

Living in agony

Danville man shares his painful story > **page 17**

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www.DanvilleWeekly.com

What's the weather?

Forecasts say drought won't end this winter

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Danville

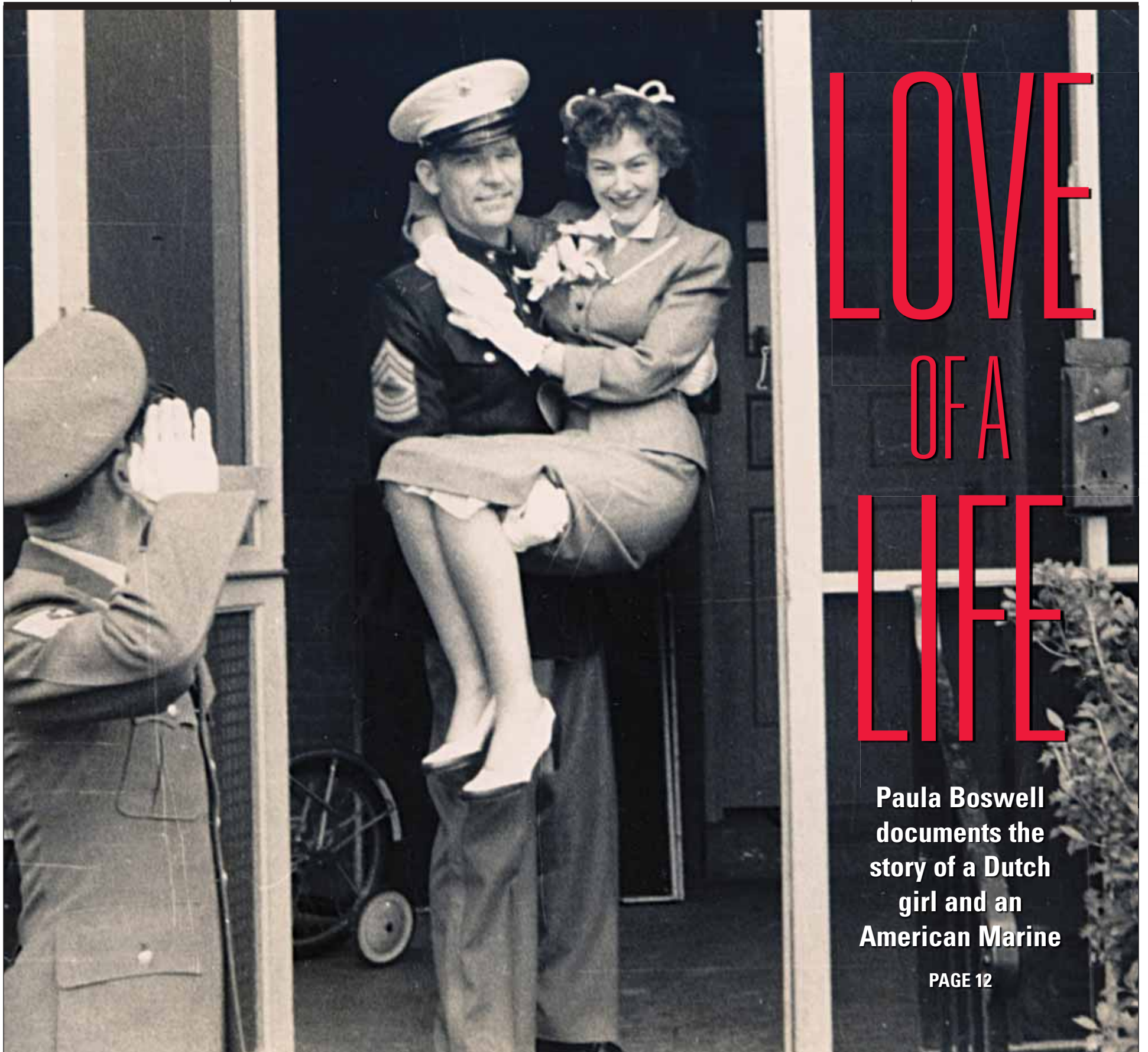
W E E K L Y

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

Burglary suppression

Cops canvass streets for suspicious characters

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LOVE OF A LIFE

Paula Boswell documents the story of a Dutch girl and an American Marine

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about Danville
every day

Danville
W E E K L Y . C O M



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Q: Are you a dog person or a cat person?



We are dog people but we love cats too. We had a dog named Jonathan, a basset hound. Our lifestyle does not permit another dog because we travel four months out of the year.

Joe and Ellie Cagnima
world travelers



I am a professional dog walker! Today I will be walking five dogs. I also have four cats. I've been doing this for four years. My job actually relieves my stress. I get to exercise and nurture.

Martha Lee
professional dog walker



I am more of a dog person. You just can't do much with cats but dogs will do tricks. I have a dog named Pops. He's a German shepherd mix.

Shoshanna Lee
student



I am definitely a cat person. Cats are smart, independent, affectionate and clean. I have two cats and I love them. They are my babies.

Barbara Gallagher
bookkeeper



Cat person. I love the mysteries of their personalities. I have a cat named Stormy. I rescued her from a storm drain three years ago.

Matt DiFalco
pet store employee

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

ABOUT THE COVER

Paula and John Boswell were married at Langley Air Force Base on March 1, 1952; in her book, Paula Boswell writes about the horrors of World War II, their romance and their life together, ending in Danville. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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SATURDAYS

9AM - 1PM

YEAR-ROUND

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Summer favorites like heirloom tomatoes, peppers and squash are still in the market, but hurry before they are gone!

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NEWS DIGEST

Art in the Park this weekend

The 10th annual Fine Arts Festival will take place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday on the town green in front of the Danville library on Front Street. Artists will be working and have art on display, plus there will be live music, food and wine.

The event is sponsored by the Alamo Danville Artists' Society and the town. It benefits art programs in the schools.

Senior volunteers being recognized Sunday

The Culture to Culture Foundation is holding an awards ceremony at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, to recognize four recipients of its first Senior Volunteer Awards. It received 35 nominations of residents older than 55 who have voluntarily served in some aspect of the community in the last year in Contra Costa County. Four were chosen to receive \$250 cash prizes and a plaque; the recipients will be announced Sunday.

"Our desire is to focus on what the older generation can do, not what they can't do," said organizer Chia-Chia Chien.

The event will take place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., in Walnut Creek, and includes refreshments and entertainment. Call 938-9988 to attend.

Warming up for Primo's Run

The online auction benefiting this year's Primo's Run for Education closes in three days, on Oct. 6. Go to www.primosrun.com to

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“She took that ‘in sickness and in health’ vow and stuck with it.”

—Mark Maginn saying his wife Judie stayed with him as every facet of his life was affected by his chronic pain. See story, page 17.

bid on fabulous prizes donated by residents and local businesses.

There is also time to sign up to participate in the run Sunday, Oct. 19. The half-marathon begins at 7:15 a.m. at Primo's Pizza on Hartz Avenue and Diablo Road, with registration opening at 6 a.m. The 5K run begins at Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon. This year the 5K includes two categories: timed runners and run/walk participants. The 5K race begins at 8:15 a.m. and the course closes at 10:30 a.m.

The Primo's Run is a festive event for the whole family. Proceeds from the run and the auction benefit the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation, which distributes teacher and district grants to enhance education at the schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. For more information, go to the Web site.



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Danville PD targets ongoing burglaries

Undercover cops canvass neighborhoods for car theft suspects

by Geoff Gillette

Danville Police investigators are looking into a series of car burglaries throughout the town. Lt. Mark Williams said there have been a number of reported incidents where items were stolen from automobiles in Danville.

"We've had some sporadic auto burglaries and thefts throughout the town over the last couple months. There's really been no specific place where they're hitting," he said.

Police records indicate that in July there were eight reported burglaries. August saw 13 and September had at least 10.

Williams said when they start to see crimes of a certain nature begin to spike they have a two-fold plan for dealing with it. "Number one ... educating the community on how to prevent themselves from being victimized. Two ... enforcement."

Part of that enforcement effort is what Williams calls Burglary Suppression Operations.

"We'll staff anywhere from four to

six officers during a particular time based on crime analysis. They'll go undercover and get out on foot."

On Aug. 22, Danville Police Department put officers on the street for one of the suppression operations. Williams said four officers went out during the graveyard shift and they made around 15 contacts with individuals they spotted in those neighborhoods.

"We identified some people. A couple of those folks really had no reason for loitering in the particular neighborhood we stopped them in. In

one case they were from outside the area and couldn't tell officers why they were there," he explained.

No arrests were made, but Williams said making contacts can be enough of a deterrent to keep the criminals from coming back. "They know we have their names, and they know that if a crime is committed in this neighborhood that they'll be the first person we'd be checking on."

In the meantime, residents are urged to make sure their vehicle doors are locked, and hide any

valuables or electronics so they are not readily visible through the windows. "In most cases, the people being victimized are the ones who are leaving things right out where they can be seen," Williams said.

He also said maintaining good communication with the Police Department can be instrumental in stopping these burglaries. "Part of any enforcement effort is good 'intel' from the community. If a person sees anything suspicious they should call 9-1-1 and report it in." ■



Drivers on Diablo Road brave rainstorms last January. Despite those heavy showers, the area is experiencing near-drought conditions and not enough rain is predicted this winter to end them.

Forecasts call for slushy skiing

Rain is predicted but not enough to end restrictions

by Geoff Gillette

There's rain in the forecast for this weekend, but don't expect to be outside playing in puddles this winter. Meteorologists say that while there will be some rain this season, it won't be enough to bring an end to the drought of the previous two seasons.

Northern California has been in the grip of a "La Niña" weather pattern, explained Dave Reynolds of the National Weather service. A La Niña forms when surface temperatures in the ocean are colder than normal, keeping storm systems from forming out at sea to sweep in along the coasts carrying moisture.

Both Reynolds and Accuweather senior meteorologist Paul Pastelok

say the La Niña period is ending and the area will be transitioning to a more neutral pattern with temperatures hovering right around normal if not slightly above.

"The jet stream is starting to work its way south," said Pastelok. "We'll be seeing some big systems coming into the northwest."

Pastelok said October is going to see an end to the very warm temperatures that have been in the area during the past few months. Expect a cool trend with rain in November, he added.

While the National Weather Service is not predicting major storms in November, Reynolds did say a meteorological phenomenon called a Madden-Julian Oscillation could dump a lot of precipitation on the area during the winter months.

"In years that we have this neutral weather pattern we can get a mini-El Niño. It comes in over the course of 45-60 days and can cause a week or two of heavy rain," he noted.

The Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting a mostly dry winter with a spike in rainfall amounts in December. The Almanac also calls for significantly lower temperatures from November to April, with average temps down as much as 2 degrees.

Pastelok's forecast disagrees, saying temperatures will be 1 to 2 degrees above normal during the December-February period.

As for snowfall, all three forecasts seem to indicate there will be good snowfall in November, lead-

► Continued on page 7

Resource officer for Monte Vista High

School district, Danville and county will pay salary

by Harry Stoll

The school board took a positive step to overcome Monte Vista High's lack of a school resource officer when it voted Sept. 23 to partially fund a police officer. Monte Vista has no regularly assigned officer although such a presence is normal for high schools.

"If an incident occurred, I'd hate to have to say that we didn't have a school resource officer due to lack of funding," said Superintendent Steven Enoch, as he asked the San Ramon Valley Unified School District board to provide \$35,000 toward payment of the officer for the balance of the school year. That amount is about 25 percent of the total cost.

Enoch said the annual cost of

an officer is \$186,000. That's not unusual, he noted, when considering all the costs.

School resource officers are sworn law enforcement officers with all the powers of that position. The officer would have a beat assignment of Monte Vista High during the school year and would be a member of the Danville Police Department.

"Remember that Danville contracts out for law enforcement services from the county," wrote Enoch in an e-mail subsequent to the meeting.

Danville Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said Danville police officers are employees of the Sheriff's Department but wear Danville uniforms, drive cars with Danville mark-

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Golf fans get ready

LPGA returns to Blackhawk Country Club next week

The countdown has begun to the Longs Drugs Challenge, which brings the Ladies Professional Golf Association back to Blackhawk Country Club on Oct. 9-12.

Raycom Sports is hosting the four-round event for the third year at Blackhawk's 6,212-yard, par-72 course. The purse is set at \$1.2 million.

Last year Suzann Pettersen (75-65-64-73=277) fought off Lorena Ochoa (69-70-67-71=277) in a playoff after Ochoa overcame a two-stroke deficit to enter the final round with a 1-under-par 71 on Sunday afternoon. Pettersen outlasted her in a two-hole, sudden-death playoff to claim her third victory on the LPGA Tour that year.

In 2006, Karrie Webb held off a hard-charging Annika Sorenstam

with a clutch two-foot par putt on the 18th hole to clinch a one-stroke win. Webb, who finished with a final round 70, pared the last five holes as Sorenstam, who playing in the group ahead of her, fired a final round 65.

Tickets for this year's tournament went on sale last month with one-day tickets for \$20; all-tournament ticket for \$50; and a clubhouse badge for \$100, which includes access to the clubhouse restaurant.

All spectator parking for the tournament is at Bishop Ranch 3 in San Ramon, which can be accessed from Bollinger Canyon Road. Parking costs \$10 and shuttles will run continuously for the four days of the tournament.

Pro-Am events will take place

► Continued on page 7

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E-waste recyclers target small business

Danville event collects more than half a ton

by Geoff Gillette

With technology continuing to change at a breakneck pace and current technology reaching obsolescence in record time, a new problem is being created: E-waste. Electronic components and items that have outlived their usefulness or just plain don't work.

Many waste haulers won't take monitors and other electronics due to concerns of hazardous items being interned in landfills, so what can a person do?

Drop it off with some e-cyclers. Companies that take outdated equipment and put it back to work.

A pair of local companies teamed together Friday, Aug. 22, to launch the first of what they hope will be many e-cycling events in Danville. EWaste Logistics, formerly ewastesolutions, partnered with Autonomic Software Inc. to hold a recycling event in the parking lot behind the office building at 315-319 Diablo Road.

The event brought in more than half a ton of electronic waste, said the organizers.

EWaste Logistics owner Joe Nelson said that he first began the work of recycling used components earlier this year.

"It really started off as sort of



GEOFF GILLETTE

EWaste Logistics owner Joe Nelson (right) helps Terry Leake bring in a box of used computer parts during the EWaste Recycling event in Danville.

a hobby, but it has grown to a fast-paced business," Nelson said, adding that his company is targeting residential as well as small- to medium-sized businesses.

Autonomic Software sales director Darren Nicholson agreed.

"A lot of big corporations have started putting in policies about e-waste, but this will help smaller companies that may not be able to pay out for the service."

EWaste Logistics offers free pickup of outmoded or dead electronics and hauls them off.

"Ninety percent will be recycled through a state approved recycler," Nelson said. "It will be broken down, then resold to manufacturers

to be used in newer, more energy efficient machines."

Nicholson said Autonomic Software got involved because they are in the process of introducing new software to the market that is "green friendly."

"We're launching the initiative to tell companies we have a green product," he said.

The new software will not only provide network-wide streamlining of functions like maintenance and patching, but it will also work to shut down computers that are generally not in use during downtimes, Nicholson said. He added that projected energy savings could be as much as \$18 per system. ■

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Resource officer

► Continued from page 5

ings, and operate out of the town's police station. He said that Monte Vista High is within the town limits although the parking lot is not.

Danville pays for a resource officer for San Ramon Valley High, and the city of San Ramon finances officers for California and Dougherty Valley high schools. Because more than half of Monte Vista's students reside in unincorporated areas the county is being asked to provide half the funding, with the other half divided between Danville and the district. Calabrigo said that had been the prior arrangement.

Calabrigo said the town is amenable to paying one quarter of the cost but emphasized this would be only a temporary solution.

"Next year we'll be back to square one, without the funding," he said.

Enoch said he is "cautiously optimistic" after discussions with Calabrigo and Contra Costa County officials about the county and Danville paying the remainder.

School Board President Greg Marvel praised County Supervisor Mary Piepho's staff for its work in securing county funding for the position, in light of the county's tight budget.

Apparently the school board didn't know about the lack of a school resource officer at Monte Vista.

"I'm disappointed that we're just finding out about this," said Trustee Paul Gardner at the Sept. 23 meeting.

Enoch said the district would continue to rely on the Danville Police Department and the Sheriff's Office until the resource officer is in place.

"We have not had specific problems, but it is a large school and I believe it should have an SRO present," Enoch said.

At the meeting, the board also approved a change to board policy recommended by the district staff to tighten up proof of residency prior to a student being admitted. Time limits for applicants to provide the information were shortened.

Board members Joan Buchanan and Rachel Hurd contended that the language wasn't sufficiently rigorous and suggested some rewording. But Trustee Bill Clarkson said the board shouldn't be wordsmithing the policy and favored giving general guidance to the staff on wording. Buchanan and Hurd took a "buck stops here" stance and wanted final say on the wording. The proposed change was approved 3-2 with Marvel, Clarkson and Gardner voting Yes, and Buchanan and Hurd voting No.

The board also appointed Clarkson and Gardner to the Measure J Traffic Congestion Relief Agency. Alluding to schools contributing to congestion, Gardner said, "How do we get students from their neighborhoods to the schools?"

In other business, members of the Los Cerros Math Team—Carol Giannini, Robin Bovberg, Bunki Kramer, Jacqueline Angius and Sue O'Reilly—were recognized by the board for "making a positive difference for our students, schools and community." ■



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Fun for a fraulein

Brenda Puckett attends Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, last year—with her Weekly.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to travel@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

Forecasts

► Continued from page 5

ing to a decent base, but after that the precipitation at higher elevations will be less.

The Almanac is predicting that the majority of the snow will go to the north of the Tahoe region. Pastelok said that while Donner Summit normally gets 400 inches of snow between December and February, skiers could see only half that much this winter.

Add to that the expectation of warmer weather, and skiers may be looking at wet conditions with a lighter than average base.

However Reynolds said the National Weather Service has data that indicates a weak El Nino could

develop late in the winter bringing rain and snow with it. Reynolds said he did not believe that any late developing weather system will be enough to offset the dry seasons preceding it.

Data on the Almanac Web site paints a less than exciting picture of the coming months. Between November and May, it is expecting 7.9 inches of rain in Northern California. That is down from the average of 13.5 inches. ■

Golf

► Continued from page 5

Monday and Wednesday and are not open to the general public. Tournament rounds will begin Thursday with the field cut at the conclusion of play on Friday.

The Trophy Presentation Ceremony will take place on the 18th green immediately following the close of play Sunday. In the event of a tie for first place after 72 holes, there will be a sudden death playoff starting at the 18th tee. Once a champion is decided, the trophy will be presented.

For more information, visit www.longsdruugschallenge.com, or call the tournament office in Blackhawk at 725-0148.

—Staff reports



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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Blessing Fido

We bless our food; we bless anyone within hearing distance who sneezes. This weekend is the time to bless our animals, those little guys that enhance our lives and bring us comfort—even when all our other friends have forsaken us. OK, I've never personally tested this last premise. But I know when I come home, my cat Bob greets me with enthusiasm—and I'm sure it has nothing to do with dinnertime.

Oct. 4 is the feast day of St. Francis, and we have two venues in Danville that will be blessing animals this weekend. San Damiano, the retreat house of the Franciscan friars in the west Danville hills, will hold a Blessing of the Animals at 2 p.m. tomorrow. You can not only get your pets blessed but can also enjoy the view—and, of course, the serenity of the setting. San Damiano always welcomes people of all faiths to visit its beautiful hillside retreat for spiritual renewal and tomorrow welcomes their animals, too.

The next day Peace Lutheran Church is holding a Blessing of the Animals Pet Festival in conjunction with Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation, which will have its mobile cat adoption unit and therapy dogs. The fest will include animal art exhibits, crafts for kids and face-painting, all taking place from noon to 3 p.m. Plus it offers a prize for those who come dressed as their pets; I assume children will be doing this but you never know.

Blessing of the Animals

- San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Drive, 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4; call 837-9141
- Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, noon-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5; call 648-7000

St. Francis is now the Patron Saint of Animals and Ecology. He was only Patron Saint of Animals when I was growing up in the 1950s but back then we weren't aware we needed anyone to watch over the environment. That was before the plastic bag began to sprout everywhere from our produce aisles to our checkout stands to newspapers and our garbage pails. The newspaper arrived on the front porch so tightly folded in a knot that even in the rain only the outside part would get wet. We lined our kitchen garbage pail with those same newspapers; coffee grounds and other wet garbage that now goes down a disposal would leak through the paper so we had to wash the pail fairly often, but we had plenty of water back then.

It was high time we began to care for Mother Earth, and I was glad to see this added to St. Francis' job description.

"I think it ties in because he was a rich young man and he turned it around to lead a simple life," said Peggy Machesky, a volunteer who is part of the Franciscan Covenant Program at San Damiano. She said they recycle everything and have their own compost garden.

