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Event fetes older generation making a difference

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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Stop to cyberstalking

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Down but not out

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ASKED AT STARBUCKS IN ALAMO

Q: What do you think of the new TV season?



I like "Dancing With The Stars" and "Ugly Betty." I always watch Anderson Cooper and CNN. I am so tired of the soap opera type shows that are sexual and violent.

Donna Cervantes
homemaker and student



We don't watch that much TV because it's not necessary. I have five kids that keep me entertained. I prefer the newspaper but I will admit that "Private Practice" is my guilty pleasure. My husband is all about "CSI."

Peg Deely
mother and TV guardian



I love Drake and Josh on "Teen Nickelodeon." I also watch the "Suite Life" with Zack and Cody. It is funnier this year, and I like it because the shows are new again.

Jack Deely
third-grader



I watch "Grey's Anatomy" and "Desperate Housewives." So far "Desperate Housewives" is better than Grey's but the season is young. I have to watch it online as we got rid of our TV set two years ago.

Shira Kami
student



I pay attention to comedies like "The Office" and "My Name is Earl." Even though the season is new, I prefer the syndicated shows like "Everyone Likes Raymond." I am just not TV hip! I have never seen "Entourage" or "The Sopranos."

Miles Gibbons
hauler

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

ABOUT THE COVER

Buying a home in the Danville area at this time is a good investment if you want it for a home and not a quick turnaround to make money. Photo by Geoff Gillette.

Vol. IV, Number 23

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Danville CA. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Danville Weekly, 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526. © 2008 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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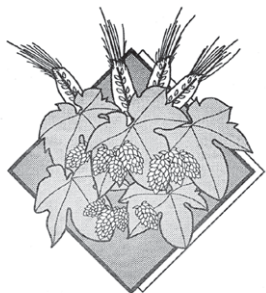
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Ken Behring named a 'Living Treasure'

Blackhawk philanthropist Ken Behring is the latest person to be dubbed a Living Treasure by the program of that name run by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and the Leshner Foundation.

Behring will be honored at a program beginning from 6:30-7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Behring, developer of the Blackhawk community, patron of the Smithsonian Institution, and creator of the Wheelchair Foundation, will also make a presentation.

The program is free but reservations are needed since the venue only seats 150. Call the Museum at 837-3750.

Reception for council candidate

Marianne Bordogna, a real estate broker with Keller Williams Realty-Danville who is challenging the three incumbents for a seat on the Danville Town Council, will be hosted at a reception Tuesday, Oct. 14. It is a chance for residents to meet Bordogna and share their ideas and opinions on town policies.

The event takes place from 6-8 p.m. at the Vine at Bridges, 480 Hartz Ave. The reception will feature wines poured by Thomas Halby. Additional event information can be found at www.DanvilleTownCouncil.com.

Learn about Teen Esteem

Teen Esteem Connection is doing community outreach with an evening of appetizers and wine for a chance to meet youth professionals who understand today's teen culture. The non-profit organization recognizes the need for parents to become educated and aware of the challenges faced by today's pre-teens and young adults. People will have an opportunity to talk to local marriage and family therapists, school administrators, counselors and local law enforcement.

The Fall Soiree of appetizers and wine takes place at 6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, at a private chateau at 9 Country Oak Lane

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ They were saying such awful things to her. ”

—Mother of girl whose information was posted on the Internet suggestively, leading to new legislation against cyberstalking. See story, page 5.

in Alamo. Admission is free, but RSVPs are requested due to limited space. For more information or to RSVP, contact Teen Esteem at 855-9941, e-mail dena@teenesteem.com or visit www.teenesteem.com.

Wine shop opens

Owners of hospitality group Bridges Restaurant, LP, opened the Vine at Bridges recently in a brand new building in the heart of downtown Danville in front of Bridges Restaurant and Bar. The new shop blends a full-service retail wine shop with a stylish wine tasting bar for wine lovers from novices to connoisseurs who want to “experience incredible wines at exceptional values.”

“What we'll offer is the experience of a Napa tasting room, right here in our own back yard,” said Randy Negi, general partner. “It's the perfect spot to pick up some great wine for a party, relax with a glass of wine before dinner, or meet friends to listen to some live jazz.”

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Houston sponsors bill aimed at cyberstalking

Danville teen's experience leads to new legislation

by Geoff Gillette

Popular Internet social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace have given a new dimension to crimes such as harassment and stalking. Police had limited options to combat the offenses—until the passage of Assembly Bill 919.

AB 919, sponsored by Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., 15th), is designed to protect people from online harassment and abuse.

The legislation came about after an incident two years ago where Monte Vista High School senior Morgan Dillingham was the victim of an Internet prank.

Kathy Dillingham, the student's mother, explained what happened. "Two years ago my daughter was on winter break with another family and she started getting calls on her cell phone from all these men," she recalled. "They were saying such awful things to her. It rang so much she turned her

phone off. Later she called one of the men back and asked where he got her number and he said he saw it on Craigslist."

Dillingham said there were so many calls to her daughter's phone that they had to discontinue the line.

The family learned that an unknown person had taken pictures from Morgan's MySpace page and pasted the pictures and the girl's phone number onto an ad in the personals section of Craigslist. The title of the ad was "19 year old girl in need of lust." Dillingham said the ad also listed her ex-husband's address.

Morgan's parents initially called the Danville Police Department but were told they did not believe there was anything they could do. After some media attention was brought to the incident, Houston's office became involved.

"Guy Houston's office wrote

► Continued on page 8

Boosters seek safety for homecoming parade

Band parents say downtown event can be hazardous

by Geoff Gillette

Things are pretty busy at San Ramon Valley High School right now. The football team is running drills, the band is practicing its formation marching, dresses are being purchased, and suits are being pressed.

Homecoming is only a week away and the Wolves of SRVHS are prepping for a match with the Matadors of Granada High School.

As the time draws nearer, students at the high school enjoy the events leading up to the big game, such as spirit days and the election of the homecoming court. The culminating moment comes Friday, Oct. 17, when students, released early, line up along Railroad and Hartz to await the coming of the annual Homecoming Parade.

But for the parents of the 51 members of the SRVHS Marching Band and Drill Team, this is one of the most stressful times of the celebration. Larry Medina, chairman of the Wolf-Tones booster group, said they love seeing the kids marching in the parade but are worried about student safety.

"We're concerned that the aggressive nature of drivers could pose a threat. We'd like to stop that before it happens," he explained.

Booster club parents and other volunteers typically walk

the parade route with the marching band. The volunteers wear bright yellow vests and block off entrances to the street to keep traffic away from the band. Medina said even with the volunteers there have been incidents.

The parade is a short-lived affair. It leaves around 2:30 p.m. from the side exit of the high school onto Love Lane. It then winds its way out onto Railroad, down to Prospect and back up Hartz to the front entrance to the high school. From start to finish, the event usually goes around 45 minutes.

During that time, Medina said only the band members have to deal with any appreciable risk. "There's all the floats, there's all the dignitaries who ride in their cars. We've got flatbed vehicles and pickup trucks that the football players ride in. Everyone else is in a vehicle. The marching band leads the parade, they are unprotected."

Adding to the risk, Medina said the band members are concentrating on marching in step and playing their music so they can't focus too much on what is happening off to the sides.

Medina said he has asked the city to either close the street down for that period of time or provide a police officer to help keep cars

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GEOFF GILLETTE

Modern artist

Cyrus Shafizadeh, 6, seems deep in thought as he contemplates his next pencil strokes at the hands-on art exhibit at Danville's Art in the Park on Sunday. The 10th annual festival took place last weekend, a chance to see artists' work, some as it was being created. The event was sponsored by the Alamo Danville Artists' Society and the town, benefiting art programs in the schools.

Assembly candidates at forum

Buchanan, Wilson talk about issues affecting children

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Assembly District 15 candidates Joan Buchanan and Abram Wilson met face to face Oct. 1 to give their views on issues ranging from education to the state budget, at Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon. The forum was sponsored by the League of Woman Voters of Diablo Valley and the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs to ask questions on issues affecting children.

Wilson, 62, the Republican candidate, introduced himself as a 30-year banker, a U.S. veteran and the first elected mayor of San Ramon. He came to the helm in 2002 when the city was in financial straits and council members were at odds, he said, but he was able to turn those things around. "And those are qualities I plan to take to Sacramento," he said.

Buchanan, 55, an Alamo resident and the Democratic candidate, has been on the school board since 1990, after a career with Delta Dental, where she was director of operations.

"I have negotiated with unions,



Joan Buchanan



Abram Wilson

cities and contractors," she said. "When I started, the district was near bankruptcy and the teachers were on strike."

They both said they would fight to improve education.

Wilson said schools need the opportunity to choose their own destiny. "We need to make sure schools are in control of their own funding," he said.

Buchanan said her priorities include more training for teachers and an increase in science and technology.

"I would begin in Sacramento by honoring Prop 98," she said. Proposition 98 sets a minimum dollar-per-student amount for California public schools, calculated based on a percentage of the

state's per capita income.

Wilson emphasized the importance of the schools partnering with businesses. He noted that the schools benefit from programs done by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Buchanan said we need universal preschool since it's been shown that school children perform much better if they begin their education earlier.

"We need to go to the business community," Wilson reiterated.

"I honor our commitment to our children," he said. "Our future depends on our children."

"We have to stop looking at education as a tax expense," noted Buchanan, "and look at it as an investment in our future."

One question was whether California should stop requiring a two-thirds majority to pass its budget.

"It sounds good to lower it but New York has done it and it hasn't worked," said Wilson. "We have a crisis now because we spend what we don't have."

► Continued on page 8

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DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Alamo resident Chia-Chia Chien, head of the Culture to Culture Foundation, welcomes everyone to the first Senior Volunteer Awards celebration. The 35 nominated seniors sit at the front of the hall to be honored for their many hours of volunteering in communities throughout Contra Costa County.

Focus on the older generation

35 volunteers honored at Senior Volunteer Awards ceremony

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

The Culture to Culture Foundation honored 35 people at its first Senior Volunteer Awards on Sunday afternoon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek, with four chosen for the awards.

The idea to honor the seniors was the brainchild of Alamo resident Chia-Chia Chien, head of the Culture to Culture Foundation, and Danville senior activist Linda

Stolow.

"These awards are to recognize seniors providing voluntary service to our community in the hope that it will inspire others to serve," said Chien. "Our focus is on what the older generation can do, not what they can't do."

About six months ago they began to spread the word among senior organizations throughout the county, asking people to nominate volunteers who go above and beyond.

At the awards ceremony they introduced all the nominees, then announced the eight finalists and those who nominated them. Next, with dramatic music filling the hall, they announced the four award-winning volunteers chosen to receive cash prizes of \$250 and a plaque: Pat Dupont, Nora LaPointe, Tina Olton and Ray Zenoni.

