

Happy 69th anniversary

Danville couple still enjoying life and each other > **page 14**

Vol. IV, Number 7 • June 20, 2008

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Food, fun and art

Fine Arts Faire
downtown this
weekend

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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When graffiti is legal

Residents question
unsightly 'corporate
tagging'

> **page 5**



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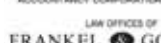
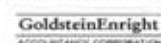
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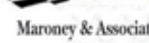
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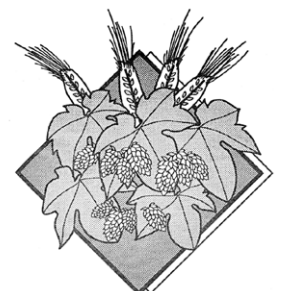
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ASKED IN DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

Q: What is your favorite beach?



It's a beach in Key West called Ormond Beach. It has white sand, turquoise water and dolphins. The cool thing about it is the frequent thunderstorms because you get out of the water to relax and watch the lightning and when the storms are over you go back into the water.

Jacqueline Gliozzi
student



I forget the name but it's a beach in Mexico near La Paz. It has an abandoned hotel on it, the ground is all tiny shells instead of sand, and we saw a lot of eels there when we were snorkeling.

Jennifer Pate
waitress



San Diego has the best beaches! The waves were my favorite part because they were so big and I got to surf there. I also like Irish Beach by Mendocino because once when I was there I saw a dead cow that had washed up on shore; it was pretty cool.

Dante Capriotti
student



I'd have to say San Benedetto in Italy; it's on the Adriatic Sea. There's so much to do there, you can rent paddle boats and kayaks. You can go skim boarding and there are huge outdoor trampolines in the sand by the sea. Swimming there is also really fun because the water is shallow so you can walk out really far.

Enzo Capriotti
student



My favorite beach would have to be anything south of here! Santa Cruz beach is really nice. I love going to the Boardwalk and the weather's always perfect; it's not too hot. I think the general crowd of surfers and people enjoying the water makes me like it most. Santa Cruz is a beach town; it invites you to have fun.

Mollie Strain
business assistant/waitress/lifeguard

compiled by Kristen Lang

ABOUT THE COVER

Danville photographer Candice Rana Gondeck specializes in dogs and horses but captured this cat, a Maine coon mix named Emma, in all her striped glory. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. IV, Number 7

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Danville CA. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. © 2007 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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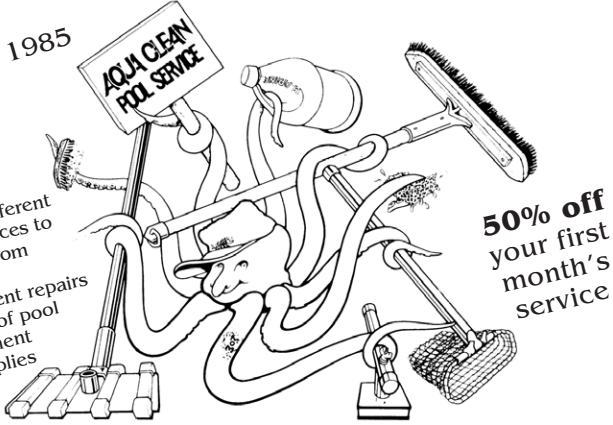
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Cigarette ignites I-680 fire

A cigarette thrown out of a car window around 11 a.m. last Thursday, June 12, started a fire that burned about two acres of grass next to northbound I-680, between the Stone Valley Road and Livorna exits in Alamo.

"The fire burned right up to a couple houses up on Bernal Court," said Battalion Chief Mike Brown of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

"Cigarettes don't always do that, but in these conditions they can," he said.

Weather conditions have been dry and hot—at 10 percent humidity, which Brown called "very, very low." On Thursday there was a northwest wind making the risk even higher.

It took 24 firefighters about 20 minutes to contain the fire. Eight off-duty officers were called in to help fight the flames. Though the fire was small, the department wanted to be sure there was plenty of backup staff given the high risk conditions.

—Meghan Neal

Builder adds 2nd-floor living



The building planned for 522 Hartz Ave. was designed to be a good architectural fit for downtown.

A plan to construct an upscale building on Hartz Avenue that Danville Planning Commissioners passed with flying colors last week may now change to include residential housing. The current plan, unanimously approved at the commission's June 11 meeting, calls for an 11,500-square-foot building that would have retail stores on the first floor and offices upstairs.

Two days after that meeting, developer Brad Blake of Blake Hunt Ventures resubmitted a set of plans to the town that would swap the second floor offices for residential units.

"We think there's a need for residential in downtown Danville and we think it will be a better complement to the downtown," he said.

The first-class, modern structure will be located at 522 Hartz Ave., next to Bridges Restaurant. It will replace the current building on the site, which for years was home to the San Ramon Valley Times and now houses the Alamo-Danville Artists' Society and Pioneer Art Gallery and Studios.

The new structure's modern design and proximity to historic buildings like the Eddie House have drawn attention to the project, which some say would change the face of downtown Danville.

The current plan includes 12 onsite parking spots and street parking in front of the building. Blake said the change from office to residential space would mean less demand for parking, but "that's not the primary reason for the switch; that's just potentially a benefit."

The bottom floor would still be reserved for retail stores or possibly cafes, to help stimu-

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Possibly, by human error, somebody grabbed the wrong can.”

—PG&E spokeswoman Tamar Sarkissian apologizing for permanent paint marking place for new streetlight. See story, page 5.

late economic growth downtown, Blake said.

Planning commissioners will discuss the change at a workshop Tuesday. The new plan would then go to the Design Review Board and eventually back to the Planning Commission for approval.

Blake said regardless of which plan is chosen, construction will likely start next spring.

—Meghan Neal

Pool and tennis courts closing for summer

Both the swimming pool and at least some of the tennis courts at San Ramon Valley High School will be closed for the summer. The facilities will be closed for safety reasons because of their proximity to the high school's large gymnasium, which is being torn down.

Robbie Lyng, senior project manager for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, said he does not know specifically which of the courts will be closed but expects it will be the ones closest to the gymnasium.

"Safety is the No. 1 concern," said Lyng. "And we take that very seriously."

There is a possibility all of the courts will need to close, he added. The facilities department will have more information once construction is under way.

In February the school district determined the old gym needed to be demolished since its concrete structure would not withstand a major earthquake. A new one will be built in its place.

Construction will begin this month and be completed in time for the new school year at the end of August, at which point the pool and courts will reopen for student and community use.

—Meghan Neal

Ready for the Fourth?

Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley has announced that the Grand Marshal for the 2008 Fourth of July Parade will be Roxanne Lindsay, a descendent of the pioneer Weidemann family, in keeping with the theme of the Valley's history. Lindsey works for Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., 15th District) and she is also an elected board member of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

This year's parade begins at 9 a.m., an hour earlier than in previous years. Festivities, commemorating Danville's 150th birthday and the 50th celebration of the Centennial Hay Days celebration will take place July 3.

Kiwanis is still taking entries for the parade. Register at www.kiwanis-srv.org.



MICHELLE OLSON

Eugene O'Neill admirers in town

Playwright Eugene O'Neill enthusiasts (l-r) Laurin Porter, Brenda Murphy, George Monteiro and Steven Bloom view the O'Neill Commemorative quote from "Long Day's Journey into Night" at Front Street Park on Thursday, June 12, as part of the seventh annual International O'Neill Conference. The five-day event was sponsored by the National Park Service, which maintains O'Neill's Tao House in Danville, and the Eugene O'Neill Society. The quote reads, in part: "Like the veil of things as they seem drawn back by an unseen hand. For a second you see—and seeing the secret, are the secret. For a second there is meaning! Then the hand lets the veil fall and you are alone, lost in the fog again, and you stumble on toward nowhere for no good reason!"

Like art? Head to Hartz this weekend

Street painters will be among 200 artisans in downtown Danville

by Michelle Olson

Robin Hood will be appearing on the street this weekend in Danville.

Italian street painters Cheryl and Wayne Renshaw will be recreating an image by N.C. Wyeth of Robin Hood and his men at the 17th annual Danville Fine Arts Faire taking place 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday on Hartz Avenue.

Wayne Renshaw is an architect by profession and Cheryl Renshaw is a landscape designer, but they still make time for street painting. This is their third year at the Danville festival but they have been street painting, or as they like to call it "playing in the streets," for nine years. The couple is going to appear at six festivals this year but

particularly likes this one.

"We always enjoy the Danville Fine Arts Faire because it is an opportunity to be a big fish in a small pond," said Wayne Renshaw via e-mail.

"Here among the sculptors, painters, photographers and craftspeople, we are more than just 'Madonnari,' we are artists among artists. And when the people of Danville come by, they let us know how much they enjoy our work and make us feel welcome."

Italian street painting has been around for hundreds of years and was started in Europe by mostly poor artists looking to make pennies for their talent. The artists became known as "Madonnari" because they often drew the Madonna and her child.

The Renshaws first got a taste of

the art when a friend invited them to Santa Barbara to help her paint a square at the I Madonnari Festival. Once they got their hands on pastels, they were hooked.

They consider the 12-by-12-foot square at the Danville Arts Faire to be a challenge because the large size requires a lot of detail. The artist couple knows this well from completing a 14-by-18-foot piece last year in San Luis Obispo.

Their process entails enlarging a photo, then transferring the image to computer paper and poking out the shape with a pounce wheel, which looks like a pizza cutter. This paper is put over the sidewalk and a sock filled with chalk goes over the lines plotting the outline

► Continued on page 7

Legal graffiti ugly on Danville streets

Unightly 'fix' dismays residents

by Meghan Neal

Bob and Jennifer Fish were out for an evening walk around their Diablo West neighborhood in early April when they came across a mess of colorful, spray-painted markings on the street and sidewalk.

The graffiti was a mix of symbols, phrases and company names. "We've got bright orange 'USA' and dark red 'PG&E' and light blue 'Comcast,'" said Bob Fish. "We said, 'Geez.'"

The couple called PG&E to find out what was going on and discovered the paint was part of an ongoing project to replace decaying wooden street lights around town with newer metal ones.

That's all well and good, said Fish, but months later the graffiti was still there. So they called PG&E again.