She said for the annual Blessing of the Animals the people and their pets line up on the hillside and come forward to be blessed one by one, telling Father Rusty Shaughnessy the pet's name before he does the blessing. Some 200 people brought their animal companions last year including cats, dogs, birds, snakes and mice. Peggy is hoping for a horse this year.

San Damiano has its own cat in residence, Desdemona, described by Peggy as being "very prissy." Well, with a name like that, who can blame her? Another cat named Blackie was in residence until the spring. He was the pet of Father Emmanuel Muessinggang, who would have turned 100 in June. When Father Emmanuel moved to a rest home about a year ago, Blackie waited patiently at San Damiano to enjoy his visits on holidays. But Father Emmanuel passed away April 4 and, Peggy told me, Blackie died two weeks later.

Peggy remembered that folks from Peace Lutheran attended the San Damiano blessing in the past. "We've had them up here and they're wonderful, wonderful people." And she said they called this year before setting the date for their animal blessing. So we have a choice of two events in Danville to celebrate the special bond between us and our pets. Goes to show, around here we're all blessed.

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

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—Brian Baer, CIO Dominics (Safeway)



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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Wonderful Wilderness

Our lives in Danville and Alamo are enriched by Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, almost 4,000 acres of green hills to the west. The land has been preserved thanks to countless hours of work by people with vision and the formation of the East Bay Regional Park District in 1934.

Land acquisition can be a tricky process, not to mention expensive. Las Trampas has grown by more than 1,800 acres since 1988, thanks to Measure AA, a \$225 million bond passed by voters that year for the Park District. Now Measure AA is about to expire, and the district has Measure WW, a \$500 million park bond extension measure, on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Measure WW would replicate and extend Measure AA to continue to acquire open space and make improvements. As an extension rather than a new bond, it would not increase the current property tax rate above the present rate of \$10 per year per \$100,000.

The \$500 million from Measure WW is divided as follows:

- \$375 million or 75 percent to fund regional park acquisitions and capital projects;
- \$26.2 million or 7 percent to hold in reserve for unanticipated needs and opportunities; and
- \$125 million or 25 percent to go to cities, special districts and county service areas for their parks and recreation services.

The Park District operates 98,000 acres of open space, which includes 1,100 miles of public trails and 65 regional parks in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Some of the parks have active recreational opportunities, such as swimming and boating, while Las Trampas in the west hills of Danville and Alamo offers pristine wilderness for hiking, biking and studying nature. In eastern Danville, Sycamore Valley Open Space has its trailhead right at Sycamore Valley Park near the baseball field.

These local areas are on the project list for Measure WW funds:

- \$1.4 million—Complete trail corridors between Las Trampas, Sycamore Valley and Mount Diablo.
- \$8.3 million—Establish interpretive visitor facility and indoor meeting space to serve the San Ramon Valley in Las Trampas. Also develop access to recently acquired properties including staging, trails and camping areas.
- \$925,000—Acquire lands to complete Sycamore Valley Open Space boundaries and trail connections, both inside the park and to Mount Diablo.
- \$875,000 to acquire and develop regional trail connecting Tassajara Creek in Dublin to Mount Diablo.

But just as important are the other 63 projects on the list, because all of the parks in the system are a short drive from our homes in the Danville-Alamo area. See the complete lists at www.ebparcs.org.

One could spend a lifetime exploring everything our Park District has to offer. Those who don't want to visit them still enjoy the benefits of green views and protected wildlife, not to mention maintaining the value of homes in the East Bay Regional Park District due to its amenities.

Vote Yes on Measure WW.

Measure WW would replicate and extend Measure AA to continue to acquire open space and make improvements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No one should be discriminated against

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to a Letter to the Editor last week from a writer in Dublin who criticized me for supporting Proposition 8, the November ballot measure defining marriage in our state to be between a man and a woman. I want to make it very clear that I do not believe that anyone in our community should be discriminated against based upon his or her sexual orientation. I respect the right each of us has to live our lives as we choose.

Like many other Californians, my position on Proposition 8 is simply based upon my belief that the term "marriage" defines the commitment between a man and a woman, and "civil union" more appropriately defines the legal recognition of a same sex couple's relationship. Under California state law the rights and privileges are essentially the same. I do not believe this to be discriminatory and Proposition 8 will not take away any of these protections. As the people of California vote on this matter in November, I hope that tolerance and respect will be shown to those on both sides of this ballot measure.

I have found in my public service that individuals almost always have differences of opinion about certain issues. No elected official represents the identical values of a voter. The way we get things accomplished, though, is by finding the things we do agree on. In Danville this includes fiscal responsibility; preserving open space and protecting our Urban Limit Line; creating solutions to traffic; helping youth and seniors; keeping our town safe; and ensuring that our decisions maintain our small town feel and exceptional quality of life. I look forward to continuing to work with our entire community toward these goals.

*Candace Andersen, Mayor,
Town of Danville*

Wilson has class and integrity

Dear Editor:

I want to describe an insight I had that reveals a lot about the character of Abram Wilson.

I recently attended a meeting of the Danville Town Council. I'm involved with a group that is interacting with the town on a project and it was up for discussion that evening. When I arrived, I was pleased to see that San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson was also at the meeting. I've known Mayor Wilson for several years and I find him to be a fine person and an excellent public servant.

He was there to participate in a joint presentation to librarians from the Town of Danville and the

city of San Ramon proclaiming Sep. 22-Oct. 27 as CityRead 2008. Presentations and proclamations of this sort are usually scheduled for the beginning of the meeting out of consideration for the recipients.

Mayor Wilson and Mayor Andersen performed a very nice ceremony, and Wilson easily could have left the meeting at this point. Please consider that he is a grievously busy man—he is not only mayor of San Ramon but is also running an arduous race for the State Assembly. No one would have taken any notice or felt umbrage if he had left. But he didn't. He stayed for the entire meeting. By doing this, he showed great consideration and respect for both the town council and members of the audience.

This action can be summed up in two words: class and integrity. Abram, you have my enthusiastic vote for State Assembly.

Steve Mick, Alamo

Alamo concerns are incomplete

Dear Editor:

Thank you for continuing to cover the issue of incorporation, which is important to Alamo citizens. A thoughtfully expressed concern to LAFCO commissioners that the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis (CFA) of Alamo incorporation is incomplete, is itself incomplete on two counts.

Several Alamo citizens claim that the expenses of city manager, city attorney, and law enforcement are budgeted too low and would generate a yearly shortfall of \$402,535 for the new town. Yet they ignore the budgeted yearly 10 percent contingency line item, specifically included to compensate for any low projections (beyond the yearly surplus required by law), of \$714,300 in Year 2, growing to \$980,747 in Year 10, that would more than cover their assumed shortfall each year.

Then, they extend their concern about low projections for these three cost items to costs of all services provided by the new town.

But most budgeted service costs (including law enforcement) are audited costs the county now incurs in providing services to Alamo, certified by the county as accurate, and adjusted each year for inflation. These service costs are what they are, whether services are provided by town or county—except that costs of services provided by the town would not grow with the burden rate of the county's \$1.7 billion unfunded liability for employee benefits.

I urge all Alamo citizens to continue to read and consider the CFA as fully as possible. It is available at www.contracostalafco.org, along with answers to questions from Alamo citizens by the staff and consultants of the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Smitty Schmidt, Alamo

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Love of a

Paula Boswell documents the story of a Dutch girl and an Am

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Paula van Dalsum wasn't looking for romance when she stepped out onto that tennis court a few miles outside Lisbon on May 25, 1950. But playing on the next court was a tall handsome American who would change her life.

"Paula, I'd like you to meet my good friend, John Boswell," she remembers her friend saying. "I looked up at a tall, broad-shouldered hunk of a man with twinkling blue eyes," she recalled in her book, "No Ordinary Life: The True Story of a Dutch Girl and an American Marine." "We shook hands. Great smile, I thought."

She was working for the Dutch government and John was on Marine Security Guard duty at the U.S. Embassy in Portugal.

But before the romance, the book unfolds the childhood and wartime stories of the two main characters.

John was born in 1920 and raised on a poor farm in Bonifay, Fla. Despite their hard existence and lack of amenities—including indoor plumbing—his family was loving. He always remembered his mother's southern cooking and his father's integrity. At age 17, John hitchhiked to Savannah, Ga., to enlist in the Marine Corps.

He was on assignment in Shanghai when war broke out and his regiment was sent to Corregidor in the Philippines. After five months of fighting, the U.S. Armed Forces surrendered and, on his 22nd birthday, John became a prisoner of the Japanese. The book quotes from John's later writings where he described his months in captivity, detailing the cruelty of the captors and the deaths from tropical diseases and beatings and beheadings, as well as starvation.

Five chapters relate his fight for survival as he was moved from work camp to work camp. In September 1944, he was transported from Manila to Japan on a "Hell Ship," a 39-day trip on a rusty freighter where the 700 prisoners were jammed in a hold, standing shoulder to shoulder, chests to backs. Water and a small ration of rice were lowered down to the men each day, and buckets were used to remove human waste.

"Each morning, bodies of the men who had died during the night were hoisted up and tossed into the sea," John wrote. More than 5,000 POWs died in hell ships struck by the Americans, and John's was one of only three that wasn't torpedoed or bombed. By January, he was doing slave labor in the lead and zinc mines until the Japanese surrender in August. By that time, he'd gone from 220 to 110 pounds.

"It's hard to describe, after 40 months of living in filth and deprivation, how it felt taking that first hot shower, eating a real meal and slipping into clean clothes," John wrote. "To my regret I was declared unfit for flying home—too many open sores and overall weakness." He became a bed patient on a hospital ship.

Back in the States, he clammed up about his painful war experiences, which were beyond others' comprehension. Paula wrote: "One elderly lady said to him, 'You were so lucky not to be in the States during these war years; we had all this rationing and shortages.'"

Paula, meanwhile, was with her family in the Netherlands, eking out an existence during the Nazi occupation. She'd been born in a small town on the North Sea and recalls her childhood escapades. Her first encounter with the English language was when she became a huge fan of Shirley Temple and learned to sing, "On the Good Ship Lollypop."

She and her mother and siblings were vacationing with her aunt in a small town in Germany in 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland and the Dutch government ordered all its citizens home. Her family joined the throngs at the train station heading west.

Now the German radio station that had aired her mother's beloved operettas only carried the screaming voice of Hitler and the ardent responses: "Sieg heil, sieg heil." The news became worse and worse, and Hitler's troops invaded Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg and France in the early morning hours of May 10, 1940.

