

Aaay!

The Fonz coming to Danville to promote kids' books > **page 14**

High school athletes on track

Cross-town rivals face each other on the field

> **page 11**



Vol. IV, Number 1 • May 9, 2008

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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

Elworthy Ranch due for decision

Plan calls for clustered homes, open space

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Readers choose the winners in our Mom-Daughter Lookalike Contest

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Looking like mom





Robin Saler Briscoe
R.N.
Case Management



Alison Leung
PharmD
Pharmacy



Pam Robson
B.S., RHIT
Health Information

Marjorie Toreja
R.N., BSN
Definitive Care Unit
Employee of the Year



Mila Quilapio
R.N.
Medical/Surgical Unit



Bob Leek
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Sharon Glover
R.N.
Endoscopy



Brooke Wales
R.N., BSN
Family Birthing Center



Ajay K. Jain
RDCS
Cardiology
Caregiver of the Year

Not shown: Hawanda McCorley, CNA, Medical/Surgical Unit

As we celebrate National Nurses Week and National Hospital & Healthcare Week, we take a moment to recognize those employees who make both San Ramon Regional Medical Center and our community such a remarkable place. This begins with Marjorie Toreja, R.N., BSN, our outstanding Employee of the Year and Florence Nightingale Award winner. She is just one member of our hospital family who exemplifies the commitment, skill and compassionate care we offer. From the emergency room, to the operating room, to the patient room, we're here for you.

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Streetwise

ASKED AT SIDEBOARD NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUSE AND KITCHEN

Q: What is your pet's name and why did you choose it?



I have a cat named David Bowie. Her name was Zoe at first but she started acting weird so we took her to the vet to see what was wrong with her. That's when the vet told us that Zoe was a Bowie and I was like, Bowie? David Bowie? So I named him David Bowie.

Kevin Sawicki
Wolfmaster in training



I named my cat Sheena after Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, but I call her Beans because when she's curled up in a ball she looks like a pot of beans and cheese. I named my other cat Picasso but I call him Blinkens because whenever he gets mad at me he blinks a lot.

Vanessa Rosmarino
entrepreneur



Our dog's name is Martini because we love food and it seemed appropriate. And she is my teeny tiny beany weenie girl!

Erin Andrews
owner/chef, Sideboard



My dog's name is Sierra because we go snowboarding and skiing in the Sierra mountains during the winter.

Kayla Crawford
server, Sideboard



My dog's name is Puddles. I wanted to name him Pancho but my girlfriend wasn't having it so we picked names out of a hat and I picked Puddles. Everyone thinks we call him that because he weeweews everywhere but that's not the reason his name is Puddles.

Matt Harmon
server/barista

COMPILED BY KRISTEN LANG

ABOUT THE COVER

The winners of our Mom-Daughter Lookalike Contest are Sharon and Laurel White of Danville. It was a tough choice from 30 sets of moms and daughters. Happy Mother's Day! Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. IV, Number 1

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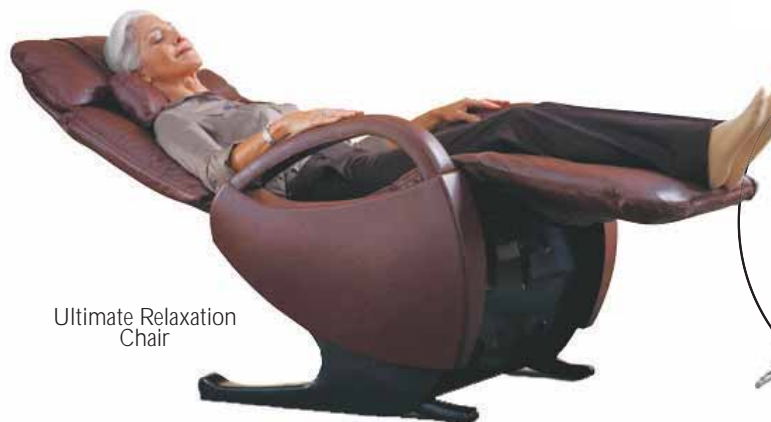
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Children's Film Fest next weekend

The Danville International Children's Film Festival is taking place next weekend, Friday-Sunday, May 16-18. It is billed as "A Film Festival for Children and by Children."

The festival kicks off Friday evening with a special appearance by 16-year-old Taylor Lautner, a viewing of the film in which he stars, "The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl," and a dessert reception. Another celebrity guest will be Alyson Stoner, 14, who also attended last year.

Films will be screened all day Saturday and Sunday at the Village Theatre and Town Meeting Hall on Front Street in Danville. On Saturday the finalists in the Street Smarts video contest for middle school students will be shown. Tickets and passes for the weekend's events range from \$5 to \$25, and are available online at www.villagetheatreshows.com, or at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St.; call 314-3400. A schedule is at www.caindiefilmfest.org. The festival is co-sponsored by the California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville.

Marilyn Monroe appearing in Blackhawk

The Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary Club's 18th annual Blackhawk Food, Wine

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We are attempting to bring people back in time. ”

—Nancy Bray, Kiwanis Hay Days organizer. See story, page 5.

and Film Festival will feature a Marilyn Monroe impersonator for a good cause Thursday, May 15. The event is being held at the Blackhawk Auto Museum, with three musical venues and screenings of Monroe's classic movies. Food will include samples from 20 area restaurants and almost as many Livermore Valley wineries.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a \$50 donation and the fun will continue until 8:30 p.m. A live auction will take place from 7-7:30 p.m. A silent auction will have tables of great items, and attendees can also enjoy the famous antique auto collection.

For tickets, call 648-2098. The event benefits the Rotary Club's many worthwhile causes.

Scouts helping Blue Star Moms

Boy Scouts of America Troop 36 will help the Blue Star Moms Chapter 101 in its drive next week for items to send to the troops overseas. Items like lip balm, gum, AA batteries, games and DVDs will be welcome.

The collection takes place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 17, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. The Scouts will help take donations and sort and prepare items for delivery to the Middle East.

Other suggested donations are single-serving food items (tuna pouches, chicken creations), drink mixes (Kool Aid, Minute Maid packets), new cotton T-shirts in large sizes and new cotton socks. The troops also appreciate letters from people back at home.

Valley old timers meeting at museum tomorrow

Valley "Old Timers" are invited to stop by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley tomorrow between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for a reunion. Others are encouraged to stop by and

meet these folks who will share their personal stories, part of the rich history of our Valley.

Saturday is the final day of the Museum's current exhibit, "Agriculture, For a Century, the Business of the Valley," which highlights the period of 1850 through 1950. Each Saturday special guests who lived and worked in the Valley during this period have been there to talk to visitors.

Also tomorrow, Ross Smith will be at the museum signing his new book, "History of the Danville Grange." This book tells the story of the Valley's leading agricultural organization, Danville Grange No. 85, which ranchers throughout the Valley joined when it was founded in 1873. The book is for sale in the museum store for \$15. Ross Smith, a former president of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley Board of Trustees, is a retired geologist and current Worthy Master of the Grange.

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

Take a tour of history


A walking tour of Danville's historic downtown will take place tomorrow, May 10, to visit interesting sites and inform people about the roots of the community. Saturday morning tours by experienced docents take place on the second Saturday of each month, through October. They meet in front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley at 10 a.m.

A Friday evening walking tour will take place Friday, May 16. Evening tours meet in front of the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., at 6:15 p.m. and are held the third Friday of each month through October. They are led by Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper.

The tours are free, but donations to the Museum are accepted. Call 837-3750.

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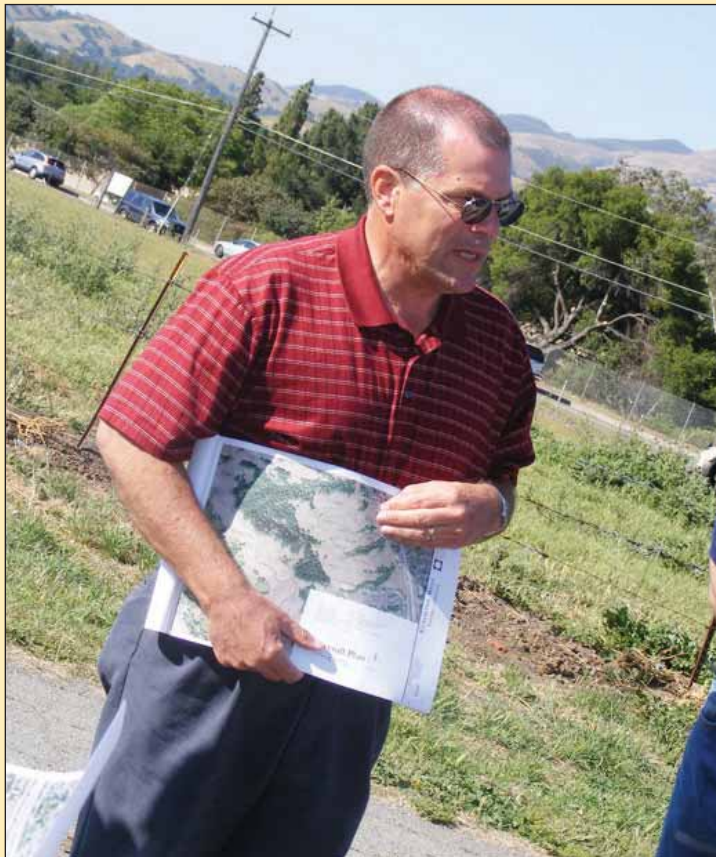
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Corrections The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 837-8300 or e-mail: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com



MEGHAN NEAL

Architect Norm Dyer shows Danville Planning Commissioners the design for a residential development on a small section of the 459-acre Elworthy Ranch.

Elworthy Ranch decision due Tuesday

Plan calls for clustered homes, lots of open space

by Meghan Neal

Next week the Planning Commission will decide whether to approve a residential development on the Elworthy Ranch, a hilly property on the slope of Las Trampas Ridge in southwest Danville.

The plan is to build 84 single-family homes and a 12-unit apartment building on 12 acres of the 459-acre property.

"It's kind of the state-of-the-art in development to really cluster, to minimize your footprint and maximize undeveloped open space," said Norm Dyer of



MEGHAN NEAL

The flat portion of the ranch close to San Ramon Valley Boulevard would have 84 homes and an apartment building if the plan is approved next week.

Loving & Campos Architects.

The homes would be located on the flat section of the property, close to the road. By opting for a high-density development rather than spreading the houses throughout the hills, a greater portion of the land would be preserved, he explained.

The biggest portion, more than 200 acres, would be dedicated to East Bay Regional Park District for preservation. The plan also sets aside 24 acres for mitigation

and includes a 182-acre scenic easement.

"I think it's a good project all-around," said Dyer. "It's got a lot of community benefits to it, no real impacts and it's a desirable product."

Town leaders held a special meeting last Thursday to tour the site. Dyer and other project representatives pointed out its potential

► Continued on page 7

School board OKs master plan for Monte Vista

Goals are to remove portables, build multi-story structure

by Geoff Gillette

Efficient use of space. That's what the new master plan for Monte Vista High School is all about. The San Ramon Valley Unified School District board gave its approval last month to a plan that will eventually mean a consolidation of some space, while opening up more room for students, classrooms and storage.

