

Voters reject parcel tax

Supervisor Piepho in for second term ➤ **page 5**

Golf Channel focuses on Danville man

Father's Day grand prize depends on votes online

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Vol. IV, Number 5 • June 6, 2008

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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Retiree donates \$50,000

Alamo residents celebrate with Habitat for Humanity

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Making waves

Madison White, 13, heading for Olympic swim trials

page 12



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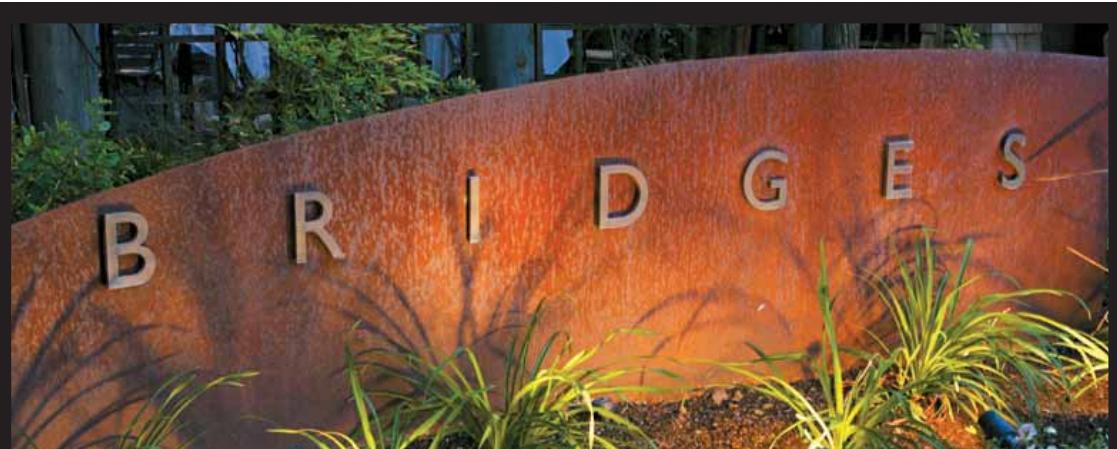
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Q: What is your favorite thing to do downtown?



I live in Alamo and when I come to Danville I come to eat mostly. My wife and I love to go to the Basil Leaf Cafe and the Rising Loafer, those are our favorites. We also like to go to Trader Joe's and Lunardi's out here because we don't have them in Alamo and Danville's right next door.

Edgar "Ed" Aitken
contractor



My son and I usually go to the Farmers Market on Saturdays. My son loves to walk around and eat fruit. It's a good way to spend time together after working all week.

Dave Puhlman
sales



Besides giving massages at the Body Adventure, I love to go for walks with my 2- and 4-year-old granddaughters with my dog. We take the Iron Horse Trail from Danville to Alamo where it's nice and shady. I love to take my dog down to Hap Magee Park as well. I live in Oakland and it's the best dog park around, he has a lot of fun there. The third thing I love to do downtown is go and get my hair done at Salon 5 by Heather; she does such a good job.

Linda Wilson
massage therapist



My favorite things to do are to go to Sideboard to eat and hang out because the food is great and I love the music. I love to go to Peet's Coffee and Tea, too, because I know all the people that work there and it has good coffee and a fun environment.

Ethan Clotterly
content engineer



I enjoy walking around on a nice day because you always run into people you know. There are a lot of nice, quaint places to eat but, all in all, Danville's pretty boring.

Will Newman
musician

COMPILED BY KRISTEN LANG

ABOUT THE COVER

Madison White, 13, whose coach calls her a "24-hour athlete," competes in the backstroke at the Santa Clara Grand Prix, where she qualified for the Olympic Trials. Photo by Daniel R. Harris/Backstop Images. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. IV, Number 5



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Tour Open Studios this weekend

Visit artists where they work this weekend at the 14th annual San Ramon Valley Open Studios tour, sponsored by the Alamo Danville Artists' Society along with the Town of Danville and the San Ramon Arts Foundation. Maps are available at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., as well as a preview of what artists are on the tour.

Studios at 25 locations will be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit www.OpenStudiosTour.com or call the special Open Studios hotline at 314-2470.

The event kicks off tonight at the Community Center with a free Downtown Gala from 6:30-9:30 p.m., open to the public.

Downtown Doggie Night

Anyone who has a dog or just plain loves them should show up at Molly's Pup-Purree from 5-8 p.m. this Thursday, June 12, for the fourth annual Doggie Night. Located at 425 Hartz Ave. in downtown Danville, the pet friendly spot will be giving out treats for dogs and prizes for humans. There will be music, a police dog demonstration and vendor booths.

Attendees also can stop for a bite to eat at dog friendly restaurants, The Peasant and The Pear or Bridges Restaurant, which are sponsors of Doggie Night. They are among several that allow guests to dine on the patio with their dogs.

Seniors graduate next week

High school graduations are taking place Friday, June 13, in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley high schools both will hold their graduations on their stadium fields, with the gates opening at 4 p.m. and the commencements beginning at 6 p.m. No tickets are needed.

San Ramon Valley High School will hold a preview of its Grad Nite venue from 3-5 p.m. that same day. This is a chance for family, friends and community members to see how volunteers have transformed the school campus for the all-night party for the graduates.

Monte Vista High School also will have an Inspirational Ceremony to begin the celebration of the 2008 graduating seniors, at 6 p.m., Sunday, June 8, in the Al Gentile Theater on campus. There will be musical presentations by the band and chorus members, and speeches given by students. The ceremony provides one additional opportunity for students and parents to celebrate, and the administration encourages families to attend the special event.

Calling artists and art lovers

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County is looking for those who have made significant contributions to the arts in or around the county to be nominated for its annual Arts Recognition Award. Since the

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

School is a good bike ride ” interrupted.

—Retiring teacher George Savatgy, who has been riding his bike to John Baldwin Elementary from Pleasant Hill every day for nine-and-a-half years. See story, page 5.

program was initiated in 1996, the commission has honored 65 local individuals and organizations for their endeavors in the arts.

Five nominees will be selected for recognition based on demonstrated qualities of leadership, vision, creativity and commitment to enriching the quality of life through the arts. The award will be presented in October along with countywide recognition and yearlong exposure on CCTV.

Nominations are due at 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 15. Forms and details are at www.ac5.org; telephone 646-2278.

Aging advocates headed for Sacramento

The county's Advisory Council on Aging invites seniors to join a June 11 trip to Sacramento to speak to representatives about the importance of retaining senior services that are in danger of being severely cut due to the budget crisis. Among endangered programs are Adult Protective Services (APS), which works to prevent elder financial and physical abuse, and the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) that enables frail seniors to remain in their own homes.

Kitty Barnes, consultant to the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging, asks that interested people RSVP to her at Kit925@astound.net by June 6; telephone 685-3795.

Kudos for Windmill Farms

Windmill Farms was recognized at the Sacramento Convention Center last week for its longstanding support of the community and steadfast commitment to customer service and high business ethics. Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., San Ramon) chose Windmill Farms Produce as Small Business of the Year for Assembly District 15.

The Smith family has owned and operated Windmill Farms since 1974 when it was only selling pumpkins and Christmas trees. The business has become renowned throughout the years for its fresh and locally produced fruits and vegetables.

Windmill Farms Produce has sponsored San Ramon Little League, supports a variety of local charities and churches in the community, and in 2007, donated more than \$6,000 worth of produce to the Contra Costa Food Bank.



Superintendent Rob Kessler thanks Rachel Hurd (left), Nancy Vandell and other Measure D supporters for their hard work after it became clear Tuesday night that it did not pass.

'Slow down' warning hurts neighbors' eyes

Residents object to flashing signs installed without their input

by Meghan Neal

In Tim Brennan's home is an expansive window with a picturesque view of green trees, rolling hills, his neighbors' beautifully landscaped yards—and a 15-foot speed monitoring sign flashing "SLOW DOWN" in bright red letters.

He came home one day and there it was.

"It's an electronic totem pole!" he lamented. "This thing is an eyesore, it's a nuisance and it interrupts our quality of life."

In March, two speed limit display signs were installed in the center median on El Cerro Boulevard, near the intersections of Constitution Drive and Enterprise Drive, to help quell the speeding problem on the road.

Several residents are distressed about the sudden appearance of the signs, not only because of the imposing objects themselves but because they believe the town forced them on the neighborhood without giving residents fair say first—or even a heads up as a courtesy.

After a few letters back and forth between residents and town staff, and a neighborhood petition to remove the signs, around 15 people met with members of Danville's transportation department May 19 to discuss the issue.

"El Cerro Boulevard has been historically a hot spot for speeders, and we've gotten many complaints over the years," explained Traffic Engineer Assistant Andy Dillard, who headed up the meeting.

Brennan said it seemed like the town was giving neighbors the blow off. The meeting was billed as "informational," and no high-level staff or Town Council members

attended. He argued that if putting in the signs was supposed to be beneficial to the community, why was it so clandestine?

"Most people who were at the meeting seemed most frustrated that they weren't included and never got a chance to be heard," he said. "When (the town) wanted to do something, they just did it."

The town doesn't typically notify residents before installing these kinds of signs, said Dillard. But the discrepancy is that other areas around town hosting speed limit display signs are big, busy roads with few nearby homes.

El Cerro Boulevard, on the other hand, is in somewhat of a limbo position, teetering between being a major thoroughfare and a quiet neighborhood. Neighbors fear the signs could be a significant step in the development of the road.

"I said, 'If you guys don't speak out now, this is gonna set the precedent,'" said Brennan.

Tom Marinshaw, who lives directly across the street from the eastbound-facing sign, agreed he'd like to see the "eyesore" go.

"They don't do any good," he said.

But the town argues they do in fact do some good. After speed monitoring signs were put in on Camino Tassajara and El Capitan the streets saw a 1-3 mph reduction in speed, said Dillard.

"Based on our before-and-after studies of the locations where we placed these signs, they have been effective in regards to lowering the speed," he said. "(Drivers) often times don't realize how fast they're going."

Moreover, town staff says it has few other options. El Cerro

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"The most rewarding thing is just day to day being with the kids," says George Savatgy, one of John Baldwin Elementary School's most beloved teachers, who is retiring this year.

1,200 students later

Classic John Baldwin Elementary teacher is pedaling off into the sunset

by Meghan Neal

Mr. Savatgy paused a moment, searching for the best way to describe what he loves about kids.

