



Fall Home & Garden

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Impact

at the

Olympics

Danville player sees Olympic dream come true when his team brings home the bronze **PAGE 12**

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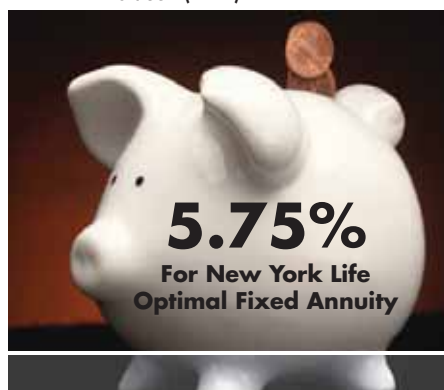
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Q: Are you a gelato person or an ice cream person?



Ice cream. Less calories and is available in more places. My kids also prefer ice cream.

Stacy Ricca
homemaker



I am a gelato person because it makes me feel so sophisticated. Coffee flavor is the best.

Paul Rharrer
college student at Cal Poly



I am a recent convert to gelato. I feel like it is not as creamy as ice cream and gentler on my stomach. Chocolate or coffee is my flavor of choice. Gelato is the new craze.

Peter Hootman
student and video producer



Gelato is ice cream and I like it a lot! I like chocolate in a cup because it tastes so good.

Juliet Becker, 3 years old
future food critic



That is so hard ... if I want a lot, I eat ice cream but gelato is much richer and tastes better.

Michelle Glover
DVC student and soda jerk

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

ABOUT THE COVER

Team USA's Nate Schierholtz, a graduate of San Ramon Valley High, collides with Team China's catcher Yang Yang during a semifinal matchup at last month's Olympic Games in Beijing. Team USA won the, at times, contentious game 9-1 and went on to bring home the bronze. Photo from Getty Images.

Vol. IV, Number 19

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

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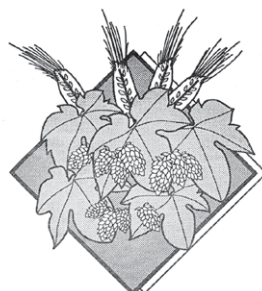
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4.0 Alamo earthquake sends a message: Be prepared

An earthquake that struck Alamo at 9 p.m. last Friday registered 4.0, according to U.S. Geological Survey. Residents described it as a prolonged shaking that lasted almost 10 seconds. The depth was measured at 16.2 kilometers. Items were knocked off shelves in homes and stores but no serious damage was reported.

This quake may serve as a reminder that the San Ramon Valley is earthquake territory, said Danville Emergency Services Director Greg Gilbert. He hopes it will spur people to attend the Emergency Preparedness Fair taking place from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., tomorrow, Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 655 Old Orchard Road off Sycamore Valley Road in Danville.

The fair is a chance to learn how to plan and prepare for a disaster, talk with experts, visit relevant vendors, ride the "Quake Cottage" earthquake simulator, practice with a real fire extinguisher, and enjoy a free tri-tip lunch.

Meet another 'living treasure'

The Living Treasures program will present Bill Harlan, director of the new Diablo Valley College campus in San Ramon, on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. A wine and cheese reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program from 7-9 p.m. with a question-and-answer period.

The presentation will highlight Harlan's great-great-grandfather who led a wagon train to California in 1846 just ahead of the ill-fated Donner Party and the adventures of the family in the early days of California. He will also talk about his contributions

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ I don't care if it's my mother. Two stories and that's it. ”

— Danville Councilman Mike Doyle about allowing three-story buildings downtown.
See story, page 5

to Contra Costa County from 1964 to the present as the founder and director of the new college campus.

The program is sponsored by the Leshner Foundation and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Call the museum at 837-3750 for reservations.

O'Neill fest begins Thursday

The ninth annual Eugene O'Neill Festival is being held Sept. 18-20, and will focus on the connection between O'Neill and the legendary African-American actor Paul Robeson, who appeared on stage and in film versions of O'Neill plays.

The festival will include the rarely produced "All God's Chillun Got Wings," which starred Robeson in the premiere in 1924. He portrayed a black man married to an abusive white woman who, resenting her husband's skin color, destroys his promising career

as a lawyer. The festival will present a posthumous award to Robeson, who died in 1976 at age 77.

Performances will take place at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., on each evening of the festival. Tickets are \$30 general; \$10 student. For more information, call 820-1818 or visit www.eugeneoneill.org.

Meet 'Madeline' illustrator

Rakestraw Books in Danville is hosting John Bemelmans Marciano, the writer and illustrator of "Madeline and the Cats of Rome," at 10 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 18. This latest Madeline book is the first totally new one published in 50 years.

Marciano is the grandson of the "Madeline" creator, Ludwig Bemelmans. He spent the last three years living in Italy painting and researching "Madeline and the Cats of Rome."

Last downtown tours of season

Explore Danville's historic downtown this Saturday, Sept. 13, on a walking tour. Experienced docents will lead visitors to many of the restored houses and buildings in Danville and tell about the rich history of the community. The tour begins at 10 a.m. in front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave.

An evening walking tour will begin at 6:15 p.m., Friday, Sept. 19, starting at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. It will be led by Museum docent and Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper.

The tours are free, but donations to the museum are encouraged. Call 837-3750 or go to www.museumsv.org for more information.

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Opening day

The Under-6 Shooting Stars face the Girls Rule at the start of the 2008 Mustang Soccer season Saturday at Green Valley Elementary School. See more photos of opening day at DanvilleWeekly.com. See more sports events on page 16.

Park tax funds on ballot

Town Council gets introduction to Measure WW

by Geoff Gillette

Members of the East Bay Regional Park District presented their plan last week for a ballot initiative in November that will generate half a billion dollars in revenues over the next 20 years.

Beverly Lane, who sits on the Board of Directors for the EBRPD, outlined the plan for members of the Danville Town Council at its Sept. 2 meeting. Lane said the initiative would not be creating a new tax, but would instead be an extension of a bond issue that runs out this year.

"We are doing it this year in part because it's a general election, but also because the funds have been spent," Lane said.

The initiative, called Measure WW, would be an extension of Measure AA, passed in 1988. Lane said that bond helped to preserve 34,000 acres of open space, develop more than 100 miles of new trails, and fund local parks and recreation projects.

Lane said that one of the things the board is trying to do with the plan is to limit the impact on taxpayers.

"We are committed to not changing the tax rate from the last 20 years," she explained.

"We are doing it this year in part because it's a general election, but also because the funds have been spent."

—Beverly Lane,
EBRPD board of directors

Of the \$500 million being sought on the bond issue, 75 percent would go toward regional parks. The remainder would be used as a grant to local cities.

"When Danville received their funds in 1988, they received over \$99,000," Lane said.

Those funds were used to improve Hap Magee Ranch Park as well as Green Valley Elementary School.

Council members were supportive of the plan but had questions.

"In the Danville area specifically, what park district projects will be worked?" asked Councilman Mike Shimansky.

Lane said that work would be done on Las Trampas and Sycamore Valley. Councilwoman Karen Stepper asked about the

Elworthy Property; 232 acres of the property has been donated to the EBRPD for use in adding to the Las Trampas hiking area. Lane said that is one of the projects the board is considering for improvements.

The original bond brought in just under \$100,000. Lane said that with the growth of population in the last 20 years, residents will see a much larger grant without seeing a corresponding increase in taxes.

"Because Danville has grown, the amount that would come to Danville is close to \$2 million." She added, "I wanted to tell you about it and give you the chance to ask questions and to let you know I'd be interested in your support."

Council members seemed ready to give that support. Councilman Newell Arnerich asked if the issue of putting their support behind the measure would be an agenda item.

Stepper said that while she plans to give her support to the measure she isn't certain it should be something the council should take a stand on.

"Personally, I prefer that we do it on an individual basis," she said.

After a brief discussion, the council decided to bring the topic back in two weeks as an agenda item. ■

How high should Danville go?

Officials discuss downtown design standards for new projects

by Geoff Gillette

A joint session of the Danville Town Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Board ended up in a long discussion on building heights when they met to look at design standards in the downtown. They met during the regular council meeting last week.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said it was a follow-up to a study session held July 1, where the three groups discussed several incoming projects and how the architectural and design standards needed to be examined.

"There was a feeling back in July that it was a prudent time to look at these things. What staff has attempted to do preparatory to this evening is to come back to you with some suggested revisions," Calabrigo said. Those revisions were based on feedback the staff received after the July study session.