"We said, 'Hey, what's the deal? You guys came out, you painted this stuff and now the paint is still all over the sidewalk,'" he said. "I mean, it really looks pretty bad."

Again the company promised to clean up the mess.

"But they didn't, they covered it over," he said.

The bright paint was covered with gray and black paint intended to match the color of the sidewalk and street. But it didn't quite match, said Fish.

And on top of it, the markings were now lit up by the newly installed street light.

"When we first started seeing it, it wasn't a big deal. But then we started seeing it at every single light post," Jennifer Fish said. "It's

not just in our neighborhood; it's all over."

She's noticed it on Camino Tassajara, in front of John Baldwin Elementary School, and up and down Paraiso Drive, for instance.

"It's corporate tagging," she said.

The companies responsible for the "tagging" are PG&E—the contractor in charge of the street light replacement project—and a non-profit service called USA, which stands for Underground Services Alert.

USA comes in whenever digging takes place to make sure the contractor doesn't damage cable or phone lines, or any other utility lines that are running below the surface.

The danger spots are marked with bright paint—a different color for each different utility company.

They're supposed to use temporary, chalk-based paint that easily washes off, and remove it once the project's complete, said Danville City Engineer Steve Lake.

"They don't always do that, but that's what they're supposed to do," he said.

Indeed, where the Fishes live near Contada Circle, as well as at some other locations around town, permanent paint was used instead.

PG&E spokeswoman Tamar Sarkissian apologized for the mistake. The cans with the chalk-based paint look similar to the regular spray paint cans, she said.

"What we're thinking is that possibly, by human error, somebody grabbed the wrong can," she said.

► Continued on page 6



COURTESY CHERYL AND WAYNE RENSHAW

Street artist Wayne Renshaw details the umbrella of "The Picnic Party" at last year's Danville Fine Arts Faire. The original was an oil painting by Jack Vettriano.

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COURTESY BOB FISH



COURTESY BOB FISH

Above: In April Bob and Jennifer Fish noticed colorful graffiti on around their neighborhood. Utility company names like "USA" and "PG&E" were spray painted on the street and sidewalk. Left: PG&E's solution to get rid of the graffiti was to cover it over with grayscale paint that was supposed to match the color of the street and sidewalk.

Graffiti

► Continued from page 5

That's part of what concerns Bob and Jennifer Fish. The other part is that PG&E told them the project was expected to take 10 years to complete.

"We said, 'Wait a minute, are you telling me that for 10 years all our streets are going to be covered in graffiti?'" said Bob Fish.

Well, not necessarily. Sarkissian predicts it will take closer to five years.

Some of the street lights in Danville are owned by the town and others by PG&E. While the town has finished replacing its portion—about 500 street lights—PG&E's part is expected to take much longer.

"It is a long-term project but not as long-term as 10 years," Sarkissian said.

"If they continue to use the wrong paint, you can just see what the whole town of Danville is going to look like by the time we're done with this," said Fish.

He fears Danville's neighborhoods will turn into "West Coast reproductions of the Bronx."

But there's hope yet in avoiding such a fate. PG&E recently sent workers to Danville to clean up the paint, starting with Contada Circle, said Sarkissian.

"We have people out there right now with solvents and scrubbers," she said last week. "We're going through all the actions to make sure this is remedied, to make sure the neighborhood looks as beautiful as it did before." ■

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Arts Faire

► Continued from page 5

of the images, which are then ready for filling with soft pastels.

Pastel drawings on sidewalks last only a few days. This may seem disappointing, but for the Renshaws the art is in the creating.

"We think of street painting as a performance art," said Wayne Renshaw. "When the play is over the audience stands and goes home. The actor remembers their time on the stage just as we remember our time playing in the street."

The Renshaws will be only two

out of 200 artisans at the fair. Sixty percent will be presenting fine art, while the other 40 percent will offer contemporary and traditional crafts. Culinary arts and cooking demonstrations will be on exhibit as well as entertainment for the kids.

"It is a great way to showcase to surrounding areas what Danville has to offer," said Melony Newman, CEO of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce. "It has a positive effect on our businesses. It is a great family event with great music and fun."

"I encourage people to come downtown," she added. "Meet your neighbors, meet new friends and make a weekend of it." ■

Fun, food, fine arts

What: 17th annual Danville Fine Arts Faire

When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22

Where: Downtown Danville

Who: Sponsored by the Danville Area of Commerce, the Town of Danville, and MLA Productions

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Congrats to class of 2008

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Swanny Fernandez
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Eli Gasiorowski
Matthew Graham
Alexandro Huerta
Chad Jones
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Grant Roberts
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Wais Sakhizada
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Kayla Steele
Rebecca Steele
Anthony Vega
Jeremy Viera
Jeffrey Weinberg
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Sarah Martin

Adult Ed Diploma:
Benjamin Blount
Jake Marino
Morgan Moe
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Adam Swede
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The following students were scheduled to graduate from Venture School:
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Charleah Bender
Kyle Calvillo
Kevin Corstorphine
Erick kDeCasas



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTPHOTO.COM

He made it!

The family of Stephen Roberts celebrates at his graduation ceremony from San Ramon Valley High School on Friday. Graduations and celebrations were held throughout the San Ramon Valley last week as the class of 2008 took its first step out into the real world.

Kismat Dhanoa
Mara Finkel
Sarah Foster
Samantha Freeman
Sherine Gomaa
Nanyam Hammid Brown
Joshua Karlson
Nikolai Konow
Kelsey Langworthy
Aline Martins
Porsha McLaurian
Hannah McLelland
Caitlin Moulthrop
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Sierra Sargent
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Matthew Sinegal
Ciara Skye
Stephen Turk
Stephanie Villa
Alyssa Wade
Leighlani Wiglitton
Rene Wilson

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Katherine DeBoer
Lindsay Degnan
Alexander Gailas
Madelene Guerra
Nicholas Guertin
Darryl Hall
Candace Hill-Thompson
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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Many kinds of special

Special has taken on a whole new meaning in the American language, as in special education, Special Olympics, etc. But special education student Javier Peraza, who was recognized by the Danville Women's Club at its luncheon last week, is special in more ways than one—his piece of art was chosen by the California General Federation of Women's Clubs after it won the local annual contest, then the district, to go on to state competition.

Darlene Feyler, head of the program, had the abstract painting framed for the luncheon, and the orange mat brought out the vibrant colors beautifully. Javier attended the luncheon with his teacher at Los Cerros Middle School, Sally Mills, and Claudia Ronaldson, principal of Mauzy School who supervises special education at Los Cerros. His mom Blanca was also there as well as his tutor. Javier, 14, is just finishing Los Cerros Middle School and next year will attend Alhambra High in Martinez. At Los Cerros he was mainstreamed into P.E. class and music, where he played percussion.

Feyler, known in the art world as Dar, volunteers to teach special education art. She also instructs children in affiliation with the Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art, and calls her students the Young Pablo Picassos. She likes to quote Pablo Picasso: "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

Dar teaches art two Mondays a month at the Danville Women's Club for adults of all levels—those who have always wanted to try their hand at painting, as well as others who may have painted at some time in their lives and want to get back to it. Cost is \$15 per session for members, \$20 for non-members, which goes toward art scholarships for students, and the supplies for her special education art classes. To learn more about this, call Dar at 830-4533. The classes are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. but they usually are having such a good time, Dar said, that before they know it, it's 12:30.

Last week was my first glimpse at the inside of the Danville Women's Club, a pleasant building on Linda Mesa. The women take turns preparing their monthly luncheons throughout the year but for June, each member brings a salad—delicious!

This luncheon was also special because the club presented college scholarships to high school students after everyone ate. The club gave \$500 to Justin Banaga of Monte Vista High School, Chelsea Spencer of San Ramon Valley High, and Rachel Feller of Cal High. Del Amigo received \$250 to be used to benefit the students. Justin was given his award in the

middle of lunch because he had to take a final exam back at Monte Vista High School at 1:15 p.m. He seemed quite relaxed as he received the money and returned to his table to continue to visit and laugh with the others, but I kept nervously looking at the clock. Must be nice to be young, smart and relaxed.



Artist Darlene Feyler is surrounded by her prize-winning special education art students, including (top, center) Javier Peraza who won the state competition.

The club also gave \$2,000 to Peggy Hernandez for the Hospice of the East Bay in memory of Win Haagensen, who started Tree of Lights to benefit Hospice; she died last August at the age of 90. The money was raised at the club's annual fashion show held in May at Crow Canyon Country Club. Peggy, who recently became an employee of Hospice, knows it inside and out because she was first a client and then a volunteer. She gave up another career to join the organization, feeling she had to follow her heart, she said.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

—Pablo Picasso

A month or so ago, the club recognized other special education art students who won at the local level, at a reception attended by Mayor Candace Andersen: Nathan Cass received honorable mention; Blaise Alfman, second place; Brentt Sequeria, third; and Ella Costello, fourth. "The excitement of the children, parents and teachers was overwhelming and brought tears to our eyes," Dar recounted. "What delightful children."

And last Friday, Javier smiled broadly as he was given his framed piece of art, the state recognition and \$20 prize money. It was a special day at the Danville Women's Club.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
can be e-mailed at
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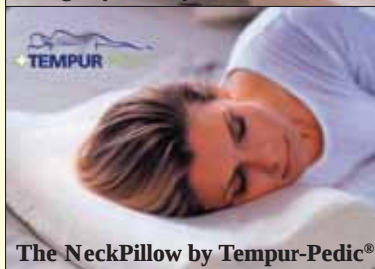
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The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

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

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

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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Shout drought

East Bay Municipal Water District has mandated that all children's water features in the parks be turned off, to deal with the current water shortage after the last two dry winters. When the weather is mild, it is easy to agree with turning off the water features. But when a hot spell strikes, it is hard to believe that Danville area families will not seek some type of water play for their children. In the absence of water features in the parks, people will be more inclined to bring out the wading pools and the Slip 'n Slides to let everyone cool off, which could result in greater water usage. This should be taken into consideration before ordering the town to turn off the water features.

