affectionate companion who will follow you around the house and engage in conversations. She's quite a talker! Lily will sit in your lap for hours on end while she flexes her paws and purrs contentedly. Lily isn't fond of other cats so she prefers to be "the only one" and her favorite pastime is sleeping in sunny spots and cozy cat beds. Lily needs a home where she will be handled gently and affectionately. Lily is spayed and FeliV/Fiv negative. For more information about Lily, contact her foster parents Del and Catherine Rush at 437-3972 or e-mail catherine.rush@sbcglobal.net.

Adopt a cat and receive a goodie bag with toys and more. Call (408) 202-6708 or visit www.tvar.org.

Host Families Needed Host families are needed for Spanish, French and Slovakian exchange students from July 7-27 in Danville. Host families provide a bed, meals and transportation to daily planned activities. The teens speak English, are fully insured and bring spending money. E-mail Dawn at garlieb@sbcglobal.net.

Host Families Needed Host families in Danville are needed for exchange students that are coming from France April 11-23. Students are ages 14-18 and are coming with their teachers who are responsible for the group. The group is properly insured in personal liability and health insurance. To volunteer, e-mail Martine Casusse at caussef@wanadoo.fr.

New Adoption Event Tri-Valley Animal Rescue has a new adoption event from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., on the second, third and fourth Saturdays of every month, at Pet Food Express, 609 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvar.org.

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

Speaker Series for the Scholarship Essay Competition Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley will host a speaker series for the Scholarship Essay Competition from 6-6:45 p.m., March 3, 10, 31 and April 7, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Students need to attend at least three sessions and will be able to interact with speakers as they discuss their specialty in the relation to the 10th Amendment.

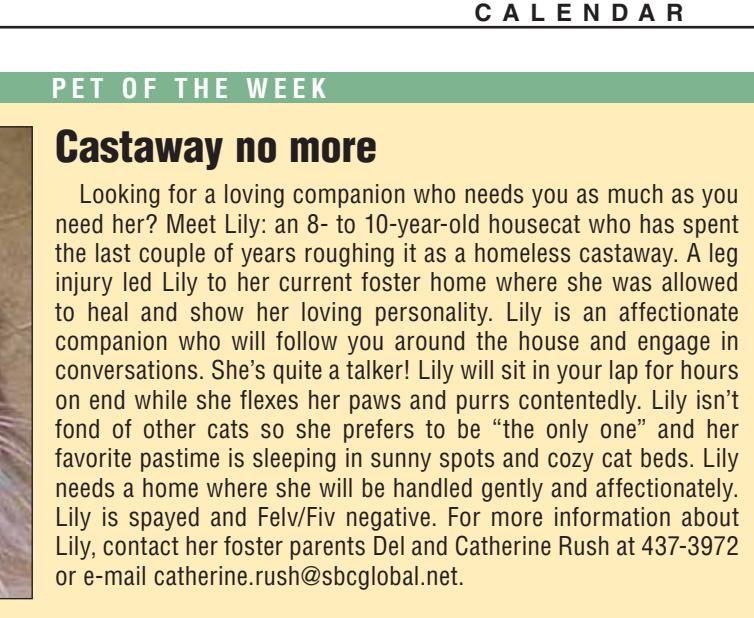
The Energy Primer for Kids The Energy Primer for Kids is a 25-page booklet of simple facts pertaining to current energy issues and is useful for adults that are evaluating energy related claims of politicians. For a free copy, write to Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583. A speaker is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

On Stage

'Betrayal' Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents 'Betrayal' as part of their Black Box productions at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, March 7-8 and 14-15, at the Town Meeting Hall, 210 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

'Godspell' Light Youth Musical Productions presents "Godspell" at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, March 8-9; 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, March 9; 8 p.m., Friday, March 14; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, March 15 and at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, March 16, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$15. Call 830-0600 or visit www.sjasr.org.

'Jake's Women' Act Now Theatre presents "Jake's Women" at 8:15



p.m., Friday-Sunday, Feb. 22-March 9, at the Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$28, \$23 for seniors and \$12.50 for children 17 and under. Call 513-1596 or visit www.actnowtheatre.org.

'Man of La Mancha' Diablo Light Opera Company presents "Man of La Mancha" until March 16, at the Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$28-40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrc.org.

'Mulan' Danville Children's Musical Theater presents "Mulan" at 7:30 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays and 2 p.m., Sundays, March 7-15, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville.