"We were completely under Nazi control," Paula wrote. "Germans and pro-German Dutchmen, whom we considered traitors, replaced most Dutch personnel in leading government positions. Newspapers abruptly stopped printing international news. All you read about was Hitler's advances and successes. "Soon German tanks started to roll into town. Everywhere you looked you saw Nazi uniforms and heard German spoken."

Paula, who was 15, saw her Jewish classmates disappear and had no idea what was happening to them. When all the people who lived within a certain number of miles from the beach were ordered to move, her family went first to Rotterdam where air raids were frequent. Once British bombers mistakenly wiped out an entire neighborhood.

Although they heard about the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944, Paula's father doubted liberation would come soon and moved the family to a farmhouse in the rural village of Putten.

That September the Dutch underground attacked a car of Nazi officials, and the Nazis ordered everyone in the village to the marketplace to get a lecture. Paula's father was suspicious and hid in a dry creek bed. They herded the women and children into a church while the men stayed outside. Paula remembers her fear as she recalled stories of Germans blowing up churches in Poland filled with women and children. When they were dismissed a few hours later, the square was empty.

"Where were the men?" she wrote. "Soon we discovered the devastating news that all five hundred, regardless of age, had been loaded into railroad cars and transported



Paula and John Boswell with their two children, Luke and Joyce, after Luke's baptism. Above, John enjoys the camaraderie of fellow veterans at a meeting of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Above right, Paula and John Boswell enjoy a cruise to South America in February 2001. She keeps this photo displayed in her living room.



Paula Boswell and her book, "No Ordinary Life: The True Story of a Dutch Girl and an American Marine."

MEET THE AUTHOR

What: Book signing by Paula Boswell, author of "No Ordinary Life: The True Story of a Dutch Girl and an American Marine" at the Branch of AAUW **When:** 3-5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 7 **Where:** Shadow

Life

American Marine



to work camps in Germany." The Nazis also burned down a couple hundred homes to punish the villagers.

Meanwhile to keep from starving, Paula and her family became excellent at trading—giving cloth for flour, old jewelry for oatmeal. Family members rode their bicycles scouring the countryside looking for food. They cut wood in state-owned forests to trade for food or salt.

"At the end of each week the person who had brought in the most food got a special treat," recalled Paula. "We called it the 'Nobel sandwich.'"

After the war, life slowly returned to normal, and Paula heard that Dutch embassies and legations in foreign countries had openings for secretaries. She applied in September 1949 and was interviewed for a job in Lisbon starting in 10 weeks. Could she learn shorthand in Dutch, French and English by then?

"Of course," she stammered, and got the job on that condition; she learned later that her predecessor was a grouchy older woman and the State Department had requested "somebody young and cheerful."

And the rest, as they say, is history.

The book continues with chapters intriguingly headed: "Culture Shock"—when she visits John's hometown of Bonifay, "The Ups and Downs of a Marine Wife," and "The Worst Place on Earth" (Beaufort, N.C.). A chapter called "Paula's Gift Shop" tells of the boutique she opened in her home, still in Beaufort, which gives a hint of the future successful Boswell's Discount Party Supplies, now a fixture in

Danville and other East Bay locations.

When John was assigned to the headquarters of the Department of the Pacific in San Francisco, the Boswells discovered Contra Costa County, living first in Pleasant Hill, then Concord. Retired from the Marines, John completed his college education and earned a teaching credential; for five years he taught the fourth grade at El Monte Elementary School in Concord and then because a resource teacher for another 10.

"After John's death ... more than 40 years after he started teaching, my family and I received very touching condolences from grateful former students," Paula wrote in her book. One recalled his teaching in 1967: "I do remember that Mr. Boswell always treated his students with respect and helped to build our self-confidence. He set high standards and challenged us to do our best work."

Paula went into education, too, and taught languages at Ygnacio Valley High School. She also became a Realtor so when she saw a one-acre lot with a view on Kuss Road

in Danville for sale, she pursued it.

"I literally flew from Concord to Danville," she wrote. Once on the property she climbed to the flat part then turned to look at the view. "I literally gasped," she recalled. "Mount Diablo, in all its glory, lay before my eyes—I immediately knew: I have to have this land."

Soon they found themselves living on the winding road, which leads to the Tao House, and building the house while living in it with their two children, Luke and Joyce—another adventure, which she covers in a chapter titled, "A Family of Squatters."

John began to attend POW reunions in the mid-'70s, at first attending with mixed emotions, and found it was a comfort to be with others who shared an understanding of the horrors he'd endured. He also began to write down his remembrances so he could speak about them, and he built up a World War II library in his home.

As his fellow POWs began to die, John started to go to the veterans' informal gatherings from 10-11 a.m. each weekday morning in Danville. As they shared their memories of being in the wars, Paula recalled, John came up with a plan to tell their stories to high school and college history classes. John died in 2003, and the following year the veterans installed a large photograph of him in the Veterans Memorial Building on Hartz Avenue.

After his death, Paula began to sort through the volumes of correspondence she'd saved over the years as well as a diary she kept during the "hunger winter" of 1945.

"I wish we'd looked through everything together, to remember," she says now. "Only we never had time—we were so busy."

She organized the materials into folders, and began to write.

"I worked on it for years and years," she said in a recent interview. "I started it just for family."

She translated the Dutch letters that she thought most important, and soon had hundreds of pages. She also had John's writings about the war.

"I had to mingle it together," she explained.

Family members read the first drafts and made suggestions. A granddaughter majoring in creative writing in college made notes for her and suggestions on organizing the chapters.

"I re-read and re-wrote," Paula recalled.

Then she checked out every self publisher she could find and chose Wasteland Press because the owner dealt with her in person, even giving her his cell phone number. She had hardback editions printed for family members. The paperback edition is for sale at Rakestraw Books and other stores for \$14.95.

Paula Boswell wove the personal stories of her family in her book: The death of her brother waiting to board a train to return to their home in Rotterdam; her stern father who never accepted John because he took her away from him; the startup of the successful party supply store; the fact that Paula never could learn to share John's love of watermelons.

"No Ordinary Life" is a biography, a tale of war, a history lesson, a family saga—and the story of a love that began 58 years ago, on a tennis court in Portugal. ■

"No Ordinary Life: The True Story of a Dutch Girl and an American Marine" **Who:** Sponsored by Danville-Alamo Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville. **Other:** Public is invited. Call Tena at 837-0826.



PHOTO BY DOLORES FOX CARRELL

Book, "No Ordinary Life: The True Story of a Dutch Girl and an American Marine."

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Danville Weekly, Perspective
July 18, 2008

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Sept. 21

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd./El Pintado Rd. at 12:32 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 1500 block of Diablo Rd. at 11:14 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on 1100 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:37 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 22

- Promiscuous shooting on El Cerro Blvd./I-680 northbound at 1:27 a.m.
- Disturbance on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 11:04 a.m.
- Grand theft on 400 block of El Rio Rd. at 2:16 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with fire and ambulance en route on I-680 northbound/Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:08 p.m.

- Prowler heard on 500 block of Mission Pl. at 8:48 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

- Vehicle traffic stop on Greenbrook Dr./Sycamore at 10:50 a.m.
- Drug violation on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 2:29 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on El Capitan Dr./Orange Blossom Way at 3:02 p.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Vista del Diablo at 4:45 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on 400 block of Laurel Dr. at 5:52 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

- Suspicious subject on Margaret Ln./Montair Dr. at 5:19 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on Camino Tassajara/Woodranch Dr. at 8 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 3400 block of Claridge Dr. at 2:20 p.m.
- Residential burglary on 700 block of El Cerro Blvd. at 7:04 p.m.

- Computer data access fraud on 100 block of Grandview Ct. at 9:01 p.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on San Ramon Valley Blvd./Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:33 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 25

- Auto burglary on 200 block of Franciscan Dr. at 7:07 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with fire and ambulance en route on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 8:26 a.m.
- Petty theft on 300 block of Sunset Dr. at 9:48 a.m.
- Alcohol on school grounds on 100 block of Del Amigo Rd. at 12:07 p.m.
- Shoplifting, in custody, on 3100 block of Fostoria Way at 1:50 p.m.
- Vandalism on 100 block of Blackstone Dr. at 9:42 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd./Sonora Ave. at 10:20 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 100 block of Wilshire Ct. at 10:44 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 26

- Animal cruelty on 200 block of Edinburgh Circle at 9:57 a.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Junewood Ct. at 10:40 a.m.
- Grand theft on 500 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:11 a.m.
- Reckless driving on Camino Tassajara/Contada Circle at 5:31 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on 400 block of Diablo Rd. at 8:05 p.m.
- Object thrown at vehicle on 800 block of Brookside Dr. at 9:16 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd./Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:16 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27

- Disturbance on 9000 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 1:06 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on 100 block of Feliz Ct. at 4:21 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 100 block of Parkhaven Dr. at 6:06 p.m.
- Party disturbance on 600 block of Las Barrancas Dr. at 8:48 p.m.
- Party disturbance on 700 block of Diablo Rd. at 9:07 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:10 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:48 p.m.

POLICE BULLETIN

Alamo man arrested on drug charge

Sharp eyes and attention to detail are being credited in the arrests of two men early Monday of last week on drug charges.

Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said the arrests stemmed from a traffic stop carried out by a pair of Danville officers at 2 a.m. Sept. 22 near the intersection of Greenbrook Drive and Camino Ramon.

A vehicle driven by a man identified as Nathaniel Garban, 19, was pulled over for having expired registration. Williams said that while one officer conversed with Garban the other observed a passenger in the vehicle, 18-year-old Justin Nathanson of San Ramon.

Nathanson was reported to be acting in a nervous fashion, causing the officer to ask him to leave the vehicle. On questioning from the officer, the man admitted to using illegal narcotics, according to reports. He was subsequently taken into custody.

The first officer, still talking to Garban, asked him if he, too, had used any illegal substances before getting in his vehicle. Garban admitted that he recently smoked methamphetamines and had taken prescription medication, said police. Garban consented to a search of his pickup truck, which turned up a plastic bag with three doses of diazepam.

Garban was arrested on charges of possession of dangerous drugs. Nathanson was charged with being under the influence of drugs. Both were transported to the Martinez Detention Facility and have since been released on bond.

—Geoff Gillette

Counterfeit scam lands pair in jail

A man and woman are facing felony charges after they attempted to scam a local business owner out of several hundred dollars. Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said officers were called to the Tuesday Morning store on Camino Ramon around 11:15 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, after receiving a report of individuals involved in the illegal acquisition of merchandise from another store.

