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Vol. IV, Number 15 • August 15, 2008

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Jonas-mania strikes Danville

Diehard fans see them up close and personal

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Danville

WEEKLY

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Your local resource guide



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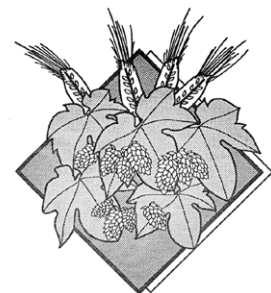


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Q: What event do you look forward to watching at this summer's Olympic Games?



Being an ex-runner myself my heart is in the running aspect of this summer's Olympic Games. Being in the corporate industry I also look forward to seeing how China has transformed its city to accommodate the diversity of the cultures coming to Beijing.

Cynthia Parenteau
president, CJ Consultants



Swimming because I was a swimmer when I was young and I know how much energy it takes to be a swimmer. I like diving as well, although I was never a diver, because of the form and the discipline it takes. How many people can spin mid air and gracefully land head first?

Don Gracey
retired



Gymnastics. I admire the dedication and the training, their gracefulness and their strength.

Jodie Gracey
*property manager,
Brookview Mobile Home Park*



I like the swimming and the gymnastics. They're fun to watch and I like the competitive aspect of it all.

Fred Barraco
barber



I love them all but I don't spend as much time watching the Olympics as I should, I've just been too busy.

Joe Secola
owner, Danville Cigar

COMPILED BY KRISTEN LANG

ABOUT THE COVER

The Town of Danville is analyzing the shopping habits of people in the area so it can draw more customers to its downtown. Cover design by Rick Nobles.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We can't afford it—I don't care what the report said. ”

— Virgie Jones, 60-year Alamo resident and longtime incorporation opponent. See story, page 5.

Hebrew School relocating in Danville

The Hebrew School of Chabad of Contra Costa will be held Sunday mornings at the Athenian School in Danville for the upcoming 2008-09 school year. It was being held at the small Chabad facility in Walnut Creek.

“We have had such an increase in interest that we have outgrown our classroom capacity,” said Shternie Kagan, school director. “We are looking forward to the beautiful, spacious classrooms at Athenian to enhance the learning experience for our youth.”

Chabad has been using the Athenian School campus as its home base for Camp Gan Israel for the last several years.

The Hebrew School is enrolling children entering kindergarten through seventh grade. It provides the youngest children with their first taste of the Hebrew Aleph-bet, Torah tales and Jewish prayer through song and holiday studies.

“The child gains a sense of pride and love for Judaism,” Kagan said. “Older children will enjoy the multi-sensory, hands-on lessons about Israel, Jewish History and Jewish values. They will learn to read and write Hebrew.”

Contact Chabad at 937-4101 or visit www.JewishContraCosta.com.

Behring joins Lions for better vision

The Danville Lions Club recently welcomed Kenneth E. Behring, resident philanthropist of Blackhawk, to its membership.

Behring's Global Health and Education Foundation also pledged \$7.5 million in matching funds to Lions Clubs International Foundation to advance the ongoing crusade to prevent cataract blindness and provide services to the blind around the world. The combined effort is called Operation Global Vision.

The donation was announced at the recent Lions International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, and is pledged over a period of three years. Behring is the founder of the Wheelchair Foundation, based in Blackhawk.

Behring's intent for the donation is to support cataract surgery programs in Latin America, Mexico, South Asia/India, China and Africa, where the costs of providing these procedures is far less than it is in the United States. The money will go to the Lion's Campaign Sightfirst II program, which has a related goal of restoring the eyesight of people suffering from preventable blindness by supporting cataract surgeries, building and expanding eye clinics, distributing medication and training doctors.

Special price for two golfing events

The Longs Drugs Challenge is coming to Blackhawk Country Club for LPGA play from Oct. 9-12, and a special price is being offered for those who buy tickets for this event and the Samsung World Championship at the Ocean Course at Half Moon Bay Golf Links scheduled for Oct. 1-5.

The price for both tournaments is for \$35. This offer—a \$19 savings from the overall value of \$54—must be purchased before Sept. 30. Visit www.samsung.com

“The focal point of women's golf descends on Northern California for two weeks in October and the LPGA holds a prominent presence within the Central and Northern California sports scene,” said Samsung World Championship Director Torrey Gane. “The Samsung World Championship wants to give golf fans a bang for their buck.”



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Babysitter Amy Jensen with Will and Hannah Stevens feed the geese at Oak Hill Park. It is a popular activity although some people say the increasing numbers of geese are creating too much mess on the ground.

Who ya gonna call? GooseBusters

Too much of the wrong food attracting geese to Oak Hill Park

by Michelle Olson

Oak Hill Park is beloved for its picnic areas, playgrounds and lake populated by ducks and Canadian geese. But lately the geese have been causing a stink with some residents.

Chris Christman, a 38-year Danville resident and retired Marine Corps officer and insurance agent, has been walking around the lake for almost four years, finding it enjoyable exercise. But lately Christman feels that geese have been taking over the park and leaving their excrement as proof. He also said it looks like the geese are keeping the ducks to one corner.

"The concrete around the lake is completely covered with droppings," he said. His walking route would be friendlier if he could walk freely without "stepping in something," he noted.

On his daily walks Christman likes to bring his daughter's pug, Guinness. But his daughter is leery of her dog walking on mess left by the geese.

The geese and the ducks are attracted to the Oak Hill site on Stone Valley Road because of the water, grass and easy access to food. The feeding is what makes some of the birds stay all year instead of continuing on their migratory path.

"If the waterfowl do not have to migrate to find food then they won't," said Jed Johnson, maintenance services manager for the Town of Danville. "Therefore the waterfowl population goes up, the

feces from them increases, and the waterfowl become very aggressive."

The bread that people feed the birds has no nutritional value for them and much of it doesn't get eaten, said Johnson.

The leftovers attract rodents and further dirty the park.

White signs with a bold heading of "Important Notice" are posted at the park to explain why people should not feed the waterfowl, but many do not read the signs so don't know it's bad for them.

Although feeding the geese and ducks is discouraged, it is not illegal in Danville and remains a popular activity around the lake. The town contracts with a company called GooseBusters to help keep down the goose population at Oak Hill.

Janice Scott, owner of GooseBusters, mostly uses border collies to chase geese away. The geese see the collies as "faux predators" and fly away or go into the water where the dogs swim after them, but the geese are not harmed.

"Feeding the birds keeps them here and it isn't good for them," Scott said. "It's how, I like ice cream, but I don't need it. Bread is not something they would get in the wild, and wild animals are supposed to find their own food."

The goal of GooseBusters is not to get the birds to leave but to spend less time at the park, leading to less excrement. One goose produces 1 to 2 pounds of droppings a day, said Scott.

Another control measure is egg



Signs posted around Oak Hill Park explain, on their bottom section, that visitors should not feed the waterfowl and why.

addling, applying mineral or vegetable oil to the outside of goose eggs, which blocks the pores to prevent air getting to the fetus. The mother goose still continues to sit on her eggs for the five-to-six-week gestation period. Mentally she feels that she has nested for the year, but no goslings are born.

Five to seven eggs is the average nest size and even with a 50 percent mortality rate two to four goslings can be born to a mother once a year.

In the past, the park had to apply for a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to practice egg addling. But two years ago the federal government labeled geese that didn't migrate between certain dates "urban geese," so they are not protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Migratory patterns change based

► Continued on page 8

Meeting talks money to incorporate Alamo

Analysts explain they find a town to be feasible financially

by Meghan Neal

Will Alamo become a town? According to a recently released financial study, it's quite possible. With this forward step toward incorporation, Alamo folks are taking a closer look at what the change would mean.

Residents had a chance to get some of their questions answered at a community meeting last Thursday at the Creekside Church in Alamo attended by about 200 people. After officials presented the fiscal study results, a Q&A was held to discuss the report.

"Why are we not talking about the costs to us—the families of Alamo—and how we are going to pay?" one resident asked.

The report showed that a township would have no cost to Alamo taxpayers; California state law prohibits incorporation from raising taxes to balance the books and any future tax increase would require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

Still, a potential tax hike is a concern that comes up time and time again.

"We can't afford it—I don't care what the report said," said Virgie Jones, 60-year Alamo resident and longtime incorporation opponent, in an interview. She

said the study did not change her mind about incorporation.

"We're going to come up with taxes somewhere along the line."

It's not just the opponents that question the advantages of incorporating. Many residents at the meeting wanted to know what quantifiable benefits the people of Alamo would see from incorporation.

Gary Thompson, a municipal financial analyst with Winzler & Kelley, author of the study conducted for the Local Agency Formation Commission, addressed this point at the meeting.

"Any time you take control of your own destiny at the local level, it's a good thing," he said. "The county has a whole county to take care of."

The first step toward establishing local control is drafting a town general plan, which the new town would have 30 months to do after incorporation.

The general plan should reflect the residents' view of what the new town of Alamo should look like. This answers concerns from some residents that incorporation would mean a greater risk of development: Most likely, a booming metropolis isn't what

► Continued on page 7

Realtor throws hat into ring

Bordogna makes fourth candidate for Danville Town Council

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

The filing period for the November election closed last Friday, and a Danville real estate broker is challenging the incumbents for one of the three seats on the Danville Town Council.

Marianne Bordogna, a resident since 1985, said that in her job as a Realtor she hears people voice their concerns, for instance, about the development of the Danville Hotel site and the Veterans Memorial Building.

"I want to be someone who helps solve problems," Bordogna said. "I want to make sure Danville stays unique."

The three incumbents announced their bid for re-election last month: Mayor Candace Andersen, who has served on the council since 2003; Vice Mayor Newell Arnerich, serving since 1995; and Councilman Mike

Doyle, since 1991. They spoke together to say they are proud of their accomplishments, and said they plan to campaign together and also as individuals.



Marianne Bordogna

Bordogna said when she learned that only the incumbents were running, she decided to join the race.

"I think we should have other people in with different views," she said. "I get things done; I don't just analyze to death. Maybe my experience can be utilized by the town."

Bordogna is a former telecom and global management consulting executive. She was educated at Edinboro, Golden Gate and Carnegie Mellon universities. She noted in her candidate statement that although she is new to politics, she is not new to leadership roles.

But perhaps Bordogna is best known around town for produc-

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Working like a jackhammer, a crane demolishes the large gymnasium at San Ramon Valley High. A new gym will be built to replace the old one that was torn down last week. Go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com for a video of the demolition taking place.

Goodbye to the old SRVHS gym

Demolition marks the end of an era

by **Meghan Neal**

Demolition of the old gymnasium at San Ramon Valley High School began early last Monday and continued through the week.

Working like a jackhammer, a crane poked away at the concrete and steel structure while an excavator cleared away the debris. It was sorted for recycling, said Robbie Lyng, the school district's senior construction project manager, at the site.

The section of the gym that housed locker rooms and offices had already been torn down by Wednesday morning. The demolition was due to be finished by the end of the week.

A little piece of history came down with the old gym, which has been a part of the school since 1950.

"It's an end of an era," said district spokesman Terry Koehne. "But, we obviously always err on the side of safety."

When the large old gym underwent seismic testing in February it was deemed unsafe for a major earthquake—the concrete structure would be liable to crumble—and shut down immediately.

The school's smaller and even older gymnasium, built in 1940, will also be torn down, early next year. The new large gym will be built in its place.