Come see the ancient Chinese legend spring to life in this musical adventure! Tickets are \$7.50-\$9.50. Call 314-3463 or visit www.danvillechildrensmusicaltheater.com.

Best of San Francisco Comedy Last October, Ogata swept to victory in the finals and won the prestigious 32nd annual San Francisco International Comedy Competition. Come and enjoy the Best of San Francisco Comedy on Saturday, March 1, at Amador Theatre, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25; tickets can be purchased by visiting www.civictickets.org.

Political Notes

Blackhawk Republican Women Meeting John R. Graham, Director of Health Care Studies at Pacific Research Institute, will speak on Health Care Reform: "Universal Choice or Universal Coercion?" from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 13, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20, including hors d'oeuvres and no-host cocktails. Reservations are due by noon, March 10. Call 820-6452 or visit www.blackhawkrf.org.

Surge for Peace March and Rally "Surge for Peace" will host a march and rally from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 15, in Walnut Creek. The march and rally marks the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War. Meet at 11 a.m., at Walnut Creek BART parking lot. Speakers and music will begin at noon. Call 933-7850 or visit www.surgeforpeace.us.

Recreation

Chaparral Spring's New Trail and Heritage Trees Join Save Mount Diablo for a hike on a new trail that the East Bay Trail Dogs built at the Chaparral Spring prop from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 1, meeting at the Three Springs Entry, 10030 Marsh Creek Rd., Clayton. The property is not open to the public so this is a special opportunity. Moderate hike; heavy rain cancels. Call 820-5816.

Wright Canyon Join Save Mount Diablo for an interesting history and spectacular Diablo peak views on this moderate two mile walk from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 15, meeting at the Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$15. Call 830-0600 or visit www.sjasr.org.

'Jake's Women' Act Now Theatre presents "Jake's Women" at 8:15

public so this is a special opportunity. Heavy rain cancels. Call 837-5018.

Seniors

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.

Senior Sneaker Trips Town of Danville hosts Senior Sneaker Trips to different attractions throughout the area. For a list of dates, go to the Danville Community Center at 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

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.

Spiritual

Healing and Wholeness San Damiano will host a spiritual workshop on Healing and Wholeness from 9

a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 19, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Come learn why, when and how Jesus healed. Cost is \$25, including lunch. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Love, Anger, Power - and Food Learn to make food your friend! Discover your strength, spirituality, and your personal power as a unique individual with immense potential from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, April 11, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$95 for CEU's, \$70 without CEU's; lunch is included. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Sports

SRVGAL High School Registration In high school? Want to play softball? SRVGAL is accepting registration for the high school division for the season beginning in mid-April. For information, e-mail solariselle@aol.com or visit www.srvgal.org.

Support Groups

Heart Support Group Heart support group for heart disease patients, their families and caregivers meets from 1:30-3:30 p.m., on the fourth Saturday of every month (except November and December), at Kaiser Walnut Creek Medical Center, 3rd Floor Conference Center, Walnut Creek. Its mission is to "inspire hope in heart disease patients and their families." Call 708-4151 or visit www.mendedhearts254.org.

Hospice Offers Support Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa offers a variety of support groups and workshops for people experiencing grief and loss after the death of a loved one. Individual grief counseling for Hospice families is also available. Groups are offered from 7-9 p.m., Friday evenings at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo. All groups and workshops are offered without fee and require preregistration. For a schedule of groups in the Pleasant Hill area, for additional information and/or to register, call 887-5678.

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

Overeaters Anonymous The group offers a 12-step approach to issues

around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. There are many different groups that meet at different times and places, visit www.dvlg.org.

PFLAG The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.

Volunteering

Diablo Valley Literacy Council

English tutors are needed to help non-English speaking adults to read, write and speak English. There are three tutor-training workshops held from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 1; 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4 and from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at Diablo Valley Literacy Council, 4000 Clayton Rd., Concord. Cost is \$15 (non-refundable registration fee). Call Shirley at 685-3881.

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

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

Hats Off America Volunteer

Opportunities Hats Off America is looking for volunteers for Casino Night on April 19; Muscle Car, Hot Rod, and Art Fair on May 16-18; Red T-Shirt 10K Runs/5K Walks on June 7, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8. Proceeds benefit Hats Off America which provides support to families of the brave American soldiers. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Feb. 17

- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Linda Mesa and Railroad Ave. at 12:45 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Jonathan Ridge Dr. at 10:41 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 3:08 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Camino Ramon at 6:52 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 9:08 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Hill Meadow Dr. at 10:33 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 18

- Suspicious circumstances on La Gonda Way at 12:30 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Jonathan Bridge Dr. at 7:51 a.m.
- Vandalism on Hardester Ct. at 9:04 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Franciscan Dr. at 10:50 a.m.
- Court order violation on Wild Flower Ct. at 10:57 a.m.