At the town's parks, the water features were typically used between noon and 4 p.m. and only when the weather is warm. Hap Magee Ranch Park has a button to activate the water feature, and those at Sycamore Valley, Oak Hill and Diablo Vista parks are programmed to turn on and off at intervals to conserve water. The water feature at Osage Park is currently off as the park is being redesigned.

Children's water features cannot use recycled water as fountains do, for obvious reasons; health risks are an important consideration in any public water element. But such features in the parks are a huge draw for families as children find water endlessly fascinating and love to play in it. Nothing says "drought" like a dry children's water feature at a park, which sends the message that we need to conserve water.

If there is no rain in the upcoming winter, EBMUD will have to put into effect even stricter measures. But until then, turning on water features—at least during hot spells—will probably save water usage overall and should be considered. Just as public parks are more environmentally friendly than each family establishing its own "park" in the back yard, so a community water feature is a better use of this limited resource.

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"drought" like a
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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

Another ruined view

Dear Editor:

Just had to comment on your "Slow Down" article as I can surely sympathize. I own a home in Magee Ranch and saw workers marking things off one day, and the next day came home and was absolutely astonished to see a huge pole with solar panel and antenna on top, smack dab right across the street. My house is atop Shadewell Drive, and we have no neighbors across the street, just beautiful open space. We HAD a beautiful view of Mount Diablo, along with four other homes at the top. Now we see Mount Diablo with a pole through it.

We were told by PG&E that these "smart meters" will be used by the Town of Danville to wirelessly read our meters. We cannot have flag poles, basketball hoops, etc., in our front yards but they are putting these on "their PG&E easements."

The homeowners association got involved and PG&E was nice enough to have a meeting with us. Apparently, PG&E thought everyone had been notified and their "outside contactor" may have been overzealous getting it done so quickly. They stated they would work with us as there are options like underground networking, incorporating into the light pole, etc., but all more "costly." More costly to whom? we asked. We are the owners who now have downgraded property values with horrible views.

We choose Magee Ranch as it has no poles, no wires everywhere, is beautiful, tranquil, full of deer, coyote, turkeys and has that country homey feel. Until these went up! So far, nothing has been done, no other meetings and we are still waiting.

Debra Pineda, Danville

Golf contest a winner

Dear Editor:

My son MJ, three-time National Special Olympics Golf Champion, recently won the Golf Channel's Father's Day Dream Trip Essay Contest, resulting in us being treat-

ed like royalty by the Golf Channel for five days at the 108th U.S. Open held at Torrey Pines in La Jolla. In addition to the trip to the U.S. Open for two, the five finalists received a set of TaylorMade Golf Clubs, a staff bag, a year's supply of golf balls, and a \$1,000 shopping spree at Dick's Sporting Goods. The grand prize winner was selected as a result of Internet voting and announced on national TV on Father's Day. The winner received an all expense paid trip to St. Andrews, Scotland.

MJ did not win the grand prize but we learned the voting was very, very close. Hearing him read his winning entry on national TV was very special for me and my wife Linda, who drives the golf cart for MJ in his golf tournaments.

He said, "I have been playing golf with my father since I was 5 years old. Having been born with a walking disability, (my dad) taught me to focus on my abilities and not my disability. As a result, I am now 24 years old and have won seven straight N. California State Championships, three National Championships, and have been inducted into two Halls Of Fame—2004 San Francisco Tri Valley and 2006 Michigan Sports Hall Of Fame having been born there.

"He taught me that golf like life is a 'hard game' but with a positive attitude, proper instruction and a will to win, anything can and will happen. In a round of golf, 'never, never give up.' He also said to enjoy the beauty and many friends you will make in this game. He often told me that one could go out as a single player and meet three other strangers on the first tee and by the end of the round be friends for life.

"Finally, he taught me to 'never get nervous on the first tee.' Like life, getting off to a good start is very important. Thanks Dad. Love MJ."

Thank you, MJ. This will be a Father's Day that will be etched in our minds forever.

*Team Mc Colgan-MJ,
Linda and Mike*

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

OBITUARIES

William G. Ballengee

William G. Ballengee died peacefully May 4 in his home in Danville at the age of 64.

He was born in Covington, Va., on Aug 23, 1943, and graduated from Covington High School and Virginia Tech. He worked for Chevron in San Ramon for 20 years. He lived in Danville for 20 years and previously in London for three-and-a-half years.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Susan; his brother Tommy Ballengee and Irma Ballengee; and nephews and nieces, brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws. A memorial service was held May 6 at Oakmont Chapel.

Betty L. Bowler Lee Beal

Betty L. Bowler Lee Beal, a resident of Danville, died May 9 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center at the age of 84.

She was born June 16, 1923, in Las Vegas, Nev., to Charles Christian Bowler and Idella Leavitt. She was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She is survived by her three daughters, Betty (Kent)Loutensock

of Herriman, Utah; Billie Reed of Reno, Nev.; and Georgia (Floyd) Barnes of Castro Valley; eight grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 15 in the Danville Ward Chapel. Interment is at the Lafayette District Cemetery.

Marilyn Fowler Origlia

Marilyn Fowler Origlia, a resident of Alamo, died May 9 at the age of 83 in the company of her husband Jerry and best-ever friend Madge Weis. She was attended to by Hospice of the East Bay.

She was born in Schenectady, N.Y., on Aug. 20, 1925, and raised in Southern California and later in the Bay Area. During World War II she worked at the U.S. Naval Air Station at Alameda.

In 1948 she graduated from UC Berkeley. The baccalaureate address was delivered by then-President Harry S. Truman. That year she joined the Emporium in San Francisco as a trainee and met her husband-to-be, Gerald (Jerry) Origlia. They were married in Carmel in 1950.

She was predeceased by their only child, Susan A. Origlia, in 2001.

She is survived by her sisters, Alice Fowler Harris of Santa Cruz and Diane Fowler Hill of Portland, Ore., three nieces and two nephews.

She was cremated with her ashes spread over her beloved Monterey Bay. She requested there be no funeral or memorial services. Memorial donations can be sent to Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523 or John Muir Foundation, 1400 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek 94597.

Russell J. Valenti Jr.

Russell J. Valenti Jr., 63, a resident of Danville, died suddenly May 19.

He was born in Centerville, Miss., and lived in Niagara Falls, N.Y., until moving with his family to San Jose, where he graduated from San Jose State University.

For many years he worked in the mortgage business and until recently worked as a baker doing what he loved. He had a love and passion for music, cooking, gardening and travel. He was an accomplished drummer and loved to play with his band.

He is survived by his wife Pam of Danville; his son Ernest Valenti and daughter-in-law Stacy of Discovery Bay; his daughter Nichole and son-in-law Larry Laliberte of San Jose; his sister Suzie and son-in-law Doug Haut; three grandchildren and several aunts, uncles, nieces and cousins. He was predeceased by his father and mother, Russell James Valenti Sr. and Eileen Valenti.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated May 23 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Pleasanton. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation.

John Curtis Longaker

John Curtis Longaker, a former resident of Danville, died May 19 at the age of 68 after a three-year battle with leukemia. He passed away at the City of Hope in the Los Angeles area with his wife and three children at his side.

He grew up in Albany, Calif., and Danville but spent most of his adult life living in Southern California. He took an early retirement from Shell Oil Co. and moved to Bend, Ore., where he and his wife resided for the past 12 years.

To many, he was known as a softball coach, pigeon flyer, fisherman, bowling partner and a great friend and inspiration.

John leaves behind his wife of 48 years, Suzy; three children, Lana, Lisa and Brian; two sisters, Joyce Hamblin of Bend, Ore., and Gail Proctor of Danville; five grandchildren, including one who was born just days after he died.

Donations can be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at 9320 SW Barbur Blvd., Suite 140, Portland, OR 97219.

POLICE BULLETIN

Car runs over teens sleeping in street

Two teenage boys who claimed they fell asleep stargazing in the street on Ashland Court were run over around 3:30 last Friday morning by a woman delivering the San Francisco Chronicle.

The woman said she did not see the boys in the street, said Sgt. Philip Wisotsky of the Danville police.

The woman stopped the car after hitting the 15-year-old boys, trapping them under the Nissan Sentra.

“As she was exiting the roadway she felt the car drive over something,” he said. “So she stopped the car immediately, got out and saw the two boys underneath.”

The woman called 911. Firefighters from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District arrived on the scene, lifted the car and got the boys out, Wisotsky said.

They were taken to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek and treated for minor to moderate injuries. One boy suffered a damaged spleen, punctured lung and burns on his back.

At the hospital the boys told Danville police Traffic Officer Jason Hoschouer what had happened.

“The kids told the officer that they were stargazing and they fell asleep in the street,” said the sergeant.

They had been sleeping face down, on the east side of the cul de sac Wisotsky said.

The woman is not being charged at this time, he said. The investigation is still ongoing.

—Meghan Neal

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, June 8

- Auto burglary on Haskins Ranch Cir. at 12:56 a.m.
- Fight disturbance, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 1:44 a.m.
- Battery on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 2:27 a.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 8:18 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Tassajara and Glasgow Dr. at 8:31 a.m.
- Vandalism on Nerine Ct. at 9:45 a.m.
- Petty theft on La Gonda Way at 6:07 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Cir. at 6:11 p.m.
- Vehicle blocking roadway, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:45 p.m.

Monday, June 9

- Vandalism on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 8:55 a.m.
- Vandalism on Laurel Dr. at 9:12 a.m.
- Petty theft on Ridgeland Cir. at 9:39 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Sutton Cir. at 11:24 a.m. and 12:19 p.m.
- Grand theft on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 4:46 p.m.
- Welfare check, arrest, on Railroad Ave. at 6:01 p.m.
- Petty theft on Silver Chief Way at 8:31 p.m.

Tuesday, June 10

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 5:07 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 7:52 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Blackhawk Rd. and Diablo Creek Pl. at 8:20 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 8:28 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Bolero Dr. at 10:02 a.m.

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:50 p.m.
 - Accident, property damage, on Crow Canyon Rd. and St. George Rd. at 2:03 p.m.
 - Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 11:43 p.m.
- ### Wednesday, June 11
- Petty theft from vehicle on Fieldstone Dr. at 5:48 a.m.
 - Petty theft on Murcia Ct. at 9:33 a.m.
 - Petty theft on El Pintado Rd. at 11:10 a.m.
 - Petty theft on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 1:27 p.m.
 - Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:25 p.m.
 - Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:10 p.m.
 - Petty theft on El Capitan Dr. at 4:35 p.m.
 - Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:11 p.m.