The new gym is expected to cost between \$7 million and \$8 million and will be similar in design to the state-of-the-art facility at Dougherty Valley High School. Construction will likely begin next spring and be finished by fall 2010, Koehne said.

"I think there's a bit of melancholy around the gym being demolished after it stood for so long and had so much history and so many memories," he said. "But this is definitely a good thing for the San Ramon campus and the community." ■

Candidates

► Continued from page 5

ing the Dogs of Danville calendar, which uses contributed photos from residents and benefits police canine programs.

Before filing to run for the Town Council seat, Bordogna had focus groups to learn people's concerns.

"So many complained about the planning process and remodeling," she noted, adding that she herself had had some of the same problems.

She also said she wants to make sure teens, singles and seniors have activities and meeting places.

"A lot of other towns offer a lot at a lower price," she said.

She said she will also address potential Tassajara Valley development and its impact on Danville; infill projects; and helping the business community grow.

"I'm going to emphasize a few major points but I'm not saying the others don't care," she said.

The two incumbents on the San Ramon Valley Unified School District board have no challengers. Board president Greg Marvel and fellow trustee Paul Gardner were both elected to the Board of Education in 2000 and re-elected in 2004. ■

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Keeping Danville scenic

Town takes another step to protect ridgelines

by Meghan Neal

Danville is tightening up its town ordinance on scenic hillside and ridgeline development, making it just a tad harder to build in these prized locations.

"Passive open spaces are desirable and necessary to maintain the quality of life enjoyed by the residents of the community," according to the ordinance the Town Council unanimously voted to amend last month.

Development within 100 vertical feet of a major ridgeline, or on hills with a slope of more than 30 percent, is currently prohibited. However the code allows for an exception to the rule for parcels where there's no other feasible location to build.

And, in those exceptional cases, the code's language treats hillside and ridgelines equally, though when faced with a choice between the two the town would value preservation of ridgeline areas first and foremost, town staff said.

To clarify this, the language banning hillside developments was removed. This gives the town some wiggle room for cases in which building on a slope—even one with more than 30 percent steepness—would be preferable to building on the ridgeline.

"It kind of comes on a site-by-site basis," said David Crompton, principal planner for the town.

"Since Danville incorporated you don't see much ridgeline development except the stuff that was already there, approved by the county."

—David Crompton,
Danville principal planner

Another section of the ordinance prohibits any new subdivision that would result in a building site close to a major ridgeline.

It was tightened to also forbid any subdivision resulting in a parcel that had no feasible building site that wasn't on a ridgeline or an over-30 percent slope.

"We wouldn't approve the subdivision," Crompton said.

This limits potential construction on steep slopes or ridgelines to parcels that already exist in town.

"Since Danville incorporated you don't see much ridgeline development except the stuff that was already there, approved by the county," Crompton said. "And we won't be creating any more."

The ability to request an exception from this rule was also deleted

from the section.

The decision to stiffen restrictions was an outcome of the Skyvilla lawsuit that ended in the construction of a 7,000-square-foot home on the Danville ridgeline last fall.

When the Planning Commission and Town Council denied Skyvilla's application to build the home the company filed a lawsuit, saying the spot was the only suitable place to build. The council's denial was overturned by the Contra Costa County Superior Court.

After the long legal battle the council finally approved the development in September. It now sits at 1621 Lawrence Road, overlooking Dougherty Valley. The town then decided to revisit the ridgeline ordinance to have it better reflect Danville's values.

Per procedure the council voted a second time on the changes at its Aug. 12 meeting. The ordinance goes into effect 30 days after that. ■

Alamo

► Continued from page 5

anyone in the community would have in mind.

The potential town of Alamo would require a town staff of about 10 employees, according to the report. However, the organizational structure would actually be determined by the city council and city manager upon incorporation.

Some residents said 10 people didn't seem like enough to run a town. Thompson explained that Alamo would be a "contract city" with virtually every service contracted out to either the county or private companies.

Law enforcement would be provided through the county sheriff's office. Fire protection, some planning, and code enforcement would also be contracted out. Town leaders would include five city council members, five planning commissioners, a city manager, city clerk and city attorney.

Increased bureaucracy is often a concern heard by Alamo residents mulling over incorporation.

"I don't care what the study said, I don't want another government. I don't want another bureaucracy. I don't want a city hall," said Jones.

Advocates believe that being able to take issues straight to local leaders would be simpler and faster than navigating the red tape of the county.

After hearing a slew of positive responses from officials at the

meeting, some residents wanted to know if incorporation is essentially inevitable at this point. What could cause LAFCO to vote against it next month? some asked.

Executive officer of Contra Costa LAFCO, Lou Ann Teixeira, said she couldn't speak for the seven members of the commission. But she did point out that there are other factors to consider before the vote, which will be held Sept. 18 at the Creekside Church, 1350 Danville Blvd.

Tony Carnemolla, a leader of the anti-incorporation group that's been relatively quiet up to this point, said if LAFCO votes yes, opponents will become more active.

"I don't know why they want to incorporate. Things have been going fine for years and years," he said.

If LAFCO approves the move there's one more major hurdle to cross. A majority of Alamo residents would need to vote in favor of incorporation in March 2009. One other issue will be on the ballot: the Measure D school parcel tax, which failed in the June election.

There will be another opportunity for public comment on incorporation at the Sept. 18 LAFCO meeting, which begins at 4:30 p.m. The study is also open to public review until Aug. 27. It can be viewed at www.contracostalafco.org. Comments should be directed to Lou Ann Teixeira, Executive Officer, Contra Costa LAFCO, 651 Pine St., Sixth Floor, Martinez 94553, or faxed to 646-1228. ■

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Geese

► Continued from page 5

on many factors, such as weather, making it hard to decipher between the two groups. This causes some towns such as Danville to “err on the side of caution,” explained Scott, and not practice egg addling.

But the newborn population has not been a problem, Johnson said, so Danville has not needed to apply for such a permit.

Yet, Christman recalls seeing one mother with 11 goslings. He said there are currently more geese and more mess than ever. He recently counted more than 100 geese in one afternoon.

Scott attributes the increase in population to food availability, weather patterns, loss of predators and not practicing egg addling. But, she added, “There are a lot of reasons.”

“Urbanites” is the name for people who do not have the knowledge to interact with wild life in a good way, and they are the ones who feed the geese, said Sandy Ferreira,

park ranger and clean water educator for Fremont, where it is illegal to feed the waterfowl.

She helped lead Fremont’s comprehensive plan to control the goose population at its popular Lake Elizabeth. One part of the plan is educational: Rangers pass out informative pamphlets to potential feeders and ask them to throw away any food they brought.

“Education is paramount,” she said. “Public contact is primary for enforcing the ordinance. Almost everyone complies once you educate them.”

Ferreira’s efforts began in 1991 following an avian cholera outbreak. Many geese perished that suffered from poor nutrition as a result of people feeding them moldy food, which had made them more susceptible to disease. After one goose gets infected with the bacteria it easily spreads among the others.

“We are using the most humane and effective means at this point to deal with this issue,” said Johnson. “If more serious issues evolve, then we will address those accordingly.” ■

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



A walk in the park

Let's play! The new playgrounds are finally open at Diablo Vista and Sycamore Valley parks in Danville. The upgrades were scheduled for completion in June but the suppliers didn't come through so the date was pushed back further and further. Mayor Candace Andersen said it seemed like every time she talked to children they asked: "When is my playground going to be opened?"

Two weeks ago, Diablo Vista was ready for action and I went to check it out. I'm at that awkward age—my kids are grown and I don't have any grandchildren yet—so I have to rely on strangers to provide me with playground expertise. Amy White and her two little boys—Chris, 4, and Andrew, 2—were at Diablo Vista around 11

a.m. that Saturday.

"We like to go to the bagel store and then come here on Saturday mornings," Amy told me. "We've been saying for about a month, 'It sure would be great if the park opened.'"

She was happy with the new features. "The climbing rock is cool," she noted. "They both love climbing." But the cement snake that winds down the hill is still the best feature, she said, especially when water is running down its back and pouring out at the bottom, over its tongue and through nozzles on its nose. EBMUD is currently mandating that water features at parks be turned off.

On this day, Chris and Andrew were playing "food takeout" in the new structure. They kept coming to their mother (and me) to take our

orders. We asked for water, ice, apple juice, carrot sticks, apple slices and finally ice cream. With chocolate syrup. They ran back and forth filling our requests. It'd been awhile since I'd had an imaginary chocolate sundae—delicious and calorie-free!

Amy said she's thankful for the focus the town has been putting on the playgrounds and said her family visits different parks and enjoys Music in the Park at Oak Hill. Although they live near both Diablo Vista and Sycamore Valley, she prefers Diablo Vista because she can sit in the shade. However seven young trees have been planted at the Sycamore Valley play area so its future looks cool.

Next I struck up a conversation with Isabel Benn who was on the seat wall holding 5-month-old Henry. Dad Paul was keeping an

eye on 2-1/2-year-old Nathan, who covered a lot of territory. Isabel said they live within walking distance of this park as well as three in San Ramon so they had plenty of places to play but they'd missed this one.

Paul said they'd been at Diablo Vista when workers were tearing down the old playground and that had been exciting for Nathan to see the big machinery at work. Paul had gone to the town's Web site to find out more about the new play area and wondered what happened to the sandpit that had been in the plans.

I called Danville landscape architect Bob Russell and learned the sandpit was removed from the plans because they are difficult to maintain and hard to make accessible for children with limited mobility. When I asked about the benches that had been there, he explained they installed the seat wall instead so parents could sit down closer to their playing kids.

Russell said the fences were to come down at Sycamore Valley Park early last week. And, I understand, the bocce ball league kicked off its season with the new shade structures and nearby tables and barbecues in place. The total two-park project cost



Chris White, 4, enjoys the new Diablo Vista Park playground.

\$1.04 million.

Playgrounds sure have come a long way since my childhood, when the play area at my grammar school was cement, painted with a few hopscotch and four-square diagrams. The new Danville play areas are state of the art, with "resilient safety surfacing" in bright colored sections and structures that are designed "to promote child development" as well as being safe. And they sure look like fun! ■

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Race is on

What if they gave an election and nobody came? The race for the three Danville Town Council seats that expire this year was almost no contest, as only the three incumbents were in the running. Realtor Marianne Bordogna says when she saw this was about to happen, she made her final decision to run.

The three incumbents are Mayor Candace Andersen, Vice Mayor Newell Americh and Councilman Mike Doyle, who have been on the council since 2003, 1995 and 1991, respectively. They all are proud of having kept the town solvent through difficult financial times plus share a vision of protecting open space and keeping Danville's small town charm while it grows.

All four candidates resolve to carefully monitor plans of San Ramon in the Tassajara Valley, recognizing that any development would impact the whole area but especially Danville. All four recognize that Danville is exceptional and ask for the chance to help keep it so. Their candidate statements differed in what they chose to emphasize and in their backgrounds.

On the other hand, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District has two trustees whose terms expire this year, and those two are the only candidates for the seats: Board president Greg Marvel and fellow trustee Paul Gardner. This assurance of continuity on the school board may be a good thing this year because longtime school board member Joan Buchanan is running on the Democratic ticket for Assembly District 15. If she is elected Nov. 4, the school board will appoint her successor for the two years remaining in her term.

In the democratic process, competition is always a good thing. We welcome the addition of a fourth candidate running for Danville Town Council for what she will bring to the race, for a new point of view she may add, and for what qualities she will bring out in the others.