- Vandalism on Dolphin Dr. at 12:06 p.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Vicenza Ct. at 3:24 a.m.
- Warrant on Ilo Lane at 6:08 p.m.
- 911 call, unknown, arrest, on W. Prospect Ave. at 9:01 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

- Court order violation on Oak Ct. at 10:26 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Fostoria Way at 10:56 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Railroad Ave. at 1:24 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 5:09 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

- Suspicious circumstances on Crow Canyon Rd. at 1:23 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Danville Blvd. at 7:35 a.m.
- Vandalism on Van Patten Dr. at 10:19 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Lane at 11:22 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Barrenger Dr. at 12:12 p.m.
- Residential burglary on St. Francis Dr. at 12:29 p.m. and 1:21 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Bobbie Dr. at 2:53 p.m.

- Hazardous materials incident on Glasgow Cir. at 3:06 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Camino Ramon Pl. at 3:33 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Bordeaux Ct. at 7:55 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Via Cima Ct. at 9:17 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Tivoli Lane at 9:27 p.m.
- Identity theft on Via Cima Ct. at 9:38 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21

- Vandalism on St. Norbert Dr. at 7:15 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on La Gonda Way at 9:24 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Diablo Rd. at 11:21 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 22

- Defrauding innkeeper on Edgegate Ct. at 2:16 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Quintera Lane at 8:32 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Canfield Dr. at 12:38 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Podva Rd. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:58 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Woodside Dr. at 9:59 p.m.

POLICE BULLETIN

Police ride-alongs, tours and speed trailer

The Danville Police Department posts answers to residents' most frequently asked questions on the town Web site. Some questions asked about getting a "ride along" with an officer; touring the Police Department; and how to request a speed radar trailer for one's neighborhood.

The Danville Police Department offers "ride alongs" to Danville residents over the age of 18. They are no more than four hours and must be finished at 10 p.m. Residents can come to the Police Department at 510 La Gonda Way, behind the Danville Town Offices, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to make the request.

Tours of the Police Department are given by appointment only. For more information, call 314-3410.

Residents can request a speed trailer for their neighborhood by calling the traffic officer at 314-3410.

—Staff reports

- Vandalism on Dunhill Dr. at 10:38 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 23

- Defrauding innkeeper on Camino Ramon at 2:49 a.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on El Capitan Dr. at 8:27 a.m.
- Petty theft on El Rincon Rd. at

3:33 p.m.

- Battery on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 4:14 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Railroad Ave. at 6:40 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Danville Blvd. and La Gonda Way at 8:04 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Les A. Kayser

Les A. Kayser, 80, a resident of Danville since 1962, died Feb. 19.

He was born Dec. 20, 1927, in St. Helena, where he attended elementary and high school. He then went to University of Pacific and Boston University School of Theology. He also earned a master's degree in counseling from San Francisco State University. He became a licensed therapist and practiced for 20 years.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joyce; daughter Jocelyn and her husband Dennis Dow; daughter Jennifer Kolbe; three grandchildren; brother Mervin Kayser and his wife Sally of Clinton, Wash.; and sister Gladys Campbell and her husband Elmer of Ukiah.

A memorial service was held at the United Methodist Church in Alamo on Feb. 24. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Helena United Methodist Church Library, 1310 Adams St., St. Helena.

Valda Miyuki Yee

Valda Miyuki Yee of Danville passed away Jan. 22 after a six-year battle with breast cancer.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1962, and raised in Hawaii, she attended Pearl City High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society. She graduated in 1986 from Washington State University where she received a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a bachelor of pharmacy degree.

She married Nathan Yee in 1990; they lived in Danville 15 years. She worked as a pharmacist for Longs Drugs, Summit Medical Center in Oakland, Costco, and Mt. Diablo Medical Center in Concord. She also volunteered countless hours at Sycamore Valley Elementary School.

She was preceded in death by her favorite dog, Chelsea, with whom her ashes will be buried. She is survived by her husband Nathan; children Cameron and Skylar; brother Daryl Takata; father and mother George and Kay Takata of Kaneohe, Hawaii; aunts and uncles, and many cousins and in-laws.