Pat DuPont volunteers at Pinole Senior Center. "Pat is an active Pinole Senior Center volunteer who averages over 100 hours per month," read her nomination. "Pat serves on our Board of Directors as Assistant Treasurer ... is the Club Membership Chair ... volunteers at the front desk three days a week; orders snack bar items ... works special event fundraisers ... helps oversee the senior exercise program."

"Pat is so actively involved that seniors often believe she is a paid staff member," the nomination stated. "People love Pat and often those who call will want to only talk to Pat."

Nora LaPointe was nominated by the staff and board of Project Second Chance, the county library's adult literacy program.

"In 2004, Nora retired from PSC after 20 years of doing whatever needed to be done to keep the

program alive and to help PSC students and tutors," read the nomination. "Did she go quietly into the night? No! She joined the PSC, Inc. Board...." Now she caters the training events and annual recognition events, prepares the monthly financial statements, and works on the group's two annual fundraisers.

Tina Olton volunteers in the county's Senior Peer Counseling Program.

"Tina has been with our program for over six years and has distinguished herself by accepting the most difficult challenges, visiting

the most chaotic households, and providing help to the most impaired elders in the community," read her nomination.

"Her interest in the human condition brings her to the doorstep of folks facing serious challenges ... She makes countless calls to

county programs, senior housing facilities, community agencies, social workers, and transportation resources to set up services to improve the lives of her clients."

Ray Zenoni was nominated by the RSVP Team at the Volunteer Center for the East Bay, where he is a "valued volunteer" in its Senior Outreach Services, participating in Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visitors, and lending his talents in graphic design.

"He leads, supports and inspires others through kindness, intelligence, and, of course, humor/big big smile," said his nomination. "Ray has been driving two senior citizens with Parkinson's disease to their exercise class in Orinda and they not only are grateful for the rides but equally as thrilled with his company."

The other four in the final eight were LaVerne Gordon, Harry Jayasingha, Earle Ormiston and Sandra Smith. ■



The winners of the first Senior Volunteer Awards presented Sunday are (l-r) Tina Olton, Nora LaPointe, Pat Dupont and Ray Zenoni.

DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

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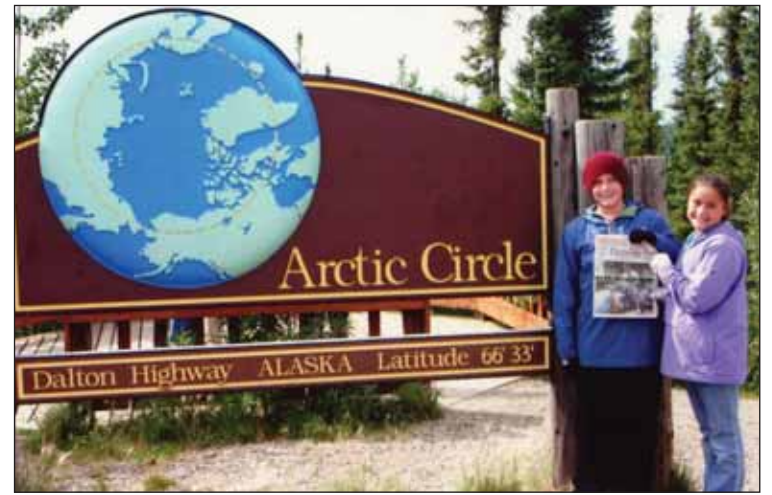
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www.thevineatbridges.com**Alaska in the news**

Kyle and Megan Fiore enjoyed their Danville Weekly while traveling across the Arctic Circle north of Fairbanks during their 18-day tour across Alaska in July of last year.

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.**Stalking**

► Continued from page 5

this bill," said Dillingham. "Morgan testified before the Assembly. She actually testified a couple of times. One time I had to testify."

The bill sponsored by Houston provides law enforcement officials with the ability to pursue crimes of this nature and makes it a misdemeanor to use the Internet to intentionally incite a third person to cause fear, harass or harm an individual. Under the law police

will be able to get a search warrant for Internet records of a person suspected of cybercrime.

Dillingham said Morgan was harassed by the phone calls, but the family was also concerned about the possibility that someone could show up at their door. "They had her address. We didn't know if someone would be just hanging out waiting for her."

Houston said he hopes the legislation will give police the proper tools to handle this newer type of crime. "California is always at the cutting edge of technological

advancement. We need laws to keep up with the technology," he said.

AB 919 was one of several laws approved by Gov. Schwarzenegger on Sept. 30. Dillingham said she appreciated Houston's efforts. "I want to thank Assemblyman Houston for taking action to protect our children from those who use the Internet to harm and harass others."

She added that seeing her efforts on behalf of the bill has had a beneficial effect on her daughter. "Morgan feels empowered and doesn't feel victimized. It showed that one voice can make a difference." ■

Parade

► Continued from page 5

off the street during the parade.

Mayor Candace Andersen said she has not spoken with Medina on the issue but agrees that the safety of the children participating in the parade is of paramount importance.

"Safety is a big priority for us," Andersen said. "I know there's been a lot of parent volunteering out there during the parade. I know that it can be frustrating waiting in a line for the parade to go by but I

hope that given the sense of community we have here in Danville that they won't mind."

Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said he was not aware of any past incidents but said the department will be working to maintain a strong presence at the parade.

"We're just looking to make sure this event stays safe," he said. The department is expected to either provide Volunteers In Policing or reserve officers to assist with safety concerns.

Williams said that as the town grows and traffic volumes coming

into the downtown increase they will have to reevaluate the safety of the parade and their role in it. "We want to make sure that public safety isn't compromised."

Medina said they have received more vests to be apportioned out to volunteers as well as crossing guard stop signs that they will use to help control traffic around the band members. He added that he will be continuing to work with parent volunteers to staff the event, and he will be approaching parents of children on the football and cheer squads to see if they can be counted on to help as well. ■

Forum

► Continued from page 5

"I absolutely support lowering it to 55 percent," said Buchanan. "It would force more people to the table. Now people put themselves in the corner (according to party). People are taking pledges (not to raise taxes)—including Abram—and sitting in the corner."

Wilson said California does not really need a Constitutional Convention. "Let's concentrate on things to make a difference," he said.

Buchanan disagreed. "We have a \$103 billion general fund budget," she stated. "Out of that, 93 percent of the budget is controlled by initiatives, which means we have roughly \$8 billion in discretionary funds that we can spend, and we have a \$15 billion deficit. It's hard to balance a \$15 billion deficit without borrowing when you only have \$8 billion in discretionary money."

She quoted Assembly Speaker Karen Bass as saying, "We have tax-

**For more extensive
coverage of the forum,
including a video clip, go to
www.DanvilleWeekly.com.**

ation system that goes back to 1930s and it doesn't work any more."

They also addressed taxes.

"Once businesses come here we tax them to death," said Wilson. "What we do here in this valley does not work in Sacramento. By raising taxes arbitrarily, and that's what we do, we solve no problem at all."

Buchanan said the \$90 parcel tax passed in 2004 did indeed help the San Ramon Valley.

"It pays for all the class size reduction in kindergarten through third grade; it's the reason we have counselors at the middle schools and high schools; it's the reason we have librarians at the middle schools and high schools; it's the reason we have class-size reduction in ninth grade English and math; and reason we have instrumental music in fifth and sixth grade," she

said. "So no one can tell me that money doesn't make a difference."

This statement was met by applause. Wilson also had supporters in the audience who applauded some of his statements.

Wilson said the parcel tax was appropriate but taxes are raised "randomly." He would keep the two-thirds needed to pass a parcel tax.

"This community has the facilities because of the partnerships, not just with the residents but the cities themselves, the parcel tax, also because of the developers," Wilson said. "Residents know how important education is in the San Ramon Valley. And I support the two-thirds vote because residents will vote when they understand what it needs to pass and how important it is."

Buchanan said her Yes vote should have counted as much as the No votes in June.

"We got 63 percent for the parcel tax in June," she said, which was not enough to pass. "If one of us wins by 63 percent you're going to read 'landslide' in the headline of the paper." ■

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Golden years spent giving



And the winner is ... Triumphant music resounded through the hall on Sunday afternoon, as moderator Linda Stolow played the moment for all it was worth, joking that she felt like a Price-Waterhouse representative at the Academy Awards.

It wasn't the Oscars but it was pretty exciting to me. After six months of planning by Linda and Chia-Chia Chien of the Culture to Culture Foundation, the Senior Volunteers Awards were being presented.

Linda and Chia-Chia met with me in the spring to talk about their idea of recognizing senior volunteers—both to thank members of the older generation who are still serving others and to inspire more people to volunteer. We talked about how to spread word about the awards. They also asked me to be a judge, which I was happy to do.

Next Linda and Chia-Chia, Danville and Alamo residents, traveled the county making presentations at senior centers and asking, "What seniors do you know who go above and beyond in helping others?"

The answer was 35 nominations for the four awards. We five judges met with Linda and Chia-Chia in June to determine the criteria, and after that everything was done digitally, with Linda providing us packets of the nominations.

One Sunday afternoon I curled up on my family room couch with the packet of nominations to pick out eight finalists. "Wow," I thought, reading the first one. The nominee drives a couple to their doctor appointments and shopping, plus helps prepare other volunteers in the

I read through all 35 nominations, becoming exhausted by the unflagging energy of these senior volunteers.

Seniors Around Town program in Lafayette. "She certainly deserves to be one of the top eight."

Then I picked up the next one, which was Fran Britt, who has been involved with the Danville Senior Center for years, works at Prime Time at the Community Presbyterian Church, and is president of the Grandmother's Club. Yes, I've met her, and she certainly deserves to be recognized.

And on it went. I thought it was a coincidence that the eight best were right on top of the stack. Then I picked up No. 9. Hmmm. This one was just as good. I looked through the first eight again. I began to get concerned. And I changed my tactics.

I read through all 35 nominations, becoming overwhelmed by my task and exhausted by the unflagging energy of these senior volunteers. Don't these people know how to sit in front of the fireplace with a good book and enjoy their golden years? Maybe that's what they do with their evenings.

They volunteer in all capacities at senior centers, Contra Costa County Aging and Adult Services, at the Bay Area Crisis Center for Children, Guide Dogs for the Blind, or lending a helping hand to people

who are a little further along in their "senior-hood."

Another Danville nominee was Barbara Matheny, who has served as president of the Danville Women's Club many times. She runs the clubhouse, making arrangement with the renters; she visits the sick, telephones them, cooks for them, and shares prayers with them. She gathers used greeting card fronts for one charity group, and collects stamps for another. She is the unofficial photographer for all the nonprofit events she attends. And she helps with the coffee and donuts program at St. Isidore's and launders the church linens. See what I mean about these volunteers? Sparky George of Danville was also nominated for his Hats Off America efforts for Gold Star families.