The plan was presented to the board by Stan Clark, an associate with Quattrocchi Kwok Architects. Clark said the master plan is the culmination of several discussions.

"This started in November and concluded in March," he said at the April 22 meeting. "We had six spirited meetings where we had 30 or so people there to discuss the issues."

In general the master plan lays out what the committee felt were the needs to be addressed at Monte Vista. Those included a women's team room, a sports medicine facility, more science classrooms and additional space for the library, storage and administration, according to Clark.

Goals of the master plan include the removal of the portable classrooms currently in use at Monte Vista as well as replacing the buildings known as "100" and "300"

with a multi-story structure. Clark said that the basic goal of the plan is upgrading the current facility, not expanding it.

"There is very little growth being built in," he explained.

The current campus was designed for around 2,400 students, and the student population is now 2,422.

School Board Vice President Joan Buchanan said she agreed with the need for changes in the 100 and 300 buildings.

"Those buildings are very low on space," she said.

Clark pointed out that part of the reason for the lack of space is the design of the building, noting, "They are very strangely laid out."

He said removing the 100 building would also have the beneficial effect of creating a small courtyard area for students and faculty, giving the campus a greater sense of openness and space.

Assistant Superintendent Margaret Brown suggested the library facility be placed on the third floor of the new multi-story structure, which would both allow the design of an entirely new library and increase the space in the courtyard area.

Board members were pleased with the plan although there were

► Continued on page 7

Kiwanis charging full steam ahead for July 3-4

Apply now to enter pet parade, bathing suit show or talent event

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Have fun by taking part in the Hay Days festivities on July 3-4 in downtown Danville. That's the message these days from the Kiwanis of San Ramon Valley, which is putting together the spectacular Hay Days celebration on the 3rd as well as the annual Fourth of July Parade the next day.

"We have the fun planned but we do need help from the public to participate in the events," said event co-chairman David Romano. "Prizes are being awarded in the contests."

Two days of festivities will celebrate Danville's sesquicentennial and the 50-year anniversary of the beginning of Hay Days, which was originally a four-day celebration of the town's centennial in 1958 that concluded with a parade. It continued until 1962 when it was scaled back to just the Fourth of July parade, which has taken place each summer since. The Kiwanis are reenacting Hay Days but in a period of four hours instead of four days.

"We are recreating Hay Days the best we can and attempting to bring people back in time," said Nancy Bray of the Kiwanis Club. She noted that thanks to Safeway, the entire event is being offered at no charge to the public.

The Town of Danville is host-



This year's commemorative parade button was designed by Danville resident Joseph Sullivan of JS Designs.

ing a community picnic on the town green on Front Street next to the library from 4-7 p.m., and the Fabulous Cruisetones will play music from the 1950s.

Meanwhile, there will be carnival games, train rides and a Kid's & Pet Costume Parade on Railroad Avenue by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. There will also be an old-fashioned bathing suit show, live music, an Arabian horse show and the coronation of Miss Pioneer Belle. Hay rides will transport people between the two venues.

The Role Players Ensemble is presenting the "Danville's Got Talent" show beginning at 8 p.m. in the Veteran's Hall at Hartz and Prospect.

The Fourth of July Parade starts at 9 a.m. this year, an hour ear-

lier than usual, to try to escape the midday heat, said organizers. It is scheduled to run until 12:30 p.m., and the theme will be "Celebrating Hay Days."

"This is possibly the biggest anniversary celebration the San Ramon Valley has ever seen," said Romano. "It's unbelievable we can provide all this fun and no charge to the public."

That evening, San Ramon will host a Star Spangled Spectacular in its Central Park at 5 p.m., with fireworks beginning at 9:35 p.m.

For a complete schedule of events, go to www.kiwanis-srv.org. And don't forget to sign up to be in one of the shows. ■

Sign up for Hay Days fun

Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley has application forms on its Web site to enter the parade and Hay Days events. Visit www.kiwanis-srv.org.

- July 4th Special Edition 50th Anniversary Hay Days Parade (all entries must offer entertainment value)
- July 3rd Kid's & Pet Costume Parade (no entry fee required); limited to the first 100 entries.
- July 3rd Old Fashioned 1850s-1950s Bathing Suit Show (no entry fee required); limited to the first 25 entries
- July 3rd Talent Show (no entry fee required).



DOLORES FOX CHABELLI



Youth vs. age on the tennis courts

John Schnittker, center, who organized senior tennis players to meet the San Ramon Valley High School varsity team last Thursday, watches the play with high school coaches Andy Lutz and Frank Haswell. The annual event was begun many years ago by the late Bob Vincent, the high school's first tennis coach. About 20 matches were played last week, with the high school players strong on slices and the older gents relying on consistency. Left: Fathers who are not quite seniors were recruited to play their sons, the Wolves' top doubles team: (l-r) John Hansen, Bill Cox, Bryan Cox and Jaymes Hansen.



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Three candidates vying for supervisor

50 percent of vote needed to decide election

by Meghan Neal

With less than a month until the June 3 primary election, the race for District 3 County Supervisor is heating up, with candidate signs sprouting on hillsides and lawns. If one candidate wins 50 percent of the vote, that person automatically wins. If no one gets 50 percent, the top two contenders will face off in November.

Three candidates are vying for the seat: State Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., 15th) is challenging incumbent Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho, and Danville resident Stevan Thomas recently joined the race as a write-in candidate.

Houston, being termed out of his seat in the Assembly, originally intended to run for Congress but was stopped short when Republican Party leaders chose to back another candidate. Houston then turned his focus to the supervisor job.

Meanwhile, Democrat Thomas was after Houston's seat in the Assembly, but he dropped out as it became clear that contender Joan Buchanan held a strong lead in the democratic primary.

County supervisor is a non-partisan position. In this spirit, State Sen. Tom Torlakson (D., 7th) has endorsed Piepho, a Republican. Houston has been endorsed by fellow Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Piepho began the year with \$83,918 in campaign funds; Houston with \$156,278.

As of March 17, when the candidates last reported financial information to the Contra Costa Elections Department, Houston had received \$5,160 in contributions in 2008; Piepho had received \$11,859. The two campaigns

spent close to the same amount from Jan. 1 through March 17, roughly \$20,000.

Thomas did not disclose financial information to the county since his campaign hadn't raised the required minimum of \$1,000 by the cutoff. The candidates will report figures again at the end of May.

Whoever ends up in the supervisor seat next year will inherit the county's \$3 billion retiree healthcare liability—a problem Piepho points out she inherited when she took office in 2005.

She says that over the last four years she's kept her promises to control the budget while also making roads safer and less congested, protecting open spaces and supporting public safety.

Piepho held a rally last Friday at the Veteran's Hall in Danville to reach absentee ballot voters. Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper, Bob Pack of the Pack Foundation and other local leaders joined her to show their support.

"I will continue to put the public's interest first—to deliver results," Piepho pledged at the event.

Houston is spreading a similar message; in his campaign statement he promises to put the average citizen first. He cites public safety as a top priority and pledges to practice fiscal responsibility.

Having served as mayor of Dublin for six years, he points to that city's record for fiscal thrift as proof that he could take on the county's economic problems.

Thomas, a progressive Democrat and Danville electrician, notes he is a trouble shooter and fixes things for a living. Although the position is non-partisan he said party matters in terms of philosophy and ideals. ■



A friendly exchange

Karen Stepper, president of the Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley, and Blue Star Mom Patty Harris, assisted by the Danville Police Department, hand out materials for the club's Child Abuse Prevention Project at Lunardi's supermarket on a recent Saturday. Club members also manned stations at Safeway in Alamo and Danville as well as at the Danville Farmers Market.

COURTESY EXCHANGE CLUB

Elworthy

► Continued from page 5

benefits—for example the now-private property would be available for hiking, mountain biking and other outdoor activities.

The plan includes a 12-car parking lot connected to a pedestrian trail that travels up the ridge. The land would also be accessible by foot from the back side, near Bollinger Canyon Road.

The Elworthy family raised cattle on the 150-year-old ranch for generations before recently deciding to sell a piece of it for development.

About 10 years ago they nearly sold the land to developer Suncrest Homes, which planned to build 224 luxury houses, some going all the

way up the ridge. The proposal fell through because of soil runoff and landslide issues.

The family then partnered with the O'Brien group and came up with a less intrusive proposal. Five acres will be set aside for the Elworthy family, including one existing home and a private equestrian facility.

When this project was first introduced, many nearby residents approached the town with their concerns.

At a public hearing Jan. 8, they voiced concerns about aesthetics and increased traffic and noise, particularly during the construction period.

Others were worried the development would make existing drainage problems in the area worse. Dyer

said a detention basin—essentially a holding pond—was added to the plan to help improve the drainage system.

At the hearing the staff reviewed an environmental report that was prepared for the project. The results showed the development would have very little impact on the environment, and none that couldn't be mitigated.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

After hearing comments, the commission will make a recommendation to the Town Council. If it recommends approval, there will be another opportunity for public comment before the council votes on the project. ■

Monte Vista

► Continued from page 5

some concerns. Buchanan stated she would like to see a textbook storage room incorporated into the plans, something that was not part of the planning process in the beginning.

Another issue raised was improvements at the athletic fields.

"I do think that when we master plan our high schools we need to plan our fields," Buchanan said. "We have booster groups and others who fundraise and raise \$50,000 to \$100,000 to put something in. We don't want to tell them that we're going to rip it out because it's not in the right place."

With little further discussion, trustees unanimously approved the plan.

Now, according to district spokesman Terry Koehne, the real work begins—funding the improvements.

"Basically it's a preliminary step toward moving forward with projected construction projects there," Koehne said. "It's one of the ways we involve the community in the process. Each school's master plan has a committee and that committee goes through the process and says here's our 'vision' for Monte Vista High School. And the board would approve that.

"In this case though, there is no funding. We would need to identify a funding source and that would likely come from another school bond."

Monte Vista was opened in 1965 to accommodate 1,600 students. Measure A and Measure D funds have been used for upgrades several times over the years, including an aquatic center, a new science building and a new gym.

Implementing the latest plans would complete the process of replacing or upgrading the old facilities, said Koehne.

Measure A bond funds have provided a number of improvements at Monte Vista, but those funds would not cover the work proposed in the new master plan. Koehne said the board will be looking at funding options in the future, but at this point there is no timeline on implementing any of the suggested improvements. ■

TAKE US ALONG

Traveling down the Vezere

Kathleen and Eddie Ewins and sons Ben and Sam travel with their Danville Weekly to the town of Terrasson La Villedieu, in the Dordogne region of southern France. The river behind them is the Vezere.



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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Escaping the muddy waters

California Yoga Mom. That's what my son called me when I went on a yoga retreat last weekend. I like that image but I must admit I only go to yoga class once a week. And I started yoga to alleviate back pain rather than to start on the road to enlightenment although I guess I am stumbling sloooooowly along that path, too.