Then he held up a makeshift cell phone that one of his fifth-grade students had made for him earlier that day out of notebook paper and red pen.

"Like, this cell phone," he said, looking at it with amusement and setting it back down on his desk in the corner of the colorful classroom.

George Savatgy, an icon at John Baldwin Elementary School, is

retiring this month after 40 years of teaching—36 of them at the Danville school.

"I really enjoy being around kids and I always have," he said after school let out last Thursday. "Ten- and 11-year-olds are so much fun."

And the kids adore him, too. He's spirited, funny, and fit as a fiddle at 61.

"He was amazing. He is amazing. I'm so glad that he chose to teach," said Stephen Pramme, a former student. Pramme, 25, has since graduated from Savatgy's own alma mater, UCLA.

He said it's the little things that make Savatgy stand out. For

Hurd and Nancy Vandell, who led the fight for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

"We're going to pick ourselves up and try again," Hurd told the crowd as they fought back tears, standing around a table of largely untouched treats.

A computer in the Bishop Ranch "Yes on D" office projected the results on one wall, while Hurd

► Continued on page 9

Measure D fails; Supervisor Piepho gets another term

Buchanan to face Wilson in November for Assembly District 15

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli and Meghan Neal

Measure D supporters were glum as Superintendent Rob Kessler spoke to them Tuesday night shortly after 9 p.m., thanking them for their efforts. Absentee ballots and early returns showed the parcel school tax was receiving 58 percent support when it needed 66 percent to pass.

At his side were Trustee Rachel

MEGHAN NEAL

example, about two weeks ago the teacher rode his bike to work from his home in Pleasant Hill for the 1,700th day in a row—nine-and-a-half years without missing a single day come rain or shine.

"School is a good bike ride interrupted," Savatgy joked, mimicking the famous Mark Twain quote, "Golf is a good walk spoiled."

In the classroom he makes a point to challenge his students. Though he said the curriculum has devolved from "an inch deep and a mile wide to a half inch deep and two miles wide," he integrates reading, writing

► Continued on page 9

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Alamo resident Roger Haughton celebrates his retirement as CEO of PMI Group by working on a Habitat for Humanity East Bay project in Oakland last Friday.

Retiree gifts \$50,000 to Habitat for Humanity

Alamo couple celebrates milestones by helping to build homes

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Two years ago, Roger Haughton was ringing the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange to mark the 10th year of public trading for PMI Group, where he was chairman of the board and chief executive officer. Last Friday, the Alamo resident picked up a hammer and rang nails into a new home for Habitat for Humanity to celebrate his retirement.

"We dreamed that when we retired we would help fund a house for Habitat for Humanity," said Haughton. "This is a great and happy day of celebration—truly a dream come true."

Not only did Haughton and his wife Judy contribute sweat equity to the project, they gifted \$50,000 upon his recent retirement, which is being matched by PMI Group. That total will sponsor a home for one family.

The couple was joined Friday at the Edes Avenue Development in Oakland by a team of family, friends and Bay Area business leaders who wanted to help celebrate the retirement. They installed windows and doors, built front porches, and completed interior framing.

"We'll work together and have fun helping families who are working hard for home ownership," said Roger Haughton.

The Haughtons have been working with Habitat for Humanity for 15 years in its quest to provide decent affordable housing in safe neighborhoods. Together they have built or helped build more than 45 houses and have taken part in seven Jimmy Carter Work Project blitzes.

They keep in mind the fact that although they help to build the house, the family who moves in is going to "build a home."

"You leave with the heart knowledge that this is really something you can do to permanently change the life of a family," said Judy Haughton.

Roger was impressed when he saw plans for the Edes Avenue Development, which is transforming a former auto salvage yard in East Oakland into a new, sustainable, "green" development. Twenty of the 54 planned homes have been



Judy Haughton, an educator, keeps in mind that she is helping to provide a home where children can study properly, with a room and a desk.

completed.

"When I saw this, I said, 'How can I pass up a sponsorship opportunity?'" he said.

Roger Haughton has served on the board for Habitat for Humanity International, and Judy Haughton is a former member of board of the Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity, now part of Habitat for Humanity East Bay. Judy and Roger Haughton were also active with the Danny Foundation, which worked to prevent crib deaths, Animal Rescue Foundation and the Monument Crisis Center.

"Sometimes I think it's the volunteer who comes away with more," said Judy Haughton, who is retired from teaching at Valley Christian Elementary in Dublin.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay celebrates its 20th anniversary this year plus the completion of its 200th home and the start of a campaign to build another 200 homes in the next five years. This fits in with the Haughtons' idea of a celebration: The couple celebrated their 25th, 30th and 35th wedding anniversaries working on homes in the United States and around the globe.

They agreed Friday's event was a proper celebration for Roger's retirement as dozens of volunteers showed up to help.

"We are so thankful that we are able to have family here, business associates, people who have touched our lives," he said. ■

Retiring

► Continued from page 5

ing and social studies to make sure no subject falls by the wayside.

At the end of every year he requires each student to write a 5,000-word story. They'll moan about it at first but once they start writing they get hooked, he said. "It's a big accomplishment for them when they see they wrote this big, fat, 20-page story."

And it doesn't stop there. He also teaches all his students to play chess; he feels the game can be a huge ego boost for kids who struggle academically but shine on the chessboard.

"Kids that can't concentrate for 10 minutes in class can sit and concentrate on a 40-minute chess game without looking up," he said. "Every kid is good at something, if you can find it."

Ironically, Savatgy despised school growing up. He never intended to be a teacher, but joined the National Teacher Corps as a youth eager to make a difference. At 21 he was sent to an inner city school in South Central Los Angeles and a few years later moved north and started at John Baldwin.

He's seen a lot of change since that first teaching gig in '68, when girls wore skirts to school and bullies were more prone to throw sharp punches than sharp words.

Back then the cool-guy teacher with the long ponytail helped introduce soccer and capture the flag to



George Savatgy teaches his fifth-graders about the U.S. Constitutional Amendments.

the school, and remembers infuriating some parents by suggesting the girls try wearing pants so they could play sports.

The kids have changed over the years, too. For one thing, their time is much more structured, he noticed.

"They have organized sports, organized Scouts, organized church groups," he said. "They really don't have time to be by themselves."

He fears it leaves little room for imagination. "I think kids don't have enough free time these days where they get to be creative and do what they want."

Today's generation, growing up in the fast-paced, high-tech world of TV and videogames, is harder to reach, he said. And it's harder to hold their attention once you get it.

"You have to be a comedian. You have to put on a show and make them watch it," he said.

This is something he believes is one of his strengths as a teacher.

And Pramme agreed, remembering that Savatgy's "ability to connect to the students" always made his class entertaining.

"He was interested in learning and interested in the kids learning, and never lost that passion. And because of that the kids connected with him and wanted to know what he knew," said Brad Wilson, a former student from 35 years ago whose own children now go to John Baldwin.

"Some teachers, you think that they should have retired years ago because it seems like the passion's gone," Wilson said. "And that certainly wasn't him."

About 1,200 kids have passed through Savatgy's classroom over the years and he remembers nearly every one of them. It's easy to get attached to the students, he said.

"You have this family of kids and one day they're gone. You give them report cards and they disappear," he sighed. "And that's always hard. So June is a real bittersweet time."

This year especially. Having taught at John Baldwin for two-thirds of his life, he knows it won't be easy to say goodbye.

Savatgy plans to spend his free time adventure backpacking and checking out the sights in the spring, fall and winter for a change. He said he'd like to somehow stay involved with education after retiring, too.

"I'm really gonna miss a lot of things about teaching," he said. "The most rewarding thing is just day to day being with the kids ... It's been a wonderful career." ■

District teachers retiring this year

Atwater, Pat Los Cerros Middle
Bell, Donna Green Valley Elementary
Bench, Gayle Venture
Caplier, Sylvie San Ramon Valley High
Debus, Linda Walt Disney Elementary
Diamond, Joan Venture
Fitch, Jeanette Green Valley Elementary
Foster, Leanne Monte Vista High
Heeb, Stanley Monte Vista High
Hodge, Mary Beth Pine Valley Middle
Johnson, Eileen John Baldwin Elementary
Johnson, Richard Venture
Kellner, Valerie Green Valley Elementary
Mc Clure, Mary Stone Valley Middle
Orman, Nancy Greenbrook Elementary

Quinn, Mary Windemere Ranch Middle
Ransdell, Kathryn Vista Grande Elementary
Ritts, Craig San Ramon Valley High
Rix, Susan (Penny) Alamo Elementary
Rotner, Gayle John Baldwin Elementary
Saupe, Rebecca Country Club Elementary
Savatgy, George John Baldwin Elementary
Simms, Susan Greenbrook Elementary
Snow, Allen Charlotte Wood Middle
Tingley, Danvil Country Club Elementary
Williams, Paula Greenbrook Elementary
Willing, Mavis Special Ed.
Woodhouse, Elizabeth Pine Valley Middle
Yamashita, Kathleen Cal High
Yokomizo, Donna Hidden Hills Elementary

TAKE US ALONG



Biking the green hills of Ireland

Val Williams pauses at the County Cork line with her Danville Weekly while biking the back roads in Ireland, wearing a Peet's Coffee and Tea biking jersey.

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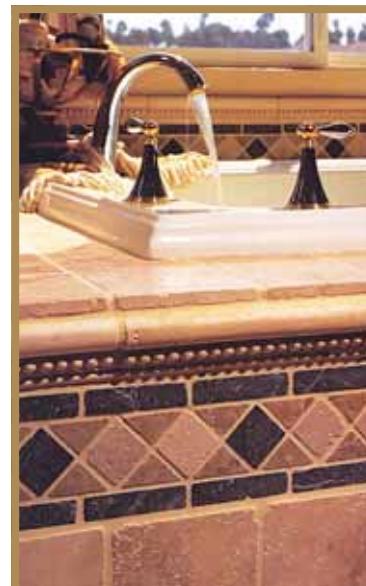
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Golf Channel focuses on Danville man

Special Olympics champion MJ Mc Colgan in the spotlight again

Golfers at Crow Canyon Country Club were treated Monday to the sight of a crew from the Golf Channel filming and interviewing Danville resident MJ Mc Colgan, winner of its Father's Day Contest.

The contest asked Golf Channel viewers to tell a life lesson their father taught them through the game of golf or on the golf course. From thousands of entries, MJ was chosen as one of five finalists for his 200-word story on his father, ML Mc Colgan. Fans will choose the grand prize winner by voting online.