Finally I narrowed it down to eight, as did the other judges. Linda and Chia-Chia say it was unanimous. Then we narrowed it down to the four who were given the awards Sunday: Pat Dupont, Nora LaPointe, Tina Olton and Ray Zenoni. You can read more about them in the story on page 6.

The afternoon's festivities included singing, dancing and a wonderful buffet of Chinese food. If you ever get invited to anything presented by the Culture to Culture Foundation, go! The whole experience has been inspiring for me as I look forward to retiring and having time to help others as these 35 wonderful seniors are doing. Meanwhile I enjoy reading about them and writing about them.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
can be e-mailed at

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Schools need resource officers

Monte Vista High School reopened in late August without a resource officer. We are glad this omission has been corrected.

The Town of Danville pays for a school resource officer for San Ramon Valley High School. San Ramon pays for California and Dougherty Valley high schools since they are both in that city. Last year the officer for Monte Vista was financed by Contra Costa County since the majority of its students live in unincorporated areas, using Dougherty Valley mitigation funds. But those funds were not available for this school year and the school district began to work on funding options. The annual cost of an officer is \$186,000, which includes benefits and other expenses besides salary.

Now the school district has agreed to fund 25 percent of the cost of the school resource officer for the remainder of the school year. The Town of Danville agreed at its council meeting Tuesday night to fund another 25 percent, or \$36,000. And the county will fund the remaining 50 percent.

High school resource officers have been in U.S. high schools since the 1960s although they became more common after the school shootings of the late 1990s. San Ramon Valley High was provided an officer in 1999 after an incident on campus, funded through a three-year grant that covered 50 percent of the cost, with the town and the district sharing the remaining cost. The position was instated at Monte Vista in 2004. The officers focus on student counseling, safety and law-related education, plus have become an important part of the school environment as students begin to relate to them. And, yes, they are on campus in case there is any violence.

Superintendent Steve Enoch, who started at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District this summer, said if an incident occurred at Monte Vista and there was no officer he would hate to have to say it was for lack of funding. We agree. As the student populations grow at the Danville high schools, the school resource officers are an important part of the staffing.

High school resource officers have been in U.S. high schools since the 1960s although they became more common after the school shootings of the late 1990s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

McNerney works for us

Dear Editor:

War is hell. Even worse for the returning veteran is home front neglect after he has done his duty, survived hell, and celebrated his homecoming. Fortunately, our veterans have 11th District Congressman Jerry McNerney in their corner. In his freshman term in Congress, Jerry wrote bills increasing veterans' pay for enduring hostile fire, providing better health care for combat wounds and to help pay for wound healing and rehabilitation.

Jerry's support was key to passing the new GI Bill that helps our veterans afford four years of college, and he wrote the provision in the Foreclosure Bill helping military families stay in their homes. A professional energy scientist, Jerry has the experience and realistic ideas America needs so desperately to switch to sustainable energy technologies.

Forty-five times since his election 20 months ago, Jerry's taken his "Congress on Your Corner" program to our neighborhood malls, grocery stores and ice cream shops to listen to our concerns. He's available to us throughout the sprawling 11th District (Alamo on the north, Gilroy on the south, through Stockton on the east), not just in his offices.

Vote for Jerry McNerney—truly a man of the people—to keep him working for us.

Howard T. Goodman, Danville

Bordogna brings change

Dear Editor:

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, nothing renews the tree of democracy like removing stale politicians from office. Therefore in this election season the people of the Town of Danville have a chance to bring some real change to the Danville Town Council by electing Marianne Bordogna. Marianne is a fine person who has been active in business and the local community in Danville for many years.

I have had the opportunity know her personally and professionally and I think she would be a great town council person.

Kyle Vallone, San Ramon

Name correction

Dear Editor:

I have read, and re-read with interest, the Danville Weekly coverage of the recent LAFCO hearing. Excellent! Except—my last name has always been, and still is, spelled: MYHRE (not Myre).

I said a lot more than the short quote about our monthly gasoline purchases outstripping our monthly food purchases such as the mention of the fact that when last incorporation was attempted there were four service stations in Alamo with a total of 10 service bays selling batteries, tires, mufflers, spark plugs, brake relinings, etc., and now we have none! Nowhere to get a flat tire repaired or a battery charged.

Now there are only service stations, selling beer, sodas and potato chips. The statement about fixing a flat or getting a battery charged were not uttered as they cut me off (a three-minute limit?).

*Robert Dale Myhre, Alamo
Citizen of the Year 1990*

Inconsistent messages

Dear Editor:

You published a fine letter from Mayor Candace Andersen last Friday in which she writes that she "does not believe that anyone in our community should be discriminated against based upon his or her sexual orientation." While I admire her for writing the letter, I am writing because I am confused about another public position of hers. She has endorsed, in the name of the Town of Danville, an organization whose Web site url is "protect-marriage." The opening page of the site prominently declares that they support "Restoring Marriage and Protecting California Children."

This kind of innuendo and fear mongering, created by skilled propagandists, is a familiar tactic of extremists. Clearly, they want us to be anxious and worried that those who favor granting full marriage equality to same sex couples are not going to protect California's children. This is shameful manipulation.

Andersen's letter to the paper is so thoughtful and reasonable. I am puzzled about why she would create the appearance of inconsistency in her message by endorsing an organization which operates at such a low level. As a Danville resident, I am sorry to see our town's image tarnished by the mayor's actions. She is free, as a private citizen, to ally herself with whatever nefarious organization she chooses. As a public figure, she should be more prudent about dragging Danville into such a nasty business.

Robin Taylor, Danville

Piepho fixed my problem

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation to Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho and her professional staff for resolving an issue my family was having with the Central Contra Costa County Transit Authority. We have a designated bus stop on Stone Valley Road near our home. This bus stop even has a paved turnout lane for added safety. Because there was no CCCTA flag at the stop, drivers were not stopping to pick up passengers at the bus stop, even though we had called the transit authority to complain. I called Piepho's office, and within a short time, a transit authority flag was erected at the bus stop. My children are now able to use public transit to ride to our local public schools. It's reassuring to know public officials such as Supervisor Piepho are so responsive.

Nanci Wolske, Alamo

YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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



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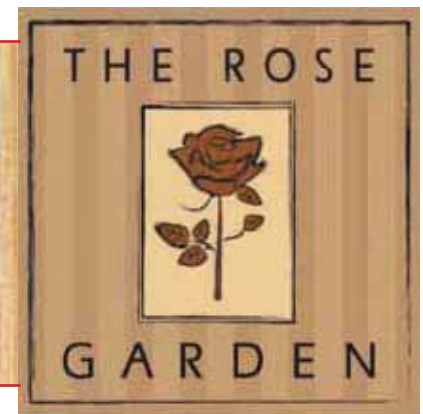
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The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

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

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

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Woman trapped in poison oak on Mount Diablo

Firefighters from the Contra Costa Fire Protection District scaled steep slopes and sawed through huge tangles of poison oak to rescue an injured hiker Saturday. District Battalion Chief Dave George said the call came in around 3:50 p.m. "The woman and her husband were hiking up near Castle Rock when she turned her right ankle."

George said the pair decided to try to work their way down a steep incline to a fire road in order to get down from the mountain more quickly. After climbing for a while, they found themselves cut off by a dense thicket of poison oak and other vegetation. "Fortunately, they were able to attract the attention of a hiker further down the hill, and he left to get help," George said.

The hiker walked more than a mile until he could get a cell signal and call 9-1-1. A crew was dispatched and the hiker guided firefighters to the spot where he'd heard the stranded couple's screams. George said until they moved directly to the base of the slope it was impossible to see the couple. Once the crews spotted the couple, they sprang into action, setting up lines and climbing up to them. "They had to cut a path with machetes and, where it was thicker, with a chainsaw," he explained.

Rescuers accompanied the injured woman down,

lowering her in a basket where the slope became too steep for her to safely climb with her injury. Once down she was examined by waiting paramedics but declined to go to the hospital, stating that she would seek private medical treatment.

George credited a number of factors to the successful rescue, one of the seven-10 such missions the fire district is called on to perform each year. He said that they received the call early enough in the day that there was plenty of light for the rescue. Also the female patient was hiking with another person, they had plenty of water and snacks, and they kept their cool when they got into a bad situation.

He also credited the training his firefighters receive for keeping the situation under control. "There was no trail where we went, no book on how to create something where nothing exists. A lot of common sense, a lot of thinking on the fly, and making sure no one gets injured."

There was some concern about the crew's exposure to so much poison oak. George said they cleaned their equipment at the scene and then again back at the station. He said he's not sure they are out of the woods yet in dealing with the highly allergenic oil of the plant. "I wouldn't be at all surprised if we didn't see some residual effects from the poison oak. We'll see in a day or two if anyone is itching."

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE LOG

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

Tuesday, Sept. 30

- Felony embezzlement on 3100 block of Fostoria Way at 8:36 a.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on 1300 block of Fountain Springs Ct. at 9:16 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with major injuries on 900 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:22 a.m.
- Access card theft on 100 block of Vicenza Ct. at 11:59 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on Greenbrook Dr./San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:36 p.m.
- Residential burglary on 500 block of Zephyr Circle at 6:03 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on 1000 block of Lehigh Valley Circle at 9:14 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 1

- Vandalism on 400 block of Skycrest Dr. at 9:06 a.m.
- Identity theft on 400 block of Scout Pl. at 10:59 a.m.
- Grand theft on 1300 block of Silverwood Ct. at 2:20 p.m.
- Battery on 100 block of Shoshone Ct. at 10:57 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 2

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd./W Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:39 a.m.
- Suspicious subject arrest on 1000 block of La Gonda Way at 3:50 p.m.
- Reckless driving on Crownridge Dr./Magee Ranch Rd. at 6:10 p.m.
- Party disturbance on 300 block of St. Norbert Dr. at 9:51 p.m.
- Drunk in public on 2200 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:41 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 3

- Vandalism on 100 block of Laurelwood Dr. at 12:12 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara/Tassajara Ln. at 1:12 a.m.

- Public nuisance on 200 block of Jasmine Way at 10:22 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on 700 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:45 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on 800 block of Matadera Circle at 3:56 p.m.
- Battery on 1000 block of Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 5:31 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on 300 block of La Quest Dr. at 7:38 p.m.
- Battery on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:19 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 4

- Vehicle traffic stop on Estates Dr./San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:45 a.m.
- Defrauding innkeeper on 800 block of Camino Ramon at 12:57 a.m.
- Drugs violation on Greenbrook Dr./Van Patten Dr. at 6:27 p.m.
- Noise disturbance on 700 block of Diablo Rd. at 8:26 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstance on 500 block of Indian Home Rd. at 10:24 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd./Sonora Ave. at 11:33 p.m.