A memorial service was held Feb. 2 at Wilson & Kratzer, with burial following in Hawaii. Donations can be made to the Cameron or Skylar Yee Custodial Education Fund, Wells Fargo Bank, 3402 Camino Tassajara, Danville 94506 c/o Nathan.

Barbara Elisabeth Yager

Barbara Elisabeth Yager, a resident of Danville and native of Oakland, passed away Jan. 26 at the age of 82, succumbing to ovarian cancer following a nearly 17-year battle.

She was the wife of the late William Yager; mother of Susan Yager of Pleasanton, Kathleen Berendes of Lakeside, Patricia Yager-Delagrange of Alameda, Carol Bergeron of Brentwood, Heidi Ostaszewski of Sacramento,

and Gretchen Deuel of Alamo; sister of the late John Frankfurth of Oakland; grandmother of 12; and great-grandmother of 11.

A Funeral Liturgy was held Jan. 31 at St. Joseph Basilica Catholic Church in Alameda.

Mick Connors

Mick Connors, a resident of Danville, died Feb. 3, after giving new meaning to "Fighting Irish" during his 14-month battle with cancer. He passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side.

He served as chief information officer for both Mervyns and Gap Inc. and was often recognized for his achievements in retail technology. After retiring in 2000, he spent his time with his great loves: his family, friends, golf and fishing in Montana.

He was a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, Sandy, for forty-six years; a role model to his five children: Brad (wife Lori), Kevin, Karrie, Tim (wife Michele), and Tricia. And a doting grandfather to eight. His extended family included his father Denny Connors, mother Vivian (deceased), brothers Joe, Gary and Tom, and sister Carol.

A memorial service was held Feb. 13 at St. Isidore Church in Danville, followed by a celebration of his life, at Blackhawk Country Club. Donations may be made in his memory to Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF).

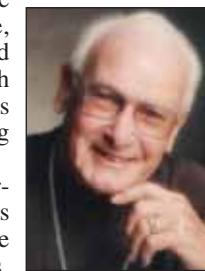
The Rev. Robert E. 'Bob' Bench

The Rev. Robert E. "Bob" Bench, a Danville resident, passed peacefully from the world of the seen to the world of the unseen on Feb. 9 in San Ramon, surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born on Feb. 15, 1918. He was an ordained minister for 65 years and was Pastor Emeritus of Hillcrest Congregational Church and Rossmoor Pilgrim Congregational Church. He always had a twinkle in his eye, and enjoyed a good laugh with friends and helping others.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 25 years, Gayle Bench; daughters Sue Will, Terilynn Bench, and Kira Ollila; son R. Kevin Bench; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his beloved dog Tasha; his extended family members and his many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his daughter Mary Ashley.

A celebration of his life was held on his 90th birthday, Feb. 15, at Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill. Donations may be made in his memory to Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF).



Joseph Wilson Callaway

Danville resident Joseph Wilson Callaway passed away Feb. 3 at the age of 88.

He was born Jan. 21, 1920, in Akron, Ohio, and grew up in Evanston, Ill. He spent summers on Cape Cod where his brothers taught him to sail, which became a great passion.

In World War II he served overseas as an army captain and artillery battery commander. He was recalled into the army for the Korean War and served as a senior military advisor KMA (Korean Military Advisory Group) officer to a Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) medium artillery battalion.

He raised his family in Alabama and later Connecticut. He had a successful career in advertising and executive management recruiting in New York City. After retiring, he lived in Danville for 20 years.

He had an extraordinarily positive outlook on life, was gregarious, and his witty, sometimes-corny jokes brought a smile to all.

He is survived by Elizabeth, his wife of 65 years; his sister Jan Kyne; his son Joe Jr.; his daughter Joy Larcom; five grandchildren and a great grandson.

A memorial service was held Feb. 14 at Wilson & Kratzer. Donations can be made to the Blue Star Moms, P.O. Box 2537, San Ramon 94583.