MJ Mc Colgan, a 2002 graduate of San Ramon Valley High School, said he was surprised to win the essay contest.

"It will make Father's Day extra special for my dad as we have created lots of good memories playing golf together since I was 5 years old," he said.

MJ was born with a walking disability and competes with his dad in the Ryder Cup Alternate Shot format for Special Olympics Northern California with the use of a golf cart. He has won three National Championships, seven straight Northern California State Championships and participated in the 2003 World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland, and the 2007 World Games in Shanghai, China.

"He wrote the story when we were at Sawgrass playing with Fred Funk before the Players Championship," said ML Mc Colgan.

"The filming went great this



COURTESY ML MC COLGAN

Fathers Day contest winner MJ Mc Colgan poses with his dad ML Mc Colgan during the shoot by a Golf Channel crew Monday at Crow Canyon Country Club.

Vote for MJ Mc Colgan

The Golf Channel will accept one vote per e-mail address per day starting June 9 for its grand prize trip to St. Andrew's in Scotland. Cast your ballot for MJ Mc Colgan at www.thegolfchannel.com/fathersday/

morning," he reported midday Monday. "The beautiful clear, sunny Danville sky made for a nice shoot."

So far Mc Colgan's prizes include a trip for two to the U.S. Open, a set of Taylor Made Golf Clubs, staff bag, golf balls for a year, and a \$1,000 shopping spree at Dick's Sporting Goods.

Now fans are asked to cast a bal-

lot for their favorite, starting June 9. The grand prize winner will be announced Father's Day, June 15, during the Golf Channel's live coverage of the U.S. Open, being held June 9-15 at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. The grand prize is a trip to St. Andrews, Scotland, the historical birthplace of golf.

MJ Mc Colgan has also been inducted into the 2004 San Francisco Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2008, he has been nominated for the California Hall Of Fame. He and his dad have co-authored five golf books, including "Walking 18 Holes with Tiger," their remembrances of playing the famous Augusta National Golf Course.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Leadership graduates class of 21

The twenty-one members of the 17th class of Leadership San Ramon Valley were to be honored June 5 in ceremonies that culminate a program designed to give participants historical perspective and an in-depth look at the issues facing their community. It also sharpens their leadership and management skills. Many graduates go on to run for public office, sit on boards and commissions, or take leadership roles in their com-

munity service organizations or workplaces.

Each year the participants create a class project to enhance some aspect of the community. The class of 2008 launched a cell phone collection to benefit clients of STAND! Against Domestic Violence, by placing collection boxes at locations throughout the Valley.

Members of this Leadership class include corporate managers, firefighters, business owners,

Realtors, civic employees and community volunteers. They have attended 10 monthly day-long sessions since September discussing a variety of topics in the San Ramon Valley, such as education, the economy, local and state government, regional planning, community economics and cultural arts. Speakers and panel members for these sessions have included elected officials and experts in their fields of study.

The class of 2008 includes Cherie Bates, Amy Blaschka, Barbara Cappa, Bob Chace, Patricia Edwards, Kathy Gailey, Bob Gibbs, Tina Hightower, Kevin Horan, Patty Hoyt, Catarina Kidd, John D. Lane, Robert Leete, Nate Lorenzini, Ryan Lorenzini, Renee S. Morgan, May-Yee Ng, Erich Pfuehler, Richard Price, Claudi Ray and Carron Sandifor. ■

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Elections

► Continued from page 5

and other volunteers kept tabs with a black pen on another as the tallies came in. When all precincts had reported, Measure D received 62.59 percent.

"There was a tremendous outpouring of volunteer effort," said Vandell.

Computers also were in action across the courtyard at the "Joan Buchanan for Assembly" headquarters as family and friends stopped by to congratulate Buchanan on her two-to-one lead over opponent Ted Ford for the Democratic nomination for the 15th Assembly District race in November.

School board member Buchanan, an Alamo resident, will now face San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson in the November election. Wilson clinched the Republican nomination with 36.78 percent of the vote against opponents Robert Rao (29.89); Judy Lloyd (21.70); and Scott Kamena (11.34).

Though the race for District 3 Contra Costa County Supervisor was relatively close, incumbent Mary N. Piepho beat out State Assemblyman Guy Houston with 53.15 percent of the vote.

Piepho surpassed the 51 percent needed to secure the election, preventing the race continuing into November. Houston received 45.25 percent of the vote, and write-in candidate Stevan Thomas received 1.61 percent.

Voter turnout Tuesday was low countywide; 29 percent of roughly 491,000 registered voters in the county showed up at the polls. That number was as high as 67 percent during the presidential primary in February and was 38 percent during the last primary election in June 2006. ■

'Slow Down'

► Continued from page 5

Boulevard has a speed limit of 30 mph and is too big to have speed bumps put in. Police enforcement is the best way to keep speeding in check, said Dillard, but "they're out there a lot as it is, they can't be out there all day long."

If the signs must stay, Brennan said he'd at least like to see them moved up the road a bit, where they wouldn't be in close proximity to homes. He added it makes more sense to have them on the edge of the neighborhood educating people in advance of the problematic area, "not once they're already in the heat of it."

"We're not going to move it just for the sake of someone being unhappy with it; it has to make logical sense coming from a traffic standpoint," said Dillard. "If we can find a suitable spot that is effective we would consider moving the sign, but we haven't determined that yet."

Another meeting will be held once the town decides whether or not to move the signs, likely sometime this summer. ■

Contact reporter Meghan Neal at mneal@DanvilleWeekly.com.



Democratic Assembly District 15 candidate Joan Buchanan enjoys her granddaughter Willa Riedy, 1, while waiting for election results Tuesday night with son Chris Buchanan and other supporters.



Rachel Hurd tallies results on a board Tuesday night as disheartened Measure D supporters begin to grasp the bad news.



Speed limit display signs recently installed on El Cerro Boulevard are meant to control speeding drivers. Nearby homeowners say they're an "eyesore" and must be moved.

Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



I propose a toast

We may only take the stage a couple of times in our lives, but they are usually important times and we want to do it right. This point was made by a member of Toastmasters in this week's Living section story on page 16.

Take the wedding toast, for example. We only get married once, 'til death do us part. That's the idea anyway. At least it's safe to say most of us don't marry often, so it is an important occasion, a gathering of family and friends who want to help us launch our married life.

At my wedding the best man made a truly wonderful toast. I remember our surprise and delight as we clinked champagne glasses as a married couple. But, I must confess, I don't remember a word of it, and my husband remembers even less. Well, it has been several decades. The important thing was that we felt well-toasted at the time and it lived up to the festive occasion.

Author Debra Fine gives eight tips to make a wedding toast that caught my eye—of course, I'm interested since we are just beginning to plan my daughter's wedding for summer 2009. The first tip is to know your audience and what they will find touching or funny. Also know how much time is allotted—you don't want to be yanked offstage mid-speech. She suggests checking the sound system before the "audience" arrives although I thought part of every amateur toast was that horrible screech.

Make sure the toast is appropriate. What might be right at the bachelor's party will not be fitting at the wedding. Duh! Think of how you want your words to be remembered, focus on the bride and groom, and say something complimentary—the point is to say something nice. Practice is important and can't be overdone, preferably at the event site.

It's important to get the audience's attention before you begin your toast, she notes, and says a good way is to stand up and use eye contact to quiet everyone and get their attention. I think it might be more effective to clink glasses or say "Excuse me, excuse me."

Hold yourself confidently.

"Stand up, put a smile on your face, maintain excellent posture and keep your body open (i.e., no crossed arms; feet just less than shoulder width apart) and hold a glass containing appropriate beverage in one hand," says Fine. It's important to connect with everyone so begin the toast looking at the honorees then make eye contact with a few people in the crowd

to look at though you are addressing everyone. It's also important to speak slowly and deliberately.

When the toast is complete, lift your glass and ask everyone to join you in toasting the couple, then take a delicate sip from your glass. This ends the toast with a touch of class. Do not chug down the contents—you can drink what you choose to calm your nerves afterwards. Whew! Maybe we'd better all just join Toastmasters.

We only get married once, 'til death do us part. That's the idea anyway. At least it's safe to say most of us don't marry often, so it is an important occasion, a gathering of family and friends who want to help us launch our married life.

Now I propose a toast to haute couture designer Yves Saint Laurent, who died Sunday night at the age of 71. I didn't know much about him until I read the obits Monday but when I learned he was the first to put women into pantsuits I opened my arms wide and shouted to the universe (having no opinion on where his soul might be lingering), "Merci, merci, Monsieur Saint Laurent!" with my best French accent.

I still remember the resistance in the late 1960s to women wearing pants, even the nicely coordinated pantsuits that first made the scene. Hotels and restaurants in London and New York turned away women in Saint Laurent pantsuits. Many offices banned them but women slowly, tentatively began to show up in them. Those were the days when women wore jeans only to horseback ride. Apparently one of Saint Laurent's greatest regrets was that he didn't invent blue jeans, calling them "expressive and discreet." And now very expensive!

He is also credited with designing the "trapeze" dress in the late 1950s that, with its raised waistline, freed women from their girdles. Another toast is definitely in order for that!

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



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

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

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

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

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



Danville WEEKLY

Serving the communities of Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo

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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

On to November

The ballots are in; the votes are counted. Now we look forward to the November general election.

The Democrats predictably chose Joan Buchanan to run for the State Assembly District 15 seat being vacated by Guy Houston, due to term limits, while the Republicans chose San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson to run against her. It will be interesting to hear more about candidates Buchanan, a longtime school board member, and Wilson between now and November and what they plan to do in Sacramento. They are both seasoned local politicians who have represented their constituents well.

We like to think the campaigns for District 15 Assembly will avoid the ugliness that went on via mailers slamming opponents of the two candidates for the District 3 supervisor seat, incumbent Mary Nejedly Piepho, who won 53 percent of the vote, and Guy Houston.

Political persuasions also are bound to enter the November race. As of March, District 15 was 38.7 percent Democrats; 39.1 percent Republicans; and 18.5 percent declined to state. Hopefully the battle for the undeclared will focus on the strengths of the contenders. The 11th District Congressional race will also be a hot one, as Republican Dean Andal of Stockton fights to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton.

Voter turnout was dismal for Tuesday's election, at 29 percent for Contra Costa County. Campaign workers reported hearing from potential voters that they thought the primaries had already been held in February, when the presidential primaries took place in California.