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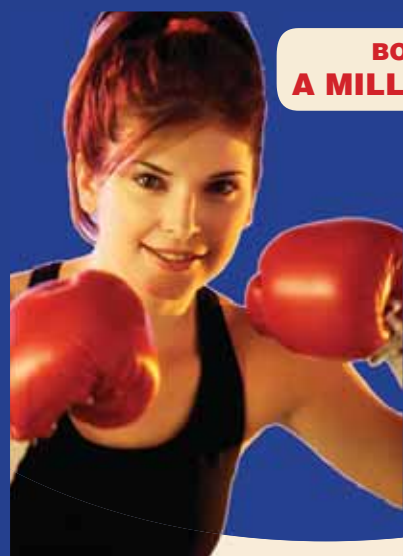
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a long-term investment**



story and photo by Geoff Gillette

Economic chaos, dire forecasts and widespread tales of mortgage crises are scaring away home buyers all across the nation, but not in Danville. As a matter of fact, newcomers Dian and Rob Evans said their reaction to area housing didn't center on softening markets or price declines.

"We had a real surprise when it came to pricing. Sticker shock. This is one of the most expensive places to live in the U.S.," Dian Evans said.

The Evanses lived in Temecula for 18 months, before Rob's job took them to the Netherlands. After five years living abroad the family was relocated to the East Bay. Dian said her husband spoke with colleagues and all signs pointed them to Danville.

"The schools," she said. "We heard about how great the school system was in Danville and decided to come here."

The prevailing attitude that Danville is a destination point for those coming to the East Bay is one reason why housing here has begun its slow recovery from its three-year tailspin.

"In our particular area we have superior schools. Outside of private education you need to come to one of these locations (Danville/Alamo/Lafayette) to get your kids into superior schools," said ReMax Realtor Joe Combs. "This is a great area to live and even with a shaky economy people are still going to come here."

Combs and other Realtors, though, are the first to admit that the situation has changed substantially since 2005, and it has transitioned to a buyer's market.

Three years ago, Contra Costa

County was in the midst of a housing boom. Homes would be put on the market Thursday, Realtors would spend the day touring the latest listings and then report back to their clients. By Friday, multiple offers, usually over asking price, would be placed.

Inventory at nearly all housing levels was down and any new listing was snapped up. Purchases were made not just by families seeking a new home, but also by real estate speculators taking advantage of available loans to buy a house, wait for it to appreciate in the boom economy, and then turn around and sell it for a profit.

However, just as the seasons change, so did the marketplace. And the housing market nationwide bottomed out on a wave of foreclosures and mortgage failures. Home prices began to fall and have stayed in a steady decline ever since. Combs said that locally these setbacks are largely due to the downturn in the economy and the mortgage crisis but are exacerbated due to an exodus of baby boomers.

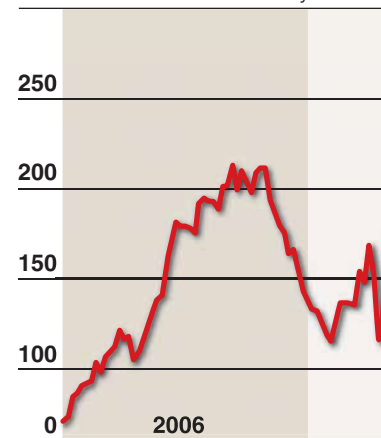
"They can sell their house in Alamo and retire in any other part of the country and live better than they have at any other time in their lives." He added, "We're expecting that to be a growing trend that will dampen our property values over the next few years depending on the economy."

Countrywide Bank Senior Loan Consultant Jim Black said a number of factors have impacted the slowdown in the housing industry, but he said they are starting to see movement in certain segments of the market.

"This is a good time to buy," he said. "Not if you are a speculator, but if you are a consumer who is looking to own for the long term."

Number of Danville/Black

Graph shows the number of available homes in the 94526 and 94506 areas. Homes are available for sale for more than 100 days.



Source: Altos Research LLC

Black said that as a short term investment, home buying is not going to be a solid plan. But for people who see themselves staying in their home for five to eight years, now is the time to either purchase or refinance. "The best potential to buy is between \$417,000 and \$1 million, where the guidelines are opening up again."

The recent failure of Washington Mutual and the mergers reshaping the landscape of the banking industry have left consumers uncertain about the possibility of getting mortgages. On the contrary, Black said he thinks the recent changes may have a beneficial effect.

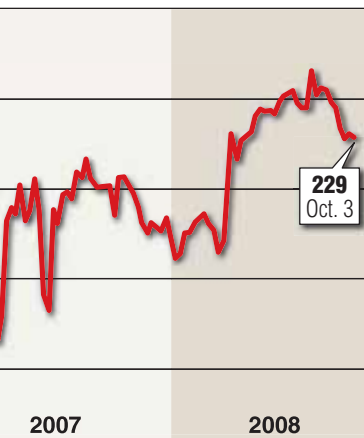
"For the next three to six months I think we're going to see restrictions of access to credit but in the long run it will allow for more consistent choices for the consumer," he said.

The people most likely to benefit from the changes will be those



Blackhawk homes for sale

More homes on the market in the area remaining on the market longer,



who apply for full documentation loans. "We'll continue to see an advantage for people who do principal and interest payments and qualify with full documentation as opposed to interest-only minimum payments and reduced documentation loan programs," Black said.

Both Combs and Black agree that the key to what is happening in Washington with discussions of the Wall Street bailout plan is that it will restore consumer confidence.

"Anything the government does to create a higher sense of confidence will be good for our market," Combs said.

Black echoed those sentiments. "Once these (bailout programs) are online we'll see conditions start to be healthy again," he said. "Consumer confidence will drive more money into the financial markets and our local economy. This will create momentum in spending and consumption, which will

create greater revenue, more jobs and more income to help pull the economy out of uncertainty."

Area Realtors say they are feeling the market begin to turn.

"There are some bright lights out there in the marketplace," explained Tom Hart of Empire Realty. "We're seeing a higher volume of pending sales and closed sales in the last 30 days and a decrease in the amount of available homes for sale in some price ranges."

Hart said homebuyers seem to be gravitating toward the median price ranges, from \$800,000 to \$1.3 million.

Statistics from CalREsource show that home sales in Danville for September were estimated at 55, with a median price of \$880,000. That is down slightly from August, which had 64 sales, but far above the low point for the year in January with only 33 sales.

Median prices of the homes sold this year have fluctuated on a month-to-month basis but essentially stayed between \$800,000 and \$1.1 million. Similar figures for Alamo have showed a median price range of \$1.1 million to \$1.4 million. Sales in Alamo have also seen some flux with January as the low point with four sales and April and July tied for most sales with 16.

Realtor Ginny Mees said houses are selling but not at the prices they were even a year ago. Mees and her husband Paul are part of Harper-Mees and Associates with Keller Williams Realty.

Mees said that while homes are selling, price points have taken a step back. "We're back to 2004 pricing. If someone bought their house in the last four years they'll have some trouble making any money on the sale. If they've been in there longer they can price it competitively

without taking a loss."

Having also recently sold her own home in Danville, Mees had advice on the best way to proceed for owners needing to sell. "You need to make sure your house shows well. That can be staging it so when people walk through, it looks its best. Also you want to make sure you list it well."

Listing it well means being aware of what other homes in the neighborhood are going for and pricing your house accordingly.

Mees said they had some difficulty in the early going of selling their home. "We listed in November of 2007. That was when the mortgage crisis started to rear its ugly head. We priced based on a comp (comparison property) that had closed in August. We thought it was close to the mark but we had to readjust our house price three times before we got the 'hot zone.' Then we got three offers in a week."

While there is movement in the housing arena, it is expected to still be some time before things normalize. "California real estate is typically a boom or bust venture," said Tom Hart. "Demographics across the state say demand will be higher than the supply over the next few decades. It wouldn't surprise me if the pendulum swings back to high demand/low supply."

Predictions vary as to when prices might start to go up again. Jim Black said it could take the market two years to level out, but as much as five or more before we start to see a robust market again.

Black's advice for the short term is if you don't need to sell a house, to wait out the current turbulence in the market. If you are buying for a long term investment, with the condition of mortgages and refinancing, now is the time to move. ■

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Transitions

OBITUARIES • BIRTHS • WEDDINGS

BIRTHS

Tegan Anna Stepper

Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper got a huge surprise when her son Shawn called early last Tuesday morning to say that a very healthy Tegan Anna Stepper had arrived one month early, weighing 6 pounds 2 ounces, on Sept. 30. The first-time parents are Shawn and Jill Stepper, both graduates of Monte Vista High School.



OBITUARIES

Sylvia Goldberg Gardner

Sylvia Goldberg Gardner, 91, died Aug. 21, in Danville.

She and Ben L. Gardner, her late husband, are remembered for lovingly opening their home to family and friends. She is survived by her children Carol (Gerard) Silverman and Michael (Marsha) Gardner; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. A memorial service is to be announced.

James Michael Newton

James Michael Newton, a resident of Diablo, died Aug. 23 at the age of 63.

He was born June 23, 1947. He touched the lives of many people in his 20 years as a search and rescue pilot with the Air National Guard.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn Newton; sisters Penny Newton-Tibbetts, Phyllis Newton-Carpenter, Patricia Newton and Paula Newton Molgaard; two grandchildren; and two stepchildren. He was the beloved son of Lorna Adams and Richard Newton and beloved stepson of Barnard Adams. A Memorial Mass was held Aug. 28 at St. Isidore's Church in Danville. Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 1900 Powell St., Emeryville 94608.

Basil R. Nunes

Basil R. Nunes, a former Resident of Danville, died Aug. 23 at his home in Pine Grove at the age of 87.

He was born Feb. 28, 1921, to Brazil and Adriana (Vierra) Nunes in Tassajara Valley. He married his wife, Dorothy Carlson, in 1949 in Oakland and the newlyweds made their home in Danville for 35 years. He was a self-taught engineer and for 50 years was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers. He worked for Rhodes and Jamieson for 35 years setting up concrete plants and managing its operations, retiring in 1982. He also farmed tomatoes and ran a welding shop out of his barn where he made and repaired trailers and other ranching equipment.

Ranchers would come from all over to have him make cattle brands. In the 1970s they built a retirement home in Pine Grove where they moved to after his retirement. He enjoyed motorcycles, snowmobiling, hunting, and salmon fishing.