Thursday, June 12

- Animal cruelty on Brookside Dr. at 10:01 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Franciscan Dr. and Madera Ct. at 10:18 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:06 p.m.
- Accident on Podva Rd. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:24 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Silver Lake Dr. at 3:34 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Gil Blas Rd. at 4:32 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Victoria Pl. at 6:33 p.m.
- Minor in possession of alcohol on Shana Ct. at 9:24 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Center Way and Crow Canyon Rd. at 10:59 p.m.

Friday, June 13

- Accident, major injuries, on Ashland Ct. at 3:24 a.m.
- Petty theft on Danville Oak Pl. at 11:33 a.m.
- Petty theft on Spring Lane at 12:15 p.m.



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Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE



COURTESY GROSS FAMILY

Making a splash

Kelly Gross of Danville, a student at Carondelet High School, was one of five girls named to the USA National Youth Training Team at the Zone Championships sponsored by USA Women's Youth Water Polo last weekend. Her water polo team placed second and includes Victoria Bidwell of Monte Vista High School.



CONNOR RICKEY



NEIL SAYRE

What a catch

Noelle Sayre, 8, of San Ramon Valley Girls Athletic League's White Level team, the White Tigers, goes up for a catch while facing the Chipmunks at a game last month held at Rancho Romero Elementary in Alamo.

Marlins come out on top

The Farm 8 Tassajara Valley Little League Marlins won the recent Championship played in Blackhawk. The Marlins beat the Braves in the final game, 12-10, in a close competitive match-up. Celebrating are the coaches (l-r) Coach Jeff Gottlieb, Coach Pat Rickey, Manager Fave Aitchison, Coach Dave Bauer; and players (back row) Jason Trafas, Tanner Gottlieb, John Aitchison, Jacob Bauer, Milton Vronis, Nicholas Sypniewski, Casey Rickey, Ryan Fleming; (front) Christopher McMinn, Carter Stevenson, Willy Cohen, Matt Bauer and Blake Linderberg.



Nuts about baseball

The Danville Diablos 11U Pony team rolled into Tracy for the Nuts About Baseball Top Ten Qualifier tournament on the weekend of June 1 and returned five games later with a trophy. The Diablos played teams from Nevada, Stockton and Fresno. The top players were the entire team and their vocal support in the stands. Team members are (back row) Todd Henry, Daniel Colton, Mike Ricupito, Charles Zaloumis, Nicholas Kane, J.T. Marcinkowski, Michael Asbell, and Jim Motter; (front) Peter Zaloumis, Ray Soderman, R.J. Motter, Kyle Henry, Collin Thompson, Kyle Fontaine, and Mike Ricupito. Not in Picture are Coach Eric Asbell, Tony, and G.M. Jason Kane.



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CAPTURING THE SUPERSTARS

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Perhaps you've seen a dog around Danville who stops for a photo. Since she moved down here to establish her pet photography business, Gondeck has seen a lot of dogs who are superstars.

Gondeck sees animals everywhere she looks, from the pages of newspapers to the pages of business owners who use animals in their advertisements.

"Product shots look better with an animal it would be interesting to see."

She even coined a term for it: "Pet Photography and Animal Photography." Since she was a child, she has loved animals and she hopes to do it someday.

"From the age of 10, I had a dog on my head," said Gondeck. She moved to Danville last week. She loves all breeds as they were an innate dog lover.

Growing up in Michigan, she worked at River Farm and Ranch.

"My dad was a photographer," she recalled. "I always had a camera."

While at Michigan State, she worked at its Arabian horse farm.

"I was a farm hand," she said. "I took care of horses, I took care of the mental but they are animals."

She went on to Michigan State University where she studied psychology. But she ended up working in the health care field, including as a health care aide in Detroit and at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

A spider a few years ago, she studied science, especially herpetology.

"I had this huge orb-weaver spider in my house," she recalled. "I was scared of it."

Then a year-and-a-half ago, she decided that life is too short to not do what she loves—now.

So she began to reschedule her life as of a few years ago, she moved to the United States.

"And that's not including the fact that the income level is high here," she said.

She also found that she likes professional photography.

"I'm targeting horses," she said. "I'm going to focus on Danville."

She currently is fast becoming a reptile enthusiast.

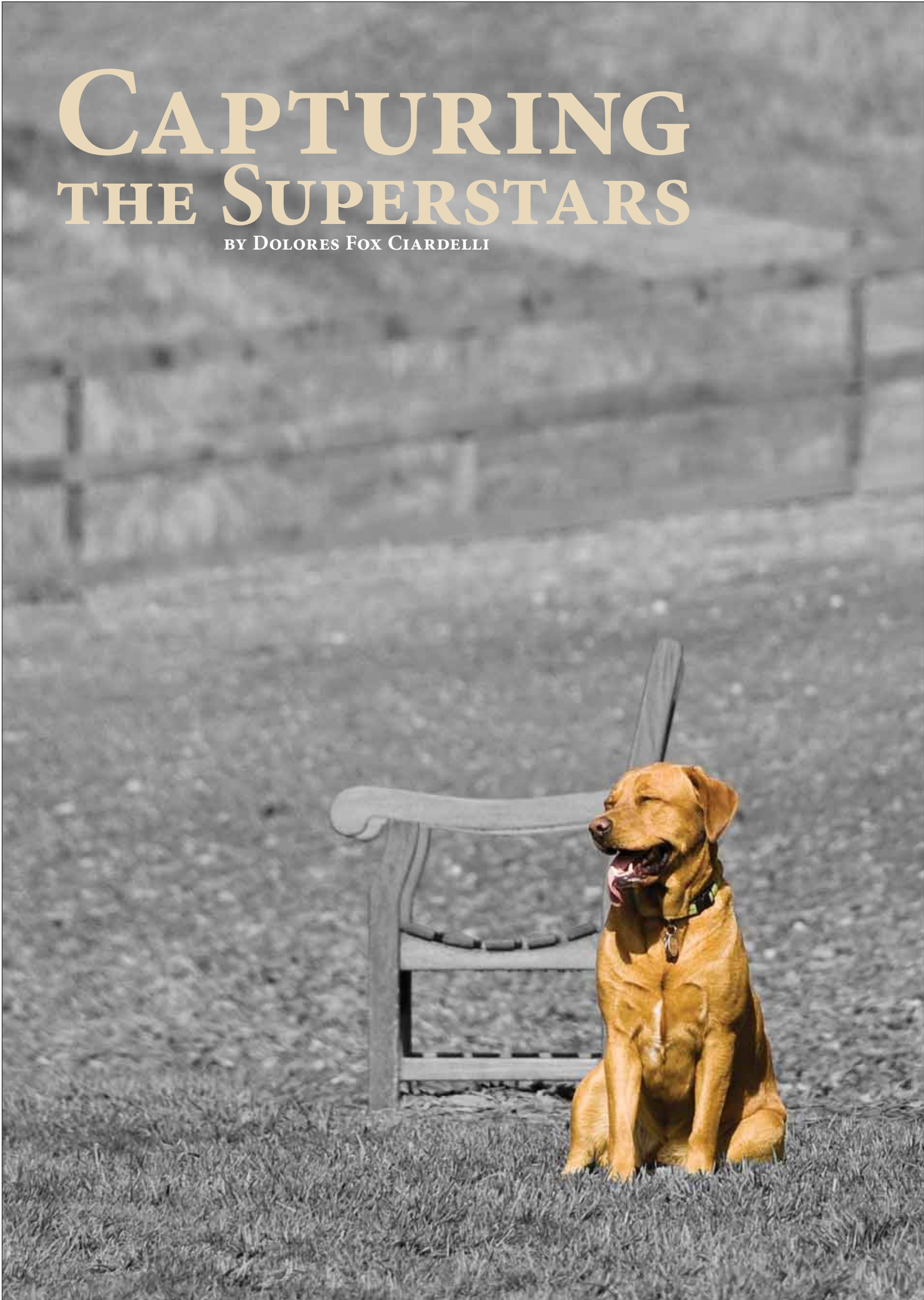
"I'm looking for iguanas," she said.

A pet store in Berkeley, California, which she asked to photograph, is a popular model and she decided to shoot so she decided to start her business.

Largely by word of mouth, her business is growing. She might enhance the effect of her business by combining it with her scientific background.

When she discovered that she could combine it with her scientific background, she decided to do it.

"It created that passion for me to experiment a lot in pet photography."



DANVILLE WOMAN BRINGS PET PHOTOGRAPHY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

seen Candice Rana Gondeck walking
e or on the Iron Horse Trail. She's the
to admire every dog.

owntown recently she has been work-
et photography business.

ormously competitive," she said. "But

nal photography opportunities every-
r instance while perusing advertise-
or on Web sites. She is trying to hook
ners to help them sell their products
ads.

ok pretty lifeless—if they added an
interesting," she said.

term for it: animal advertorgraphy.

imals have been Gondeck's passions
and she'd always planned to pursue

12 it was always in the back of my
37, while at the Canine Corral in
she admired each pooch, identifying
ragged their tails happily, recognizing

chigan, Gondeck headed off to Black
each summer, armed with her camera.
otographer so I always had gear," she
d pets, too."

Michigan State majoring in physiology, she
Boarding and Teaching Center.

d," she recalled. "I took care of the
the foals. Arabians can be tempera-
mazing."

Michigan State's veterinary school for
ed up working in other professions,
an inspector of restaurants and tattoo
oit; for the Department of Energy
ore National Laboratory; and doing
Bay Business Times.

s ago lured her back to her interest in
r fascination with light and its varia-

b weaver spider on the outside of my
"It was enormous."

half ago, a serious accident made her
o short and she'd better do what she

earch the pet industry and found that,
s, it was a \$41 billion business in the

cluding horses or exotics," she said.

people in this area love their pets and
gh enough to have money to spend for
phers.

ses and dog owners," she said. "I'm
nville first and then spread out."

inated by the idea of photographing

uanas, snakes, poison dart frogs," she

eley has a 6-foot Asian monitor lizard,
photograph. But apparently the reptile
d the owner charges \$150 for a photo
against it.

of mouth, Gondeck is building up a
ng people's pets with an artistic eye.
a photo digitally for the best artistic

ed digital photography, it was a joy to
aspects with her other loves.

ssion for me," Gondeck recalled. "I
photography and with the light in the

room, what I think looks cool."