Yoga teacher Diane Valentine, who led the retreat, always ends her classes by citing the lotus flower, which rises in its beauty from the muddy waters. And last weekend I was able to escape the muddy waters—aka my life—for an entire heavenly weekend. Not that my life is particularly any muddier than anyone else's but, my, we all do wade through a lot of mud in our daily lives, don't we?

The retreat was held at a place in Sonoma called Westerbeke Ranch. It started late Friday afternoon with a yoga session and a welcome from an employee of the ranch. She told us the spread has served for years

as a vacation retreat for its owners. As the family grew, its members developed the grounds and buildings, and added from their travels to the Mexican and Spanish decor. In the late 1960s, the patriarch ended up going to the Philippines for a non-traditional cure of a tumor, which was successful. With that, the family dedicated the ranch to hosting conferences of groups that are "alternative."

And last weekend I was able to escape the muddy waters—aka my life—for an entire heavenly weekend.

Is yoga still considered alternative? I had assumed that if I'm doing it, it must be mainstream. But maybe that is because I view

it primarily as a form of exercise, as we move from one posture to another. Here's a simple definition: Yoga is the union of the body, mind, emotions and intellect. Talking to others over the weekend I found that most of them were interested in the mind, emotions and intellect part.

The 18 of us on the retreat varied in our yoga. I started a couple of years ago at the Diablo Yoga Center in Danville and sometimes go to Diane's Yoga and Movement Center in Walnut Creek. Some of those on the retreat do yoga several times a week and have been for years. Others are newer to the practice. There was a woman who had been given the retreat as a Christmas present from her daughter so she thought, well, she'd better learn how to do yoga and found a class near her home in the Oakland Hills. Another newcomer to yoga had a hard time locating a beginner class so she took a session at a community college then followed the instructor to continue classes at her studio.

Westerbeke is known for creative cooking with herbs and natural flavors, fresh fruits and vegetables from the local farms, all served in a tiled dining room or outside on a patio. I had heard people talk about the biannual Westerbeke retreat before, and they always said, "And the food!" and I always thought, "Oh, how good can food be?" Well, let me tell you: It can be mighty good. The homemade dinner rolls were so hot from the oven they burned our fingertips. Plus, as Diane said, "We're not one of those yoga groups that doesn't eat meat or drink wine." I'll toast to that.

Each of the Saturday and Sunday sessions began with a much-needed 20-minute rest on our left sides to help digest our food. In the evenings, there was a fire pit and a hot tub for relaxation plus lingering visits around the dinner table. I hadn't really known anyone else when I left for the retreat but I wasn't worried; I figured anyone who practices yoga would have to be friendly and interesting. And I was right. I think I finally understand Burning Man, the city of 48,000 that rises in the Nevada desert each year; one guy who is a regular raved about its creative endeavors—he was even married at Burning Man.

For a wonderful weekend, I participated in yoga classes, wandered around the lovely grounds of the ranch, visited with delightful people, and ate the gourmet food. I came back renewed—I don't remember when I last felt so good physically or so relaxed. Just call me California Yoga Mom.

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

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PUBLISHER
Gina Channell-Allen

EDITORIAL
Editor
Dolores Fox Ciardelli
Staff Reporters
Meghan Neal

Contributors
Kathy Cordova
Geoff Gillette
B. Lynn Goodwin
Beverly Lane
Kristen Lang
Jacqui Love Marshall
Katharine O'Hara
Gregory Peebles
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Franklin Utchen

ART & PRODUCTION
**Art Director/
Operations Manager**
Shannon Corey
Designers
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ADVERTISING
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Susan Thomas

BUSINESS
Office Manager
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Sandy Lee
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Circulation Manager
Bob Lampkin

How to reach the Weekly

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100
Danville, CA 94526
Phone: (925) 837-8300
Fax: (925) 837-2278
Editorial e-mail:
Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com
Calendar: DanvilleWeekly.com
Display Sales e-mail:
mhantos@DanvilleWeekly.com
Classifieds Sales e-mail:
Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com
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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Crackdown on buckling up

Just in case someone out there hasn't gotten the message that it's important to buckle up, be warned: Law Enforcement agencies will be aggressively implementing the seatbelt law from May 12 to June 1 in the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign. They will be on the lookout for those who are not buckled up and for teens and children who are not properly restrained.

California has what is called a "primary seatbelt law," which means that every passenger in the vehicle, including the driver, must wear a seatbelt at all times. Drivers who are stopped during the campaign shouldn't even bother trying to justify their lack of seatbelt usage because law enforcement will not accept excuses or issue warnings, they will just give tickets. Tickets for first seat-

belt violations range from \$80 to \$91 for adults and \$330 to \$401 for children under 16 years of age. In addition, children under 12 are required to ride properly restrained in the back seat.

Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel reports that accident rates are down by one-third in this town, which he attributes to safety campaigns, including Click It or Ticket, which began in 2005.

California is hoping to get to the top in the nation in seatbelt usage; currently it is ranked fourth highest, at 94.6 percent. To this end, more than 280 law agencies throughout the state will participate in Click It or Ticket, which uses public education as well as enforcement. Nighttime patrols will boost compliance at night.

The disturbing news in California is that teen seatbelt usage lags behind the general population. In 2007, it was 88.9 percent, well below the overall state rate of 94.6 percent. This campaign is a good time for the remaining 5.4 percent of the population—and the 11.1 percent of teens—to get into the habit of "clicking it."

California is hoping to get to the top in the nation in seatbelt usage; currently it is ranked fourth highest, at 94.6 percent.

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

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

Beauty crisis

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your hilarious article ("Keeping Danville Beautiful," April 25) regarding the great Paraiso Drive beauty crisis. It reminds me of why I, a 53-year resident of Danville, reply when asked that I live "in the East Bay."

Kudos to Town manager Joe Calabrigo and Mayor Candace Andersen for their reasoned response. If one needs proof that beauty is alive and well in Danville, one need look no further than the work of Charlotte Canning's art students at Paraiso Drive's neighborhood school, covered in that same issue. Thank you for that excellent piece, as well.

PS: I hope Ms. Just isn't expecting "professional decorating" business from Dublin any time soon.

Linda Wilgus, Danville

Going green

Dear Editor:

My sixth-grade class at Charlotte Wood Middle School was reading a magazine called Time for Kids. We read an article about how a city got destroyed, so they rebuilt their city to be more "green." I was thinking maybe we can make Danville more green. I thought maybe the local newspaper could do something, like changing to a paper with at least 30 percent post-consumer waste, so we can save trees.

I'm a global warming freak, since I learned more about it. I would really appreciate it if you would do something to help global warming. I understand that this might not be possible. But thanks anyway for reading my e-mail.

Megan Lew, Danville

Editor's note: The Danville Weekly is printed on recycled paper using soy ink.

Summer lull

Dear Editor:

As the quiet of summer and conclusion of commentary on issues is upon us, neighbors throughout your readership region are starting to conclude that it has all been said, discussed and decided. Whether this is calm desired before the storm of the fall elections or simply too much consideration for the level of interest, the discussion is dwindling toward "summer vacation."

If we consider how intense the discussions in the Iron Horse Corridor have been in December through March, we can find equal lack of interest in further discussions starting with the beautiful days of April:

1. Interest in city governments is absent in most of your readership area and TRUST in such governments or proposed governments is beyond absent.
2. Concerns for TRAFFIC and

other infrastructure issues are declining as gasoline reaches well beyond \$4 per gallon.

3. Concerns for COMMUNITY have once again returned to neighborhoods and community is not attainable.

4. Concerns for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT have moved to interested commercial participants and they now have guidelines from customers and neighbors to pursue their rejuvenation and expanded development in your readership region.

5. Concerns for LAND USE have become stalled by the lack of funding to achieve new construction and renovation.

6. Even concerns for schools are reduced to the actual costs of new parcel tax measures that simply do not warrant concerns.

7. Guy and Mary, as our supervisor choices, are looked upon as meaningless diversions and an uncontrollable result.

It is time for warm days and quiet neighbor-to-neighbor conversations. Everything else can wait until fall.

Joyous summer, everyone.

Hal Bailey, Alamo



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for summer fun
in the sun

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Residential burglaries continue

Danville recently saw another spike in residential burglaries—four homes were broken into in four days, about two weeks ago.

Two of the break-ins occurred in the southern portion of town, where police held a neighborhood watch meeting in March to talk about the relatively high number of burglaries in the area.

Police hoped the meeting would assuage residents' fears and help slow the crimes by educating people about security.

The homes that were burglarized between April 28 and May 1 were located on Harlan Drive, Summer Hill, Crowridge Terrace and Garden Creek Place. Three of the four break-ins

occurred in broad daylight.

As of the March 12 watch meeting there had been 15 home burglaries in Danville since Jan. 1, about twice as many as there were at that same time last year.

Since then eight more break-ins have occurred throughout the town, according to police reports.

In a proactive approach to quell the crimes, police sent out special suppression teams to try to catch thieves before they could strike.

One three-day undercover mission resulted in four arrests, Lt. Mark Williams said.

Police strongly urge residents to lock their houses and cars, and consider investing in alarm systems for extra security.

—Meghan Neal

OBITUARIES

Burton E. Broome

Alamo resident Burton E. Broome died March 26 at the age of 72 while cruising the Caribbean with his wife Anne and his daughter Chelsea.

He was born July 10, 1935. A native of New York, he spent the last 34 years living in Contra Costa County. He graduated summa cum laude from Fordham University and received his masters degree in business administration from UC Berkeley. He served in the U.S. Army during 1955 and 1956.

He was a certified public accountant and worked at Price Waterhouse in New York for 14 years. He was vice president and controller of Transamerica Corp. for 25 years, retiring in 1999. He will be remembered for his keen intellect, high integrity, great sense of humor and his love of his family.

He is survived by his loving wife of 34 years Anne, his daughter Chelsea, his sister Elizabeth Valley of Huntington Beach, and many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. A Memorial Mass was celebrated April 21 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. Interment is at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette. In lieu of flowers, the family requested contributions to the charity of choice.

Kathleen A. Carter

Kathleen A. Carter, a resident of Alamo, died April 8 at the age of 58 after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer.

She was born Dec. 22, 1949, in Berkeley, spent her childhood in Walnut Creek, and graduated from Pleasant Hill High School. In 1973, she graduated from Stanford University and, apart from her academic achievements, she was particularly proud of accompanying the Stanford football team to the Rose Bowl as a cheerleader.

She enjoyed her 37-year career with Chevron where she treated each employee with care and respect. Her illness forced her to leave her last position as vice president and general manager of Chevron Business and Real Estate Services.

Family was the center of her life. She is survived by her husband of 18 years, George K. Carter; children

and step children, Julie and husband Gregg Baur, Megan and husband Jeff Tarpley, Michael Brandford, Caitlin and husband Mark Guthrie, and Seth Carter; six grandchildren; siblings James and wife Mary Ellen, Debbie and husband John Pinkston, Lynn and husband Bob Schmitt; and seven nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass service was celebrated April 14 at St Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. Donations can be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation or the American Cancer Society.

Howard E. McDonald Jr.

Howard E. McDonald Jr. died April 9 at the age of 61.