On arrival, officers were informed by a store employee that earlier in the week a man and woman purchased \$300 worth of merchandise in the Berkeley Tuesday Morning store using counterfeit currency. Not long after, they reportedly tried to return the items to the Pleasanton branch of Tuesday Morning but were unable to do it. Loss prevention officials with the store sent e-mails to all of the stores with a basic description.

The employee said a woman fitting one of the two descriptions was trying to return items in Danville. Police detained the woman, identified as Rickieda Wright, 26, of Oakland. During the interview with Wright, the woman claimed she had done nothing wrong. Officers noted that her cell phone kept ringing but that she did not answer. On examination of the cell, they saw that it had received several calls from the same number.

Calling back the number, officers talked to an unidentified male who refused to speak to officers and refused to come to the store. With a description of the suspect auto, police quickly canvassed the area and discovered Tariq Shabazz, 24, parked in the Costco parking lot nearby.

Wright and Shabazz were taken into custody on charges of commercial burglary and conspiracy. Both are currently free on bond.

—Geoff Gillette

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OBITUARIES

Bartlett M. Tabor

Bartlett M. Tabor, 55, an Alamo resident and senior executive in San Francisco for Capmark Financial Group, was killed in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Sept. 26, when a Metro bus struck his minivan taxi about 8:15 p.m. at 19th Street and Virginia Avenue. He was in Washington on business, according to relatives.

His wife, Kathy, was also injured and expected to be released from the hospital Sunday; their children Joseph, 10, and Jessica, 9, were treated and released.

The bus, which was empty except for its driver, hit the 2002 Dodge

Caravan taxi hard enough to spin it around in the intersection, according to news reports. The bus continued through the intersection, jumped a grassy area and landed on the grounds of the Federal Reserve Building. The taxi driver and the bus driver were also taken to area hospitals. The accident is under investigation by the Police Department as well as the transit agency.

Mr. Tabor was born in Pasadena and raised in Laguna Beach. He earned a bachelor's degree at Claremont Men's College and a master's degree in business administration at UCLA. He worked for several big companies before signing on with Capmark, a global

financial services company.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Tabor; his son Joseph and daughter Jessica, all of Alamo; brothers Thomas Tabor of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Gifford M. Tabor, of Coconut Grove, Fla.; sister Judy Hensley of Napa; stepmother Carole Applegate of Scottsburg, Ore.; stepbrothers Otto Behr of Henderson, Nev., and Fred Behr of Laguna Beach.

Funeral services are pending. The family suggests contributions may be made to Ducks Unlimited, 1 Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120 and the Scoliosis Research Society, 555 E. Wells St, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823.

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Auditions

'The Underpants' Audition for Steve Martin's adaptation of "The Underpants," at 7 p.m., Oct. 6, 201 Front St., Danville; and 7 p.m., Oct. 7, Hap Magee Ranch Park, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. Callbacks are at 7 p.m., Oct. 8. Looking for two females and four males, ages 25-60. Prepare two-minute comic monologue. Contact Edward Hightower at ewhightower@yahoo.com or visit www.danvilletheatre.com

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilt Meeting

The next meeting, at 1:30-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., Pleasanton, will feature Mike McNamara's lecture, "Humor, Meaning, Metaphor in Quilts." On Oct. 12, he will conduct a workshop, "Quilts with a Message."

Exchange Club Luncheon Join the Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley for a luncheon featuring Major Gen. Daniel Helix, author of "The Kochi Maru Affair," 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8, Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. The cost is \$16 for members and \$20 for non-members.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Luncheon

Join us at the Crow Canyon Country Club for lunch, 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, at 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Speakers will be from the League of Women Voters. Call 560-0656.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75

The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month (except December), at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. The next meeting is Thursday, Oct. 9. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit www.vfw.org.

Events

AQUA Salon and Spa Open House

Help us celebrate our first year and new look! Stop by for hors d'oeuvres and beverages, 5-7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15, 3168 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Enter to win a basket of haircare products and services (\$350 value).

Blessing of the Animals In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, San Damiano Retreat invites everyone to bring their pets for a Blessing of the Animals celebration at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. This event is free and open to the public. Call 837-9141, ext. 306.

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 who 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 Coin Show Buy, sell and trade coins, currency, tokens and medals, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 11-12, at the Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Ave., Concord. More than 30 West Coast dealers represented. Sponsored by Diablo Numismatic Society. Cost is \$2. Visit www.diablo-coinclub.org or call 351-7605.

Girl Scouts Dinner and Live Auction

Girl Scouts of Northern California hosts its sixth BEYOND Cookies & Camping dinner and live auction to showcase women in science and technology. Keynote speaker is Marissa Mayer, Google's vice president, search products and user experience. Event will take place 6-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, at Villa Ragusa, 35 S. Second St., Campbell. Tickets are \$150 per person. Call (408) 287-4170, ext. 272.

Golden Crane Senior Celebration

The Golden Crane Senior Center is celebrating its anniversary with dinner, entertainment, dancing, drawings and more, 6-10 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The cost is \$25; \$10 for ages 8 and under. For information call 820-0500 or e-mail butterflylin88@gmail.com.

Jewish Vote Forum: Election 2008

Come with your questions as we examine the policies of Senators McCain and Obama and their views on the issues of concern to the Jewish community, 6:30-9 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 12, Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Please RSVP to (510) 839-2900, ext. 217, or myrna@jfed.org. This event is free.

Pet Festival and Animal Blessing

Peace Lutheran Church invites everyone to a Pet Festival and Animal Blessing, noon-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is co-sponsored by ARF. Animal experts will be on hand, as well as an art exhibit, silent auction and crafts for kids. Call 648-7000 or visit www.peacejourney.org.

Senior Awards Join the Culture to Culture Foundation for its first Senior Volunteer Awards Ceremony to honor four senior volunteers, at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek. RSVP 938-9988.

Fundraisers

'It's About Life' Fundraising Gala
The Lazarex Cancer Foundation is

holding an "It's About Life" fundraising dinner/auction from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, at Patrick David's Event Center, 2460 Old Crow Canyon, San Ramon. Gourmet food, The Sun Kings and an upscale auction. Visit Lazarexfoundation.org. Cost is \$200 per ticket or \$2,000 per table. Call 820-4517.

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

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Speaker:

Jeffrey Mark, M.D.
Gastroenterologist

Free Educational Seminars
Thursday, October 9, 2008
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Seminar Location

Dougherty Station Community Center
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Education Foundation. Call 820-9181 or visit www.primosrun.com.

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. Teams of friends, family and co-workers will gather for an evening of food and entertainment, then walk together with lighted balloons as the sun sets. Call (415) 625-1107.

Mt. Diablo Challenge The Mt Diablo Challenge is a 10.8-mile bike race starting at Athenian School in Danville and climbing up Southgate Road to Mt Diablo's summit on Sunday, Oct. 5. Proceeds go to Save Mount Diablo's Land fund. Call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

That's Amore Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will host its biggest fundraiser of the year "That's Amore" from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Road. There will be live and silent auctions and fun for all. Cost is \$60. Visit www.tvrar.org and click on Pay Pal.

Health

Depression Screening Community Presbyterian Counseling Center is holding a free, anonymous event to screen people for depression, generalized anxiety disorder, posttraumatic

stress disorder and bipolar disorder, with a self-test and talking to a mental health professional about your situation or that of a friend or family member. From 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 10, at 375 Diablo Road, Suite 109. For more information, call 820-1467.

Free Flu Shots for 50-Plus Adults Adults ages 50 and older are invited to receive free flu shots, 8 a.m.-noon, Friday, Oct. 17, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Shots will be given on first come, first served basis. Visit www.sanramonmedctr.org, e-mail Ask.srmc@tenethealth.com, or call 275-8230.

Holiday

Yom Kippur Services Chabad of Contra Costa will hold Yom Kippur Services at the Renaissance ClubSport, Walnut Creek. Kol Nidrei evening service, 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8; Yom Kippur morning service, 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 9; Yizkor Memorial service, noon, Thursday, Oct. 9; Ne'ilah concluding service, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 9, at 2805 Jones Rd., Walnut Creek. Donations welcome. Visit www.JewishContraCosta.com or call 937-4101.

Kids and Teens

Hospice Children and Teens Support Group The Hospice of the East Bay offers the children and teens

support group, Footsteps, 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 7-Nov. 11, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. For information and to register call 887-5678.

Lectures/ Workshops

Chrysler Concept Cars 1940-1970 David Featherston, an international automotive journalist and magazine editor for 25 years, will discuss some of the automobiles that shaped the American car industry, from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 11, at Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Event is free. Call 736-2277.

Protecting the U.S. at Home or Abroad? Join the Commonwealth Club in hosting Major Gen. William Wade as he offers a unique perspective on the role of our reservist force, at 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette. Cost is \$15 members, \$30 non-members. For tickets, visit www.commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705.

Sassyfeet The Valley Stitchers and Fiber Arts Guild presents "Sassyfeet," 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 6, Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Ln., Pleasant Hill. Margot Silok Forrest transforms plain shoes into wild and witty art using

WEEKEND PREVIEW



'The Best Man' opens next week

Jim Jansich (left) stars as Joe Cantwell and Rich Aiello as William Russell in "The Best Man," being staged at Danville's Village Theatre, 233 Front St., from Oct. 10 through Nov. 1. Shows are at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; and at 2 p.m. Sundays. Visit www.danvilletheatre.com or call 820-1278.

paint and trims. The cost is \$5. Call 945-1338.

Literary Events

Eugene O'Neil Award-winning actress Kerri Shawn will describe her life-changing journey with playwright Eugene O'Neil, 1-3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, Emeritus College, 1250 Arroyo Wy., Walnut Creek. The cost is \$15; \$13 for Emeritus members. For information visit www.dvc.edu/emertitus or call 906-9105.

Gigantic Book Sale Friends of the Danville Library are hosting a Gigantic Book Sale from Oct. 10-12 in the Mt. Diablo Room at the Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville.

Great Books Poetry Weekend The Great Books Council of San Francisco will host its 23rd annual weekend of poetry discussions Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 15-16, at Westminster Retreat in Alamo. To register call (650)854-3980 or e-mail oscarf1@earthlink.net.

Poetry Reading Goes Back to Nature Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer will host nature poet Sandra Stillwell and Pleasanton naturalist Eric Nicholas from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. An open mic segment will follow when aspiring and accomplished poets of all ages can read a favorite or original poem of 40 lines or less. Cost is \$5. Call 931-5350. 2401 Santa Rita Road.