He is survived by his great-niece, Judy Badger of Martinez; niece Shirley Stanley of Morada; nephew Larry Gonsalves of Turlock; and sister Irene Gonsalves of Turlock. He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Dorothy Nunes, in 1994; brothers, Frank Nunes, John Nunes and Joseph Nunes; and sister, Mary Nunes. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for him Aug. 29 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Pleasant Hill. Interment is at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette. Contributions may be made to the Lymphoma Research Foundation, 8800 Venice Blvd., Suite 207, Los Angeles 90034.

Dave Dobrich

Dave Dobrich, a longtime resident of Blackhawk, died at his home Sept. 6, following complications from diabetes, at age 81.

He was born July 19, 1927, in Oakland but lived in Contra Costa County since he was 6 months old. He was the youngest son of Nickolas and Draga Dobrich and graduated from Pittsburg High School. His love of music led him to form the Dave Dobrich Orchestra that played at many dances in the county. He played in the U.S. Army Ground Force Band during World War II. His career as a businessman began with a service station, car wash and liquor store and led to owning and developing commercial and residential real estate. With his wife Naomi, he explored England, Germany, France, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia among other countries. Their last trip was a return to Victoria, Canada, where they had honeymooned, to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary. He also spent much time at Zephyr Cove in Lake Tahoe.

He is survived by his wife Naomi; daughters Michele Williams (husband Jeff), Melinda Shaw (husband Robert), Melanie Dobrich, Maureen Dobrich; two granddaughters; and his spaniel Penny. Memorial services were held Sept. 10 at Wilson and Kratzer Mortuary in Danville.

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- Primo's Run long-sleeve T-shirt for each registrant (1/2 marathon shirts are long sleeve performance shirts)



www.primosrun.com

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Bedford Gallery Art Morning Join us for coffee, pastries and a talk with Susan Brooks, collector of antique quilts, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Reservations required. For information visit www.bedfordgallery.org or call 295-1423.

Author Visit

Sweet & Simple Bake Sale Come join Sandra Lee on her Semi-Homemade Sweet & Simple Book Tour at Rakestraw Books, noon-1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. A portion of the proceeds from the tour will go to Share Our Strength, which is dedicated to feeding children in the U.S. Call 837-7337.

Classes

Container Gardening and Bonsai Navlet's Garden Center hosts free gardening classes to the public. October classes include Container Gardening in the Fall at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 12; and Bonsai at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 26, at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 837-9144.

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

Clubs

Alamo Women's Club The Alamo Women's Club October luncheon will feature Suzanne Johnston's "Family, the Memory of Who We Are," at noon, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Cost is \$20. RSVP by Oct. 17 to 837-8530.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society will meet from 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. The topic will be "Copyright issues for the 21st Century Genealogist." First time guests especially welcome. Visit www.svrgensoc.org or call 299-0881.

Concerts

Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra The San Ramon Arts Foundation announced the first performance of the season for the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, "Something Old, Something New," at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Theater, 10550 Albion Rd. in San Ramon. Visit www.sanramonarts.org.

Events

16th Annual Rebuilding Lives Luncheon The keynote speaker at the annual STAND! Against Domestic Violence luncheon will be Denise Brown, domestic violence activist and sister of Nicole Brown Simpson. The luncheon will be from noon-1:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20, at the Concord Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Tickets are \$100. Call 603-0138.

Danville Library Evening Speakers The Friends of the Danville Library is offering a new Danville Evening Speakers series kicking off at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Alison Brown, CFO of the California Academy of Science will be talking about the new Steinhart Aquarium. The program is sponsored by the town of Danville and the Kiwanis Club

of San Ramon Valley. This event is free and everyone is welcome.

Danville Walking Tour The last tours of the season of Danville's historic downtown take place at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, and at 6:15 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17. Saturday tour meets at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave. Evening tour starts at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Tours are free, but donations are encouraged. Call 837-3750.

Forest Home Farms Pumpkin Patch Visit the Forest Home Farms Pumpkin Patch, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 4-31, at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Visit www.foresthomefarms.wordpress.com for events and to schedule school field trips, or call 997-6575.

Holiday Boutique Get into the Halloween, Thanksgiving and Holiday spirit at the Wondrous Winter Fete Country Collective Boutique featuring a dozen folk artists at the Alamo Women's Club from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11; 4-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17. Call Marcia at Cottage Jewel at 837-2664.

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. RSVP to (510) 839-2900, ext. 217, or myrna@jfed.org. This event is free.

Quilt Contest and Show A Quilt Block Contest and Show will take place Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 18-19, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Send your name, address and phone number with \$10 entry fee to Forest Home Farms Pumpkin Patch, c/o Shirley Smith, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 94582.

That Old Blackhawk Magic XII Halloween Dance Come to the Blackhawk Museum for a Halloween Dance sponsored by KKIQ and KKDV, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Friday, Oct. 31, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.blackhawk-museum.org or call 736-2277.

World of Orchids An orchid show and sale will take place from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 19, at Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill, with orchid displays, sales and drawings, a plant doctor, and potting and culture demonstrations. Cost is \$2, kids are free. Call 648-7667.

Fundraisers

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

Down Syndrome Connection Fundraiser Danville's Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area and the National Down Syndrome Society are holding a Buddy Walk from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 12, at Heather Farm Park, 301 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek. Celebrate with a mile walk, picnic, games, live band, drawing and more to promote acceptance and awareness for Down syndrome. Cost is \$25 for up to four people and \$5 for each additional person. Visit www.dsconnection.org or call 362-8660.

Giant Book Sale Friends of the Danville Library will host a gigantic book sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 10 (9-10 a.m. members only); 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11; and noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Large selection of adult and children used books at bargain prices. Sunday is \$5/bag sale. Call 837-4889.

Health

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.srrmc@tenethealth.com, or call 275-8230.

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Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation
Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

1.	Title of Publication: Pleasanton Weekly		
2.	Publication Number: 020-407		
3.	Date of Filing: 10/1/2008		
4.	Frequency of Issue: Weekly		
5.	No. of Issues Published Annually: 52		
6.	Annual Subscription price: \$30 in Pleasanton, \$50 out of area		
7.	Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 5506 Sunol Blvd, Ste 100, Pleasanton, Alameda County, CA 94566		
8.	Mailing address of Headquarters of Publisher: SAME		
9.	Publisher: Jeb Bing, 5506 Sunol Blvd, Ste 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Editor: Jeb Bing, same. Assistant Editor: Janet Pelletier, same		
10.	Owner: Embarcadero Publishing Co., 703 High Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Stockholders owning 1% or more of the total amount of stock: Jean and Dexter Dawes, Ely Trust, Leonard W. & Shirley Ely, Trustees, Franklin P. Johnson, William S. Johnson, Lewenstein Family Trust, Harry and Marion Lewenstein, Trustees, Teresa M. Lobdell, Joseph F. Pickering and Helen D. Pickering Trust, Helen D. Pickering, Trustee, and Jeanne Ware, all of Palo Alto, California; Robert Heinen and E.E. and Russella van Bronkhorst Trust, Russella van Bronkhorst, Trustee of Menlo Park, California; Jerome I. Elkind of Portola Valley, California; Anthony Sloss of Santa Cruz, California; Elizabeth Sloss of Seattle, Washington; Karen Sloss of Bellingham, Washington		
11.	Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1% or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None		
14.	Issue date for Circulation Data Below: 9/26/2008		
15.	Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies each Issue During Preceding 12 months	Actual No. of copies of single issue nearest to filing date
a.	Total number of copies (net press run)	17,553	17,000
b.	Paid and/or requested circulation paid / requested Mail subscriptions outside Co. 181	189	189
	inside Co.	8,401	8,566
	Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales.	472	472
c.	Total paid and/or requested circulation	9,054	9,227
d.	Free distribution by mail outside county: ...	3,567	5,378
	inside county:	2,456	0
e.	Free distribution outside the mail	1,517	1,438
f.	Total free distribution	7,540	6,816
g.	Total Distribution	16,594	16,043
h.	Copies not distributed	959	957
i.	Total	17,553	17,000
j.	Recent paid and /or requested circulation . 55%		58%
16.	Publication of statement of Ownership: 10/10/2008		
17.	Signature and title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or owner William Johnson, President, Embarcadero Publishing Company		

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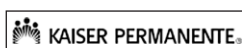
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Kids and Teens

Preschool Storytime at the Danville Library Bring your preschoolers (3-5 yrs.) for storytime with stories, fingerplays and songs, 10-10:45 a.m., Wednesdays through Nov. 12, Danville Library, 400 Front St. These free sessions introduce children to the fun and enjoyment of reading. Storytime is on a drop-in basis. Caregiver must attend with the child.

Storytime at the Danville Library Bring your babies (0-24 mos.) to an age-appropriate program that is a wonderful way to introduce your children to the enjoyment of reading, with books, fingerplays and songs, 10:15-10:30 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays through Nov. 10, 400 Front St., Danville. Storytime is on a drop-in basis and caregiver must attend with child. Call 837-4889.

Storytime with the Farmer Calling all little Halloween farmers, ages 3-5! Have a spooktacular time at Forest Home Farms hearing stories, singing songs, doing crafts and enjoying some refreshments from 10-11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 30, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd. After the program you can visit the pumpkin patch. Cost is \$4 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tassajara Valley 4-H Sign-Up Night See what 4-H does for the communities and families in the Danville, San Ramon and Pleasanton area, at 7:15 p.m., Monday, Oct. 13, Tassajara Hills Elementary School, 4675 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Become a part of our wonderful club! Call 683-3114.

Toddler Time at the Danville Library Bring your toddlers (25 mons.-36 mons.) to an age-appropriate program that is a wonderful way to introduce your children to the

enjoyment of reading, with stories, fingerplays and songs, at 11:15 a.m. for about 20 minutes, Mondays and Tuesdays through Nov. 10, 400 Front St., Danville. Storytime is on a drop-in basis and caregiver must attend with child. Call 837-4889.

Lectures/ Workshops

'Property Rehab' & 'Long Term Care Planning' Discover how to Rehab Properties for a fraction of cost and learn why you must plan ahead for long term care, 6-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15, Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call 831-4831. Registration required.

Author to Unravel Mystery of Writing The Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club presents Penny

Warner who will share the secrets of her literary success, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. The cost is \$21 for members; \$27 for non-members and includes lunch. For reservations call 462-7495.

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.

Gardening Seminar The Contra Costa Master Gardeners have created a seminar to educate and inspire gardeners of all levels. It will be held from 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, at Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill. Speakers include Rosalind Creasy, Betsey Clebsch, Rose Marie Nichols McGee, Bethalyn Black, and

more. \$40 per person. Call 682-6719, or visit ccmg.ucdavis.edu.

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. Visit www.dvc.edu/emmeritus or call 906-9105.

Live Music

'Evening At The Pops' The San Ramon Symphonic Band opens its 22nd season with 'An Evening At The Pops,' 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Returning for this concert is founder and Conductor Emeritus Chuck Taber. Tickets are \$5 for adults, students and children under 12 are free. Visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com or call 973-ARTS.