He was born Jan. 30, 1947, in Oakland, grew up in Hayward and Fremont, and lived in Danville for the past 13 years. He retired from Lucky stores in 1999 after 30 years in transportation management.

He was preceded in death by his father Howard E. McDonald Sr. and brother William Wyatt McDonald. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Sharon Freitas McDonald; son Howard (Chip) E. McDonald III; and mother, Louise McDonald.

Funeral services were held April 12 at Wilson and Kratzer of San Ramon Valley in Danville. Burial is at the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery in Santa Clara.

The family requested donations in his name to Bruns House, 2849 Miranda Ave., Alamo.

Vernon Christian Johnson

Vernon Christian Johnson, a long-time resident of Danville, died April 11 at the age of 95.

He was born Dec. 27, 1912, at the Booth Ranch across the South Umpqua River from Ruckles, Ore. He grew up in rural Oregon and studied engineering and pre-med at Oregon State University for two years before joining the Army Air Corps in 1935.

In the Army he passed the exams for flying cadets and flew for the Army Air Corps. When he was honorably discharged he began flying for American Airlines.

He and Katie Benatar were married and lived in Fort Worth, Texas,

for about a year before he was called back to active duty. During World War II he evacuated families in North Africa and was later sent to India and flew the "Hump." He flew more than 100 successful missions to China and was never turned back.

When he returned to the U.S. he was stationed in Montana as a squadron commander and was promoted to major. He received the Chinese Medal of Honor and five other honor medals.

He returned to flying with American Airlines when he left the service in 1945, initially flying on a project bringing war veterans home. He was the captain of his aircraft and retired on his 60th birthday in 1972. He was proud to be recognized by those he flew for as a superior weather pilot throughout his military and civilian careers, and liked to point out that he never put one scratch or dent on any plane he flew.

He seldom talked about his years in the military and was most well-known as the man who could build, repair or improve just about anything. He welcomed anyone to his garage shop and would gladly take on any project he was asked to fix, which he did to perfection.

As he grew older, he invented gadgets that helped him to continue living as independently as possible. He also enjoyed playing tennis, hiking, backpacking and rock climbing for years after retiring.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years Katie, his daughter and son-in-law Bonnie and Paul Keck, his son and daughter-in-law Rich and Eileen Johnson, his three grandchildren, and nephew and niece.

There will be no services, per his request. His ashes will be flown and spread over the slopes of Mount Diablo on his final flight in an airplane. Donations may be made to Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, 365 Lennon Lane, Walnut Creek 94598.

Elvira Hermansen Badal

Danville resident Elvira Hermansen Badal died April 7 at the age of 79, after a lengthy battle with a rare form of Sarcoma Cancer.

She was born Feb. 20, 1929. She attended elementary and high schools in Ripon, Calif., Modesto

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, April 27

- Promiscuous shooting on Royal Palm Pl. at 4:57 a.m.
- Miscellaneous burglary on Danville Blvd. at 11:13 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 2:57 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and northbound I-680 on ramp at 10:47 p.m.

Monday, April 28

- Vandalism on Quintrera Lane at 8:41 a.m.
- Grand theft on Fostoria Way at 11:52 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Garden Creek Pl. at 3:52 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Harlan Dr. at 4:05 p.m.
- Vandalism on Jewel Ter. at 4:11 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Cross Bridge Ct. at 4:18 p.m.
- Felony hit-and-run on Silver Lake Dr. at 5:12 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 6:13 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29

- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Tassajara and Glasgow Dr. at 9:03 a.m.
- Vandalism on Danville Blvd. at 12:38 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Railroad Ave. at 6:14 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 6:33 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30

- Auto burglary on Mockingbird Pl. at 7:29 a.m.
- Vandalism on Danville Blvd. at 9:57 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Danville Blvd. and Del Amigo Rd. at 10:50 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on E. Linda Mesa Ave. and Rose Ave. at 12:53 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Century

Cir. at 4:48 p.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Dolphin Dr. at 9:49 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

- Accident, property damage, on Morninghome Rd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:40 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
- Vandalism on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 10:45 p.m.
- Warrant, arrest, on Fountain Springs Cir. at 10:47 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Crownridge Ter. at 12:47 p.m.
- Petty theft on Alviso Way at 12:59 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Summer Hill Ct. at 8:19 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Blemer Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 11:01 p.m.

Friday, May 2

- Vandalism on 4100 block of Camino Tassajara at 7:10 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Fountain Springs Cir. at 8:18 a.m.
- Petty theft on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 8:48 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Dubost Ct. at 8:59 a.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on Summer Hill Ct. at 9:59 a.m.
- Petty theft on Ashland Way at 10:26 a.m.
- Miscellaneous, other, arrest, on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 1:52 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Church St. and Railroad Ave. at 8:37 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Boone Ct. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:01 a.m.
- Petty theft on Railroad Ave. at 9:14 a.m.
- Vandalism on Hartz Ave. and W. Prospect Ave. at 11:55 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Church St. and Hartz Ave. at 1 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 4:37 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. and Rose Ave. at 6:16 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Alice Ct. and Verona Ave. at 9:52 p.m.

Junior College, and earned a Bachelor of Education from San Francisco State University in 1954. She later attended Cal State University at Hayward where she received a Master of Science Degree in Special Education.

Following her marriage in 1950, she served as a primary grade teacher and junior high art instructor in Newman, Calif., and later in the Los Altos schools. After a brief stop in San Leandro, her family moved to Moraga in 1963 where she focused her time and efforts primarily as a mother and homemaker for her growing family.

A developing interest in special education led her eventually to the Mt. Diablo Rehabilitation Center where she served as an educational therapist and later as director of educational services. Later, her interests led to a successful career in real estate.

She was a member of the Community Presbyterian Church in Danville, participated in a number

of local area Bible study activities, and was recognized for her strong foundation of faith.

She loved to travel, was an active member of the Crow Canyon Country Club 4C Niners golf group, and enjoyed playing recreational bridge. A lifelong lover of the arts, she was an accomplished oils and acrylics painter, with many of her original paintings adorning her home and those of her children and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Dr. Alden Badal; son Terry Badal of Walnut Creek; daughter Karen and husband Rick Hacker of Mission Viejo; son-in-law Barry Brinker; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter Darlene Badal Brinker.

A memorial service was held April 19 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a cancer foundation of choice.

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.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

On track at Monte Vista

It was cross-town Track and Field last Thursday at Monte Vista with visitors San Ramon Valley High. Laura Charbonneau of SRV won the 300-meter hurdles; Bhavik Kansaria won the boys' 3200; Chloe Wood won the girls' 3200; and Mustang Drew McAllistar won the 100 and 200. See more photos at www.DanvilleWeekly.com.



The Sharks took first place with its 200 free relay team (l-r) Dillion Williams, David Morgan, Jacob Wooldridge and Anthony Silva.



The Sharks girls relay team broke the Pacific record with (l-r) Taylor Nanfria, Callie Klein, Madison White, Devin Madsen, Lexy Troup and Lia Jergensen at back.

Sharks win big at Far Western

Forrest White, David Morgan break Pacific records

USA Sharks Swim Team won big at the Far Western Short Course Championships held April 3-6 in Pleasanton. Sharks won second place with 475.0 total points, with only 36 swimmers in the meet. First place went to Palo Alto Stanford Aquatics, which had 106 swimmers who totaled 749.5 points.

Competition came from 19 states, including Canada, and 1,178 swimmers. Seven Pacific records were broken, two of these by the Sharks.

An eight-year record in the boys

Under 10 100 backstroke was broken by Sharks member Forrest White, who crashed the wall with a time of 1:05.10. Teammate David Morgan left the blocks with speed to set the 11/12 boys 100 free Pacific record of 49.68.

The Sharks 13/14 girls relay team came away with four big first places, two of which were Far Western records: 200 medley relay, 1:49.87, Far Western record, Taylor Nanfria, Callie Klein, Devin Madsen and Madison White; 400

medley relay, 3:56.37, Far Western record of 1997, Lia Jergensen, Callie Klein, Taylor Nanfria and Madison White; first place 400 free relay, 3:35.34, Devin Madsen, Callie Klein, Lauren Damian and Madison White; and first place 800 free relay 7:47.54, Taylor Nanfria, Devin Madsen, Lexy Troup, and Madison White.

The first place 11/12 boys 200 free relay, at 1:41.00, went to David Morgan, Dillion Williams, Anthony Silva and Jacob Wooldridge. ■

SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WRAPUP

by **Kaity Ferretti**

Track and Field

San Ramon competed in an away meet against Monte Vista on Thursday. The Mustangs held the lead for the entire meet, but the San Ramon athletes preformed extremely well: The girls scored 59-77, while the boys scored 54-82. David Nicholas took first in the 110 meter hurdles and 300 meter hurdles. Bailey Weaver placed first in the 100 meters and second in the 200 meters.

Men's Lacrosse

San Ramon beat Foothill High School in an away game Tuesday last week, 11-4. Goals were scored by Ross Rudow, Ryan Slee, Ryan Gordon, Cam Giroux, Pat Sornsin and Tyler Blair. Despite an injured thumb, goalie Chris DaCar played extremely well also. On Friday the boys played an intense game against De La Salle. The Wolves beat the Spartans 9-3. As a result of this, San Ramon is now ranked No. 1 in North Coast Section.

Men's Golf

San Ramon's golf team competed in the East Bay Athletic League Tournament on Monday at San Ramon Golf Club. The Wolves took first place with a team score of 386. The boy's success placed them second in league, earning an automatic spot in the NCS South Qualifier on May 5. Mike Perchak scored a 1-over-73, placing fourth overall. Alex Calleja and Cole Pickavance each shot 77, while Griffin Gering scored a 79. Harrison Quinlan's 80 and Christian Ulmer's 82 were not far behind. Pickavance's score placed him third in league overall, earning him one of six all-league spots. He finished the entire season at 9 over par.

Softball

San Ramon played Granada at home on Tuesday. The Wolves beat the Matadors 10-2. Sara Pacioni was 2 for 2, scored three runs, and drove in three runs with a homerun in the first inning. Marissa Glover scored a solo homerun in the fifth inning and pitcher Kristin Scott secured the win with 10 strikeouts in five innings. The Wolves played Cal

at home Thursday. Unfortunately the Grizzlies beat the Wolves 2-0 in a tight pitchers duel.

Baseball

San Ramon played Granada in an away game Wednesday. The Wolves beat the Matadors 4-1. Nick Fong scored a big double with two RBI's and Chris Seeley scored two hits. Ben Buchta pitched five innings and only gave up two hits. Chad McCormak pitched the last two innings, keeping San Ramon's lead and securing its win. The boys played Cal at home Friday and lost to the Grizzlies with a score of 9-2.

Men's Tennis

San Ramon competed in the NCS Doubles Tournament on Sunday. Bryan Cox and Jaymes Hansen placed third after losing 6-4, 7-6 to the No. 2-seeded team, Alameda, in the semifinals. However, they were able to bounce back with a solid 6-2, 6-4 victory over a team from Montgomery High School. The Wolves, seeded at No. 7, are off to the NCS Playoffs. They first play Marine Academy at home on Tuesday.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, May 9

Women's Lacrosse
Monte Vista at San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse
Monte Vista vs. San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m.