Her living room, where she works, is bare except for
her studio equipment. She will place a dog, for instance,
on a large sheet of seamless paper for a plain background.
Sometimes she tweaks the colors, fading coats to black and
white, but leaving the tongue and eyes in color to capture
the personality.

Occasionally she will shoot the owners along with their
pets although most of them just want a memorable photo of
their dog.

"Sometimes they will say, 'What the heck,' and get into
the picture," Gondeck said. "I've taken photos of guys in
their socks or sweats. But portraits are not what I focus
on."

One of her favorite models has been a golden retriever
named Finn.

"He had so many different looks, based on the camera
angle," she said. He is featured on her Web site (www.candicerana.com) and in her advertising material.

"Some dogs are way too excitable. Some are just hyper
at first," she said.

She finds willing horse models at La Jolla Equestrian
Center off Tassajara Road where she was hired to photo-
graph a woman doing dressage. She was able to photograph
the other horses while she was there, catching different
angles of their expressive faces and bodies.

Some places are relaxed about her wandering around
taking pictures but it can be touchy out in public when she
wants to shoot a dog out for a romp with its owners, she
said. She noted that she never, ever gets a child in a photo
because she doesn't want to worry parents.

Gondeck enjoys entering contests of various photogra-
phy clubs. And she continues to experiment with photogra-
phy, the light in her studio, Photoshop on the computer, and
what "looks cool."

"It's so technical but there's a huge creative side,"
Gondeck said. "It's a great balance for me."

"I'd love to try study shots with cats," she said. "I want
to try hamsters, too."

Before she came to California, she lived in Tampa Bay
and at that time had a Doberman, a Siberian and a German
shepherd.

"My German shepherd had a huge ball drive," she said.
"I used to throw it for an hour everyday."

She said Florida has wonderful dog parks, many with
pools for the dogs to frolic in the water to cool off, but the
other dogs could be dangerous. For one thing, she said, in
Florida people don't neuter their dogs.

Gondeck exercises every day on the Iron Horse Trail
but says she leaves her business—that is, her camera—
behind. Nonetheless she takes note of pooches on the path
and reports that the most popular breed is labradoodles
(a Labrador retriever-poodle mix), then golden retrievers.
Vizslas are also popular.

"I've seen people walk their birds on the trail," she said.
"I've seen birds on shoulders, with a little leash on the
legs."

"I'm a 'big dog' kind of person," she notes recalling a
beloved golden retriever she once had that "would just want
to be next to me."

"When I was in vet school I bought a cat to be company
for my dog, a Doberman," she said. "It was a young cat,
with attitude. They were resting together after the second
night."

At one time she had three cats and two dogs. She's also
had salt water aquariums.

She is currently petless for only the second time in her
life but says she is weighing the options.

If you see a woman walking an iguana down the Iron
Horse Trail someday, it just might be Candice Rana
Gondeck. ■



CANDICE RANA GONDECK

Candice Rana Gondeck specializes in photographing pets and often uses special effects, such as posing Ellie, a giant schnauzer, on seamless white paper in her studio; at left, a young golden retriever enjoys sitting in the sun at the Canine Corral at Hap Magee Ranch Park.



CANDICE RANA GONDECK

Horses are a favorite subject for Gondeck, who worked at the Michigan State Arabian Boarding and Teaching Center while she attended school there. She spotted these while driving down Camino Tassajara.



DOLores FOX CIARDELLI

Gondeck enjoys photographing dogs at Danville's Canine Corral. Since the animal lover currently has no pets of her own, she gets a "dog fix" at the park or on the Iron Horse Trail.

Happy 69th anniversary



Couple of the Depression forged a good life and are still going strong

by Michelle Olson

Sixty-nine years may be a lifetime for some, but for George and Gladys Hicks it is the number of years they've been married. They are residents of assisted living home Diablo Lodge in Danville and together they have accumulated 72 years of being part of the Danville community.

Sixty-nine years together is no small feat. With more than 50 percent of couples getting divorced today it's a wonder the couple have made their romance last so long.

"We love each other. We're good friends. We're in love. We never go to sleep without saying 'I love you,'" George explained.

He believes people don't value relationships—or sex—the way they used to.

"You have to have true commitment," he said. "It seems so easy to split up. You have to get back to old-fashioned values. Sex is more plentiful. Pregnancy (without marriage) during our time—one would have been embarrassed. Now it's no big deal."

Gladys and George met in junior high in Oakland when he played the piano in a band and she played the drums. They continued to see each other through high school at Castlemont.

"We would go to the dances on Friday nights and George would walk me home. Then we'd sit on the porch and all the neighbors would peep through the windows to see what we were doing," Gladys reminisced.

They married June 23, 1939, in Berkeley at the Chapel of the Flowers when Gladys was 19 and George was 21. When Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, they had just had their first child, a boy named Gary.

George was drafted into the Navy in 1942 to serve in World War II. He spent most of his time as a radio operator in Saipan in the Pacific and returned before the end of the war.

A couple of years later, in 1947, they would introduce their daughter Gayle Lynn to the world. Their family now includes two children, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Gary, their son, lives in Lincoln while Gayle Lynn resides in Mansfield, Texas.

George started out working for Wells Fargo Bank making \$110 a month when he first got married. He retired as an insurance manager for Metropolitan Life with 30 years experience.

His life was not easy.

"We worked hard. My father died when I was born. My mother died when I was 7. My grandmother raised me. My wife was poor growing up," said George.

"We were children of the Depression," Gladys reiterated.

They lived in Danville for 30 years, then moved to Texas, but returned a year-and-a-half ago. They have been to almost all 50 states, gone on multiple cruises, and George has gotten two hole-in-ones playing golf.

They said their biggest accomplishments are raising a good family, having kids who get along with each other, and living to be 90.

The Hickses are also proud of "growing up poor and end-

ing up at a nice place like Diablo Lodge."

Now George likes to play bingo, while Gladys enjoys her soap operas. The Hickses have become a hub of the Diablo Lodge community, which is holding an open house tomorrow in honor of their anniversary. They were voted king and queen for Valentine's Day, and their photos are included on the lodge's brochures and advertisements.

George is chairman of the Council Committee of Diablo Lodge. He is one of a group of five residents that act as a mediator between residents and management. They listen to the wants and needs of residents and work with management to make changes.

They both still get out and are independent.

"George still drives," Gladys said.

At this stage in their lives, the Hickses take nothing for granted.

"We've had a lot of good years. Wish we could do it all again," said Gladys.

"We are fortunate to have each other," George added. "We are fortunate things have worked out." ■

Happy Anniversary

Diablo Lodge, 950 Diablo Road, is holding an open house from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday, June 21, in honor of Gladys and George Hicks' 69th wedding anniversary.



The prizewinning drawing of Mr. Funnelhead protecting the earth.



Sophia Colello of Danville displays the certificate she won along with a laptop computer for her Mr. Funnelhead art.

'Green' message gets computer

Sophia Colello, 9, of Danville won a laptop computer as part of the Contra Costa Clean Water Program's recent annual calendar art contest. In addition, she will be seen on the local cable access channel in June along with Mr. Funnelhead and the other contest winners.

Her artwork depicts Mr. Funnelhead protecting the earth and preventing pollutants such as used motor oil from entering our water supply. Sophia is a third-grader at Palmer School in Walnut Creek.

Eagle Scout Harrison T. Geron

Harrison T. Geron, 16, the son of Tasos L. and Diana M. Geron of Alamo, achieved his Eagle Scout rank May 31.

Harrison is a member of Troop 243 of the Aklan District of the Mt. Diablo-Silverado Council in Lafayette. He is currently a sophomore and high honor roll student at De La Salle and attends the Green Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension in Oakland, where he is an altar boy. His interests include computers, cars, reading, science and hunting (licensed), football, movies, skiing and being with his family and friends.

Harrison's Eagle project was to build a kiosk and two benches for the garden at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette, where he attended elementary school. His favorite merit badges are hunting, hiking, riflery and snow sports.



Harrison T. Geron



Girl Scouts raise funds for ARF

The girls of Troop 32559, based in Danville, recently earned their Bronze Award. They have been together as a troop since they were Brownies in the first grade and they are now Junior Girl Scouts in the sixth grade, some at the Athenian School and others at Quarry Lane.

The girls at each school did a blanket and towel drive for Animal Rescue Foundation in Walnut Creek during the month of April. They delivered over 100 blankets, towels and sheets to ARF. In addition, they sold Jelly Belly candies at their schools to raise money for ARF. Collectively, they raised \$370 and then added \$130 of their cookie money to make a total contribution of \$500 to ARF.

The Wine Guy

BY GREGORY PEEBLES

Color it 'pure and subtle'

2006 Shoofly "Buzz Cut"
South Australia
BevMo!—Danville, \$13.99



For me, aromatic white blends are irresistible all year long but especially during the spring and summer months. They're often quite exotic, hip, easy on the debit card and genuinely tasty. "Buzz Cut" performs well on all measures.

Shoofly is a new venture, founded in 2005. Winemaker Ben Riggs, proud native of McLaren Vale, sources fruit from a "who's who" catalog of quality-driven growers scattered throughout the South Australia appellation. This wine zone contains the world-renowned growing regions of Barossa Valley, Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale and Langhorne Creek.

Winemakers like Mr. Riggs have mastered multi-regional blending to the point of creating a real Australian art form. With their imaginations and palates as canvases, varietal grapes and barrels as mediums, vineyards and cellars as studios, these Aussie artisans consistently create beautiful

works at exceedingly fair retail prices. This interesting fusion is the appetizing result of grapes harvested from the cooler climate, maritime influenced areas of McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills and Langhorne Creek (a "cool dessert").

Check out this extensive field blend: 36 percent Verdelho, 29 percent Viognier, 15 percent Riesling, 9 percent Sauvignon Blanc, 7 percent Chardonnay, and 4 percent Semillon. Everything is vinified and matured in stainless steel, no oak contact at all. Just right for warm weather quaffing.