Calabrigo and Associate Planner Catarina Kidd presented a list of changes to the standards, and members of the three entities talked about how they could be implemented in the downtown. The issue that sparked the most interest was

building height.

Under existing ordinances buildings are required to be lower than 37 feet, but the current plan for the proposed Danville Hotel project call for three stories.

Historically, the town has been opposed to any building over two stories. Planning Commissioner Bob Storer recalled that in the early 1980s when Contra Costa County approved the three-story Wells Fargo building on Diablo Road near Hartz Avenue, it sparked the incorporation effort that led to the formation of Danville.

"We're very mindful of the reason we incorporated, and we're respectful of three-story buildings," Storer said.

Councilman Newell Arnerich said he felt there was room for discretion in this case.

"Objective standards are objective standards," he said. "If you want to do something different you ask for a variance. We created wiggle room language in order to give incentive to sell properties and reinvest in Danville."

But Councilman Mike Doyle disagreed.

► Continued on page 7



BARBARA LINDSEY

All about music—and Alamo

Aja-Vu performs at last Saturday's 26th annual Music and Wine Festival, presented by Alamo Rotary. At the festival, Rotary president Jim Schuppert announced that Alisa Corstorphine, editor of Alamo Today, was named 2008 Alamo Citizen of the Year.

"Alisa continues to play a vital role in our community," Schuppert said. "She not only is a consistent and strong supporter of Alamo's civic, professional and educational organizations but she keeps our citizens informed about local issues, events and people."

Corstorphine, a native of Los Altos, and her husband Evan moved to Alamo in 1997 and have three children, Alex, 20; Kevin, 18; and Amy, 15. In high school, Alisa raised funds to revive the defunct newspaper and became its editor.

The Music and Wine Festival raises money for music programs in the schools.

Measure D supporters plan next move

Economy affects parcel tax passage in both directions

by Geoff Gillette

While campaigning for the Measure D parcel tax last year, San Ramon Valley Unified School District officials outlined the consequences of failing to approve the measure. When the votes were tallied, the measure missed passage by a few percentage points.

Now the clock is running. District spokesman Terry Koehne said that the board discussed the issue of Measure D during the summer but has not yet reached a conclusion on whether to try again with voters or to allow those programs funded through the current parcel tax to be eliminated at the end of the school year. Measure D would have raised the current tax from \$90 to \$166.

"I know there is a lot of interest out there for us to go out for a parcel tax again. But there are a lot of factors," Koehne said.

One of those factors is the economy, but Koehne said that is a double-edged sword.

"The economy works both in favor and against," he explained. "The community needs to know that the funding is bad and with the economy it's going to get worse. With that said the economy also

affects people's ability to make decisions like this when it comes to essentially voting for another tax. It's a catch-22, and it's the quandary we're in right now."

Koehne said if the decision is made to seek another parcel tax, the time to do it will be in the spring. But even that will be too late in some respects. The current tax expires next year.

"Layoff notices go out in March. And then final notices go out in May," he said. "Regardless of the vote, we may lose some staff. Some find other jobs, some leave the profession entirely."

If nothing is done, at the end of the school year several programs funded through the parcel tax will cease to be. Those include:

- Class size reductions, K-3 and ninth grade
- School libraries and librarians
- Middle and high school counselors
- Fifth grade instrumental band

If the decision is made to put another issue on the ballot, it will not affect the layoff notices going out.

"There's things we're mandated to do if we're not going to continue a program," Koehne said. ■



This cool cop car, with a flat screen TV that comes out of the trunk, will be used at school special events, and police hope it will be recognized as a symbol of trust and community involvement.

Police reach out to kids with car

Town adds cool squad car, new school coordinator

by Geoff Gillette

Back in the mid-'80s when the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program was first beginning, police officials would arrive on school campuses driving tricked out D.A.R.E. squad cars that were sure to bring the kids running from all four corners of the playground. Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel is looking to create that kind of buzz again.

Last week Danville police unveiled their brand new Youth Police Vehicle, a customized Ford Mustang GT. The Mustang comes with standard police equipment like a siren, light bar and radio as well as a full audio visual array hidden in the trunk.

Controls put into the car by Autohaus not only allow officers to remotely start the car and open the trunk, they can pop up a flat screen monitor that can be hooked into a DVD player or laptop for videos or powerpoint presentations.

"We're excited and proud and



Christina Sally.

lucky to have this piece of equipment," said Wenzel, noting that of all the amazing things about the new vehicle, he is most pleased about the fact it was donated.

The car came from a single donation from Maddie's Fund, a family foundation established by PeopleSoft and Workday Founder Dave Duffield and his wife Cheryl, named for the couple's beloved schnauzer.

"The idea with this program is to use it (the car) as a training tool," Wenzel said. "Get the 'wow' effect, then teach them about safety issues."

Even with all the new gadgetry, the vehicle can't drive itself to the area schools. That will be the job of the department's new school program coordinator, Christina Sally.

Sally, a retired police officer with more than 15 years in law

enforcement, is joining the Police Department as a civilian employee. Her qualifications include time as a D.A.R.E. officer and trainer, youth and family services counselor, and an education specialist.

She will be responsible for going to the schools, getting to know the staff, and working with the children on safety.

"This job ... gives me the chance to be at the schools full time," said Sally. "To be a liaison between the community and the police."

She said that making the position a civilian one means she can focus full time on working with children and teaching them to be safe on the streets and on their computers.

"There are so many more things facing kids today than when we were growing up," she said. "Internet safety is one of the things we'll really be looking at."

Sally intends to meet with each school's staff to determine how best she can be used at each location. ■

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DOLores FOX CARDELLI

Political vandals

Bob Myhre, an opponent of incorporating Alamo and a proponent of forming a municipal advisory committee, shows the sign that was vandalized while hanging on his truck in the Alamo Plaza parking lot before Saturday's Music and Wine Festival. The sign originally read: "I love Alamo ... a MAC ... yes!! Incorporation ... no!!" but spraypainters concealed the "yes" and the "no."

"It shows you how desperate they were, to do something like this," Myhre said. "Luckily I have another sign."

Myhre said he parked his truck by the new sushi restaurant at 7 a.m., and he found it spraypainted by 9 a.m. He filed a report with the Sheriff's Department, listing the sign's value at \$75.

Danville

► Continued from page 5

"No wiggle room," he declared. "I don't care if it's my mother. Two stories and that's it. No maybe, just no."

Mayor Candace Andersen said she wants to see applications looked at carefully before any decisions are made but was not willing to dismiss any plan before they had a chance to see how it would mesh with the rest of the downtown.

The three groups discussed the issue for more than half an hour when Calabrigo suggested they send the ordinance back to staff for fine tuning.

"Before we go further we need to decide if the ordinance is the right vehicle to do this," Calabrigo said.

Members agreed that the ordinance would be the correct way to go and sent it back to staff to examine their feedback from the joint session and decide how best to implement it.

After the meeting, Andersen said she felt they made good progress and will end up with something that will benefit the downtown.

"We want to make sure the design standards reflect the nature of the town," she said. "Not cookie cutter, but compatible."

Andersen said the town walks a delicate balance, working to grow the downtown while at the same time

maintaining its unique character.

"We don't want to be Walnut Creek. We don't want tall buildings and national chains," she said. "We have a unique, vibrant small town atmosphere that we don't want to change."

Storer agreed, saying, "It's absolutely essential in the downtown for good architecture and good project planning."

Calabrigo said earlier this week that staff members are working on the ideas generated at the joint session and he is hopeful they will be able to begin moving an updated municipal code through the groups for their approval. He said if all goes well, the ordinance could get to the council level by year's end. ■

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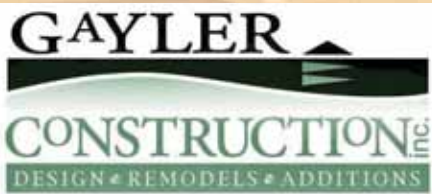
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It may only be September but, The Body Adventure is already gearing up for Halloween! In the back garden, a storage shed is transformed into a "Halloween House" – complete with fiber-optic pumpkins, costume hats, bubbling night-lights by Department 56, and much more.

The Body Adventure is open every day from 10-6, including Sundays. Spa services and parties are available after hours upon request. Stop by and see what's new at the Body Adventure Today!!



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Is downtown Danville going to the dogs?