Jazz at Peace Kat Parra opens the fourth season of Jazz at Peace, from 5-6:15 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 12, Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. She explores world rhythms and tonalities that transcend and bend definitions of latin jazz. Come enjoy this amazing free interfaith celebration. Visit www.peacejourney.org or call 648-7000.

On Stage

'Pinocchio' San Ramon Community Theater presents "Pinocchio" on Oct. 3-5 and Oct. 10-12, at the Front Row Theater at Dougherty Station, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$13 children and seniors, \$11 matinee. Purchase online at www.sanramonperformingarts.com or call 973-2787.

'The Best Man,' by Gore Vidal Sue Trigg directs Role Players' production of a startlingly timely political play, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, from Oct. 10-Nov. 1, Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Preview Thursday, Oct. 9 (donation optional). Cost is \$22-\$25, \$15 for students with ID, and groups of 10 or more. Tickets available at Danville Community Center, at www.villagetheatreshows.com, or call 314-3400.

Political Notes

Meet the Challenger Plan to meet Marianne Bordogna, the new candidate for Danville Town Council, from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the newly constructed Wine Shop on Hartz Ave., Danville, in front of Bridges Restaurant. Share your ideas with Marianne regarding the future direction of Danville, as you enjoy a tasting of Thomas Halby wines. This event is free. Visit www.DanvilleTownCouncil.com.

Spiritual

Christian Healing Class A Christian Healing Class taught by the Rev. Steve Maynard, based on Charles Fillmore's book by the same name, will begin Oct. 14 for five weeks either Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, or Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. This classic book presents the basic metaphysical teachings from the beginning of the Unity movement. Call 829-2733 or visit www.TriValleyUnity.com.

Mid-Life Workshop Join Father Rusty Shaunessy's workshop, "A Door into Authenticity and Wisdom," at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville, from Tuesday-Thursday, Oct. 14-16. The qualities of humor, courage, hope and trust will be explored as participants travel through transitions and threshold moments. Check-in at 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 14, and the workshop concludes after lunch at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16. Cost is \$205/private room; \$175/double room. Call 837-9141.

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STYLIN'

Fashion guru Isaac Mizrahi appearing in Diablo

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Style, by definition, is supposed to be fun, says fashion icon Isaac Mizrahi. The designer, whose line of high style clothing is carried at Target, is a delight to watch—and he's coming to town.

Rakestraw Books in Danville is putting together a book/fashion/fundraiser event at Diablo Country Club, to take place Thursday evening. The \$40 ticket price will benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity, which provides professional clothes for low-income job seekers.

The price includes Mizrahi's new book, "How to Have Style."

He states on Webisodes on his site that he'd been thinking about writing a book to help people find their own style for about 25 years, since he was in high school.

"It's a very big, big question to pose—how to have style—but I swear if you get this book you're going to get the answers," he said.

"You have to look at this book as a fun, easy way to solve the problem," he added. "Stop thinking about it as this giant weight on your shoulders. You don't want to do homework at 40—you want to have fun."

Mizrahi sees himself as a problem solver, and his book covers subjects from having style on a budget, when you're not a size 12, how to wear colors, and "waking up from a Jeans Coma."

He also gives advice on how to look good every time you have your picture taken—by standing right, positioning your head correctly, and putting your best side to the camera. And he includes shopping advice—from how to shop for just one thing to the importance of sometimes shopping without buying anything.

Rakestraw owner Michael Barnard said pairing the author with Wardrobe for Opportunity was a natural. Rakestraw also contributed to Wardrobe's spring fundraiser with tickets to

meet Barbara Walter at the store in May and receive a book to be signed.

"Our co-sponsors are covering the fixed costs at Diablo Country Club so the money donated will go to Wardrobe of Opportunity and its clients," said Barnard. Other sponsors include Keller King Inc., Caroline Susanna & Jack Schlendorf Pacific Union RE, Onstad's Insurance, Susan Foord Catering & Café, Forward Motion and the Danville Weekly.

At the event, Mizrahi will talk about his new book, take questions from the audience, and sign books. The festivities will include a fashion show styled by Danville wardrobe consultant Carolyn Rovner of C2Style. Models will be clients of Wardrobe for Opportunity wearing items from Mizrahi's line at Target.

"I'm getting one piece per model from Target and the rest from Wardrobe for Opportunity," said Rovner.

"I've been very aware of Isaac for many, many years," she said. "When he decided to do a line for Target, I always looked at it."

"My job is to interpret personal style based on wardrobe needs, what they like and their lifestyle,"

Rovner explained. "I shop everywhere."

She said Mizrahi's look is "modern preppy with a twist."

"You get something for your money in lower price point items," she said. Then women can wear a piece for a couple of seasons and discard it with a good conscience, she explained.

Meanwhile, back on his Web site, Mizrahi says jackets are going to be the big thing in the office this fall.

"I think a jacket over anything makes it look kind of grown up ... chic, believable and authoritarian," he said. "Suddenly jackets look like that—jackets over dresses, jackets over sweaters, jackets over pants."

Want to learn more—plus see this dynamo in action at a fun fashion show for a good cause? Call Rakestraw Books for tickets at 837-7337. ■



Danville personal style consultant Carolyn Rovner checks out Target's Isaac Mizrahi clothes that she will use at the fashion show featuring the designer to benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity.

DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

JOY OF FASHION

What: How to Have Style with Isaac Mizrahi: A Book Event and Fashion Show

When: 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16

Where: Diablo Country Club

Cost: \$40, includes Mizrahi's book, "How to Have Style"

Tickets: Call Rakestraw Books, 837-7337

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



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

Earliest Tri-Valley inhabitants

These dancers were drawn by a Rezanov expedition artist who visited Mission San Jose in 1806. They were probably from the Livermore area. When they came to the mission, they brought dance regalia and traditional dances from their homeland. This drawing is one of the earliest done of Indians in the Bay Area. A current exhibit at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley displays information about local Indians.



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The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. FRANKLIN UTCHEN

In Dognito at Halloween

OK, pet lovers, it's time for a pop, or should I say "pup," quiz. Halloween costumes for dogs are (choose one):

- (a) A silly way to spend money
- (b) Generally harmless fun
- (c) Another sign of the decline of Western civilization
- (d) All of the above

The answer, of course, depends on your perception of what a proper relationship with a companion animal should be. There are some who wince at the way pets are increasingly treated like little furry children, although I suspect most of us don't see the harm in anything that doesn't hurt anyone.

Me? I fall into both camps.

Although I admit I'd much rather see a pet spoiled than neglected, I do worry that when some of us refer to our pets as "children" we are not making the distinction about the differences in their pets' needs vs. the needs of their own children. Pets have needs for species-appropriate nutrition and stimulation that are different from ours. (Personally, I don't have to smell every little thing between my driveway and the corner, but this is exactly the kind of olfactory stimulation our dog loves!)

I do worry as well about the

amount of money we spend to fully accessorize our pets, especially when there are plenty of pets (and, it must be noted, plenty of people) who are in desperate need of the most basic essentials. But I also know that one of the reasons we keep animals is to lighten our spirits, and if a few dollars spent here and there on silly pet stuff does that, where's the harm?

Which brings us back to Halloween costumes.

Let's face it: When you spend money on apparel for dogs, you're not doing it for the dogs, except in the case of a sweater for an older dog or for a dog with a short coat like the whippet. Your dog doesn't care if he has a biker jacket, sunglasses, an ear-hugging visor or even a colorful bandana. He'll put up with most anything you put on him, as long as it means spending more time with you.

And if putting a costume on your dog means you'll fuss over him and maybe take him somewhere interesting, like the costume contests that are everywhere these days, then sure, it's a no-lose proposition: Dress up your dog and have some fun! But while you have your checkbook out buying the costume, don't forget to send a little of that discretionary income to your local shelter or animal rescue organization.

Not to say that you need to spend much money on a costume, of course. One of the best costume ideas I've seen probably cost less than \$5 to pull together. A friend bought round, white stickers at an office-supply store and put them all over their big black Labrador retriever. Outfitted as a "reverse Dalmatian," he won a \$50 gift certificate in a pet costume contest, which is not a bad return on the investment.

If you don't want to put any effort into coming up with something, you can find ready-made costumes at many pet-supply stores, in almost as much variety as you'll find in costumes for children. Make sure

any costume meets the common-sense standard: It's comfortable and nonrestrictive, inedible, and it doesn't involve anything that could be hazardous, such as dye or paint.

Here are some other precautions to keep Halloween from being a fright:

- **Injuries.** With the increase in activity on Halloween night, cats and dogs may get nervous or excited, and some will run away if they can. That means an increase in animals lost and hit by cars. Other animals may be a cause of injury: All those costumed young visitors can trigger territorial instincts or fear-responses in some dogs, who may then become a bite risk. To prevent injuries, keep your pets confined inside away from the action, in a crate or behind a closed door. If you do take your dog to a costume contest, be sure to keep an eye on other dogs for signs of aggression, and don't crowd any dog, no matter how friendly he seems.

- **Food problems.** Candy is a problem more for dogs than for cats, because cats are generally picky about what they eat. Not so for most dogs, who'll wolf down candy—wrappers and all—if given the opportunity, giving many a serious case of what veterinarians call "garbage gut." Any candy can trigger a bout of intestinal upset, but chocolate can do much worse. One ounce of dark chocolate per 10 pounds of body weight in a dog can be highly toxic and result in seizures and even death. To prevent tragedies like that, adhere to this rule: No people treats for pets, and keep candy bowls and trick-or-trick bags out of reach of those animals who may be tempted to help themselves.

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

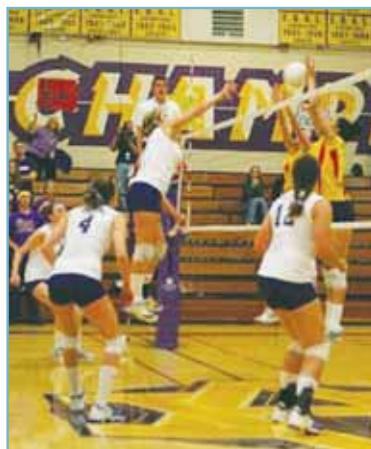
'My friend gave me a heads up on this...'

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BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Making memories from apples

As fall arrives, so does apple-picking season. What perfect timing for us humans—just as we prepare to nestle in for the cooler weather, fresh-picked apples offer a perfect complement: a self-contained package of sweetness and crunchiness to hoard for winter's hibernation.

