

Who's Who in Business

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Danville

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

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Meet Mr. Mom

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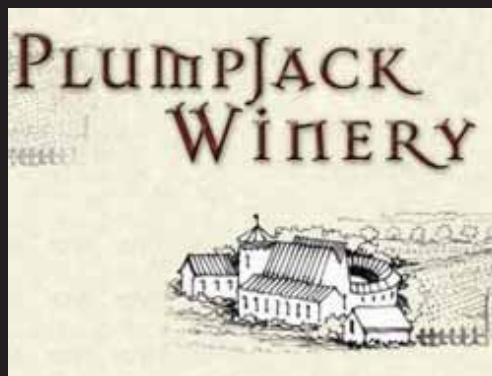
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Q: Are you traveling at all this summer?



Unfortunately, no. But if I could go somewhere it would be Hawaii beaches—I like the beaches there.

Kristy Hoffman
sales associate, Ella J



I'm not going anywhere this summer but in the fall I will be going to Martha's Vineyard to do Backroads Adventure, a Taylor Family Auction Item. I'll also be going to Kauai!

Diane Howard Belding
self-employed



I just got home last night at six o'clock from Italy. I was buying these really cool up-to-date shoes for my shoe store Aglie in downtown Danville. I usually go up there a few times a year and it was beautiful. It's always so beautiful I could live there—I want to live there!

Terri Klobas
owner, Aglie



Yeah, I'm going to Washington State, Colorado, Arizona and Minnesota. I play on a traveling softball team and we travel a lot for tournaments so my vacations are paid for.

Craig Sorenson
UPS driver



I already went on my senior trip to Santa Monica so I'll be staying here and hanging out with friends this summer. I will be going to Eugene, Ore., for the University of Oregon's orientation though.

Sammy Brenner
student/sales associate at the Body Adventure

COMPILED BY KRISTEN LANG

ABOUT THE COVER

Geoff Gillette chooses a watermelon while at the grocery store with his kids. Shopping, cooking, cleaning and laundry are some of the daily duties of this Danville house husband. Photo by Meghan Neal. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ One of our goals was to
become energy independent
with renewable energy. ”

—Donald Gray about a pilot program by EBMUD.
See story on page 5.

Council members seek re-election in November

Danville Mayor Candace Andersen, Vice Mayor Newell Arnerich and Councilmember Mike Doyle announced Monday that they will run for re-election to the Town Council. The filing period opens Monday and ends Aug. 8, at which point the incumbents will see if anyone will be challenging them for the seats. The early announcement was an attempt to make sure the local race isn't lost in what is expected to be a high-profile presidential campaign this fall.

The three said they plan to campaign individually and as a group, citing a shared vision for the town. They praised the town's fiscal responsibility, protection of open space and transportation improvements, and noted future challenges such as maintaining a high level of service amidst state budget cuts and keeping Danville's small town charm despite a growing population.

They also discussed protecting the Urban Limit Line and warding off any attempt by San Ramon city leaders to try to develop the Tassajara Valley.

“We've decided we want to make it clear we've done a good job guiding Danville,” said Arnerich, who has served on the council since 1995. Doyle has been on the council since 1991 and Andersen, the newest member, since 2003.

“I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish together as a council during my first term of office and look forward to serving another four years,” Andersen said.

To file to run for the Danville Town Council, contact the Contra Costa County Election Department at 335-7800 or www.cocovote.us/.

Madison White makes semi-finals at Olympic Trials

Blackhawk's 13-year-old swim star Madison White was the youngest swimmer to advance to the semi-finals at the Olympic Trials last week in Omaha, Neb. She came in 15th in prelims for the women's 200-meter backstroke and 12th in the semi-finals, finishing the race at 2:13:33. The top eight advanced to the final.

White's time also earned her a spot, seeded first, at the Youth World Championships, held in Monterrey, Mexico this week. White swims for the Crow Canyon Sharks in Blackhawk.

Heat wave keeps Northern California fires blazing

Record high temperatures, which surpassed 100 degrees this week, have exacerbated wildfires burning in the region. As of Tuesday, July 8, there were 150 fires burning in Northern California and more than 300,000 acres had been scorched, according to a joint information center for Northern California fires.

Many of the fires were contained during the cooler temperatures over the Fourth of July weekend, officials said. However the recent heat wave caused the smoldering fires to flare up and small ones to merge. Hundreds of wildfires ignited after a lightning storm swept through the state late last month, from the Oregon border south to Fresno.

Corrections

The story on the Danville Hotel redevelopment in the June 27 issue should have said the Heritage Resource Commission has the final vote on the development plan.

In a July 4 article regarding the Culture to Culture senior volunteer award entries, which are due by July 31, the email address for submissions of nominations should have been stolow@juno.com.

From waste to wattage

Pilot program will test way to turn food waste into renewable energy

by Meghan Neal

Ever wonder what happens to all those cucumber peels and pepper seeds discarded from restaurant food prep? Or the loaves of stale bread from the grocery store?

Imagine: If all goes according to plan, this food waste could be converted into electricity and used to power Bay Area homes within the next couple years.

East Bay Municipal Utility District has teamed up with Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, which serves Danville and Alamo, in a groundbreaking pilot program that will save food trash and convert it into renewable energy.

"This is a very green program that we're developing," said Bart Carr, program manager for the waste authority.

The trial will begin this fall. About 50 restaurants and grocery stores, mainly in Walnut Creek, will be given green bins and biodegradable bags to gather food trash. Allied Waste of Contra Costa County, the third agency in the partnership, will collect about 100 tons of food per week, estimated Carr.

First the waste is pre-processed—essentially pureed into a pulp—to rid it of contaminants like forks or plastic containers. It's then sent to EBMUD where it's run through compost digesters and converted to methane, a biogas.

The methane is used to fuel engines, which drive generators that produce electricity, said EBMUD's Donald Gray, who invented the compost digester. One truckload of food waste—about 20 tons worth—can power 260 homes per day. If 100 tons were digested every day, five days a week, it could provide a year's worth of power to as many as 1,400 homes.

EBMUD already uses the system, which it is in the process of patenting, to power its own facility. When excess energy is generated, it's sold to PG&E to power households and businesses, likely within the Bay Area, said Gray.

"One of our goals was to become energy independent with renewable energy," he said. "We also are interested in reducing greenhouse gas, and that's also a benefit."

Another "green" aspect of the program is that it will divert tons of food waste from ending up in landfills, where the natural breakdown of the food causes large amounts of

► Continued on page 7



GINA CHANNELL-AULEN

A marching band walks in formation down Hartz Avenue during the annual Danville Fourth of July parade, organized by the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley.

Strike up the bands

Danville celebrates the Fourth of July and 150th anniversary of town with largest parade ever, and Hay Days

by Dolores Fox Giardelli & Michelle Olson

Strike up the bands they did! They also called out the troops and the Scouts and every community group known to the San Ramon Valley.

The Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley's Fourth of July Parade lasted three hours with more entries than ever to celebrate Danville's 150th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Hay Days, the precursor to the Fourth of July celebration.

The July 3 Hay Days celebration also drew thousands to the Town Green on Front Street, the parking lot of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and points in between where people enjoyed hayrides, kiddie train rides, a free hotdog barbecue and music, a carnival and more.

The Danville Weekly was honored to be announced Best in the Marching Band Division in the Fourth of July Parade. The newspaper sponsored the band

composed of 45 students from San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista high schools.

"It helps to teach our students about community involvement," said Cheryl Yee Glass, music program director and coordinator of music for San Ramon Valley Unified School District. She has been putting the combined district marching band together for the parade since 1982.

In past years, the band has been made up of all four schools in the area, but this year only the two schools participated. Ed Cloyd, Monte Vista High School music teacher and Dan Rugani, San Ramon Valley High School jazz and marching teacher, helped Glass put the band together and get prepared for the event. She believes the band is important to the parade.

"The band in the parade keeps the eyes and ears of Danville aware that there is still music in the schools."

Other local winners are as fol-

► Continued on page 7



DOLORES FOX GIARDELLI

Contestants in the Old Fashioned 1850s-1950s Bathing Suit Contest take a break. The contest was held as part of the Hay Days celebration July 3.

Giving back

Diablo Black Men's Group hosts cookout, will be recognized at leadership conference



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN LANE

Twenty children from the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland were guests of the Diablo Black Men's Group at Lake Chabot for the group's annual Family Cookout.

by Michelle Olson

Lake Chabot in Castro Valley was the sight of this year's Diablo Black Men's Group Family Cookout. The club hosted 20 children age 10 and younger from the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland, who spent the day playing games, hiking and touring the lake by boat.

The group has been holding the event for eight years, but this was the first time the organization had reached out and invited an outside group to be part of its family picnic.

"It gives the kids an opportunity to see black men are interested in them. It gives them a different perspective because many of the children don't have fathers," said John Lane, co-chair of the social committee of Diablo Black Men's Group.

The group also helps the members talk out the issues that affect them as black men, which is how the group started. In the mid-1990s, a group of black, professional men would meet with Brodrick Hill, a minister and Chevron executive, for monthly breakfasts at his home.

At the breakfasts, the men discussed the struggles of being a small minority group in a predominantly white community and work force. The number of men attending these meetings gradually increased.

"(Hill) cared very much how we as black men supported each other and the community," said Danville resident Bill Williams.

Second Annual Remarkable Men Leadership Conference

When: Aug. 2, 7 a.m.-5p.m.
Where: The Concord Hilton Hotel 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord
For more information: Visit www.dbmg.org to find out more about the organization. To register call (707) 246-9039 or go to www.rmlc.biz.

In 1999 Williams, Dozier Jones and Ronald Sandifor turned the once monthly breakfast club into the Diablo Black Men's Group.

"It creates a social network of African-American men that I can interact with," said Robert Bogle, chairman of the men's group.

Five committees make up the organization: health and wellness, membership, social, business networking and educational.

"We combine our collective influence and give back to the Bay Area as a whole," said Lane. "In my personal view we help blur the lines of race and color."

Bogle believes it is important to question what can be done to improve our communities.