The general consensus is that the mix of evening events held this summer in Danville were a success—but at least one woman is wondering whether people should be made to leave their dogs at home.

The four Hot August Nights car shows were cut back to two, which freed up a couple of Thursday evenings for Shop Local Events, hosted by Discover Danville. The two car shows that remained were successful and so were the other evenings as people enjoyed the new-style gatherings, where shops were welcoming and there was food, drink and music. The little train run by volunteers of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley on the closed off Hartz Avenue was a big hit with families.

This change in downtown summer evening dynamics was discussed last week at the monthly Mayor's Morning, a free gathering at 7:30 a.m. the first Friday of

the month. Town officials reported the events had been successful and the residents in attendance agree. But I was surprised to hear a woman say she was concerned about safety because there were so many dogs around. She said she recently was bitten on the leg by a Chihuahua being dogsat by someone in her apartment complex so the bites on her leg were a living exhibit that dogs can be unreliable. She questioned whether the mix of dogs and children downtown aren't an accident waiting to happen.

Police Chief Chris Wenzel said no such incidents have occurred yet but agreed that it is best to try to anticipate problems. But he noted that Danville Doggie Nights, which especially welcome dogs, are the most popular events of all. Someone else questioned why people would bring their dog downtown to the Fourth of July parade to sit panting in the hot sun

for four hours.

I think I can answer that question: When the family is about to leave the house, the dog looks up with big expectant eyes, wagging his tail, and telepathing the message, "Take me! Take me!" And so they do. And while it may not be good for a dog in a heavy coat to sit in the sun, they are mostly content because they are part of their beloved family. Hopefully such families have the good sense to seek out shade, to provide them with plenty of water, and to leave before the parade concludes with the alarming rifle shots by E Clampus Vitus.

We used to take our little Mickey with us everywhere we could on weekends to make up for her loneliness on weekdays. Of course she was an incredibly gentle miniature American Eskimo. But I always realized that even Mickey might have had her limits if a strange child came too close so in a crowd

I would carry her, fearing that just possibly if she were stepped on or hurt, she might snap. After all, the Danville woman at the breakfast had been bitten by a Chihuahua.

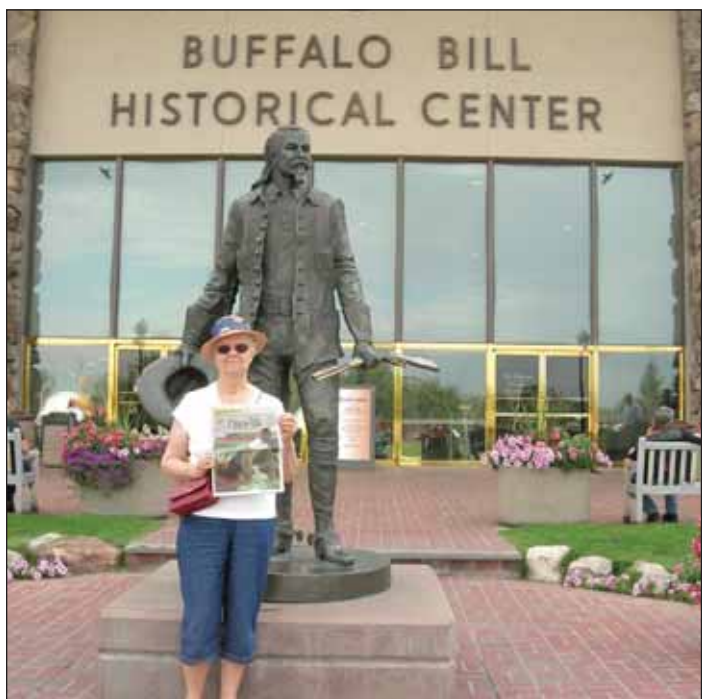
Someone mentioned how scary it is to see a small child stand eye-to-eye with a dog that is not muzzled. This is true. And this seems to be the crux of the problem. Why would parents allow a small child to approach a strange dog in a public place? And if people bring their dogs into a public venue, they need to make sure that no one does approach the pet. And dogs, especially large dogs, must be trained properly from the time they are puppies. People really can't take their eyes off their children or their dogs for a

second because that's how quickly accidents happen.

Dogs are already not allowed at the farmers market, per orders of the health department. Is it too much to expect people to use common sense in bringing their pets downtown? If an event is too crowded, it might be best to bring the dog back home. But I would hate to see dogs banned. I personally like to get a "dog fix" at downtown events as well as a "kid fix," when I admire babies and little children. They all bring joy into our lives and are just one more reason to attend events downtown.

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

TAKE US ALONG



Reading with Buffalo Bill

Charlene McPherson and her mother Edith Bonath share their Weekly with Buffalo Bill Cody while visiting Cody, Wyo., last year, where they enjoyed the Buffalo Bill Museum. Edith was born in Cody 83 years ago so it was a homecoming for her.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

21st century news turns publishers green

by Gina Channell-Allen

Got green? Are you “eco-friendly,” reducing your carbon footprint and concerned about climate change? Or do you just like the convenience of getting your news online?

Whatever the reason, more and more newspaper readers are asking for their news in an electronic version.

I recently ran across a book copyrighted in 1901 titled, “Establishing a Newspaper.” It’s a step-by-step how-to for starting a newspaper. Appallingly, it made no mention of asking potential readers what they wanted or needed in a community newspaper. The author went into selecting headline type, setting rates, establishing a subscriber list and collecting on outstanding invoices, but never on how to publish news and information that is important to the people of the community.

It seems as if in 1901, would-be publishers had the “if you build it they will come” attitude. And,

in fact, that was pretty much the case. The local newspaper was THE source of news, local and otherwise.

Now we have a world of multiple news sources and an amazing tool called the Internet. Unfortunately, until recently, most media groups maintained the 1901 “if you build it they will come” attitude when it came to their online presence.

There are as many versions of electronic media as there are newspapers. More actually, because some communities have a Web site and no printed newspaper. Just proves that, unlike in 1901, there is no handbook for a one-size-fits-all news vehicle.

With the world turning “green,” the Weekly has received a few requests for an electronic version/edition of our paper from readers in our community.

We currently have a lot of the stories found in the print edition as headlines on our Web site and a PDF version, with links to all the stories, of all print editions online. (If you’re unfamiliar

with these, scroll to the bottom of DanvilleWeekly.com.) The PDF is the electronic duplicate of the newspaper, because it is created by the same files we send to the press.

Would you like to receive an e-mail with headlines that link to the Web site? How often: daily, twice a week or weekly?

Moving into the next phase of media, with the full knowledge that the “if you build it they will come” attitude is antiquated and thinking we know what readers want is arrogant, publishers are wondering what exactly to build electronically.

I would like to hear from you about what type of electronic vehi-

cle you would like to see: Would you like to receive an e-mail with headlines that link to the Web site? How often: daily, twice a week or weekly?

Would you like to see a digital reproduction of the paper that is interactive? A combination of these? What is the advantage of having a list of headlines, or a PDF?

If you send me an e-mail to gallen@danvilleweekly.com with your advice, suggestions and/or examples, your name will be put in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant. I will share some of these suggestions and the name of the certificate winner in another column.

This is your community news source—whether you like reading your news in print, online, from your Blackberry, whatever—and we want your opinion.

Gina Channell-Allen, a 21-year journalism veteran, is publisher of the Danville Weekly. Send questions to gallen@danvilleweekly.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alamo residents should read studies

Dear Editor:

The Alamo Community Foundation (ACF), formed last December to promote the independent state studies of Alamo incorporation, urges all Alamo citizens interested in the future of Alamo to read the studies.

The Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis of incorporation is available on the ACF Web site, www.alamocommunity.org, with Questions and Answers from the Aug. 7 fiscal analysis presentation.

ACF also urges Alamo citizens to attend the upcoming 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, hearing of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), the state agency that requested the studies, to give LAFCO commissioners their own opinion about the studies and the effects of incorporation on Alamo.

We thank LAFCO for planning to hold the hearing at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., instead of in Martinez, for convenient Alamo access.

Finally, we urge LAFCO commissioners to vote to move the incorporation effort forward so

that Alamo citizens, the ultimate decision-makers about incorporation in Alamo, will be able to cast their own votes about the issue next March.