As a fruit, apples have been evolving for centuries and “modern” apples have been cultivated for their resistance to disease and pests, as well as for taste, shape and high harvest yield. In 1892, there were about 735 unique varieties of apples; today fewer than 50 varieties are mass-grown. Some varieties, like Red and Golden Delicious, are popular favorites in the United States; others such as Fuji and Gala are relative newcomers to the U.S. apple market. In recent years, some regional and “heirloom” varieties have returned and can be found at local orchards and farmers markets.

I have two indelible apple-related memories from years past. One memory, dating back to my early adolescence in Newark, N.J., is of a regular Saturday morning errand. Every weekend I had to walk several blocks to the local Jewish bakery to buy challah bread. The smell of freshly baked challah as I entered that neighborhood bakery filled my nostrils and immediately started a chain reaction of anticipated pleasure. I had to take a plastic number and wait to be called yet I always ordered a single item—one loaf of plain challah bread with a braided top and an egg-washed shine.

I carried the still-warm loaf in its paper bag under my arm all the way back home, in winter and summer, sun or snow. As soon as I entered the second-floor walk-up apartment, family members congregated in the kitchen, already warm from the oven's heat. We sliced chunks of the yellowy bread, one for every person, slathered butter on each slice, and laid the slices on the little pull-out drawer that was the oven's broiler. As the buttered slices were removed from the broiler drawer, we spread generous quantities of apple butter on the toasted bread. Everyone ate their slice as slowly as possible to savor every bite. The loaf was consumed and we each got on with the rest of our weekend chores. To this day, when I see a loaf of challah or a jar of apple butter, the sensation of that culinary experience floods back to my mind and I want a slice of that hot apple-buttered bread.

The second memory comes from my early parenting days. When the children were young and the weather was nippy enough to require a jacket, we took our annu-

al autumn drive into the country sides of Michigan, New York or Missouri to find a pick-your-own-apples farm, always with a farm animal or two for extra entertainment. We picked and sampled our way through the yearly adventure, rewarding our efforts with mill-pressed cider and homemade donuts, then loaded the car with bags of apples and large pumpkins to decorate the front porch. In those cold climates, the pumpkins lasted through Halloween but the apples did not. They quickly ended up as school lunches, dried snacks, applesauce, apple cakes, pies and tarts. My children acquired handy knowledge about farms and I acquired wonderful apple recipes.

Apples are not just nutritious, portable and tasty but they can provide many lasting memories for your family. Whether you buy them or pick your own, eat fresh or cook with them, find a good apple recipe that can become a family tradition in your household. Teach your children to make a classic apple pie or tart. That recipe will serve them well over the years, at holidays or family dinners or to one day impress a guy or gal.

As a Southern gal, I'm partial to pies but tarts can be slightly lower in carbs and easier to create. What's the difference? Pies have two distinct features: a filling and a pastry crust, although variety allows for a single crust, a double crust, a lattice top, a crumble top, etc. Pies are most often baked in round, shallow, slope-sided pans, but a deep-dish pan can also be used to yield a thicker pie. Similarly, tarts consist of a filling and a pastry shell. The key difference is in the tart dough, which is lighter and slightly sweeter than pie dough. The other difference is that tarts are always open-faced—they never have a top crust. Tarts are usually baked in a straight-sided pan, often with a fluted edge, but they can be baked in different sized and shaped pans (including individual mini-pans) or on open sheets.

Here are two always-successful apples recipes—one for a classic apple pie, and one for a simple apple tart. A recipe for apple butter is at www.DanvilleWeekly.com. With the bounty of apples available this season, try all three. Better yet, send me your favorite apple recipe and I'll include it in a future column. Whatever you do, create an apple memory!

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

RECIPES

Classic Apple Pie

Crust

2-1/2 cups all purpose flour
1/2 tsp salt
10 Tbsp (1-1/4 sticks) chilled unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1/2 cup chilled solid vegetable shortening, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
About 4 Tbsp ice water

Filling

Nonstick vegetable oil spray
1-3/4 lb. sweet apples, such as Spartan or Golden Delicious, peeled, cored, thinly sliced (about 5-1/2 cups)
1-3/4 lb. tart apples, such as Granny Smith or Pippin, peeled, cored, thinly sliced (about 5-1/2 cups)
3/4 cup plus 1 Tbsp sugar
1 tsp fresh lemon juice
1/2 tsp plus pinch of ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 Tbsp all purpose flour
3 Tbsp unsalted butter, diced
1 Tbsp whole milk

For crust:

- Whisk flour and salt in large bowl to blend. Add butter and shortening and blend with fingertips until very coarse meal forms.
- Sprinkle with 3 Tbsp water; toss until moist clumps form. Add more water by

teaspoonfuls if mixture is too dry.
3. Gather dough into ball; divide in half. Flatten into disks and wrap in plastic. Chill about 1 hour. (Dough can be made 1 day ahead. Keep refrigerated; place on counter and soften slightly before using.)

For filling:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spray 9-inch-diameter deep-dish pie dish with nonstick spray.
- Stir all apples, 3/4 cup sugar, lemon juice, 1/2 tsp cinnamon, and vanilla in large bowl to blend.
Let stand until juices form, about 15 min.; mix in flour.
- Roll out 1 dough disk on lightly floured surface to 12-inch round. Place dough in pie dish; spoon in filling mixture; dot with butter.
- Roll out second dough disk to 13-inch round. Drape dough over filling. Seal top and bottom crust edges together; trim to 1/2-inch overhang. Fold crust overhang under; crimp decoratively. Cut slits into top crust with knife (or make holes with fork tines). Brush pie with milk. Combine remaining 1 Tbsp sugar and large pinch of cinnamon in small bowl; sprinkle over pie.
- Transfer pie to baking sheet; place in oven. Immediately reduce temperature to 375 degrees. Bake pie until crust is

golden brown, apples are tender and filling is bubbling thickly, about 2 hours. Cover crust edge with foil if browning too quickly. Cool 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. (Can be made 1 day ahead. Cover loosely; store at room temperature.)

Easy Apple Tart

1 sheet frozen puff pastry (1/2 of 17.3-oz package), thawed
3 medium Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored, sliced very thinly
2 Tbsp (1/4 stick) unsalted butter, melted
3 Tbsp cinnamon sugar (or 3 Tbsp sugar mixed with scant 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon)
1/4 cup apricot jam, melted

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Unfold pastry on parchment paper.
- Using tines of a fork, pierce 1/2-inch border around edge of pastry, then pierce center randomly all over.
- Arrange apples atop pastry in 4 rows, overlapping apple slices and leaving border clear. Brush apples with melted butter; sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.
- Bake 30 minutes. Brush melted jam over apples. Bake tart until golden, about 8 minutes more. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Forks Corks & More

AMERICAN

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

PIZZA

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria
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WINE - RETAIL/TASTING

Bella Vino
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10/10 - Live Jazz with Sue Lukito & Guest Musician 8pm to 10pm
10/11 - Live Music with The Black Pearl Project 8pm to 10pm. Relax after LPGA!
10/16 - Trinitas Cellars will be at Bella Vino 6:30pm to 9pm
10/17 - Live Jazz with Sue Lukito & Spencer 8pm to 10pm
10/18 - Bella Vino for Boobies—Breast Cancer Team
10/28 - VINO VIXENS—1st Showcase for Women in Business 5pm to 8:30pm

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The Vine at Bridges
The Vine at Bridges, 480 Hartz Avenue, Downtown Danville. 820-7210. Wine shop open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays. Wine Bar open Tuesday through Saturday Evenings and Sunday afternoon. 30 wines are available to taste at the wine bar and 260 different wines are available for purchase in the wine shop.

Live Entertainment:
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Tasting Seminar:
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For more information about events please visit www.thevineatbridges.com.



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Oomf!

The contest gets physical at the 9-10 Arsenal vs. Ferocious Cheetahs game at the Mustang Soccer Complex on Camino Tassajara. To see more photos, go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com.

Parent photographers

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

PREP SPORTS WRAP-UP

Monte Vista High School

by Lizzy Hearne

Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team won both of its matches last week against Livermore and Carondelet.

Football

Monte Vista varsity football beat Foothill High School last Friday, 41 to 31, to keep its undefeated record. Today the Mustangs face Granada High School, playing at Granada in Livermore. The junior varsity game is at 4:30 p.m. and varsity begins at 7 p.m.

Water Polo

Both men's and women's water polo were successful in defeating Amador Valley High last week. They also played in tournaments, with the men in the Acalanes Varsity Tournament, and the women traveling to Napa for the Napa Valley Classic Tournament.

San Ramon Valley High School

by Kaity Ferretti

Girls Varsity Volleyball

After a grueling two hours of neck-to-neck game play Oct. 1, a whopping 60 minutes more than the average play time, the San Ramon Valley varsity women's volleyball team triumphed over the Granada Matadors, their fiercest competitors. The Wolves and Matadors went head-to-head for the highly coveted first place spot in the East Bay Athletic League. Both teams entered the match 2-0, guaranteeing a thrilling game.

San Ramon fought hard in the beginning, but lost the first game to Granada, 22-25. The Wolves brought it back, however, during the second game and managed to pull out with a 2-point lead, tying up the match, 26-24. With a win under their belts, San Ramon was able to withstand a Granada win, 23-25, during Game Three.

The Wolves' confidence did not falter and they bounced back, winning Game Four, 25-23, due to senior Amy Mulligan's kill. As the final Fifth Game spun out, it was clear that the Wolves were on fire. Senior Annie Begin scored three times during the last game, never letting Granada take the lead. Senior Leah Foltz's climatic kill, assisted by senior Sammi Buono, assured a Wolves victory and ended the final game, 15-12.

"Granada definitely gave us a fight, but we were able to pull out a win," said senior Brianna Vandersloot. San Ramon stands alone as the only undefeated team in EBAL.

Varsity Football

The Wolves demolished the Cowboys last Friday, 50-22, in their first official EBAL league game. San Ramon's (3-0) confident defense, led by senior captain Garrison Goodman, only allowed a total of 59 yards for the Cowboys in the first half. Likewise, the offense came out attacking, resulting in multiple touchdowns, making the score 40-0 at halftime. Senior quarterback Joe Southwick completed 16 of 19 passes for 330 yards and four touchdowns. Senior Bryce Peterson had four receptions for 112 yards, and senior running back Brett Trimble ran for 41 yards and a touchdown

on only six carries. The Wolves sent in their second team for the second half, giving them a chance against the Cowboys, and it, too, performed extremely well against Livermore's starting lineup.