Baseball
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 3:45 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, May 9-10

Swimming
EBAL Trials and Finals

Saturday, May 10

Track and Field
EBA Championships at Foothill

Tuesday, May 13

Women's Lacrosse
NCS First Round

Men's Lacrosse
First Round Playoffs

Softball
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 4 p.m.
Monte Vista at Foothill, 3:45 p.m.

Looking like mom

Readers choose the winners in our Mom-Daughter Lookalike Contest

We celebrate Mother's Day with these wonderful pictures of 30 mother-daughter teams. The special relationship shines through in these photographs. Even the Great Dane at the far right, Lily, obviously feels the female bond in her family.

The winners of the Lookalike Contest are Sharon and Laurel White of Danville. Sharon said she and her 13-year-old daughter are told every day how much they look alike although they had never been in such a contest. "But this sounded fun to enter," Sharon e-mailed. They are receiving a \$50 gift certificate to Faz restaurant.

Second place goes to Christina and Hannah Bode. Hannah is 5-1/2. Their prize is a \$25 gift certificate to Bridges. Coming in third were Cindy Mundorff and Paige Miller, and it turns out that Paige is adopted—a nice twist and a comment on the strength of the mother-daughter relationship.

Congratulations to the contest winners! And thanks to all of you who sent in photos, and also to the 800 voters who cast a ballot at www.DanvilleWeekly.com. ■

♥ indicates finalists.



Krista, 8; Loretta; and Sarah, 9, Cleary



Holly and Kaylee Burrill



Nancy Mong and Corina, 5



Carol Bickett with daughters Kristin Bickett and Lauren McRae



Rachel and Gina Villavicencio



Agnes Gordon and Jaime



Cindy Mundorff and Paige Miller



Kristin and Sonja Chen



Faith Strader and Peggy Fenstermacher



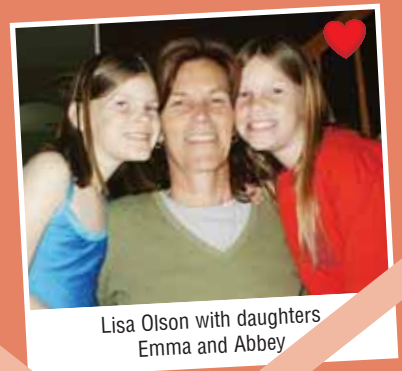
Jill, Bette and Julie Cole



Melissa and Marie Fake



Elizabeth and Diane Kane



Lisa Olson with daughters Emma and Abbey



Melonie and Samantha Pederson



Tena Ritter; Phoebe, 12; and Beth, 13



Katy and Pam Jarvis, and Floye Holmes (and Lily)



Lisa Rainbolt with daughter Sierra (and Tink)



Julirose and Debbie Schafgans



Suzie and Tess Kevorkian



Michelle Blackford and mom Barbara Mahan



Tricia and Allison Heinrich



Kristin McWilliams and Alyssa



Ritu Grame and Serena



Brenda Dittmore and Marilyn Kuckuck



Judith Scott and Amanda



Patti and Melissa Kosich



...sie and Katie Simms



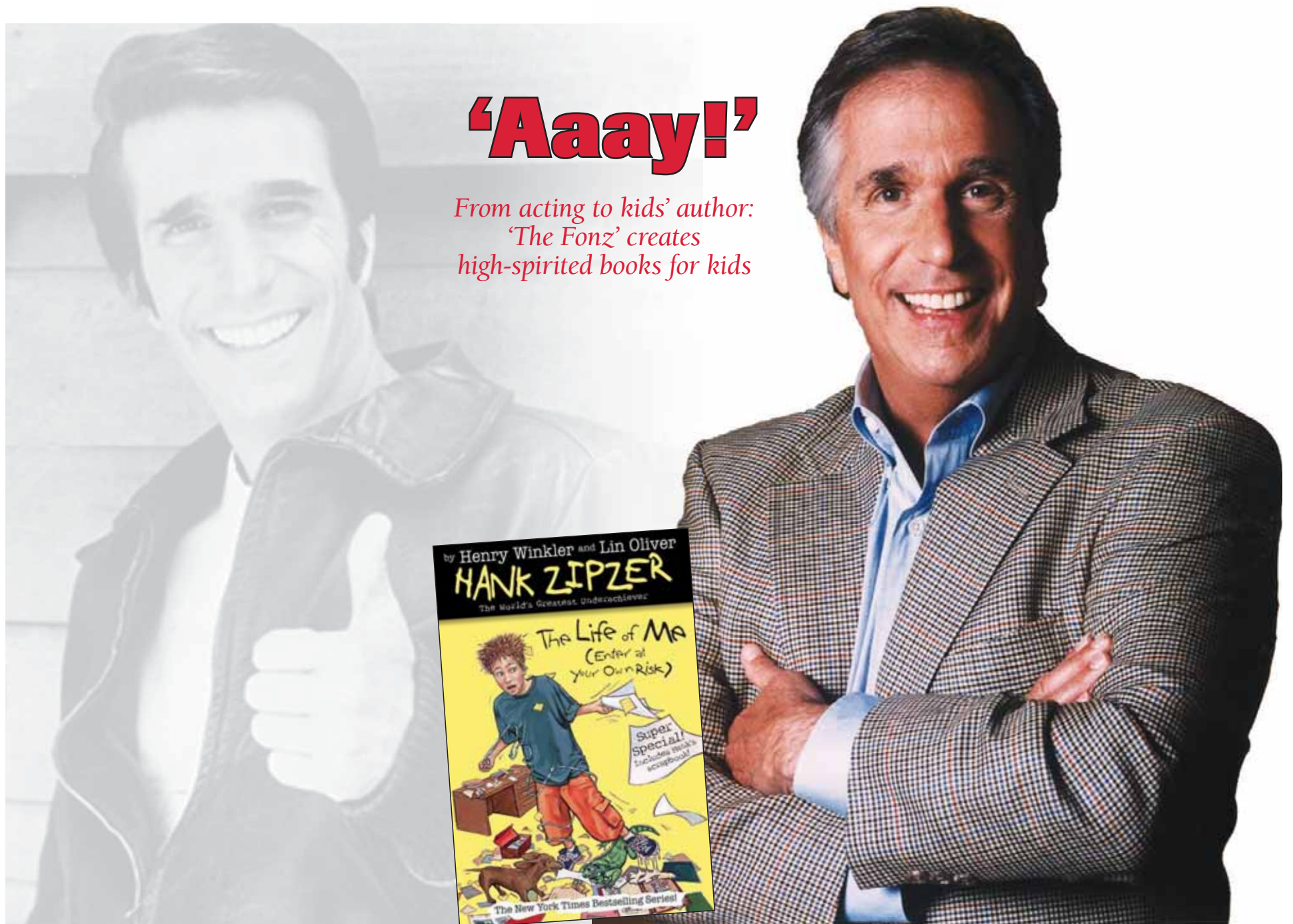
Sharon White and Laurel, 13



Carissa Manzo with mama Cathy Leclere



Christina Bode and Hannah, 5-1/2



'Aaay!'

*From acting to kids' author:
'The Fonz' creates
high-spirited books for kids*

by Meghan Neal

Henry Winkler, immortalized as the iconic "Fonzie" from the hit sitcom "Happy Days," is coming to Rakestraw Books in Danville on May 17 to promote his series of children's books.

As the Fonz, Winkler was known as the epitome of cool. But in his early days he struggled with low self-esteem. He was dyslexic, and since most people at the time didn't know what that was, he was called lazy and stupid.

The optimistic actor took the hardship and turned it into a much-loved children's book series based on his life, called "Hank Zipzer, The World's Greatest Underachiever." The 14 books are co-authored by Lin Oliver, a writer and producer of family books and movies.

"Wherever my learning challenge, wherever my dyslexia bumps up against my life—or the world throughout my entire life—we put in the fourth-grader," Winkler said.

Hank is a high-spirited, lovable kid who consistently finds himself in a mess of trouble. Through his adventures, the books explore living with a learning challenge in a funny and lighthearted style—exemplified by playful titles like "The Curtain Went Up, My Pants Fell Down" and "I Got a 'D' in

Salami."

Many parts of Hank's life are taken straight from Winkler's childhood. They both grew up on the Westside of Manhattan, in the same building. The neighborhood, stores, park, school and even teachers are real people and places.

"I used to think that I would like to cut my learning challenge out of my brain like a disease," said the author. "Now I would not touch a hair on its head, because maybe the struggle has allowed me to achieve what I have achieved in my life."

Winkler was able to overcome his learning disability, pursuing higher education and eventually earning a Master of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama. From there, a successful acting career blossomed.

When he landed the role of Arthur "Fonzie" Fonzairelli on "Happy Days," the adored 1950s leather-jacketed tough guy catapulted him to stardom. Winkler said the character will be a part of his identity forever, but he never gets tired of the Fonz.

"He gave me the world," he said. "My jacket is in the Smithsonian, along with the lunch box. I have a star on Hollywood Boulevard ... I have been able to have this incredible life and the cornerstone of my life I'm sure—or one of the four cornerstones—

is the Fonz."

Now the actor, writer, producer and director can add New York Times bestselling author to the list. Winkler said of his many accomplishments, the Hank Zipzer books are what make him the most proud.

"I never thought in a million years that I would be able to write a book, and now this is No. 14. And to me that's pretty amazing," he said.

In the 14th and latest book, "The Life of Me (Enter at Your Own Risk)," Hank gets held after school for a special reading program, but cheers up when the teacher lets him make a scrapbook of his life instead of a written autobiography. He also develops a crush for the first time in the series.

People love the books' humor, said Winkler. He once received a letter from a kid who wrote, "I laughed so hard my funny bone fell out of my body." Parents write him saying their children were reluctant to read until they picked up a Hank Zipzer book.

"Here's what I see. I see teachers, librarians, mothers, kids wait in line and tell me in detail how much they laughed at the adventures of Hank," he said. "And I want to tell you that is extraordinary."

The books, which sell for \$4.99, are written for all children to enjoy. They're not

meant as a lesson or "how-to" for kids with learning disabilities, Winkler said. They're just funny adventures of an outgoing kid, who happens to be dyslexic.

Indeed the theme throughout the books can be applied to any person, big or small: Face the obstacles in front of you and find some way to get past them. If you can't hop over, go around. If you can't do it the conventional way, think outside the box.

Winkler credits this approach to adversity with the extraordinary life he's led, comparing it to one of those toys with sand in the bottom that you punch down and it bounces right back up.

"That's how I see my life. I am that toy," he said. "You go down, you get up. You dust yourself off, and you keep going toward your dream." ■

Meet 'The Fonz'

What: Book signing
Who: Henry Winkler, actor and author
Where: Rakestraw Books,
409 Railroad Ave. in Danville
When: 11 a.m., Saturday, May 17
Cost: \$6 (includes a choice of books).
Advance reservations recommended.