Claudia Waldron, president, Alamo Community Foundation

Station offers bargain shopping

Dear Editor:

In response to D. Mullan (Letters, Sept. 5) concerning the downtown merchants and their high prices: It seems that there is a secret that no one is sharing with D. Mullan. It happens to be a store right here in the heart of Danville where you can find women’s clothing with the price tags still on them from the high end stores! You can buy lamps for \$4-\$8 or suitcases for \$5. Shirts range from \$4 to \$6; books from 25 cents for kids to \$1 for adults.

Shoppers have the best retail store right here in their midst without even knowing it! San Ramon Valley Boulevard in the Crossroads Shopping Center next to El Balazo is the place where you can buy large for \$small dollars.

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B. Mahan, a volunteer

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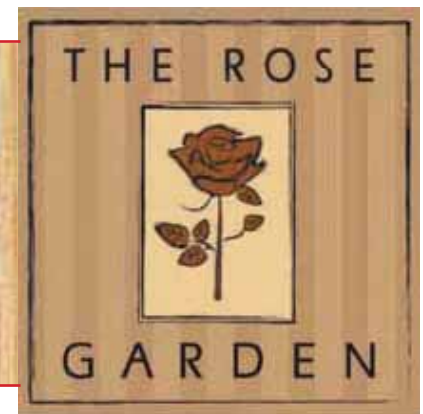
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circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

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

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Team USA proudly stands on the risers in Beijing to receive its bronze medals, a fitting end to American performance in baseball at the Olympics. A ruling in 2008 by the I.O.C. has removed baseball and softball from the 2012 Olympics.

Bringing home the

Danville

by Geoff Gillette

The chances of a young man playing in Little League in Danville suiting up and playing for a major league team like the San Francisco Giants are roughly 1 in 144,000. At the same time, the odds of growing up and getting to play baseball in the 2008 Olympics are even higher.

Vegas oddsmakers must love a guy like Nate Schierholtz.

The 24-year-old San Ramon High School graduate beat both of those odds, playing right field for the Giants and suiting up as part of the U.S. baseball team that beat out Japan for the bronze medal in Beijing.

Schierholtz got the call to be on the USA team while playing for the Giant's Triple-A franchise, the Fresno Grizzlies. After spending some time with the Giants last year he was dropped down to the Triple-A team where he was having a solid season with a batting average of .315 and 65 RBI.

"It was amazing to be picked for the Olympics team," he said. "It was just an incredible feeling."

Needless to say he packed up and went. In late July, Schierholtz met for the first time with the rest of the team and manager Davey Johnson. He said Johnson, who has managed the New York Mets, Cincinnati Reds, Baltimore Orioles and Los Angeles Dodgers, was a great coach to play for on the USA Olympic team.

"He's a relaxed manager to play for," said Schierholtz. "He never put any extra pressure on us. He just said 'play your game' out there. It was kind of different."

Being on a team thrown together presented its own challenges.

"We had never played together before," Schierholtz explained. "We knew of each other through Triple-A but this was the first time we were on the field together."

The team met in San Jose and began training. There were a total of six practice games, some of them scrimmages against Team Canada.

"Not a lot of time to get to know each other—and then we headed to China," Schierholtz stated.

In China, the team stayed in the Olympic Village and used training facilities there. They were also allowed to take a bus to Beijing University to train. Schierholtz said training at Beijing University was good but there were other reasons to go there as well.

"They brought chefs in so the food was really good," he said. "We would work out, have a great meal and a massage."

It was at Beijing University that the young ballplayer had one of his most memorable experiences of his visit to China.

"I took a massage and woke up and Kobe Bryant was at the next table," he recalled with a laugh.

Despite his own rising star and status as a professional athlete, Schierholtz expressed a true fan's excitement at meeting Bryant, LeBron James and other athletes who he himself admired growing up.

He saw Bryant and the other USA Basketball players during the opening ceremony where they were all greeted by and met with President Bush.

"That was one of the highlights of the whole



Bronze medal fresh around his neck, Nate celebrates his Olympics victory with his mom, Karen Schierholtz.

Olympics for me," Schierholtz said. "All of the U.S. athletes were gathered up in the fencing hall. President Bush came and spoke to us and took pictures with each team. We got to talk to him for a few minutes."

Bush, a baseball fan, also came out to see the team on the practice field. When asked, Schierholtz said the president didn't take the

ound to throw in any practice pitch

"He was pretty heavily surrounded by the media," he explained, adding, "It was pretty special that he came out and watched."

Opening Ceremonies for the athletes was a lot of hurry up and wait. From the field, after the athletes were walked to the center.

"We were all dressed up and filled the stadium. Then we walked about a quarter of the way to the ceremonies."

Being at ground level meant the athletes did not get to see all of the elaborate entertainment routines the Chinese hosts put on but they could see and feel what was awe inspiring.

"There were thousands and thousands of people," Schierholtz remembered. "It was a hundred thousand fans cheering. There was so much energy, every culture and color represented. It was a neat moment. We were representing the U.S. in a world where there were so many problems in the world, for that couple of minutes it seemed like there was no tension at all."

There may not have been political rivalries but on the field rivalries formed and were played with strength, determination and grit. The U.S. team performed well through the preliminaries and Schierholtz got plenty of playing time.

"I haven't played too much in college," he said, "but that's where I played for the first time."

Schierholtz found himself the center of international attention after a corner play against Team China that ended with him as manager and relief pitcher for China.

from the field. Early in the game, teammate Matt Kemp collided with Chinese catcher Wang

COURTESY OF THE SCHIERHOLTZ FAMILY



COURTESY OF THE SCHIERHOLTZ FAMILY



COURTESY OF THE SCHIERHOLTZ FAMILY

Right-handed outfielder Nate Schierholtz bats left in the semifinal match against China. Moments after being struck by a pitch, Schierholtz scored in a controversial play at home.

The bronze

ballplayer sees Olympic dream

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ing a play at the plate. Wei's leg was injured and he had to be replaced. This seemed to affect play as more U.S. batters were getting hit by fastballs from the Chinese pitcher.

At the plate, Schierholtz himself was struck in the lower back and took his base. Two batters later, a hit brought him charging around third base where replacement catcher Yang Yang blocked the plate awaiting a throw. Schierholtz dashed home, colliding with the catcher, the impact throwing both players to the ground.

Schierholtz said he didn't realize anyone was upset about the play at first.

"I was laying there dazed and when I looked up there was three guys yelling at me," he said.

One of those yelling was Team China Manager Jim Lefebvre. Lefebvre decried the play as unnecessarily rough. Lefebvre refused to back down when the umpires told him to go back to the dugout and he ended up ejected from the game.

Schierholtz said he believes he made the right play.

"I didn't know how close the throw would be or if he was going to try to turn a double play." He added, "I don't know if it's China or all of Asia but they play a different game. Contact is kind of frowned upon and that is something that goes on in the U.S. When I analyze the situation I feel I had valid reasons for what I did."

When asked about getting hit with the pitch, he said, "I brushed it off and took my base. It's just part of the game."

The game ended with USA winning 9-1, which led them into the finals. They lost 10-1

to first-seed Cuba, and then defeated Japan the next day for the bronze medal.

Schierholtz said all the effort was worthwhile when he felt that medal drop around his neck.

"That whole night was like something out of a dream." He said the feeling of standing on the stage with the members of the Olympic committee putting on the medals was indescribable. "I didn't know what to expect, but it's a night I'll never forget."

Back in the States, Schierholtz has traded in his Olympic jersey for the familiar black and orange of the Giants, who called him back as of Sept. 1. But his time with Team USA has left its mark.

"I'd have to say it's one of the top baseball experiences I've ever had. Just putting on the USA jersey and representing your country. The whole atmosphere is something I've never experienced before, because you're not just playing to win a game, you're playing for your country's pride," he said.

The experience also had its bittersweet moments as there will be no baseball played in the 2012 Olympics. In June, members of the International Olympic Committee voted to remove baseball and softball from the 2012 games. Officials can petition to put it back in 2016, but for guys like Nate Schierholtz it means no return in four years.

"It almost makes me want to learn another sport just so I could go back," Schierholtz said.

So if in four years you hear that Nate Schierholtz is trying out for the USA Olympic beach volleyball team, here's a piece of advice: Don't bet against him. ■

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What to wear?!?

Middle school years find students expressing themselves through clothes



Students heading into the multi-purpose room on the first day of school at Charlotte Wood Middle School display a wide mix of clothing styles—are they all within the guidelines of the district's dress code?

by **Summer Dashe**

Most remember it as the awkward phase. Those three long years between elementary school and high school where you never quite understood what was happening to you. The education system so fittingly titled it: middle school.