In the democratic process, competition is always a good thing. We welcome the addition of a fourth candidate running for Danville Town Council.

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YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Salary info please

Dear Editor:

Regarding public service positions, I have a comment on Dolores Fox Ciardelli's article Aug. 1 concerning our new fire chief. One cannot help but be impressed with Chief Richard Price's credentials, but at the same time one cannot help but wonder how much it costs the district for his service.

I believe taxpayers—as well as aspiring fire chiefs—would like to know the remuneration our public servants receive: salary, retirement benefits, health benefits and other perks. It's nice to know what we are getting, but even better to know what we are getting for our money.

Walter D. Welti, Danville

If only drivers were also cyclists

Dear Editor:

I began reading Meghan Neal's June 30 article on the tensions between drivers and cyclists with some trepidation. The issues are complex but many such stories overly reduce the problem and characterize it as Manichean. Neal's article was different: She presented both sides fairly and informatively.

I am a cyclist but, as is nearly universal among adult cyclists, I am also a driver. I often think there would be fewer bike-car conflicts if the converse were also true.

Robert Chung, Berkeley

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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.

Mustangs host Stampede



Grace Leer of the U17 Spirits goes airborne in a determined fight against the Force in the championship game.

Soccer players converge on Danville for annual tournament

Notice any soccer players over the weekend? There were even more than usual as 178 girls teams converged on Danville for the 30th annual Girls Mustang Stampede Tournament held Aug. 8-11.

The older girls took over the Mustang Soccer Complex on Camino Tassajara while younger players used other synthetic and natural turf facilities, playing at seven sites throughout Danville.

Three Mustang teams won their divisions: U17 Spirit; U14 Blast; and U11 Explosion.

The U19 Mavericks faced the Belmont Oaks Barracudas in the finals but lost 2-1.

Mustang Soccer Club is the No. 1-ranked girls soccer club in Northern California and the No. 2-ranked girls soccer club nationwide. The Stampede is a Division I, US Club sanctioned soccer tournament for girls U9 to U18/19.

The Mustang Boys Stampede will take place Aug. 22-24. ■



The U14 Girls Mustang Blast prevailed at the Mustang Stampede 2008, keeping opposing teams to only one goal against them. Blast members are (back, l-r) Coach Doug Norvelle, Rachel Hamilton, Amy Harioka, Shelby Cota, Kimberly Low, Hannah Koski, Stephanie Amack, Coach Rob Vandevanter; (middle) Morgan Idso, Alyssa Alarab, Kerianne Hunt, Bethoney Ritter, Reilly Parker, Lynsey Hromatko; (front) Alexa Vandevanter, Katie Greulich, Rachel Feldman and Katelyn Rader.



Mustang Stampede champions U17 Spirit are (back row, l-r) Gabby Duhl, Jessica Schiff, Alex Conti, Taylor Gonzalez, Kate Doyle, Dani Schrakamp, Shelby Church, Kristen Lam, Jessica Castillo, Brynne Bedgood, Coach Mike Descombaz; (center) Kenzie Laird, Jessica Wi, Grace Leer, Morgan Griffey, Mika Siegelman; (front) Hillary Harvey and Ashley Edwards.



Mika Siegelman fights for the ball in the U17 Mustang Spirit Championship game.

Stompers win Nor-Cal title

The Stompers 95, a 12U girls softball team in the San Ramon Valley Girls Athletic League, defeated the Pleasanton Phantoms to earn the championship title in the Nor-Cal Oakland Regional and National qualifier tournament.

The Stompers have won three tournaments in four tries. With this latest championship, they qualified for the ASA Western Regional Championship and will travel to Las Vegas to represent the SRVGAL.

Stompers 95 are (front, l-r) Andi Quilalang, Katelyn Linford, Elizabeth Whisler, Kat Tomsic, Carly Weisenberg; (middle) Marie Hunt, Kelsey Nyland, Joelle Williams, Jessica Catson, Alex Andreotti, Cat Burchard, Olivia Grewal; and (back) Mike Whisler, Matt Nyland, Mark Tomsic, Joe Williams.



SELLING downtown

New campaign urges everyone to 'Shop Danville'

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Downtown merchants love Stacy Passeri. When she wants to enjoy a meal out with the family, she heads for Hartz. When she wants to shop—alone or with her daughters, 13 and 14—she drives to downtown Danville.

Passeri, an organizational consultant who lives on the east side of Danville, said she likes the convenience of downtown and feels the stores offer everything she wants. She's shopped in Walnut Creek but prefers Danville.

"I got tired of not finding something unique," she said. "And here I get to know the stores."

She'll also head downtown for a girls night out.

"My girlfriends and I want to go local," she said.

Although residents say they love downtown Danville—and Realtors report it's definitely a draw—not everyone knows what it has to offer.

"We kept hearing from downtown Danville businesses, 'People don't know where we are,'" said Jill Bergman, Economic Development Coordinator for Danville.

The town produced an Economic Development Strategy in 2006 to promote awareness of businesses and encourage residents to patronize them, for the overall good of the community's economy. When Bergman stepped into the coordinator position last year she was able to see the problem with fresh eyes, she said.

Danville has a lot to offer with its unique, independently owned shops and its top-rated and family-friendly restaurants. Plus it has a relaxed hometown feel with a sense of style. But its residents often go elsewhere to shop.

"We have leakage, retail leakage," Bergman remembered observing.

The participants were in place to promote Danville: the town, the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Discover Danville, an association of downtown merchants who work together to market themselves. Its slogan is "small town charm, sophisticated choices."

In April the town hired the Placemaking Group to analyze the businesses areas to find out how to attract customers and therefore more revenue for the entire area through taxes.

The marketing plan, financed by the town and the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce at just under \$30,000, will include Alamo Plaza, Blackhawk Plaza, Tassajara Crossings and the new Rose Garden Shopping Center. But it began with a focus on downtown Danville to see who its customers are and what could be done to make it the preferred place for shopping, eating and doing business.

"We took a look at what's here," recalled Dennis Erokan, president of Placemaking Group, and a former resident of Danville. "We wanted to get a sense of why people shop or do not shop in Danville, especially downtown Danville."

The group conducted part of the survey Saturday afternoons, he said, and found people shopping both who live in Danville and who come from other communities.

"During the fact gathering process, existing consumers clearly articulated that Danville already has the building

blocks needed to raise it's profile," stated the report. "It is an attractive community ... that is conducive to both strolling and shopping."

Erokan made three points:

1. People want to shop where it's convenient;
2. When shoppers have something specific in mind, they will go wherever that is; and
3. All over the United States, if a downtown has character, people will go to it.

Shopping malls have peaked in this country, he noted, and everyone wants a downtown. He mentioned a friend who is a mall architect and must go to Asia to find business.

Downtown Danville is prime, he said, because it has charm and history, the area is attractive and accessible, plus it has parking. But, the study said, residents are not choosing the Danville area as their first choice for shopping and dining but are going to other East Bay cities, such as Walnut Creek and Pleasanton.

"Survey findings revealed that most consumers are unaware of the retail choices available in Danville and perceive that retail is expensive," according to the summary of the market analysis. "Very few can name more than one or two retail stores ... Both men and women do go downtown for the purpose of eating at specific restaurants."

"People know they want the ambience of what downtown Danville has but we found they didn't know the breadth of downtown," Erokan said.

He concluded that in Danville, women were "in charge" of the downtown experience. Men would come for lunch with their kids—many in soccer uniforms—but then would leave.

"We found two main groups shopping in the downtown: mothers and daughters, and what we call 'ladies who lunch,'" he said.

Among the ladies who lunch, many were friends from other areas, meeting up in Danville.

"The first time we saw this, we talked to two women who said one came from Castro Valley and one from Martinez to meet for lunch," recalled Erokan. They were staying to shop and then their husbands were coming to meet them for dinner.

"Our advice is to target the ladies who lunch and they will bring everyone with them," said Erokan, "because of Danville's charm."

He also noted that a downtown which works needs to have the "one more thing" factor. This means that while people are already there shopping they will say to themselves, "I wonder if they have ..."

Other East Bay locales are also spending time and money to market their downtowns, which can pull customers away from Danville. The Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association recently launched its campaign: "Escape the ordinary—downtown—at the Creek." The Pleasanton Downtown Association is marketing itself as a vacation destination. It has signed up 100 of its businesses for a gift card program, to compete against Stoneridge Shopping Center. As in Danville, it works against the per-



Maura Mendoza, a Moraga resident, says she loves to shop in Danville and often meets friends for dinner at Danville restaurants.



Downtown Danville is bustling last Thursday early afternoon as the town tries to see this "buzz" downtown every day year-round.

ception that things are more expensive downtown.

"We ask people to take a month and say they have to buy everything they use from someone downtown," said association executive director Christine Saldivar.

Perceptions are half the battle, she noted. "People think there's no parking," she said. "Give me a break. Go to the mall, where you walk a mile just from your car in the parking lot. Wouldn't you rather walk on tree-lined streets than in a parking lot?"

Danville deals with the parking issue also. "We found people will walk three blocks—but they would rather walk one," said Erokan.

"Parking has certainly improved over the years," said Linda Stolow, owner of Small Fry Shoppe on Railroad Avenue.

"The Front Street Parking Lot is still being discovered," she said. "The town went to a lot of trouble to purchase it, move people out, and put parking in a good location."

Stolow has been active in Discover Danville. "Basically we want to brand Danville," she said. "That's how Discover Danville started out four or five years ago."

She said the Town Council has been supportive of its goals.

"They have changed the zoning to get more contiguous



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Jill Bergman, Danville Economic Development Coordinator

Blackhawk Country Club being held Oct. 9-12 will be another chance to market Danville.

Business results from events are hard to gauge. People may not shop right then, but they may make note of the stores to return another time. Bergman said they are educating stores to stay open these nights. "Act like you're there," she tells them.

Placemaking Group concluded that "The town has style," which is reflected in the logo it developed: "Shop Danville—in style every day." This appears on cloth shopping bags being sold for \$2 at the Danville Farmers Market and by some stores. The town financed "Carrot Cash," giving out \$2,000 at the Thursday evening events in \$5 certificates redeemable at participating stores and the farmers market.

The study also recommended working with the merchant community by evaluating the stores' hours and exploring training opportunities for merchants.

"We have stores that are hobby-based businesses, not their livelihood," said Bergman.

In September the town will offer a class on the importance of e-commerce, a sort of Retail 101.

The focus now is on the new all-inclusive Shop Danville Web site, which will work as "information central," listing every retailer, restaurant and service in Danville and linking to their sites. It will eventually include a calendar and news from all the shopping centers in the Danville area. In July the Town Council approved \$30,000 to create the site, and it hopes the site will be up and running by the holiday shopping season.

The marketing plan includes improved signs in Danville, and working to improve foot traffic by updating the downtown walking map and putting it on the new Web site, and developing a publicity plan. In the 2008-09 budget, Danville approved \$65,060 for a variety of events and promotions that will take place throughout the year.

Last Thursday in the early afternoon, things were busy downtown. Karen Chubb and her daughter Shelbie, Pleasanton residents, parked in the Front Street Parking Lot and headed downtown for some back-to-school shopping.

"Danville has a few more boutiques," said Karen Chubb, explaining why they drove past the mall to shop in Danville. She knows the stores because she comes to Danville to get her hair cut.

On Hartz Avenue, women were perusing the racks at a going-out-of-business sale at Girlfriends.