"We want our communities to feel better today than yesterday," he said.

Members work together to uphold and practice the group's mission statement: "To promote fellowship among black men, to help African-Americans and other minorities in Diablo Valley actualize full citizenship, to include liberty, good health, social equality and economic vitality."

The group's mission was noticed

by Beverly Wilmore, president of Inner Media Vision Incorporated. From working in media and concluding there was not enough focus on men and their needs, Wilmore was inspired to found and produce the annual Remarkable Men Leadership Conference. Noting that men are often portrayed in the media in a negative way, Wilmore said, "We want to focus on the positive things men are doing out there. There are men out there making a significant change in their community."

The second annual Remarkable Men Leadership Conference, which will be held Aug. 2 in Concord, is to be a time of restoring and redefining men, according to Wilmore. There will be speakers, presentations, and question and answer sessions focusing on issues that affect African-American males.

Bogle will present the Remarkable Man Award to a current Diablo Black Men's Group member. The member must be nominated by the executive board and show poise in the roles of leadership, professional and family.

Only men 18 and older can participate in the event. "This is so they can give back to the youth," Wilmore said.

Last year 65 men attended from 19 cities in California and four states. Wilmore is hoping for 100 this year.

"The mission of Diablo Black Men's Group parallels with the mission of the conference," she said. "It's a good match."

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ERIC LEFFLER

Legoland in Alamo?

Students work to construct the tallest skyscraper they can, using Lego pieces during last week's Lego Engineering camp at Rancho Romero Elementary. The camp was so popular, the YMCA will be offering additional Lego Camps this summer. Call 831-1100 for information.

Waste

► Continued from page 5

greenhouse gases to be emitted into the atmosphere.

If these gases aren't captured and used as renewable energy, they are absorbed into the atmosphere and can contribute to global warming.

The waste authority has set a goal to divert 50 percent of waste from landfills by recycling it. The agency hopes the groundbreaking experiment will help it meet that goal.

"For us it's just a very exciting program," said Carr. "If other communities ... can look at what we're doing and learn from it, and can start a similar program, then I think that would be great."

Central Contra Costa County is the first region to collect only pre-consumer foods—items that have not been served to customers and are therefore considered "clean" waste. San Francisco collects pre- and post-

"If other communities ... can look at what we're doing and learn from it, and can start a similar program, then I think that would be great."

—Bart Carr, program manager for the waste authority

consumer food waste, which is more contaminated and more expensive to process. Program managers hope this extra step will make the digestion process more effective and ultimately more successful.

Training food service employees to separate out the clean food waste will be a key part of a successful program, said Carr. He

also mentioned that the owner of The Peasant & the Pear on Hartz Avenue in Danville has expressed interest in participating if and when the program expands.

EBMUD is moving toward being a larger supplier of electricity, acquiring more engines to take in the copious amounts of biogas being produced. Gray estimated this could increase the number of households powered by the utility company from around 1,500 to 4,000.

Though he wasn't sure what that would mean for residents' electricity bills, he said it seemed logical that with more energy available locally, rates would go down.

The trial is expected to run for 18 months and cost roughly \$172,000. If it proves successful, EBMUD and the waste authority hope to expand the program to their entire service areas.

"If this works out," said Gray, "then it really kind of opens the door for more of this happening."

Parade

► Continued from page 5

lows:

Best in Church Group Division: San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

Best in Community Service Division: Blue Star Moms

Best in Family Division: Danville's 5th Generation Family

Best in Parade Theme of 1958 Division: Brownie Troops 1328

Best in Most Patriotic Theme Division: American Legion #246

Best in Retail Business Division: Pete's Brass Rail and Car Wash

Best in School Division: San Ramon Valley High School Cheerleaders

Best in Scout Troop Division: Boy Scout Troop #805

For a complete list of winners and more photos of the parade and Hay Days events, go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com.



CHRIS SCOTT

Danville Weekly Editor Dolores Fox Ciardelli (left) and Sales Manager Mary Hantos lead the marching band comprised of band members from Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley high schools. The entry was awarded Best in the Marching Band Division.

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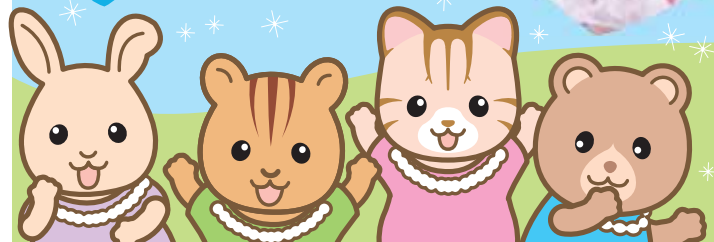
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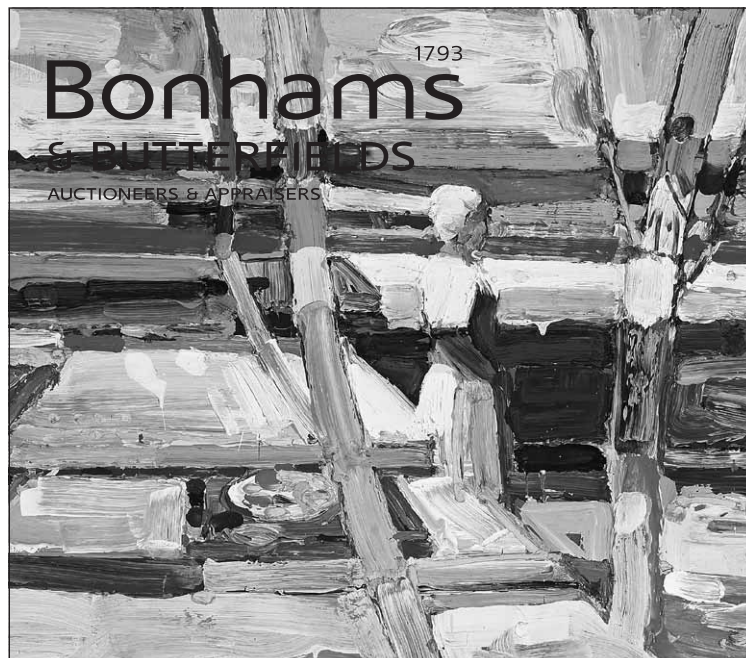
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Pictured: Roland Petersen (b. 1926)
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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Talking trash

Success can bring problems. For instance, any popular event will generate trash. The July 4th parade crowd left overflowing containers that crews took care of in a timely manner. Some successful eateries downtown are the cause for overflowing trash bins on a daily basis.

Many of the receptacles downtown are tile art enclosures, decorated by various community groups and fired in the town's own kiln; they are works of art as well as functional. The others are attractive wine barrels. Danville has gone this extra step to make a necessary convenience ornamental and it maintains about 50 receptacles downtown.

The town contracts out the emptying of its trash containers, and the ones in the parks are emptied daily. Downtown has about 50, which are emptied each Sunday and Thursday. If a business

generates more trash than that, it should take responsibility for emptying the waste and making sure there is room for their customers to discard their cups and other garbage.

Businesses with seating outside should be especially careful to monitor the enclosure used by their customers. Surely they maintain the inside trash bins as a part of doing business so they should include those outside even if they are provided by the town. Customers might also remember that if the outside receptacle is overloaded, it's only a few steps back inside the store to dispose of trash.

The town provides attractive landscaping, benches in public places and maintains the downtown area on its limited budget. It can no longer do power washing because it must conserve on water. But people downtown must do their part by making sure their litter does not fall on the ground, and businesses must be responsible for the trash bins used by their customers.

Even the most attractive tiles cannot make a receptacle attractive when it has overflowing trash.

Some successful eateries downtown are the cause for overflowing trash bins on a daily basis.

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.



Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, June 29

- Petty theft, shoplift, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 2:41 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 5:49 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 8:04 a.m.
- Vandalism on Thornhill Ct. at 10:25 a.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on Dolphin Dr. at 10:21 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 11:56 p.m.

Monday, June 30

- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 2:51 p.m.
- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 4:55 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Squirrel Ridge Way at 6:54 p.m.

Tuesday, July 1

- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Roberts Ct. at 12:18 a.m.
- Trespassing on Adobe Dr. and Highbridge Ln. at 12:17 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on southbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 7:15 a.m.
- Burglary, miscellaneous, on El Capitan Dr. at 8:15 a.m.
- Grand theft on Edinburgh Cir. at 1:52 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and

- Woodranch Dr. at 4:27 p.m.
- Trespassing on Parkhaven Dr. at 8:35 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Alamos Dr. at 9:44 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2

- Accident, property damage, on Blermer Rd. at 12:37 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 12:50 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Tassajara Ranch Dr. and Zenith Ridge at 5:57 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Canfield Dr. and El Capitan Dr. at 7:24 p.m.

Thursday, July 3

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and El Rincon at 12:19 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Ross Ct. at 8:17 a.m.
- Vandalism on Barrett Ct. at 9:04 a.m.
- Computer data access fraud on Belgian Dr. at 10:04 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and southbound I-680 off ramp at 11:57 a.m.
- Identity theft on La Gonda Way at 12:21 p.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Foxhall Ct. at 1:16 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:22 p.m.
- Battery on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 5:20 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 6:08 p.m.
- Vandalism on Town and Country Dr. at 11:23 p.m.

Friday, July 4

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara and Conejo Dr. at 5:53 a.m.
- Drunk in public on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:57 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Hartz Ave. and E. Prospect Ave. at 4:24 p.m.
- Petty theft on Front St. at 5:25 p.m.
- Police answered 26 calls about fireworks disturbances from 6:40 p.m. until 11:39 p.m. July 5 at various locations
- Assault with a deadly weapon on La Gonda Way at 7:48 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Ashley Cir. and Hartley Dr. at 8:34 p.m.
- Trespassing on Lawrence Rd. at 10:51 p.m.