The Wine Guy

BY GREGORY PEEBLES



An ultra-boutique Syrah

2005 Marilyn Remark Syrah
Arroyo Loma Vineyard,
Monterey
Marilyn Remark Winery, \$35



For nearly 12 months I've had the fun and privilege of reviewing wines for residents of the greater Danville community via Danville Weekly. As you may have determined by now, my column's premise is to focus solely on wines found in local wine shops. However, for this one review I am making an exception since this outstanding, ultra-boutique Syrah is not found anywhere in the Tri-Valley area, according to www.wine-searcher.com. It's a single vineyard beauty surely deserving your attention.

On a recent business and family excursion to the Monterey Peninsula, I had the good fortune to visit Marilyn Remark Winery in Salinas. With a small metal barn and adjacent crush pad accounting for the entire operation (including a humble tasting "room"), it's a little winemaking oasis on River Road surrounded by lettuce fields, cow pastures and horse ranches. This is where Joel Burnstein is working diligently to transform a couple's dream into reality.

The Pacific Stock Exchange trader-turned-winemaker along with life and business partner, Marilyn Remark, specializes in varietals native to France's Rhône Valley. A "magical" trip to the Rhône in 2001 provided an epiphany and the inspiration for both Joel and Marilyn to return home and pursue their pas-

sion. Fulfilling a dream, especially in luxury-tier winemaking, requires long hours and single-minded dedication.

Joel contracts long-term for the best possible grapes, ferments and ages in small lots that permit the unique varietal character and Monterey terrior to show themselves. In addition to her partnership in the winery, Marilyn also has a very gratifying, full-time career as a Social Work Supervisor.

Here are my tasting notes:

- Color: Pure red, ruby and crimson. Medium-to-deep intensity.
- Nose: Assertive, extremely ripe. Thick, multi-layered perfume of smoked meat, white pepper, wildflower, sweet oak and cranberry.
- Palate: Weighty, yet nimble. Moves across the palate adeptly with bright, lively notes of red raspberry, loganberry, tart strawberry, red cassis and plum. Cured meatiness in the background. Lands heavily, then fleshy lushness takes over.
- Finish: Candied cherry and plum. Invigorating and very fresh. Long,

round and tannic.

Production of the '05 Arroyo Loma Vineyard Syrah is microscopic: 177 cases. Should you wish to give this wine a swirl, shop online at www.remarkwines.com or call (831) 455-9310.

Joel's food pairing suggestion is quite simple: lamb, prepared any way you wish. Who would know better than the winemaker?

Thank you and let your palate be the judge ...

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

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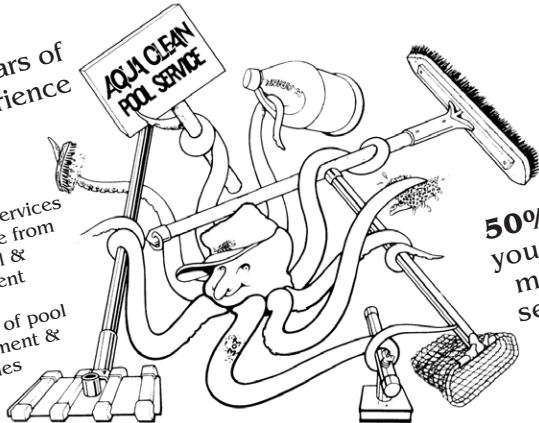
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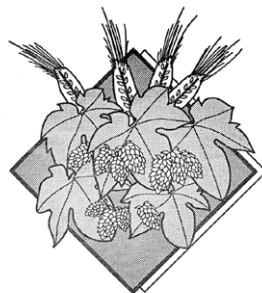
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The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. FRANKLIN UTCHEN

Snail bait poisons more than just snails

This time of year when the weather becomes warmer and people are working in their yard, it is essential to consider the products you are using to rid your yard of those pesky snails and slugs. Some snail bait products, while effective at killing unwanted snails and slugs, are extremely lethal to pets.

There are two main types of snail baits, and one is considered relatively safe for dogs. Look for the active ingredient and use the kind that contains 1 percent iron phosphate. This is relatively safe for dogs, because there is actually very little iron in the compound, and what there is, is poorly digested and absorbed by dogs, so most of it passes through them without incident. That being said, iron phosphate can still be toxic to dogs if they ingest enough of it: A 40-pound dog would have to consume about 3 pounds of this bait to receive a lethal dose of iron, although vomiting and diarrhea can occur with as little as about 1/10 of that amount.

However, there are other brands of snail bait that contain an active ingredient called "metaldehyde," which causes muscle tremors that progress to convulsions. Dogs can easily die from this poison, as it only takes less than one teaspoon per 10 pounds of body weight for the snail bait to become toxic. Each spring when the snails come out, we see numerous dogs at our practice that have ingested metaldehyde that require emergency treatment, including IV fluids, injections of anti-seizure medication, and a one- or two-day hospital stay.

If you suspect any of your family pets have ingested snail bait, it is imperative they be seen by a veterinarian immediately because symptoms of poisoning can begin within 45 minutes of ingestion. Keep all potential poisons well out of reach of dogs.

Know the facts:

- The toxic ingredient in snail bait is metaldehyde.
- Snail bait constitutes the most common poisoning agent in dogs in California.
- Snail bait is commonly in pellets and resembles dog food.
- Snail bait is flavored with molasses or bran to attract snails, and unfortunately also attracts dogs.

ses or bran to attract snails, and unfortunately also attracts dogs.

- Snail baits are also in liquid and powder forms that can be licked off paws during normal grooming.
- It only takes less than a teaspoon per 10 pounds of body weight for snail bait to become toxic.

Signs of poisoning begin quickly:

- Anxious twitching which becomes uncontrollable.
- Twitching progresses to seizures and potentially death.
- The muscle contractions of the twitches raise body temperature so high that brain damage can result.
- Patients can also exhibit racing heart rates, vomiting, diarrhea and respiratory failure. Liver failure can also occur.

There is no direct antidote for metaldehyde toxicity; treatment is aimed at controlling the tremors and seizures with IV fluids and muscle relaxants until the poison has been cleared from the system. Chance of recovery depends on how much poison was ingested, how quickly therapy was initiated and the general health of the dog.

Pet Safe Alternatives to snail baits include:

- **Sluggo Slug and Snail Bait.** The active ingredient in the safe product is iron phosphate.
- **Handpicking**—picked on a regular/weekly basis the population of snails significantly can be reduced.
- **Java for Snails**—a 1/2 percent caffeine solution can kill nearly all the slugs and snails in your garden within two days. Coffee grounds are a great way to keep snails and slugs away.
- **Copper barriers**—copper reacts with the slime the snail secretes, causing a flow of electricity.

—Dr. Franklin Utchen, shown with his dog Tory, has been practicing veterinary medicine in the San Ramon Valley since 1989 and currently co-owns Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center & Urgent Care. For questions or comments e-mail bishopranchvets@yahoo.com.

OF NOTE

Cheers for scholars

Seventy-four Youth Football players and cheerleaders from Napa to Livermore, including the T-Birds, received Scholar Athlete Awards last month at Charlotte Wood Middle School in Danville. Diablo Valley

Youth Football League presented them with a \$50 savings bond and a plaque for their outstanding achievements. The youths had to maintain a 3.5 GPA and write an essay as well as receive a teacher recommendation to be considered to receive the award.

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

Danville fights fires with volunteers, Part 1

Fires were a terrifying and real fact of life for the San Ramon Valley's early pioneers. The long, dry summers and lack of water supply were an enormous challenge when fires started.

The Contra Costa Gazette covered one conflagration in July of 1891:

"We have had considerable excitement this week. The hot weather has dried grass so thoroughly that the least spark makes a roaring flame in a very few seconds. On Monday everyone was called out by generous impulse to fight a fire in Mrs. Flournoy's place near Danville. A hundred men or more rushed immediately to put it out with wet sacks and plows, but the field (a crop of chevalier barley) was strewn with bundles of heavy grain and six inches of barley leaves lay all over the ground, so it was useless to try to stop it until the wind turned and blew the flames back."

Volunteers fought fires with gunny sacks soaked with creek water and put water in leather buckets to douse the flames. And, as with the Flournoy fire, they depended on the wind to change.

In 1912 the Danville Improvement Club began the first local organization to fight fires. At a January meeting of men and women they decided to create the Danville Volunteer Fire Department. These officers were elected to lead the effort: Fire Chief Joe Adams Freitas; 1st Assistant Fire Chief George W. Groom; 2nd Assistant Chief Harvey Eddy; Treasurer Clarence W. Close; and Secretary Ed C. Wiester.

All of these men owned property in downtown Danville. Joe Freitas owned the Freitas Big Store (near the corner of Prospect and Hartz), Groom had a blacksmith shop on Prospect and Railroad, Harvey Eddy's houses were at the corner of Church and Hartz, Clarence Close had a large house on Diablo Road and owned businesses on Front Street, and Ed Wiester's large warehouse sat north of the Danville Southern Pacific station property.

The organizing minutes of the Danville Department stated, "Its object shall be the preservation and protection of property from and during such fires as may occur in the village of Danville." A Fireman's Ball was held in March 1912 which raised \$169.20. After expenses, \$100 was deposited in the San Ramon



In 1925, this mission style firehouse was built at 150 N. Hartz Ave. in Danville. The property cost \$600 and construction was another \$4,997.50.

Valley Bank in downtown Danville.

The District was supported by many volunteers, using a trailer with ten 10-gallon milk cans full of water and gunny sacks. The trailer was kept downtown and, when a fire occurred, the nearest volunteer with a trailer hitch would connect the trailer and get it to the fire. Ranches usually kept buckets, milk cans with water and early extinguishers on hand.

In 1921 a state law enabled special fire districts to organize and levy a tax to support the districts. So on Sept. 6, 1921, the Danville Volunteer Fire Department became the Danville Fire Protection District, headed by Commissioners James Jones, William A. Ward and Frank Rutherford who were appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.

There were evidently lively boundary discussions with several San Ramon men, including Fred Wiedemann, Joe Bettencourt, Bill Meese and Elmer Baldwin. At that point the Meese Ranch (today's Greenbrook Homes) was part of the San Ramon School District. Finally, the official boundaries became the Alamo, Danville, Sycamore and Green Valley Grammar School Districts, an area of about 50 square miles. Frank Rutherford, who managed San Ramon's Bishop Ranch, resigned from the Commission since San Ramon was not included in the boundaries.

On March 18, 1922, Ward,

Jones and Freitas became the first elected commissioners. At a May 20 "preparedness meeting" the commissioners appointed Oscar Olsson to be Fire Chief, R. J. Monroe as Assistant Chief, and H. M. Fichtenmueller as Captain. On July 15, 17 firemen met and "Commissioner Jones, in a few well chosen words, presented each one with a badge of authority." In April the department made its first investments. A Reo-American La France 45 chemical fire truck was purchased for \$4,140 and was delivered shortly after.

In July 1925, the department paid \$600 for a firehouse property at 150 N. Hartz Ave. in Danville. Randolph Hook built the firehouse for \$4,997.50 in a California Mission style. The firehouse was completed and accepted on Dec. 2, 1925.

Sources: Newspaper articles from 1891, 1970, 1994, Danville Grange minutes, museum archives, Virgie V. Jones' "Historical Persons and Places...in San Ramon Valley," San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District 75 Years of Service (1987), Chief Mel Deardorff talk in 1991.