November's turnout will undoubtedly be large as people cast their votes for the next President of the United States. Although the presidential campaign will probably be no holds barred, we expect that our two Assembly candidates will focus on their own attributes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Canine solution

Dear Editor:

After reading the article in the May 30 Danville Weekly regarding the problems with the grass in the Canine Corral, I have THE solution. It's an artificial grass made specifically for dogs called "K9 Grass" (www.K9Grass.com). It is dense and well designed to withstand the rigors of dog traffic and only needs water to hose it off occasionally. It is used by many kennels/vet clinics and several dog parks in the South Bay.

We have installed K9 grass in half of our dog run and our dogs love it. They use it just as they would real grass but with no wear and tear and it looks great! I kept half the run in pea gravel and this area seems to satisfy my "diggers."

While K9 grass was not cheap to install, it solved the watering issue, the mud in the winter issue and the maintenance issue. It's a dream to

keep clean and looks great.

Perhaps a combination of the two different surfaces—K9 grass and pea gravel—would delight the pickiest dog.

Lucretia Marcus, Alamo

An encounter

Dear Editor:

I did a little electioneering at the Farmers Market on the Saturday before the elections. I set up a table with some pamphlets and two signs: NO on D. You still can show those in Danville if you are present.

After a while I went to Lunardi's for a cup of coffee. I returned just in time to see an unkempt man tearing down my signs. I told him: "Keep your cotton-picking hands off those signs, my fascist friend." His response: "You're calling me a fascist? I am a Vietnam veteran." Then I understood why we lost that war.

Vlado Bevc, Danville

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE LOG

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

Monday, May 26

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on I-680 and Stone Valley Rd. at 3:21 a.m.
- Vandalism on Camaritas Ct. at 9:04 a.m. and 10:54 a.m.
- Vandalism on Shadow Tree Ct. at 10:54 p.m.
- Vandalism on Iron Horse Trail and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 2:50 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Garden Creek Pl. at 3:57 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27

- Auto burglary on Diablo Rd. at 8 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:40 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Mariposa Ct. at 1:46 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Old Orchard Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:07 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Danville Blvd. and Hartz Ave. at 8:55 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28

- Accident, property damage, on Brookside Dr. at 8:40 a.m.
- Vandalism on Railroad Ave. at 8:43 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Ilo Lane at 9:03 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Summerside Cir. at 10:17 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:14 a.m.
- Court order violation on Ohlson Lane at 12:36 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Summerside Cir. at 1:53 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Heritage Park Dr. at 2:51 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Danville Blvd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 6:02 p.m.

Thursday, May 29

- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and

- Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:19 a.m.
- Petty theft on Fieldcrest Ct. at 12:26 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on El Cerro Blvd. and El Pintado Rd. at 3:36 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Crow Canyon Rd. at 8:45 p.m.

Friday, May 30

- Petty theft on Estates Dr. at 1:43 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Woodranch Dr. and Woodranch Cir. at 2:48 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:04 p.m.
- Identity theft on Rubicon Cir. at 6:40 p.m.
- Vandalism on Verona Ave. at 7:10 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Mockingbird Pl. and Ridgeland Cir. at 7:43 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Hill Meadow Pl. at 11:14 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:31 p.m.

Saturday, May 31

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 10:57 a.m.
- Battery on Blemer Rd. at 12:28 p.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on Sierra Ridge Ct. at 2:10 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Zenith Ridge Dr. at 2:22 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 2:31 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Crow Canyon Rd. at 2:57 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 5:36 p.m.
- Battery on La Gonda Way at 6:55 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 8:34 p.m.
- Hailed by citizen, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Paraiso Dr. at 10:24 p.m.

POLICE BULLETIN

Erratic actions lead to police dog bite

Danville police chased an allegedly intoxicated man down Paraiso Drive last Saturday night, eventually setting a police dog loose on the suspect.

It started around 10:30 p.m. An officer was watching the intersection of Camino Ramon and Paraiso Drive for stop sign violators when he saw a man walking down the street with a beer tucked up under his arm.

"He was talking on his cell phone, acting real nervous, and saw the police car sitting there and started approaching the police car," said Lt. Mark Williams. "He said to the officer, 'Hey, I'm in trouble. I have to turn myself in.'"

The officer began taking down the man's information, but the man had second thoughts and took off running down Paraiso Drive, said Williams. Based on the man's nervous demeanor and sketchy behavior the officer believed he had a warrant out for his arrest and started chasing him down the street.

"When that happens it's our obligation to further investigate," said Williams. "Guy took off, officer chased him, told him to stop and he didn't stop. And that's illegal."

San Ramon cops and the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department also got in on the chase. They set up a perimeter around a few homes on Paraiso Court, believing the man was in one of the yards. And they brought in the Danville Police Department canine, Donna.

"They gave commands for the subject to come out, advising that they had a police dog," said Williams. "The guy refused to do so and they sent the dog in." The dog bit the man on his right arm and torso.

The suspect, Jorge Chavez, 25, of San Ramon, was arrested on charges of resisting arrest and being drunk in public. It turned out he was not wanted for a previous crime.

He was treated at Contra Costa County Regional Medical Center and booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

—Meghan Neal

OBITUARIES

Eileen Anderson

Danville resident Eileen Anderson died May 9 at the age of 90 of ovarian cancer, after 10 years of remission and vigorous health.

She was born April 5 in Butte, Mont. She moved to California with her widowed father at age 12, driving the 1930 Ford her non-driving father had bought for the trip. She settled in Oakland and graduated from Holy Names High School. At the age of 20 she married her neighborhood sweetheart, Thor Anderson, and they had one daughter, Carol.

She loved to sing and was a member of the Oakland Mother Singers, harmonizing in an award-winning women's bar-

bershop quartet. Husband Thor died in 1999, and Carol and her husband John Sherrill welcomed her into their home in Danville. She blended happily into their life and was a generous and fun "Grammie" and "GG" to her four grandchildren, their spouses, and her nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial Mass was celebrated May 16. Donations can be made to Hospice of the East Bay; Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County; or Eugene O'Neill Foundation Endowment Fund.

Elizabeth Martha Wellons

Elizabeth Martha Wellons died peacefully on May 12 at her home in Danville at the age of 94.

A native of Sauk Rapids, Minn., she had lived in Danville for the past 37 years. She graduated from Sauk Rapids High School and spent the last 60 years as a homemaker and wife. A faithful Christian, she was a beautiful and graceful lady who was always there to help and guide her family.

She was predeceased by her husband James Wellons and son Christopher John Wellons. She is survived by her son Peter, daughters-in-law Shuki and Linda Lea; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held May 21 at Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville, followed by burial at the Alamo-Lafayette District Cemetery in Alamo and a reception at the family residence.



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Making waves.

Madison White, 13, heading for Olympic swim trials

by Meghan Neal

DANIEL R. HARRIS/BACKSTOP IMAGES

Page 12 • June 6, 2008 • Danville Weekly

Imagine: It's the Santa Clara where the best swimmers 200-meter backstroke race is up against a group of athletes Olympic gold medalist and a W

But Blackhawk's swim star sure. She finished the race in 1:02.20 to seize the bronze medal. And will be in the Olympic Trials, where she'll compete for the U.S. Olympic team at the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta.

"It was like a wave of shock three weeks ago when she real my gosh!' I couldn't really think and family in the stands and the excited.

"It was one of my goals for dreams to go to the Olympics."

A st

Madison started swimming with the Alamo School in Alamo. She started competing with the Contra Costa County Swim Club. She then went on to win the county championship in the 100m butterfly.

She then went on to win the chancery. She hit the swim scene with oftentimes her own. She currently is the best 13-year-old backstroke holder, holding the record for the best

"It's hard work and it's part would say, 'You have a gift and hard at it, and you need to keep

To progress so quickly is Cottam, a co-head coach of Sharks, along with Ethan Hall.

But Madison's not the only W. Forrest, who also swims for the swim records at the age of 11, well, and Forrest shares his sister's

"He's on his way," she says. Coach Cottam credits Madison's ability to think.

"She doesn't fold under pressure, a young lady for her age. A lot of environment would sort of freak out a lot of people. And I think she's

"There were Olympians (at the 1964 games) who were Olympians there from Japan. The person who got top three at that event was..."

get top three at that event was Pauline. One of those Olympians was one of Madison's all-time favorite athletes, Concord, has won five Olympians. She remembers meeting the famous athlete, and she still has her own gold medal at the Concord High School.

her own gold medal at the Cou
She's since competed against
will meet again at the Trials.
tionship, though. Coughlin has
technique tips to the young swi
medalist? Not too shabby.

Madison practices every week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

days a week she wakes up, swims more, does her homework, and

"It was really hard in the beginning. She admits there are some things about having a sleepover birthday party at night, especially if there's a big fight with your parents."

"You basically have to be a 24-hour-a-day person to do this. You have to pay attention to nutrition, get plenty of rest, exercise, and no getting behind on housework."

Saturdays are usually spent at titions. If there isn't a meet, then "It's not uncommon when the tices to have some of the kids

“Madison’s not like that. She’s
He says she’s very “coachable.”

Three other girls on the Sharks are the breaststroke event. They are

"We're very proud to have four swimmers competing for the Olympic Trials," says Clegg. "What's special is how young she is; she's qualified but it's pretty rare," says the coach.

"I kinda like being the underdog."

a Grand Prix, an international swim meet from all over the world compete. The is about to begin. Madison White, 13, whose average age is 21, including an World Champion.

is known for pulling through under pres- 2 minutes, 14.4 seconds—fast enough to what's more, her time qualified her for the compete next month for a spot on the U.S. Games in Beijing.

“I was so happy,” says Madison, describing the moment she’d made the cut. “I was like, ‘Oh my gosh; I was just so happy. I saw all my friends and they were really happy, and I was just so excited.’”

that meet. It has always been one of my

star on the rise

when she was 4 years old at Sue’s Swim competing at age 6. That year she won the championship in her specialty, the backstroke. Championship the next five years in a row. With a splash, breaking record after record, she currently holds five U.S. Pacific records and is the top swimmer in the nation, closing in on a spot in U.S. history for that age.

“I have a lot of talent, too,” Madison says. “My dad, he always tells me you need to use it, and you need to work hard at it, and go with it.”

“It’s pretty uncommon, said her coach, Dan Cottam, who is on the Madison’s swim team the Crow Canyon

White making waves. Her younger brother Forrest, who is on the Sharks, has already broken about 40 records. Madison says the two get along pretty well and are working on their dream of going to the Olympics.

son’s success to her dedication, her work

“She’s a pretty resilient person,” he says. “She’s a pretty resilient person of kids when they get to that type of environment, so to speak, but she’s very calm, cool and collected under pressure.”