Saturday, July 5

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 2:51 a.m.
- Vandalism on Falcon St. at 7:39 a.m.
- Threats disturbance, arrest, on Antelope Ct. at 1:10 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Montcrest Pl. at 1:46 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Montego Dr. at 4 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Diablo Rd. and northbound I-680 off ramp at 4:21 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Paraiso Dr. at 10:08 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Front St. at 11:53 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Brett George Jensen

Brett George Jensen, a resident of Alamo, died June 20 at the age of 41 after a six-month courageous battle with cancer.



He was born Jan. 11, 1967, in Walnut Creek and was a 1985 graduate of Monte Vista High School. He attended San Diego State University and became a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

He will be remembered for his uncanny ability to round up friends at a last minute's notice and fun was his middle name—he was always ready for action and adventure. He had an “anything is possible” attitude. His talent for cooking showed through the cookbook he created. He also loved conquering opportunities in farming and real estate.

He was preceded in death by his mother Sharon in April 2007. He is survived by his two daughters, Sara and Shelby; his girlfriend, Kris Doyle, and her daughters Megan and Shannon; his father, Pete; sister Kristi; brother-in-law, Jerry; and other relatives. His life was

celebrated June 27 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville.

Paul Grant Wing

Paul Grant Wing, a former resident of Danville, died on June 13.

He was born on Dec. 9, 1957 in Charlotte, N.C. and moved to California with his family in 1963. He grew up in Danville and attended San Ramon Valley High School, Class of 1975. He attended UC Davis and graduated in 1979 with a bachelor's in Chemical Engineering.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Sara Wing. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary; his daughters, Charlotte and Sara; his brother Tom; and his sisters, Sydney Wing and Margaret Howlett. Services will be held in Wheaton, Ill. at Hultgren Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Lillian Ruth Sheller

Lillian Ruth Sheller, 87, a resident of Danville, died Tuesday, June 10. She was born Jan. 7, 1921, in Ellsworth, Pa., the daughter of Eli and Mary Dobric' Sucia Shultz Bizick.

She was a 1938 graduate of Ellsworth High School. During

WWII, she moved to Dayton, Ohio, and was employed by the Air Force at Wright Field, in the payroll department. It was at Wright Field she met Robert. They were married on April 1, 1945. When the couple moved to Harrisburg, Pa., she enrolled and graduated from Practical Nursing School.

An avid gardener, she was a long-time member of the Carmichael Morning Garden Club, where she held numerous positions on the board. She was active in the Diablo Lodge community, and enjoyed visiting family all along the West Coast.

She is survived by her two children, Kathleen Ann Sheller McCann (John, deceased Oct. 28, 2002) of Danville; and Robert Lee Sheller (Naomi Kato), of Issaquah, Wash.; her three grandchildren; her brother, Paul “Zack” Bizick of Rice's Landing, Pa.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Leroy Sheller, on Nov. 15, 2001; two sisters, Dorothy Bizick Rusilko and Anna Bizick; and two brothers, George and Miller Bizick.

Her ashes will be scattered over Lake Tahoe where Robert's have already been scattered, and the immediate family will hold private lakeside services there. A memorial gathering is also being planned in Danville in July.

POLICE BULLETIN

Railroad jewelry store burglarized

Smith Jewelers on Railroad Avenue in Danville was burglarized early Tuesday morning.

Danville Police responded to an alarm just after 5 a.m. When they arrived at the shop they found the front door pried open and the sliding rollup security door breached. Inside, several of the display cases were also pried open.

“There was obviously an apparent loss of jewelry from the location,” said Sgt. Dan Hoffman.

The owner confirmed the loss, but police are not able to disclose a list of missing items or a value amount at this time. Hoffman did say the store's larger-value items are kept in safes that were not broken into.

The surveillance cameras showed two subjects wearing masks and gloves enter through the front door, force their way into a couple of display cases and put jewelry into bags they were carrying. They exited through the front door shortly before the officers arrived at the scene.

The investigation is ongoing; anyone who noticed suspicious activity near Smith Jewelers around 5 a.m. Tuesday should contact Sgt. Dan Hoffman at 314-3703.

—Meghan Neal

Illegal fireworks reported

The Danville Police Department received more than two dozen calls from residents reporting the use of illegal fireworks over the Fourth of July weekend.

The first call was at 6:30 p.m. and they kept coming in until about 11 o'clock that night, according to last week's police report.

“The noise is definitely a part of it but I think a lot of concern comes from the dangers that fireworks pose, especially given this weather and how dry it is outside,” said Lt. Mark Williams. Fireworks are illegal in Contra Costa County for safety reasons.

The perpetrators were mostly kids, but some adults did partake in setting off fireworks, he said.

“It's a tradition,” conceded the lieutenant.

The police department and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District made an effort to educate residents this year on the dangers of using illegal fireworks, particularly given current drought conditions.

Williams said compared to past years, last weekend wasn't so bad. Police didn't issue any citations and no fires were started in relation to the fireworks.

—Meghan Neal

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Calendar

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

Art

22nd Annual Art Under the Oaks More than 40 artists will display paintings, prints, pottery, jewelry, baskets, woodwork, fiber arts, photography and porcelain paintings at the annual Art Under the Oaks from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13, at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Admission is free and there is a free shuttle. Call 846-8960.

Artist's Day at Forest Home Farms Enjoy a day of painting, photography, drawing or other media among the historic structures, tall redwoods and sheep pastures from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, July 26, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Bring your art supplies, a chair and lunch. Cost is \$5 for residents; \$6 for non-residents. Call 973-3282.

Auditions

'All the Way Live' Ohlone College is looking for b-boys and b-girls, poppers, lockers, house dancers and hip hop dancers for the upcoming two-day urban dance festival "All the Way Live" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 16, at Smith Center Amphitheatre, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. Every group must prepare a 5-8 minute routine; bring your skills, your music, and a boom box. Visit www.ohlone.edu/go/allthewaylive.

'The Best Man' Auditions Role Players Ensemble Theatre will host auditions for "The Best Man" at 7 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 4-5, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Ten men (ages 30-65) and four women

(ages 30-60) are needed. Applicants will read from the script. Callbacks will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 10. The show runs Oct. 10-Nov. 1. Call (510) 865-4740.

Author Visit

Rakestraw Books Rakestraw Books will host numerous authors during the month of July. Jeannie Ralston author of "The Unlikely Lavendar Queen" at 7 p.m., Monday, July 14; Eoin Colfer who will appear on stage live from the Tivoli theater in Chicago at 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 15; Michelle Richmond author of "No One You Know" at 7 p.m., Thursday, July 17; Ethan Canin author of "America America" at 7 p.m., Monday, July 21; and Georgeanna Brennan author of "A Pig in Provence" at 7 p.m., Thursday, July 31 (cost is \$20, including dinner), at the bookstore, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Reservations are recommended. Call 837-7337.

Civic Meetings

Alamo Community Council Alamo Community Council meets at 5 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, at Hap Magee Ranch Park, Swain House, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. The public is welcome to attend.

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

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

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

Camps

California Kids Day Camp This camp will focus on different time periods in California history, and children in grades 3-4 will discover what life was like "way back when" from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday, July 14-18, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$129 for residents; \$160 for non-residents. Call 973-3282.

San Ramon Valley Volleyball Camps San Ramon Valley High School will host girls volleyball camps for youth and high school ages. Youth camps are from July 21-24 and July 28-31; Upper level camps are from Aug. 4-7 and Aug. 11-14. All camps 6-8:30

p.m., Monday-Thursday. Cost is \$130. E-mail srvbball@sbcglobal.net.

SRV Youth Football Camp YMCA will host a Youth Football Camp for ages 7-13 from 5:45-8 p.m., July 21-25, at San Ramon Valley High School Football Stadium, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Cost is \$150. Call 640-8941 or e-mail srvfocamp@aol.com.

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

Cactus and Succulents Navlet's Garden Center will host a free class on Cactus and Succulents at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, July 27, at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. This class is free. Call 837-9144.

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

Clubs

'Witness to a Crime' Tri Valley Democratic Club will host Dr. Richard Hayes Phillips, author of "Witness to a Crime," from 7-9 p.m., Monday, July 21, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. There will be a Q&A session. This event is free and refreshments will be served. Call 451-4303.

Alamo Cribbage Club The club plays cribbage for fun. It meets at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 284-7044 or e-mail almo1@prodigy.net.

Alamo Rotary The Alamo Rotary meets at noon every Wednesday at Roundhill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road. Call Mark Kahn at 837-3262.

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

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 [## WEEKEND PREVIEW](http://www.amador-</p>
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Kids in the garden

Navlet's Garden Centers will host a class on Kid's Gardening at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, July 13, at Navlet's Garden Centers, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. This class is free. Navlet's offers numerous free gardening classes for all ages throughout the year. For more information, call 837-9144.

valleyquilters.org.

Annual Picnic San Ramon Valley Historical Society invites you to enjoy its annual picnic from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 3, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. The day will include food, a silent auction, sing along, entertainment, exhibit and visiting with friends old and new. Cost is \$20. Call 837-9382.

Business Development Network BDN is a group of professionals that share resources and develops business through relationships. It meets 7:45-9 a.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Denny's, 807 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 648-8316 or visit www.bdnandville.com.

Communication Arts Network This organization meets at 11:45 a.m., the second Tuesday of every month, at Fori Ristorante, 3160 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The organization is for professionals interested in networking with others in the communications industry. Cost is \$20, including lunch. Visit www.commartnet.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 dmi210@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 IQJ247@yahoo.com.

Danville Lions Club This club meets at 7 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at the Brass Door, San Ramon. For information, call Tom Jackson at 984-1541.

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.danvillerotary.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.

Delta Nu Psi Delta Nu Psi provides packages to troops in the War Zone. The group collects donations before the third Friday of every month in front of Longs Drug Store in Alamo and before the third Saturday at Lunardi's in Danville. It puts together the packages on the third Wednesday of every

month. For information, e-mail Alicia at deltanupsi@comcast.net.

Diablo Bonsai Club This club will host a workshop and discussion on the care of Bonsai trees during summer dormancy, and a review of the last six months, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 16, at Heather Farm Garden Center, upper room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Call 937-4216.