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."

SAN RAMON VALLEY: ALAMO, DANVILLE AND SAN RAMON BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZZINE



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OF NOTE

SRV delegates to Boys State

American Legion's Mt. Diablo Post No. 246 continued with its selection of high school students to Boys State. Delegates from San Ramon Valley High School will be Utkarsh Vasa and Chris Overstreet. Alternate selection is Jay Singh.

Boys State is an annual program for juniors held at Sacramento in June to give delegates a firsthand opportunity to learn the ideals and objectives of government and to practice in a mock government setting.



Art

Alamo Art Show The Alamo Plaza Shopping Center will hold its semi-annual Alamo Fine Art and Craft Show from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 10-11. The show will feature artists exhibiting original works including paintings, bronze sculpture, pottery, jewelry, fiber art, fine glass, woodwork, mixed media and photography.

Auditions

Danville Girls Chorus Auditions will be held for the Danville Girls Chorus on June 10 for girls in grades 3-8. Learn a variety of musical styles, fundamentals of musicianship and perform at local performances. For an appointment, call 837-2624.

Author Visit

Rakestraw Books Rakestraw Books will host numerous authors during the month of May including: Simon Winchester, author of "The Man Who Loved China," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 13; Taras Grescoe, author of "Bottomfeeder," at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 15; Barbara Walters, author of "Audition," at 6 p.m., Friday, May 16; Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver, authors of "Hank Zipser," at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 17; and Rick Bragg, author of "The Prince of Frogtown," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 20; all at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Reservations are recommended; some events have a cost. Call 837-7337.

Clubs

Alamo Women's Club Federated The club meets on most Wednesdays at its clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd. It holds a business meeting and tea the second Wednesday at noon; meets for Mah Jong at 10:30 a.m. the third Wednesday; and holds a luncheon with program at noon the fourth Wednesday. For information, call 552-9733.

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

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.alamodanvillenewcomers.com.

Bay Books Book Club San Ramon Bay Books hosts two book clubs reviewing different books. The first club meets at 7 p.m., the second Tuesday of every month; the second book club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, both meeting at the San Ramon store, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 855-1524.

Danville Women's Club This club will meet for a luncheon at noon, Thursday, May 15, at the clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa, Danville. New officers will be installed by the District 2nd

Vice President. Guests are welcome. For reservations, call 837-7528.

Diablo Bonsai Club This club will host a lecture and workshop on "Group Planting" from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, at Heather Farm Garden Center, upper room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Call 937-4216.

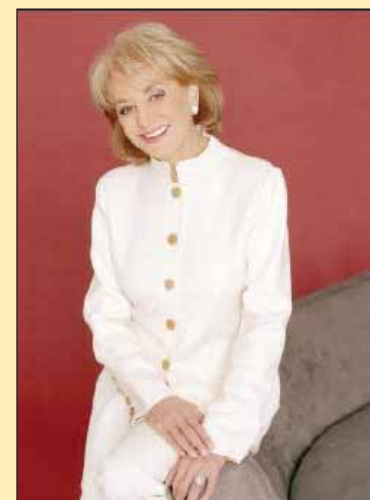
Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit www.diablovalleyflyfish.org.

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

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

Exchange Club Luncheon Speaker Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley will host Dr. Blake Simmons from Sandia Lab Energy Systems who will speak on "Joint BioEnergy Institute BioFuels" from noon-1 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$16 for members; \$20 for non-members. Call 275-2412.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



COURTESY RAKESTRAW BOOKS

Barbara Walters appearing in Danville

Rakestraw Books will host a meet-and-greet and book signing with Barbara Walters, author of "Audition, A Memoir" from 6-8 p.m., Friday, May 16, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Cost is \$3, plus the cost of "Audition" bought at Rakestraw Books. Call 837-7337.

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.sanramonhistoricalfoundation.org.

BioBlits BioBlitz is a race to see how many species we can find and count in a 24 hour period. Scientists, naturalists and volunteers will document biodiversity in our community from Friday-Saturday, May 16-17, at Mangini Ranch and Lime Ridge Open Space. This is an opportunity to explore, discover, educate and investigate the biodiversity that surrounds us. Reservations are recommended; call 947-3535.

Calling All Dalmatians Museum of the San Ramon Valley is having a "Blemie" look-a-like contest to honor Eugene O'Neill's dog at noon (registration begins at 11:30 a.m.), Sunday, May 18, at Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. This event is free. Picnic will follow the contest. Bring food; drinks and dog treats will be provided. E-mail stolow@juno.com.

Challenger Jamboree Challenger Baseball Program will host the fourth annual Western Region District 57 Little League Challenger Jamboree from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., May 23-25, at Dublin Sports Park, Dublin Blvd. The day will include BBQ's, day trips, clowns, magician and lots of baseball. Call 829-7137.

Danville International Children's Film Festival Come and enjoy a film festival for children and by children Friday-Sunday, May 16-18. Film screenings will take place at Village Theatre, 433 Front St. and the Town Meeting Hall, Front St., Danville. Tickets and passes for the weekend's events range from \$5-\$25 and are available by visiting www.village-theatre-shows.com or the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., Danville; call 314-3400.

Farmers Market The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday; and from 4-8 p.m., Thursdays, until Aug. 14, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com.

Live! at the Livery Danville Livery & Mercantile will host the second annual "Live! at the Livery" from 5-8 p.m., Thursdays, in May. The nights will feature bands and entertainment. Cost is \$5 for a souvenir wine glass to enjoy tastings from numerous wineries. Proceeds ben-

Friends of the Danville Library

Friends of the Danville Library are renewing annual memberships and recruiting new members to help support, raise funds and sponsor programs for the Danville library. There are many benefits of being a Friend including merchant discounts, volunteer opportunities and preview of book sales. Dues and donations are tax deductible. Application forms are at the library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4455.

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.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society This group meets at 10 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month (except August and December), at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. The public is welcome. Call Ed at 299-0881 or visit <http://srvgensoc.org>.

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

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

Concerts

'A Tribute to Judy Garland' Blackhawk Chorus presents "A Tribute to Judy Garland" at 5:45 p.m., Saturday, May 17, at Blackhawk Country Club, Banquet Room, Danville. Tickets are \$45. Another performance is at 8 p.m., Friday, May 23, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Tickets are \$15. Call 828-1580.

Jazz at Peace Invite your mom to the Jazz at Peace concert featuring Mad and Eddie Duran at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 11, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This concert is free. Call 648-7000.

Valley Concert Chorale Spring Concert May 17 Schubert's Mass in G, Peteris Vasks' Dona Nobis Pacem, familiar spirituals and English part songs will be performed at the Valley Concert Chorale Spring Concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 17, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door; students 18 and under are free. Call 866-4003.

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Meet Yau-Man Chan from 'Survivor' Friends of the Danville Library will host Yau-Man Chan from the CBS television show "Survivor" at 2 p.m., Saturday, June 14, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

TVHOC Housing Forum 2008 Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center will host a housing forum from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 10, at 4400 Rosewood Ave., Pleasanton. The theme will be "Today's Housing Market: How is it Affecting You?" This event is free. Call 373-3934.

Exhibits

Agriculture for a Century, the Business of the Valley Museum of the San Ramon Valley is hosting the "Agriculture for a Century, the Business of the Valley" exhibit until May 10, at the museum at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Museum hours are from 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Call 837-3750.

Fundraisers

'Day At The Races' Youth Homes Auxiliary will hold its annual "Day at the Races" from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, at Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Highway, Berkeley. Tickets are \$35 each, including valet parking, reserved group seating in the Turf Club and a buffet luncheon. Proceeds benefit the children of Youth Homes in Contra Costa County. Call 935-3962 or 954-7030.

18th Annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary Club will host the 18th annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. A donation of \$50 is requested. Proceeds benefit many of the Rotary's community projects. Call 648-2098.

Care Package Drive Blue Star Moms Chapter 101 will host a Care Package Drive from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 17, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Items that you can donate include single serving food items (tuna pouches, chicken creations), drink mixes (Kool Aid, Minute Maid), new cotton t-shirts, new cotton socks, DVDs and card games. Visit www.bluestarmoms.org/donate.

Drive Fore A Cure Golf Tournament Driving Fore a Cure and PHA Golf Tournament will start at 11:30 a.m. with sign-in and a shotgun start at 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. The day will include golf, a luncheon, banquet and awards. Cost is \$250 per player; \$900 for group of four. Proceeds will help save the lives of pulmonary hypertension patients. Call 736-8309 or visit www.drivingforeacure.org.

Mother's Day Breakfast Pleasanton DeMolay will host a Hawaiian Breakfast for Mother's Day from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 10, at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Rd. Cost is \$7. Proceeds benefit Pleasanton DeMolay. Call 858-1342.

Pet Photo Days Annabelle's Barkery and Nutrition Center will host "Pet Photo Days" with animal photographer Michael Tedesco from 5:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, May 13 and Thursday, May 15, at the bakery, 1528 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$30, including tax (includes one 5x7 print of your choice). Proceeds benefit the White Kitty Foundation. Call JoAnne Spear at 708-2228.

Used Soccer Uniform Collection FUNDaFIELD is traveling to South Africa this summer and would like to deliver used soccer uniforms to the kids there. They are holding a soccer uniform collection drive until May 17, at 20 Alamo Springs Ct., Danville; Monte Vista High, Career Center, Danville; Mustang Soccer Complex; and Starbucks located in Danville at: 398 Hartz Ave., 1 Railroad Ave., 3496 Camino Tassajara and 4000 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. E-mail fundafield@comcast.net.

Garden/Home Tours

8th Annual AAUW Garden Tour Come tour seven delightful gardens in Alamo, Blackhawk and Danville from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 9-10. Tickets are \$30, available at Leku Eder, 178 E. Prospect Ave., Danville. Checks should be made out to Danville-Alamo AAUW EF. Call 831-1784 or visit www.aauw-da.org.

Annual Kitchen and Garden Tour Baldwin and Greenbrook elementary schools are hosting their annual Kitchen and Garden Tour from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, May 18. Enjoy catered foods from local restaurants and a silent auction at the end of the tour. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 on the day of the event. Proceeds support both PTAs. For reservations, call 838-7722.

Health

African Drumming Drumming has been shown to boost immune system functions and metabolism. Come and experience this fun way to get "good vibrations" from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. No rhythmic or musical ability is required. Call 933-0107.

Heart to Heart Talk San Ramon Regional Medical Center will present a free community educational program, "A Heart-to-Heart Talk" from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, at the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Cardiologist John Vu, M.D., will discuss heart health, risks and symptoms of heart disease, and advanced diagnostic and treatment. This event is free. Call 275-8230.

Kids and Teens

'Insect Songs' Danville Library will host Sandi and Stevie who will present "Insect Songs" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. Join them for lots of singing and musical fun to kick off the Contra Costa County Library Summer Reading Program. Call 837-4889.