“She’s been swimming (at the Grand Prix) from our country and there are swimmers from Japan and Australia—all over the world. To be that good, that’s pretty elite, so that was incredible.”

“She’s been swimming with 26-year-old Natalie Coughlin, one of the best swimmers. Coughlin, who grew up in the Far West, won five Olympic medals including two golds. Madison was a Far Western swimmer at age 6, when she first won the Far Western Championships.

“She’s been swimming with Natalie Coughlin in several meets, and the two are good friends. Madison says they have a friendly relationship and have even gone to Sharks practices to give tips to the younger swimmers. Tips from a five-time Olympic

24-hour athlete

Weekday from 5 to 7 in the evening, and days from 5:15 to 7 a.m. That means three swims, goes to school all day, swims some more, goes to bed!

“I’m not really nervous,” she says. “Now it seems so normal.”

“She has to give up. Like if a friend is sick, she can usually go but can’t spend the weekend swimming in the swim meet that weekend. She can’t risk getting sick.”

“She’s a 24-hour athlete,” says Cottam. You have to have plenty of rest and have good time management, doing homework and staying up late to catch up. She’ll be at local meets, or sometimes bigger competitions. There will be a Saturday morning practice. “She’s going through these rigorous practices, but she always gets down on themselves,” says Cottam. “She’s always upbeat and positive.”

“She’s a good role model”; she handles whatever is thrown her way without complaining.

“She’s been swimming with the team qualified for the Trials this year, in the Far West. She’s Page Bradley, 16, and Kirstyn Colonias, 17, of Walnut Creek.

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“She’s been swimming with the team qualified for the Trials this year, in the Far West. She’s Page Bradley, 16, and Kirstyn Colonias, 17, of Walnut Creek.

Madison says. “Swimming against people who are older than me, it’s just a bigger challenge. A bigger step.”

45 minutes of signing autographs

“One of Madison’s greatest features, in my opinion, is she’s very humble. She’s not very cocky,” Cottam says. “That’s one of the things that I really love about her. She’s very down to earth, doesn’t have a big head.”

After the race at the Santa Clara Grand Prix when Madison found out she was going to the Trials, she climbed out of the pool and was mobbed by 50 or so kids vying for her autograph.

“She signed every one. She was signing autographs for maybe 45 minutes,” boasts her proud grandmother, Jan Gilbrook. “It was really something.”

The following Monday, back at St. Isidore School in Danville, Madison showed up to the daily morning assembly like any other student only to find she had become a celebrity.

“The principal called me up,” she remembers. In front of the entire student body Principal Jean Schroeder presented Madison with a bouquet of two dozen roses and interviewed her about how it felt to be going to the Olympic Trials.

Madison’s family celebrated her victory with a surprise gift: They set up a date at Faz restaurant for her and two of her friends to meet teen actor Taylor Lautner, who was in town for the Children’s Film Festival.

Lautner is starring in “Twilight,” a movie based on the enormously popular “Twilight” book series, Madison’s absolute favorite. “It’s like all I think about, besides swimming,” she says.

As far as other hobbies are concerned, she says she was never any good at other sports.

“I tried soccer ... it just happened that my first goal was in the other team’s goal,” she said with a laugh. “I did ballet when I was young but I’m not much of a dancer. And basketball, I’m not very coordinated.”

But when it comes to swimming, there’s no question the girl’s got talent.

“It’s something that I love to do and I’m good at,” she says. “I also think that I like the challenge of it. It’s not just, you know, easy. You have to work hard to go to the Olympics. It keeps me going every day.”

From the Trials to the Olympics

The times needed to qualify for the Olympic Trials are 1:04.59 seconds for the 100-meter backstroke and 2:17.99 for the 200 backstroke. Madison made the cut in both these events, coming in at 1:04.17 and 2:14.4, respectively.

The top two swimmers in each event at the Finals of the Trials will make the Olympic team.

“It’s pretty elite but you never know,” says Cottam. “That’s one of the neat things about the Olympic Trials: It’s whoever’s the best on that given day.”

This year the competition will take place June 29 through July 6 at the Qwest Arena in Omaha, Neb. The event itself is huge—the 2004 Trials hosted 700 participants and 10,000 spectators. The competition will also be broadcast on national TV.

“I just think it’s a unique experience to go and compete at that level, be around those athletes,” says Cottam.

Madison will be competing against Coughlin in the 100 backstroke. In the 200 she’ll be up against Olympic gold medalist Elizabeth Beisel and Olympic hopeful Mary DeScenza, who missed a spot on the team by a hair in 2004.

“It’s good for the resume to be in that type of environment, so next time they’re at a high-level meet they can be that much more confident,” Cottam says. “Now as she builds up and builds up it’s going to be more and more familiar to her, and not so intimidating.”

The next month will be spent preparing for the Trials, he says. With school getting out next week there will be more time to focus on swimming, resting and getting ready for the big competition.

“I’m not really nervous,” says Madison. “I’m just going to look at it like a really big normal meet. I think I’m really just excited.”

Is a trip to Beijing in the cards for Madison White?

“I’m gonna try,” she says. “There are so many fast people. You just go there, and you do your best and whatever happens, happens.” ■

Watch Madison White in Olympic Trials

5-6 p.m., Monday, June 30, on USA

5-6 p.m., Friday, July 4, on NBC

Madison White records

- Far Western Championships, August 2007: Madison broke 100-meter backstroke Far Western record and a 10-year 200 backstroke Pacific Swim record.
- Western Zone All Star Championships, Summer 2007: Madison broke 100 backstroke record.
- Pacific Swim Meet, November 2007: Madison broke four backstroke records, one of which she had set herself earlier in the meet. She also qualified for 2008 Junior Nationals.
- Pacific Swimming 2008 Awards Banquet, January 2008: Madison won “Most Outstanding Swimmer” for her age group in Western Zone.
- Junior Olympics Championships, March 2007—Madison won the High Point Award.



COURTESY JAN GILBERT

Madison White signs autographs for fans after winning the bronze medal at the Santa Clara Grand Prix and qualifying for the Olympic Trials.



COURTESY JAN GILBERT

Madison and her younger brother Forrest relax after completing the 1.2-mile swim from Tiburon to Angel Island in October 2006 to benefit Special Olympics.



COURTESY JAN GILBERT

Madison sports the bronze medal she won while up against Olympic-level swimmers. Far left: She dives in to the women's 200-meter backstroke race at the Santa Clara Grand Prix, which she finished with a fast enough time to qualify for the Trials.

Calendar

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

Art

Oil Painting Demonstration Don't miss a free demo by award-winning oil painter, Stephen Sanfilippo, from 7:15-9:15 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, at the Danville Congregational Church's Social Hall, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Tips will be shared for successful work, techniques, promotional advice and a question and answer session. Refreshments will be served. Call 820-2050.

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

Polka Dot Attic Author Day Polka Dot Attic will host Jim Averbeck from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, June 8, at the Polka Dot Attic, 411 Hartz Ave., Suite K, Danville. He will read and sign his book "In a Blue Room." This event is free. Call 838-8004 or visit www.thepolkadotattic.com.

Rakestraw Books Rakestraw Books will host many authors during the month of June. Francesca Marciano,

author of "The End of Manners," at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 12; Nancy Horan, author of "Loving Frank," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 18; Ursula K. LeGuin and Karen Joy Fowler, authors of "Lavinia" and "Wit's End" at 7 p.m., Monday, June 23 (Cost is \$6), all at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Reservations are required; call 837-7337.

Clubs

Communication Arts Network This club will meet at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 10, at Forli Ristorante, 3160 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Cost is \$20, including lunch. Visit www.commarthet.org.

Diablo View Orchid Society The club meets at 7:30 p.m., on the second Thursday of every month, at the Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord. The speaker on June 12 will be Dennis Olivas on cool-growing orchids of the Cattleya Alliance. This event is free and the public is welcome. Call 648-7667 or visit www.dvos.org.

Exchange Club Luncheon Speaker Exchange Club of SRV is hosting Carl Guardino as its guest speaker at its monthly luncheon at noon, Wednesday, June 11, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Guardino will talk about "The Role of Business in Housing, Transportation and Education." Cost is \$16 for members; \$20 for non-members. Call 275-2412.

dramatic interpretation of "Tomorrow" will be performed on June 14. Registration is now open; contact Diane Schinnerer at 828-0659 or dmdds@aol.com.

Blue Star Moms Care Package

Drop Zone San Francisco East Bay Blue Star Moms, Chapter 101, will have drop zones from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, June 7, at the Wal-Marts in Pleasanton and Martinez for their next Care Package shipment on June 21. For information about their donation needs, visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

Family Gourmet Brunch Enjoy a tasty family friendly brunch with live music from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sunday, June 8, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Cost is \$10 per adult; \$5 for children 12 and under. Proceeds benefit the Alamo Studies Fund. Call 837-2937.

Moonlight Movies on the Town

Green Town of Danville will host Moonlight Movies on the Town Green from 8:15-10 p.m., Friday, June 13 ("The Goonies"); June 27 ("Galaxy Quest"); July 11 ("Artic Tale"); and July 25 ("The Three Amigos"), at Town Green, 400 Front St., Danville. These events are free; bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks. Call 314-3400.

Concerts

Jazz at Peace The Gerry Grosz Jazz Kitchen will perform for the conclusion of Jazz at Peace at 5 p.m., Sunday, June 8, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This concert is free. Call 648-7000 or visit www.peacejourney.org.

Events

'Drumml! Friends of the Danville Library presents "Drumml!" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, at Danville Town Green, in front of the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Participants will create musical rhythms with drums, shakers and other percussion instruments. This event is free for all family members. Call 837-4889.

2008 O'Neill International Conference Scholars and devotees of Eugene O'Neill will come together at the 2008 O'Neill International Conference being held from June 11-15, at the Tao House, Danville. A

Exhibits

Eugene O'Neill's Global Legacy

Museum of the San Ramon Valley is presenting the "Eugene O'Neill's Global Legacy" exhibit until June 15, at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Call 837-3750.