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

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

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, Rossmore Shopping Center, Tice Valley Blvd. and Rossmore 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.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society This club will host a meeting from 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, July 15, at the library of the LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. The subject will be "Family History Crafts" with guest speaker Lisa Cooke. First time guests are welcome. Call Ed O'Donnell at 299-0881 or visit <http://srvgensoc.org>.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Luncheon This club will host a luncheon for new and established residents of San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and Danville at 11:30 p.m., Thursday, July 17, at Stix & Steaks Restaurant, Marriott Hotel, San Ramon. Guest speakers will be the Blue Star Moms. call 735-6483 or visit www.srvnc.com.

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

Sons in Retirement Branch 128 Sons in Retirement hosts a luncheon every

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third Wednesday of the month, at the San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Rd., San Ramon. The luncheon will include a social hour, buffet lunch and a program of local interest. Cost for lunch is \$20; no dues or membership fees. Call 828-5688.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network will host Dr. Ward Eccles for a discussion on holistic dentistry from 7-9 p.m., Monday, July 21, at In My Nature, 4725 First St., Pleasanton. There is no charge for first time visitors or for chapter members. Call 922-7615 or visit www.holisticmoms.org.

Events

“Catch a Wave” Family Fun Night Town of Danville will host “Catch a Wave” family fun night from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, July 18, at Monte Vista Community Pool. The night will include pool games, prizes and music. Rafts and inner tubes are welcome. Call 314-3400.

‘Sing for Your Supper’ TV’s “Growing Pains” star, Alan Thicke, will be featured at the “Sing for Your Supper” benefit concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, July 19, at Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$25, \$23 for senior and youths. Proceeds benefit America’s Second Harvest Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. Call 943-7469 or visit www.lesherartscenter.org.

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.

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, sheep-dog demonstrations, and of course, ice cream. Cost is \$3 with pre-registration; \$5 at the gate. Call 973-3282.

Living Treasures Program Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host a Living Treasures program featuring former Danville Mayor Beverly Lane from 6:30-9 p.m., Friday, July 18, at the Danville Community Center, Valley Oak Room, 420 Front St. Reservations are required; call 837-3750.

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 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.

MVHS Cross Country Alumni Run The third annual Monte Vista Cross Country Alumni Run for former and current Monte Vista cross country runners will be from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 9, at Oak Hill Park, Stone Valley Rd., Danville. This event is a two mile course around campus and Oak Hill Park. This event is free. Call 437-8360 or visit www.eteamz.com/mvxc.

Third Annual Summer Doggie Fair Come join us for a fun day with doggie games, demonstrations, food and drinks and live music at the third annual Summer Doggie Fair from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, July 19, at Pyrenees Pets, 3440 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free; event benefits ARF. Call 648-7387 or visit www.pyreneespets.com.

Walking Tour of Danville Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host a walking tour of Danville’s historic downtown at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 12, meeting in front of the Museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. A Friday evening walking tour will start at 6:15 p.m., Friday, July 18 with Karen Stepper. Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsrv.org.

Exhibits

Multimedia Art Glass Exhibit Worthington Gallery West presents “Glass Fantastic!” an exhibit of museum-quality art glass in a variety of media from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday,

until Aug. 2, at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., Pleasanton. An exhibit open house will e from 3-6 p.m., Saturday, June 21. Call 485-1183.

Museum of the San Ramon Valley The museum will a few different exhibits in July including model trains in the big room, as well as two mini exhibits including: “Glimpses of the Past,” two commemorative quilts and panels on San Ramon’s silver anniversary; displays of programs; next week will have video on Hay Days celebration; and a display about the Danville Hotel including pictures of the hotel and current plans for redevelopment. The museum is open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, located at Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 837-3750.

Film

‘Life in Occupied Palestine’ St. Timothy’s Church will host a viewing of “Life in Occupied Palestine” at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, July 13, at St. Timothy’s Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville. The film advocates for holding Israel accountable for violations of human rights and international law in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This event is free. Call 933-7579.

‘Occupation 101’ Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center will host a viewing of “Occupation 101” from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, July 23, at Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free, but donations are accepted. Call 933-7850 or visit www.mtdpc.org.

Fundraisers

Aloha Golf Classic Danville Area Chamber of Commerce’s will host its annual Aloha Golf Classic from 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Monday, July 21, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$195 per person; \$1,000 for a group of four; and \$50 for dinner only. Visit www.danvilleareachamber.com.

Danville Library Book Sale Friends of the Danville Library will host a book sale from 9-10 a.m. (members only) and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, July 18; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, July 19; and from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, July 20 (\$5 a bag sale), at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-6737.

Family Pancake Breakfast San Ramon Senior Center invites you to its family pancake breakfast from 9-11:15 a.m., Sunday, July 13, at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children. Proceeds benefit the lives of seniors through a variety of programs, events and activities. Call 973-3250.

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 lunaria 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.

Rubber Ducky Derby The 17th annual Rubbery Ducky Derby will start at 4 p.m., Sunday, July 13, at Oak Hill Park, Danville. There will be a children’s carnival including games, face painting, snow cones and cotton candy. Ducks can be purchased by visiting www.rubberduckyderby.org. Proceeds benefit Children’s Hospital and Research Center Oakland.

Health

African Drumming Drumming has been shown to boost immune system functions and metabolism. Join Patricia Frame and experience this fun way to get “good vibrations” from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, July 17, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. No rhythmic or musical ability is required. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and caregivers. Call 933-0107.

Summer Immunization Clinics for Children Axis Community Health Clinic will host Summer Immunization Clinics for children from 9-11:30 a.m., Saturdays, July 12, Aug. 2 and Sept. 6, at Axis Community Health Clinic, 4361

Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. This clinic is open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child’s immunization records, information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

Kids and Teens

‘The Rubber Hits the Road’ Blackhawk Museum will host “The Rubber Hits the Road: History of Rubber and Tires” from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, July 20, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Design a hub cap, play a ring toss game, make a toy ball or a band of rubber and have fun. This event is free with paid museum admission. Call 736-2777.

Calico Critter Mascot Appearance G.R. Doodlebug will host Calico Critters’ Mrs. Fisher Cat mascot from 2-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13, at G.R. Doodlebug, 3226 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The day will including a “Kitty Kat” face painting, a special Calico Critter sale and pictures with Mrs. Fischer. This event is free. Call 736-1800.

Children’s Story Book Hour Rakestraw Books will host a Children’s Story Book Hour series for children 4-7 years old from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 23-Aug. 20, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Cost is \$5 per class, plus the cost of the books; if you order all five books in a session, the classes are free. Call 837-7337.

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

Getting in to College Princeton Review will host an evening seminar geared toward helping students and parents navigate the college admissions process at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

Kid’s Gardening Navlet’s Garden Center will host a class on Kid’s Gardening at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, July 13, at Navlet’s Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. This class is free. Call 837-9144.

Storytime with the Farmer Calling all little farmers! It’s time to gather ‘round and hear some stories about farm animals from 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, July 22, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. There will also be a craft activity and a snack. This event is for children ages 3-5 who must be accompanied by an adult, but only children need to register. Cost is \$3 for residents; \$4 for non-residents. Call 973-3282.

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer This program is for families with school-age children when a parent has cancer. Each workshop has an activity-based group for children where they identify feelings and learn coping skills; a support group for teens, and a group for parents and meets from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 12, at the

Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Lectures/ Workshops

Internet Essentials Danville Library will host a workshop on Internet essentials at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 22, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Learn about the different search engines and how to perform searches on the library catalog and research databases. This event is free, but registration is required; call 837-4889.

Making the Most of Your Library Danville Library will host an introduction to resources and services at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 15, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. There will be a tour and hands-on workshop on how to use the resources that the library has. Registration is required; call 837-4889.

Spirituality and the Cancer Experience Our beliefs about our identity, relationship to others and to a higher power are greatly challenged by cancer. Explore the notion of spirituality and examine how it can provide meaning from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, July 12, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Live Music

Blackhawk Summer Concert Series Blackhawk Plaza will host its annual Summer Concert Series at 7 p.m., every Friday, July 11-Aug. 15, at Blackhawk Plaza, 3454 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Music will include R&B, Motown and more from Pride & Joy, The Best Intentions, The Fundamentals, East Bay Mudd, Super Diamond and Tainted Love. These concerts are free. Call (415) 380-8390.

Tribute to ‘The Doors’ The Doors Legacy Band celebrates the music of one of America’s most influential rock bands at 8 p.m., Saturday, July 12, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$18. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civicartstickets.org.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a Kitten Month During July, TVAR’s adoption fee for kittens 2-3 months old is \$50 (regularly \$100); kittens ages 4-11 months are \$37.50. All of the kittens are raised in foster homes, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and wormed, tested for Leukemia, FIV and microchipped. Call 961-0260 or visit www.tvarg.org.

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

Synergy Institute Award Winning Contest Write a one-page essay on global warming including five points on which Al Gore is wrong by Aug. 15 and win a bicycle. For information, write to Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583.

On Stage

Shakespeare’s Grand Tale of Heroic Adventure Come and see “Pericles,” a story of a young man who embarks on an epic journey that triumphs good over evil at 7:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., Pleasanton. This event is free. Call 931-5350.

Political Notes

‘Spies, Murder and the Dark Side of the New Russia’ East Bay World Affairs Council will host Steve LeVine, who will speak on “Spies, Murder and the Dark Side of the New Russia” at 5 p.m., Sunday, July 13, at Diablo Country Club, 1700 Clubhouse Rd. Cost is \$12 for members; \$15 for non-members. Call (415) 293-4600 or visit www.itsyourworld.org.

Spiritual

Christian and Jungian Insights Come reflect on the spiritual practice of letting go of the false self and entering the mystery of the true self from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Friday, July 18, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Learn to integrate Christian and Jungian insights into the spiritual life. Cost is \$75, including lunch. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Weekend Retreat Here is an opportunity to explore various spiritual practices which can foster the soul’s readiness to awaken to the sacred within. Come for a weekend with Victoria MacDonald, former Administrator at San Damiano as she shares her gifts and spirit with you July 18-20, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$205 for a private room; \$175 for a shared room. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Women’s Retreat Author Fran Ferder will present a women’s retreat “Awaken to the Sacred” from Aug. 8-10, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$205 for a private room; \$175 for a shared room. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Support Groups

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

Overeaters Anonymous The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. There are many different groups that meet at different times and places, visit www.dvlg.org.