The wine's color is pure and subtle. Observe the graceful confluence of pale straw and faint lime green.

An alluring Alsatian-like petrol quality is very obvious to the nose. Rich lanolin, pungent cut grass, lemon, quince, wet river stone and

Crenshaw melon add to the long parade of aromas.

Chunky layers of stone fruit (peach, apricot and nectarine) are prominent and fully ripe. Equally attractive, yet milder, nuances of pepper, mineral, Red Delicious apple and tangerine appear as the wine warms a bit. As with any high quality white wine, please don't serve it too cold!

As for the finish, it's substantial. Enjoy the lingering peach, nectarine, mineral, green tea and kiwi fruit flavors for several minutes between sips.

Shoofly's Web site (www.shooflywines.com) suggests three food pairings which sound spot-on perfect: coconut shrimp, chili-citrus pork with sautéed pears and pancetta-wrapped scallops. This trio of exciting, festive dishes should indeed be relished with family and friends over a few lightly chilled bottles of "Buzz Cut."

Let your palate be the ultimate judge...

Have comments or questions about wine? Gregory Peebles, wine industry professional and East Bay resident, can be contacted at caldoniawine@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, alfresco 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!

Call 837-8300 to find out how your Business can be listed in

Fork, Cork & More

Search a complete Restaurant Listing on DanvilleWeekly.com

PIZZA

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

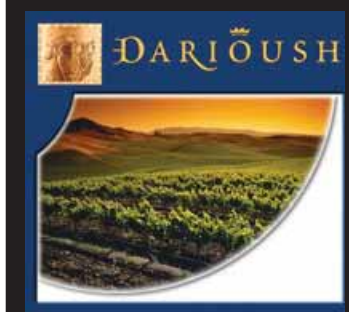
WINE - RETAIL/TASTING

Bella Vino
 3450 Camino Tassajara, Danville, 94506, 925-648-1300. Taste a variety of wines at leisure or grab a bottle to go! Tasting Tuesday - Sunday. Special tasting events every Thursday and Live Jazz on Fridays.
 6/20-Bella Vino Old Wine Opening Party #3 - Exciting Blind Tasting!
 6/21-Saturday - Come Jazz Out with Bob Logan and Guido 7:30-9:30pm
 6/26-Adam Webb - Winemaker from Odisea
 6/27-Live Jazz with Sue Lukito 7-9pm
 6/30-July 4th Wine Sale - One Day Only - Monday 10am to 7pm
 7/24-ZD Winery Will Be at Bella Vino
 Check us out online on our events page for current upcoming events at www.bvino.com



Darioush Winemaker Dinner

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 Wine and Cheese
 Reception 6:30 Dinner 7:00
 Reservations are required.



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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



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

Yosemite camp 100 years ago

In 1897, this group of Tassajara Valley friends camped in Yosemite. It took three days to get there but was worth the time. From left to right, Lena Prindle, Eunice and Doris Coats, little Bethel and Phoebe Coats.

Epicure

BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL



Oh, oh, sweet ... basil!

Basil is a delightful herb for summer time cooking—a member of the mint family, its aromatic fragrance and tender leaves bring lightness to a dish, whether used fresh or cooked. There's nothing like Basil to add flavor and color to a dish, especially tomatoes, bread, wine, salads and pasta.

Basil leaves vary in size from 1/2 inch to 5 inches and in color from bright green to deep purple. The popular herb appeals to diverse cultural cuisines and comes in several flavor varieties—lemon (Indonesia), clove (China), pepper (Thai) and, my favorite, the anise/

licorice flavor of Genovese (Italian sweet) basil. One of the more popular uses of basil is in making pesto, a blend of basil with oil and cheese (see recipe). Serve pesto over baked potatoes, or spread over toasted baguette slices or with pasta as an alternative to red and white sauces.

Oh, and basil is counted among the world's healthiest foods: Its active constituents called flavonoids provide cellular protection; its volatile oils have "anti-bacterial" properties; and it is a consistent source of vital nutrients like vitamins K and A, iron, calcium, dietary fiber, manganese, magnesium and vitamin C.

Basil and tomatoes are perfect culinary mates, complimenting one another in taste, texture and color. Summer isn't summer unless you enjoy at least one serving of fresh basil, tomatoes and mozzarella. If you've never made your own, you must create it. Or, be adventurous this summer and try one new basil-featured dish. Your family will appreciate it and reward you with this one-word cheer: "Sweet!"

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

RECIPES

Pesto: A Simple Blend (1 cup)

- In a blender or food processor, blend 2 cups fresh basil leaves, 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan-Reggiano or Romano cheese, 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil, 1/3 cup pine nuts, 3 medium garlic cloves, minced to form a loose paste. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Orange, Lemon & Basil Salad (4-5 servings):

- 3-4 oranges, preferably blood, navel or Cara Cara (about 1 to 1-1/4 lb. total)
- 1 lemon (about 10 oz. total)
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 4 fresh basil leaves (about 3 inches each) rinsed and finely shredded
- 1 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1. As you work, hold fruit over a bowl to catch any juices. With a sharp knife, cut and discard peels and white membranes from the oranges and lemon. Cut oranges into 1/4-inch slices, crosswise and lemons into 1/8-inch slices, crosswise. Discard seeds along the way.
- 2. Overlap orange slices on a platter, then overlap lemon slices on top. Pour captured juices over slices, then sprinkle basil and onions over fruit. Drizzle olive oil over all; season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve cold.

Southwestern Shrimp Pasta (3-4 servings)

- 1 lb. Roma tomatoes
- 6 oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, drained
- 1 oz. fresh jalapeno chilies, seeded and sliced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil leaves
- 3 tsp olive oil
- 3 Tbsp minced shallots
- 4-6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup dry sherry (or water)
- 1/2 lb. dried bow-tie pasta
- 1 lb. (22-24 per pound) shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 2 Tbsp parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1. Rinse, core and coarsely chop the Roma tomatoes. Put 2/3 of the tomatoes into a food processor or blender. Add dried tomatoes, chilies and basil, then puree.
- 2. In a 10-12" fry pan over medium heat, stir oil, shallots and garlic for about 2 min. or until shallots are limp. Add remaining chopped tomatoes, pureed mixture and sherry. Simmer sauce over low heat for 15-20 min., stirring occasionally. (Add a little water if mixture sticks.)
- 3. Cook pasta in about 3 quarts boiling water for 8-10 min. or until barely tender to the bite. Drain and place in

a wide serving bowl. As pasta cooks, rinse and drain shrimp, then add to the sauce. Stir often until shrimp is opaque but still moist, about 3-5 min.

- 4. Mix sauce with pasta, sprinkle with parsley; add salt and pepper to taste.

Basil, Tomato and Mozzarella Frittata (serves 2)

- 1/2 medium onion, minced
- 3 medium cloves garlic, pressed
- 2 Tbsp chicken broth
- 1 cup thinly sliced Crimini mushrooms
- 1/2 medium tomato, seeds removed, and diced
- 3 large eggs
- 3 Tbsp chopped fresh basil
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 1. Heat 1 Tbsp broth in a 10-inch stainless steel skillet. Sauté onion over medium-low heat 3 minutes, stirring frequently.
- 2. Add garlic, mushrooms and sauté for another 2 minutes. Add 1 Tbsp broth, tomato, salt, pepper and cook for another minute. Stir well, and gently scrape pan with a wooden spoon to remove any slight burning.
- 3. Beat eggs well, and season with salt and pepper. Mix in chopped basil. Pour eggs over vegetables evenly and turn heat to low. Cover and cook for about 5 minutes, until firm. Cut into wedges and serve.

Calendar

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Art, Wine and Cheese Come by and enjoy an artist’s reception featuring Jill Tishman and Jacqueline Ford from 5-8 p.m., Friday, June 27, and from 3-8 p.m., Saturday, June 28, at Sotheby’s, 360 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call Cynthia at 580-1430.

Plein Air Painting Workshop Stephen Sanfilippo will help students with logistical and creative aspects of painting on location from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Thursday-Friday, June 26-27, and Sundays, July 13 and 20. Cost is \$175 or \$95, including a demo, equipment review, one-on-one consult and critique. For details, visit www.stephensanfilippo.com/workshops.

Author Visit

Rakestraw Books Rakestraw Books will host Ursula K. LeGuin and Karen Joy Fowler, authors of “Lavinia” and “Wit’s End” at 7 p.m., Monday, June 23 (cost is \$6); Leif Enger, author of “So Brave, Young, and Handsome,” at noon, Wednesday, June 25 (cost is \$15, including lunch); and Dorothy Hearst, author of “Promise of the Wolves,” at 7 p.m., Monday, June 30, all at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Reservations are required; call 837-7337.

Camps

‘Stick With it’ Lacrosse Camps Lacrosse Camps and Goalie Academy will be held June 30, July 3, 10, 14 and 18, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. For more details, call Amy McCleary at (831) 277-1857.

YMCA Summer Specialty Camps Summer is here! Registration is now open for YMCA Specialty Camps this summer, including Lego Engineering, Super Sports, Robot Science, Chess, Musical Theatre, Art and more. Camps are held in the Alamo and Danville area. For information, call 831-1100.

Class Reunions

Ygnacio Valley High Class of 1968 The Class of 1968 from Ygnacio Valley High School in Concord is looking for classmates for their 40-year reunion on July 19. For information, contact Cathi Elledgr Gall at gprinter@aol.com or Cathy Larson Sohnrey at 680-1851.

Classes

Citrus Planting and Native Plants/Drought Tolerant Plantings Navlet’s Garden Center hosts free gardening classes to the public including Native Plants/Drought Tolerant Plantings at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, June 22, at Navlet’s Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 837-9144.

Drought Tolerent Plants for Yards Come and learn about drought tolerant plants for yards from 10:30-11 a.m., every Saturday, starting June 21, at Sunset Color, 1435 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. These classes are free. Call 914-0035 or visit www.sunsetcolor.com.

Clubs

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.alamodanvillemncomers.com.

Amador Valley Quilters This club will host guest speaker Marion Coleman who will talk about African quilts from 1:30-4 p.m., Saturday, July 12, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., Pleasanton. Visit www.amador-valleyquilters.org.