Cross Country

San Ramon's cross country team competed in the second annual Scott Bauhs Harrier Invite, a three-mile course that winds through Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, on Saturday, Oct. 4. Senior Lauren Kwan placed eighth, with 20:46:32, out of 41 competitors in her race. Sophomore Morgan Laird placed sixth in her race with a time of 20:45:11.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 10

Football

SRVHS at Amador Valley (JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

MVHS vs. Granada (JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

Men's Water Polo

SRVHS at Northgate

Women's Water Polo

SRVHS- Western States Tournament

MVHS- Western States Tournament

Saturday, Oct. 11

Cross Country

SRVHS- Clovis Invite

MVHS- Overnight Relay

Women's Water Polo

SRVHS- Western States Tournament

MVHS- Western States Tournament

Women's Volleyball

Castro Valley Tournament

Monday, Oct. 13

Men's Water Polo

MVHS vs. Northgate, 4 p.m.

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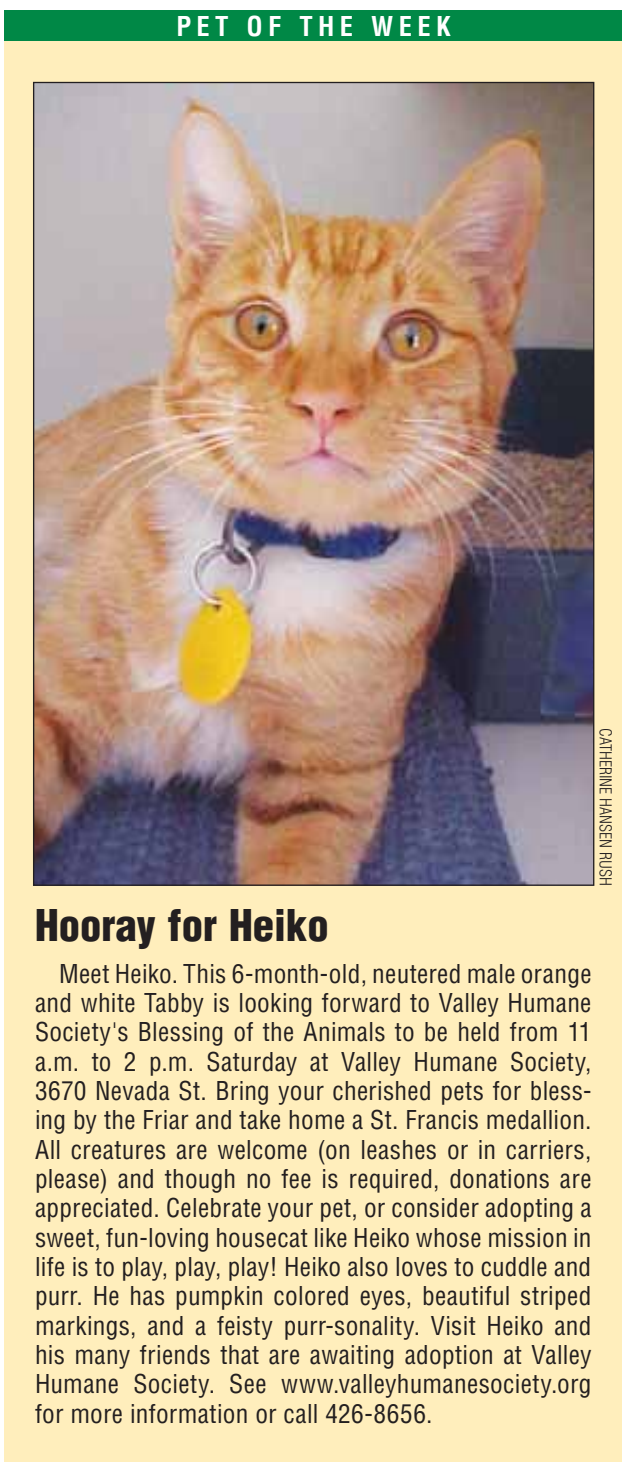
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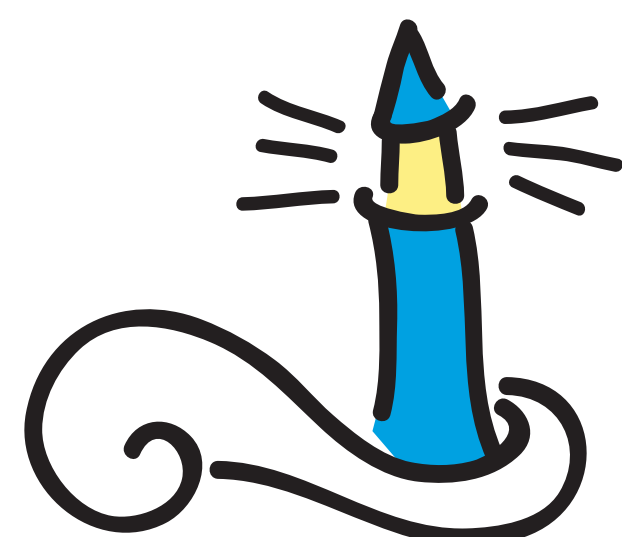


CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Hooray for Heiko

Meet Heiko. This 6-month-old, neutered male orange and white Tabby is looking forward to Valley Humane Society's Blessing of the Animals to be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. Bring your cherished pets for blessing by the Friar and take home a St. Francis medallion. All creatures are welcome (on leashes or in carriers, please) and though no fee is required, donations are appreciated. Celebrate your pet, or consider adopting a sweet, fun-loving housecat like Heiko whose mission in life is to play, play, play! Heiko also loves to cuddle and purr. He has pumpkin colored eyes, beautiful striped markings, and a feisty purr-sonality. Visit Heiko and his many friends that are awaiting adoption at Valley Humane Society. See www.valleyhumanesociety.org for more information or call 426-8656.

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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2008

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 3	Total sales reported: 14	Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$850,000	Lowest sale reported: \$400,000	Lowest sale reported: \$270,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,950,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,360,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,500,000
Average sales reported: \$1,500,000	Average sales reported: \$862,429	Average sales reported: \$673,889

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2008

Alamo

- 1041 Adrienne Drive E.** Thomas to Rodde Trust for \$850,000
- 47 Oak Trail Court** Adams Trust to T. & A. May for \$1,700,000
- 120 Via Lucia** S. Eshelman to S. & J. Rupp for \$1,950,000

Danville

- 551 Blackhawk Club Drive** Summers Trust to A. Krock for \$1,360,000
- 1148 Blue Spur Circle** Shapell Homes to J. Jiang for \$1,214,500
- 218 Borel Lane** M. Graham to C. Austin for \$400,000
- 1910 East Rancho Verde Circle** Canaparo Trust to B. & C. Word for \$540,000
- 740 El Cerro Boulevard** Johnson Trust to Suriyakumar Trust for \$800,000
- 711 Glasgow Circle** M. & T. Hamilton to M. Saha for \$700,000
- 111 Heritage Park Drive** Scritchfield Trust to L. Ling for \$555,000

- 3032 Live Oak Court** R. & D. Spaletto to J. & K. Byrns for \$1,150,000
- 1380 Monterosso Street** Lennar Homes to A. & K. Lechuk for \$1,160,500
- 316 Newgate Court** S. & S. Alberts to G. & C. Psefteas for \$860,000
- 127 Rassani Drive** J. Hsieh to Z. Wang for \$950,000
- 226 Stetson Drive** Miatovich Trust to C. Delrosario for \$795,000
- 3812 Welshland Street** Shapell Industries to M. Chung for \$914,000
- 1934 West Rancho Verde Circle** Frombola Trust to Schmick Trust for \$675,000

Walnut Creek

- 1587 2nd Avenue** Michael Trust to R. & S. Pal for \$645,000
- 2464 Aarles Court** Hantos Trust to M. Perry for \$685,000
- 305 Conifer Court** E. & C. Gonzales to M. & T. Gomez for \$690,000
- 2019 Hermine Avenue** Carzoli Trust to S. Law for \$1,275,000
- 2677 Oak Road #206** Deutsche Bank to J. & B. Hansen for \$385,000
- 2708 Oak Road #48** HSBC Bank to M. Luke for \$270,000
- 158 Paulson Lane** Braddock & Logan to N. Babula for \$820,000
- 535 Pimlico Court** P. Miller to Rajabi Trust for \$435,000
- 1904 Ptarmigan Drive #1** J. & R. Jackl to Snyder Trust for \$369,000
- 2518 Saklan Indian Drive** Revel Trust to B. & F. Rosenfeld for \$810,000
- 2170 San Luis Road A.** Khodorenko to J. Xiang for \$743,000
- 703 Terra California Drive #8** Martin Trust to M. Hamilton for \$385,000
- 1916 Via Appia** M. Carmona to J. Abrams for \$600,000
- 153 Via Mantilla** M. Costa to K. & J. Brennan for \$565,000
- 1089 Wesley Court #6** Aurora Loan Services to S. Jacobson for \$288,000
- 1204 Whitehall Court** Loeb Trust to Bann Trust for \$900,000
- 253 Wiget Lane** P. & S. Clarkson to M. & P. Gopal for \$765,000
- 738 Woodwind Place** J. Chang to Adams Trust for \$1,500,000

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

5 Bedrooms	
142 Erselia Trail	\$2,688,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel 577-1944

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms	
580 Indian Home Rd.	\$799,000
Sun 1-4	Empire Realty 858-9316
5 Bedrooms	
16 Casolyn Ranch Ct.	\$1,498,000
Sat 1-4	Prudential CA 858-4198

DUBLIN

4 Bedrooms	
11531 Betlen Dr.	\$559,000
Sun 1-4	Re/Max Accord 699-3122

PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms	
4020 Nice Ct.	\$560,000
Sat 1-4	Prudential CA 858-4198

4 Bedrooms

1332 Bordeaux St.	\$1,249,000
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors 918-2425
7341 Joshua Cir.	\$699,000
Sat 2-4	Joyce Jones 398-6706

5 Bedrooms

1342 West Lagoon Rd.	\$1,299,979
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel-Andy Poryes 963-8871
1368 Royal Creek Ct.	\$1,328,888
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-2508
4184 Grant Ct.	\$1,549,500
Sun 2-4:30	Alain Pinel 577-1944
4353 West Ruby Hill	\$1,775,000
Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker 847-2300

SAN RAMON

4 Bedrooms	
30 Pamplona Ct.	\$689,888
Sat/Sun 1-4	Keller Williams 260-2508

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Hidden Valley Danville
X9000
Most Popular Cezanne model 4 bedroom,
3 bath on cul de sac street. Soaring
ceilings, beautiful landscaping \$1,049,000



Greenbrook Area Remodel
X6000
A perfect "10." 5 bedroom 2 bath remodel.
2,953 sq. ft. Stainless and granite kitchen,
on .23 acres. Walk to Greenbrook School,
backs Iron Horse Trail. \$1,269,000



West Side Alamo Views!
X7000
Beautiful updated West Side Alamo
home. Views of Mt. Diablo, 2.05 acres.
\$1,299,950

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