One was Sharon Dotson, who lives in south Walnut Creek but works at Athenian School in the summer and likes to shop in Danville.

"I like to support the local merchants," she said.

Maura Mendoza had come from Moraga. She said she shops regularly at the Livery, and she and her husband and friends meet in Danville often to eat dinner.

But it was a Thursday and summer is drawing to a close so people may be back from vacations and preparing for school, noted Stolow, which could have accounted for all the activity. Plus that evening was Summer Fest.

The goal is for downtown Danville to have that buzz every day. ■

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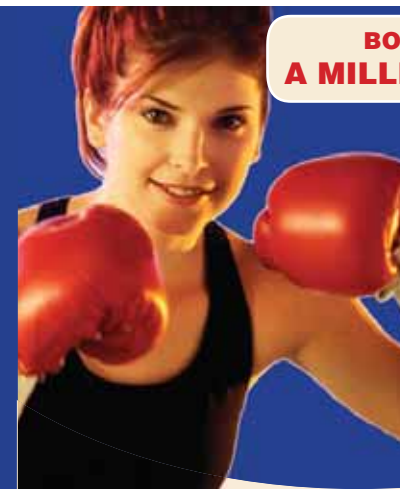
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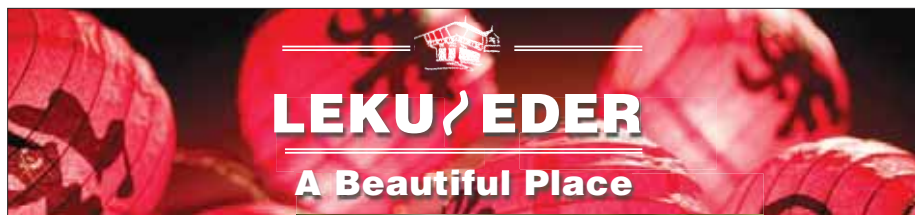
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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Georgia man is no peach

Police officers pulled over a Danville driver just after 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon on Camino Tassajara at Woodside Drive in what seemed at the time like a routine arrest for drunken driving. Afterward, they offered a ride home to the passenger, who was the driver's brother visiting from Georgia, as he was heavily intoxicated, police said.

Police helped the passenger, 39, into the back of the car uncuffed.

"The officer told him to hang tight and wait in the back of the police car, and he'd be right back," said Lt. Mark Williams. "He heard a loud crash."

The passenger had kicked out the right side rear window and taken off running.

The officer went looking for the runaway and as he drove down Tuscany Way where the brother lived, he heard someone yelling, "Get out of my yard!"

The passenger, now a suspect, had run onto someone's property. "The guy thought someone was breaking into his house," said Williams. "He came out with a baseball bat."

The officer confronted the suspect who refused to listen to orders to get on the ground and put his hands behind his back. A fight ensued.

The man managed to wrestle away the officer's flashlight, and finally the officer pepper-sprayed the suspect and cuffed him, Williams said.

He was arrested on suspicion of resisting a police officer and vandalizing a police vehicle, both felony offenses. He was treated at the scene for the pepper spray and booked into Martinez Detention Facility. The officer had a scrape on his hand but no other injuries.

"They were being cool, you know, gonna give him a ride home. And next thing you know he's kicking out the window," said Williams. "People do crazy things."

Shortly after the arrest, the Georgian apologized to police and explained this was not normal behavior for him.

—Meghan Neal

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Aug. 3

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Linda Mesa Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 1:06 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Canfield Ct. at 7:47 a.m.
- Vandalism on Silver Lake Dr. at 2:04 p.m.
- Battery on Summerside Cr. at 4:20 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Summerside Cr. at 8:17 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 4

- Auto burglary on Silver Lake Dr. at 9:39 a.m.
- Battery on Mariposa Ct. at 11:32 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Meadowbrook Ln. at 12:24 p.m.
- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 3:54 p.m.
- Shoplifting, arrest, on Camino Tassajara at 10:21 p.m.
- Drug violation on Brookside Dr. at 11:35 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 5

- Commercial burglary on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 9:49 a.m.
- Miscellaneous burglary on El Cerro Blvd. and La Gonda Wy. at 10:34 a.m.

- Reckless driving on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 1:36 p.m.
- Trespassing on Lawrence Rd. at 5:48 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 6:19 p.m.
- Drug Violation on Camino Tassajara at 8:02 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 6

- Residential burglary on Franciscan Dr. at 5:24 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Cameron Ct. at 7:39 a.m.
- Grand Theft on Pennington Pl. at 10:01 a.m.
- Hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara at 3:38 p.m.
- Drug violation on Serene Ct. at 7:10 p.m.
- Vehicle accident, arrest, on Jasmine Wy. and Lawrence Rd. at 11:15 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 7

- Possession of counterfeit bill on Crow Canyon Rd. at 6:37 a.m.
- Miscellaneous burglary on Cameo Dr. at 1:02 p.m.
- Reckless Driving on Hartz Ave. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:59 p.m.
- Trespassing on Danville Blvd. at 7 p.m.
- Harassment disturbance on Richard Ln. at 9:15 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 8

- Suspicious circumstance on Front St. at 7:12 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Joaquin Dr. at 8:36 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Danville Blvd. at 12:11 p.m.
- Hit-and-run on La Gonda Wy. at 12:16 p.m.
- Petty theft on Waingarh Wy. at 5:08 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 7:42 p.m.
- Investigation arrest on Fountain Springs Cr. and Ridgeland Cr. at 11:12 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 9

- Vandalism arrest on Tuscany Ct. at 4:20 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Morninghome Rd. at 5:49 p.m.
- Miscellaneous burglary on Adair Ct. at 7:09 p.m.
- Welfare check, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 7:41 p.m.
- Reckless driving on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:17 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Franciscan Dr. at 11:42 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Edward H. Nienaber

Edward H. Nienaber, a former resident of Danville who made a name for himself carving carousel horses, died at the age of 77.

He was born Oct. 30, 1930, in Rose City, Mich., and was raised in West Branch, Mich., where he attended West Branch High School and graduated in June 1948. He graduated from Michigan State University in June 1952 and was inducted into the Army Artillery the next month. He attended basic training, officer candidate school, in Oklahoma, and served in Korea starting February 1953, and spent 30 months in the army.

Upon discharge he went to work for Western Electric (now Lucent Technology) in Chicago, as a systems engineer officer, and had job assignments in Virginia, back in Chicago and New York City. He was transferred to Sunnyvale in 1969, following an assignment and promotion where he was engineering manager until retirement in 1987. He traveled extensively upon retirement, both in the United States and abroad. He lived in Danville for 37 years where he enjoyed golf with a group of friends and carved carousel horses. He moved to Grass Valley in 2005.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Lorraine J. Raiman Nienaber; son Bill of Reno, Nev.; daughter Wendy of Concord; son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Chelsea and granddaughter Katelyn, all of Nevada City. Services will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21, at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo.

Weir L. Johnson

Danville resident Weir L. Johnson, 63, lost his two-year fight with cancer at home July 28 with his beloved wife and daughter by his side.

He was born in San Francisco on Feb. 21, 1945, a sixth generation San Franciscan, and was raised in Vallejo. He resided in Danville for more than 20 years and was a Vietnam War veteran. After completing his military service, he began his 35-year career in sales and sales management in the payroll services industry, beginning with Bank of America Business Services Division, then to ProBusiness. He retired from Kronos Corp. in 2004.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years Leslie; daughter Lauren; brother Mitchell Johnson of Vallejo; brother-in-law, Mark Tauster, Susan Tauster, and Nicole Tauster of Chicago. Private family Memorial Services were held. Donations may be made to Hospice of the East Bay or the American Cancer Society.

Robert O'Neil Gregory

Robert O'Neil Gregory, a resident of Alamo for 38 years, died July 29 from complications of cancer, at the age of 78.

He was born Jan. 29, 1930, and raised in Oregon City, Ore., and moved to California to attend Menlo High School. He went on to receive his degree from Stanford University in 1953. While attending Stanford, he was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity and played trumpet in the Leland Stanford Jr.

Marching Band. After obtaining his bachelor's degree he served as a captain in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. Upon his return, he continued his education at Stanford Business School, where he received his MBA in 1957.

He made his career at JC Penney Co., beginning in San Francisco at the Penney store at Fifth and Market, then holding numerous positions in California and Idaho. A highlight of his 35 years was escorting Mr. Penney on his visits to San Francisco. He also worked as a loaned executive to the United Way. After retirement, he spent part of every year in Hawaii, sitting on the beach discussing politics and world events. He also was involved in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, San Souci Board of Directors, and counted migrating humpback whales for the National Marine Sanctuary.

He participated in the Diablo Valley Stanford Alumni Club, always making time for football tailgate parties at the Farm. His passion for traveling took him to many countries and continents. He also loved fishing for salmon on the Columbia River where he grew up.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Suzanne; brother Donald Gregory of Silverton, Ore.; children Karen Anderson of Santa Barbara, Diane Baskin of Huntington Beach, and Scott Gregory of Danville; and four grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held Aug. 9 at Round Hill Country Club. Donations can be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), 2890 Mitchell

Drive, Walnut Creek 94598 or the American Cancer Society.

Ann M. Evilsizor

Danville resident Ann M. Evilsizor died July 25 with her beloved family by her side, at the age of 99.

She was born in Ohio on Oct. 2, 1908, and for the last 38 years she lived in Danville and before that Castro Valley and Oakland. She enjoyed playing cards and gambling, and Las Vegas was her favorite vacation spot. She also was an active member of Eastern Star, Ladies of the Nile, and the Women's Benefit Association for more than 50 years, hosting many events at her home. She loved having her family and friends over, both informally and formally, and hosted all the major holiday parties for nearly 80 years.

She is survived by her children and spouses: Ken Evilsizor, Marylee and Ed Bauer, Helen and Mike Lippitt and John and Mary Evilsizor; grandchildren and their spouses and many great-grandchildren. A public viewing was held at Oakmont Memorial park in Lafayette but there was no public funeral.

Frank John Straface

Frank John "Nanu" Straface, a former resident of Blackhawk, died July 30 at the age of 73 after making a remarkable recovery from a near death injury in 2007.

He was born Jan. 28, 1935, to Frank and Ida Straface in Pittsburg. After graduating from Pittsburg

High School in 1952, he joined the National Guard. In 1955 he married Linda and, while still in the Guard, he worked at the DuPont plant in Pittsburg and the Livermore Lawrence Laboratory as a chemist.

He obtained his real estate sales license and began selling homes at San Ramon Country Club development for Volk McClain. He and Hank Cupples opened their own real estate brokerage company, the beginning of Valley Realty, which grew to more than 30 offices. He was president of the Southern Alameda County Board of Realtors (SACBOR) and a director for the California Association of Realtors. He became a partner of the Blackhawk Development Co. and was the first president of the Country Club Board of Directors. As Blackhawk and the area around it continued to grow, he became the sole proprietor of "FJ's Blackhawk Market" with the concept of providing an upscale grocery store; the market was featured on the covers of both People and Entrepreneur magazines. After its sale, he began to build custom homes in the Pebble Beach area.

He was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Linda; he is survived by his two sons, David (Anne) of Pebble Beach and Daniel (Jill) of Danville and five grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held Aug. 14 at the Blackhawk Museum. Donations are suggested to THE FIRST TEE, World Golf Village, 425 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092 or to a charity of your choice.