The Original Rat Fink Blackhawk Museum will host the "Original Rat Fink" exhibit from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., until June 15, at the Blackhawk Museum,

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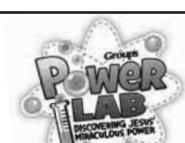


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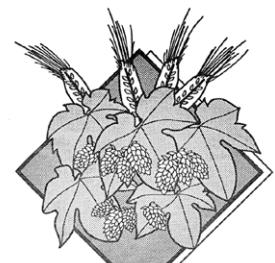
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CALENDAR

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The exhibit will feature original artwork, hot rods and toys all built by Ed "Big Daddy" Roth. Admission to the museum is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

Fundraisers

Viva Las Vegas STAND! Against Domestic Violence will host the 26th annual Joie de Vivre "Viva Las Vegas" on Saturday, June 7, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Rd., Alamo. The night will include food, silent and live auctions, dancing, gambling and more. Tickets are \$100. Proceeds benefit STAND! Call Patti at 603-0138.

Hats Off America's 15th 10K/5K Run Walk Come run or walk with the bear flag runner raising awareness and money for the Arroyo's, a Gold Star Family, from 9:15 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, June 7, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Cost is \$35, including a catered lunch from El Balazo. Call 855-1950.

Kids and Teens

Job's Daughters Installation Of Officers Join Job's Daughters Bethel No. 247 for the 109th Formal Semi-Annual Installation of Officers from 7-11 p.m., Saturday, June 14, at the Danville Grange, 743 Diablo Rd. Following installation there will be refreshments served and dancing. For reserved seating, call 829-8505.

Lectures

Awakening the Entrepreneur Within Find out what it takes to become an entrepreneur and about how to take a product to market, starting a business and franchising from 7-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, at Danville Ranch Club House, 1895 Ridgeland Cir.,

Healthy4U

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Danville. Cost is \$35. Call 837-4324 or visit www.csiconsulting.biz.

Baby Massage and Infant Signing Danville Library will host Baby Massage at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 11, and Infant Signing at 10:30 a.m., Monday, June 23; both at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Register for one or both workshops; call 837-4889 or come into the Danville Library to register.

Free Solar Seminar SolarCity will host a free informative solar seminar at 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Attendees will get an overview of tax benefits, environmental impact and affordable new financing options available for solar power, including the zero-down lease option. This event is free. Call (650) 963-5156 or visit www.solarcity.com.

Lost Pets

"Princess" is Missing A 12-year-old cat, Princess, has been missing since May 22 from Derbyshire Place, Danville. She has long, white hair with black and brown markings. She needs her medication; there is a reward. If you have any information, please call 837-8852.

Political Notes

California Budget Challenge Diablo Valley League of Women Voters invites the public to participate in the California Budget Challenge from 9:45-11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 12, at the Vista Room, Hillside Clubhouse, Rosswood. Visit www.nextten.org or www.lwvdv.org.

Blackhawk Republican Women Luncheon This club will host Noel Sheppard who will speak on "The Really Inconvenient Truth about Global Warming" from 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, June 9, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20; reservations are due by noon, Friday, June 6. The public is welcome. Call 820-6452.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Last month to see 'Wigged Out!'

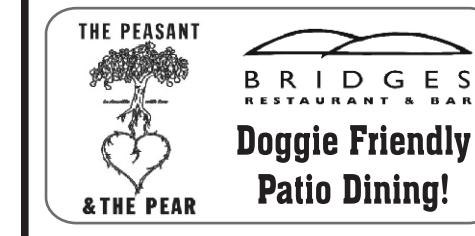
Hair on Stage presents "Wigged Out!" playing only for another month including shows at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Saturdays, June 7 (9 p.m. show is sold out), June 14 and 21, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The box office is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) or visit www.wiggedout.org.

Downtown Danville Doggie Night Thursday, June 12

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Begins at Molly's Pup-Purr-ee, 425 Hartz Ave.

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SPEAK UP

Spend Tuesdays with Toastmaster to hone your speaking skills

by B. Lynn Goodwin

Though it was only 7 a.m., John Temple warmed up the business and professional people in his Toastmasters audience in April by saying, "We have a lot to be excited about today. UCLA is playing in the 'final four' this weekend."

A voice from the audience shouted, "Go Bears," and everyone laughed.

Temple, a sales associate for Re/Max Accord in Danville, is the president of the Danville AM Toastmasters, which meets every Tuesday morning from 7 to 8:30 at Father Nature's on Prospect Avenue.

"We are unbelievably supportive people who enjoy each other's company, and we try to have a good time while we are learning and evaluating each other," Temple said.

That morning he presented a special award to Danville resident Gayliene Omary, who won second place in Toastmaster District 57's International Speech Contest. District 57 has more than 50 clubs reaching from Arcata to Fremont.

In her speech "Telling a Story," Omary said she talked about "sharing personal and family history so we can all learn from our foibles and follies." She is the club's vice president for education and had been laid off recently along with the rest of the Bank of America's wholesale mortgage department. At Toastmasters, she networks while she hones her speaking and leadership skills.

Omary was all smiles as she accepted the plaque.

"Competing helps me build my confidence and polish," she said.

Temple then handed the meeting over to another Danville resident, Lou Pilastro, the Toastmaster of the Day. He explained the jobs, which had been assigned the week before, introduced speakers, and kept the meeting on schedule.

Each week different people assume the roles of Toastmaster, Speaker, Evaluator, Timekeeper, Table Topics Master, and Jokes Master so everyone gets experience running the meeting and filling all of the roles.

The audience votes for the best speaker, evaluator and impromptu speaker every week, and the ribbons they win are good motiva-

tors.

Huong Stuart spoke about researching flying fish with her children. Her preparation and engaging smile appealed. So did her concluding statement: "Children are our teachers of how to appreciate life more fully." Stuart won the award for best speaker.

Temple, a veteran critiquer, presented his comments with enthusiasm and humor. He was awarded best evaluator.

Table Topics are also assigned and judged. First, the grammarian announced and defined the word of the day: jollification. Then Table Topics Master Alan Davis gave each speaker a context in which to use it.

When vice president Chris Sherry had to talk about a time he was "completely snookered," he recalled the day his brother put his phone conversation on speakerphone at work so his buddies could hear everything. Sherry won the Table Topics Award for this impromptu speech.

Though they share common goals, the group's members work in diverse professions.

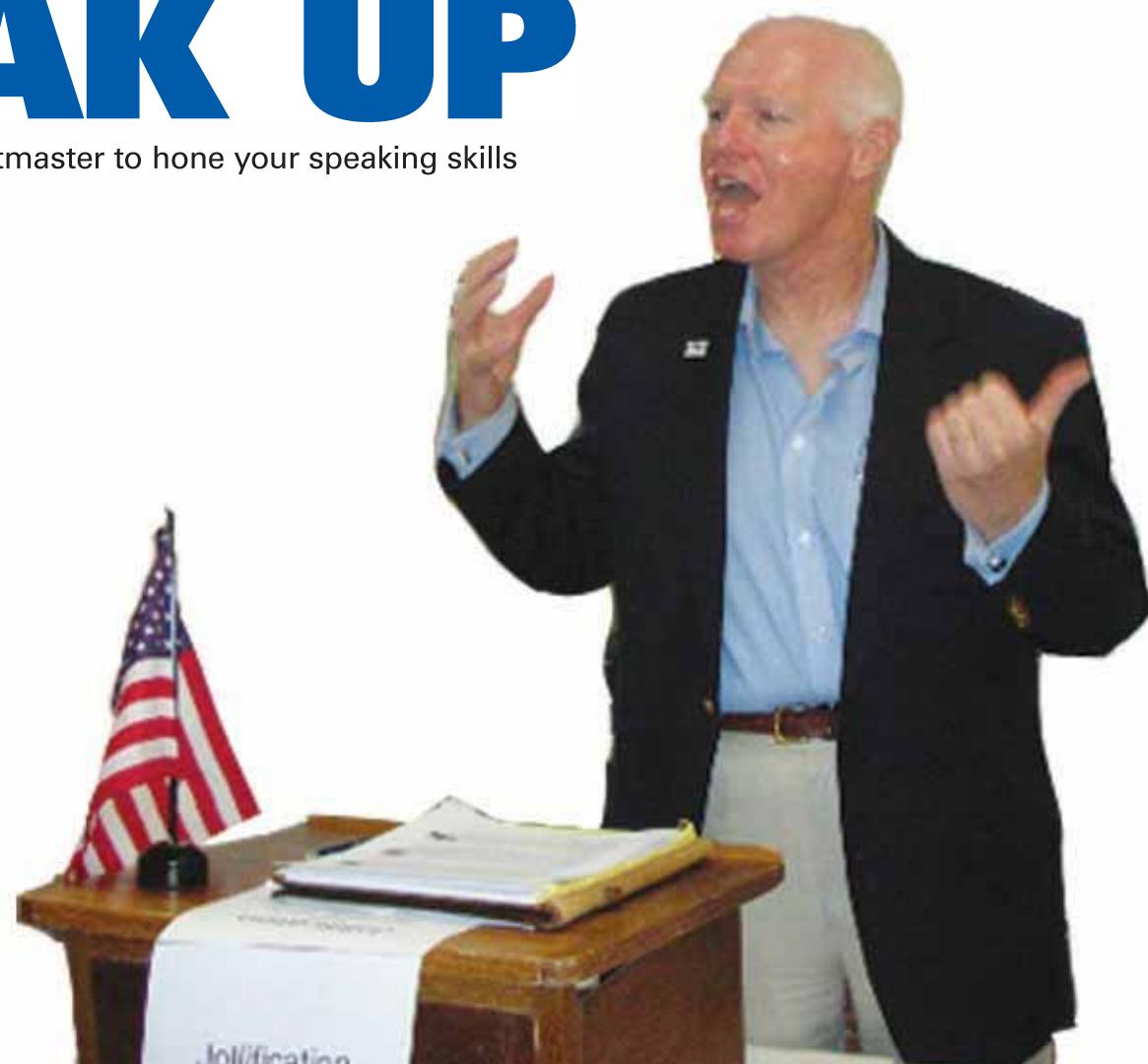
"We have the woman who runs the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, somebody who works for Assemblyman Guy Houston, and a lieutenant in the California Highway Patrol," said Sherry. "Hearing the different stories makes this club special."

Temple took office Jan. 1. His term runs for one year, and this is his second time as president. When he joined Toastmasters 10 years ago, he wanted to improve his ability to express feelings, ideas and opinions, he said.

"I knew there were going to be some times when I would be asked to speak at my children's weddings and, unfortunately, to deliver some eulogies," he explained. "I've had both of those experiences now, and if it wasn't for Toastmasters, I don't think I would have been able to express myself as well as I did."