Much like squishing three kids into the two-person backseat of a car, middle school is the awkward man in the middle. He's pushed and pulled every different direction the entire trip just to try and find a comfortable spot along the way.

Many of those "middle men" find their only sense of expression through clothing. However, the public schools have strict dress codes and private school usually have uniforms.

So in this constant wardrobe battle, whose fault is it if the dress code is not enforced? Some point fingers at the parent, while others blame poor school action.

"For the students that consistently break the dress code, I would have to say no, the parents are not enforcing the dress code. I'm not sure if all parents are aware of what their student wears to school since many parents work and may leave for work before their student is dressed," said Shelley Bauer, a teacher at Diablo Vista Middle School.

The inappropriateness of an outfit is subjective to an extent, but there are some specific errors that are definitely wrong. Teachers say short skirts and short shorts are always red flags, and exposed bra straps lead to immediate punishment.

If a student is caught wearing inappropriate clothing, is her permanent record tainted for life or is the impending punishment

bearable?

"They make the kids go change into their P.E. clothes for the day," said Tamara Jones, the mother of a seventh-grader at Los Cerros Middle School.

This is a large price to pay for a young fashionista. Many middle school girls despise their baggy physical ed. clothes of bland color.

On the other hand, "I'm not sure the girls mind that punishment so much—so I think they wear the skirts anyway. Even if they do get caught, it's not a big deal," said Jones.

She says the biggest problem is the girls trying to look like what they see on TV. Shows like the OC and the Hills exploit young women as sex symbols.

"All the trendy stores seem to want even young girls to dress sexy," said Jones.

Brands like Abercrombie, Lucky and Juicy specialize in making average people look like celebrities, although parents may not approve.

"I don't want my daughters running around in those skirts but it's hard when everyone is wearing them," said Jones.

Perhaps this is not so much a form of expression but a way to fit in. If this is true, then a simple fix is uniforms to eliminate any competition.

Lori Fonzi is the parent of a pre-teen at St. Isidore School where uniforms are required, and she is positive they are a success.

"My daughter never has to worry about what to wear. She never worries about what designer jeans she has on," said Fonzi.

But maybe the shrinking skirts and low-cut tops are,

instead, pleas for a little attention in a time when the middle man seems to be a bit lost in the chaos.

According to some administrators, self confidence levels are low at this age and sometimes dressing inappropriately is a way to feel more comfortable.

"My guess is they are attention seeking and/or maybe just experimenting with different types of clothing as their bodies change," said Bauer.

Although it may not be for the best reason, the kids certainly do get attention for dressing incorrectly. Bauer described the process for actually nailing a student for unsuitable dress, which in itself can be controversial.

"Male teachers will not enforce the dress code on female students since a student could easily misread their 'viewing' their attire as inappropriate," said Bauer. "For the most part a male teacher will inform a female staff member to report the student for a dress cut."

There seems to be such a focus on female dress issues, what about the boys? One teacher said girls are more of an issue due to what's out there to buy, while boys aren't expected to wear anything inappropriate. Really, the only penalty they fault is wearing a baseball cap inside the classroom, and that's just etiquette.

After three years of hassle, the pre-teens turned teenagers should have learned their lesson, right? Add raging hormones, high heels and development to the mix, and they're just learning how to dress for high school.

Summer Dashe is a senior at Monte Vista High who is editor of the student newspaper, The Stampede, and who dresses appropriately at all times.

Epicure



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Getting clear about H₂O: bottle or faucet?

Years ago, it took me some time to adapt to bottled water. Initially, I was resistant, thinking it was a marketing scheme by the beverage industry to get us to spend money for what had otherwise been a free, easily accessible drink. My conspiracy-theory side thought it might be a strategy devised by doctors to get us all to imbibe those recommended eight to 12 glasses daily.

Gradually I grew to value the convenience of the portable water bottle and, over time, I convinced myself that bottled water was a good thing. After all, wasn't I drinking greater quantities and better qualities of water via the plastic bottles? Maybe, maybe not—recent research, claims and reports suggest that maybe it was mostly marketing hype after all. In 2004, we spent about \$9 billion on bottled water in the U.S.

In 2005, a study published in the Archives of Family Medicine compared 57 samples of bottled water in Cleveland with samples from the city's various water treatment plants. The good news: Most of the bottled water had lower bacteria levels than the tap water. The not-good news: 15 of the 57 samples had up to 1,500-plus times higher levels of bacteria. In reality, no water source is totally pure. Whether it trickles down a mountainside or gets pumped from an underground well, all forms of water carry microscopic particles and trace elements that get absorbed along the journey to our lips. To add to those concerns, the chemicals in plastic—either the polyethylene terephthalate (or PET) used for most bottled water or polycarbonate portable bottles containing bisphenol-A (BPA)—can further contaminate the water we carry around.

In the U.S., bottled water, including regular drinking, purified, artesian, spring, mineral, distilled, carbonated, sparkling, flavored, water with healthy additives, is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both agencies have their hands full, monitoring everything from contaminants leaching from plastic bottles into the water to detectable leads, meds and hormones found in tap water. And the bottled water market has created major regulatory overlaps. Even though some bottled water comes from natural springs and mountain glaciers, 40 percent of bottled water is regular tap water packaged by beverage companies. In effect, as a taxpayer and consumer of bottled waters, you're



paying twice for these agencies to monitor the maximum contaminant levels, or MCL's, of every known substance in our drinking water.

"EBMUD consistently delivers very high quality water that complies with or surpasses all state and federal regulations," East Bay Municipal Utility District stated in its current Water Quality Report from 2007. Scientists and health experts generally agree that, despite some occasional problems, the tap water from most municipal systems is perfectly safe to drink. That said, even the EPA acknowledges that, with old equipment, lagging standards and budget cutbacks, it is not able to conduct all the testing and reporting it should. Occasional outbreaks of salmonella from contaminated water sources remind us that EPA regulations are not fail-proof.

So what's a health and environment conscious drinker to do? Elizabeth Royte, author of *Bottlemania*, advises that "a water filter is a good middle ground between tap and bottled water" if you have questions about the quality of your tap water. She adds that filters also keep you from adding to the landfills full of disposable one-use water bottles. Home filters are especially advised for households with high-risk people—pregnant women, young children, the elderly, and those with weak immune systems and chronic health issues. A caution here though: Installed filtering systems must be maintained to be effective. Bacterial growth from poorly maintained filters can be worse than nothing at all. Also, if you decide to abandon your bottled water habits and switch to tap water, consider using a stainless steel reusable container to transport your water. Stainless steel resists bacterial growth and does not leach chemicals into the water as the plastic bottles do. Clean the bottle well with any anti-bacterial liquid, and be sure it is dry before closing the lid.

So, whether it's bottled or tap, it's up to you to monitor your own water sources and intake. Find out where your local tap water comes from and how it is processed before reaching your tap. Stay informed on current regulations, emerging studies and health warnings. You wouldn't leave eggs in the hot trunk of your car all day; you wouldn't leave raw meat on the kitchen counter overnight. Treat the water you and your family consume as a precious commodity that needs your care as much as the other foods you intake.

Now, shall we all toast from our stainless steel water containers? "Let the good times roll and healthy waters flow!" I'll drink to that.

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 jlovesmarshall@yahoo.com.

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AMERICAN

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

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9/13 - Live Jazz with Sue Lukito & Guest Musician Saturday Night 8pm to 10pm
9/17 - Summer International Wine Tasting and Sale Series IV (Italian Wines) - Open until 9:00pm
9/18 - Business Showcase Food & Wine Event (Italy) - 5pm to 8pm
9/19 - Live Jazz with Sue Lukito & Guest Musician 8pm to 10pm
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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.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Fast times at Monte Vista High

Monte Vista senior Mike Roderick (10:44.4) runs the fastest time of the day in a near course record as 19 teams compete Sept. 2 on the 2.0-mile Monte Vista Invitational course at Oak Hill Park, which features "the Eliminator" hill in the second mile. At right, Kyla Auito was the winner for freshman girls at 13:23.8. San Ramon Valley High's Sean Colaco placed first among the junior boys with 11:05.36. Josh Smiley of Monte Vista led the sophomore boys with 11:33.5.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM



Outlaws score big in tourney

The girls U11 Mustang Outlaws soccer team won the 17th annual San Ramon Valley Cup 2008 played July 19-20 in San Ramon. The team played four outstanding soccer games and won the championship in penalty kicks. Team members are (front, l-r) Lexi Silva, Geena Colburn, Katie Hoofnagle, Rachel Brecke; (middle) Annie Kunsman, Mckenzie Reiland, Katie Kuptz, Felicia Johnson, Brooke Starn; (rear) Coach Mike Kelley, Natalie Knowles, Lauren Clore, Lindsay Virgilio, Sami Martellaro, Alyssa Ruzich, Jessica Kern and Assistant Coach TJ Kelley.