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Danville
 WEEKLY

Tween scene: Jonas-mania

Danville kids
a-gaga over
cool young
singers



PHOTOS COURTESY DERITA FAMILY

The Jonas Brothers perform at the Sleeptrain Pavilion in Concord in July, one of eight concerts seen by three of their biggest fans from Danville—Stephani, Brittani and Jarid DeRita. The DeRitas have met with the singing sensations on three of those occasions.

by Summer Dashe

Exploits of the DeRita family of Danville strike envy into young hearts: Teens Stephani, Brittani and little brother Jarid have attended eight Jonas Brothers concerts—plus have had the good luck to meet the stars on three occasions.

“How was it?”

Not an uncommon question for the DeRita family.

The Jonas Brothers—Nick, Joe and Kevin—are the current rock ‘n’ roll sensation captivating the tween scene. From movies to music, to billboards and Broadway, the brothers have touched every aspect of the entertainment industry.

“From the first time we met them to the last they have acted the same, because when we first met them it was at the beginning of what people are now calling ‘Jonasmania,’” the Danville kids said.

So, DeRita family, it must be impossible to score those gleaming backstage passes allowing access to holy Jonas territory—how do you do it? And please, lend us not-so-fortunate outsiders some insight into Jonas life.

“They’re really nice, and they gave us hugs and shook our hands,” said a modest Steffani DeRita, 15.

The Jonas trio began as small specs on Burger King, Clorox and Lego commercials until youngest brother, Nick, hit it big on Broadway at age 6. The solo act for Nick was short-lived when the brothers realized the power of three sounded much better.

The trio opened for Kelly Clarkson and the Cheetah Girls and soon after, in the year 2006, recorded its first album, “It’s About Time.” When the album flopped, Columbia records dropped the boys.

“When we first saw them last July, 2007, they were nothing yet, they were slowly moving up,” said Brittani DeRita, 17, recalling their performance at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. “It was just a free show, but I was like, wow, I really like these guys!”



The Jonas Brothers (l-r) Kevin, Nick and Joe Jonas meet with Steffani, Brittani and Jarid DeRita.

1079 THE END IN SACRAMENTO

Then one year ago, Jonas luck changed and Disney-owned Hollywood records signed the trio, catapulting the cute singers to fame. In August of ‘07 “Jonas Brothers,” the album, went platinum. The Jonas Brothers became the youngest-ever act to sign with concert presenter Live Nation. They have been on the cover of Rolling Stone, on Oprah, Leno, and Regis and Kelly.

Girls love them because they’re cute. The brothers have stirred the hopes of Disney-influenced young women, who dream of enchantment. The Jonas Brothers are their Prince Charmings.

“Joe is my favorite just because he is close to my own age, and he’s cute, and he seems really funny,” said Brittani.

“Joe is my favorite, but I really like them all,” agreed Steffani.

How could someone not like them all? With dark brown hair, bright brown eyes, and a style all their own consisting of

tight pants, flashy, fitted suits and pointy-toed shoes, the brothers are definitely “Burning Up,” the title of their new song.

The Jonas Brothers Burning Up Tour is going on now and the boys are sweeping the nation with their sound. It certainly is hot and “they always have energy, they keep the crowd pumped up and we’re always on our feet—they’re amazing,” said Brittani.

So, the DeRitas’ addiction to Jonas music, which began at the Alameda County Fair, continues today. Back then it was easy to see the not-so-famous threesome, but now, how do they continue their meetings with the nationwide stars?

For one event they had meet and greet passes and front row press seats they received from a friend of their father’s. What about all the other times the DeRita family met up with the famous brothers?

“It started with MySpace,” recalled Steffani. “My sister and I would check for show dates (on the Jonas Brothers fan site) and buy them. Then my mom called a radio station to see if we could somehow buy tickets to meet them. They said if we got there early enough that maybe we could catch a glimpse of them.”

Turns out, some of the meet and greeters didn’t show up, so the DeRitas got to take their places. That’s one way to meet a celebrity; got anymore tricks?

“Well, another time, we heard they were playing a small show at the Verizon center (in Sacramento) and if you went early enough (like at 6 a.m.) they were holding contests and if you won you would get to meet them. My mom and brother won a dance contest!” claimed Steffani.

“We enter every possible contest out there to meet them and there are a lot out there,” said the sisters, via e-mail. “They love to meet their fans and they always take their time.”

What began as a simple free concert at the fair grew to a national sensation. The Jonas Brothers have swept the nation and are stealing the hearts of young teens everywhere. And the DeRita family has certainly proven its devotion to Jonas talent. ■

Epicure



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Eggs 'cuze me?!?

Unless you are strict vegan or vegetarian, eggs are probably an essential component of your diet and cooking regimens—they are a great cost-effective source of the best proteins, minerals and vitamins you can consume. A proverbial trip to the grocery store automatically included milk, bread and the often-called “perfect food”—eggs. That may still be true but, over the years, the concept of what a good egg is has become increasingly complicated. When I visit the egg section of my local grocer, there are so many different labels, it's hard to make sense of all the unique combinations. As I try to figure out which eggs to buy, the corny comedian inside me yearns to scream out: “Eggs 'cuze me, can someone please help?!?” With a little research on the subject, though, I ended up a bit more knowledgeable. Here's a guide to selecting eggs.

What are grades?

Eggs are classified by USDA standards according to quality (using exterior and interior criteria) and size: AA, A and B. In higher quality



eggs, the yolk and white both stand higher and spread less. Of course, grade will be a factor in cost.

Are organic eggs better than non-organic?

A “certified organic” label means eggs from hens fed rations with ingredients grown with no pesticides, fungicides, herbicides or commercial fertilizers. In organic egg production, hens must live cage-free with access to the outdoors. Organic eggs are more expensive than eggs from hens fed conventional feed in high-volume operations. Ethical eaters may seek out organic eggs to be consoled by the hens' quality of life but, accord-

ing to the American Egg Board, the overall nutritional content of eggs is not affected by whether or not the rations are organic.

Free-range, cage-free or caged-raised?

True “free range” means the hens are able to roam outdoors but can include those that have once a day access to the outdoors. Few hens are actually raised outdoors due to weather and seasonal conditions. Aside from “free range,” hens are either given the run of the inside floor area or are housed in cages but “cage-free” doesn't necessarily mean much in terms of quality of life for hens. Some eggs labeled “cage free” are produced in large indoor floor operations where hens are tightly packed side-by-side, their outdoor access being only a tiny opening for the beak. Egg experts agree that definitions of “access” are very loose and the monitoring of these standards is infrequent. Free-range and cage-free eggs are generally more expensive, but, according to the American Egg Board, the overall nutritional content of eggs is not affected by whether hens are raised free-range or in floor

RECIPES

Deviled Eggs (makes 24 halves)

1/8 tsp salt
Dash pepper
1 tsp butter
(Multiply the recipe by as many additional servings as you need)

1. Beat and blend eggs, water, salt and pepper. Over medium-high heat, heat butter until just sizzling.
2. Pour in egg mixture and set eggs immediately at the edges of the pan by rolling the mixture around in the pan.
3. With a spatula, carefully push cooked portions at edges toward center so uncooked portions can reach hot pan surface, tilting pan and moving cooked portions as necessary.
4. When the top has thickened and no visible liquid egg remains, fill the omelet as desired. With spatula, fold omelet in half or roll. Invert onto plate with a quick flip of the wrist or slide from pan onto plate.

Filling: Add 1/3 to 1/2 cup of your favorite filling to each omelet. To season, add 1/8 to 1/4 tsp of your favorite herb or spice.

French Omelet (serves 1)

2 eggs
2 Tbsp water

1. Remove yolks from eggs and place in a large bowl; mash with the back of a fork or a potato masher until totally ground. Stir in the mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar, sugar and dill. Mix well until smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste.
2. Stuff the egg whites with the yolk mixture. Refrigerate for at least one hour.
3. To serve, lightly sprinkle with paprika and garnish with extra dill, as desired.

or cage operations.

White or brown shells: Any difference?

No, shell color is determined by the breed of hen and is not related to flavor, nutritional value or quality. Since brown eggs come from slightly larger hens that require more food, brown eggs are usually more expensive than white.

Are fertile eggs more nutritious?

Fertile eggs are not any more nutritious. Furthermore, they do not keep as well as non-fertile eggs and are more expensive to produce.

Whole egg or whites?

Most of us know that egg yolks are high in cholesterol—215 mg for a large egg—while the American Heart Association recommends only 300 mg daily per person. On the other hand, an egg white (albumin) is fat free, contains only 10 calories and accounts for more than 50 percent of an egg's total protein, niacin, riboflavin, chlorine, magnesium, potassium, sodium and sulfur. Cholesterol-conscious eaters and dieters often opt for egg whites as a healthy alternative to whole eggs.

Well, hopefully, this begins to sort out the key issues for you and

doesn't leave you more confused. Armed with the facts, it's up to you to decide which eggs you buy. Once you find the right egg and source, get to know the particulars and, if satisfied, stick with that type and brand consistently. All in all, eggs are an egg-ceptional source of nutrition for you and your family. And that's no yolk.

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

Egg care

Buying eggs: Inspect any eggs that you purchase for breaks or cracks. And of course, take care when packing them in your shopping bag for the trip home as they are very fragile.

Keeping eggs: With store-to-home refrigeration, fresh shell eggs can be kept for about four to five weeks beyond the pack date on the carton.

Storing eggs: Store eggs in their original carton to keep them from absorbing refrigerator odors and to retard moisture loss. Do not store them on the refrigerator door as this causes inconsistent temperatures. Store eggs with their pointed ends facing down; this helps prevent the air chamber and the yolk from being displaced, slowing deterioration.



AMERICAN

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8/30 - Live Jazz with Sue Lukito and Guest Musician (8pm to 10pm)

9/6 - Live Music with The Black Pearl Project (8pm-10pm)

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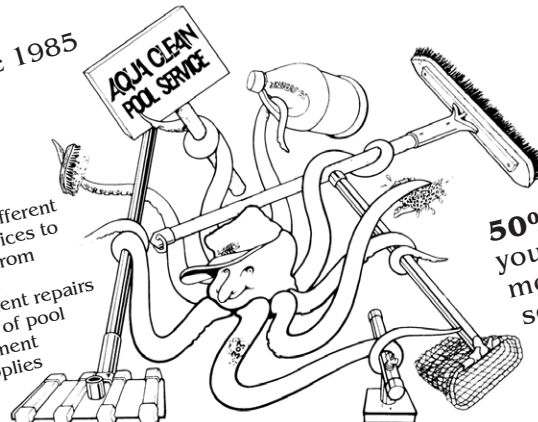
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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

San Ramon Fire Protection District, Part 1

The year 1963 was a big one for firefighting in San Ramon. Growth was in the air as the new Aerojet General plant expanded and the new freeway alignment was debated. At least two people thought that the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District was not providing enough service for San Ramon. The ECCCFPD covered a huge area of the county—177 square miles from Moraga to Brentwood.

Led by William J. Ferreira and Howard Wiedemann, the San Ramon Fire Protection District was born. Bill and his two brothers had grown up in the little village of San Ramon where their father, William, was the San Ramon General Store owner and postmaster. Wiedemann was a prominent rancher whose family had lived in San Ramon since the 1860s. Aerojet General began its San Ramon plant in 1957 at Fostoria and soon became the area's largest employer. The company researched new ideas in peaceful use of the atom and made training and research reactors. It eventually hired 800-1,000 people, including Bill's brother Howard Ferreira. Aerojet had its own fire brigade and installed the first fire hydrant in San Ramon.