Lectures/Workshops

Catholics@Work Breakfast Leo Severino, producer of "Bella," will

speak at the Catholics@Work breakfast starting at 7 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Leo will talk about the tremendous challenges he faced from traditional Hollywood culture and the obstacles he had to overcome. Cost is \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. Call 389-0704 or visit www.catholicsatwork.org.

Open Your Heart Through Art By using art and movement, this series promotes self-awareness and connection of body, mind, and emotion. The group meets from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mondays, May 12-June 30, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This workshop is free for cancer patients and their support persons. Call 933-0107.

Spring Community Presentation Come and learn about developmental delays, autistic spectrum disorders, Asperger's and PDD, and the new information on treatments from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This event is free, but reservations are required; call 648-4800.

Miscellaneous

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.

Political Notes

Blackhawk Republican Women Cocktail Meeting Lores Rizkalla, host of a radio station in Los Angeles, will speak on "Crisis 2008 and the Power of a Woman" from 5:45-8 p.m., Thursday, May 15, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20; reservations are due by noon, May 13. Call 820-6452.

Seniors

Danville Senior Citizens Club The club meets from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. New members are welcome. Membership is \$12 a year. Call Patricia Graber at 443-0268.

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 Health and Fitness Day Town of Danville will host Senior Health and Fitness Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Senior Volunteer Awards Culture to Culture Foundation presents its first Senior Volunteer Awards honoring seniors that provide voluntary service to the community. The competition is open to all seniors (55 and older). Applicants must describe their volunteer activities in 500 words or less and supply at least three references with their phone numbers; deadline is July 31. Four winners will receive a \$250 cash prize and a plaque. Call 938-9988.

Valley Oak Respite Center Activities for Seniors Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The

cost is \$30 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040, ext. 53.

Spiritual

Community Shabbat Dinner Beth Chaim Congregation will host a Community Shabbat Dinner from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday, May 16, at Beth Chaim, 1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Call 736-7146.

Grief Retreat When a person loses someone (or something) of importance, grief is a natural response. This retreat will help you process your grief through presentations, small group discussions and experiential activities from May 23-25, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$195 for a private room; \$165 for a shared room. Call 831-9141, ext. 315.

Sports

Hope In Motion Pre-Race Clinic: Nutrition and Injury Prevention Join Hope in Motion for a free race preparation clinic and learn what to eat and how to train from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, May 16, at Road Runner Sports, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. This event is free. Call 825-8052.

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Danville, Cameo Drive, Sat 5/10 8-2
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Many items! Furniture, SUV, baby clothes, adult clothing, collectibles,garden equipment, jewelry, estate items, remodeling supplies, weights and more! Enter at Cameo Drive for a map of participants. Take Stone Valley to Green Valley to Cameo Drive.

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3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10

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Read Joe and Nancy's Real Estate
Column in Alive East Bay Magazine



Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Take steps to preserve the value of your home

If you're like most Americans, then your greatest asset is your home. But with recent declines in home values, it may be time to consider options for preserving your home's value. Since the value of your home is directly tied to its condition, there are steps you can take to help preserve that value.

Step 1: Where to begin, indoor vs. outdoor

Preserving the value of your home can be achieved in many ways, but your home's exterior should be your initial focus. Remodeling Magazine's annual Cost vs. Value Report shows exterior and replacement projects bring the biggest return. Before you decide where to begin, you should consider the following:

- Budget—set one and be realistic.
- Goals—narrow your scope by determining exactly what you want to achieve.

Step 2: Do your research

Depending on where you live, the value you gain from exterior home improvement projects can vary widely. Exterior projects that typically recover cost well include a roof replacement and the addition of a deck.

You may want to consult with a local remodeler or real estate agent to learn more about the specific issues affecting the value of home improvements in your area.

Step 3: Pick a project

Now that you've set a budget and completed your research, it's time to select your project. A great place to start is your roof.

"A roof used to be nothing more than protection for your home from the elements," says Stephen McNally, vice president of sales and marketing for TAMKO Building Products Inc. "Today homeowners look to their roof as a way to increase their home's curb appeal and overall value."

When selecting a roofing material it is

important to remember the following:

- Performance is as important as curb appeal.

- Select a product that is backed by a solid warranty.

A majority of homeowners prefer asphalt shingles because they perform well and are typically the most cost effective option, but many alternatives are now available. One alternative growing in popularity, which could potentially increase the value of your home, is composite roofing.

Composite roofing products are typically backed by longer warranties. Some shingles create the authentic look of a classic slate roof without the high-cost and performance issues. Other alternatives include metal, rubber, concrete and tile. Be sure to do your research before selecting a roofing material that will work for you. With tile, make sure your house can bear the weight.

Another potential exterior project is the addition of a deck. When selecting a decking material that will help preserve your home's value, it's important to think about the following:

- Durability—you want a product that performs well and will last.
- Maintenance—deck maintenance can be costly. Consider low-maintenance materials like composite (a combination of wood and plastic).

A natural wood deck can lead to costly, time-consuming, annual maintenance. Composite decks, which may cost more initially, generally never require painting or staining. After all, you should spend more time enjoying your deck than caring for it. Composites typically come with a longer warranty as well.

No matter what project you choose, maintaining the value of your greatest asset, your home, should be a top priority.

—Courtesy of ARA Content



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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during March 2008

City	Total sales reported:	Lowest sale reported:	Highest sale reported:	Average sales reported:
Alamo	4	\$456,000	\$850,000	\$942,318
Danville	11	\$2,550,000	\$667,600	\$1,950,000
Diablo	20	\$199,000	\$1,950,000	\$667,600
Walnut Creek	20	\$199,000	\$1,950,000	\$667,600

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during March 2008

Alamo

- 224 Harrington Court**
Amethyst Enterprises to Casci Trust for \$1,690,000
- 157 Marks Road** J. & J. Kane to S. & S. Alberts for \$2,150,000
- 3220 Stone Valley Road**
Davidson Trust to S. Hudson for \$1,075,000
- 60 Sugarloaf Lane** GMAC Mortgage to E. & J. Weis for \$850,000

Danville

- 377 Borica Drive** J. & L. Toms to K. & G. Tillis for \$950,000
- 230 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to K. Tang for \$456,000
- 234 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to S. Lee for \$502,000
- 4077 Eagle Nest Lane**
Noble Trust to T. & K. Michiels for \$1,170,000
- 3093 East Griffon Street**
Shapell Industries to J. & J. Wade for \$1,170,000
- 4565 Kingswood Drive**
R. & C. Higgins to R. & R. Jamieson for \$2,000,000
- 131 Lomitas Drive**
Mclaughlin Trust to M. & E. Thomsen for \$597,000

- 471 St. Francis Drive** F. & S. Garcia to Gold-Tenge Trust for \$1,027,500
- 204 Walnut Creek Court**
M. & I. Rodgers to S. Ye for \$780,000
- 20 Westbourne Court** L. Biagiotti to T. & G. Tarasow for \$959,000
- 22 William Court** R. Vaverka to Meyers Trust for \$754,000

Diablo

- 1815 Alameda Diablo** N. & S. Larsen to Cobler Trust for \$2,550,000

Walnut Creek

- 72 Cottage Lane** V. Plakhti to M. & J. Rhoden for \$705,000
- 1873 Danielle Court**
V. Artim to M. Sedeh for \$600,000
- 3002 Grey Eagle Drive**
Rice Trust to D. Freeman for \$849,000
- 1206 Juanita Drive** D. Allen to N. & L. Remer for \$729,000
- 346 Kinross Drive** Black Trust to M. Iturreria for \$570,000
- 2346 Lariat Lane** M. Zhang to H. Pham for \$850,000
- 729 Laurel Drive** J. & P. Nossen to S. Moss for \$835,000

- 3565 Melody Drive** G. & K. Roeth to Glasky Trust for \$1,950,000
- 2700 Oak Road #26** Mastr Assets to R. Delaware for \$260,000
- 135 Pickering Place** J. Jansen to S. & S. Fielding for \$720,000
- 3104 Ptarmigan Drive #2** Surdyk Trust to A. & A. Johnson for \$430,000
- 1621 Ptarmigan Drive #8A** J. & R. Jackl to N. Camarco for \$368,000
- 1957 Skycrest Drive #4** S. Rogino to R. & J. Starkey for \$199,000
- 1213 South Villa Way**
Waltenspiel Trust to J. Tanner for \$360,000
- 1622 Stanley Dollar Drive #2B** M. Burkhard to R. Harris for \$608,000
- 1550 Stanley Dollar Drive #3B** D. Westington to M. Burkhard for \$385,000
- 245 Tamarisk Drive**
Smith Trust to D. Rao for \$1,060,000
- 341 Tampico** D. Coppa to C. Yin for \$564,500
- 4403 Terra Granada Drive #4B** Braun Trust to A. Tam for \$395,000
- 3051 Walnut Boulevard**
Walpole Trust to D. & J. Howe for \$914,500

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- 4 Bedrooms**
- 842 Matadera Cir.** \$1,050,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

SAN RAMON

- 4 Bedrooms**
- 2421 Talavera Dr.** \$709,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

PLEASANTON

- 2 Bedrooms**
- 5750 Belleza Dr.** \$537,500
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-4663
- 2341 Oakland Ave.** \$598,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 ReMax / Accord 997-8001

- 3 Bedrooms**
- 246 Trenton Cir.** \$649,000
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams 596-1918
- 7343 Elmwood Cir.** \$730,000
Sat 1-4 Re/Max Accord 209-7644
- 6904 Corte Pacifica** \$750,000
Sat 1-4 K e l l e r Williams - Lydonna Walker 997-8267
- 5202 Crestline Wy.** \$775,000
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

- 580 East Angela** \$879,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

- 4 Bedrooms**
- 72 Castlewood Dr.** \$2,350,000
Sat/Sun 1-4/11-2 Sotheby's 484-2045

- 4805 Knox Gate Ct.** \$819,000
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111
- 1729 Greenwood Rd.** \$849,000
Sat 12-3 Alain Pinel 251-1111

- 5 Bedrooms**
- 1807 Tangelwood Wy.** \$1,099,000
Sat 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 251-1111

- 8256 Regency Dr.** \$1,575,000
Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-2457
- 7914 Paragon Cir.** \$1,799,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

LIVERMORE

- 3 Bedrooms**
- 2039 Galloway Cmn.** \$439,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 998-5112

- 427 Oriole Ave.** \$449,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2166
- 62 Terra Wy.** \$879,000
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams 918-2045

- 4 Bedrooms**
- 1836 Heidelberg Dr.** \$749,000
Sat 1-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 510-853-8980

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- Locks in your rate and program to your construction project.

One application process and one set of closing costs can save time and money for you and help you convert more leads into sales.

COUNTRYWIDE COMBINES CONSTRUCTION AND PERMANENT FINANCING INTO ONE TRANSACTION WITH THREE PROGRAMS:

New Home Construction

For the owner planning to build a new primary or second home. Land purchase can be included in the loan amount, call for details.

Remodel/Home Improvement

For the owner planning major renovations on an existing primary or second home. Rehab projects may be eligible, as well, call for details.

Pre-Sold Existing Inventory

For the owner you have contracted to purchase a home that started as a spec home and is less than 50% complete.

Countrywide
CAN