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www.primosrun.com

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 12

Football

SRVHS vs. West Tracy
MVHS vs. Logan

Women's Tennis

SRVHS - Logan Invitational Tournament
MVHS - Fresno Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 13

Women's Tennis

SRVHS - Logan Invitational Tournament
MVHS - Fresno Tournament

Cross Country

Ed Sias Invite

Women's Volleyball

Deer Valley Tournament

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Men's Water Polo

SRVHS at Livermore

Women's Water Polo

SRVHS at Livermore

Women's Golf

SRVHS vs. Foothill
MVHS vs. Carondelet

Women's Volleyball

MVHS at Castro Valley

Wednesday, Sept. 17

Men's Water Polo

San Ramon Valley at Acalanes

Thursday, Sept. 18

Men's Water Polo

SRVHS at Amador

Women's Water Polo

SRVHS at Amador

Women's Tennis

SRVHS at Livermore
MVHS at Foothill

Women's Golf

SRVHS vs. Carondelet
MVHS vs. Amador Valley



Xtreme championship

The Mustang Xtreme U11 Girls Soccer Team won the Magic Cup Soccer Tournament in San Jose on Aug. 2-3, beating the Fair Oaks Rage, 2-1, in the championship game. Team members are (back, l-r) Coach Dave Patterson, Daniela Paradiso, Makenna Smith, Joelle Fornasier, Carina Pineda, Katie Parker, Jessica Lateur, Assistant Coach Don Fornasier; (front) Sara Walker, Julia Espino, Samantha Levy, Kathryn LaBarbera, Elise Ericson, Erin Nash, Katie Patterson, Aubrey Martinez and Megan McCabe.



Stomping to second

The San Ramon Valley Girls Athletic League 10U Stompers placed second at the Wess Jones Memorial Tournament in San Jose. Team members are (front, l-r) Danielle Morelan, Cassie Coronado, Jenelle Doolittle, Roberta Golez, Ally Phillips; (back) Coach Anne Phillips, Alicia Yoshino, Sophia Smith, Jessica Golsalves, Rachel Marchuk, Raquel Dixon, Jessica Tallerico, Coach Kari Doolittle and Coach Mike Yoshino.



Taking tourney by Storm

U14 Mustang Storm boys soccer team took first place at the Castro Valley Boys Kickoff tournament the weekend of Aug. 9-10. They were undefeated, outscoring their opponents with 18 goals to 2. Team members are (front, l-r) Ryan Peterson, Tim Wraith, Jay Doyle, Daniel Langon, Sammy Yorke, Will Smith, Steven Schreitmueller; (back) John Haytko, Coach Matt, Chris Yoshida, Brian Danis, Chase Riserbato, Tony Bell, DJ Morris, Mo Elsherbiny and Coach Brian.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Vodka grab at Longs leads to high speed chase, arrest

A shared effort between Danville and San Ramon police departments resulted in the arrests of two people in connection with a daylight robbery last week at Longs Drugs.

Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said the incident occurred at 6:51 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Longs Drugs at 650 San Ramon Valley Blvd. The incident began when a Longs employee monitoring the surveillance video in the store spotted a male and female each take two bottles of Grey Goose vodka off the shelves and hide them in their clothes.

After the pair, later identified as James Mcfarland, 20, and his sister Tameka Mcfarland, 18, went through the checkout line and left the store, the female employee followed them outside and confronted them near their blue Ford vehicle. When the suspects did not get out of the car, the employee started writing down the license plate number.

Tameka Mcfarland, driving the car, pushed open her door and threw items at the employee and then got out of the car and rushed her, said Williams. A scuffle ensued between the two women, and then James Mcfarland left the car and struck the employee in the face with his fist, according to police reports.

When the employee started

back into Longs, the Mcfarlands got into their car and began to exit. However, before the employee could get back into the store, the employee was struck by the front bumper of the fleeing auto, knocking her across the bumper and onto the sidewalk, said police. The vehicle then sped out of the parking lot and north on San Ramon Valley Boulevard.

Before the employee could get back into the store, the employee was struck by the front bumper of the fleeing auto, knocking her across the bumper and onto the sidewalk.

The employee was treated at the scene for bruises and abrasions by San Ramon Valley fire paramedics.

Williams said when the call went out, an officer on Diablo Road went to the entrance ramp to I-680 to watch for the suspects. He spotted the auto getting onto the southbound ramp of the freeway and gave chase. Williams said the officer pulled the pair over, but when he got out of his car, they fled again at

a high rate of speed.

Reports indicate that the suspects weaved in and out of traffic trying to escape from the officer before Tameka Mcfarland lost control of the car near Bollinger Canyon Road and it left the roadway and flipped over.

Both Mcfarlands suffered minor injuries but fled the scene on foot. Williams said officers from Danville and San Ramon police set up a perimeter and began searching for the escapees. A short time later, a San Ramon K-9 unit discovered the pair hiding in a drainage culvert. When they resisted arrest, James Mcfarland was bitten on the foot by the police dog.

Both received medical treatment on the scene, before being taken into custody on charges of burglary, robbery, grand theft, assault with a deadly weapon, evading and resisting arrest. The charges are felony counts except for the resisting arrest.

The pair was taken to the West County Detention facility in Richmond. Tameka Mcfarland is being held on \$150,000 bond, and James Mcfarland is being held on \$70,000 bond.

"It was a great team effort by Danville Police Department and San Ramon Police Department," noted Williams. "It was handled really well, setting up the perimeter, communicating ... just great teamwork."

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Aug. 31

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:43 a.m.
- Battery on the 2100 block of Holbrook Dr. at 9:58 a.m.
- Shoplift on the 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:23 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Camino Tassajara and Glasgow Dr. at 11:45 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 1

- Vandalism on the 900 block of El Capitan Dr. at 1:30 a.m.
- Defrauding innkeeper on the 7700 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 2:10 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on Hartz Ave. and W. Prospect Ave. at 4:07 p.m.
- Petty theft on the 100 block of Laurel Dr. at 7:48 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 2

- Vehicle accident with major injuries on Sycamore Valley Rd. and Tunbridge Rd. at 3:43 p.m.
- Dissuading/threatening witness on the 400 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:58 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 3

- Auto burglary on the 100 block of Flora Vista Place at 5:58 a.m.
- Residential burglary on the 100 block of Shadewell Dr. at 9:47 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with major injuries on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 5:48 p.m.
- Trespassing on the 11000 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 7:26 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 4

- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on the 3000 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 7:58 a.m.
- Identity theft on the 1000 block of

Lehigh Valley Circle at 10:16 a.m.

- Vehicle accident with property damage on the 3100 block of Fostoria Way at 11:11 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 5

- Auto burglary on the 200 block of Loch Lomond Way at 4:19 a.m.
- Evasion of public transportation fare on the 500 block of Silver Lake Dr. at 8:02 a.m.
- Fraudulent documents on the 9000 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:43 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley/Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:49 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6

- Residential burglary on the 200 block of El Pinto at 1:51 a.m.
- Noise disturbance on Brookside Dr. and Zephyr Circle at 2:05 a.m.
- Reckless driving on Diablo Rd. and northbound I-680 at 8:47 p.m.
- Throwing object at vehicle on the 600 block of El Capitan Dr. at 9:46 p.m.
- Grand theft on the 300 block of Verona Ave. at 10:23 p.m.

The following Alamo information was taken from www.crimereports.com:

Sunday, Aug. 31

- Auto burglary on N. Jackson Wy. at 7:31 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on the 1400 block of Via Don Jose at 7 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 5

- Residential burglary on Ranger Ct. at 1:49 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6

- Residential burglary on the 2400 block of Lunada Lane at 9:29 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 7

- Auto burglary on the 100 block of Wilson Rd.

OBITUARIES

Charles A. O'Brien

Charles A. O'Brien, a former California chief deputy attorney general, died in his sleep at his Danville home Sept. 3 at the age of 83.