After World War II, Ferreira had gone to Diablo Valley College for fire science courses and became a Danville Fire District volunteer. Trained as a mechanic, he opened a garage next door to the San Ramon General Store. In the 1950s, San Ramon's fire service was run out of Ferreira's garage as part of the ECCCFPD. He housed an ECC fire truck and jeep, made a 100-mile trip each month to service other fire trucks in the East County, and answered fire calls 24 hours a day from a phone in his home. For these services he was paid \$50 a month.

Ferreira tells some colorful stories about the District's beginnings. He and Wiedemann talked to County Supervisor Mel Nielsen about establishing a San Ramon Fire District. Nielsen agreed, but wanted it to be a dependent county fire district with a



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

The first hydrant for the San Ramon Fire protection District used EBMUD water and was located at Aerojet General in San Ramon in 1965; shown are (l-r) Fire Chief Bill Ferreira, Francis O'Shea, Don Warren and Billy Ferreira.

county-appointed commission and county-approved budget. But the two San Ramon men wanted an independent district for San Ramon similar to Danville's. Independent districts had locally elected commissioners who adopted the district budget. A lawyer friend of Wiedemann's provided the county staff with a report for the Board of Supervisors that created such an independent district. Evidently Nielsen didn't read the report carefully because the Board voted to create an independent fire district for San Ramon on Jan. 29, 1963.

When he found out, Nielsen was "hopping mad," according to Ferreira. Nielsen tried unsuccessfully to rescind the vote. Then Chief Al Bates of the ECC Fire District swept in and took the county fire equipment from San Ramon. Ferreira said he began hiding tools—McClouds, cans and other firefighting items, but lost the trucks to ECC. Then Bates sent a man to take the fire siren down off its pole. Ferreira got mad and threatened to shoot the guy down "like a jay-bird." It was a former Civil Defense siren that Bill had scrounged from San Francisco, not an ECC one.

The first Fire Commissioners were Larry Davidson, Armand Borel, Micky Schlesinger, Howard Wiedemann and A.C. "Johnny"

Johnson. The district boundary was about 20 square miles, included the Tassajara Valley on the east, and stretched from the Danville district on the north, to the Dublin San Ramon Services District on the south.

It had no money for six months, according to Ferreira. The Commissioners hired him as the first paid employee, making him a part-time captain for \$300 a month while he continued to work at his garage. Bill had to borrow a truck at first but was able to use the tools he had squirreled away. He remembers that it was hard to get volunteers because "there was nobody here" but he began with 12-13 men. He did pretty much everything—the budget, finding more trucks, and answering calls 24 hours a day.

On July 1, 1963, the new San Ramon Fire Protection District was able to tap a portion of the property tax and begin to acquire its own equipment. The District was on its way after its lively and successful beginnings.

Sources: *Valley Pioneer*, Feb. 2, 1963, June 23, 1965, Dec. 22, 1976; interviews with Bill Ferreira, 1997 and 2008.

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."

'Missing Pieces' moves the spirit

Peace Lutheran to present study of Alzheimer's

Peace Lutheran Church along with Musical Minded Productions is presenting a stage reading of "Missing Pieces," in which 15-year-old L'Aura finds her potential through her grandmother suffering with Alzheimer's.

The musical, written by composer playwright Catherine McSharry, is set in contemporary Benicia. The funny but moving portrayal explores how we can stay connected with the heart and spirit of loved ones with Alzheimer's without losing our own spirit and energy.

There will be refreshments afterward where playgoers can mingle with a variety of nonprofit agencies that help those affected by dementia and Alzheimer's. Also interfaith spiritual leaders

will be available to meet privately with people.

The cast and musicians have extensive experience in the Bay Area. They also performed the reading at Playhouse West in Walnut Creek on April 30 to a full house. This will be the second performance. ■

A reading and more

What: Staged reading of "Missing Pieces" by Catherine McSharry

Where: Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara

When: 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 24

Tickets: Free; suggested donation \$10

Reservations: Call 648-7000

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Calendar

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

Art

Artist's Day at Forest Home Farms Artists, poets and photographers! Enjoy a day of creating from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3 at 16-acre Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Bring supplies, a chair and lunch. Cost is \$5 for residents and \$6 for nonresidents. Call 973-3282.

Auditions

Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem Diablo Valley Masterworks Chorale will hold auditions for Lloyd Webber's "Requiem" and Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast" on Aug. 18. Chorus meets Mondays, Aug. 18 to Nov. 15, and performs Nov. 22 in Walnut Creek. Call 228-8690 or visit www.masterworkschorale.net.

Classes

'Bug-Eating Plants' Sloat Garden Centers will host a class on "Bug-Eating Plants" at 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 17, at Sloat Garden Centers, 828 Diablo Rd., Danville. Call 743-0288.

Colorful Foliage, Spring Flowering Bulbs and Winter Veggies Navlet's Garden Center hosts free gardening classes to the public. September classes include Colorful Foliage at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 13; Spring Flowering Bulbs at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 14; and Winter Veggies at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 28. All classes are at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 837-9144.

Drought Tolerant Plants for Yards 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

Danville Rotary The club invites people to join members from noon-1:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 18, for a free lunch and to hear speaker Linda Zamfino, Bay Area Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration. She oversees all the Social Security offices in the Bay Area and will share her experiences. Call Steve at 518-7137 for more information and reservations.

Invitation to a Potluck Dinner Party The Tri-Valley Democratic Club invites you, your family, friends and neighbors to a potluck dinner party from 7-9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. Get to know Democrats and learn how you can participate in the 2008 political season. Bring main dishes, side dishes, desserts, drinks, party attitude, and musical instruments for a jam. Event is free. Call 831-8355.

Events

26th Annual Wine and Music Festival Alamo Rotary will hold the 26th annual Wine and Music Festival from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6, at Alamo Plaza. Headlining this event will be the Fabulous Cruise Tones, and school music groups will perform. Dinner tickets cost \$17 and feature selections from Forli's, Faz, and the Rotary BBQ. The club will donate proceeds to local school programs and community charities. Call 820-3055.

9-11 Remembrance Ceremony San Ramon Valley Exchange Club with the Town of Danville is sponsoring a Sept. 11 Ceremony from 6-6:45 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, at the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Nicholas Tooliatos. There

will be a color guard, bagpipers, Scouts, doves, a salute battery, ice cream for kids and a student essay contest with prizes of \$250, \$150 and \$100. Call 275-2412.

Beth Chaim's One-Year Anniversary Celebrate the one-year anniversary of the newest permanent Jewish community in the Tri-Valley area, at a community picnic from 5-8 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17, at Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville. All are welcome. RSVP by calling 736-7146 or e-mailing admin@bethchaim.com.

Danville-Alamo AAUW Membership Brunch The event will feature Jane Massengill, a corporate trainer, life coach, author and motivational speaker, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$25 if postmarked by Aug. 23; \$30 until Sept. 1. Call 648-5153.

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

'Missing Pieces' Church Reading A staged reading of "Missing Pieces" will take place at 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 24, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. The musical tells the story of a 15-year-old girl who learns through magical moments with her Alzheimer's-stricken grandmother to recognize her own potential. This event is free. Call 648-7000.

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 Mount Diablo. Cost is \$250 per person. Call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

Salute America's Heroes Golf Event The first Salute America's Heroes Charity Golf event will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 8, at Oakhurst Country Club, 1001 Peacock Creek, Clayton. Various sponsorships are available. Support wounded veterans from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Visit www.saluteheroes.org.

Summer Nights at the Livery The Danville Livery on Sycamore Valley Road and San Ramon Valley Boulevard is presenting Two Hot Nights in August! from 6-9 p.m., Thursdays, Aug. 7 and 21, with live music, dining, shopping and entertainment. Each night will include free hula hoops for children of all ages. Visit www.danvillelivery.com.

Tinsel and Treasures Folk Art Show The show will offer original handmade vintage whimsies, unique dolls, Halloween and Christmas folk art, crowns, jewelry and papier mache collectibles, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Danville Women's Club, 242 W. Linda Mesa Ave. This event is free. Call 451-7805 or visit www.tinselandtreaasures.com.

Exhibits

Museum of the San Ramon Valley: We The People The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is presenting its latest exhibit, "We the People" now through Saturday, Sept. 27. This exhibit on politics features artifacts from the County Clerk's office and local residents, Danville's John Baldwin, and Teddy "Bear" Roosevelt. The Museum is located at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues in Danville. Visit www.museumsv.org.

Film

'Amazing Race' St. Timothy's Church will host a viewing of "Amazing Race" at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17, at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville. The story is about a brave

force led by one persistent man who paved the way for this world changing milestone. This event is free. Call 933-7579.

Screening of 'The Reflecting Pool' "The Reflecting Pool" follows an investigation by a skeptical Russian-American journalist who teams up with the father of a 9/11 victim to fact check the official version of the tragedy as documented in the 9/11 Commission Report. The screening will take place from 7-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 27, at Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free. Visit www.mtdpc.org.

Fundraisers

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

Katie's Classic Join us for a fun-filled day of golf from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 8, at Crow Canyon Country Club; 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville, to raise money to support Katie's Clinic for Rett Syndrome at Children's Hospital and Research Center. Golfers of all abilities welcome; \$195 per golfer, includes all meals, 18 holes of golf with cart and lots of prizes. Call 451-1220.

LLS East Bay 'Light The Night Walk' Join The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at its annual fundraising walk to celebrate and honor lives touched by cancer, at 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11 at Walnut Creek Civic Park, Civic and North Broadway, Walnut Creek. Teams of friends, family and co-workers gather for a fun evening of food and entertainment, then walk together with lighted balloons as the sun sets. Call 625-1107.

Project Ready to Learn Drop-off at CarlaPie Donate and drop off new backpacks and school supplies for K-12 students from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., July 29-Aug. 15, at CarlaPie Baby & Kids, 109F Town and Country Rd., Danville. Donations benefit impoverished kids throughout the East Bay. Contact 552-9946.

Kids and Teens

Princeton Review SAT Strategy Session Danville Library will host a Princeton Review SAT Strategy Session that will focus on achieving the best possible scores at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

Lectures

African Drumming Drumming has been shown to boost immune system functions and metabolism. Join this fun way to get "good vibrations" from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. No rhythmic or musical ability is required. This event is free to cancer patients, their friends and caregivers. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcva.org.

Managing Symptoms and Side Effects Find out what you can do to save your strength, manage fatigue, and feel better from the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcva.org.

Live Music

Blackhawk Summer Concert Series Blackhawk Plaza will host its annual Summer Concert Series at 7

WEEKEND PREVIEW



SHERIL OKUMURA

Fun summer concerts

A family enjoys Blackhawk Plaza at the Summer Concert Series as they dance and sing along to the live performance by the Fundamentals on July 25. The Friday concerts continue with Tainted Love, tonight; Best Intentions, Aug. 22; Pride & Joy, Aug. 29; Busta-Groove, Sept. 5; and Evolution, The Ultimate Journey Tribute Band, Sept. 12. Seating begins at 5 p.m. Outside food, beverage and furniture is not be permitted.

p.m., every Friday, through Sept. 12, at Blackhawk Plaza, 3454 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. These concerts are free. Call (415) 380-8390.