"Speaking in front of a group is almost like exercising a muscle," he added. "If you don't do it on a regular basis, you lose the confidence and the ability to do it."

"If you would like to improve your public speaking skills and be more comfortable in front of a group," Temple summed up, "this is probably the best environment in which to do it." ■



Alan Davis, Table Topics Master for the day, gives each speaker a context in which to use the word of the day: jollification.



"Competing helps me build my confidence and polish," says Gayliene Omary, who won second place in the District 57 International Speech Contest.

"If you would like to improve your public speaking skills and be more comfortable in front of a group, this is probably the best environment in which to do it," says John Temple, president of Danville AM Toastmasters.



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

'Tis the season for backyard cookouts

Now that Memorial Day has come and gone, let the backyard cookouts begin! From now until September, any warm-weather day is prime time for having a simple summer backyard meal. And there will be plenty of chances to grill as a way to celebrate—the end of the school year, the opening of the pool, Father's Day, weddings, graduations, July 4th, birthdays,

Labor Day, out-of-town guests, the start of the school year, etc.

Backyard cookouts are fun meals for the whole family, especially if you keep them simple, stress-free and casual. Kids usually love the relaxed eating protocols, e.g., eating with your hands, disposable serve-ware, etc. The cook's challenge is to plan ahead in order to keep the dishes easy yet healthy.

RECIPES

BBQ Burgers with Slaw (serves 6)

2 lb ground beef, lamb or pork
1/3 cup barbecue sauce
1 small onion, grated
1/2 tsp freshly ground pepper
1/4 tsp salt
6 hamburger buns with sesame seeds
Nonstick spray

Slaw:

1/3 cup light mayonnaise
3 Tbsp buttermilk, milk or sour cream
2 Tbsp snipped fresh chives
1 Tbsp cider vinegar
1/4 tsp each sugar, salt and freshly ground pepper
4 cups bagged coleslaw mix

1. Slaw: Whisk mayonnaise, buttermilk, chives, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper in a bowl until blended. Add coleslaw; toss to coat. Refrigerate 1 hour, stirring a few times.
2. Mix meat and condiments together

in a large bowl. Shape into six 1-inch burgers.

3. Toast buns on a hot grill; remove to a platter and cover loosely with foil to keep warm.
4. Coat burgers with nonstick spray. Grill, turning once, 10-12 minutes until an inserted instant-read thermometer registers 160 degrees. Serve burgers on buns, with slaw and condiments.

Mini-Corn-on-the-Cobs (serves 6)

6-8 fresh ears of corn
6 tsp chopped garlic
Nonstick spray
1. Husk corn, removing all silks. Cut each cob into quarters.

2. Spray corn with the nonstick spray; rub about 1/4 tbsp garlic on each piece.
3. Grill corn pieces until tender.

Mojo Seafood Skewers (serves 4-6)

1/3 cup each Mojo Criollo marinade (try

Goya brand), orange juice and chopped cilantro

16 peeled, deveined extra-large shrimp
8 large sea scallops, halved crosswise
1 small jalapeno pepper, cut into 16 pieces
Nonstick cooking spray, 8 metal or wooden skewers
1. In a bowl, mix marinade, orange juice and cilantro; reserve 2 Tbsp. Add shrimp, scallops and peppers to bowl; toss to coat. Let stand 10 minutes.
2. Coat outdoor grill rack with non-stick spray; heat grill. If using wooden skewers, soak in water 10 minutes to prevent burning.
3. Thread shrimp, scallops and peppers alternately on skewers; discard marinade in bowl.
4. Grill 3 to 4 minutes, turning once, until seafood is just barely opaque at centers. Remove to serving platter and drizzle with reserved 2 Tbsp marinade.

GRILLING TIPS

Barbeque Ribs: Grilling Tips

- **Pick your ribs:** The most popular cuts are baby backs (smaller and more expensive but usually leaner and tender) or spareribs (larger, less expensive, meatier/fatter and more flavorful). For 6-8 people, buy 2 racks of spareribs (3-3.5 lb. each) or 2 racks of baby back ribs (2-2.5 lb. each)
- **Prep:** Slide a dinner knife under the silverskin (the thin, translucent membrane that covers the bone side of each rack) and remove it; this allows seasonings and smoke to penetrate the meat. Parboil or no? Parboiling delivers a tender rib before grilling and reduces

grill time but it's a matter of preference. If you parboil, don't use a rub.

- **Plan:** Estimate how long you'll need for each step. One hour before grilling, soak wood chips, season the ribs and prepare your grill. During the first hour of grilling, prepare the mop and sauce. Have your side dishes ready by the time ribs are done.

- **Know how to use rubs, mops and sauces:** Rubs lay a foundation of flavor, mops are used after the initial hour of grilling to add more flavor and keep the ribs moist, sauces are added to cooked ribs to absorb the last layer of flavor. Once you discover a rub and sauce you like, keep using it!

- **Know when the ribs are done:** Do you prefer your ribs tender to the point of falling off the bone or with a little chew to the meat? Baby backs generally require 3-4 hours; spareribs take 4-5 hours including parboiling. A good test: Hold a rack with tongs at one end and let the rack bend over to form an arc. If the meat separates and tears easily in the middle of the arc, the rack is done.

See www.danvilleweekly.com for a great recipe for Hoisin Barbequed Ribs

OF NOTE

Girl Scout Cookie queen

Junior Girl Scout Anna Nunes, a fifth-grader at Green Valley Elementary, is congratulated by Las Trampas Association Leader Robin Gowen at a recent Leadership meeting for selling more than 1,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies.

Anna, a member of Junior Girl Scout Troop 32422 shared some of her strategies: staying in touch with customers throughout the year, keeping records of orders, and sending thank you notes.

"My goal isn't to sell a lot of cookies, but meeting the needs of as many customers as I can," said Anna.



'We giggle and laugh at the thought of...'

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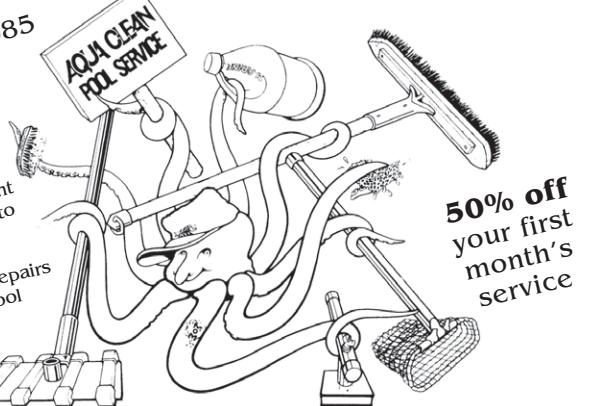
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The Wine Guy

BY GREGORY PEEBLES



Perfection with paella

2005 Bodegas Juan Gil
Monastrell
Jumilla, Spain
Costco-Danville, \$11.99

Jumilla, less than 100 miles southwest of Valencia on Spain's east coast, is bone-dry countryside (far less than 12 inches of rainfall annually) marked by gentle rolling hills. These hillsides are loaded with highly porous, low fertility, chalk soil. Monastrell, known as Mourvèdre in France and Mataro in Australia, adapts well to these challenging growing conditions and is experiencing rediscovered popularity among winemakers in central Spain.

Almost certainly Spanish in origin, Monastrell is one of Spain's three most important red varieties, Garnacha (Grenache) and Tempranillo being the other two. The Monastrell grapes are small, dense-skinned and sweet which tend toward intense, gamey, tannic and high alcohol wines. Bodega Juan Gil's 2005 offering is indeed consistent with this model.

Carefully selected and harvested from 40-year-old estate vines at a minuscule 1.8 tons per acre, this is



heady stuff. Grape clusters were fermented whole and left to macerate for well over three weeks. The young wine then matured for 12 months in French oak barriques before bottling. The result?

- Color: Moderately deep ruby with an orange and rust rim.
- Nose: Northern Rhône Syrah-like

meat fat, smoky cumin, paprika, black pepper, plum, tea leaf and cherry.

- Palate: Medium-to-full body with straightforward blackberry and plum. Hot, chalky, fleshy and chewy. A bit monochromatic.
- Finish: Black fruit, plum and sweet chai tea. Lengthy and interesting.

As for a suggested food pairing, I have one word: paella. Only the most adventurous foodies among you will attempt to prepare it the traditional Valencian way, outdoors upon an open flame. Another great symbol of Spanish gastronomy should accompany the meal as well, the humble and delicious Valencia orange.

One final suggestion. Make that a *strong* suggestion. This wine should be opened and decanted *several* hours before enjoying with any meal. It needs plenty of time to calm, thus showing its best.

Good luck 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 cale-doniawine@sbcglobal.net.



AMERICAN

Bridges Restaurant & Bar
44 Church Street, Danville, (925) 820-7200. Bridges in downtown Danville is the ideal venue for lunch or dinner. Enjoy cozy, al fresco dining on our vine-covered patio, or experience the warm ambience of our main dining room. The sleek, contemporary bar/lounge area is ideal for meeting friends after work, offering a delicious "small bites" menu and specialty cocktails. Executive chef Kevin Gin creates an inspired seasonal menu featuring California cuisine with European and Asian influences. Lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dinner nightly. Complimentary valet parking.

Father Nature
172 E Prospect Ave., Danville, 925-820-3160. Enjoy a wonderful Breakfast or Lunch! Seating in the dining area, outdoor patio, or book our banquet room. Some favorites include homemade blueberry or poppyseed pancakes and the homemade soup of the day! Hours are Mon.- Sat. 7am-3pm and Sun 8am-3pm. Hope to see you soon!

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Amici's East Coast Pizzeria
720 Camino Ramon, (in the Rose Garden), Danville, 925-837-9800. Amici's offers authentic, thin, crisp-crust Pizza and a casual Italian menu of freshly made Pastas and Salads, all available for takeout and delivery as well as dine-in at this new Danville location. Check out the menu or order online at www.amicis.com

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Garden tour includes motoring memories

Spend a lovely June day in the gardens



The "Memories in the Garden" tour tomorrow, benefiting Valley Oak Respite Center, will include a home with 10 cars from bygone days.

The fifth annual "Memories in the Garden" tour tomorrow, June 7, will rev up some motoring memories. On the tour, which has eight sites in Danville and Alamo, is one home with an oversize garage where 10 classic cars will be displayed, including a 1929 restored Model A Ford, two racing cars and a World War II Jeep. Murals of racing scenes surround part of the garage.