He was born Sept. 1, 1925, in Lawrence, Mass. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17 during World War II, earned a Purple Heart, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and helped liberate Nazi concentration camps. When he left the Army he pursued his education at Harvard, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1950 and earned his law degree in 1953. He moved to California and began to practice law the next year. In 1954, he also married Marie Therese Fox, a magna cum laude graduate of Radcliff.

He headed the San Francisco Foreign Policy Association and served as executive secretary to Gov. Pat Brown from 1960 to 1961.

He then returned to the California Attorney General's office, serving as chief deputy attorney general from 1962 to 1971, before going into private practice. He was the Democratic candidate in the 1970 race for state attorney general and lost narrowly to Evelle Younger. In the 1970s he was a founder of the Doctors Co., now the nation's largest physician-owned medical malpractice insurer.

Mr. O'Brien and his wife were avid travelers, visiting at least 100 countries. He was a collector of wine, military prints and books, and bred award-winning Arabian horses. He retired from law practice in 2004.

He was preceded in death by his brother Joe O'Brien of San Francisco; and sister Mary O'Brien Aton of Louisville, Ky. He is survived by his wife Marie; children Devin, Brennan and Erin O'Brien, their spouses Linda, Karla Leibowitz and Kevin McKenzie; and nine grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held Monday, Sept. 8, at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Donations may be made to Community Solutions, a human services, nonprofit organization, P.O. Box 546, Morgan Hill 95038.



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Calendar

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

Auditions

Third Season of Youth Symphony
Musicians ages 10-18 interested in playing with San Ramon's Youth Symphony and their parents should attend an informational meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 15, at the Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon, San Ramon. Auditions will be scheduled Sept. 17-18. Call 973-3200.

Classes

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
Come and learn about drought tolerant plants for yards from 10:30-11 a.m., every Saturday, at Sunset Color,

1435 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. These classes are free. Call 914-0035 or visit www.sunsetcolor.com.

Clubs

Alamo 'Woman of the Year' The Alamo Women's Club is proud to announce its first "Woman of the Year" award, being given to Alisa Corstorphine, owner and editor of "Alamo Today," for being the voice of Alamo, at its luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 1401 Danville Blvd. Cost is \$24. Call 837-8530.

Danville Library Book Club Join the Danville Library Book Club at 11 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Danville Library, 420 Front St. to discuss Jon Krakauer's books, "Into the Wild" and "Under the Banner of Heaven." Light refreshments will be served; this event is free, and all are welcome.

Events

American Business Women's Day 2008 The American Business Women's Association will honor three outstanding women from the Bay

Area, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 21, at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle, Pleasanton. The keynote speaker will be Pat Mayfield on "Negotiating Your Personal Success." It is also a chance to enjoy new contacts and tradeshow booths. Must reserve early. Cost is \$45. Call (209) 839-0889 or visit www.bayareacouncil.net.

Bedford Gallery Volunteer Recruitment Day Visit the Bedford Gallery to meet its volunteers and staff and find out about volunteer opportunities, at 10 a.m., Monday, Sept. 22, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Coffee and pastries will be served. Call 295-1418.

Business Showcase, Food Sample & Wine Event Join the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Sample food and wine and meet with Chamber members showcasing their products and services. Cost is \$20 in advance online, or \$25 at the door. Call 837-4400, or visit www.danvilleareachamber.com.

Car Seat Safety Inspection The Danville Police Department along with

Contra Costa Child Passenger Safety Coalition and the Dublin California Highway Patrol will host an annual Car Seat Check-Up from 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Train Depot, 345 Railroad Ave., Danville.

Community Garage Sale in Alamo
The Alamo Women's Club is renting spaces for a community garage sale from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, at the clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd., to accommodate those whose neighborhoods don't allow them, salesmen with samples, anyone who has "too much stuff." It's a chance to make some money and have fun. Spaces are on first come basis for \$35. Call 837-8530.

Contra Costa Greek Food and Wine Festival Join in an authentic Greek celebration with dancing, live music, Greek wine and beer, and authentic Greek food including lamb, Gyro, domathes, pastestio, spanakopita and tiropita. This event is from Friday-Sunday, Sept. 12-14, at St. Demetrios Church, 1955 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord. The cost is \$5. Call 676-6967.

Open Houses at the Flower Shop
The Alamo Flower Co. is holding

Holiday Open Houses to benefit the Alamo Tree Lighting Fund, by donating 10 percent of all pre-holiday order proceeds placed during the Open Houses to the fund. The open houses will have good cheer, holiday libation, refreshments and drawings, from 4-7 p.m., starting Friday, Sept. 19, and ending Friday, Dec. 19, at the shop, 3000 Danville Blvd., #1, Alamo. The events are free and open to the public. Call 836-1456.

Play Day in the Park The San Ramon Valley YMCA will be hosting a free Play Day at Hap Magee Ranch Park, which will include a Jumpy House for children, from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 20. Information on upcoming YMCA programs will be available, along with snacks and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Tinsel and Treasures Folk Art Show Here's a chance to buy 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.

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Meeting Schedule:

Sunday 9:30 am

Monday 10:00 am, 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm

Tuesday 10:30 am, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 6:30 pm

Thursday 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm, 5:15 pm

Friday 9:30 am

Saturday 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am

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Exhibits

Museum of the San Ramon Valley - We The People The Museum's current exhibit is "We the People," running through Saturday, Sept. 27. It features artifacts from the County Clerk's office and local residents, Danville's John Baldwin and Teddy "Bear" Roosevelt. There is also a genuine voting booth for children to practice the democratic process as they vote for their favorite flavor of ice cream. The Museum is located at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues in downtown Danville. Visit www.museumsv.org.

Fundraisers

Get Real Behind the Wheel Golf Tournament The second annual fundraiser to benefit Get Real Behind the Wheel Safe Teen Driving program will take place from 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, at Bridges Golf Course, 9000 S. Gale Ridge Rd., San Ramon. It will also benefit start up fees toward a multi-facet Motor Sports Park including a NASCAR sanctioned driving school and mechanical workshop. Cost is \$175 per person. Continental breakfast and box lunch provided; no host bar, dinner and awards to follow. Call (209) 601-6523.

Humane Society's Noah's Ark-tion The Contra Costa Humane Society's fifth annual dinner auction will be held from 2-6:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette. Call 279-2247, ext. 306.

Lectures/ Workshops

Faith Communities Facing Financial Challenges "Hard Times: We're All in this Together Folks," a one-day conference for faith communities and nonprofit organizations in Contra Costa County, invites all concerned faith groups to share their experiences and ideas for programs to help the rising number who face financial challenges. From 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Ln., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$5-\$10. Call 385-0037.

Panel on Path to Publication The next meeting of the California Writers Club, Tri-Valley Branch, will feature a panel of publishing professionals speaking on getting published in today's market, including how to write query letters and book proposals. This lecture is from 11:30-2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. The cost is \$21 for members and \$35 for non-members, which includes lunch. Call 462-7495 for a reservation.

Treasure or Trash? Join UC Irvine Certified Appraisers for an evening of fun and info on how to sort through your stuff, from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. A tour of the farm will also be given. This event costs \$10. Call 973-3282.

Literary Events

Author reveals 'Secrets of Great Historical Fiction' Anita Amirrezvani, acclaimed Bay Area author of "The Blood of Flowers," will speak at the Mt. Diablo Branch, California Writers Club September luncheon meeting, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

On Stage

Greek Shadow Puppets A legendary Greek character gets in and out of trouble in this free, visually stunning show of shadow puppetry presented by Leonidas Kassapides, co-presented by the Town of Danville and the Danville Library Foundation, from 3-4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Call 837-4889.



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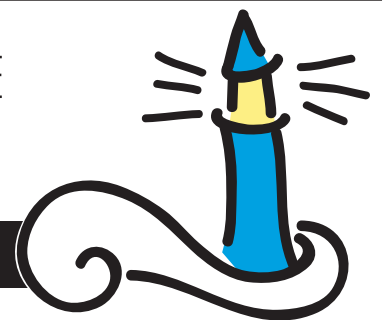
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805 Homes for Rent

Pleasanton, 5+ BR/4+ BA
New Executive Mansion: \$4,950 5 Bd/4+ Bath 4382SF Backs to woods/lg private lot, den, gourmet kitchen, lg master. Call (925) 895-5008 also 2 bd guest house avail

809 Shared Housing/Rooms



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Look at those baby blues!
Meet Fritz, a handsome, neutered male, lilac-point Siamese with beautiful blue eyes. Fritz was found wandering in Dublin and brought to the East County Animal Shelter. He is just one of many affectionate cats that are currently available for adoption. Fritz has a regal look about him. He likes to be around people but he's not fond of other cats. Fritz would love to have a home where he can be king of the household! Visit Fritz (pet # 79479) 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

ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM.

Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: http://www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$600.00

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$500.00

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$500.00

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$600.00

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

New Mobile/Manufactured Homes
with Warranty. Buy at Factory for \$19,900. Photos and Floor plans online www.FactorySelectHomes.com or 1-800-620-3762 for color brochure. (Cal-SCAN)

Call Ella (650) 279-4007, 3 BR/2 BA

Remdled Mountain View Location

Dublin, 3 BR/2 BA - \$495,950

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$769,000

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$695,000

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

35+ Acres for \$34,900
First Come, First Served Saturday, October 4, 2008. Southern Colorado ranches. Excellent financing available. Call for your private property tour. 1-866-696-5263 x4574. (Cal-SCAN)

Arizona Land Bargain

36 Acres - \$24,900. 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! Newly Released 35 acres- \$39,900. Majestic lake and Mountain views, adjacent to national forest for camping or hiking, close to conveniences. EZ terms. 1-866-353-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

Montana

Best ever elk & deer hunters land deal. Book a trip- we'll prove it. Buy a lot, the trip's on us! 160- 600AC Tracts Starting at \$700/AC. 877-229-7840. www.WesternSkiesLand.com (Cal-SCAN)

Nevada - 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. www.NVLR.com Call 1-877-542-6628. (Cal-SCAN)

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)

New Mexico Sacrifice

140 acres was \$149,900, Now Only \$69,900. Amazing 6000 ft. elevation. Incredible mountain views. Mature tree cover. Power & year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

New Mexico Sacrifice

140 acres was \$149,900, Now Only \$69,900. Amazing 6000 ft. elevation. Incredible mountain views. Mature tree cover. Power and year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

Washington-Idaho Border

Almost Heaven. 6 ac just \$49,900. Calendar cover beauty in Palouse Country. Rare acreage in an area where land is rarely available. Rolling hills, river access, near town & golf, close to WSU. Has it all including great price, must see. EZ terms. Call WALR 1-866-836-9152. (Cal-SCAN)

855 Real Estate Services

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All Northern California. 1000+ Homes Must be Sold! Free Catalog 800-470-9314. USHomeAuction.com (Cal-SCAN)

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Reducing home insurance premiums

With gas prices fluctuating, the mortgage crisis and economic conditions threatening a recession, people everywhere are looking to save money.

A good place to start is with your homeowner's policy.

In spite of our economy, home values have increased over the past five-to-15 years, according to Frank N. Darras, one of America's top insurance lawyers. However, many people have failed to determine if their current insurance coverage would be adequate to replace their homes.

Your policy should allow you to completely rebuild your home should a disaster occur. If not, get your policy updated to match your current property values.

"Make sure you are not grossly underinsured," says Darras. "You will pay more in premiums but save in the long run, if disaster strikes."

Darras offers these tips to save money:

- Determine the limits you want on your homeowners insurance, what value you need to insure, and get multiple quotes.

- Consider purchasing your homeowner, auto and umbrella insurance with the same company so a multi-coverage discount will apply.
- Having smoke, burglar alarms and a sprinkler system could mean bigger discounts.
- Get a quote for insurance that would pay to replace your belongings, rather than pay you based on their depreciated value.
- Ask your agent what documentation you need to substantiate a claim, in case of theft or fire. Make sure you video record all of your personal properties, including what is in the drawers and cabinets and send the tape to someone you trust for safekeeping.
- Make sure you carry enough liability coverage to protect you against a lawsuit if someone gets slips, trips or gets hurt on your property.

"Always read the policy when you receive it and ask your agent to slowly and carefully explain any provisions you don't understand. Finally, never buy insurance from a company you don't recognize," says Darras.

—SPM Wire

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

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

DANVILLE

5 Bedrooms
16 Casolyn Ranch Ct. \$1,545,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 858-4198

LIVERMORE

2 Bedrooms
1087 Murrietta Blvd. # 234 \$199,900
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 339-3077

3 Bedrooms
2852 Lemon Cmn. \$528,000
 Sun 1-4 Realty World Town & Country 200-0827
590 South N St. \$575,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams - Lydonna Walker 997-8267

PLEASANTON

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

6420 Inglewood Dr. \$599,950
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

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

447 Del Sol Ave. \$869,000
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 487-1427

4 Bedrooms
1139 Matato Ct. \$1,099,000
 Sun 1-4 ReMax/Accord Jeff Clyma 918-3395

2076 Valley Oak Ct. \$2,250,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 519-1455

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

5 Bedrooms
1342 West Lagoon Rd. \$1,324,979
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Andy Poryes 963-8871

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2008

Danville

4 Auburn Court Young Trust to M. & L. Ross for \$870,000

664 Blue Spruce Drive Armas Trust to P. & J. Caskey for \$1,130,000

1156 Blue Spur Circle Shapell Homes to M. Tan for \$1,129,000

294 Cameo Drive Bolich Trust to E. & M. Sutt for \$800,000

140 Gardner Place A. Delaney to M. Berke for \$770,000

269 Jasmine Way CWALT Inc. to K. & P. Schulenburg for \$808,000

105 Margone Court B. & C. Sanderford to S. Rigby for \$1,190,000

28 Mariposa Court Dempsey Trust to W. & K. Pearce for \$1,450,000

707 Mistral Court A. & B. Gates to B. Zeppa for \$709,000

124 Montana Drive S. & G. Carty to M. & V. Rossi for \$1,170,000

200 Monterosso Court Lennar Homes to L. & C. Cassidy for \$1,203,000

415 Sutton Circle J. Mummert to V. Teryoshin for \$628,000

148 Valle Verde Court Hsu Trust to G. Russell for \$690,000

3824 Welshland Street Shapell Industries to C. & C. Ball for \$1,040,000

130 Westfield Circle R. Crowell to R. Robinson for \$480,000

Walnut Creek

1315 Alma Avenue #252 M. & J. Branagh to Rose Trust for \$505,000

25 Arends Lane J. Twibell to B. & A. Davalle for \$480,000

1310 Creekside Drive Iron Horse Place Limited to K. & A. Gheyara for \$519,000

36 Del Rosa Court R. & M. Town to C. & W. Miller for \$1,520,000

2109 Devonshire Court C. Shiels to E. Sun for \$635,000

1435 Marchbanks Drive #1A T. Decrooy to L. Robertson for \$220,000

523 Monarch Ridge Drive George Trust to A. Kreuscher for \$580,000

2528 Ptarmigan Drive #2 D. Ramm to M. & C. Glantz for \$298,000

1941 Skycrest Drive #3 R. Waite to M. West for \$225,000

2365 St. Ashley Place Normandy Group to H. Sun for \$1,135,000

1840 Tice Creek Drive #2340 M. Dietz to Swick Trust for \$312,500

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Walnut Creek



SALE PENDING!

Fabulously remodeled 4 bedroom, 2 bath single story on .25 acres. Near De LaSalle Pool and Well. \$739,000

Sky HY Ranch, Lafayette



SOLD

Views! Views! Views! Marvelously updated 4 bed 2.5 bath in gated community. On .7 acre. \$1,499,000

Alamo Round Hill Area



Fabulously updated single home 1.25 acres. Granite and stainless kitchen, gated, pool, 3 car garage \$1,425,000

West Side Alamo Views!



Beautiful updated West Side Alamo home. Views of Mt. Diablo, 2.05 acres. \$1,299,950

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





For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to:

www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate

CLARIFICATION



This image should have been credited to landscape artist Catherine Lindberg in the Sept. 5 real estate advertising section of the Danville Weekly.

↘ It is time to refinance to a fixed rate loan!



If you have an adjustable rate mortgage, we have a question for you: Are you comfortable with where interest rates have been heading? If not, today's fixed rates are still historically low, and a Countrywide® Bank FSB fixed-rate home loan could be right for you.

We're on your side and in your neighborhood. So if the stability of a fixed monthly payment sounds appealing to you, don't wait another day—give me a call today.



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James_Black@countrywide.com

www.meetjimblack.com

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