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

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Meet Mr. Mom

CONFESSIONS OF A DANVILLE HOUSE HUSBAND

When Emma was 4, she had a double ear infection. I dropped Maddy, 6, at preschool and arrived at the doctor's, with baby Harry in a car seat and a sobbing Emma.

"Sir, is your wife here yet?" asked the nurse.

"No, she is working," I said. Then I proceeded to give all of Emma's data.

Interrupting me, the nurse said, "Well, why don't we wait for your wife and she can fill me in."

I explained that my wife was on a business trip to Las Vegas and wouldn't be home for two days.

Completely nonplussed, the nurse offered to let me call my wife to get the information.

Beyond frustration now I asked the nurse pointblank: "Are you refusing my child medical care if my wife isn't present?"

At that, the message seemed to sink in, and we finally got to see the doctor.

My job is a study in contrasts: It is endless repetition in a framework of chaos; it's frustrating, exciting, fun and exhausting; it's remarkably complex while maintaining a simplicity. I am chauffeur, cook, cleaner, handyman, personal shopper, judge and playmate—I'm a stay-at-home Dad.

How did I get here?

At-home parenting isn't exactly new. Most of us grew up with Mom staying home and Dad bringing home the bacon. The decision for me to stay home was sparked by fear and settled by personality and economics. My wife Cindi was a few months pregnant with our third child when her AFP (alphafetoprotein) test came back with a positive result, which meant a possibility our child would be born with Down syndrome. An amniocentesis was performed to be sure and we were excited when it showed everything was normal—plus we would be having our first boy.

Still that was the longest two weeks of my life, and it sparked a lot of serious conversation over what we would do if our baby was born with special needs. We were both working and putting our two girls in daycare, a princely sum that ate up a pretty good chunk of my paycheck. We decided it made more sense for one of us to stay home regardless of the results of the test. With Cindi pulling in triple what I was making in the IT field, it was pretty much a no-brainer that I should be the one to stay home. Personality also played its part. Cindi is much more career driven than I am, and is focused on attaining goals. Being more laid back and less "type A" made me the right person for the job at home.

Oh, I had such grand plans. Our house would be neat as a pin, with everything organized and put in its proper place, the yard would be immaculate, every meal a banquet and our children ... well, they would be the smartest and best behaved in the world because I would be there to read with them, teach them and play with them all day long.

The problem is each of those goals is something you could spend all day on individually. Trying to do them all at once isn't possible. Especially while trying to keep a newborn, a 3-year-old and a 5-year-old safe, secure and engaged.

Reality check

I started to get a sense of the challenge in the first month. After a week of making breakfast, lunch and dinner I realized that I had utterly exhausted my repertoire as a cook. When we were both working, I had odd hours so Cindi handled the meal planning. My specialty (cue male stereotype) was the grill. I could barbecue just about anything—as long as it was beef, pork or

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

chicken. To continue the stereotype, I supplemented my meals with standbys like chili, spaghetti and Hamburger Helper.

For the first time, I actually had to consult a cookbook, which led to the further realization that I didn't know how many ounces were in a pint, how many quarts in a gallon, or the difference between broiling and baking. My first attempt at a pot roast resulted in smoke alarms going off when I misread the recipe—I thought it said add the water after four hours of cooking, not add the water and then cook for four hours.

Other areas also turned out to be more complex than I thought. Laundry was always "wash the colors and whites separate." Pretty straightforward. Suddenly I needed to know what was cotton or rayon or silk. Who knew wool shrinks when it gets hot? And ironing? How hard can that be? You put the clothes on a flat surface and then push the iron down on it. Did you know that all the metal parts of the iron get hot, not just the bottom? I've got the scars on my wrist to prove it.

Then there's the parenting aspect of being a stay-at-home parent. Did you know that if you have kids, they're around you all the time? And no matter how nicely you ask, they don't want to take naps? Or not all at the same time? I had this vision where baby Harry would be asleep in his swing while Emma and Maddy would sit quietly at the table and color. Perhaps there would be classical music in the background. IQ's would climb while I prepared a wholesome lunch from all four food groups.

OK, maybe I watched a bit too much "Leave it to Beaver" growing up but that's what I was shooting for. Needless to say that's not quite what happened. Harry screamed until released from the prison of the chair-swing and would only be quiet if held. Maddy and Emma fought like cats and dogs over who got to use the lone blue crayon; with Solomon-like wisdom I took the crayon, broke it in two and handed each a piece. Two sets of eyes gushed tears and I'm surprised no one called family services with all the howling that erupted from the house—all because I "bwoke the cwayon." Oh, and lunch that day? Kraft Mac n' Cheese. This was the first of many illusions to crumble at my feet.

Looking back, I think the learning curve for me was somewhere between 18 months and two years. I had to unlearn the "walk it off" strategy. When I was a kid, if I got hurt I was always told to walk it off. Coaches, teachers, my dad all said, "Just walk it off, you'll be fine."

While that may be OK for raising boys, it doesn't sit well with little girls. When Maddy took a tumble down the stairs, I determined there were no serious injuries and told her to walk it off. She looked at me as though

I had slapped her in the face then ran screaming for her mother. When I finally caught up to her, she was sitting in Cindi's lap, tears dry and smiling. All it took was a little cuddling to make the pain go away.

Fighting the stereotypes

Figuring out how to do the housework is a rite of passage for anyone who stays home, male or female. Where it differs is the automatic assumptions of others. When they see me with the kids at the market or the park, many of them say, "Giving the wife a day off, eh?" Or my least favorite saying, "Babysitting the kids?" News flash: If a parent is taking their child somewhere, they're not babysitting, they're parenting.

There's also the automatic reaction that a man can't take care of children, which was so ingrained in the nurse that I nearly couldn't get medical care for Emma.

In retrospect it is hard to blame her. Society itself wasn't conducive to a male at-home parent. For my first year and a half at home, whenever we were in public Harry had to get his diaper changed on a mat I'd put on the floor of the restroom, since no diaper changing stations were installed. And my girls had to use the men's room toilets because they were too young to go in a public women's room by themselves.

The preconception seemed to pervade every aspect of life. When Maddy was in kindergarten I volunteered in her classroom during reading time and for an art program. To the kids I was a "Room Mom" or the "Picture Lady" despite not being a lady.

Around this time we had just moved to Colorado from Illinois, leaving behind friends and family, and I began experiencing a real sense of isolation. Bereft of a support network I scoured the newspapers and Internet for playgroups and parent groups to form a social circle. I joined several playgroups, but once the novelty of having a guy member wore off I inevitably sat alone while the women gathered to chat. It was like a wall of glass separated us. We had a lot of common shared experiences, yet the difference in our genders meant there needed to be distance.

Feeling cut off meant more and more of my time was just me and the kids. All I could talk about was what they were doing, what happened to them. Before kids I was a radio news reporter. I could talk about world events, local politics, movies. I was the answer-man! Now I could do an entire doctoral thesis on playing "Pretty Pretty Princess" with Maddy and Emma. I was "Maddy's Dad" or "Cindi's husband." There was little of Geoff left in me.

Relating to others

At the same time, I wasn't able to relate to the men



PHOTOS BY MEGHAN NEAL



MEGHAN NEAL

Illette folds clothes fresh out of the drier. "Suddenly I needed to know what was for rayon or silk," he recalls from his early days as a stay-at-home dad. Emma and Maddy Gillette admire the cookies they baked with Dad's help, above.

in our new neighborhood either. Most men in social environments talk about three things: sports, their jobs, their families. I've never been a sports person so that one was out. My family is my job so not much to talk about there. On the other side of the coin, I think it's difficult for someone who doesn't stay home to know what to say to those of us who do. "Hey, how's that laundry going?" doesn't come across as much of a conversation starter.

I have met a few other stay-at-home dads over the years and many have experienced similar feelings of remoteness. My good friend Sid Rubey finally went back to work last year. He and I tried to start an at-home dads group in Colorado Springs, which failed due to lack of membership. After my family moved to Danville, he continued to try to meet other dads but came up short. When he called to let me know he was taking the job he said, "I just couldn't do it anymore. I love the kids, but I need to do something else for a while." He was looking for an environment where he could talk about things unrelated to school, Barbies or Barney. I knew exactly what he meant.

Bridging the divide

Coming to Danville helped my feeling of isolation. For one thing the kids are all in school, which allows me to do things during the day. I volunteer at Greenbrook Elementary and have started doing some work at Charlotte Wood Middle School. My peer group is still mostly women but I've made the effort to get involved

in other things. I've coached soccer, football and baseball. I play on a softball league and I go to poker outings. I still sometimes feel like an outsider, having more in common with the wives than the husbands, but I'm bridging that divide. Getting to know people and letting them get to know more of me.

The world has changed. Almost every men's room has a changing table, most malls have family restrooms, and more men are choosing to stay home to raise families. Some of that is economics, some is just that society is more accepting of changing gender roles.

But we have a ways to go. Women still face glass ceilings in the workplace and men still face glass walls in raising their families. Progress is made, but the journey continues.

So why do it? The answer is simple: I love my family and I love our life. I love that my wife can travel for business, or go on a girl's trip without worry. I love that my kids know that when they get out of school someone is waiting for them. I love knowing their friends and then knowing me. So what if my vision of a perfectly clean house and immaculate lawn are a little farfetched? We have a great family, with wonderful kids who know they are loved and supported.

How great to be a short order cook, limo driver, child psychologist, lifeguard and in a Wii Rock Band every day!