The self-guided tour benefits Valley Oak Respite Center. Tickets for \$30 can be purchased at 7 Creekledge Court in Danville, off Diablo Road almost opposite Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard. This is also the site of a silent auction to be held midday with light refreshments.

On the tour are an English-style garden with a formal rose section, a variety of flowering plants intermingling with statuary, and a conservatory imported from England as well as a gazebo with a nearby fern glen and orchard.

Among the volunteers at the gardens will be mother-and-daughter team belonging to the National

Charity League. Coordinator Joy Reynold said each pair will welcome guests for three-hour intervals. The gardens will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For information, call 956-9269.

Valley Oak Respite Center, held at Danville Congregational Church's social hall, is a place where frail seniors and those with early stage dementia can socialize and engage in activities while their caregivers take a break. ■

Garden tour

What: "Memories in the Garden"
Where: Eight sites in Danville and Alamo
When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, June 7
Who: Benefits Valley Oak Respite Center
Cost: \$30

Have a respite

What: Valley Oak Respite Center; adult day care, activities include memory enhancement, music, exercise and bingo.
Where: Danville Congregational Church, 989 Danville Blvd.
Cost: \$30 per session
When: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Call: 945-8040, ext. 53

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



BILL HOCKINS

Old Danville Fire Station

This photo of the Danville Fire Station, taken by locally renowned photographer Bill Hockins in 1975, shows the station on Hartz Avenue as it was completely built out from the original 1925 station with brick building to the south in the mid-1950s. It has been replaced by the Rising Loafer and Norm's Place.

Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE



Celebration on the field

San Ramon Valley Little Leaguers A Division Royals celebrate a home run by Luke Radabaugh at a recent game. Little League is heading into playoffs after an active spring season at fields around the Valley.



AAA White Sox American League Champions

The Tassajara Valley Little League AAA White Sox beat the A's 1-0 to win the American League Championship on Wednesday night, May 21. Kyle Spackman and Alex Tsuruda pitched the shutout for the White Sox. Nathan Miller scored the only run for the White Sox by stealing home in the first inning.

Team members are (front row) Jeffrey O'Neil, Lucas Lin; (second row) Ryan Fry, Christopher Kraemer, Chad Akabane, Noah Rosenthal, Michael Sween; (third row) Nathan Miller, Joey Mileski, Alex Tsuruda, Dylan Luciano, Kyle Spackman; and (fourth row) Coach Mark Akabane, Manager John Geist and Coach Scott Tsuruda.



Decisions, decisions

Who should I put in? wonders the coach of the Farm Division Rockies.



Brave play

Safe at home!

Parent photographers

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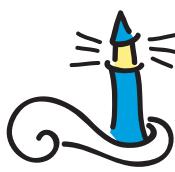
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809 Shared Housing/Roof

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Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$385,000

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$799,000

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$679,000

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - 775,950

San Ramon, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1045000

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PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN/RUSH

Hey, Baby!

Ooo Baby, Baby,

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2008

Alamo

26 Golden Grass Court

Davidon Homes to J. & K. Tenzer for \$1,845,000

40 Kitoosh Court

Walchek Trust to Rich Trust for \$853,000

Danville

50 Barrons Place

T. & K. Sullivan to F. & S. Garcia for \$1,580,000

410 Bridgesside Circle

J. Lewis to A. & A. Deney for \$685,000

348 Camaritas Way

Cram Trust to R. & L. Radden for \$839,000

18 Channi Court

Shapell Industries to M. Chen for \$465,500

241 Channi Loop

Shapell Industries to C. Yu for \$502,000

248 Channi Loop

Shapell Industries to M. Silva for \$456,000

252 Channi Loop

Shapell Industries to C. Zhu for \$456,000

256 Channi Loop

Shapell Industries to C. Lu for \$502,000

279 Channi Loop

Shapell Industries to Q. Liu for \$456,000

3661 Country Club Terrace

Krock Trust to B. Sarubin for \$1,989,000

40 Devonshire Court

P. Zucker to D. & J. Fong for \$945,000

784 El Pintado Road

S. & L. Gold to Glenn Trust for \$2,500,000

833 Glen Road

Lee Trust to J. & F. Londre for \$1,255,000

4261 Golden Oak Court

D. & R. Williams to D. Moskow for \$1,545,000

63 Heather Garden Lane

E. Cadenasso to Merritt Trust for \$608,000

349 Laurel Drive

Z. Huang to J. & Q. Cubiburu for \$790,000

3161 Martingale Street

Ponderosa Homes to Y. Chen for \$1,100,000

31 Mountain Valley Place

R. Clark to R. & K. Revelli for \$635,000

600 South Paradise Valley

S. Johnston to J. Laufer for \$692,000

1895 St. Norbert Drive

Bonacci Trust to M. & N. Jewett for \$1,005,000

62 Wild Oak Place

D. & C. Tarpley to Goyal Trust for \$2,125,000

305 Zagora Drive

US Bank to J. & C. Flores for \$900,000

Walnut Creek

1507 Arbutus Drive

Arbutus Group to E. Eisenberg for \$1,275,000

2544 Buena Vista Avenue

C. Liberman to Chan Trust for \$780,000

1915 Cactus Court #4

P. & A. Sarna to A. & I. Gorbach for \$700,000

2105 Cactus Court #4

Vanscocy Trust to McKinney Trust for \$597,500

\$335,000

2065 Essenay Avenue

Kwasniewski Trust to B. & I. Walton for \$660,000

608 Hove Court

Bank of New York to A. & A. Schmidt for \$876,000

2880 Kinney Drive

Branagh Trust to E. & L. Anders for \$1,700,000

588 Matterhorn Drive

Adler Trust to E. Miron for \$643,500

2891 Mi Elana Circle

Nelson Trust to K. Brodie for \$784,000

713 North Villa Way

J. Kliewer to S. Mostafaei for \$396,000

2137 Ptarmigan Drive #2

Dieden Trust to K. & S. Laurlund for \$450,000

3430 Rossmoor Parkway

#5 F. Terry to P. & A. Sarna for \$320,000

1282 Rudge Road

Powell Trust to A. & M. Hexemer for \$739,000

1940 Skycrest Drive #12

Deems Trust to P. & M. Brinkman for \$370,000

5401 Terra Granada Drive #3A

Tillotson Trust to J. Perez for \$440,500

1840 Tice Creek Drive #2209

Nass Trust to Stewart Trust for \$618,000

1236 Walker Avenue #310 G.

Palmquist to D. Maksimovic for \$350,000

1134 Westmoreland Circle

Swihart Trust to N. Hitchcock for \$597,500

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2008

Alamo

Total sales reported: 2

Lowest sale reported: \$853,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,845,000

Average sales reported: \$1,349,000

Danville

Total sales reported: 22

Lowest sale reported: \$456,000

Highest sale reported: \$2,500,000

Average sales reported: \$1,001,386

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 18

Lowest sale reported: \$320,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,700,000

Average sales reported: \$668,583

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

BLACKHAWK

3 Bedrooms

3659 Deer Trail Dr. \$1,287,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms

421 Garden Creek Pl. \$450,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Keller Williams 260-8883

122 Summerside Cir. \$525,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

4 Bedrooms

213 Aptos Pl. \$1,049,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

2651 Finley Rd. \$3,700,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

5 Bedrooms

308 Sunset Dr. \$1,185,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Keller Williams 260-8883

SAN RAMON

2 Bedrooms

223 Majorca Dr. \$689,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2532

4 Bedrooms

9696 Thunderbird Dr. \$1,225,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Empire 217-3108

4 Bedrooms

2421 Talavera Dr. \$709,000
Sat/Sun 1-6 Keller Williams 260-2508

DUBLIN

4 Bedrooms

7699 Topaz Cir. \$739,900
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 784-3068

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

1054 Via Madrid \$420,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 596-1918

LIVERMORE

4 Bedrooms

1579 Frankfurt Wy. \$719,000
Sun 12:30-3:30J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2523

1836 Heidelberg Dr. \$749,000
Sun 1:30-4:30J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2181

2752 Chablis Wy. \$995,000
Sun 1:30-4:30J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2181

PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms

246 Trenton Cir. \$639,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 596-1918

3658 Reflections Dr. \$649,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 200-3165

4126 Wells St. \$649,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

6380 Dana Ct. \$679,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

5202 Crestline Wy. \$765,000
Sun 12-3 Alain Pinel 462-7653

4558 Lakewood St. \$799,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

3436 Park Pl. \$799,888
Sat/Sun 1-4 UCB 580-4524

4 Bedrooms

3142 Arbor Dr. \$1,099,950
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Andy Pories 963-8871

72 Castlewood Dr. \$2,350,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2502

3963 Empire Ct. \$628,800
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-2457

6522 Inglewood Dr. \$644,950
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 577-2600

5565 Corte Sonora \$895,000
Sun 1-4 ReMax/Accord Jeff Clyma 918-3395

5372 Ridgevale \$900,000
Sun 12-4 Re/Max 200-6916

5 Bedrooms

205 Heritage Ln. \$1,595,000
Sun 1-4 Henderson Properties-Judy Winter 699-7900

3440 Ashton Ct. \$1,698,000
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 462-3522

4031 Schween Ct. \$885,000
Sat/Sun 2-4 Homeworks 462-4812

Danville
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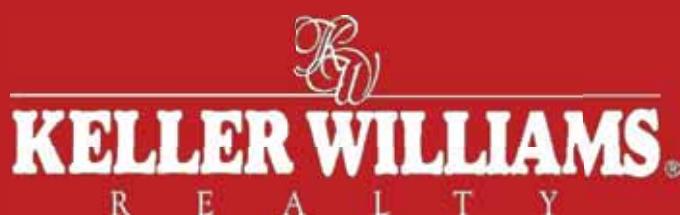
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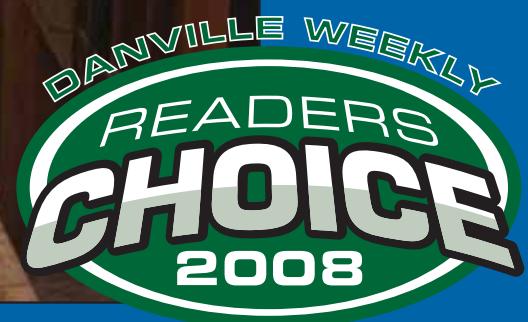
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