Danville AM Toastmasters Club The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at Father Nature’s, 178 E. Prospect Ave. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact Dave Miklasevich at 899-1543 or dmik210@yahoo.com or www.danvilleamtoastmasters.org.

Danville Job’s Daughters Job’s Daughters International is an organization for young ladies (minimum age 10 for full membership) who enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips and more. The girls develop confidence, good character, life-long friendships, moral and spiritual values, and leadership abilities. The group meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd. Call 829-8505 or email IQJD247@yahoo.com.

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

Danville Rotary The Danville Rotary meets at noon, every Monday at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, visit www.danvill Rotary.org.

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

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

Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society The society meets from 1:15-3 p.m., the third Thursday of every month except August, at the California Savings Building, Rossmoor Shopping Center, Tice Valley Blvd. and Rossmoor Parkway, Walnut Creek. Guest speakers are at each meeting.

Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group Get questions answered, solutions for problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of every month, at the Alamo Safeway Community Room. For information, call 837-1111 or 829-5501.

Concerts

‘Carmen’ Danville Lyric Opera presents “Carmen” at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 29, at Townhall Theater, 3535 School St., Lafayette. Tickets are \$30 for reserved seating, \$25 for general seating and \$20 for seniors and students. Call 283-1557 or visit www.townhalltheater.com.

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Events

'Dinner in a Snap' Cookoff Diablo Valley home cooks are invited to enter the first Diablo Valley "Dinner in a Snap" Cook-Off. Categories include salad, appetizer, baked goods, week-night meal and one-dish meal. Entries are due on June 30 and may be submitted at www.ensemblesmeals.com. Finals will be on Aug. 8. Call 855-8355.

'Fun for Families' Town of Danville is offering "Fun for Families" with "Fancy Fruit" as the theme from 3-5 p.m., Friday, June 27, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Cost is \$30 for residents, \$36 for non-residents. Call 314-3400.

'Summer Serenade' and 'Wellness Festival' Show your local support for Danville during "Summer Serenade" from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, July 10, and the "Wellness Festival" Thursday, Aug. 7, in downtown Danville. Come and enjoy wine tasting, food, live music and entertainment. Visit www.discoverdanvilleca.com.

Danville Fine Arts Faire Town of Danville and the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce will host the Danville Fine Arts Faire from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22, in downtown Danville. Call 837-4400 or visit www.danvilleareachamber.com.

Family Campout Town of Danville will host a Family Campout from Saturday-Sunday, July 26-27, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Enjoy swimming, youth crafts, family games and a movie under the stars. Check-in begins at 1 p.m., Saturday and check-out is at noon, Sunday. 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.

Hot Summer Nights Car Show Come and enjoy the Hot Summer Nights Car Show from 4-9 p.m., Thursday, July 24 and Aug. 21, on Hartz Avenue in downtown Danville. Call Tony at 820-5750.

Ice Cream Social It's time to rock around the clock at a 1950s Ice Cream Social from 6-8 p.m., Friday, July 18, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. There will be live 50s music, kids crafts and games, sheepdog demonstrations, and of course, ice cream. Cost is \$3 with pre-registration; \$5 at the gate. Call 973-3282.

Moonlight Movies on the Town Green Town of Danville will host Moonlight Movies from 8:15-10 p.m., 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.

Moonlight on the Mountain This special and unique event for includes drinks and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, sit-down dinner and live

WEEKEND PREVIEW



DESIGNING LEADS

Come downtown for a weekend of art

Works of art like these will be available at the Danville Fine Arts Faire hosted by the Town of Danville and the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22, in downtown Danville. Over 200 artists will display their creations along Hartz Avenue. Enjoy food, refreshment and entertainment. Call 837-4400 or visit www.danvilleareachamber.com.

music from 4-10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at the China Wall on Mt. Diablo. Cost is \$250 per person. Call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

NextEnergy Solar System Open House Come to the Solar System Open House to learn other ways to make your home more energy efficient from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, June 28, at 324 Merrilee Place, Danville. This event is free. Call 798-0600.

Thunderbird Club and Program Bay Area Thunderbird Owner's Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, June 22, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. 50-60 classic Thunderbirds will be on display as well as the first Thunderbird off the Ford assembly line. Call 736-2277.

Film

'For the Bible Tells Me So' St. Timothy's Church will host a movie "For The Bible Tells Me So" which tells of the experiences of five families and discover how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child in the context of Christian faith. The movie, one of a social issues series, will be played at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, June 22, at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville.

'The 11th Hour' Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center will host a screening of "The 11th Hour" from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, at Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free, but donations are accepted. Call 933-7850.

Fundraisers

25th Anniversary Primo's Run for Education Join this fun community tradition by participating in the 1/2 Marathon starting at 7:15 a.m. or the 5k Race or 5k Fun Run/Walk both starting at 8:15 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 19. Cost is \$50, \$25 or \$20. Proceeds benefit the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation. Call 820-9181 or visit www.primosrun.com.

26th Annual Alamo Music Festival Rotary Club of Alamo will host the 26th annual Alamo Music Festival from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6, at Alamo Plaza. The day will include live bands, marching bands, food, wine tasting, rock climbing and fun! Proceeds benefit Danville and Alamo school music programs. Call 217-3123.

Relay for Life American Cancer Society will host Relay for Life on Saturday-Sunday, July 19-20, at Monte Vista High School, 3131 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Participants will

walk or run relay-style around the track and take part in fun activities on the track. A luminaria ceremony will start at sundown to honor cancer survivors and those lost to the disease; luminaries can be purchased for \$5. Call (800) 227-2345 or visit www.events.cancer.org/rfldanvilleca.

Health

Mindful Chi Kung and Healthy Being Chi Kung is a moving meditation that integrates mind, body and spirit to enhance health and strengthen the immune system. Come improve your sense of well-being from 2-4 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107.

Holiday

Fourth of July Celebration This year, Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley will host a celebration of the Town of Danville's 150th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Hay Days. July 3 festivities will include lots of fun for children and their families from 4-8 p.m. The Fourth of July Parade is from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Friday, July 4, on Hartz Ave. Call 425-1013 or visit www.kiwanis-srv.org.

Kids and Teens

Danville Kidz Reader's Book Club Danville Library is sponsoring a reading group for kids entering grade 3-5 on Wednesdays, during the summer, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Join the club for book discussions, activities and snacks without any homework. Call 837-4889.

Kiwanis Kids and Pet Costume Contest Children ages 5-12 will have the opportunity to showcase their pets and compete for prizes at the Kiwanis Kids and Pet Costume Contest from 5-6 p.m., Thursday, July 3, at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley parking lot, Danville. The event is free and will be part of the Kiwanis Celebrating Hay Days event. The contest is limited to the first 100 entries. Visit www.kiwanis-srv.org.

Lectures/Workshops

Are Reverse Mortgages Right for You? Danville Library will host Martha Miller who will provide a presentation on reverse mortgages at 1 p.m., Thursday, June 26, at the Danville

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Library, 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

Neck, Back and Shoulder Relief Discover how to relieve the nagging discomfort of pain in the neck, back and shoulders from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, June 28, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107.

Personal Growth Day San Damiano will host Peter H. Coster who will use the Biblical story of Jonah and the Whale, at Personal Growth Day from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Friday, June 27, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$95 for six CEUs; \$70 without. Call 831-9141, ext. 315.

Project Management SIG: 'Speak Up and Speak Out' eBig will host a workshop on "Speak Up and Speak Out" from 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, June 26, at Sybase, One Sybase Center Building A, Dublin. You will learn about the importance of getting your message out to many different audiences. This event is free for eBig members; \$10 for non-members. Visit www.ebig.org.

Update on Multiple Myeloma Treatment Join Dr. Alice Reier and learn about the latest treatments for multiple myeloma and what may be on the horizon from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, June 21, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. There will be time for questions and meeting with other multiple myeloma survivors. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

Writers to Learn Alexander Technique California Writers Club-Tri-Valley Branch will host Kay Hogan, M.Ed., who will speak on "Reducing Pain and Injury in Your Daily Life" from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, June 21, at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. Visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

Literary Events

'Vintage Danville' Launch Party Come and see the "Vintage Danville" books for the first time at a special book launch party at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 28, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Cost is \$25. Proceeds will benefit the Danville Library Foundation. Call 837-4889.

Live Music

Alamo Summer Concert Series Alamo Parks and Recreation presents its annual Summer Concert Series, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fridays, June 27 ("Silver Spur"); July 11 ("Houserockers"); July 25 ("Boothill") and Aug. 8 ("Pan Extasy").

Music in the Park Town of Danville will host Music in the Park from 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, July 5 and 19, and Aug. 2 and 16, in Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. These concerts are free. Call 314-3400.

Miscellaneous

10 Great Dates A fun filled approach to building thriving marriages and enjoying the area's finest eateries will be held from 7-9:15 p.m., Fridays, June 20-Aug. 29, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 El Pintado Rd., Danville. The evenings start with hor d'oeuvres and a brief video, then couples hit the town for dinner and some fun dating exercises to enrich and enliven your marriage. Cost is \$25; dinner is on your own. Childcare provided until 9:15 p.m. Call 837-5525.

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.

On Stage

'The Mystery Plays' Come and see "The Mystery Plays" by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa at 8:15 p.m., Friday-Saturday and at 2:15 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, until July 5, at the Lesh Regional Center for the Arts, 1601

Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$23 for seniors and \$12.50 for children 17 and under. Call 943-7469 or visit www.lesherartscenter.org.

'Wigged Out!' Hair on Stage presents "Wigged Out!" for its last showing of the season at 8 p.m., Saturday, June 21, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The box office is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) or visit www.wiggedout.org.

Support Groups

American Chronic Pain Association The ACPA group meets from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville.

Bipolar Support Group The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842

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

families." Call 708-4151 or visit www.mendedhearts254.org.