As for compensation? It's hugs, kisses, smiles, laughs and a Father's Day poem that brought tears to my eyes—the best paycheck I ever got. ■

by Michelle Olson



PHOTO BY MICHELLE OLSON

Old photos, new technique

Sesquicentennial quilt highlights Danville through the ages

Sewn history

What: The Town of Danville's 150th Anniversary Commemorative Quilt

Who: Crafted by Cyndy Rymer with contributions from Marby Bennett

When: Displayed through the month of July

Where: Museum of San Ramon Valley, on the corner of Railroad and Prospect Avenues in Danville

Hours: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday



Cyndy Rymer stitches a quilt at Quilter's Inn. Rymer, with contributions from Marby Bennett, constructed a quilt highlighting Danville's history.

Memories and retrospect are the theme of the quilt commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Town of Danville.

Cyndy Rymer, employee and teacher at the Quilter's Inn, constructed the timely quilt with contributions from Marby Bennett who works and teaches with her.

"It was my sole focus for six weeks," said Rymer, an 11-year Danville resident. "I wanted to merge the old with the new and try to bring the quilt to the 21st century."

The inspiration for the project came from Beverly Lane, curator at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, and Ralph Cozine, author, photo editor and museum volunteer.

They had hundreds of photos that commemorated Danville from multiple sources which they passed on to Rymer.

Jane Lewis, owner of the Quilter's Inn, donated all the quilting materials. Then Rymer started sorting the photos.

"I found ones that piqued my interest and started printing them," said Rymer, who has been quilting since high school.

She used photo quilting to construct the historical piece. It is her specialty and she has written three books on the subject. She is also a photographer.

"It's like putting paper through your printer, but instead you use fabric," Rymer said, describing the process.

Then you sew the fabric images onto the quilt. This is the third quilt created for the Town of Danville but the technique makes it unique.

"One-of-a-kind contemporary," is how Lane described the new quilt.

It will be hanging in the museum next to a quilt made to celebrate Danville's 125th anniversary, through the month of July.

The center of the almost 6-foot-by-5-foot quilt is a montage of pictures that make up an image of Mount Diablo. Rymer used a computer program that imports pictures and modifies them in shape and color to build the one big image.

Some of the miniature photos were changed to a brownish color to portray the ground of the Mount Diablo scene, while others have been changed to green for grass, and so on.

Larger fabric photos spaced out by colored fabric make up the square borders that surround the Mount Diablo mural.

"All photos represent past and present Danville," Rymer said. "I chose Mount Diablo because it is one of the most beautiful things about Danville."

She and Bennett agreed it was an exciting project and an honor to be involved.

Bennett has lived in Alamo for 23 years and has been quilting for 10.

The two women met a few years ago at the optometrist where Bennett was working at the time. She found out Rymer was a quilter and they started talking.

"There's an instant connection if you're a quilter," said Bennett.

Bennett started quilting because she wanted to give something to a friend that was meaningful.

"I took a class and I was hooked," she said.

If someone wants to learn how to quilt she believes taking a class is the best way because you start from the beginning.

"If you learn the basics you'll be happier with what you put out," she said. "For me it's therapy. It's an outlet you can loose yourself in. You get swept away."

"It's art therapy," agreed Rymer.

She started quilting in her hometown of Walpole, Mass.

"I brought the obsession with me," she said.

Each woman has her favorite part of the quilting process. Rymer loves to play with color and texture. Bennett likes picking out the fabric for her projects.

"There are no limits in quilting," said Rymer.

The two are currently collaborating on a quilt for the Oakland Athletics that will benefit breast cancer. It is going to be signed by the A's players and coaches and then given away in a drawing. Store owner Lewis also donated the material for this quilt.

Quilting brought these two women together as it has done for many women throughout the centuries.

Bennett summed up their relationship: "We're a really good team and we have fun together." ■

The Y Files



BY MARIA SHEN

All work and all play

In pursuing their interests, students find fun in unexpected places.

Every morning, I wake up at 7:30 a.m. (to hit the snooze button). I stumble through the apartment, throwing on clothes and putting edible things in my mouth so I can say I had breakfast. Then, I race to BART, a menace to pedestrians, bikers and random animals as I zoom through the streets with one goal in mind: Must. Get. To. Internship. On. Time.

I work Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And I'm not alone.

This summer, some high school teenagers (like me) are going to be conspicuously absent from beaches, bowling alleys, and *insert traditional fun place here*.

My friends from the Danville area are now scattered across the Bay Area, helping refugees, doing research at hospitals or attending college classes. We're doing things that interest us. For example, I have an internship at a news service because of my love of international relations and writing.

As an incoming senior at Monte Vista High, Percia Safar, who is interested in public policy, is interning at the International Refugee Committee.

"It's really fun, actually," she said. "There's always something to do and it's never routine."

Bijan Mehryar, an incoming sophomore at Monte Vista, will be taking a course in International Relations at Diablo Valley College. At school, he's on the speech and debate team, and has an avid interest in politics and diplomacy.

"Whenever my family has dinner, CNN is usually on," he said. "My father got his masters in political science with an emphasis on international relations, so he always encouraged me to learn about it."

Bailey Meyers attends class at San Francisco's Academy of Art as an incoming senior at California High. There, she takes a figure drawing class, where students set up easels around a live model and sketch away.

"The class has no more than 20 students, the teacher is great," she told me.

Aside from the fact that our jobs, volunteer positions, and classes are keeping us from the television screen, they're also ... dare I say it? ...fun. They are a different kind of fun from lazing out in the sun, letting it burn away all our teenage worries, but they are fun nonetheless.

I recently ran into one of my friends, Johnston Ye, on BART. He was commuting to the Children's Hospital Oakland, and falling asleep in the seat. It was around 8 a.m., and he didn't look like he'd had time to get a latte or caffeinated equivalent.

"So what are you doing at the hospital?" I asked. I anticipated paperwork, coffee delivery, or some other type of legal slavery.

To my surprise, he answered, "I'm helping them in the lab. We're doing something with proteins." From there, he went on a lengthy ramble about the whole science of it, which I didn't catch. I hadn't really had time for coffee either.

"Do you ... like it?" I asked tentatively.

"Yeah," he nodded immediately. "It's really interesting."

The thing is, my internship is really interesting, too. When I received my internship, I was elated. A large part of me couldn't wait to get started—this was a real-life experience, something I had never been exposed to.

I get to work in a real hive of journalism, sitting alongside editors and reporters with a yellow

notepad, on which, during meetings, I furiously jot down notes. I have the wonderful opportunity to write articles and blogs on their Web site. People who are experts in the field read my articles and edit them, giving me advice that I would never, ever get otherwise. I think going to my internship is a lot better than sleeping in.

The proliferation of students ardently pursuing their interests is causing an interesting phenomenon. As more students add to their extracurricular activities, their college applications become stronger. Good grades are reinforced with the students' active role in the community. Their passions shine through.

Unfortunately, faced with the growing number of strong applicants, colleges are getting a lot more selective. Last year, admissions rates were some of the stingiest ever recorded. "The (admissions) process itself was actually the smoothest we've ever had for 10 years. The challenge is in that the quality of the student pool was so robust," said Susie Castillo-Robson, UC Berkeley's associate vice chancellor of admissions and enrollment, in a June 2008 article by UWire titled "UC Berkeley Acceptance Drops to Record Low."

Students are no longer stiffly studying at their desks. They're going out and exploring what they love best, and having a blast.

Maria Shen, reporting on Generation Y, is a senior at Monte Vista High School who loves ice cream on sunny days, books on rainy ones, and music for all those in between. She founded Contra Costa County's Young Bohemians creative writing club and is editor of Voicebox, a literary magazine. E-mail her at youngbohemians@gmail.com.

OF NOTE



Monte Vista High School Senior Michael Scalise receives the Alamo Merchant and Professional Association Annual Scholarship.

AMPA honors scholar

The Alamo Merchant and Professional Association presented one of its two annual scholarship awards to Monte Vista High School senior Michael Scalise at the school's awards night May 28. A similar presentation was made at San Ramon Valley High School on June 3. Awards Chairman Joe Combs and AMPA Board Member Peter Waldron made the presentation.

"Each year AMPA selects two deserving seniors from our two local high schools," said Combs. "It is our hope that this cash award will enable Michael to more comfortably pursue his objective of furthering his education in business in Santa Barbara."

The Alamo Merchant and Professional Association is a non-profit business organization devoted to improving the business environment and community of Alamo. Other activities sponsored by AMPA are the annual Alamo Tree Lighting Ceremony, the Music and Wine Festival and the Bicycle (BMX) Safety Program. For more information, contact Joe Combs at 989-6086.

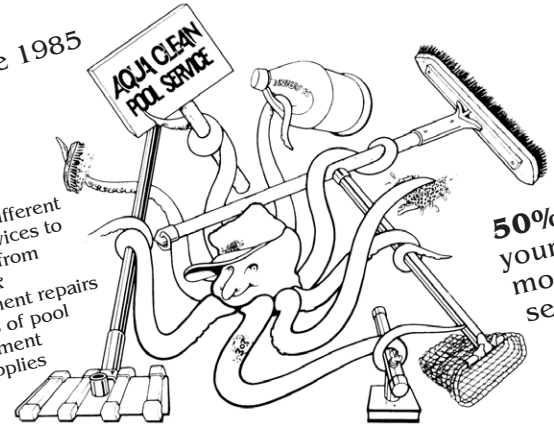
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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

San Ramon steps up to cityhood, Part 1

The City of San Ramon celebrated its 25th anniversary on July 1, 2008. Often new residents assume the city has always been in place, but many people still recall the efforts which led to the San Ramon's successful incorporation vote on March 8, 1983.

While the community began in the 1850s when an early post office was started, during the 19th and most of the 20th centuries San Ramon was a tiny village surrounded by orchards. The Norris, Wiedemann, Glass, Boone and Bishop ranches covered the area with agricultural enterprises that produced cattle, hay, grain, tomatoes, walnuts and pears. Many people remember the "San Ramon, Population 100" sign, which was posted well into the 1960s.

After World War II, California's population began to expand and, when the freeway came to Danville in 1964 and through San Ramon in 1966, the whole San Ramon Valley began to change. The 1960 census had no designation at all for San Ramon but, by 1970, it listed 4,084 people as the "San Ramon Village."