Ramona Park Grand Opening/25th Anniversary Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the city of San Ramon at the opening of Ramona Park in Dougherty Valley, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17, 6330 Murdock Way. There will be a concert featuring 1980s dance, rock, R&B and top 40. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be for sale. Call 973-3282.

The Ramblers play St. Timothy's Since 2005 the Ramblers have been mixing it up as a lively local blues and R&B band that will make people of all ages want to get up and dance. Come buy food and dance under the stars from 6:30-10:15 p.m., Friday, Aug. 22, at St. Timothy's, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville. Cost is \$10 per person or \$35 max per family. Call 212-8132.

Miscellaneous

Danville Library Teen Advisory Board The Danville Library is accepting applications from creative and energetic teen volunteers from the ages of 13-18 for the 2008-09 teen advisory board. Applications are available at the library, 400 Front St., Danville, and are due back no later than Sept. 15. Students must be available for monthly board meetings October through June.

On Stage

Black Box's 'Honour' Role Players Ensemble Theatre's Black Box is presenting "Honour", Joanna Murray-Smith's original and multi-faceted exploration of marriage, at 3 p.m., Sundays, Sept. 7 and 14; and at 8 p.m. Saturdays Sept. 6 and 13. This will take place at Danville's Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St, Danville. Tickets are \$10. Seats are limited; call 820-1278 for reservations.

'Little Shop of Horrors' The Willows Theatre Company opens its fall season with the award-winning comic musical, "Little Shop of Horrors" on Monday, Aug. 11, playing through Sept. 14 at the Willows Theatre mainstage, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Tickets are

\$30-\$40. For show times, call 798-1300 or check www.willowstheatre.org.

Political Notes

Blackhawk Republican Women's Summer Social The club is holding a catered barbecue dinner and "Olympic challenge" in bocce ball, poker and croquet from 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 23. Bring a bottle of wine to share. R.S.V.P. by Aug. 15. A \$30 check, made payable to Blackhawk Republican Women, is the reservation. Call 828-2360.

Recreation

Summer Tours at Forest Home Farms Come experience what life was like on an old-fashioned farm from 10 a.m.-noon, until Aug. 29, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Activities include making orange juice or lemonade, working in the garden and old-fashioned sack races. Cost is \$4 per child for children in grades 1-5. Call 973-3282.

Spiritual

Separated and Divorced Retreat San Damiano will host a retreat on "Crossing the Red Sea: The Journey Through Separation, Divorce and Beyond" with Victoria MacDonald from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 23, at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$75, including lunch. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Weekly Yoga and Meditation Come and enjoy a group reading from India's greatest modern seer, poet and yogi Sri Aurobindo, followed by meditation, from 7-8 p.m., every Tuesday, Aug. 14-Oct. 2, at a private residence. Group size is limited to eight people and the event is free. For information, contact Samesh at 736-7636 or shinasa@hotmail.com.

Young Adults Weekend Retreat "Awaken to the Sacred" will take place Friday-Sunday, Aug. 22-24, at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Includes conferences, sharing, prayer and spiritual direction. The cost is \$195 for a private room and \$165 for a shared room. Register online: www.sandamiano.org.

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 Estate Sale- All Household contents are to be sold. Furniture (2 Bedroom sets, piano, living room & dining room sets, wood carved chairs, French wingback chairs), Collectibles, Art,Toys, Books, New Wheel chair, Transport chair, Walker, Mirrors, Tv, Lamps...

Pleasanton, 4567 Sandalwood Drive, Aug. 15 & 16, 8-12
 Kids toys-boys and girls; furniture; clothing (mostly womens & kids); swim toys; small kids picnic table (plastic); ski clothing--womens; Arbonne products at discounted prices.

Pleasanton, 5664 San Juan Wy, August 16 9-2
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 Soda/Snack Business. Coke* Pepsi* Red Bull* Frito. Entire Business - \$16,840. 1-800-836-3464. (Cal-SCAN)

ABSOLUTELY ALL CASH!
 Want to earn \$1,000 in a day from a local vending route? Call today 800-920-7901 (AAN CAN)

Absolutely Recession Proof
 Do You Earn \$800 in a Day? Your Own Local Vending Route Includes 30 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (Cal-SCAN)

EARN UP TO \$15,000+ monthly!
 Enjoy computers? Enjoy people? You'll LOVE this online card/gift home business! \$398 initial investment. 1-800-239-2970; http://www.myearn-pro.com/easlyteam (AAN CAN)

No phone number in the ad?
 GO TO **fogster.com**
 for contact information

MEDIA MAKE-UP ARTISTS

earn up to \$500/day for television, CD/videos, film, fashion. One week course in Los Angeles while building portfolio. Brochure 310-364-0665 <http://www.MediaMakeupArtists.com> (AAN CAN)

TROPICAL FISH HOBBYISTS!

If You Can Clean Fish Tanks, You Can Make A Lot Of Money! Over \$50,000 Part-Time!! (215)785-0758; <http://www.MyTropicalFishPlan.com> (AAN CAN)

?? Got Cash ??

Generate \$1000 to \$5000 Weekly No Selling, No Boss, Not MLM www.youcanhavecashmail.com



CEO Income from Home

If you are financially motivated, driven and want to excel in life, call: 888.706.9580

560 Employment Information

\$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$

Earn Extra income assembling CD cases from Home. CALL OUR LIVE OPERATORS NOW! 1-800-405-7619 ext. 150 <http://www.easywork-greatpay.com> (AAN CAN)

****AWESOME CAREER****

Government Postal Jobs! \$17.80 to \$59.00/hour Entry Level. NO Experience Required/NOW HIRING! Green Card O.K. Call 1-866-477-4954 ext. 93 Closed Sundays. (AAN CAN)

Able to Travel

National Company Hiring 6 people. No experience necessary. Paid training and Transportation. Over 18. Start ASAP. 1-888-921-1999. (Cal-SCAN)

DATA ENTRY PROCESSORS

Needed! Earn \$3,500-\$5,000 Weekly Working from Home! Guaranteed Paychecks! No Experience Necessary! Positions Available Today! Register Online Now! <http://www.DataPositions.com> (AAN CAN)

Driver

Don't Just Start Your Career, Start It Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! www.JoinCRST.com 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

Driver - \$5K Sign On Bonus

for Experienced Teams: Dry Van & Temp Control available. O/Os & CDL-A Grads welcome. Call Covenant 1-866-684-2519 EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

Driver - CDL Training

\$0 down, financing by Central Refrigerated. Company Drivers earn average of \$40k/year. Owner Operators average \$60k/Year 1-800-587-0029 x4779. www.CentralDrivingJobs.net (Cal-SCAN)

Drivers

Ask about qualifying for 5 raises in a year! No experience? CDL Training available. Tuition reimbursement. 1-877-232-2386 www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com (Cal-SCAN)

Drivers \$1000+ Weekly

Sign-On Bonus. 35-41 cpm. Earn over \$1000 weekly! Excellent Benefits. Need CDL-A & 3 months recent OTR. 1-800-635-8669. (Cal-SCAN)

Drivers - \$6K Sign On Bonus

Local & Regional Runs. Home most Weekends! Tank & Flatbed CDL-A Drivers. 4 On - 4 Off. Sherman Brothers 1-800-457-1459. www.Drive4SBI.com (Cal-SCAN)

Electrical Apprenticeships

Openings in all aspects of electrical work. Paid training, benefits, and advancement opportunities. High school grads ages 17-34. Paid relocation expenses. Call 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

Get Crane Trained!

Crane/Heavy Equipment Training. National Certification Prep. Placement Assistance. Financial Assistance. Northern California College of Construction. www.Heavy4.com Use Code "NCPA1" 1-866-302-7462. (Cal-SCAN)

HOME REFUND JOBS!

Earn \$3,500-\$5000 Weekly Processing Company Refunds Online! Guaranteed Paychecks! No Experience Needed! Positions Available Today! Register Online Now! <http://www.RebateWork.com> (AAN CAN)

Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

California Army National Guard. No Experience. Will pay to train. High School Jr/ Sr & Grads/ Non-Grads/ GED. May qualify for \$20,000 BONUS. 1800GoGuard.com/careers (Cal-SCAN)

OTR Drivers

Deserve more pay and more hometime! \$.41/mile! Home weekends! Run our western region! Health, Dental, Life Insurance! Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953. www.HeartlandExpress.com (Cal-SCAN)

Owner/Operators

with own permits and insurance to pull our 53' refrigerated trailers. \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus, weekly settlements, stop pay, fuel card program, 100% lump sum reimbursement. Company driver positions also available. Brent Redmond Logistics. 1-800-777-5342. (Cal-SCAN)

Part Time Jobs

The Navy Reserve has part-time jobs for one weekend each month + two weeks a year. Ages 18-39, w/wo prior military service. Call 1-800-345-NAVY. (Cal-SCAN)

Sponsored CDL Training

Never A Layoff! No Experience Needed! Earn \$40k-\$150k in your new career! Stevens Transport will sponsor the total cost of your CDL training! Excellent Benefits & 401k! EOE. Call Now! 1-800-358-9512, 1-800-333-8595. www.BecomeADriver.com (Cal-SCAN)

Job Offer

An established and expanding International company is seeking an Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable specialists for an immediate start. The ideal candidates will have strong communication skills and be extremely detail oriented. Forward your resume.

Job Offer

An established and expanding International company is seeking an Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable specialists for an immediate start. The ideal candidates will have strong communication skills and be extremely detail oriented. Forward your resume.



BUSINESS SERVICES

601 Accounting/Bookkeeping

Job Offer

An established and expanding International company is seeking an Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable specialists for an immediate start. The ideal candidates will have strong communication skills and be extremely detail oriented. Forward your resume.

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Looking for a cost efficient way to get out a News Release? The California Press Release Service is the only service with 500 current daily, weekly and college newspaper contacts in California. Questions call (916) 288-6010. www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com (Cal-SCAN)

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Prompt, experienced driver to transport individuals or groups short/long distances, corporate or leisure travel to airports, proms, weddings, wine tours. Excellent references. Town Car. 925.395.8181



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719 Remodeling/ Additions

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Specializes in additions, and remodels. For your free consultation please contact Jeff Martinez at 925-584-6535. License CA-B909255

726 Decor & Drapery

CHANGING SPACES by Jill Denton
Interior Redesign, Staging, Design & Color Consultations. www.jilldenton.com (925) 998-7747

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Cement, Brickwork, Sod & Sprinkler Install, Fence/Deck Repair, Waterfalls, Fountains Driveways start at \$8 sq ft 925-285-3891 lic/bond www.valleygreenlandscaping.com

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Home Repair and Remodeling
Licensed General Contractor Carpentry, Remodel-Kit/Bath, Electrical, Structural Repairs, Paint/ Drywall, Decks/Fences David 925.383.5180 #572951

MAHDevelopment.com

Remodeling / Room Additions / Custom Homes / Outdoor Kitchens & BBQ's - Calif Licensed General Contractor (Lic #913049). 20 years experience. Member BBB, NARI & NKBA. Free estimates! Call 925-580-1673

757 Handyman/ Repairs

AAA COMPLETE HOME REPAIRS
Electrical- Security Lighting- Carpentry Drywall Texturing and Repairs- Insulating. Jon 510-733-5582