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Danville, 1 BR/1 BA

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Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - 650

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2008

Alamo
Total sales reported: 3
Lowest sale reported: \$1,275,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,599,000
Average sales reported: \$1,428,000

Danville
Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$456,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,450,000
Average sales reported: \$1,146,688

Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sale reported: \$310,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,400,000
Average sales reported: \$670,375

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2008

Alamo
25 Meadow Grove Court Holt Trust to R. Darby for \$1,410,000
59 Nina Court J. Nelson to A. & M. Hagan for \$1,275,000
3424 Stone Valley Road G. & L. Wallace to N. Mitevska for \$1,599,000

Danville
162 Channi Loop Shapell Industries to J. Chen for \$456,000
155 Crestridge Drive P. & R. Clancy to M. & D. Baker for \$1,400,000
21 Deer Creek Lane Rae Trust to N. Swisher for \$2,365,000
1223 Dutch Mill Drive Klein Trust to S. & R. Eldridge for \$1,076,000
3023 East Griffon Street Shapell Industries to Blodgett Trust for \$990,000
65 El Pintado Place Grasso Trust to M. Darvishzadeh for \$2,200,000

Source: California REsource
114 Heritage Park Drive M. & D. Mooney to D. & C. Epps for \$635,000
441 Ilo Lane Delamadrid Trust to People Meeting Christ Foundation for \$695,000
244 La Pera Circle D. Shaw to L. Teller for \$760,000
325 La Tierra Buena Bruce Trust to M. & L. Oliveira for \$672,500
101 Lomitas Drive D. Sender to S. Perley for \$729,000
34 Magnolia Place Weber Trust to F. & M. Ingriselli for \$1,400,000
29 Meadow Lake Drive Oconnor Trust to M. & A. Dreyer for \$2,450,000
220 Murcia Court F. & S. Jimenez to B. & R. Adams for \$1,289,000
2134 Presidio Court Mattei Trust to D. & L. Matley for \$552,000
26 Stirling Drive M. & D. Raff to R. Fyfe for \$677,500

Walnut Creek

465 Beacon Ridge Lane P. McKain to C. Springett-King for \$640,000

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms

35 Summer Meadows Ct. \$2,390,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms

421 Garden Creek Pl. \$519,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

1948 St. George Rd.

\$759,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

4 Bedrooms

1895 St. Norbert Dr. \$1,069,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

842 Matadera Cir.

\$1,099,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

410 Bridgesside Cir.

\$699,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

186 Ramona Rd.

\$869,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

5 Bedrooms

308 Sunset Dr. \$1,249,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

100 David Ln.

\$1,949,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 640-8708

272 Montego Dr.

\$5,489,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

SAN RAMON

3 Bedrooms

1280 Ustilago Dr. \$837,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

613 Bali Ct.

\$884,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

4 Bedrooms

2212 Maindenhair Ln. \$689,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 734-5061

8024 Briar Oaks Dr.

\$839,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 734-5061

9693 Thunderbird Dr.

\$865,000
Sat 1-4 Empire 217-3108

DUBLIN

4 Bedrooms

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

7788 Woodren Ct.

\$638,888
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 580-8011

5 Bedrooms

5723 Cogg Hill \$1,125,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3343

5836 Turnberry Dr.

\$1,799,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3343

4939 Sequoia Ave.

\$824,900
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 417-8603

PLEASANTON

2 Bedrooms

2185-3 Arroyo Ct. \$349,900
Sat/Sun 12-3 Keller Williams 924-0444

3 Bedrooms

7229 Valley View Ct. \$575,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Re/Max Accord 699-3122

4427 Downing Ct.

\$579,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

2808 Cupflower Ct.

\$700,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 924-0444

1037 Hometown Wy.

\$749,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 447-2723

5606 San Jose Dr.

\$778,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 580-8011

4496 Desertwood Pl.

\$824,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 963-8871

4484 Funston Gate Ct.

\$875,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

4 Bedrooms

3548 West Las Positas Blvd. \$777,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 580-8011

946 Madeira Dr.

\$819,950
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

3645 Dunsmuir Cir.

\$889,999
Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747

5 Bedrooms

1258 Hearst Dr. \$1,595,000
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel 846-6500

8330 Moller Ranch Dr.

\$1,598,888
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 580-8011

7914 Paragon Cir.

\$1,899,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 846-6500

6 Bedrooms

1327 Montrose Pl. \$2,149,950
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 963-8871

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

280 Garden Cmn. \$409,950
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

356 Rincon Ave.

\$565,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 487-1427

1232 Diamond Ct.

\$689,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 640-3762

2552 Regent Rd.

\$749,950
Sat 1-4 Prudential CA 734-5061

4 Bedrooms

6608 Tiffany Cmn. \$549,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8322

1011 Wynn Cir.

\$798,888
Sun 1-4 Realty World Town & Country 485-5706

5 Bedrooms

1642 Feldspar Ct. \$939,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

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