Efforts to put a San Ramon Valley city in place began in Alamo in the fifties. There were four unsuccessful incorporation votes in 1964 (Alamo-Danville) and 1967, 1973 and 1976. The last three included parts of San Ramon, excluding all

or part of the Bishop Ranch area. The ranch was always an issue for incorporation efforts. Western Electric bought the ranch in 1969 and opposed being included in any new city; later owners did the same.

Incorporation efforts began as local leaders questioned development decisions by the Contra Costa County Planning Commission, which met in Martinez. Even when the San Ramon Valley Area Planning Commission began in 1978, activists felt that wasn't enough. They questioned whether taxes gathered in the valley were spent locally and wanted more police protection, local parks and their own locally elected leaders. Opponents feared the loss of community identity, worried about the possibility of higher taxes, and were often satisfied with county government.

San Ramon had some special challenges because its traditional downtown was in the north and new suburban development was in the south. South San Ramon and Dublin were initially planned and built by Volk-McLain in the early 1960s. The Valley Community Services District (renamed Dublin San Ramon Services District or DSRSD in 1977) was organized to provide water, sewer, fire and park services in this area. The 1967 incorporation proposal included Alamo, Danville and south San Ramon with an 1,800-foot-wide

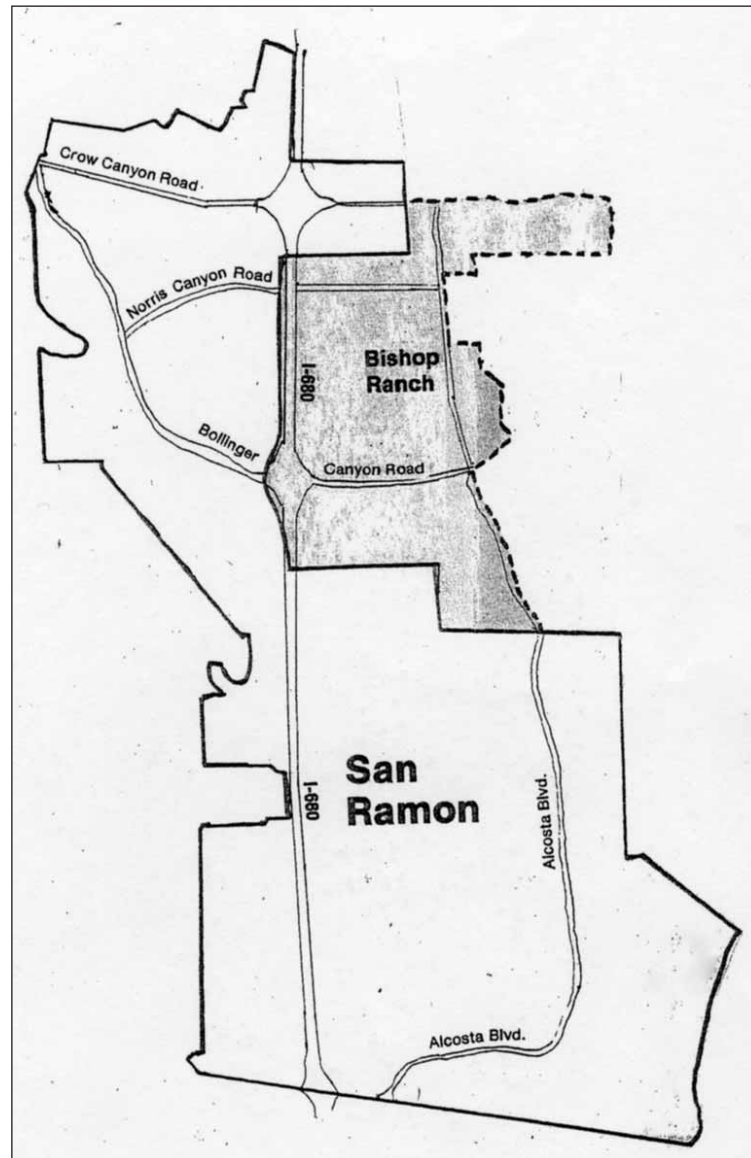
"cherry stem" (thus avoiding Bishop Ranch), which linked the areas together. You can imagine the ridicule this boundary elicited.

Leaders from the South San Ramon Homeowners Association weighed in during these discussions and, when Twin Creeks was built, the Homeowners Association of Twin Creeks spoke up. The San Ramon population grew from 12,782 (1975) to 22,356 (1980). These groups and others weighed in on the I-680 freeway alignment, school unification, fire district organizations and proposed county development plans; some leaders ran for and won elected office on the DSRSD, school and fire boards.

In 1979 an unusual cross-county border incorporation vote occurred which included both San Ramon (Contra Costa County) and Dublin (Alameda County). San Ramon voted it down decisively. In 1981 Dublin voters incorporated as a city and, in 1982, Danville voters did the same. By 1980 San Ramon homeowners had organized the San Ramon Incorporation Study Committee and promoted an incorporation vote in 1983.

Sources: Museum archives, Contra Costa Times, Valley Pioneer.

Beverly Lane is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" and "Vintage Danville: 150 Years of Memories."



Bishop Ranch was an issue in early efforts to incorporate San Ramon. This map shows it outside the city's boundaries.

MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. FRANKLIN UTCHEN

Grapes, raisins DO poison dogs

Can raisins and grapes really poison dogs? The answer is an emphatic yes, and everyone who owns a dog needs to know it.

If your dog ingests grapes or raisins, it is best to contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435), where they have specially trained staff who provide assistance to pet owners and specific diagnostic and treatment recommendations to veterinarians. Because affected dogs could die, dog owners should stop feeding their dogs grapes, raisins and any food containing grape extracts.

If ingestion should occur, it is recommended that you seek veterinary assistance immediately to initiate aggressive medical management. For more information on

the toxicity of grapes or raisins, visit www.apcc.aspc.org.

Recently, veterinarians have recognized this new poisoning in dogs: severe acute kidney failure following ingestion of grapes or raisins.

What causes it?

The specific poisons involved in this toxicosis have eluded identification. Fungal, pesticide and heavy-metal causes have been ruled out. It appears from recent unpublished data that the toxic component is within the flesh of the grape/raisin, not the seed.

What species are affected?

There are reported cases in dogs, and sporadic reports that cats may be affected. Most cats will not readily eat grapes or raisins, and this may be the reason for the lack of data in this species. Birds do not

seem to be affected.

How much is dangerous?

The lowest recorded amounts that caused kidney failure in dogs are: for grapes, 0.3 ounces of grapes per pound of body weight; and for raisins, 0.05 ounces per pound. In other words, this would mean a 50-pound dog could be poisoned by eating as little as 15 ounces of grapes, or 2 to 3 ounces of raisins.

However, smaller amounts could also cause problems—we really don't know exactly what the minimum dose is.

Not every dog or cat is susceptible. Many animals can tolerate large quantities of grapes or raisins without problems, and at this time no one knows what the main risk factors are that make one animal susceptible to being poisoned.

What about grape seed extract or grape juice?

This appears to be safe.

Toxicity has been associated with seedless grapes, so the toxin is unlikely to be within the seeds. It is then possible that grape seed extract is safe to use—however, this has not been conclusively proven. The reason this is important to know is that grape seed extract is a powerful antioxidant that may be helpful in the treatment of arthritis and other inflammatory conditions, and some dog owners use this in their older dogs.

If your dog eats grapes or raisins, the smartest thing to do is to make the dog vomit immediately. A tablespoon of hydrogen peroxide given by mouth will usually accomplish this within five or 10 minutes.

However, if there is any chance

that some grapes or raisins have not been vomited up, the safest thing to do is take your dog to your veterinarian. The appropriate treatment to minimize the risk of kidney damage is to administer large amount of IV fluids for 36 to 72 hours.

What is the prognosis?

The prognosis in cases where kidney failure develops is guarded, at best. This is medical jargon that means, very roughly, the chances of survival are 50/50. Prognosis is good if caught immediately after a dog has eaten the grapes or raisins.

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

Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Strikers U-10 Girls take bracket

Mustang players (l-r) Rachel Murphy, Sara Liddy and Sabrina Dunbar head for the goal during the NorCal Play Date on June 22 in Sonoma. The D1 Mustang Strikers U-10 Girls team won its bracket with three game wins at the NorCal Play Date. Sabrina Dunbar, No. 7, of Alamo (center midfield) scored multiple goals, as did Rachel Murphy, No. 10, (forward) and Sara Liddy, No. 1, (forward). Additional goal scorers included Brianna Simonich, Hannah Madgett, Kamaile Kenny, and goalie Ashley Martinez. The final scores of the games were 6-1; 5-1; and 4-2.



Cubs end up on top

The AAA Cubs of the San Ramon Valley Little League celebrate winning the championship: (front, l-r) Drew Fishman, Scott Lewis, Greg Carmel, Nathan Aepli, Trevor Grauman, Peter Bowring; (back) coach Rich Fishman, Zach Scherman, Dylan Merrell, coach Emmett Aepli, Scott French, Daniel Pollak, manager Harry Lewis and Matt French. Not pictured: Jack Markey, coach Steve Markey.

The Cubs finished the regular season in first place with an 8-2-1 record. At the championships June 8, the team won three in a row, culminating with a 10-4 victory over the AAA Giants.



Giants capture TVLL Majors Championship title

The Giants captured the TVLL Majors National League Championship by defeating the Padres 5-4 in a seven-inning ballgame. The Giants' winning pitcher, Cameron Cotton, struck out 15 batters while giving up just two hits in six innings. Marco Zamora led the Giants hitting attack with three hits, including a double, two singles and two RBIs.

Sean Mahre, Andrew Vella, McKinley Reynolds, Cameron Cotton and Erik Mensendiek added hits for the Giants.

Padres pitchers Dillon Williams and Jordan Peterson combined to strike out 12 batters. Gerry Karczewski, Blake Pierce, Dillon Williams, Baxter Cantrell and Doug Leach each had hits for the Padres. The Padres battled to a 2-2 tie after six innings.