Political Notes

Republican Women, Federated Cocktail Meeting Join us as Mary Bono Mack of the U.S. 45th Congressional District introduces Dean Andal, fiscal conservative candidate for our local 11th Congressional District, 5:30-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr. The cost is \$25. RSVP by Oct. 13. Visit www.blackhawkrfw.com or call 828-2360.

Spiritual

'Let Us Learn our Lessons Well' Join us for Rev. Steve Maynard's lesson, 10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, Tri-Valley Unity Church meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. All are welcome. For information visit www.trivalleyunity.com or call 829-2733.

Catholics@Work Breakfast Event Former lead prosecutor for the Enron trial, John Hueston, will be the featured speaker at the Catholics@Work breakfast event, 7-8:15 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 14, Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Mass is celebrated at 6:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Visit www.catholicsatwork.org or call 683-5263.

Sports

Team In Training Information Meeting Complete a full or half marathon, triathlon, cross country ski marathon, or cycle century ride (100 miles) with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's team in training! Attend the information meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6 at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Call 800-78-TRAIN.

Support Groups

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its monthly meeting, 7-9 p.m., Monday, Oct. 13, John Muir Medical Center, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. Call 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Volunteering

Hospice of the East Bay Hospice of the East Bay (formerly Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa) is seeking volunteers to assist hospice patients and their caregivers. Opportunities include: volunteers who are fluent in Spanish; patient support volunteers; licensed hair stylists to offer hair cuts and styling; certified massage therapists; handymen to help with minor repairs and maintenance; mobile notaries; and bereavement support volunteers to provide support to family members after their loved one has died. To apply for free training, call 887-5678 and ask for the volunteer department, or e-mail volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org.

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Walking in the wilderness

Danville man is one of 76.5 million Americans dealing with chronic pain

by Geoff Gillette

Imagine having a muscle spasm. Not your garden variety charley horse but one that locks you into rigid agony. Or having a joint ache so bad that the slightest movement sends pain shrieking down your nerve endings.

Now imagine it doesn't stop. Ever.

For some of the roughly 76.5 million Americans suffering from chronic pain, this is their reality. Pain that may subside but never goes away.

Danville resident Mark Maginn understands this reality. The 59-year-old resident has suffered chronic pain for more than 35 years and is a spokesman for the American Pain Foundation.

"Chronic pain affects more people than diabetes, cancer and heart disease combined," he said. "More than a quarter of Americans age 20 or older are affected by chronic pain of some sort."

Maginn was working as a therapist in Chicago when his long road of chronic pain began. "I was in my 20s and started having pain in disparate parts of my body. Different doctors suggested different diagnoses. This went on for 15 years."

Maginn's case is not the exception. When it comes to chronic pain, it is rare for an immediate cause to be pinned down by doctors. This leads to long periods of frustration for those afflicted.

"Many of us kind of wander in the wilderness of doctors without being treated," he said. "Every case is different but the broad facts remain the same. The doctors have to diagnose a pain they can't isolate and find out what's causing it."

Pain became a constant companion to Maginn, sometimes robbing him of his ability to function.

"I was seeing a client in my office in downtown Chicago when I experienced incredible agony in my back," he recalled. "It was so bad that I couldn't get up off the floor. My client showed up and offered to drive me to the hospital but I called my wife and had her take me."

The pain turned out to be caused by a kidney stone, the first of many that Maginn would suffer over the years. He said doctors tried to remove the stone but were unable to and eventually had to use a device called a lithotripter to remove it. Lithotripsy is a process by which doctors destroy a kidney or gall stone through the use of tightly focused acoustic waves. Maginn was one of the first to receive the treatment in Chicago.

After years of doctor visits and increasing pain throughout his body, Maginn was diagnosed with arthritis and fibromyalgia. He said he and wife Judie were optimistic that this diagnosis would be the one to bring about an end to years of unanswerable pain. Such was not to be.

"We tried lots of different drugs but none of them were able to manage the pain. I was left with the opinion that I was going to have to learn to live with it," he said.

A turning point in understanding what is wrong with his body came in the late '80s when without warning Maginn experienced partial blindness in his left eye. "I lost my lower and left peripheral vision. It doesn't bother me as much as in the beginning, tripping over furniture and things but now I'm used to it." Maginn compensates for the loss of sight by turning his head slightly to bring the upper range of his vision to bear.

While the loss of part of his sight was a blow, it did have a silver lining. "My blindness led to my Behcet's diagnosis."

The additional symptom led Maginn's doctors to the conclusion that the man was suffering from something called Behcet's Syndrome. It is a rare disorder that causes chronic inflammation of the blood vessels throughout the body and is a gateway condition to a host of other signs and symptoms.

It is most commonly found in the Middle East and Asia, but some cases have been reported in the U.S. The disease is incurable, but doctors say it can lessen with time.

The Behcet's diagnosis, while not giving hope of a permanent loss of pain, at least gave the Maginns a chance at better



Danville man Mark Maginn is one of the many millions of chronic pain sufferers in the U.S. Refusing to give in to the pain, he works with the American Pain Foundation to help others find the help they need in dealing with their illnesses.

"Many of us kind of wander in the wilderness of doctors without being treated. Every case is different but the broad facts remain the same."

—Mark Maginn,
spokesman for the American Pain Foundation

managing the situation. Maginn has had six surgeries over the years to relieve pain in his joints and has tried a variety of drugs and physical therapies. He said there were other drug options but doctors were leery of prescribing them.

"The DEA frowns on doctors treating people with strong opioids due to concerns about addiction," he explained.

The constant aches gnawing away at muscles and joints soon began to consume other parts of his life as well. "Before

I started having pain I played a lot of sports. I played tennis, basketball, golf. I lifted weights. I had to give up all sports."

He described one of the final times that he played tennis. "I was playing in this tournament. I stretched for half an hour. Then I got dressed and wrapped both knees up in ace bandages. After that I went in the steam room for about five minutes. I looked like the Bionic Man on the court."

Maginn's therapy practice was next to fall before the onslaught. The experience of sitting for hours at a time affected his ability to focus on his patients. Pain attacks forced him to miss appointments. At first he cut back his hours, but eventually a day came when he was forced to stop. "I had to give up my profession, couldn't do sports. Couldn't go out to dinner with my wife and son. Every facet of my life was under attack by this pain."

In pain, unable to work, limited in how he could be effective in taking care of their home and his son Russell, now 17, Maginn felt himself entering a dark spiral. "I was depressed, irritable, withdrawn. My wife knew I was in pain but there was nothing that could help me."

Maginn credits his wife Judie with being one of two things which helped him stay grounded when the pain was at its worst. "I think about how lucky I am to be married to Judie. That she took that 'in sickness and in health' vow and stuck with it. And me." He added, "It was so hard for her never knowing what she was going to get when the phone rang."

The other thing which saved him was discovering a passion for writing. "We were living in New York and I took a poetry class. I loved it and took a second course. The guy who taught the course started his own poetry group and I was asked to join." Maginn said the process of writing let him organize his "mental life" and focus outside of himself.

He has since written several poems and is currently working on an autobiography that explains the effect of pain on a person's life. It includes anecdotes of his life prior to the introduction of chronic pain and through several experiences, including time he spent serving as a counselor to emergency services workers at ground zero in the days after Sept. 11.

In the last few years, he has seen some improvement in his situation. A new course of drugs has helped tame the constant fire gnawing at his body. "It showed some effects immediately. I'm still in a lot of pain but it takes away the top levels." Now, he said, he can do things he couldn't do for a long time, like shop, go for walks or go to art fairs with his family.

It was this reduction in pain that also prompted him to look at ways he can help others in similar or worse situations than he. "There is a pain spectrum. I'm not anywhere near the extreme end of that spectrum. There are people with rheumatoid arthritis who can't function at all. I'm a relatively high functioning person for someone who is in chronic pain," he said.

This desire to help others led Maginn to the American Pain Foundation, which named him as California leader of the Power over Pain Action Network. The foundation describes the PoP Action Network as a grassroots network of people living with pain, caregivers and healthcare providers who work in collaboration with other advocates to bring the issue to light, and help seek a cure for chronic pain disorders.

Maginn said the goals of the network are to raise awareness, promote the best legislative pain policy possible, and advance national and state-based education over pain issues. "We want to harness the voices of the millions of people affected by chronic pain and make a nationwide movement of pain advocates," he said.

Maginn knows that his situation isn't a stable one. His disease could worsen, the medications could become less effective. But while he can't help bring attention to this disorder affecting one in every four Americans. "I told them (American Pain Foundation) that I was limited in what I could do. The APF said they will take whatever I can do with them." ■

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

Capt. Pedro Fages leads Spanish to the Valley

Not long after the San Ramon Valley Historical Society was founded in 1970, the Society began placing bronze historic plaques in various valley locations. The first one was planned for 1972 and commemorated the 200th anniversary of the first Spanish expedition through Contra Costa County.

The Spanish had first entered Alta California in force in 1769, gradually moving north from San Diego. Missions were the main colonizing institutions while a few presidios were established. Pedro Fages was one of the officers in the 1769 invasion and was chosen to lead a 1772 expedition out of the Monterrey Presidio.

Capt. Fages was charged with looking for a way around the San Francisco Bay so that a mission honoring St. Francis could be placed on the north shore. He led a 15-man troop, which included "six Catalonian volunteers, six leather-jackets, a muleteer, and an Indian servant," according to missionary Padre Juan Crespi. They skirted the Berkeley hills, traveled next to the strait into Contra Costa, and discovered two huge rivers that fed a huge delta. Then they turned south through the tri-valleys for the return trip to Monterey.

The Fages-Crespi expedition trip was significant because it established the site for both the San Francisco mission and presidio south of the Golden Gate.

Both Fages and Crespi wrote diaries about the 1772 expedition that went through the valley March 31, 1772. Crespi wrote:

"... we entered a beautiful valley of considerable width and good level land, well covered with grass, with good arroyos well grown with alders, cottonwood, laurels, roses, and other trees not known to us ... we came to three villages with some little grass houses. As soon as the heathen caught sight of us they ran away, shouting and



In 1972, the San Ramon Valley Historical Society recognized the bicentennial of the Spanish expedition that passed through the Valley with Franciscan Father Godfrey McSweeney from San Damiano portraying Padre Juan Crespi and Dr. Wilson Close as Capt. Pedro Fages.

panic-stricken without knowing what had happened."

Often the Indians had heard about the Spanish invaders, but evidently the word had not reached the Bay Miwok Tatars of Alamo-Danville. The Spanish riding on horses and mules must have seemed like bizarre new creatures to the Indians.