771 Painting/ Wallpaper

#1 JOE'S PAINTING & HANDYMAN

Free Est / Reasonable Prices No Job Too Small! 925-200-7333 lic# 624542

SCOTT'S PAINTING

Residential - Interior/ Exterior Competitive Rates Over 20yrs in Pleasanton Licensed ~ Bonded ~ Insured Call Scott 925-918-1874

790 Roofing

ROOF MAN
LICENSE # 345800 Roof Maintenance and Repair. Roof and Gutter Cleaning. 510-886-5353—Office 510-886-3509—Cell



805 Homes for Rent

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA
We have a REMARKABLE 2-story duet for rent in Pleasanton! This home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and a 2 car garage with great storage! Good size backyard with dog run; new landscaping New carpeting; new paint; new flooring Available 08/30/08!! Near Schools! Near Downtown! Near shopping! Central heat and air. No rear neighbors. Contact Jeff at 925-321-6420

809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM
Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Dublin, 3 BR/2 BA - \$520,000
Livermore, 3 BR/1 BA - \$300,000
Livermore, 4 BR/3 BA
2800+ sq. ft. Newer Executive home, 4/5 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, Den, Office, Prime Location, huge rear yard. Rent includes Gardening Service! Available now! Garaventa Ranch Road East. A few blocks to PW shopping and 580 Freeway. Call: 925-216-6446

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$769000

830 Commercial/ Income Property

Office Space Available
1,400 sq ft in Distinguished San Ramon. Prime second floor space in the Crow Canyon Business Office Park at Crow Canyon Court. \$2260/mo Donna Singh (925)820-2772

840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares

Five Star Resort
\$6900, Studio 650-210-9054

PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Kittens aplenty

Searching for a kitten to call your own? Visit the East County Animal Shelter and you'll find many sweet-natured kittens available for adoption, including these two curious kittens named Spice and Coal. Spice is a friendly female with tortoiseshell markings and Coal is a male black kitten with just a few white hairs on his chest. Both kittens are about 8 to 10 weeks old and they love to be loved! The animal shelter has several more solid black kittens, tabby kittens, and a very friendly 3-month-old female kitten with tuxedo markings. Visit them all at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

Danville WEEKLY

Is Business Down? Need new customers?

Our loyal readers want to know about your business.

For Market Place Ads Contact Art (925) 600-0840 x12 agordillo@pleasantonweekly.com

Spend New Year's In Maui
1 bdrm ocean front timeshare in Kaanapali Beach-5 star resort 12/27/08-1/3/09-\$1,900 for wk, call (925) 872-8850

New Mexico Ranch Dispersal
New to Market. 140 acres - \$89,900. River Access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,000' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-360-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

850 Acreage/Lots/ Storage

Arizona Land Bargain
36 Acres - \$29,900. Beautiful mountain property in Arizona's Wine Country. Price reduced in buyers market. Won't last! Good access & views. Eureka Springs Ranch offered by AZLR. ADWR report & financing available. 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Colorado Mountain Ranch
Priced to Sell! 35 acres- \$39,900. Majestic lake & Mountain views, adjacent to national forest for camping or hiking, close to conveniences. EZ terms. 1-866-353-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

Colorado Ranch
Foreclosure Special! 100+ Acres for \$49,900. Year-round roads, utilities. Access to 6,000+ acre recreation land. Call 1-866-OWN-LAND x4392. (Cal-SCAN)

El Paso, Texas
20 acre ranches. Roads Surveyed. \$15,900, \$200 Down, \$159/month. Money Back Guarantee. Free Maps & Pictures. 1-800-343-9444. No Credit Checks!! (Cal-SCAN)

Lakefront Opportunity
Nevada's 3rd Largest Lake. Approx. 2 hrs. South of Carson City. 1 ac Dockable \$149,900. 1 ac Lake Access \$49,900. 38,000 ac Walker Lake, very rare. Home sites on paved road with city water. Magnificent views, very limited supply. New to market. Call 1-877-542-6628. (Cal-SCAN)

Montana's Best Land Deal
20AC- Ponderosa Pines, County Road & Utilities. Was: \$99,900. Now: \$79,900. 160AC w/New Log Cabin Was: \$199,900. Now: \$149,900. 208AC w/ Huge Storage Barn Was: \$299,900. NOW: \$249,900. Affordable financing, discounted prices. Absolutely beautiful land. Call 877-229-7840. Visit www.WesternSkiesLand.com While we talk! (Cal-SCAN)



OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms		
70 Zand Ln.	\$1,299,000	
Sun 1-4	Re/Max Accord	895-2804
3100 Stonegate Dr.	\$1,889,000	
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel	216-6817

5 Bedrooms

142 Erselia Trail	\$2,999,999	
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel	791-2600

BLACKHAWK

4 Bedrooms		
3659 Deer Trail	\$1,199,000	
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	925-260-8883

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms		
1948 St. George	\$699,000	
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	925-260-8883

4 Bedrooms		
915 Trebbiano Ct.	\$1,107,750	
Sat 10-2/Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	783-7371
176 Estates Dr.	\$1,199,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	998-9747
1111 Country Lane	\$1,489,000	
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	260-8883
191 Blackstone Drive	\$829,950	
Sun 1:30-4:30	J Rockcliff-Kelly Patterson	200-2525

5 Bedrooms		
308 Sunset Drive	\$1,145,000	
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	260-8883
318 Sun Stream Ct.	\$1,194,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	785-1586
16 Casolyn Ranch Ct.	\$1,595,000	
Sun 1-4	Prudential CA	858-4198

DUBLIN

2 Bedrooms		
7003 Stage Coach #A	\$346,000	
Sun 1-4	Investment RE	963-0569

3 Bedrooms		
6048 York Drive	\$475,000	
Sun 1:30-4	J Rockcliff Realtors	251-2547

4 Bedrooms		
11120 Bay Laurel Street	\$1,342,500	
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	260-8883
7157 Hansen Drive	\$669,000	
Sun 1:30-4	J Rockcliff Realtors	251-2528

LIVERMORE

2 Bedrooms		
492 Kensington Common	\$399,950	
Sun 2-5	J Rockcliff Realtors	487-6360

3 Bedrooms		
243 Covellite Lane	\$579,000	
Sun 1-4	Max de Vries-J Rockcliff	525-0116

4 Bedrooms		
1579 Frankfurt Way	\$697,950	
Sun 12:30-3:30	J Rockcliff Realtors	251-2523

751 Vinci Way	\$859,900	
Sun 1-4	J Rockcliff Realtors	487-6360

5 Bedrooms		
2136 McLean Place	\$1,674,900	
Sun 1-4	Max de Vries-J Rockcliff	525-0116

PLEASANTON

2 Bedrooms		
4341 Krause St.	\$574,888	
Sun 1-4	Hometown GMAC	858-5400

403 Saint Mary St.	\$755,000	
Sun 1-4	Allied Brokers	872-8286

3 Bedrooms		
5768 Belleza Dr.	\$575,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	600-0006

246 Trenton Cir.	\$614,900	
Sat 1-4	Keller Williams	596-1918

6045 Acadia Court	\$629,850	
Sun 1-4	Tonni Chandler-J Rockcliff	251-2556

2965 Moreno Avenue	\$724,900	
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	766-8031

4 Bedrooms		
1139 Matato Ct.	\$1,149,000	
Sun 1-4	ReMax/accord Jeff Clyma	918-3395

1161 Hopkins Wy.	\$1,149,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors	846-6500

39 Castledown Rd.	\$1,300,000	
Sun 1-4	Byerly Properties Inc.	846-1234

2505 Arlotta Pl.	\$1,639,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors	846-6500

6522 Inglewood Dr.	\$634,950	
Sun 1-4	Re/Max Accord Kathy Westernoff	577-2600

6337 Shorewood Ct.	\$659,950	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel-Andy Poryes	963-8871

1557 Whispering Oak Wy.	\$899,000	
Sun 1-5	Byerly Properties Inc.	846-1234

5 Bedrooms		
5058 Blackbird Wy.	\$1,039,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors	846-6500

2202 Kamp Ct.	\$1,224,000	
Sun 1-4	Prudential CA	734-5061

4353 W. Ruby Hill Dr.	\$1,825,000	
Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker	519-0508

6 Bedrooms		
2756 Willowren Wy.	\$839,000	
Sun 1-5	Byerly Properties Inc.	846-1234

SAN RAMON

2 Bedrooms		
223 Majorca Drive	\$663,900	
Sun 1-4	J Rockcliff Realtors	251-2532

3 Bedrooms		
15 Poppy Hills Lane	\$599,000	
Sun 1-4	J Rockcliff Realtors	251-2534

4 Bedrooms		
200 Gaucho Ct.	\$675,000	
Sun 1:30-4	Alain Pinel	998-9747

5 Bedrooms		
3001 Tamburlane Dr.	\$1,148,000	
Sat 1-4/Sun 2-5	Keller Williams	783-7371

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during July 2008

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 1	Total sales reported: 6	Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sale reported: \$790,000	Lowest sale reported: \$355,000	Lowest sale reported: \$185,000
Highest sale reported: \$790,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,025,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,120,000
Average sales reported: \$790,000	Average sales reported: \$1,145,833	Average sales reported: \$598,167

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during July 2008

Alamo	Walnut Creek	Danville
1459 Sunnybrook Road M. & L. Holloway to S. Savage for \$790,000	407 West Camino Arroyo M. Powers to Bahk Trust for \$540,000	1924 Piper Ridge Court L. Camp to Peck Trust for \$650,000
31 Harris Court Love Lane Limited to Harrosh Trust for \$2,025,000	1860 3rd Avenue Deutsche Bank to K. & M. Schulze for \$541,000	1869 Stratton Circle J. Herring to L. King for \$644,000
54 San Gregorio Court M. & W. Leonard to E. Wells for \$1,325,000	3642 Citrus Avenue R. & L. Spitzer to D. & O. Krasnikov for \$725,000	2380 Ashley Place Normandy Group to R. & V. Smis for \$1,120,000
830 Podva Road #B Deutsche Bank to C. & E. Christov for \$355,000	1310 Creekside Drive #102 Iron Horse Place Limited to B. Dawes for \$359,000	4400 Terra Granada Drive #1B Bradshaw Trust to A. & G. White for \$470,000
1159 Blue Spur Circle Shapell Industries to T. McMahon for \$980,000	1943 Everidge Court T. Kuehn to J. Burrows for \$689,000	4713 Terra Granada Drive #2B Kildal Trust to Thakar Trust for \$500,000
5768 Belleza Dr. Alain Pinel for \$575,000	310 North Civic Drive #305 Regions Bank to A. & M. Shirazi for \$185,000	2436 Walnut Boulevard A. Pretlow to H. Ortega for \$520,000



2076 Valley Oak Court, Pleasanton

This spectacular home boasts a marble entry, has breathtaking views and sits on nearly an acre of beautifully landscaped grounds with a sparkling pool. 4700+ sq.ft. 4 BR, 3.5 BA, den, game room & office. Home is enhanced with rich mahogany woods & leaded glass doors. Conveniently located in the gated community of Golden Eagle Estates.

\$2,250,000



8053 Golden Eagle Way, Pleasanton

A masterpiece in design and detail, this custom estate provides over 7000 sq.ft. of luxurious living space with plush movie theatre, two-tiered pool with waterfalls and surrounded by stunning valley views.

\$3,950,000

Danville
WEEKLY.com

For an online version of open homes with mapping
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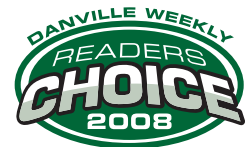
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