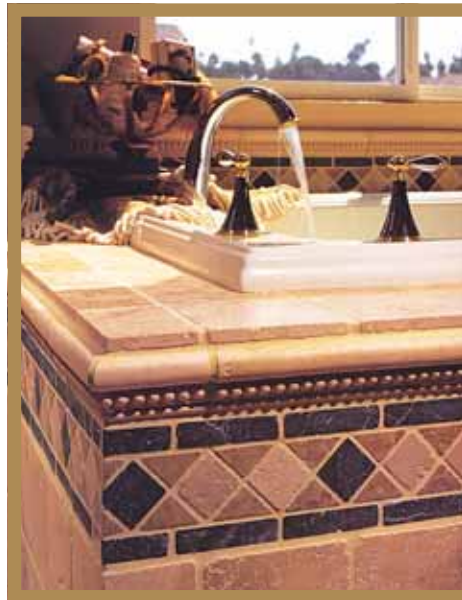
Hospice Offers Support Hospice of the East Bay (formerly Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa) offers a variety of support groups and workshops for people experiencing grief and loss after the death of a loved one. All groups and classes are offered for a fee and require pre-regis-

tration. Fees are waived for those who cannot afford them. Call 887-5678, ext. 1068.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Group The Wellness Community will host a support group for those who are in, or are just starting treatment for breast cancer from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., July 2-Oct. 15, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt

Ave., Walnut Creek. Group support provides tools to assist in coping and opportunities for sharing experiences. Call 933-0107.

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



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

VW 1999 Jetta GLX - \$6,550

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Grab Bag Lot - Estate Clean Out, Open Dates, Livermore, 980 Cromwell St, May 24 7-12

Pleasanton, 2424 Crestline Road, June 21 & 22 (Sat & Sun), 9-3
HUGE Garage Sale! Like new clothes, furniture, electronics, and toys. Also, duel bathroom vanity, toilets, sinks, and mirrors.

Pleasanton, 3267 Burgundy Drive, June 21, 8-4

Lots of furniture, kitchen appliances, tools, clothes, baby items, collectibles, books, children's toys, Breyer horses and knick knacks. Come early!

Pleasanton, 6744 Paseo Catalina, June 28, 8-4
Pleasanton, 6744 Paseo Catalina Sat. June 28 8:00-4:00
Multi-Family Block Garage Sale

Pleasanton, 6868 Massey Court, Saturday 9 to 2
Grage Sale Sat June 21st 9am to 2pm Gas Dryer, Dog Iglu House, Household itams.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

PEZ candy dispensers - \$75.

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220 Computers/ Electronics

Fax/Phone machine for Sale - \$30

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240 Furnishings/ Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10

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245 Miscellaneous

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CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Cat days of summer

Summer officially begins today and Noble, an adult flame-point Siamese mix, is celebrating by lounging next to the pool—other-wise known as a water bowl—while awaiting adoption at the East County Animal Shelter. Given that there's sand in his litter box, Noble must really believe he's at the beach! Noble is super-friendly, and behind those shades are a pair of beautiful, light blue eyes. If you're looking for a cool cat, visit Noble and his many friends at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during May 2008

Alamo

2705 Danville Boulevard
Defount Trust to D. Rothschild for \$985,000

561 Justin Morgan Drive
Perks Trust to G. & H. Johnson for \$1,899,000

37 Miranda Court S. Holmes to W. & B. Hagmaier for \$1,099,000

1456 Paseo Nogales
Wachovia Mortgage to B. & P. Gardner for \$925,000

1490 Pine Tree Drive D. & K. McKean to M. & M. Taliaferro for \$1,275,000

2900 Stone Valley Road
Davidon Homes to Vetterli Trust for \$1,827,000

Danville

302 Bonaire Court P. Mariani to J. & K. Loughmiller for \$885,000

14 Channi Court Shapell Industries to V. Ngo for \$465,500

1703 Cottswald Street R. & S. Padovani to N. & R. Cooper for \$835,000

116 Estates Drive Powell Trust to B. & J. Murphy for \$1,010,000

116 Freesia Court
Countrywide Bank to H. Danesh for \$654,000

315 Jacaranda Drive W. Ballengee to D. & B. Musante for \$935,000

151 Lawnview Circle Sage Trust to K. Louderback for \$550,000

104 Parkhaven Drive M. & P. Alfisen to M. & P. Mezzadri for \$1,159,500

18 Rio Del Court Tighe-Green Trust to S. & J. Bender for \$1,015,000

3 Roberts Court Loar Trust to P. Vo for \$1,532,500

32 Sherburne Hills Road
M. Shaman to L. Gitas for \$400,000

3701 Silver Oak Place J. Rooney to B. Weissman for \$629,000

553 Verona Avenue B. & P. Gardner to J. & J. Soine for \$1,365,000

Diablo

2135 Calle Los Callados
Capelli Trust to Glassman Trust for \$1,662,500

Walnut Creek

3863 Arbolado Drive
Mamulashvili Trust to A. Nabipour for \$1,515,000

63 Castle Rock Road W. & S. Bartlett to J. & C. Robinson for \$846,000

2573 Decca Lane Indymac Bank to K. Wong for \$478,000

1955 Dora Avenue Achelis Trust to Miller Trust for \$715,000

1870 Glen View Drive
Kracke Trust to J. & J. Siefert for \$650,000

2984 Hurlstone Court
Andrews Trust to W. & J. Andrews for \$820,000

20 Miramonte Road R. Davis to E. & L. Hare for \$771,000

2530 Oak Road #305 S. & A. Sepahi to Yandell Trust for \$400,000

17 Oakdene Court V. & M. Jervis to A. & L. Springer for \$900,000

2109 Ptarmigan Drive #2
Barkley Trust to D. & J. Smith for \$338,000

2229 Ptarmigan Drive #4
Corlew Trust to Eisenberg Trust for \$500,000

1989 Rim Ridge Court
Eisenberg Trust to Peterson Trust for \$712,000

3241 Sugarberry Lane Klotz Trust to T. Liu for \$585,000

4372 Terra Granada Drive #3B J. & S. Potozkin to Oxendine Trust for \$445,000

2373 Tice Valley Boulevard
McCormick Trust to J. Marinchak for \$725,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during May 2008

Alamo

Total sales reported: 6

Lowest sale reported: \$925,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,899,000

Average sales reported: \$1,335,000

Danville

Total sales reported: 13

Lowest sale reported: \$400,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,532,500

Average sales reported: \$879,654

Diablo

Total sales reported: 1

Lowest sale reported: \$1,662,500

Highest sale reported:

\$1,662,500

Average sales reported: \$1,662,500

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 15

Lowest sale reported: \$338,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,515,000

Average sales reported: \$693,333



For an online version of open homes with mapping

or to list your open home go to:

www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

5 Bedrooms
3071 Sandstone Rd. **\$2,250,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 785-9373

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms
122 Summerside Cir. **\$525,000**
Sun 1-4
Harper-Mees Team/Keller Williams 984-1890

4 Bedrooms
213 Aptos Pl. **\$1,049,000**
Sun 1-4
Harper-Mees Team/Keller Williams 699-3328

SAN RAMON

1 Bedrooms
805 Watson Canyon Ct., #264 **\$329,900**
Sun 1-4
Harper-Mees Team/Keller Williams 984-1890
805 Watson Canyon Ct., #265 **\$329,900**
Sun 1-4
Harper-Mees Team/Keller Williams 984-1890

4 Bedrooms
2421 Talavera Dr. **\$695,000**
Sat/Sun 1-6 Keller Williams 260-2508

PLEASANTON

2 Bedrooms
5128 Rappolla Ct. **\$629,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Hometown GMAC 337-2989

3 Bedrooms
3658 Reflections Dr. **\$649,000**
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 200-3165
7422 Alder Ct. **\$698,800**
Sun 1-4 ReMax / Accord 997-8001

4 Bedrooms
4839 Merganser Ct. **\$1,025,000**
Sun 1-4
Realty World Town and Country 519-8309

2801 Gray Fox Ct. **\$3,380,000**
Sat 2-9 Hometown GMAC 548-8641

5048 Woodthrush Rd. **\$869,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 462-7653

787 Sylvaner Dr. **\$874,900**
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

2724 Laramie Gate Cir. **\$899,950**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Andy Poryes 963-8871

5 Bedrooms
20 1/2 Castlewood Dr. **\$1,525,000**
Sat/Sun 2-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 484-2045

People & Properties

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Art, Wine and Cheese

at 360 Hartz Avenue
June 27th 5-8pm and June 28th 3-8pm



Stop by for an Artist's Reception featuring
Jill Tishman and Jacqueline Ford.

Cynthia Silva, Realtor of People & Properties Sotheby's International Realty, Sandy Parbury of "Design Concepts" in Alamo, and Craig Liebelt, Art Consultant invite you to this exclusive event!



the fine art of real estate...

Cynthia Silva

925.580.1430

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Cynthia.Silva@SothebysRealty.com



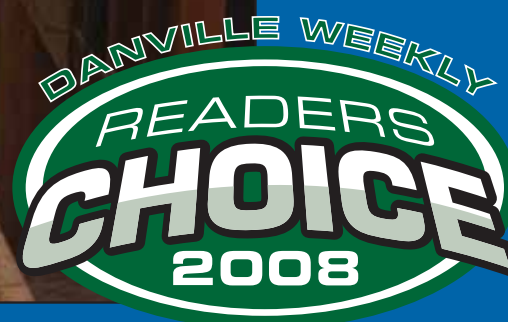
Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

THANKS AGAIN FOR VOTING US BEST FOR 2008!

We appreciate all of your Real Estate Financing needs over the past 2 years!



Peter Johnson, Jim Black and Cory Slattengren



Want to learn more about purchasing REO's and Foreclosures??

Please fill out this form to get more information on how to purchase a great priced home today! We are experts in the Bay Area and would be happy to offer you the tools to get involved with this opportunity!

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____ Town of Interest: _____

Fax to (866) 410-3089 or call!



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1-866-410-3089 Direct Fax
James_Black@countrywide.com
www.meetjimblack.com

Peter Johnson

Custom Construction Lending Team
925-314-7011 - Direct Office
925-788-9394 - Cell
866-905-8753 - E-Fax
peter_m_johnson@countrywide.com

Cory Slattengren

Custom Construction Lending Team
Production Assistant; Team "Black"
925-314-7012 - Office
866-905-8749 - Fax
925-683-0644 - Cell

7 Railroad Avenue Danville, CA 94526

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