On April 1, 1972, the Historical Society recognized the bicentennial of this contact between Spanish and Indians with a big party. An equestrian parade featured the Danville Junior Horsemen dressed in Spanish garb and included two people portraying Fages and Crespi. Franciscan Father Godfrey McSweeney from San Damiano played Crespi. Dr. Wilson Close, a descendant of early Danville pioneer James Close, dressed as Fages and rode horseback to the party. Not a regular rider, he said he ached for days afterward.

Marvja Vargas performed a flamenco dance, and Roy S. Bloss, Historical Society president, did the honors as master of ceremonies. The chairman of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

Edmund A Linscheid, read a resolution proclaiming April 1 as Fages Day. The invocation was given by Dr. K. Fillmore Gray, pastor of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church.

A bronze plaque was unveiled by Mabel Kuss and was placed on a brick wall at the southeast corner of El Portal and Danville Boulevard, on the Sandkuhle's Sunset Nursery property. The plaque is also California State Historical Landmark, Number 853.

Altogether a fitting tribute to the bicentennial, this first plaque event set a high standard for all future plaque dedications by the Historical Society. The plaque is still in place, and third-graders visit it regularly as part of their Passport program.

Sources: The Fages-Crespi Expedition of 1772; Congressional Record from George P. Miller, May 2, 1972; Valley Pioneer, May 1972

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."



Field trip reading

Docents from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley read their Danville Weekly special Hay Days sections while on a training field trip to Indian Grinding Rock State Park in Pine Grove. The Museum's Indian Life exhibit opened Oct. 1 and will run through Nov. 18, and all of the school district's fourth-graders will attend the Indian Life programs presented by the docents. The Museum is located at 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750 or go to www.museum-srv.org for more information.

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Dr. Robert Dees, DC of Canyon Chiropractic Family Health and Wellness Center which is located at 2570 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite A-106, San Ramon, has helped countless patients over the past two decades regain health and vitality. Assisted by his associates, Debbie Dominguez and Sue Perry, Dr. Robert Dees, DC has created a well respected family practice whose purpose is to help as many people as they can live healthy, drug free lives.

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

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

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

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

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



The Y Files



BY MARIA SHEN

Teens all psyched up for election

Terrible things happen to teens who don't follow this year's Presidential election—they get left out of the loop. For the first time, being savvy about the going-ons in Washington might be ... cool.

For one, the election this year has garnered the attention of youths nationwide. YouTube is brimming with songs of praise for Obama—from Obama Girl's famous "I've got a Crush ... On Obama" to Will.I.Am singing "Yes We Can" to "The Michelle Obama Song" by the Hardy Boys. Some are inspirational, sung in cadence to Obama's speech, others are ... less appropriate.

Recently Saturday Night Live performed a skit involving Sarah Palin and Hillary Clinton giving a "joint address" to the nation. The show Saturday Night Live has a substantial teenage audience. Perhaps the mere fact that they would open their season premier with the parody of Palin and Clinton's joint address should clue people in to the deep involvement teens have in this election. The hilarious performance by Tina Fey as Gov. Sarah Palin was full of political quips. The startling resemblance between Fey and Palin aside, the clever and exaggerated dialogue was wildly applauded not only in the media but across the teen community. As "Sarah" cocked a gun and posed with a pout in front of the camera and "Hillary" tore apart the podium in anger, my friends laughed and eagerly sent this video on to their friends. Since then, "I can see Russia from my house!" has become a regular status message

on Facebook and instant messengers among Danville teens.

Just the other day, walking down the halls, I saw a student showing his friends his "Obama watch."

"Look!" he giddily reported. "My watch has Obama's face on it!"

Percia Safar of Monte Vista High recently began a Young Democrat's Club at school. She created a Facebook group for the club (everything's done on Facebook nowadays, isn't it?) and hosts events that encourage members to don their Obama-wear. Percia Safar personally ordered a bright red Obama shirt, featuring the slogan "I'm fired up!" in the front and "He's ready to go!" on the back.

Hallway debates are commonplace. As Percia told me recently, one boy snidely remarked, "Yeah, he's ready to go home!" when he saw her pass with her Obama shirt. Her response? A rundown of all the reasons why Obama's policies trump those of McCain.

When asked, Hinh Tran of Monte Vista had stories of his own to report. Every afternoon, he would go on AOL Instant Messenger and engage in arguments of epic proportion with former Monte Vista student Armand Domalewski, an independent who will be voting Republican in November's election. A few days ago, I went on Armand's blog site and read the following excerpt:

Hinh: causes mccain to slump over and die due to a lack of universal healthcare

AD: leaving Obama with no one to protect him from the Islamofascist threat

Hinh: which evaporates as war-hawks such as mccain die off or are voted out of office because voters want change they can believe in

AD: too bad that once he takes over, change'll be the only thing left in our pockets

AD: reminds Hinh he should be doing his homework, not being lazy like the liberal he is

Hinh: reminds Armand that like any conservative, he distracts other people from the real issues

It's getting cattier as the elections approach. Especially for this year's seniors, some of whom will be old enough to vote in November. Though she will be too young to vote, Percia Safar would like to volunteer as a student election officer. Prabs Upadrashta, a former Monte Vista student now attending Pomona College, plans on flying to swing states and convincing more people to vote.

No matter where you look, it's obvious that teens are pumped for this election. It's cool to wear Obama shirts (though not so cool to wear McCain shirts around here...), support your favorite candidate with buttons on your tote bag, and, of course, in an election like this, where there's more energy than any previous election, it's always cool to go out and vote.

Maria Shen, reporting on Generation Y, is a senior at Monte Vista High School. She founded Contra Costa County's Young Bohemians creative writing club and is editor of Voicebox, a literary magazine. E-mail her at youngbohemians@gmail.com.

OF NOTE

Anthropologie opening benefits Buena Vista Auxiliary

Anthropologie, retailer of women's apparel and home accessories, donated \$3,440 to Buena Vista Auxiliary, which was 10 percent of sales from its grand opening celebration in Blackhawk Plaza. More than 250 women mingled and enjoyed refreshments from Blackhawk Grille, while getting first dibs on Anthropologie's new fall fashions.



Becky Snell and Marlene Peacock check out the clothing at Anthropologie at its grand opening, which benefited Buena Vista Auxiliary.

"We went to the library to research nonprofits doing important work in Contra Costa County. When we came across the Buena Vista Auxiliary of Assistance League of Diablo Valley, and the Buena Vista Tutorial Program it operates, we were inspired by its impact on the children in this community," said Kelly Becerra, store manager.

The Buena Vista Tutorial Program pairs credentialed teachers with elementary school children who read below grade level, but do not qualify for government-funded assistance. Ninety-five percent of participating children showed significant improvement in their reading skills, self-confidence and self esteem.



Lucy gives to cancer foundation

Lucy Activewear in Downtown Danville, 402 Railroad Ave., presents proceeds from its Lucy Fundraising Shopping Day in June to Lazarex Cancer Foundation of Danville. Pictured are (l-r) Susan Sappington, chairman of the board, Lazarex Cancer Foundation; Chelsea Horan, store manager of Lucy; and Dana Dornsife, president of Lazarex Cancer Foundation.



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Ontiveras golfs history

Monte Vista golfer Jordan Ontiveros is at it again. She shot a history making 66 at the Fall Classic Girls High School Gathering at Monarch Bay recently to receive the medal honor of low score.

"My driver was really working today," she said after the event. "I was averaging 270-280 yard drives. I stayed in the fairway and had great up and downs."

Ontiveros' score card had five impressive birdies and an eagle on the 13th hole. She plays as the No. 1 golfer on the Monte Vista High School team, which has taken a trophy home from this event each of the past years. As far as regular league play, Monte Vista remains undefeated and has eyes on winning this year's East Bay Athletic League and having another return shot at being state champions.

The Fall Classic event features high school golfers from all over Northern California. Several teams made the trip sending their best six players to try for one of the coveted trophies. Castro Valley High School won the event, and Monte Vista High School placed second.



Playing with a fury

The Division 1 Girls U-15 Mustang Fury were victorious in their quest to become champions of the 2008 Magic Cup 1 Girls Summer Classic, in San Jose on Aug. 23-24 as they went undefeated throughout the entire tournament with a total of 17 goals scored. Only one goal was scored against them the entire weekend.

Team members are (back, l-r) Assistant Coach Josh Harper, Morgan Ramos, Devann White, Head Coach Chad Harper, Paige Southmayd, Kendall Vignaroli, Courtney Mulsow, Assistant Coach Tim Ramos; (middle) Jessica Arnold, Kaila Souza, Jessica Burrows, Jenna Douvikas, Morgan Castelein; (front) Nikki Hohenstein, Lauren Connelly, Savana Harper, Michelle Giron, Jennifer Dougherty and Haley Perkins.

Magic for the Mavericks

The U12 Mustang Mavericks D1 Gold placed first at the Magic Cup in late August, with players (starting from back, l-r) Clare Da Silva, Arianna Zamora, Kathryn Rodd, Christina Nuti, Shannon Rosemark, Hailey Balma, Courtney Clark, Leah Emerson, Marissa Savoldi, Madeline Gibson, Megan Melara, Chelsea Barry, Summer Stamates, Celina Gines, Mallory Hromatko, Coaches Curt Cox and Trevor Rodd.



New black belts awarded

Tao Sports in Danville awarded seven new Black Belts after a four-hour test in August. The grueling test was the culmination of four to six years of training for those receiving their first Black Belt and 20 years for Christopher Veneration, who received his 3rd degree Black Belt. With the exception of Veneration, all candidates received all of their training at Tao Sports under Master Rick Kemsley.

"A Black Belt test is like attending four years of college and then taking a pass-fail exam at the end," Kemsley said. "These students have to remember everything they learned from the first day they walked in the 'dojo' and be able to perform it here today. It is very hard, and these students did extremely well."

Proudly wearing their black belts are (front, l-r) Lexie Burton, Kenzie Stubbs, Nicholas Item; (back) Master Rick Kemsley, Yvonne Aha, Steve Van Wart, Charles Trombadore, Christopher Veneration.



PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 3

Football

SRVHS at Livermore (JV, 4 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

MVHS at Foothill (JV, 4 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

Men's Water Polo

SRVHS - Villa Park Tournament (V); Las Lomas Tournament (JV)

MVHS- Acalanes Varsity Tournament

Women's Water Polo

Napa Valley Classic Tournament

Women's Volleyball

MVHS vs. Bishop O'Dowd, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 4

Cross Country

Scott Bauhs Invite

Men's Water Polo

SRVHS- Villa Park Tournament (V); Las Lomas Tournament (JV)

MVHS- Acalanes Varsity Tournament

Women's Water Polo

Napa Valley Classic Tournament

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Men's Water Polo

SRVHS at MVHS, 5:30 p.m.