In the top of the seventh, the Giants scored three runs to open. The Padres' Gerry Karczewski answered with a two out, two run triple in the bottom of the seventh. With the tying run on third, Giants' right-fielder Joey Jennison chased down a line drive in the gap with a game-saving, shoe string catch.

Giants team members are (front, l-r) Marco Zamora, Sean Mahre, Nick Morefield, Andrew Vella, Adam Vignaroli; (back) coach Barry Reynolds, Jason Washington, Joey Jennison, McKinley Reynolds, Cameron Cotton, Jack Brickley, Erik Mensendiek, Colin Criez and coach Greg Vella.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Surf Dawgs sweep doubleheader, clinch first place in division

The Danville-based Surf Dawgs swept a doubleheader, 5-2 and 4-1, on June 21 over Dublin Gold at the Dublin Sports Park to clinch first place in the Junior 90's Gold Division for 2008. The Surf Dawgs compiled a 31-11 record for the season, competing with other Gold teams from Pleasanton, San Ramon, Dublin and Manteca. The team was comprised of (front, l-r) Troy Galletly, Billy Beedle, Trevor Townsend, Mike Sarvi, Gianni Giusti, Ryder Thomas, Mike Engle; (back) assistant coach Steve Galletly, Nick Galletly, Cody Chavarria, Manager Stan Chavarria, Jack McFarland, Matt Yoshida, Casey Chavarria, Jordan Giusti, Michael Hernbroth and assistant coach Gary Hernbroth. Not pictured: Lawrence Nelson, Clark Geranen.



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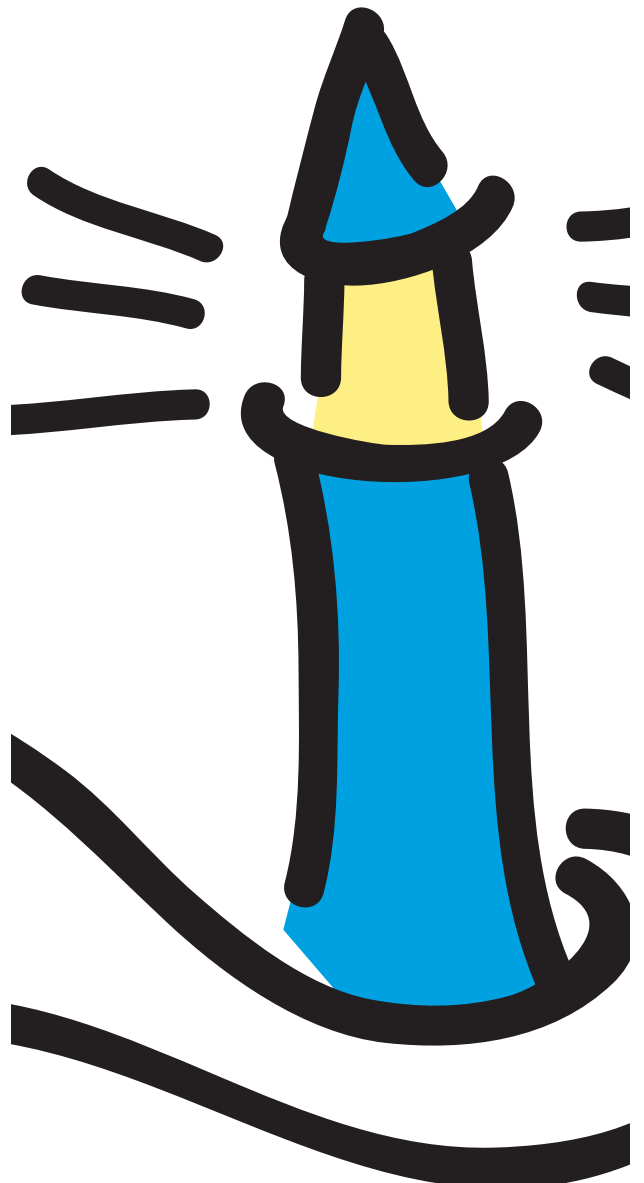
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PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

On your mark, get set, GO!

This young adult, spayed female Calico named "Happy" may look to be resting, but she's always ready to play when she sees a cat toy. Happy came to the East Bay SPCA with a litter of six kittens and she was a wonderful mother to them. Now it's Happy's turn to find her "forever home". Happy is a beautiful Calico with vivid colors of black, white and brown. Happy is very friendly and she has the energy of a kitten. Visit Happy at the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin; open Wed.-Thurs. 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Fri.-Sun. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; call 479-9670. See more adoptable pets at www.eastbayspca.org

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2008

Alamo

15 Stonecastle Drive C. Glazier to T. & L. Glazier for \$1,695,000

Danville

173 Belgian Drive N. Clary to A. Riaza for \$840,000

1160 Blue Spur Circle Shapell Homes to M. Gannon-McMurry for \$1,275,000

830 Buckingham Place Primacy Closing Corporation to D. & J. Morton for \$985,000

299 Channi Loop Shapell Industries to J. & M. Mann for \$492,000

644 Doral Drive Smith Trust to R. & S. Kantor for \$708,500

106 Gerbera Street F. & E. Reynoso to M. & K. Back for \$770,000

3185 Martingale Street Ponderosa Homes to Escalada Trust for \$1,156,000

1017 McCauley Road Chin Trust to M. & M. Culver for \$1,340,000

1643 North Clear Creek Place T. & D. Watkin to P. & J. Nuno for \$735,000

403 Pelham Court Ponderosa Homes to E. Gross for \$1,175,500

419 Pelham Court Ponderosa Homes to J. Vu for \$1,279,000

4250 Quail Run Drive White Trust to D. Lane for \$1,270,000

304 Red Maple Drive C. & S. Wheeler to S. & L. Francis for \$1,429,000

31 Rockhaven Lane Braddock & Logan to M. & C. Stern for \$1,600,000

38 Serene Court C. Saldana to K. Allen for \$499,000

Walnut Creek

1508 Arbutus Drive D. McConnell to C. Mezzapelle for \$640,000

215 Charter Oak Circle Jones Trust to J. Semmens for \$580,000

1714 Comstock Drive B. Deome to S. Allen for \$1,200,000

1325 Corte De Los Vecinos M. McDaniel to R. Pascus for \$525,000

2600 Jones Road #27 Bank of America to K. & M. Thomas for \$290,000

1370 Las Juntas Way #C Ciancy Trust to M. Cardella for \$315,000

122 Los Altos Avenue N. Gigolaeva to G. & R. Quiambao for \$770,000

915 Monet Circle J. & L. Long to D. Chong for \$800,000

2728 Oak Road #139 J. Snyder to A. Lipiansky for \$320,000

2235 Oakvale Road Howe Trust to P. Quarengi for \$721,000

3659 Perada Drive Weichert Relocation to T. Larocque for \$750,000

1266 Pine Street Nesbit Trust to J. Zygutis for \$745,000

2508 Ptarmigan Drive #4 E. Muhlhauser to J. Seaver for \$285,000

2662 Saklan Indian Drive #5 Miller Trust to D. Christopher for \$250,000

185 Sierra Drive #205 Home Equity Assets to K. Chambers for \$210,000

1941 Skycrest Drive #2 Fowler Trust to T. & D. Watkin for \$325,000

1533 South Villa Way M. Derickson to B. Carson for \$350,000

1560 Sunnyvale Avenue #1 CCRD Limited to G. Chu for \$470,000

714 Tampico M. Murphy to W. & S. Savage for \$485,000

4217 Terra Granada Drive #1B Haxthausen Trust to K. & K. Cheng for \$403,000

248 Tiburon Court Hunt Trust to Howard Trust for \$1,300,000

1860 Tice Creek Drive #1228 R. Holbrook to Marchetti Trust for \$286,000

1304 Walden Road #244 ECM Limited to K. & W. Baba for \$390,000

2102 Wilmington Drive G. & V. Glockner to B. Nelson for \$695,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2008

Alamo

Total sales reported: 1

Lowest sale reported: \$1,695,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,695,000

Average sales reported: \$1,695,000

Danville

Total sales reported: 15

Lowest sale reported: \$492,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,600,000

Average sales reported: \$1,036,933

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 24

Lowest sale reported: \$210,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,300,000

Average sales reported: \$546,042

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms

70 Zand Ln. **\$1,325,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 895-2804

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

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms

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

1948 St. George Rd. **\$709,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

4 Bedrooms

213 Aptos Pl. **\$998,500**
Sun 1-4 Harper-Mees Team/Keller Williams 699-3328

5 Bedrooms

100 David Ln. **\$1,795,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

SAN RAMON

1 Bedroom

805 Watson Canyon Ct., #264 **\$329,900**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

805 Watson Canyon Ct., #265 **\$329,900**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

4 Bedrooms

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

113 Barbary Ln. **\$874,800**
Sun 1-4 Capri RE 989-1748

PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms

4010 Francisco St. **\$608,000**
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel - Moxley Team 621-4064

3658 Reflections Dr. **\$629,000**
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 200-3165

4306 Columbine Dr. **\$759,000**
Sun 1-4 ReMax/accord Jeff Clyma 918-3395

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

6322 Alisal St. **\$999,850**
Sun 1-4 ReMax / Accord 997-8001

4 Bedrooms

1161 Hopkins Way **\$1,249,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

4576 Del Valle Pkwy. **\$1,250,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Moxley Team 621-4064

7341 Joshua Cir. **\$725,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 398-6706

5211 Caparelli Ct. **\$775,000**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 337-2989

3055 Staples Ranch Dr. **\$810,000**
Sat 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 398-6706

1053 Riesling Dr. **\$820,000**
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

787 Sylvaner Dr. **\$839,950**
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

4804 Knox Gate Ct. **\$875,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

5 Bedrooms

5067 Monaco Dr. **\$1,225,000**
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 949-355-3308

2527 Corte Bella **\$1,349,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 519-3534

7914 Paragon Cir. **\$1,799,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

2215 Martin Ave. **\$2,200,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Moxley Team 621-4064

6 Bedrooms

3641 Huff Ct. **\$945,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Moxley Team 621-4064

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profiles in business

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profiles in business



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