Women's Water Polo

SRVHS at MVHS, 4 p.m.

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ONLINE ALGEBRA TUTOR

355 Items for Sale

ikea table and chairs



500 Help Wanted

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Nanny Needed for Part time working for our kids and you are required to have atleast 3 years experience in The field and should be non smoking and ready to work immediately and you are allowed to come and live with us.Email.....mummyjake@yahoo.com

Nanny Care Needed
Nanny Needed for Part time working for our kids and you are required to have atleast 3 years experience in The field and should be non smoking and ready to work immediately and you are allowed to come and live with us.Email.....mummyjake@yahoo.com

550 Business Opportunities

100% CASH VENDING ROUTES!
Do You Earn \$800 in a Day? Local Snack and Soda Routes Available Now. Very Low Startup Cost. 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)

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Average pay \$20/hr or \$57K/yr includes Federal Benefits and OT. Placed by adSource, not affiliated w/ USPS who hires. 1-866-616-7019. (AAN CAN)



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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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Life Insurance Services
Has Life Insurance been on your "To Do" list? Call today and get it "Done!" Tracy Tamura, Life Insurance Agent CA #0B20349 925-639-8889 tracy@tamurainsurance.com www.tamurainsurance.com

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Classified Advertising! A 25-word ad costs \$550, is placed in 240 community newspapers and reaches over 6 million Californians. Call for more information (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019 www.Cal-SCAN.com (Cal-SCAN)

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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)

695 Tours & Travel

10 days-Ireland/Mtn View Chamber
\$2,779, by Oct. 1. chambermv.org



703 Architecture/Design

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Stamped Concrete, Patio, Sidewalk, Driveway, Pool Deck, Retaining Wall. Any concrete finishing (925) 736-8042

715 Cleaning Services

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759 Hauling

Hauling & Tree Service
Yard & Garage Clean-Up, Dump Runs Appl & Furn Removal, Tree & Shrub Trim And Removal Tree Experts! Low Rates/Free Est 925-899-5655

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805 Homes for Rent

Danville, 3 BR/2 BA
Single story home; ideal park like location for your family or active Seniors. \$2,750 925-915-1684

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

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 - \$525.00

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

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

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

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 & Mountain views, adjacent to national forest for camping or hiking, close to conveniences. EZ terms. 1-866-353-4807. (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)

PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

A dashing duo

Meet Chuck (right) and Jonas (left). These handsome boys make a dashing duo! While Chuck prefers to lounge on the couch, Jonas dashes here, then dashes there, then dashes back again. Chuck is a 13 pound, 2-1/2 year old, neutered male Pug/Chihuahua mix who has a quiet nature and enjoys the company of other dogs. He shares his habitat at the SPCA with Jonas, a 6 pound, neutered male, blonde Chihuahua who loves treats and Ani, a spayed female Patterdale Terrier who refused to sit next to the boys for a photo. You know how girls can be! All three small dogs love to go for walks, and they look forward to adult homes with patient, attentive owners. Visit Chuck, Jonas and Ani at the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670.

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
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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 and year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

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



Create an in-style in-law suite

The In-laws. Often, nothing can scare a person more than hearing that they're coming to visit. But as the years go by, and your parents (or your spouse's) get older, visits become more frequent and the thought of sharing a home with them becomes a welcome idea.

Three or more generations live together in 3.9 million American homes, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. A number of households consist of adult children caring for aging parents. But, don't just stick Mom and Dad in the guest room when the time is right for them to move into your home. Having a well-designed in-law suite can make sharing a household much more enjoyable for all parties involved.

"Adding an in-law suite is a great idea, especially for homeowners who want to add extra space to their existing home," says Laurie Birko, marketing and communications manager for Creative Specialties International. "By thinking about the design and amenities aging parents will need, you'll have a universal space that will be safe and accessible not

just for them, but for every member of the family."

Keep the following tips in mind when creating an in-law suite that is both appropriate and adjustable to meet your family's needs:

Privacy please

"Privacy is one of the most important features to consider," Birko says. "A home that provides private spaces for each generation, as well as common gathering spaces, is the best way to make the new living arrangements work." Location is key, but try to keep the in-law suite on the first floor for easy accessibility.

However, creating a suite on another level offers extra seclusion. Also, if possible, provide your in-laws with a separate kitchenette. That way they'll have a sense of independence, but within the comfort and care of your home. A separate entrance is also another addition that can give your in-law suite more autonomy. Just be sure to check local building codes to see if there are any restrictions before you begin the remodel.

Custom-built baths

The bathroom is one of the most difficult rooms for older people to maneuver. It has the potential to make your in-law suite full of danger zones if you don't carefully plan. Some aging parents may find the toilet seat is too low to accommodate their limited mobility and puts unnecessary stress on the legs, knees and back. An elevated toilet seat increases comfort and safety levels. Or, if the bath is too far from the bedroom in your in-law suite, new bedside commodes are available to install right next to the bed.

Standing for long periods or slipping in the shower are also concerns in the bathroom for older adults. Shower chairs are available that offer safety and conveniences, some with attractive styling and anti-slip rubber feet that provide superior stability as well as adjustable height settings. Rubber-grip support handles can offer added ease and support when standing or sitting, and a basket organizer and handheld shower holder help keep necessary items conveniently close.

To prevent slipping, tub grips lend a stable helping hand for stepping into and

out of the tub. Some designs feature an easy-locking lever to ensure a tight fit to most tubs without harming the tub surface. An ergonomically designed handle features an anti-slip grip to provide optimal support and comfort. Plus the innovative design offers easy installation and removal—no twisting motion and no tools are necessary.

Versatility is key

Just because you're planning for this extra space to be a restful haven for your parents, doesn't mean it will always serve that purpose. It's wise to remember that since it may only be used for a limited time, make sure it can flex to other purposes when it's no longer needed as an in-law suite. Be careful to not design a space so specialized that it will impair the future resale value of your home. Perhaps it will become a guest suite, a home office or a master suite, so look for stylish accessories and accents that can help your space transition. But for now, as you're planning for your in-law suite, be sure to keep these tips in mind to keep Mom and Dad safe and comfortable.

Courtesy of ARAcontent

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms
580 Indian Home Rd. \$799,000
 Sat 1-4/Sun 12-3 Empire Realty 858-4198

5 Bedrooms
16 Casolyn Ranch Ct. \$1,498,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 858-4198

SAN RAMON

5 Bedrooms
3062 Hastings Wy. \$1,039,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 209-7498

LIVERMORE

2 Bedrooms
1449 Hollyhock \$384,500
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 397-4381

3 Bedrooms
590 South N St. \$520,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams—Lydonna Walker 997-8267

4 Bedrooms
6147 Sunnybrook Wy. \$530,000
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3859

PLEASANTON

4 Bedrooms
6522 Inglewood Dr. \$598,888
 Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord Kathy Westernoff 577-2600

3625 Touriga Dr. \$680,000
 Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

5 Bedrooms
4931 Monaco Dr. \$1,077,900
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 243-0900

4031 Schween Ct. \$839,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5058 Blackbird Wy. \$999,950
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2008

Alamo

327 Alamo Square Caporicci Trust to A. Jogal for \$513,000
1536 Alamo Way Prudential Relocation to M. & C. Dowds for \$1,110,000
291 Davey Crockett Court R. & M. Stivender to B. & C. Wheatley for \$1,050,000
299 Las Quebradas R. & P. McAdam to M. & S. Ferconi for \$2,850,000

Danville

204 Bristol Court D. & M. Harvey to P. & P. Skarlanic for \$1,030,000
104 Clover Hill Court D. & M. Irvine to J. & J. Hoggard for \$687,000
3633 Country Club Terrace Furimmer Corporation to American Commonwealth for \$1,725,000
108 Mrack Road A. & K. Milano to B. & K. Mosher for \$905,000
60 Panorama Court S. Tanka to N. Parvin for \$1,200,000
610 Reading Place S. & L. Laue to S. & B. Sumner for \$825,000
30 Rhett Place Clarum Hansen Lane Limited to D. & U. Beswick for \$1,850,000
261 Stetson Drive Goldt Trust to M. & S. Chu for \$785,000
318 Sun Stream Court F. & S. Pecoraro to B. & S. Ingram for \$1,145,000
218 Viewpoint Drive Steinmetz Trust to M. & S. Barron for \$880,000

Walnut Creek

1717 3rd Avenue A. Rizzo to E. Sponzilli for \$535,000
505 Allegheny Drive M. & P. Gopal to R. & P. Shukla for \$770,000
1055 Chippewa Court R. & R. Nixon to V. & A. McEntee for \$880,000
1125 Glengarry Drive R. Alperin to M. Rodger for \$595,000
3101 Grey Eagle Drive Barnard Trust to Margolis Trust for \$1,150,000
187 Los Banos Avenue L. Yunk to T. & C. McCoy for \$628,000
1855 Magnolia Way R. & D. Sutton to K. Wilson for \$629,000
1887 Magnolia Way S. & G. Galvarro to K. Hale for \$755,000
1441 Marchbanks Drive #4 M. McDaniel to J. Robello for \$230,000
2716 Oak Road #102 B. Copperstein to S. Supica for \$212,000
1656 Parkside Drive #12 Homesales Inc. to I. Pavon for \$375,000
336 Pimlico Drive Kelly Trust to Hayashi Trust for \$579,000
1832 Stratton Circle S. & M. Harding to N. Svetcoff for \$680,000
3553 Terra Granada Drive #1A Peterson Trust to Heuga Trust for \$800,000
1436 Via Loma Bank of New York to T. & F. Fisher for \$535,000
2196 Walnut Boulevard Ledson Trust to J. & C. Moseley for \$825,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2008

Alamo

Total sales reported: 4
 Lowest sale reported: \$513,000
 Highest sale reported: \$2,850,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,380,750

Danville

Total sales reported: 10
 Lowest sale reported: \$687,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,850,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,103,200

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 16
 Lowest sale reported: \$212,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,150,000
 Average sales reported: \$636,125

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Your home should be as unique as you are. At Fautt Homes, we are committed to designing and building luxury homes that fit the personality and lifestyle of discerning owners. We will work with you to specify your vision of the perfect home and we will construct that vision with craftsmanship and attention to detail. Contact us to see how our experience will greatly enhance your experience, from concept... to plans... to structure... to finishing materials, resulting in a home of character, quality, and a reflection of you.

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